

# Beckley Disciples News

November 2018

A Global Mission Church

## Gone Fishin'

I was asked recently, "Have you ever doubted or wavered in your call to ministry?" I honestly answered "No." True, I did go through a denominational shift (if you didn't know I was ordained in the Presbyterian Church), but that was more about the "where" I would serve, rather than my willingness to serve.

This does not mean that every day in ministry has been enjoyable. I am a member of an internet chat group, "What they didn't teach you in seminary," and all of us have stories of situations in which we find ourselves, without a clue as to what to do.

Faith, though, doesn't mean that we have all the answers, but rather that we have a humble heart. Obedience to a call to ministry is no different than obedience to our call to faith. In fact, I seen them, in my instance, as going hand

-in-hand. Acknowledging Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, means that I am also saying, "Here am I, send me."

As Thanksgiving draws near, I have much to celebrate in life. Nancy and I have celebrated 39 years of marriage. We have been blessed with five children and nine grandchildren. I am completing my fifteenth year of ministry in Beckley, and still fill as challenged as I did on January 2, 2004 when I began.

I am most especially thankful that we have a God whose arm never grows short; a Lord who is slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness; a Savior, who came to us not with the fanfare of a royal birth, but rather experienced the first cries of life in a stable of Bethlehem. These are a reminder of the humility and obedience we are to exhibit in our relationship with the God



of our salvation.

Because our God is the great I am, I believe that the goals we set for ministry in the new year are where He wants us to be. It will challenge us to hold ourselves more accountable for participation in our life church. It will also dare us to pick up the gauntlet of discipleship: to make more. Will these two move us in new directions? Certainly, but that is what faith's journey is all about.

Faithfully,

DRS

## Thanksgiving Offering

Leadership for the church does happen in a vacuum, but rather is nurtured, like a planted seed. Part of Bonnie Bowman Thurston's story in ministry is not just the nurturing she received here at First Christian Church, but also that that gift came full circle when she was able to nurture a future Timothy & Phoebe from this Church: Joshua and Melissa Snyder. Our church has been blessed up to raise numerous individuals who have responded to God's call to vocational ministry. The Thanksgiving Offering, received November 11 & 18, to goes to provide additional support for the Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In turn, these funds provide scholarships and internships to young people considering God's call to ministry. We will have a Minute for Mission each Sunday, and special envelopes for your contributions. Our goal for 2018 is \$500.

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING NOV 2018**  
[www.DisciplesMissionFund.org](http://www.DisciplesMissionFund.org)

Colleges & Universities  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Seminaries & Divinity Houses  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Higher Education & Leadership Ministries  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## Youth Yak

I want to thank everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. Don't forget we will be packing shoeboxes on the 11th following worship. Delivery of the boxes is that week, so we need to have everything here prior to that do, so we can wrap up our work on the boxes.

As soon as I have Angel Tree information, I will be sharing it with the congregation. I will as let you know what the deadline will be for having your gifts back to the church. All these families are screened through the school, and we make every effort to ensure that none of them are "double dipping" from other groups that provide to

families in need.

I will be talking with parents & grandparents about children availability before planning a Christmas presentation by them. We so need to have some rehearsal, even for something simple. So please think about that as you contemplate your answer. It is always good to have the children participate in worship, but we do need them to be here.

As always, don't forget that we do have Sunday school classes planned for all age groups. For the most part this is intergenerational, since we don't have a large number of children. The



same is true for Children's Church (4th grade and younger). If you have suggestions for what we might do, please see me.

*Tammy*

## Music Notes

It seems hard to believe that winter is upon us, and that Christmas is right around the corner. The choir won't be forgetting the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, as we take time to remember our blessings from God.

We have also begun working on our cantata for the upcoming Advent season. This year's presentation is entitled: *O Come, Let us Adore Him!* This piece contains some traditional

carols (to slightly different arrangements), as well as some newer pieces.

This year the cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 16, during the worship service. This will be our opportunity to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child. Please come and join us for worship, and show your appreciation for the choir.

We will be looking for some special music for a few Sun-



days following the cantata, so that the choir can take a short break. If you know someone who we might invite please see me.

*Yvonne*

## Angel Tree

God's angels are always in our midst, but most especially in the faces of the young children we see. Too many of our kids in Raleigh County live below the poverty line, and need extra love through a variety of gifts we provide.

The Angel Tree ministry exists to make sure that these needy children wake up on December 25, and are truly able to celebrate

Christmas. Tammy will have names from Mabscott Elementary school for us to adopt once again for provide a small miracle in the life of a child.

While we hope to have the names before Thanksgiving, we can't promise. Once we receive the list, Tammy will be sharing it with the congregation, so that you may sign-



up to provide these gifts. For more information please see her.

# News for the Pews

## Change for life

Our Fall stewardship campaign focused on The 57 Cents Challenge, because of its impact on the local church. Those small coins you place into the offering plate on November 4 do make a big impact on individuals lives.

## Carpenter's Corner

Our church will be serving at the Carpenter's Corner on November 9 & 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. We do need lots of help, so if you can volunteer in anyway please come.

## Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday, November 4, we will take time to remember those saints of the church who have transferred their membership to the Church Triumphant during the past year. If you know of members who have died, particularly out of town, please call the church office.

## Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship met on Sunday, September 30, following worship. We have been meeting for many generations, but we felt it was time to disband. Our group is now feeling that our ministry has come full-cycle and that we are not attracting new members at this time. We appreciate everyone who has helped with our projects for these many years. At our closing meeting, we decided to share the money that is in our treasury with various entities. These include our own church budget, our Food Pantry, Sparrow's Nest, our Regional Disciples Women, Week of Compassion who helped pay the cost of Christmount's housing 90 people from the eastern coasts of the Carolinas that had to

leave their homes because of Hurricane Florence. Thank you for your participation in the many projects that CWF has sponsored through the years! If you have been collecting "F" Dollars that benefit our Food Pantry, we encourage you to continue doing this and turn them in to the church treasury.

## General Board Meeting

The next regular General Board Meeting will be on Sunday, November 4, following worship. The Board will gather in the Fellowship Hall, and light refreshments will be available. All Elders and Deacons should plan on attending this meeting.

## Office Notes

The church office will be closed on November 22 & 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Don will be available via his cell phone on both days. Don will be out of town the following times this month. From November 9-14, November 16 & 17, and from November 24-December 1. If there is a pastoral need during this time, please call the church office, the parsonage, or John File, Elders chair.

## Time to Decorate

It seems hard to believe, but we Advent is quickly approaching. We will be gathering on Sunday, November 25, to decorate the church. We will stay after worship (so come dressed casually that day), and lunch will be provided. The more help we have the less time and work for everyone.

## Coat Distribution

A big "thank you" to all who donated winter coats this past month. We have sorted them, and now the time for distribution is at hand. We will be handing out coats on November 8, 9 & 10. On the Thursday & Friday it will be from 1:00 to



3:00 p.m. On Saturday it will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (While our church is serving at the Carpenter's Corner.) If you can help on any of these days please see Don or call the office.

## Time Change

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on November 3. We switch to regular time that evening. Wouldn't want anyone being late for church.

## 57 Cents Challenge

Our fall stewardship campaign ended on October 28. We had a 14 estimate of giving submitted, totaling \$45,930. These pledges increased a total of \$5,690.00 over last year. This puts us just shy of 50% toward our goal for next year's budget. If you have not submitted an estimate of giving for next year, cards are available in the narthex or in the hallway next to the pulpit area. We want to fully fund our budget for next year, so that we don't have to dip into our reserves or drastically cut our ministry.

## Looking Ahead

Advent begins on December 2 this year, and we will begin our journey toward Bethlehem. We have a variety of plans in the works for this special season. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan on attending, as well as to reach out and invite someone to join you as we celebrate our faith.

**First Christian Church**  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Church Staff:**

Donald R. Snyder, Senior Minister  
Tammy Runion, Director of Youth and Education  
Yvonne Seay, Music Director  
Becky Leach, Organist  
Nancy Snyder, Office Assistant  
Barbara Adkins, Bookkeeper  
Angelo Martin, Custodian

**Sermon Scriptures**

November 4	Revelation 21: 22-27
November 11	Rev. Richard Flowers
November 18	2 Corinthians 9:10-14
November 25	Rev. James Trader

**Serving in November**

**Elders:** 4—Bill File, III & Nancy Snyder; 11—John & Lee File; 18—Mike & Delores Vaughan; 25—Mark Tredway & Pat Freeman.

**Deacons:** John Welch, Meg Prince, Alicia Terry, Lanny Okes, Sandy Palen, Kay Gaigall

**Communion Prep & Clean-up:** 4—Rod & Sue Baber; 11 & 18—Bill File, III & Spot Leach; 25—Paula Shrewsberry & Darlene Hodges

**Worship Leaders:** 11—Nancy Snyder; 18—Yvonne Seay.

**Outside Communion:** Delores Vaughan

**Lead Usher:** Rod Baber

**In the Hospital in October**

Haley Jo Anderson, Richard Flowers,  
Airlene Jarrell, Jack McClung, Wayne Tucker

**Prayer Concerns**

The psalmist reminds, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." In response to God's bounty in your life, please ask His extra grace in the lives of these fellow disciples in their hour of need.

Randy Adkins, Mary Joyce Bragg, Clela Cox, Woody & Patty Dacal, Kevin & Susan Fry, John Jordan, Nancy & Scott Kittle, Joe & Mary Korczyk, Rita Lowe, Derek Ross, Trenton Smith, Pat Trader, Kevin Winfree, Zachary Wood.

**In the heart of Beckley, with a heart for the Gospel.**