

Beckley Disciples News

April 2019

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

At dinner a few days ago, Nancy queried, "With so few texts, it must be hard to preach on Easter?" I said, "Yes it is." There are the four Gospel accounts of Easter, Paul's confessional statement in 1 Corinthians 15, and John 11. A few others could be used on Easter, but they are a stretch.

Add to the mix that we live in a post-Christian, secular world in 2019, and in spite of that, Easter is still the best attended worship throughout the year. In the end, though, resurrection is a matter of faith, not homiletic excellence. This is summed up in one point: "He is risen!"

It is the angel's message that defines what Easter is. The women did not go to the wrong tomb. Hence, "He is not here, see where they lay him" remark. Neither did a just brutal-

ized and crucified Jesus manage to move a some 500 pound door stone. Nor, is the resurrection simply a spiritual reality.

We preach the Good News that Christ did rise from the dead. True, we don't know how this happened, but then we aren't supposed to know. We also do not know what our resurrection experience will be like. All we do know is that "to live and believe" in Jesus is to live with Him forever.

It is the experience of faith that leads us into this Gospel truth. Human reason will fail, because there is no way to posit how a dead man came back to life. Science will fail, because there is no way to reenact what happened Easter morning. We simply hear the angelic announcement



and must make a choice.

The living hope we have through the right choice is based on the truth of who God is, and what Jesus has accomplished. The great I AM sent His Son—Jesus—to be our atoning sacrifice and first fruits of resurrection. On April 21 we gather to celebrate not only the angelic announcement, but also our acceptance of this Word of the Lord.

Faithfully,

DRS

Holy Week Activities

We reach Jerusalem with Jesus on April 14. Like the crowd that day, we will join in the "Hallelujah's" for the Lord of our Salvation. Everyone will receive a palm as they arrive for worship that day, and be asked to place it before the communion table during our greeting time. On Maundy Thursday (April 18) we will have our traditional dinner theater time of worship and presentation. A church-wide fellowship meal will precede the program and worship (details are later in the newsletter), and we will conclude the service with communion. On Good Friday there will be a time of prayer and reflection from 6:00 to 6:30 in the chapel. Please come and join us as we begin our Easter vigil, awaiting resurrection. On Easter Sunday we will gather to celebrate the Good News, "He is Risen!" The choir will be presenting the cantata during the worship service, which will truly envelope us in a time of praise. Please join us throughout the week, as we celebrate the grace of God revealed in the cross and empty tomb.



Holy Week

Youth Yak

Our youth continue to work each Sunday on filling our Food Bags for distribution. They also prepare a shopping list so that necessary supplies are on hand. I am grateful for their dedication, as well as your support for this important ministry.

It is not too early to begin thinking about potential graduates within our congregation. While we have not set a date, as of yet, we will be doing so soon, and we want to make sure that we recognize all our young people's accomplishments. If you know of someone graduating from High School, College or Technical school, or a graduate program, please let either me

or Don know. We will send a letter to them announcing the date.

On Palm Sunday (April 14) we will be handing out the palms at the beginning of the service, as we did last year. Then during the service you will be asked to bring them forward, and lay them before the communion table. This is our way of acknowledging the arrival of the One who truly is King of kings.

We do have plans in the works for a Day of Pancakes, which will be held on May 19. We will also begin working on a Vacation Bible School, which will be



scheduled once the final school calendar is in place. Other summer activities will be announced as planned.

Tammy

Music Notes

It seems hard to believe, but Easter is almost here. The choir has been working diligently on the cantata, *The Triumphs of His Grace*. This will be presented during our worship on April 21. I hope that you will join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

The choir will take a much deserved break the week following Easter. Choir practice will then resume on May 1, as we work our way toward the end of the

choir year. We do have several special worship services planned for the summer, but we will need guest soloists. See me if you have suggestions.

I am grateful to those who have filled in on short notice, when the choir was not prepared. Especially Becky and Cristina, who blessed us with their talents. I hope you appreciate their service to us, which goes above and beyond



normal volunteering.

I hope to see you each Lord's day as we celebrate the Good News: He is risen!

Yvonne

Easter Offering

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is described as "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." The General Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, seeks to accomplish this initiative through the various units of which it is comprised.

The Easter Offering, received April 14 & 21, goes to provide

additional financial support for these various units on the General Church level. To help interpret the offering we will have a minute for mission each Sunday, and there will be special envelopes for your contributions.

Help us support the work of the larger church through these "extra" gifts. To heal a fragmented world we need to



break down all the human barriers that separate us from one another, and the Easter offering helps us work toward this goal.

News for the Pews

Change for Life

Come prepared on April 7 to be a blessing in the life of a Raleigh County neighbor in need. When you place your loose change in the offering plate that day, it goes to the Minister's Benevolence Fund. In turn, this provides the financial resources we use to share Christ's love with those around us.

Coin Boxes

If you took a coin box to using during Lent for loose change, we ask that you please bring them with you to worship on April 14. We will consecrate these extra gifts to the Week of Compassion during the worship that morning. If you would like credit for this contribution, please either write your name on the box, or put your name inside of it.

Carpenter's Corner

Our church will be serving at the Carpenter's Corner on April 12 & 13, from 11:00 to 1:00 each day. The numbers continue to be high, as a warm meal is provided to neighbors in need. If you can volunteer in any way please join us. Don't forget, if you want to serve in the kitchen, you will need a food handler's card from the Raleigh County Health Department. Also, the Carpenter's Corner Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 16, at 11:30 p.m. at The Place.

Sign-Ups

We have two upcoming events that need your prior attention. First, our Maundy Thursday service will be on April 18, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner. We need reservations to plan for the meal, and we ask that you let us know if you will be bringing a side dish, salad or dessert. Second, is to

provide an extra gift, in lieu of an Easter lily, in memory, honor or celebration of a loved one. You may designate these gifts to support one of ongoing, special ministries, or any where you like. The deadline for both of these is April 14.

General Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the General Board will be on Sunday, April 28, following worship. We will gather in the Fellowship hall, and light refreshments will be available. We have our regular items of business to review, as well as receive reports and here about upcoming plans. All Elders and Deacons should plan on attending this meeting.

Church Finances

We have made it through the first quarter of 2019. Our church finances have taken a big hit during this time period. We canceled worship two times in January, and the first three Sundays in February saw miserable weather. This meant we needed to draw on our extra resources a little more than anticipated. March brought us some relief, and for that we are grateful. Please remember that regardless of weather, the church has ongoing expenses each and every week that have to be met. We have been blessed to have a pool of monies available to use in time of need. Most recently, we received the final installment of our bequest from the Judith E. Taylor estate. Her generosity to the church, upon entering the church triumphant, has been a God-given blessing.

Community Lenten Services

There are two Community Lenten services scheduled for April. On the 3rd, we will gather at First United Methodist Church



at 12:00 p.m., and then on the 10th we will gather at Beckley Presbyterian Church at the same time. A light lunch will follow each service, for a \$3 donation. Each church will determine the designation of the offering for the day. Join us as we come together as the Body of Christ to remember our Lord's passion.

Prayer Cards

New prayer cards have been placed in each pew for you to use if you would like to add someone to our prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter. Please fill it out and drop it in the offering plate, so that we might be intentional in our prayers, as well as follow-up on the person's progress. Otherwise, continue to feel free to lift up special needs during our morning prayer time.

Announcements

Dear Church Family:

We are delighted to tell you that Audrey is marrying Chris Yambrick on June 22 at the church. We are sorry that we are not able to include everyone in all the festivities surrounding this blessed event, but we hope that you all can attend the wedding and short reception we will be having for our church family in Fellowship Hall immediately after the ceremony. More details later!

John and Lee File

