

Beckley Disciples News

March 2019

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

Lent brings disciples to the real crux (no pun intended) of our faith. While baptism, much like Jesus', brings us a sense of joy that we are fulfilling the Father's plans for us, there is also a cost. From that moment we profess faith in Jesus the devil will tempt us in a variety of ways to cast that faith away.

On our own, we would certainly fall prey to the wiles of the evil one. Even if we withstood those, there is the ever-increasing marginalization of faith in our world that makes it difficult to exist. However, this also fulfills Jesus' words, when He prophesied, "The world will hate you on account of my name."

So, then, what are we to do in this post-Christian world in which we exist? There is no crystal ball answer, other than the one that has defined minis-

try from the very beginning: we are to witness Jesus to the ends of the earth.

This challenge to "make disciples" is what changes, not only people, but also the world. When we share Christ's love, then we are providing the Spirit the opportunity to change a heart, even if we never see this happen. When we "do this to the least of these," we are fulfilling the Lord's command to love neighbor as self. Of course, the world too often, wants to be like the lawyer who asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Our call to faith is, quite simply, lived out in the world around us, each and every day. We cannot succumb to the temptation to compartmentalize faith, so that it only appears on Sunday, or



when we need it. Rather, we are to embrace that cross Jesus has given us, and follow where He leads.

Jesus' destination led to Jerusalem and Calvary. Our destination may be unknown in this life. Nonetheless, the goal of faith is fixed: life forever in the Kingdom of God.

Faithfully,

DRS

Our Journey to Jerusalem

Jesus' life and ministry always had just one destination: the cross of Calvary. On March 6 we begin our pilgrimage of faith with the master. The response to faith sets us on our own cross-bearing service to the Father. We have several activities planned this season to help our faith. Beginning March 3 we will have a time of Scripture reading and prayer in the chapel beginning at 9:45 and lasting till 10:15 each Sunday. This edition of the newsletter includes a Lenten devotional guide for you to use at home. It provides a daily Scripture reading, a reflection symbol for the day, and you may use our prayer list during your time of prayer. We often think of Lent as a time of "sacrifice," and will be asking for special gifts, in lieu of Easter lilies, once again. Prayerfully, consider supporting one of our special ministries at the church with an extra gift during this Lenten season. Finally, as a personal challenge, commit yourself not to miss worship during this season, leading up to Easter. This will not only encourage your spirit, but also help us together give God the glory for the gift of Jesus.



LENT

Youth Yak

I wanted to remind everyone that our Youth help to maintain our Food Pantry each week. The sort through the food we receive, and then pack the bags that are distributed throughout the upcoming week. They also provide a shopping list for Becky, so that we have a ready supply of items. In March we will be collecting one pound canned hams, which will be distributed in April as a special supplement.

We are looking at setting a date for work in Konrad's Place. The books are in need of organization, so that they can be more easily found by those using the library. We also need to go

through the various sets we have, and note missing volumes, so that we can check on acquiring replacements. Once we set a date, please come and help, if able, so that we can get this children's resource in tip-top shape.

Another pending project is to go through the Nursery and get it ready for use. We don't normally do this, but the toys need to be examined and discarded if necessary. We also need to look into acquiring more up to date cribs and playpens for babies and toddlers to use.

Even though we do not always



have children and/or youth, we do have plans made for them. The same goes for Children's church. We will be talking about VBS soon, and making plans to have ours sometime in early June.

Tammy

Music Notes

I hope you enjoyed all the festivities for African-American History Month. It was especially a blessing to have Evangelist Jeannette Thomas with us on the 24th. Her message was Spirit-filled and poignant for today's times.

The choir has begun working on our Easter Cantata. This year's is a little long, so Don and I are working on how to fit everything into our Easter celebration. If you plan on joining us for this

presentation, we do need you in choir practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

We begin our Lenten journey on March 6, and our worship will likewise focus on the impending passion of our Lord. The music both service and special, will draw attention to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, particularly as we draw near to Palm Sunday.

It is so good to see the joy on everyone's face as we share



in a greeting time at the beginning of worship. What a powerful way to begin our service each week.

Yvonne

Fighting Senior Hunger

Our Church has received a Ministry and Mission grant from the National Benevolent Association, with the particular on older adults, restoring dignity through education and effort. To meet these objectives we have partnered with the Raleigh County Council on Aging.

A majority of individuals in West Virginia live on only on their monthly Social Security pay-

ment. As you know, even with cost of living adjustments, the base figure rarely changes because of increased Medicare costs. These leaves many of our Senior friends struggling to meet daily needs.

With this in mind we are planning a day of Fighting Senior Hunger for May 19, at the Council on Aging center.

Please mark the date on your calendar. Pray that we will take the first steps in helping these neighbors in need, and consider how you might volunteer to help us with the event.

News for the Pews

Change for Life

When asked, "Who is my neighbor?" our Lord responded, with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. These words remind us that our neighbor is anyone who needs our mercy. Your loose change placed in the offering plate on Marcy 3 help us meet the daily needs of our neighbors in need.

Lenten Prayer Time

Beginning March 3, through Palm Sunday, we will be gathering in the Chapel for a time of prayer. We will be using the *Lectio Divina*, the practice of reading and praying over scripture for self, for church, and for community. We will meet from 9:45 to 10:15 each Sunday. Just come with a humble heart, open to the movement of the Spirit, as we pray for one another.

Lenten Devotion

Included with this edition of the newsletter is a Lenten Devotional guide. Lent begins March 6, with Ash Wednesday, and continues through Palm Sunday. Each day has a suggested Scripture, symbol of this part of Jesus' journey, and a brief meditation. We hope you will find them beneficial for this year's Lenten journey.

Carpenter's Corner

There is an ever-increasing need within our community for those needing daily bread. Our church will be providing this on March 8 & 9 as we serve at the Carpenter's Corner from 11:00 to 1:00 each day. We do need plenty of volunteers, particularly on Saturday, so if you can help please come. Don't forget that to work in the kitchen you need a Food Handler's card from the Raleigh County Health Department, which is also available online.

Regional Events

There are a couple of upcoming events within the Christian Church in WV that we want to draw to your attention. First, and yes this is early, April 6, there will be a Spring Gathering event for Disciples' Women at Central Christian Church in Huntington. The registration for this event is \$15, with an additional \$10 if you want to participate in the jewelry making workshop. For more information visit the Region's website, or call the church.

The second is that Regional Assembly has been scheduled for June 21-23 at United Disciples in Charleston. The event begins with a reception on Friday evening. There are several activities, including the main business session, scheduled for Saturday. Assembly will conclude with worship on Sunday morning. Our church is entitled to six delegates, including ministers. Don will only be attending the Saturday morning session, because of other commitments. If you would like to attend Assembly as a Delegate speak either to him or Board chair—John File. Registration is required, and available via the Region's website.

General Assembly

The biennial Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is scheduled for July 20-24 in Des Moines, IA. The event begins formally with worship the first evening, and concludes with Wednesday morning worship. As always, there are a variety of workshops to attend, covering diverse topics. There will also be sense of the Assembly resolutions and other business items. Our church is entitled to two voting delegates, not clergy. If you are interested in attending this year's Assembly please let John File know. March 31 is the deadline for



regular registration, after that fees do increase. If you visit the denomination's website you can also check out housing and meal information.

Don't Forget

Weather caused us to cancel two worship services in January, and we have had less than favorable conditions a few other Sunday mornings. Please remember that even if we don't have worship, and receive a morning offering, the church does have weekly ongoing expenses to meet. While we have reserves to use, we must be frugal with them as well.

Easter Gifts

As has been our custom, we are asking for donations in lieu of Easter Lilies this year. You may make this gift in memory/honor of a loved one, and designate it to support one of our ongoing, special ministries, or anywhere else you like. We will have an insert in the bulletin beginning March 31 for you to use, or you may call the church office. The deadline for making these gifts will be Wednesday, April 17.

Empty Bowls

The Quote Club of Beckley will hold its Empty Bowl event on March 30 at the UMC Temple. Our church food pantry has been awarded a grant to support this ministry from the proceeds. We have tickets available in the office for \$20 apiece. Please purchase your ticket and support the cause to eliminate hunger in our area.

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(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

March 3	Matthew 3: 13-17
March 10	Matthew 4:1-11
March 17	Mark 12: 1-12
March 24	Mark 12: 13-17
March 31	Mark 12: 18-27

Serving in March

Elders: **3**—Bill File, III & Yvonne Seay; **10**—John & Lee File; **17**—Chuck & Carolyn Turner; **24**—Jim Trader & Pat Freeman; **31**—Mike & Delores Vaughan.

Deacons: John Welch, Roger & Charlotte Hutchens, Lanny Okes, Chas Turner, Jean Ann Mearns

Communion Prep & Clean-up: **3 & 10**—Jean Ann Mearns & Connie Ross; **17 & 24**—Casey Baber & Lanny Okes; **31**—John & Lee File.

Worship Leader: **3**—Yvonne Seay; **10**—Michael McClure; **17**—Paula Shrewsberry; **24**—Nancy Snyder.

Lead Usher: Casey Baber

Outside Communion: Jim Trader

In the Hospital in February

Eugene Leach, Delores Vaughan

Prayer Concerns

Jesus prepared for His forty day wilderness ordeal by coming to the Father in prayer, and God's response was the Spirit's presence. These fellow disciples' are facing their own ordeal, and our prayers will bring their need before God.

Randy Adkins, Susan (Hoskins) Bailey, Mary Joyce Bragg, Clela Cox, Woody & Patty Dacal, Kevin & Susan Fry, Sammy Hampton, John Jordan, Nancy Kittle, Eugene Leach, Rita Lowe, Meg Prince, Derek Ross, Pat Trader, Mark Tredway, Gloria Tucker, Kevin Winfree, Zachery Wood, Zutaut Family

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