

PROSPECTS
CONTINUED FROM 5A

What does it mean to be adaptive leaders who are able to go into uncharted territory when everybody has been thrust into it at the same time?"

"These are questions that I will be taking up with my colleagues at the De Pree Center for Leadership on a regular basis. Articles, resources, interviews, podcasts, links to books and conversations with other leaders will be featured here. I am excited about partnering with these colleagues, and I am eager to partner and learn along with you."

So all of us, pastors, elders, deacons, and members are now faced with a new set of problems. We must try to learn as we go and adapt the technology that's available to help us in ministry. One part of these problems involves not violating our essential Biblical theological foundations and core values when adapting new technology for non-traditional situations.

During an online meeting with many of my fellow Presbyterian Pastors of North Mississippi this morning (April 1) I used the ZOOM technology on my laptop computer (this is a whole other story about what Tod Bolsinger would say "they didn't teach us this at seminary!"). The topic came up about planning for Holy Week Virtual Online Services and the possibility of having "virtual" Lord's Supper Communion Services. That is, members would be participating on phones, iPads, or computers in worship led by a Pastor and they would have their bread and juice or wine

prepared at home already. Then, at the proper time, they would participate with the online community in the eating and drinking of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One minister spoke for some who were not so comfortable with "virtual" Communion by saying, "I know Scripture says we are to become 'fools for Christ' but I don't think we are to do foolish things for Christ." But it was pointed out that our Denomination's Theology and Worship Office had sent out an "ADVISORY OPINION ON COMMUNION IN AN EMERGENCY PANDEMIC". It was dated March, 24, 2020 and stated in part that "In emergency circumstances there may be situations in which the pastoral needs of the moment require that the church take actions that run contrary to normal practice. During an emergency or a pandemic in which the church is unable to gather in person for reasons of public health, a congregation's session (Pastor/moderator and Elders) may determine that this includes observing communion online."

I personally, will be sharing with the New Prospect Elders that I believe the first Apostles used the technology available to them in their time to communicate with the first churches and Christians. This was the use of pen, ink, and scrolls or paper for personal delivery by other faithful disciples of the Apostles to various churches. These writings eventually became our New Testament. The documents of the Old and New Testament as most Christians know from our history have continued to be transformed by the development

of new technologies for new non-traditional situations. Now we have entire Bibles on our individual smart-phones with a variety of translations and many available with a variety of different languages. Who could have imagined that so long ago!

Most Christians would agree, I believe, that God, the Holy Spirit of Christ, has continued for almost 2,000 years to bless many new technologies that were adapted for new situations for fulfilling our Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ's Great Commission. That is for every generation of disciples to "go into all the world" sharing the Good News and Good Deeds of God's Salvation in Jesus, The Lord and Savior. And it also includes calling others into discipleship through Christ's church for salvation and service as the Body of Christ in mission for and with the world God loves.

So, I believe although today in this horrible pandemic, we are the church in "dispersion" (as one pastor mentioned in our meeting). But our best and most important connector is still the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of Christ in the hearts of all believers even and especially when we are gathered-online through the modern marvel of the technology of this time and place.

So, let us also celebrate all the gifts God has provided to overcome closing the distances and all other things which attempt to divide us from God and one another. As so many have shared on Facebook and other places: now during this year's Holy Week and Easter Services our "church buildings may be empty but we are still

This Easter Celebration
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020 Aurelia Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.
2. No gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the way.
3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd-ed room
4. In all the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well:
5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.
O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?
but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.
Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.
a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis - tant from our neigh - bors - from wor - ship lead - ers, too.
With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place
Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see -
Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!
In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.
we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.
who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.
Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.
we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

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celebrating the continuing miraculous revelation of THE EMPTY TOMB THAT FIRST EASTER MORN-ING! Friends, no matter our situation this week let us continue to celebrate CHRIST IS RISEN! And believers over the last almost 2,000 years in many varieties of situations learned to also say: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

"To God Alone Belongs All The Glory!"

Online Resource Link for 1) Tod Bolsinger's March 25, 2020 full article

<https://depree.org/leading-in-uncharted-territory/>

2) For a copy of my 04/01/20 email with other articles and resources from the De Press Center at Fuller Seminary send an email request to billconn14@att.net

3) A link to a New Easter Hymn Written For This Pandemic with approval for sharing:
Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New

Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com Churches are given permission for free use of this hymn, including in live streaming and posting it online.

The New Prospect Presbyterian Church is located about eight miles from Ripley on Highway 370 going toward Dumas. The address is 6371 Hwy 370 and our congregation like all others look forward to the time when we can resume our weekly Sunday School and Worship Service.

Worship Guide

Benton County Church Directory

ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Gerald Hodges, Pastor
SS: 9:45 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
5:00 pm Children's Choir
5:00 pm Discipleship Training
Wednesday:
6:00 pm Children's & Youth
6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
3:30 p.m. Monday WMU
(1st & 3rd Monday)

ASHLAND CHARGE
The United Methodist Church
Jonathan Cagle, Pastor
Ashland: WS: 10 am
Harris Chapel UMC: WS: 9 am SS: 9:45 am
Liberty UMC: SS: 10:15 am WS: 11 am. 5th Sunday All Churches Sunday School Only.

ASHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Number: 662-550-6824
PO Box 25, Ashland, MS 38603
Bible Study: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
ashlandchurchofchrist.org

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Bro. Donald Worsham, Senior Pastor
Bro. Mark Newman, Youth Leader
SS: 9:45 pm WS: 11 a.m & 6 pm
7 pm Wednesday

SOUTH OF ASHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST
William Colburn, Evangelist
SS: 10 am WS: 11:15 am
7 pm Wednesday Bible Study

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
6:30 pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting
Bro. Herbert Luther

MEDLOCK METHODIST
Rev. Gene Coltharp, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am
7 pm Wednesday Bible Study

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Paul Adams, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
7 pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting

HICKORY FLAT METHODIST CHARGE
Hickory Flat United Methodist Church
Pastor: Rev. Bill Cornett
SS: 10 a.m. all Sundays
WS: 11 a.m. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, 9 a.m. 4th Sunday
Youth: 6 p.m. Wednesday
Bethel
Pastor: Rev. Bill Cornett
11 am 4th Sunday
5 pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Sundays
Winborn WS: 9:45 am
Pastor: Rev. Bill Cornett

FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bro. Daniel Rogers, Pastor
WS: 9:45 am Bible Study Every Other Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Ladies Meeting - 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
837-4692 or 471-0640
Open Door Baptist Church
3767 Old Hwy 78
Hickory Flat, MS 38633
Pastor: Tony Moore
(662) 315-3000
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Evening Service 5 a.m.
Wednesday Night 7 p.m.
opendoorpotscamp.com

HOPEWELL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 AM Worship Service
10 AM Sunday School
1st Sunday - Lunch and Prayer Group

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HICKORY FLAT
Rev. Cory Lancaster, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am
Sunday Night 5 p.m., Worship Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Bro. Tim Childers, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11:00 am & 6 pm
6 pm Wed. Prayer Service

HAMILTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Bro. John Franklin, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
6 pm Wed. Bible Study

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Wilder, Pastor
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
6:30 pm Wed. Bible Study

CHURCH OF REDEEMING FAITH (Undenominational)
Gloria Taylor Slides
WS: 11 am & 6 pm

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Holly Springs, 252-3138
10 am Sunday Mass
5 pm Saturday Vigil

PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Randy Hamilton, Pastor
SS: 8:30 am & 10:30 a.m. WS: 9:30 am
AWANA 6 p.m. Sunday night
6:30 pm Wed.

CHRIST TEMPLE APOSTLE CHURCH
Rev. J. C. Hall, Pastor - Walnut, MS
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
7:30 pm Wed.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Chase Massengill, Pastor
SS: 9:45 am WS: 11 am & 5 pm
6 pm Wed.

BLACKWELL CHURCH OF CHRIST
Junction Hwy. 370 & Blackwell Road in Benton County
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 7 pm
Wed. 7 p.m. Bible Study

BAINS CHAPEL FREE HOLINESS
Pastor Terry Hudson
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
Friday: 7:30 pm

BEECH HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
King McCarver, Minister
Ph. (601) 837-9859 (home) 837-4806 (office)
9:30 am Sunday Bible Study
WS: 10:15 am & 6 pm
5:45 pm Young People's Class
Wed.: 7 pm Bible Study

FLAT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Bro. Jason Howell
Youth Pastor: Michael Green
WS: 9 am - 9:45 am
Brunch: 8:45 am - 9 am
SS: 9 am-10:00 am, WS: 10 am
Wed.: 5:15 pm - Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting, Women's Bible Study, Youth activities

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor - Daniel Brookman
1337 Hwy 2 N, Hickory Flat, MS 38633
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 5 pm
Wed. WS 7 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH POTTS CAMP
SS: 10 am WS: 11 am & 6 pm
WS: 7 pm Wed.
Wed. 7 pm Youth night

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circclk@bentoncountymys.gov

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