

Beckley Disciples News

November/December 2020

A Global Mission Church

Gone Fishin'

"God's story for First Christian Church is entering a new chapter, and I am excited to be part of it. God has brought us together for a reason, and while all the particulars are not known, I do know that God will accomplish great things if, like Abraham, we are obedient to both the call and the vision."

These words were part of the first newsletter contribution I made seventeen years ago. One truth is still appropriate today: "God's story of First Christian Church is entering a new chapter." As with all new beginnings there is uncertainty from a human perspective, but with God all things work for good.

I have been excited to be part of the journey we have shared together. We have faced challenges on a variety of fronts, but did so in the confidence that these were divine opportunities, not human obstacles. I believe this is why the Lord has blessed us,

because we have been willing to be a blessing to Him.

Now the tapestry of faith that God has woven during our time together begins to weave a new picture. Sharon Waters brings her gifts to First Christ, as well as her enthusiasm for ministry. Together I am confident that the light of First Christian Church will continue to shine brightly.

When I felt God's nudging to retire, there was, needless to say, some doubt. However, as God's Word to me became clear on this matter, so did His Word that He had new plans for me. Through a series of event that bespeak divine intervention, I will begin serving as part-time Interim minister at First Christian Church in Brownsville, PA on January 1.

From a personal perspective, I leave with a heavy heart having to say good-bye to so many



with whom I have shared in ministry. From a Spirit-filled perspective, I look forward to new beginnings and new challenges.

You are "a church in the heart of Beckley, with a heart for the Gospel." I have believed from the moment I accepted God's call to come here. My leaving does not change this reality, because it is a God-given vision. I am confident that embracing this as God's vision, will lead to achieving Kingdom potential.

Faithfully, as always,

DRS

Upcoming Special Offerings

We will be receiving two special offerings in the near future. On November 15 & 22, we will be taking up the Thanksgiving Offering. These monies go to support the Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM). HELM provides scholarships to Disciples' related higher educational institutions, and internships to prospective leaders within the church. On December 13 & 20 we will be receiving the Christmas Offering. These monies provide additional financial support to the Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The CCWV provides a variety of ministries for churches within its bounds from church camp for children/youth to search and call assistance for congregations looking for ministers. We will have a Minute for Mission for each of these offerings, and we ask that you mark your contributions appropriately, as we will not be using special envelopes. Our goal for the Thanksgiving offering is \$350, and our goal for the Christmas offering is \$750. Please help us support the work of the larger church through our extra contributions.



Outreach Endeavors

As the year draws to a close we have special outreach projects on the horizon. The two seasonal special offerings are highlighted elsewhere, so I won't go over them, other than to remind you to give.

Through a grant from the Week of Compassion we are planning a special Thanksgiving food give away for students at Mabscott Elementary School. We will do this the last day before break. If we receive another pending grant, we may add some other items for families to use during the Thanksgiving season.

As soon as I have the infor-

mation we will be participating in the Angel Tree Ministry once again. This provides a special Christmas for school-aged children. I hope to have the list prior to Thanksgiving, so you have plenty of time to shop. If you have questions, please see me.

We are also working on food boxes for the Mabscott school families during the Christmas season. We have a grant pending to do this. Last year, Food Lion was a generous provider for this "extra" ministry, and it was a great blessing for the children at the school.

Finally, I have been using your



generous contributions to Operation Backpack to provide supplies to the school, which we do not otherwise receive funds to purchase. Everyone is very appreciative of you gifts and bounty.

Tammy

Celebrating Faith

What a blessing it has been to have an abbreviated choir leading our worship music. I am grateful to the four people who have volunteered their time (Carol Buklad, Kristin Canterbury, Alicia Terry and John Welch), and are sharing their gifts with the church.

The Advent/Christmas season is almost here. While we are not having our usual special celebrations this season because of the pandemic, we do have some

special activities planned. We are planning to dedicate the new Kawai electronic piano on December 13. This was a gift from the Knuckles' family, and is a beautiful addition to our music ministry.

A Choral concert with myself and Becky is also being planned. We look forward to celebrating the season with traditional music. The date for this will be announced shortly.



Finally, we are planning Don's final worship service with us for December 20. We will not forget this is Christmas Sunday, but also will highlight ministry over the past seventeen years.

Yvonne

Transition Schedule

At a special Congregational Meeting in September, the church extended a call to the Rev. Sharon Waters to serve as Interim Senior Minister. Don had announced his retirement at the beginning of June.

The time for the official transition has been announced. First, Rev. Waters will begin her duties at First Christian Church on January 1, 2021. The actual date

for her arrival to Beckley is not known at this time, but will, most likely, be a few days before this.

Don's last Sunday in the pulpit will be December 20. While this is our traditional "Christmas" Sunday, we will also be celebrating his ministry with us. (This is a hint to expect a slightly longer worship service.) He and Nancy



will be vacating the parsonage the week of December 13, but remain in the area through the duration of his time here.

The Snyder's will be moving to Perryopolis, PA, where Don will be serving as part-time Interim minister at First Christian Church in Brownsville, PA

News for the Pews

Change for Life

The needs of neighbors around us continue to increase. When you place your loose change in the offering plate on November 1 and December 6 it goes to provide resources for the Minister's Benevolence Fund. Please remember these dates and grab your coins before coming to worship day.

November 1 Happenings

November 1 will be a busy day for us at the church. First, as All Saints Day, we will take time during the morning worship to remember those saints from our ranks who have now joined the church triumphant. This will include a necrology report, and celebratory prayer. Following worship that day, the General Board will have its regularly meeting in the Sanctuary. The packet will be emailed to members prior to the meeting. We will practice social distancing and ask that everyone please wear a mask. All Elders and Deacons should plan on attending this meeting.

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to announce that Rev. Sharon Waters has accepted our call to serve as Interim Minister. The call was made after special meetings of the General Board and the congregation, at which those bodies unanimously approved the Pulpit Committee's recommendation that we extend a call to her.

We expect that Sharon will become our Interim Minister on January 1. We have scheduled for her to have transition meetings with Don and others in early November.

I continue to appreciate Don's work in the transition process, and I thank all of the Pulpit Committee members for their work. Please plan to welcome Sharon and her husband, Keith, as we begin the new year and a new time in the life of our church!

John File
Chairman of the Board

Angel Tree Ministry

We will be participating in the Angel Tree once again this year. Tammy is going to try and have her "angels" prior to Thanksgiving break, so that you may adopt one. This will give everyone plenty of time for shopping. We anticipate the return date being no later than December 13. Don't forget to mark your bag with pertinent information that Tammy can identify the person for whom purchases have been made. If you have any questions, please see her.

Advent/Christmas Activities

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our usual Christmas season plans. First, we are only putting out limited decorations this year, and this will be handled by the church staff, and be out for the first Sunday of Advent. Second, there will be no church-wide Christmas dinner this year. The circumstances make this impossible. We do have plans for special services though. Yvonne and Becky will be presenting a concert of Christmas Carols and Medleys, most likely on December 20, but it may be on the 6th. On December 13, we are planning a special service of dedication for the KAWAI electric piano donated by the Knuckles Family. We will not be having a sanctuary Christmas eve service this year. Instead, the staff will be streaming our Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. in the church Facebook page. Please avail yourselves of these special opportunities for worship the coming of Christ.

Devotion Guide

Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is an Advent Devotional guide. The Advent season begins November 29, and continues through Christmas Eve. There are Scripture readings,



season symbols with meaning, and brief thoughts for you to use. Don't forget that each day on the Facebook page we post daily Scripture readings, a prayer and thought for the day, and on the website is a daily devotion for your use.

Office Notes

Please keep in mind these dates regarding the church office. The office will be closed on November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday, and again on December 24 & 25 for the Christmas holiday. Don will be on vacation from November 27 through December 5. If there is a pastoral need during this time please call either the church office or the parsonage. Don will be in touch with Nancy each evening, and her or Barbara will forward information to the appropriate individuals for the proper response.

Final Celebration

After seventeen years of ministry with us, Don Snyder is retiring as of December 31. (Actually, just partially retiring as he will be part-time Interim minister in Brownsville, PA.) We will celebrate Christmas and his ministry with us on December 20. While he has made it clear that there will be tears, most of them his, he has also indicated this is to be a celebration of all that God worked through us during his time here. While formal greetings will be impossible, Don and Nancy plan on being available at the front of the sanctuary following worship for folks to share their farewells. We hope you will plan on joining us on the 20th for this special service.

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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 Outreach
and Education
Yvonne Seay, Director of Worship
Becky Leach, Organist
Barbara Adkins, Bookkeeper & Office Assistant
Angelo Martin, Custodian

Sermon Scriptures

November 1	Revelation 19: 6b-8
November 8	Ezekiel 34: 15-16
November 15	Malachi 3: 16-18
November 22	John 6: 33-35
November 29	Rev. James Trader, II Preaching
December 6	1 Timothy 3:16
December 13	Kawai Piano Dedication
December 20	Choral Concert, Final Sermon
December 27	?

Serving in November

Lead usher: John File

Outside Communion: John File

**In the Hospital September &
October**

Pat Freeman & Hal Price

Prayer Concerns

Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines Jesus exercised regularly in His ministry, and we should be as well. Please remember these fellow disciples in your daily time with our Lord.

Carolyn Bailey, Susan Bailey Hoskyns, Jayne Chafin, Taylor Dacal, Woody & Patty Dacal, Jane Flowers, Pat Freeman, Kevin & Susan Fry, Amy Herrenkohl, Nancy Kittle, Yvonne Leach, Betty McClung, Hal Price, Derek Ross, Jim & Pat Trader, Wayne & Gloria Tucker, Kevin Winfree.

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