

# THE WINDOW

*The Baptist Church of Beaufort Monthly Newsletter*

## A “Growing Young” Story: Empathy

When I was first approached about defining “Empathy,” I thought it might be easier to share the absence of empathy on the part of, for example, manufacturers of kitchen appliances who don’t take actual use of a design into account – dishwashers with a level top rack, so that glasses retain a puddle of water, toaster ovens with numbers and letters too small to read in the early morning light, especially without glasses. We know when we’re ignored.

On the other hand, we can see genuine empathy displayed by special people like Jeff Pethel, whose habit it is to get down on one knee for a chat with a child. He knows the unpleasant perspective of a little one, lost in a forest of pant legs and pocket books. How important it is to look someone directly in the eyes to speak straight, even only, to her or him. And to listen!

Elderly people like me find such comfort in small, kind actions of people who step beside us down the stairs; and there is the clarity of respect when a physician ceases a fixation on the computer and looks closely into the eyes of the patient, listening carefully for clues and signs to interpret the complaint. That’s empathy.

Empathy is the deliberate act of someone who wants to enter the “world” of others, to walk in their shoes, to see from their perspective. It is a behavior of absolute respect. It was and is an attribute of Christ who became one of us, lived in our world, and took our place in death.

I guess Roger and I understood as missionaries that moving into a strange new culture and living for years in it, making friends for Jesus, sharing food and fellowship, would have been impossible without adjusting our own lifestyle. We had to adapt. Sometimes it was easy and fun. Often we were puzzled. We were literally in another “world,” and we’d have been lost without particular local people who respectfully taught us and showed us empathy. Some were Christian brothers and sisters. One was our seminary dean who in our Malaysian later years kindly told Roger, “You don’t look Chinese, but you think Chinese!”

Empathy works over generations. It’s a laying down of self; it’s a putting the other first; it is exhibiting a kind of cross-cultural sensitivity borne by the selfless love of Christ. As we prioritize young adults in order to “grow young,” may we learn their names, and may we love them, even though there are aspects of their culture many of us won’t “get” (technology, music, media). But if we seek their hearts and let them know how much we care, we can cross the culture bridges together.

**Janice Capps**

## A Conversation About Dementia

Dementia is one of the most feared conditions humans face. Stigma, dread, and negative stereotypes often surround cognitive loss—but people of faith have resources to offer more life-affirming approaches to this common and complex human experience. During this free Zoom session on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 pm, Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper will explore spiritual aspects of dementia, as we consider ministry to persons with dementia as a “holy invitation” to imagination, creativity, friendship, and spiritual growth.

CBF of South Carolina is sponsoring this golden opportunity for church families to learn and grow. Individuals will be challenged to re-frame dementia in order to have a more profound impact on family members, friends, and other vital relationships. Sign-up here: <https://cbfsc.org/event/mortality-dementia-and-what-it-means-to-disappear-families/>

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper is the author of *On Vanishing: Mortality, Dementia, and What It Means to Disappear* (Catapult, April 2020). A former nursing home chaplain, she now serves as the Minister of Older Adults at The Riverside Church in New York City.

**Register at [bcob.org/events](https://bcob.org/events).**

# From Donald Gruel, Chair of Deacon Nominating Committee

After receiving nominations from church members and prayerful consideration, the Deacon Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of new deacons for the upcoming year: Will Beere, Ryan Copeland, Paul Hamilton, Ashley Rhodes, and Mary Smith. Short bios and pictures of each candidate are included below. The church will vote at a special called business meeting during the 9:00 and 11:00 am worship services on Sunday, May 23. Your Deacon Nominating Committee includes Steve Andrews (Personnel Chair), Shauna Bishop (Stewardship Chair), Donald Gruel (Deacon Chair), Linda Keene (Nominating Chair), Mary Rich (Deacon Vice-Chair), and Landon Collins (Ad hoc member). Thank you for your participation in this process. We ask for your continued prayers for this slate of new deacons to be voted on Sunday, May 23.



**Will Beere** is single and has been attending BCOB for 20 years and a member for 12 years. He has served on the Grounds Committee, participated in mission trips, assisted with Vacation Bible School and played on the church softball team. Will is grateful for the chance to show the younger generation of the church that it is possible to serve the church in a leadership capacity as a deacon. He feels this will also allow him the opportunity to grow in his faith and relationship with the Lord.



**Ryan Copeland** is married to Leigh, has two boys and has been a member for 31 years. He is the librarian at Battery Creek High School. Ryan has participated in a number of church activities such as the Youth Pastor Search Committee, Children's Committee, Sunday School teacher and Deacon. He feels serving as deacon is both a duty and an honor with the enjoyable aspect of being of service to others in the name of Christ.



**Paul R. Hamilton**, BCC is married to Vickie, has 4 children and has been a member for 8 years. Paul is the director of Pastoral Care at the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun County. Paul has served on men's ministry teams, Stephen Ministry Leadership Committee, Deacon and Sunday School Teacher for The Grace Class. He is very happy to be a member of BCOB and is very grateful for every opportunity to serve Christ with the church family as we become the hands and feet of Christ in our community and beyond to the world through our missions programs.

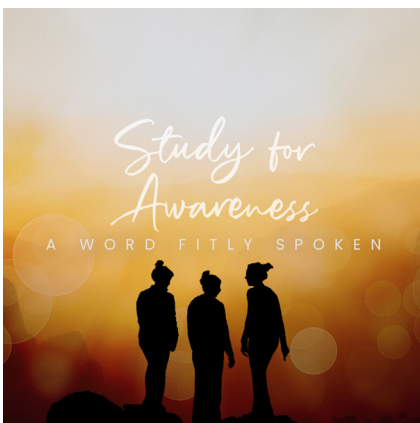


**Ashley Rhodes** is married to John, has two sons and has been a member for 10 years. Ashley has owned Ashley Rhodes Events for 15 years, but is soon retiring to pursue another life goal. She has participated in a number of church activities such as the Fellowship Committee, Family Promise, the Yo Pro Sunday School Class and the Wedding Team. Ashley feels serving as a deacon would be a humbling honor and an opportunity to further her walk with the Lord and her relationship with the church family.



**Mary Smith** is the widow of Randy Smith and has been attending BCOB for 6 years and a member for 4 years. She is a retired Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer. Mary's various church activities have included At Home Ministry Committee, Chair of the Greeting Committee and Stephen Ministry. Mary feels that serving as a Deacon would be a humbling honor and an opportunity to serve her God and her Church. She is most grateful for the opportunity to serve.

## Study for Awareness



This women's book study group meets on the third Tuesday of every month to discuss books related to social issues in our neighborhood and across the world. Our goal is to increase awareness regarding some of the obstacles and challenges faced by humanity and how we might respond as Christians. The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 18, at 5:30 pm in the Green Room. The title of the book for May is "Halfway Home" by Ruben J. Miller. Please read the book in advance and come ready to discuss the book on May 18. Women are invited and encouraged to join this group for conversation and fellowship. We will wear facemasks and practice social distancing. Contact Rebecca Cooper at 843-368-6720 or Beth Haverfield at 404-395-7023 for additional information regarding this study and discussion group.

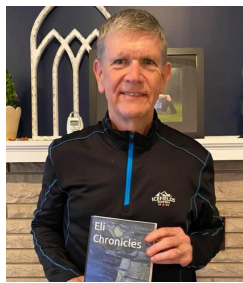
A Word Fitly Spoken... (Proverbs 25:11, KJV)



# FROM THE Church Mouse

This is a new column in which we share items of note within our congregation. The church mouse is excited to share some congregational news with you. The mouse found quite a few educational tidbits and crumbs for May. If you know something you think should be included, please email [churchmouse@bcob.org](mailto:churchmouse@bcob.org).

- Bradley Moody made the Chancellor’s List at USCB.
- Scarlett Brainerd has learned to read books.
- Our organist Josh Wall has earned his doctorate.
- Marissa Pethel was inducted into Alpha Chi National Honor Society.
- Henry Manley has completed his knob year in Echo Company at The Citadel. He has been promoted to cadet private and selected for rank as a squad corporal his sophomore year.
- Tyler Holsonback received his diploma for air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration technology from Vance-Granville Community College.
- Leigh Copeland completed her Master’s Degree in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing from LSU-Shreveport.
- David Dugger is the author of a new book, “Eli Chronicles” which is available on Amazon.
- Landon Collins is coaching two soccer teams (Both Liam’s and Lydia’s teams). “Coach Landon” is teaching young children good sportsmanship and the game of soccer.
- Proud parents Miranda and Doug Moss welcomed son Charles Douglas Moss VI into the world on Sunday, March 28. “Charlie” weighed in at 7 pounds 8 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Mom and Charlie are doing well. Charlie is bringing this family joy as he grows and learns daily.



## Prayer Requests

Please let us know how to pray for you during this season. If you want your request (name only) included on the public BCOB Prayer List, then please state in the email to add the name (with permission) to the public Prayer List.

Please email prayer concerns to [pray@bcob.org](mailto:pray@bcob.org).



## May Birthday List

- May 1st** Marissa Pethel
- May 4th** Jackie Smith
- May 5th** Ann Collins, Rita Bell, Katherine Cieplowski
- May 6th** Jane Hendricks
- May 7th** Joanne Stanley
- May 8th** Janelle Smith
- May 9th** Linda Ickert
- May 10th** Elise Hill, Roy Brookins
- May 11th** Dot Crapse, Huntley Duryea
- May 12th** Andy Kinghorn
- May 13th** Donald Gruel, MaryLou Gruel
- May 15th** Donna Bradley
- May 16th** Fran Cromer, Jessica Stokes, Raeann Witte
- May 18th** Edward Russell, Travis Yawn, Claire Howell
- May 19th** Denise Carter
- May 21st** Camille Manley
- May 22nd** Ron Tuttle, Lefton Graves, Kelly Lesesne
- May 27th** Nancy Dale
- May 29th** James Wilson, Aralyn Townsend
- May 30th** Steven Brown, Wilkes Duryea
- May 31st** Michael Ponder, Bryan Brewton, Mark Brewton

# Church Business Meeting

There will be a Church Business Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Building C).

At the Church Council Meeting on Sunday, May 2, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee submitted a proposal to make two adjustments to our current Constitution and By-Laws. With the approval of the Church Council, that proposal will now come before the Church at our upcoming business meeting on Wednesday, May 19. A copy of the proposed change is below. Copies of the proposed By-Law Changes are also available in the church office and at the tent on Sunday mornings.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee moves to amend the following Sections of the By-Laws adjusting the voting age from 18 to 15. Specifically:

(1) **In Article II - Membership**, the first sentence of Section 5: Rights of Membership be amended to read as follows:

Every Resident Member at least **15** years of age (except those members who are under the process of Church discipline, see Article II, Section 7) is entitled to one vote and shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

(2) The last sentence of this Section also be amended to read

The Church Council may vote to allow voting privileges to members younger than **15** years of age concerning matters that are directly relevant to them (i.e., hiring of a Minister to Students).

The Committee also moves to amend the following Sections of the By-Laws to simplify the selection of a Search Committee by omitting the option of accepting additional nominations from the Church membership. Specifically:

(3) **In Article VI - Ministerial Leadership**, Paragraphs 2 of Section 1: Senior Pastor and Section 2: Ministerial Staff be amended to read as follows:

**As to Section 1:** When the Church needs a pastor, the moderator will direct the nominating committee to recommend to the Church the names of six Church members to form a Search Committee. In addition, one representative from the Personnel Committee, one representative from the Stewardship Committee, and one representative from the Deacon Council shall serve as members of the Search Committee (a total of 9). The search committee, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall seek the person they feel God would have to fill the position. This committee is authorized to represent the Church and make commitments and arrangements with a candidate pursuant to a possible call.

**As to Section 2:** The ministerial staff shall be called and employed as the Church determines the need for such positions. When the Church needs a minister, the pastor, in consultation with the moderator will direct the nominating committee to recommend to the Church the names of six Church members to form a Search Committee. In addition, one representative from the Personnel Committee, one representative from the Stewardship Committee, and one representative from the Deacon Council shall serve as members of the Search Committee (a total of 9). The pastor will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. The search committee, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall seek the person they feel God would have to fill the position. This committee is authorized to represent the Church and make commitments and arrangements with a candidate pursuant to a possible call.

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Rev. Landon Collins, Senior Pastor  
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Allison Sherwood, Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
Josh Wall, Organist  
Kelly Zytynski, Director of Children's Ministry  
Yvonne Vicuna, Director of The Child Enrichment Center

If you or another family member is in or going to the hospital then please let us know in the church office by calling 843-524-3197. You can also share this information with the "Minister on Call" for the week. The name and phone number for the "Minister on Call" is published in the weekly edition of "The Happening" newsletter each week. Thank you for sharing this information with the church staff.