

Beckley Disciples News

January 2019

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

When asked, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus offered a gentle rebuke, "It is not for you to know the times and seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority, but you will receive power,...and you will be my witnesses." For 2000 years the church has had to live by this twofold process for ministry.

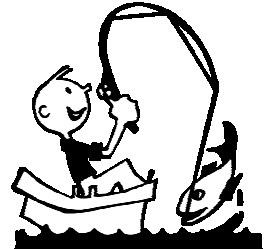
The Spirit is alive and well in our life together as church. The visitors who share with us in worship tell me this regularly. It is a testimony to our willingness to accept God's vision as the guide for our ministry, and to be busy about that work. Sometimes we just plant seeds of Good News, and other times we water them, but faith tells us God always gives the increase.

Witnessing means we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do this in the words we speak,

that is that we openly and boldly declare Jesus to the world. We do this in the work we share, as we let people know that "God loves you and we love you." We do this in the life we share together as church, as we seek to model the body of Christ to fractured world.

A new year brings new opportunities. We have received a grant from the National Benevolent Association to assist Seniors when it comes to hunger and poverty. We will be working with partner agencies not only to provide immediate assistance, i.e., a Food Bag, but also long-term assistance when it comes to other resources available, prudent shopping, and healthy food preparation.

We need to be more intentional in growth. This means we reach out to individuals and invite them to be part of who we are. We continue to share



our story electronically via our website and Facebook. However, we also need to do it regularly on a personal basis, so that others can share in the life we have together.

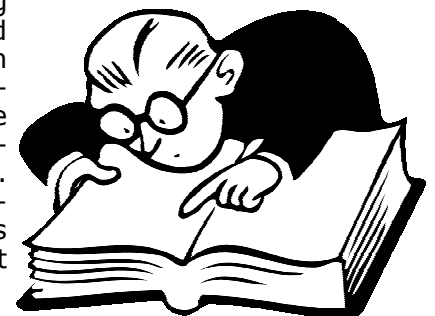
God has blessed us, I believe, because we have been willing to be a blessing for Him. When we do this the Spirit empowers us to be faithful and fruitful witnesses for the Lord of our life.

Faithfully,

DRS

Annual Reports

It seems hard to believe that another year has come and gone in our life together as church. This edition, as in past years, serves as an Annual Report for 2018. The men and women who are indicated have served the church lovingly this past year. Their leadership has helped us enjoy blessed times of celebration, as well as facing challenging times. A special thanks to Mike Vaughan, who has completed his two-year tenure as Board Chair. He has served our church with a heavy heart this past year, but maintained his faithfulness above and beyond the call of duty. We have said goodbye to saints who have entered the church triumphant, and welcomed new disciples, who will help us in service to our Lord. None of this is possible, though, without all of you. Your generosity in the stewardship of your time, talents and treasurers helps us truly be a church in the heart of Beckley, with a heart for the Gospel. Thank You!



Youth Yak

Reflecting back over the year always puts into perspective how much we do at First Christian Church. We have many traditional services and projects that we all look forward to during the year.

The congregation always enjoys watching the children give out our tokens at Mother's Day and Father's Day. The kids adore moving around the sanctuary handing out gifts and making sure they don't miss anyone. It is a great way to honor our church people.

We had a fun summer and enjoyed Sunday School and Children's Church, and we had a special one-night VBS. A great time of fellowship is had by children of all ages that attend. We had a lesson, activity, craft, and chicken nuggets, of course! This is a tradition we all anticipate at the close of our school

year.

Back to School events include our backpack/school supply drive for local Raleigh County students. We collected items and filled backpacks for children at Mabscott Elementary so they would have the items they needed to begin school. After these items were delivered, we began plans for the annual Kids Classic held in Beckley. We sold hamburgers, nachos, snacks, and drinks to the community. More than 150 people came through our church and witnessed our love and service. What a great way to serve the Lord.

Christmas celebrations include our "angels" that we adopt. We provided gifts for 12 angels this year. This project allows underprivileged students to receive some nice



gifts that would otherwise be impossible. In addition to the angels, we made 57 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse ministry, as well as, provided the shipping costs.

It feels good to finish a year with success and a sense of accomplishment. We look toward 2019 with eagerness to challenge ourselves to do more in the name of Christ.

Tammy Runion
Director of Children & Education

Music Notes

Happy New Year from the Sanctuary Choir!

I would like to thank the church for your continuous support of the Sanctuary Choir. We are so fortunate to have the dedicated members that continue to lead you in worship through the ministry of music, singing praises to our Lord and Savior every Sunday. Their faithfulness, dedication, and commitment is to be praised!

I always want to thank and praise Becky for her remarkable talent and the help that she provides to all of our choir members. We hope you enjoyed the presentation of our Christmas Cantata, "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" on December 16th. It is

always an honor to deliver the message of our Saviors' birth in song.

The choir anticipates the beginning of a New Year. We hope to continue to introduce new music, praise songs, as well as some old favorites. The Easter season will be upon us before we know it and preparations for another cantata will begin immediately. We are blessed to have such devoted members but as Don continues to mention, there is always room for more!

Again, thank-you for your patronage! Please pray that we will be able to continue to "Praise the Lord" with gladness through our music for



the upcoming year.

"We play and sing the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the Music"

Yvonne Seay
Music Director

News for the Pews

Alarm Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that the Church alarm system is turned on from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. each day. (It is off during business hours). If you wish to enter the building during those times. You must first come in the door on the Prince Street side of the building, and it is clearly marked. Then you must go to the key pad in the adjacent hallway, enter your four-digit code and turn the alarm off. Then all other doors may be entered. When you exit the building you set the alarm, and then go out the same door by which you entered. If you have questions, or need a demonstration, please see Don.

Carpenter's Corner

Our church will be serving at the Carpenter's Corner on January 11 & 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. Winter months still mean a steady flow of those needing a warm meal. If you can help in anyway, please just show up, or call the office. To work in the kitchen you do need a Food

Handler's card from the Raleigh County Health Department, and this is available online. The Carpenter's Corner Board will meet on Tuesday, January 15, for their quarterly meeting.

Installation of Officers

God blesses us through the women and men He calls to serve as Elders, Deacons and Trustees. On Sunday, January 20, we will formally install our new officers to their positions during the worship service. Please come and affirm your support for the ones God has chosen from our midst.

Office Notes

The church will be closed on Monday, January 21, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. As always, Don will be available via his cell phone. The office will resume normal hours on the 22nd. Nancy is in the office on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9:00 to 1:30 each day. Barbara is in the office on Monday's from 9:00 to 1:00.



Board Meeting

The first General Board meeting for 2019 will be on Sunday, January 27, following the worship service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall, and light refreshments will be available. We will have several year-end reports, and items of business for action. All Elders & Deacons should plan on attending this meeting.

Newsletter

Unless you live out of town, this is the last mailed print edition of the newsletter. Copies will be available in the nathex, or emailed to those desiring it.

Board Report

We as a congregation continue to be blessed in countless ways. 2018 has been another year of rewards and challenges. We have added congregational members, new Board Members, and new office staff.

We have lovingly and successfully supported our community through Carpenters Corner, The Food Pantry, backpack ministries, the Mabscott Christmas Angels, the Kids Classic, our winter coat drive, the Beckley Day of Hope and the radio/TV ministries. We have also served our country and the world through the support of the Shoebox Minis-

tries as well as our yearly special offerings especially the Week of Compassion.

We will be challenged to meet our 2019 budget and continue our compassionate and loving care and support of our Disciples Ministries. There is no doubt we will succeed through our love of and dedication to Jesus Christ.

None of our joys and successes would have been possible without your continued support, love, and dedication to God our Father, Jesus Christ our Savior, and our neighbors, as well as each other.

Once again, I thank you for your support and friendship. It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman for 2018. It is my hope and prayer that God will continue to bless this church and our congregation.

Mike Vaughan,
Board Chair

2018 Christmas Memorial Gifts

To the Food Pantry:

In Memory of Bill Adkins and Mary Geneva Ramsey

- Barbara Adkins

In Memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. S.A. Hutchens and

Mr. & Mrs. James Ramsey - Roger & Charlotte Hutchens

In Honor of our Great-grandchildren Trinity and Henry, and Grandchildren

Chris, Jennifer, Kelsey, and Noah - Wayne & Gloria Tucker

In Celebration of our family - Richard & Jane Flowers

For the General Fund

In Memory of Harry Cooper, Connie Cooper, Dan McClure, and Bill Turner

- Conrad & Carol Cooper

In Memory of Dan McClure, Bill Turner, and Connie Cooper - Peggy McClure

To the Minister's Benevolence Fund:

In Memory of Grace Lee & Wayne Prince

- Sandra Palen and Julia & Evan Wood

In Memory of Judge & Mrs. W.H. File & Mr. & Mrs. W.H. File, Jr.

- John & Lee File

To the Care Basket Fund:

In Memory of Madalene Vaughan - Mike & Delores Vaughan

January 2019

DEC. 30	DEC. 31	NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	2	3	4	5
						<i>Mary Ann Turner</i>
EPIPHANY 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15 Elder's Prayer 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Worship			6 PM Choir Practice <i>Delores Vaughan</i>		11:00 - 1:00 FCC @ Carpenter's Corner	11:00 - 1:00 FCC @ Carpenter's Corner
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15 Elder's Prayer 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Worship	<i>Celine Falcinella Jack McClung</i>	<i>Clela Cox</i>				
20	MARTIN LUTHER KING 21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15 Elder's Prayer 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Worship INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	<i>Anthony Anderson Carolyn Bailey</i>		6 PM Choir Practice <i>Angelo Martin</i>			
27	28	29	30	31	FEB. 1	FEB. 2
9:15 Elder's Prayer 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Worship Noon - Board Meeting	<i>Ryan Wheby</i>		6 PM Choir Practice			<i>Aaron Anderson</i>

Membership Report

Much of our time the first part of the year was spent in preparation for the 125th anniversary celebration of the church. This was held on August 12, and our Regional Minister Thad Allan joined us. The worship service included a service of renewal, letters from Timothy's and Phoebe's, as well as personal testimonies from them. A fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all, with a pictorial history of the church presented to each family.

We still maintained a regular schedule of activities in our church life. The culmination of our celebration of African-American History was held on February 25 that included a church wide fellowship dinner. Our Lenten journey included a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday with a fellowship dinner.

We moved the Church picnic to June because of the Anniversary celebration, and enjoyed a great day of fellowship in God's creation.

The fall brought our big outreach event, the Kid's Classic. The weather wasn't great, but we still had a great day in sharing our church with the community. We closed the year with our Christmas celebration that brought to us the Praise Team from Heart of God Ministries.

We had numerous small group activities throughout the year that promote faith growth. We said good-bye to some, and this was celebrated on Remembrance Sunday in November. We welcomed two new members via baptism, and two via transfer, and we are always glad to extend the

right hand of fellowship to individuals.

Thanks to everyone who helped with these activities. Whether you helped with food prep or meal clean-up, volunteered to serve, brought a covered dish you helped make all these events special. Thank you for participating in these activities as we seek to grow our fellowship.

Nancy Snyder
Membership chair

Property Report

While there are always repairs to be made to older buildings, the following items are the substantial repairs encountered by the Property Department.

The year began inauspiciously, with a small electrical fire near the main service. This necessitated a major upgrade of electrical service for safety and code. The Board approved using Building Assets money to cover the cost of this project, which was completed by Beckley Electric

Later in the year we made improvements to the lighting of the sanctuary by installing LED bulbs in the six chandeliers. This has been a tremendous benefit for overcast days and evening services. The Fellowship Hall had new LED fixtures installed in place of existing fluorescent fixtures. The latter were so old it was more cost effective to do this, rather than try and make

repairs. Throughout the year there are a variety of inspections that are needed throughout the building. This includes the backflow valve on the baptistry; the alarm system in both the Church and Education Buildings; having the fire extinguishers inspected, which includes both service and replacement; and, the elevator must be inspected yearly. We are pleased to report that all of these were successfully completed.

There were also numerous small projects at both the church and parsonage through 2018. We try and be as cost effective as possible when undertaking these, and are grateful to the professionals we use to help us

For 2019, we still have a couple of items that we know need addressed: We are look-

ing at having the Fellowship Hall ceiling painted, as it has been quite awhile since it has been done. There is a leak in the drain for the baptistry drain, which—because of age and how installed—will require a replumbing of the entire unit. Finally, we still face the challenge of water seeping through the wall on the Bank side of the building.

Water issue at the rear of the church's foundation

Water problems with filling/drainage the baptismal

Painting of the ceiling of Fellowship hall

Wayne Tucker and Charles G. Turner.

Property Department co-chairs

Worship Report

Our Liturgical Year began on Sunday, December 3, 2017 with our Hanging of the Greens Service. This is when we have decorated our Sanctuary prior to this first Sunday of Advent with wreaths, garlands, poinsettias and candles. The worship service that Sunday explains the meaning of all of these elements.

Each Sunday of Advent, families and individuals explain the meaning of lighting the Advent Candles with the Christ Candle being lighted on Christmas Eve. Epiphany, the Sunday closest to January 6, is the time when we recognize the arrival of the Magi to see the Christ Child. After this we removed the Christmas decorations and began our new calendar year of 2018.

Ash Wednesday on February 14 began our observance of Lent. We also observe Black Heritage

in February with us singing spirituals during the month. Palm Sunday has palms available for everyone in the church to recognize when Jesus came triumphantly into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Later that week we observed Maundy Thursday with a program of scripture readings and a dinner in our Fellowship Hall.

Easter was observed on April 1 with Easter Lilies in our Sanctuary and an Easter Cantata presented by our Chancel Choir. Our annual Church Picnic was at Little Beaver Park on June 24. This is always a favorite of our congregation who enjoy the outdoor worship service and picnic.

The end of the year continues with fall activities as we look forward to another Liturgical year beginning in December.

We are grateful to all those who have participated in our services this year as worship leaders, guest speakers, and those who presented special programs.

Pat Trader
Worship Chair

Elders, Personnel & Safety

I am pleased to report the activities of the Elders and Deacons, the Personnel Committee and the Safety Committee during 2018. The Elders and Deacons continued to serve at the communion table and to do communion prep and clean-up, and also held various leadership positions in the Church, including serving on committees and as active board members and officers. The Elders also served communion to shut-ins and met on Sunday mornings in the Chapel for prayer. Thank you to all of our Elders and Deacons!

The Personnel Committee focused on office staff issues and is pleased that Nancy and Barbara are doing such a good job there. The Committee appreciates them, as well as our other great employees—Don,

Yvonne, Becky, Tammy and Angelo. The Committee also thanks Carol Buklad for her service as bookkeeper, and all of us should be glad that she is still involved in the financial affairs of the Church as our treasurer. Please take a minute and thank these folks when you see them!

The Safety Committee addressed a number of issues in 2018—its first year of existence. Safety improvements last year included enhancing building security by controlling access through the outside doors, and the installation of cameras, panic buttons, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, defibrillators and first aid kits. Many thanks to all who contributed time, expertise and resources to this work. We expect the Commit-

tee to continue to be active in 2019.

John File

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 5556
119 N. Fayette Street
Beckley, WV 25801

Phone: 304-252-8597
Web: beckleydisciples.org
Email: fccbeckley@outlook.com

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 80
Beckley, WV 25801

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

January 6	Matthew 2: 9-12
January 13	Luke 2: 26-28
January 13	Luke 2: 46-51
January 27	Luke 3: 7-9

Serving in January

Elders: **6**—Mark Tredway & Nancy Snyder; **13**—John & Lee File; **20**—Bill File, III & Yvonne Seay; **27**—Chuck & Carolyn Turner.

Deacons: William Clarke, Garrett & Tammy Runion, Carol Buklad, Paula Shrewsberry, Connie Ross.

Communion Prep & Clean-up: **6 & 13**—Chuck & Carolyn Turner; **20 & 27**—Roger & Charlotte Hutchens.

Worship Leader: **6**—Nancy Snyder; **13**—Kristen Canterberry; **20**—Yvonne Seay; **27**—Paula Shrewsberry.

Lead Usher: John File

Outside Communion: Bill File, III

In the Hospital in December

Bill Eades, Eugene Leach, Don Snyder, III

Prayer Concerns

Begin the New Year with a commitment be more disciplined and intentional in your prayer time with the Lord. These fellow disciples needs an extra measure of God's grace during their time of need.

Randy Adkins, Mary Joyce Bragg, Clela Cox, Woody & Patty Dacal, Bill Eades, Pat Freeman, Kevin & Susan Fry, Airlene Jarrell, Nancy Kittle, Joe & Mary Korczyk, Eugene Leach, Rita Lowe, Meg Prince, Derek Ross, Bishop Fred Simms, Trenton Smith, Pat Trader, Gloria Tucker, Kevin Winfree, Zachary Wood.

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