

Beckley Disciples News

February/March 2020

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

Asking questions is a natural part of life in the church. Even the disciples asked questions of Jesus. The key to success is to be asking the right types of questions, so as to pursue the right answer.

Transactional questions see a problem/issue and ask, "What can we do _____?" They pursue a singularly focused answer, too often based on out dated methodologies. "What can we do to grow?" is this type of question, because it makes the tacit assumption that there is one answer to the problem, and all that needs to be done is implement it.

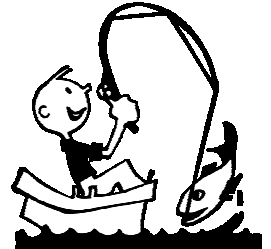
Transformational questions are, by definition, more broad in spectrum. Rather than asking, "What can we do to grow?" this type of question asks, "What does a growing church look like? This causes us to think

outside the box, not just about the desired outcome, but what the consequences of growth will accomplish.

Transactional questions work from the perspective that we can be "who" we are without change, even as we want to accomplish something different. Transformational questions embrace the inevitability of change, but are not afraid of what it means.

Early disciples asked Jesus, "Will you now restore the Kingdom of God?" This was a clear acknowledgement of Him as Messiah Lord, and God's reign had begun. Jesus challenged them to think more in terms of "being my witnesses to the ends of the earth, once you have been clothed with power from on high."

As we become intentional



about attracting new members to our church, this will mean change. This does not mean we forsake who we are, but rather embrace that this "who" is not static, but dynamic.

If we witness Jesus, allow ourselves to be clothed in the Holy Spirit, and "love one another" as He commanded, then I believe we open ourselves to the possibilities God has in mind for our church.

Faithfully,

DRS

Week of Compassion

When disaster strikes, How do we respond? For those of us in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) it is the Week of Compassion. From wildfires in Australia, to coronavirus in China, to disasters here at home, the Week of Compassion is able to respond. Not only are immediate grants available to Disciples churches, but also long-term assistance in recovery is provided. This year the Week of Compassion is February 16—23. As part of our support for this work we will have a minute for mission each week to share the work of WOC. We will also be distributing coin boxes, for those who wish, to drop your loose coins in through the Lenten Season. (These are to be returned Palm Sunday, April 5.) Our goal for 2020 is \$500, and there will be envelopes available for your contributions. Help us "bear one another's burdens" through support of the Week of Compassion.



Outreach Endeavors

After a busy Christmas season, things have quieted down a bit during the month of January. Your generosity impacted a lot of lives last year. We have used God's blessings to become a blessing in the lives of neighbors around us.

Locally, our Food Pantry touched over 2000 lives last year; we provided 42 coats last fall to those in need; we filled 22 backpacks + \$450 to provide supplies for Mabscott Elementary School; we filled 59 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; and adopted 12 Angels from the Mabscott school.

As we look ahead we want to

emphasize two things. First, the Week Of Compassion, which is highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter. This is our way of reaching out and helping neighbors in need around the world.

Second is the upcoming Empty Bowls event sponsored by the Quota Club of Beckley. Last year they raised over \$20,000 to help end hunger in Raleigh County. Our church has received over \$5000 from the Empty Bowls project.

This year's event is scheduled for March 28 at The Place. We will have tickets available, so please support this event, as



your contributions come back, in part, to us.

Don't forget we are prepared for children each week, whether for Sunday school or Children's church.

Tammy Runion

Celebrating Faith

February brings us, once again, to African-American History Month. Our music, both choir and congregation, will reflect the rich history we have received from this tradition. We will conclude our celebration on February 23 with Elder Allen from the Glorious Church of God in Christ in Mt. Hope. A church wide dinner will follow.

This past month the choir was singing pieces from the *Chalice Praise*. They not only provided

us beautiful music, but also provided the introduction for this becoming a regular part of our worship service.

Don and I have been working on doing this, and plan on starting in March. The "call to worship" will be replaced by a time of singing, with pieces picked primarily from *Chalice Praise*. The idea is to maintain the spiritual energy clearly present during our greeting time, as we progress more



formally into worship.

After this time, the service as now organized will continue. The Book of Psalms make clear that praise is at the heart of worship.

Yvonne

Becoming an Alpha Church

For years the Barna Group has published studies on "Religion in America." This year they are undertaking another in-depth look at life in the church. The Board has approved for us to participate in this.

Information will be provided for you to participate in an online survey with Barna. Questions will include items related to your personal spirituality and life

within the church. The survey is anonymous.

Once 25% of our congregation participates we will receive a report on our church based on survey results. This will help us as we plan for the future, and develop specific plans on how to grow.

Don will be the point person for this survey, and as more information becomes available

it will be shared via announcements, the bulletin, and newsletter. The survey will run from March through October.

If you do not have access to a computer, but would like to take the survey, arrangements will be made to use the office computers.

News for the Pews

Newsletter Production

Beginning with 2020, we will only be producing six editions of *Beckley Disciples News*. These will be printed in January (annual reports), February-March, April-May, June-July-August, September-October, November-December. We are only mailing newsletters to homebound members, and selected out of town members & friends. Copies are available for pick-up in the narthex, via email, if you have given us an address to us, and via the website. If you would like an email copy, please call the office and give Nancy the appropriate information. We never share contact information with anyone.

Change for Life

Don't forget on the first Sunday of the month (2/2 & 3/1) to bring your loose change with you to worship, and place it in the offering plate. These monies go to the Minister's Benevolence Fund, and provide assistance in a variety of ways to neighbors in need. Last year, your extra change provided over \$400 for this ministry.

Financial Update

At the January the Board received final financial reports for 2019. Overall, we collected \$167,829.63 for general expenses in the church. Of this we transferred \$35,972.00 from the Money Market to cover budgeted expenses. We did meet all our financial commitments for last year, including paying December's taxes. Overall expenses for last year were \$164,399.39, approximately \$15,000 under budget. We entered 2020 with a carryover amount of \$3,340.24. As has been the case the past few years, our finances will be tight, and we will carefully

monitoring our income in this regard. However, we do believe that we have adequate cash assets on hand to meet this year's budget without having to liquidate more assets from our investments. If you have pledged for 2020, please make every effort to maintain your pledge on a regular basis. If you didn't pledge, please keep your financial gifts coming. God has blessed us, because we take His gifts and turn them into blessings for others. Your financial contributions help us do that on a regular basis.

Mid-Winter Youth Retreat

The Christian Church in West Virginia has planned its annual mid-winter youth retreat for February 7-9 at the Towne Suites in Parkersburg. The cost for this event is \$145, and our church will provide scholarship money to assist folks in attending. There is a registration deadline, and detailed information is available via the Region's website.

Carpenter's Corner

After almost 15 years of service, our church has surrendered its second Friday of serving at the Carpenter's Corner. We still provide assistance for the second Saturday. There is still great need within our community for this important ministry, so volunteers are always needed. Please be in prayer for the Carpenter's Corner as they continue to pursue a possible move to the old Tudor's restaurant on Fourth Street. We anticipate that they will continue to use our facility through this year.

Time Change

While winter weather has finally arrived in southern WV, the groundhog will make his prognostication February 2. This year we switch to Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 8.



Don't forget when you go to bed the night before to "jump a head." We wouldn't want anyone to be late for worship that Sunday.

Clergy Gathering

The clergy from West Virginia and Pennsylvania have been invited to participate in a clergy gathering on March 17, in Washington, PA. They will meet from 10:00 to 4:00 that day. Don will be attending this event, and probably leave the night before, and then return to Beckley late on the 17th. As always, he will have his cell phone, although it may take a little while for him to respond to a contact. Please keep folks in your prayers as they travel to his event.

Women's Gathering

West Virginia Disciples' Women has announced two times for spring gatherings. On March 21, women will gather at Moundsville First Christian Church. Then on the 28th they will gather at United Disciples in Charleston. The theme for this year's event is: "We Saved you a Seat." Each event will run from 10:00 to 2:00, and the cost is \$15, including lunch. There will be study groups, sharing and a time of worship. Registration information is available through our church office, or via the Region's website. There is a registration deadline, so please be attentive to registering if you plan on attending.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff:

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

Sermon Scriptures

February 2	Isaiah 6: 5-8
February 9	Jonah 3: 1-5
February 16	Jeremiah 29: 11-13
February 23	Elder Allen
March 1	James 1: 12-25
March 8	2 Corinthians 12: 8-9
March 15	1 Corinthians 10: 12-13
March 22	Matthew 10: 19-20
March 29	1 John 4: 4-6

Serving in February

Elders: **2**—Richard Flowers & Nancy Snyder; **9**—Mark Tredway & Alicia Terry; **16**—John & Lee File; **23**—Chuck & Carolyn Turner.

Deacons: Rod, Casey & Sue Ann Baber, Kirstin Canterbury, Garrett Runion, Darlene Hodges.

Communion Prep & Clean-up: **2 & 9**—Richard Flowers & Mike Vaughan; **16—23**—Paula Shrewsbury & Darlene Hodges.

Worship Leader: **2**—Nancy Snyder; **9**—Kristin Canterbury; **16**—Alicia Terry.

Lead Usher: Wayne Tucker

Outside Communion: Lee File

In the Hospital in January

Eugene Leach, Yvonne Leach, Alicia Terry

Prayer Concerns

When faced with temptation after His baptism, Jesus relied on prayer, fasting and the Holy Spirit to withstand the devil's words. We are to rely on the same as we follow our journey of faith. Also, use these weapons to support these brothers and sisters in their time of need.

Randy Adkins, Carolyn Bailey, Susan Bailey Hoskyns, Jayne Caffin, Taylor Dacal, Woody & Patty Dacal, Elizabeth Eichler, Jane Flowers, Pat Freeman, Kevin & Susan Fry, Amy Herrenkohl, John Jordan, Nancy Kittle, Spot Leach, Yvonne Leach, Derek Ross, Yvonne Seay, Pat Trader, Wayne & Gloria Tucker, Zachary Wood.

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