

Beckley Disciples News

Newsletter Date

Gone Fishin'

Where does faith take us after Easter? For the first disciples this became a time of further instruction as to the nature of their ongoing work for the Lord. Particularly, that they were to await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who would be the abiding and equipping force for their ministry.

It is this same Spirit who abides with us today, and empowers us to be instruments of God's mercy in the world around us. Jesus' directive for ministry are still in place some 2000 years later. We are to make disciples through baptism and teaching. Likewise, we are witness Christ to the world around us.

The challenge for the church of the 21st century is the nature of the world around us. We live in a post-Christian, secular world. This means that many

our neighbors have heard the Gospel, and no longer claim it for their lives. Moreover, Christians will find themselves under increasing pressure to give into worldly desires when it comes to our teaching and practice.

This is borne out statistically. Worship attendance in this country is down to 25%-27% each week (a 10% drop in the last decade). The number of individuals claiming "no religious preference" is now over 20% in our country. These add all new meaning to Jesus' words, "the harvest is great, and the workers are few."

Whether we like it or not, or it fits in our comfort zone, we are to share Jesus with those around us. We need pray every day to be workers for the Gospel. However, we



must also accept Paul's mantra that we "plant and water, but God gives the increase."

This means we share Good News in word and work, and may never see the results. God knows, though, who we have touched, and the work we have done, and blesses us beyond measure when we allow our selves to be a blessing for Him.

Faithfully,

DRS

A Global Mission Church

Flapjacks for Backpacks

On May 19 we will hold our annual Day of Pancakes. This year will be a little different than the past few. We will have a representative from Mabscott Elementary School with us. She will share in needs of the school—not only supplies but also other areas, ways in which we can help, and together we will celebrate the work we do together. The proceeds from this year's Pancake day will go to support Operation Backpack, which fills backpacks with school supplies that are distributed at the beginning of each school year. We have done this several years, and also helped with Angel Tree ministry and other projects at Mabscott. There is no cost for the dinner, but donations will be greatly appreciated. Last year we filled 27 backpacks, and had extra supplies to send to the school. If you would like to make a donation to offset the food costs, just mark it appropriately and place it in the offering. Plan on joining us for good table fellowship, food, and a spirit warmed by sharing the love of Christ with neighbors in need.



Youth Yak

It was great to see such a large number of children up for Mike Vaughan's Children moment on Easter Sunday. As always, Mike does a great job helping our youngest participants understand God's message for them.

We do offer Children's church each Sunday for kids 4th grade and younger. I will be on vacation May 12, and the 19th is our Day of Pancakes, so children will need to plan on staying with their families during worship on those two days.

We will be honoring our mothers on the 12, which is Mother's Day. We have a special gift for

them as a token of our appreciation of the hard work they do in raising our children. As always, we will ask the children present to help distribute the gifts.

We are looking at summer activities for the children/youth this year. A one-day VBS will be planned, and as soon as the day and theme are picked, we will announce them via the newsletter. I do need help with VBS, and donations to help underwrite the cost. See me for more information on these.

Again, we would like to recognize all graduates from local High Schools, colleges/



technical schools, and graduate programs. Right now we have no names, but if you know of a graduate, please let me or Don know.

Tammy

Music Notes

God's Spirit was truly with us on Easter Sunday. The choir's presentation of *The Triumphs of His Grace* was a powerful celebration of the resurrection. I hope you appreciate the effort the choir used to prepare for this day. A special thanks to Becky and Christina for accompanying the choir's presentation.

The choir will be working toward its conclusion in June, by sing pieces from the *Chalice Praise* throughout the month of May.

We will miss our minister Don Snyder, who has been advised to rest his voice as much as possible over the next few months.

We are also in the process of lining up soloists for the summer months. We have one Sunday in June, three in July and four in August. If you would like to sing, or know someone who would, please see me, so that I can get them on the schedule.



While we are drawing near to the end of another choir year, we are always looking for new members. So just join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Yvonne

Fighting Senior Hunger

A significant number of our neighbors in West Virginia live on Social Security alone. This money does not change from year to year. However, costs continue to rise for utilities, groceries, and prescription drugs.

Through a grant from the National Benevolent Association, and in conjunction with the Raleigh County Council on Aging, we are planning a day of

Fighting Senior Hunger. This will be held on May 19 at the Council center on South Kanawha.

Vendors will be there to share information for Seniors on how to save money, and what services may be available to them. There will also be presentations on weatherization and how to shop & cook on a limited budget. If you



are a Senior, or have neighbors who are. Please come, or encourage them to attend. Transportation will be available. Please call the church or the Council on Aging for more information.

News for the Pews

Change for Life

The world looks at the marginalized and blames them for their problems. We look at them and see "the least of these" Jesus commissions us to help. Your loose coins on May 5 help us in our efforts to share the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Carpenter's Corner

Our church will be serving at the Carpenter's Corner on May 10 & 11, from 11:00 to 1:00 each day. An average of 120 people are served a warm meal every day, and this takes lots of volunteers. Please come and help us share Jesus' love.

Announcement

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

Office Info

As some of you know, Nancy will be having eye surgery on May 23. She will be laid up for 30 days for her recovery. During this time Barbara has graciously agreed to work on Thursday. She will help with the bulletin, and any other tasks that are needed. Don will be in the office most mornings, but it is always best to reach him via his cell phone. He will be out of the office May 23 -27 to be at home with Nancy. Beginning the 28 he will work in the office and at home. He is

scheduled to leave for vacation May 30 and be gone through June 7. If there is a pastoral need during that time please call the office (days Barbara is here), or John File (Elders Chair). We are looking for volunteers to come to the office for two hours at a time to distribute food bags during this time. We don't have to cover every day, but some would be nice. We can't guarantee how busy you will be either.

Church Camp

The Christian Church in West Virginia has announced its summer camp schedule. Camp Campbell (K-2nd grade) will be June 12 -14 and Chi Rho/Junior Camp will be June 9-14. Both these camps will be at Parchment Valley Retreat Center in Ripley, WV. The CYF Camp will be July 7-13 at Bethany College. There are registration deadlines. You may obtain registration information either via our church office, or through the Region's website. Our church will pay a one-half scholarship for anyone wishing to attend church camp. You may see Tammy or Don for more information on this.

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet will meet on Monday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Anchor classroom. This is an important meeting, as we have several summer activities planned for this year. All department heads should plan on attending this meeting.

Regional Board Meeting

The Board for the Christian Church in West Virginia will meet on May 18 in Ravenswood, WV. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., and will deal, in part, with issues pertaining to the upcoming Regional Assembly. Don serves on the Board, so please pray for safe travels for all those participat-



ing in the meeting, as well as God's Spirit of wisdom, understanding and grace to overshadow these church leaders.

Assembly Delegates

With two upcoming assemblies, we are looking for folks to serve as delegates. For Regional Assembly we are entitled to six delegates, and this includes the minister. Don will only be at Assembly on Saturday because of a prior commitment on Friday and Saturday evenings. General Assembly is July 20-24 in Des Moines, IA. Our church is entitled to two delegates, apart from clergy. If you are interested in attending either Assembly, it is imperative that you be in touch with John File, Board Chair. There are registration deadlines, and for General Assembly, hotel accommodations are quickly filling.

Gentle Reminder

With the vacation season approaching, we give gentle reminder about serving responsibilities. If you are scheduled to prepare and clean-up after communion, the church is open by 8:45. If you are unable to fulfill this commitment, it is your responsibility find a substitute. Do not assume that it will be done otherwise. Likewise, if you are going to be away for an extended time during the summer, please let John File (Elders Chair) know, so that you won't be scheduled during that time. If you are going to miss as scheduled, please call the church office and let us know.

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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

May 5	Acts 4: 32-35
May 12	Acts 5: 12-16
May 19	Acts 10: 44-48
May 26	Acts 18: 9-11

Serving in May

Elders: 5—Bill File, III & Pat Freeman; 12—Mike & Delores Vaughan; 19—Jim Trader & Yvonne Seay; 26—John & Lee File.

Deacons: Rod, Casey & Sue Ann Baber, Meg Prince, Sandy Palen, Alicia Terry.

Communion Prep & Clean-up: 5—John Welch & William Clarke; 12 & 19—Carol & Conrad Cooper; 26—Richard Flowers & Eugene Leach.

Worship Leader: 5—Nancy Snyder; 12—Kristin Canterbury; 19—Yvonne Seay; 26—Michael McClure.

Lead Usher: Wayne Tucker

Outside Communion: Chuck Turner

Prayer Concerns

Living our Christ's directive "to love neighbor as self," means that we also take time to lift up our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer, so that we might be instruments of God's consolation to them.

Randy Adkins, Susan Bailey, Mary Joyce Bragg, Clela Cox, Woody & Patty Dacal, Kevin & Susan Fry, Sammy Hampton, Hurst Family, Airlene Jarrell, John Jordan, Nancy Kittle, Meg Prince, Derek Ross, Pat Trader, Gloria Tucker, Kevin Winfree.

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