

# THE CENTRAL ISSUE

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,  
GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the church and world.

October 7, 2020  
Volume 29, No. 39

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610  
Phone: (704) 487-6336; Fax: (704) 487-4351  
Kid's Place Preschool: (704) 487-6357  
Counseling Services: (704) 375-5354, ext. 409  
Email: [central@cumcshelby.org](mailto:central@cumcshelby.org); Website: [www.cumcshelby.org](http://www.cumcshelby.org)

Mark L. Barden, Senior Pastor  
Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship & Outreach  
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries  
Savanna Craig, Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship  
Libby Alexander, Organist  
Gina Blanton, Director of Communications  
Dianne Whisnant, Financial Secretary  
Ed Winder, Facility Manager  
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director  
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor



## Kids Place News

We are so thankful to be able to offer Godly Play to our preschoolers this year. The Godly Play approach helps children to explore their faith through story, enhancing their spiritual journey through wonder and play. We are thrilled to see the excitement in the kids' eyes every Wednesday morning during their Godly Play time! Just think how blessed we are to offer this! If these students attended a public preschool or daycare they would not be able to hear the Good News our Bible has to share.

A special thank you to Savanna Craig and Barbara Barden for leading these

times!

If you are trained for Godly Play and would like to guide one week please let Savanna or myself know, it's definitely a heart filler!

-Mrs Shelley



## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The Re-opening Task Force is moving to take us a step toward in-person worship and activities at the church. Recently, Gov. Roy Cooper has implemented Phase 3 until Oct. 23. We will be taking this time to incorporate more people in leading worship on Sunday mornings. Beginning next week, the Chancel Choir will be spaced appropriately throughout the Sanctuary to share in worship. During these weeks, processes for entering, seating and exiting will be evaluated and adjusted. As for when we expand in-person participation further is dependent upon what happens after Oct. 23.

Also, small groups are being allowed to meet. Sunday School classes who wish to gather may do so at any time or any place. If you plan on using space at the church, be sure to check with Pastor Fawn to coordinate space.

The task force, which meets monthly, has looked at numerous options in light of the recent developments. From the beginning, it has followed the recommendations of the Western NC Conference in compliance with state guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control.

We are following Bishop Paul Leeland and the cabinet who stated, "We want to be in alignment with our scriptural and Wesleyan call to "love others" and "do no harm," and in compliance with public health guidance and governmental mandates." Regarding in-person worship, the task force is seriously following WNC guidelines. Below is an important aspect of making such a decision:

*Returning to indoor worship will require a phased-in approach and may be different for each congregation based on size, location, and congregational needs. To promote the safest practices, it is recommended that CDC guidelines, local guidelines (including state, county and local), Denominational guidelines, the 24 Questions, Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life, and Legal and Liability issues, all be considered when making decisions about when to enter a new phase. Church officials must be aware of the local situation and should tailor their path through the phases of these guidelines to ensure that they are appropriate to the local situation. **REMEMBER, being "allowed" to do something does not mean it is the best thing or the right thing at the right time for a local church, a family, or an individual. We want to open faithfully and safely.***

For more complete information on the guidelines, go to <https://www.wnccumc.org/covid>.



**birthdays**

- October 11 Virginia Green
- October 11 Drexel Bakker
- October 12 Stan Anthony
- October 12 Doug Hobson
- October 14 Elizabeth Dellinger
- October 14 Lowrey Dellinger
- October 15 Eddie Hamrick
- October 16 Bella Yodice



CUMC extends our deepest sympathies to Rob Laney and family and Carol Schenck and family of the death of their mother, Martha Byers Laney, who passed away early Sunday morning. Arrangements are pending.

**Backpack Food Drive**

Our schools are back in the swing of things as is our Backpack Ministry! As the schools recognize children who are food insecure, CUMC provides meals for them to take home for the days they are not in school. For the month of October we're asking for **individual fruit cups** (apple sauce, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges, etc) You may drop them off at the office M-Th 9-4 and Fri 9-1. These will be added to weekly bags of food sent home from school with food insecure students for weekend meals.



**COVID-19 Updates**

As per NC Mandate and for the health and safety of our staff and community, effective immediately, we ask that everyone wear a mask while inside the church buildings. We are also asking everyone that enters our facility to sign in with their contact information in order to aid with contact tracing should it be necessary. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you stay healthy and well. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**Operating:**

- In Memory of Tom Camp by Bobby & Ann McDaniel
- In Memory of George Newman by Bobby & Ann McDaniel
- In Memory of Larry Barden by Bobby & Ann McDaniel

**Prescription/Over-The-Counter Bottles**

Thanks to all for bringing in your prescription bottles! You have been awesome! So keep up the great work and continue bring in your empty prescription, vitamin, over-the-counter medicine bottles to the church office during office hours for use in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. (Please remove any labels with your name.)

**Backpack Ministry**

Our schools are back in the swing of things as is our Backpack Ministry! As the schools recognize children who are food insecure, CUMC provides meals for them to take home for the days they are not in school. This year we are wanting to connect to our students a little deeper by having prayer partners for each child. That means we need YOU! If you are interested in praying for a child during the school year, please contact Pastor Fawn and you will be given a name. What a great opportunity to connect and support a child in our community!

**2020 Stewardship**

2020 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$63,576.49
Total Receipts in September.....	\$49,818.50
September Expenses.....	\$51,195.77
Over/—Under Budget for the month.....	-\$1,377.27
Over/—Under Budget for the year.....	-\$41,270.13

**OPEN TABLE NEWS!**



Yes, the church is alive and well. We are blessed with wonderful donations of fresh produce and food every Wednesday and Friday afternoon from the Episcopal church, as well as Friday mornings from Wal-Mart and Food Lion. **BUT we really need help** picking up and unloading all those goodies. Friday afternoons are usually the largest donations, so please consider helping from 4:30-5:30 pm... students can receive volunteer hours as well as the knowledge of making a significant difference in our community. **ALSO --** Extra muscles, hands and hearts are always needed on Saturdays. Please arrive to help by 10 am.

## Bible Studies

September has arrived and we are excited to jump into opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through new Bible studies! We hope you will join us:

**WORD AND WINE** – Mondays, 6:30 pm We are still “together” and growing as disciples as we meet via ZOOM to study the Scriptures! Do you ever wonder how on earth you can be a REAL disciple of Jesus? During October, we will discuss each week an attribute of Christ and how difficult it may be for us to emulate it in our own lives. Grab your Bible and a glass as we learn, sharing our thoughts and insights.

Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Kindness

Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Accepting

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> -- Loving

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391585122>

**REVELATION** – Tuesdays, 7 pm This is an incredible, in-depth study of one of the most intriguing books of Scriptures. This week we will be reading Chapter 2. Join leader, Savanna Craig, at Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843458934>

**SAVING JESUS** – Wednesdays, beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:30-5 pm

Who knew Jesus needed to be saved? And saved from what? This is a very progressive study, for those who may have ever felt like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Through video presentations by theological scholars of today, participants will engage in meaningful conversations around the relevance of Jesus for today. Email Pastor Fawn at [fawn@cumcshelby.org](mailto:fawn@cumcshelby.org) to receive the study guide and Zoom link.

## Taking Care Of Each Other

Jesus used food and sharing meals to build community. We continue delivering meals every Saturday to our community and church family, friends and neighbors. If you would like a meal, know someone who would like a meal or would be interested in delivering meals between 11am and 12 noon, please contact Pastor Fawn via email [ [fawn@cumcshelby.org](mailto:fawn@cumcshelby.org) ] or cell phone [954-547-2593].

## Just Because We Love You



We are still in need of 5-10 adults to contact 10 families every 2 weeks just to check in, see if they have any needs, and let them know they are important to this church “just because we love you.” Team members will make phone calls, text, email, even write notes and send cards to parishioners. If you feel God calling you to be a part of the team, please contact Pastor Fawn at [fawn@cumcshelby.org](mailto:fawn@cumcshelby.org) Or you may call her at 954-547-2593 or 828-675-3094.



---

## Take a Breathers



As we are being bombarded with news and anxiety may be building, Central UMC invites you to **Take a Breather** with us Monday-Saturday at noon on Facebook Live. One of our ministry staff will lead us in a short devotional and prayer, uniting us as we keep our eyes and hearts on God’s promises. You do not have to have a FB account to see the videos. You will also find a week’s worth of videos on our website at <http://cumcshelby.org/grow/> . Below you will find the transcripts for the previous weeks’ videos. We hope you join us as we remember: Together, we ARE the Body of Christ!

### October 5th

Welcome back, friends, to our Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> edition of “Take a Breather”. I’m Danny Buckner and it’s my privilege to serve as music director for Central Methodist Church in Shelby, NC. Let’s sit back, take a deep breath, and relax a bit...ahhhh.

I grew up in a Baptist church not too far from here, actually. It was Poplar Springs Baptist Church and my dad was the music minister beginning in 1980 and retired there some 30+ years later.

Not only did we go to church on Sunday morning, but Sunday evening as well. I always enjoyed the Sunday evening services as a kid because they were a little less formal...no coats and ties, a little more laid back...that sort of thing. Often, we’d have what were called “Hymn Singings” that as an adult I now affectionately call “Y’all Calls” because every time we had these, dad would stand before the congregation and say, “Now, y’all call out a hymn and we’ll all sing it together”. Hence...”Y’all call” J.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(continued from page 3)*

One of my favorite “Y’all Call” hymns (and it was called pretty much every time we had a “Hymn Singing” was *Blessed Assurance*. The following is the story of this beloved hymn shared from a book I own titled, “Then Sings My Soul”. It’s written by a pastor named Robert J. Morgan.

Pastor Morgan writes...

*...nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day*

2 Timothy 1:12

Frances Ridley Havergal and Frances (Fanny) Crosby never met, but they became dear pen pals – the two most famous women hymnists of their age, the former in England and the latter in America. Havergal once wrote a poem about her American counterpart:

*Sweet, blind singer over the sea  
Tuneful and Jubilant! How can it be,  
That the songs of gladness, which float so far,  
As if they fell from the evening star  
Are the notes of one who may never see  
‘Visible music’ of flower and tree  
Oh, her heart can see, her heart can see!  
And its sight is strong and swift and free...*

Another of Fanny’s dearest friends was Phoebe Knapp. While Fanny lived in the Manhattan slums and worked in rescue missions, Phoebe lived in the Knapp Mansion, a palatial residence in Brooklyn, where she entertained lavishly. She was an extravagant dresser with a wardrobe full of elaborate gowns and diamond tiaras. Her music room contained on the finest collections of instruments in the country, and Fanny was a frequent houseguest.

One day in 1873, while Fanny was staying at the Knapp Mansion, Phoebe said she had a tune she wanted to play. Going to the music room, she sat at the piano and played a new composition of her own while the blind hymnist listened. Fanny immediately clapped her hands and exclaimed, “Why, that says, ‘Blessed Assurance!’” She quickly composed the words, and a great hymn was born.

Many years later, D.L. Moody was preaching in New York at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Dutch Reformed Church. The Moody/Sankey meetings had popularized Fanny Crosby’s hymns around the world and had made the blind poetess a household name. But whenever she attended a Moody/Sankey meeting, she refused to be recognized, disavowing acclaim.

This day the church was so crowded she could find nowhere to sit. Moody’s son, Will, seeing her, offered to find her a seat. To her bewilderment, he led her onto the platform just as the crowd was singing “Blessed Assurance.” Moody, Sr., jumped to his feet, raised his hand, and interrupted the singing. “Praise the Lord!” he shouted. “Here comes the authoress!”

Fanny took her seat amid thunderous ovation, humbly thanking God for making her a blessing to so many.

(Isn’t that the coolest story?! J)

Let’s close our time together with the Prayer of Saint Francis...

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy  
O Divine Master, grant that I may  
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
To be understood, as to understand  
To be loved, as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life  
Amen

---

## October 7th

I often ask myself, “Where am I in God’s kingdom here on earth? Am I standing, living, BEING where God longs for me?” As I was meditating this morning I came across a writing by Sam Shoemaker. Shoemaker served as a pastor in New York City and Pittsburgh. He was instrumental in establishing the spiritual

*(continued on page 5)*



*(continued from page 4)*

foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous, particularly the need to turn to God as a way of coming out of alcoholism.

As I share his work, I Stand By the Door, with you today, I hope you will join me in asking God where God longs you to be, who God calls you to serve, and how God beckons you to help others discover the unwavering goodness of God.

I Stand by the Door by Rev. Samuel Shoemaker

I stand by the door.

I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,  
The door is the most important door in the world—  
It is the door through which people walk when they find God.  
There's no use my going way inside, and staying there,  
When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,  
Crave to know where the door is.

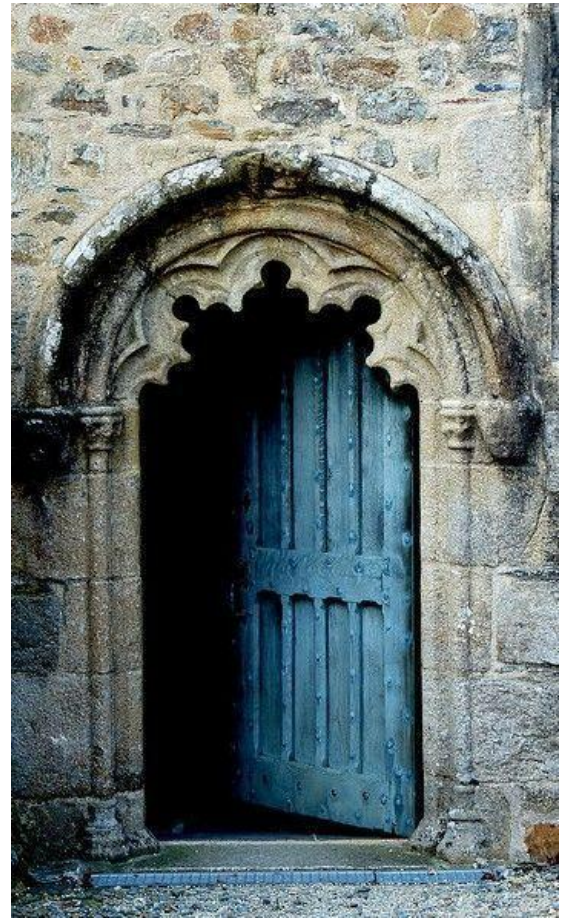
And all that so many ever find  
Is only the wall where a door ought to be.  
They creep along the wall like those who are blind.  
With outstretched, groping hands,  
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,  
Yet they never find it . . .  
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world  
Is for people to find that door—the door to God.  
The most important thing any one can do  
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands,  
And put it on the latch—the latch that only clicks  
And opens to one's own touch.  
People die outside that door, as starving beggars die  
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter—  
Die for want of what is within their grasp.  
They live, on the other side of it—live because they have found it.  
Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,  
And open it, and walk in, and find Him . . .  
So I stand by the door.

Go in, great saints, go all the way in—  
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,  
And way up into the spacious attics—  
In a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.  
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,  
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.  
Some must inhabit those inner rooms,  
And know the depths and heights of God,  
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.  
Sometimes I take a deeper look in,  
Sometimes venture a little farther;  
But my place seems closer to the opening . . .  
So I stand by the door.

The people too far in do not see how near these are  
To leaving—preoccupied with the wonder of it all.  
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door,  
But would like to run away. So for them, too,  
I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.  
But I wish they would not forget how it was



*(continued on page 6)*

*(continued from page 5)*

Before they got in. Then they would be able to help  
The people who have not even found the door,  
Or the people who want to run away again from God.  
You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long,  
And forget the people outside the door.  
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,  
Near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there,  
But not so far from people as not to hear them,  
And remember they are there too.  
Where? Outside the door—  
Thousands of them, millions of them.  
But—more important for me—  
One of them, two of them, ten of them,  
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch,  
So I shall stand by the door and wait  
For those who seek it.  
'I had rather be a door-keeper . . .'  
So I stand by the door.  
Fawn Mikel

---

**TRUTH**  
**Selections from John 14**  
**Sermon for World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020**

Does anyone know what this is? It is the end of an elephant's tail. It has been at least 85 years since it lost the rest of its body because my grandparents brought it home from Africa in 1936 after serving in the Congo as missionaries.

It reminds me of the old parable from India about the blind men and the elephant. Here is one version I found on Wikipedia.

A group of blind men heard that a strange animal, called an elephant, had been brought to the town, but none of them were aware of its shape and form. Out of curiosity, they said: "We must inspect and know it by touch, of which we are capable". So, they sought it out, and when they found it they groped about it. The first person, whose hand landed on the trunk, said, "This being is like a thick snake". For another one whose hand reached its ear, it seemed like a kind of fan. As for another person, whose hand was upon its leg, said, the elephant is a pillar like a tree-trunk. The blind man who placed his hand upon its side said the elephant, "is a wall". Another who felt its tail, described it as a rope. The last felt its tusk, stating the elephant is that which is hard, smooth and like a spear.

In some versions, the blind men then discover their disagreements and suspect the others to be not telling the truth and come to blows.

This old illustration shows how different perceptions convey partial truths making it nearly impossible to discover the truth alone. There are so many parts that come together to reveal truth.

There is a serious responsibility in sharing the truth. That is easy to forget. It is much easier to share the truth from our own perspectives, which often are inadequate in conveying the full truth.

As some of you know, I did not start out my professional life as an ordained minister.

Originally, I was educated as a journalist, spending several years practicing and teaching broadcast journalism.

Being objective and attempting to present the truth was paramount to journalism at that time. I suppose you could call me an "old school journalist" because journalism today is not exactly like it was back then.

When I was reporting, opinion was left to the editorial page in newspapers or at the end of a new broadcast clearly as an editorial response. It was never to be included unattributed in a news story. And never would a journalist insert his or her own opinion in the story.

Our job as reporters was to be as objective as possible, presenting both sides of the story... thus giving the reader or viewer the responsibility of discovering the truth for him or herself.

*(continued on page 7)*

*(continued from page 6)*

I'll never forget the first story I wrote on my first day working in the newsroom at Channel 9 in Charlotte. While going through and sorting the notes in my reporter's pad, I was hit with the reality that I had an incredible responsibility in what I included in the story. I thought, I could write it one way such that the viewer would tend to see the truth from one side of the situation... or I could write it another way such that the viewer would lean toward the other side. Not only with that story... but all subsequent stories... I had to carefully craft how I reported an event so that it was as objective as possible, allowing the viewer to see the truth as it emerged. I may have had my own idea about the truth... but I had to be very careful not to allow my perception influence the way I reported the story.

Even when I taught college, I truly felt my job was a ministry because I was teaching young journalists to attempt to uncover truth and report it objectively. For me that was an extension of my faith as a Christian to help students search for truth regardless of their religious beliefs.

My... how times have changed today. I don't believe I've heard or read a news story in years that did not have elements of opinion affecting the way a viewer or reader would interpret a news event.

Truth. So, where is truth today? Whom or what should I believe?

As we well know these questions are paramount... particularly at this time of the year... as candidates are vying to win elections. It is so easy to forget where truth may be found.

And it is my job as a preacher of the Gospel to help you remember... as I shift our focus away from news and elections to the real truth... the ultimate truth... the only truth which really matters.

It is the truth Christians all over the globe are recalling on this World Communion Sunday. It is the truth of Jesus Christ whom we remember and celebrate through the bread and cup.

Jesus said, ["I am the way, the truth and the life."](#) Jesus is the truth. Let us remember that. The ultimate truth is found in Jesus Christ. "I am the way, the truth and the life."

To fully understand what Jesus was saying, a good journalist and a good preacher would first of all put these words in proper context.

To do this, let us go to the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John. This text is used often in funerals, but I think you'll be surprised at the context.

Jesus said:

*'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places.*

*If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*

*And you know the way to the place where I am going.'*

*Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going.*

*How can we know the way?'*

*Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*

*No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*If you know me, you will know my Father also.*

*From now on you do know him and have seen him.'*

Do you remember when and where Jesus spoke these words? According to John's Gospel, this conversation occurred in the Upper Room, just after the Last Supper. Jesus had announced that Peter would deny him. Soon they would depart for the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus said he was about to leave them (literally by dying) and he directs them not to be troubled because he is leaving to prepare a place for them.

Thomas asks how will they know the way to the Father? Jesus responds with the answer, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

Jesus goes on to say in Chapter 14 that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. And he tells Phillip, if you don't believe that... then the works that he has done are the works of the Father. And then in verse 12, Jesus says something that is out of this world:

*Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.*

Now here is the hard message for us in this passage. In verses 15-17, Jesus says:

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.*

*(continued on page 8)*



200 East Marion St  
Shelby, NC 28150

*(continued from page 7)*

*This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

Jesus continues:

*They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'*

*'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*

God did not leave it totally upon us humans to seek and follow him on our own. As Jesus said in verses 25-26:

*'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.*

God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we can be reminded of this great truth and live it out as we follow the Way, the Truth, the Life.... Jesus Christ.

I hate to disappoint all our politicians...

But...

The Democrats are not the way.

The Republicans are not the way.

Donald Trump is not the truth.

Joe Biden is not the truth.

The politics and policies of governments, institutions and organizations do not constitute life.

For followers of Jesus... Christ and Christ alone is the way, the truth and the life.

On this World Communion Sunday... as we gather at the table Christ prepared for all... may the Holy Spirit be at work in us so that we never falter in knowing and living out this Truth.

And friends the only way we can do that is through the Word contained in the Gospel and made in the flesh through the person of Jesus Christ.

Ultimately, each human being must work out this faith for him or herself.

We can't rely solely upon preachers, theologians, commentaries and the like. Yes, these can be helpful in the quest for truth, but they are not the truth in and of themselves.

Rather, understand truth through the words and actions of Jesus Christ. Understand it as in the context of those who first heard those words of our Lord... not solely through the blurred vision of our present culture and context.

Then, in our faithfulness, the Holy Spirit, will guide us to live out the truth that is represented by the elements on this table... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who said... If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And in doing that, we will come face to face with the Truth... the everlasting and everloving Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus, we love you. Give us the strength and the power through the Holy Spirit to keep your commandments this day and every day. We love you, Jesus. We love you.

### **Oh, how I love Jesus**

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth,

It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

REFRAIN: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus because he first loved me!

My love for Jesus makes me want to follow in his way,

To live the Truth the gives me Life to carry me through each day.

REFRAIN