

Beckley Disciples News

March 2018

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

As Jesus' teaching ministry gained depth with His followers two contrasting responses ensued: some decided that the Lord's words were too hard, and they abandoned Jesus; others recognized that our Lord had words of eternal life.

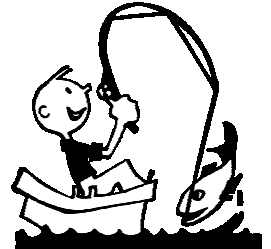
These two responses centered around Jesus' teaching that His followers "eat His flesh and drink His blood." Not only was this forbidden in the Old Testament, it also was a cultural taboo. Perhaps this is the reason why some chose to forsake following Jesus. They took the words literally, like Nicodemus on being born again, and could not imagine themselves participating in such an abhorrent practice.

Peter, representing those who would be faithful to Jesus, recognized there was no where else to go besides following Jesus. As the "Holy

One of God," Jesus truly did have the words of eternal life for those who live and believe in Him.

Partaking of Jesus' flesh and blood is more than just participating in communion on a weekly basis. It is about entering into an all-encompassing relationship with Him as Lord and Savior. This, in turn, means that we accept the mantle of servanthood, which means we take up our God-given cross.

Like Jesus, there will be those who question what we do, even some of our closest friends. We should expect opposition, because Jesus promised that the world would hate us account of His name. Moreover, the crowd mentality of Palm Sunday, with its shouts of "Hallelujah," and Good Friday, with its shouts of "Crucify Him," will also be prevalent.



However, if we allow that One who has the words of life to enter our heart in fullest measure, then we are able to stand firm in our faith, as He did. The Spirit has convinced of our sin, and the means of forgiveness through faith in Jesus. The Spirit has empowered us to pursue righteousness as God defines, and seek to grow in it on a daily basis. The Spirit reminds us judgment is coming, but only for those who have decided that following Jesus is too difficult, not for those who know Him as God's Christ.

Faithfully,

DRS

Holy Week Activities

We reach Jerusalem with Jesus on March 25. Like first pilgrims we will join in the shouts of "Hosanna" and wave our palm branches. However, those cries will quickly change to "Crucify Him." We have a variety of activities for this year's Holy Week. On Palm Sunday everyone will receive a palm upon entrance, and during the last hymn will gather around the perimeter of the sanctuary for our praises, then leave our palms on the chance. Wednesday we will have our final time of Lectio Divina at 6:30 in the chapel. On Maundy Thursday we will worship with a Tenebrae service. Worship will be preceded by a fellowship meal. The church will provide the meat, rolls and drinks, you are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. We will conclude our celebration on Easter morning with the Choir cantata, which will inspire us as witnesses of the Good News that Christ has Risen! Please join us in our discipleship quest this week.



Youth Yak

It has been a blessing to have children in worship on a regular basis. Thanks to Mike Vaughan who does such a wonderful job with our Children's Moment each week. Children's church follows that time, and it is intended for children in 4th grade and younger.

Don does have some people attending the Membership class this spring. The purpose is to prepare individuals for discipleship, rather than just a prerequisite for baptism. If you have questions about membership you can see me or talk to Don.

We will be looking at what we might do for the upcoming Holy

Week. With only a few children it is hard, but I will talk with them and parents to see what we might put together, so that they can participate in worship with us.

We are beginning to consider what type of summer activities we might pursue this year. The church picnic has been moved up to June 24, to accommodate our 125th anniversary celebration. We will have some type of VBS, with the possibility of it being a one day event. We are open to suggestions, so just give me or Don your ideas.

Our children are all very diligent in helping with our Food



Pantry each week. They have sorted through the food from Shady Spring HS, and help in packing bags each week. It is great to see them learn about serving our Lord.

Tammy

Music Notes

We had a great conclusion to our celebration of African-American History Month on February 25. Dr. Wayne Oglesby provided a powerful sermon, and members of his congregation, Church of the Living God, inspirational music. Our fellowship meal afterward was also an opportunity to share with one another.

I hope that you enjoyed the history of the spirituals we used as our communion hymns in February. Every song has a story, and

knowing that story helps us to understand the true power of the words we sing. We may look at incorporating this in the worship on a monthly basis.

It seems hard to believe that we are only a month away from Easter (April 1). The choir is working diligently on our cantata, which is to be presented during worship on Easter. I know you will be blessed by this music, as we



celebrate the Good News of our Lord's resurrection.

Don't forget choir practice is on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Yvonne

Easter Offering

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is under the leadership of the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, who serves as General Minister and president. Along with the various units of the General church, they help us fulfill the Gospel imperative to "go to the ends of the earth."

The Easter offering will be received March 25 & April 1, and these monies go to provide addi-

tional support to the General Church, and the work it does.

We will have a Minute-for-Mission each Sunday, and there will be envelopes for your contributions. Our goal for this year is \$500.

Just a reminder that if you picked up a Week of Compassion coin box they are due back at the church on Palm Sunday (3/25). They will be



consecrated that day as part of the offering. Don't forget, if you would like credit for these monies, please either write your name on the box, or put on a piece of paper in the box.

News for the Pews

Change for Life

On March 4, come prepared to put your loose change in the offering plate. These coins are used to support the Minister's Benevolence Fund, which, in turn, provides financial assistance to Raleigh County neighbors in need.

Carpenter's Corner

Our church will be serving at the Carpenter's Corner on March 9 & 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. We need plenty of help, so please come if you are able. If you would like to serve in the kitchen you do need a Raleigh County Health Department Food Handler's card, which is available online.

Day of Pancakes

GREEN PANCAKES, ANYONE? On Sunday, March 11, following worship, we will have our annual Pancake Day. The menu consists of pancakes (green), sausage patties and fruit. The decorations will be provided by the Christian Women's Fellowship. There is no cost for the dinner but contributions will be appreciated.

Spring Forward

Daylight's Saving Time begins early on Sunday March 11. So don't forget when you go to bed on Saturday to set your clocks ahead one hour. Otherwise, you might be late for the Pancake dinner.

Maundy Thursday

The Maundy Thursday Service will be in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 29, at 6:30 P.M. This service commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Following communion we will begin reading about Jesus' last days and extinguish the candles, one by one, until everything is in darkness.

Food for the dinner will be provided by the church and you will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Sign-up sheets will be provided in Sunday bulletins.

Easter Memorials

In lieu of Easter lilies we are asking you to consider making a special donation to one of our ongoing ministries in memory or honor of a loved one. We will begin receiving these On March 11, and the last day to submit these will be Wednesday March 28. We ask that you consider a \$15 donation. If you would like to underwrite our television broadcast, it is \$60/week or \$250 for the entire month.

Name Changes

No, we aren't changing the name of the church. However, to make it easier (hopefully) for people to find us online we are making some changes. The domain name for the church website is now beckleydisciples.org, but if you type in the old name it will forward you to the site. Likewise, we are in the process of changing the name of our Facebook page to BeckleyDisciples as well. We hope that you will "like" our page, and visit it often. When you do, "like" the postings that appeal to you so that your friends can see them as well. We are making a concerted effort to get the word out about our church, and this is one small way you can help.

Office Notes

The church office will be closed on Good Friday, March 30. Bulletin information will need to be at the church by Tuesday that week, so that Nancy can prepare the bulletin. We will begin printing the new church directory, and hope to have them available for pick-up on March 11. We ask that only take one per family. If you know a shut-in who would like one, please take one to them.



Security Issues

Our Security Team met in February, and discussed several issues. The Board approved two of these at its Special Meeting on the 25th of last month. Beginning March 11, the sanctuary door and Fellowship Hall door (off of Fayette Street) will not be open until 10:15. The Prince Street doors will be open by 8:30 for folks to enter the building. All doors, except the Sanctuary doors, will be locked once the worship service begins. The Sanctuary doors will be locked at 11:00, but the Lead Usher will be there to let late comers into the service. Finally, we have installed security cameras at the main entrance on Prince Street (so that Nancy can see who has come to the door), the back door (at the Bank's parking lot), and the Fellowship Hall door (since this is a somewhat hidden entrance.)

Memorials

The following gifts have been received in memory of **Madalene Vaughan** from M/M Conrad Cooper, M/M John File, Dr. Bonnie Thurston. In memory of **Bonnie Tredway** by M/M John File, M/M Conrad Cooper, M/M Mike Vaughan.

NOTE: Don't forget that we are practicing the *Lectio Divina* (the reading of and praying over Scripture) each Wednesday evening at 6:30 (following choir practice) in the Chapel. Each week's Bible text will be listed in the bulletin. All are welcome.