



CERRYLOGUE



News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Volume 21, Issue 1

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

January 2018

Harry Gilbert, Music Director

Blanket Sunday, January 14th

Rescheduled from November, JANUARY 14 will be Cherry Log's annual Blanket Sunday. During 2017 there have been many natural disasters throughout the world, and here in the United States, we suffered from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

BECAUSE OF OUR GENEROSITY IN THE PAST, Church World Service responded quickly in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, with blankets and other emergency supplies to Texas.

BECAUSE OF OUR GENEROSITY IN THE PAST, CWS provided blankets and needed materials to agencies in Florida after Hurricane Irma.

BECAUSE OF OUR GENEROSITY IN THE PAST CWS provided homeless shelters and street programs around the country with blankets to distribute before winter arrived.

BECAUSE OF OUR GENEROSITY IN THE PAST, CWS supplied bright golden blankets to Puerto Rico and other countries in warmer climates.



Service of Covenant, January 21st

On Sunday, January 21, at a combined 10:00 AM worship service, the CLCC family will covenant with our new pastor, Reverend Adam Bradley, to publicly state our commitments to one another and to the work of our church. Please join us for this joyful occasion and for a shared meal after. Our guest preacher will be Reverend Dr. Ben Bohren, a special mentor to Adam. His sermon topic will be, "Feet." You won't want to miss this! Please bring a side vegetable, salad, or dessert to the meal of hospitality following the service. Chicken and ham will be provided. It's time to celebrate together the abundant future of Cherry Log Christian Church!

A Moment With Our Pastor...

Apologies and Gratitudes

Someone I trust and look to for wisdom in the practice of doing pastoral care and proclamation, once told me that the two most important things a pastor can ever say are “I am sorry” and “thank you”. It seemed irritatingly small-minded when I first heard it. What about the sermon? What about leading worship? What about the penetrating questions that make people reconsider their orientation to the gospel? But, like most wisdom, like most moments of inspiration, the truth of those words dawned on me eventually, quite unexpectedly, and in a humbling manor. I will save that story for another day, but what I want to do is address some observations of our church life for which I should offer some “I am sorrys” and “Thank yous”.



If you have not had the opportunity to connect with me yet, that is, if I have not yet held a few moments aside special for you, I am sorry. If you have returned to Cherry Log after some time away, and no one has especially noticed that you are back, I am sorry. If you are new to Cherry Log and still don't understand what you are supposed to whisper to your neighbor at communion, I am sorry. If you have recently returned to Cherry Log and someone asked you to lead something your second week back, I am sorry. If you have been back a few weeks and no one has invited you to serve the church in your special way, I am sorry. If you have been a steadfast member of this church, dealt with all the ups and downs, and church leadership seems to be more interested in new faces, new voices, new contributions, I am sorry. If you are missing something that this church always did, but now seems to have let fall through the cracks, I am sorry. If my preaching seems too vanilla, I am sorry. If my preaching seems too spicy, I am sorry. If you are frustrated because our church seems to jump from one cause to another and never really sinks its teeth into something, I am sorry. If this church seems always to be talking about the same few issues, never moving on to what's on your heart, I am sorry. If you have increased your giving, increased your donations for special offerings, and have given as well of your time and talent – and still we are asking for more from you seemingly every week, I am sorry. If you have given all you can, and are left feeling less-than when you can't donate to the latest special offering, I am sorry. If we can't seem to fund the missions and ministries you see as a desperate need in the community or world, I am sorry. If you have given of your time to committee work and it feels like nothing is really happening, I am sorry. If you do more work than is rightly yours to do, I am sorry. If you always seemed to be overlooked when invitations for service are extended, I am sorry. If there is a passion in your heart that the church just never seems to take seriously, I am sorry. If you have been left feeling unsettled and uncomfortable by changes in our worship experiences, I am sorry. If I have not pushed the boundaries of our worship experience far enough, not have played enough guitar or modernized our liturgies enough, I am sorry. And finally, for the tardiness of this Cherrylogue newsletter, I am sorry.

I realize one of my roles in this church is that I am to be the last line of defense when it comes to saying 'sorry'. And, I really am sorry. I am sorry if you are troubled by some aspect of church life. I want every member, attendee, and visitor, to feel spiritually fed by their time given to the church. This is fundamentally what the church must do - create space for her people to be spiritually fed, so that they might then be more prepared to feed others with the bounty of the gospel good news. Now, sometimes we do have to acquire a taste for a

new spiritual food (sometimes the best foods for us don't taste the best). And sometimes there are dishes on the table that we simply do not care for – do not prefer, and so we pass on. Not every meal do we always get to enjoy our most favorite foods. But everyone should be able to eat, and be satisfied.

So, thank you to those who work tirelessly on making this Church run. Thank you to those who help to lead us, to teach us, to inspire us, and model for us the Christian life. Thank you all for the love you bring, for the forgiveness you are willing to extend, and the hope you hold for our abundance together. Thank you for showing up, as often as you can, to join your spirit with the congregation in worship, service, celebration, and even in mourning. Thank you to those who have been here through thick and thin, and to those who have decided to return for another try. Thank you to those who lift your voices in song, in prayer, and in solidarity with your sisters and brothers in faith. Thank you to those who are dealing with changes that come with a new pastor. Thank you to those who have made me aware of particularly impactful traditions that we should continue. Thank you to those who have come to me to say, 'This can be let go of to make room for another vision to be made manifest.' Thank you to those who have continued to do the work they are committed to without missing a beat, even in the midst of a big transition. Thank you to those who have come with a new ministry idea, again, hoping now is the time that Cherry Log can step up in the ways you hope for. Thank you for your grace, when I miss my mark or really flub up something. Thank you for your concern for me and my family – that has been felt from everyone, across the board. Thank you for loving each other, and continuing to learn to love each other. Thank you for being the church, and thank you for your coming commitment to be the church with more wholeness, purpose, and resolve.

Over the course of the next few months, I will be asking for a churchwide inventory of how we currently spend our energy, focus, resources, and time, in the life of Cherry Log Christian Church. I will ask all committees, councils, and constituencies, to set an in-person meeting date before we get to Easter so to begin this inventory work. I will ask these leaders to help us prioritize our programs and mission work by what is most meaningful, most effective, and most needed. I will ask how these groups would speak to the identity of Cherry Log, and how their annual planning serves this identity. I will ask each group to consider how to push the level of communication out more broadly so that we can begin reaching our local communities in more impactful ways. And, I will ask these groups to identify areas where we bleed energy and resources away from our more central mission and visions for the church.

These won't be easy questions and deliberations. They may lead to me offering more "I am sorrys" and "thanks yous", but as I was taught many years ago – that is very much my job. My office is open to come and talk about these processes of inventory. I am always invested in what you have to say, what offering you have to make. But please remember, we are serving a Holy meal, a table full of all different kinds of platters of grace, and hope, and mission, and giving, and sacrifice, and service, and inspiration. You won't want to eat from every dish – but I hope you always leave with something to chew on.

So many Blessings,

Pastor Adam

Thank you, Church, for your very strong support for the 13th Month giving request. To date, about \$14,000 has been given toward 13th Month. Attendance improved in November. Average weekly attendance for November was 155, the highest average weekly average in 2017. Reflecting improved attendance and 13th Month giving, November revenue was \$52,643. November expenses were \$42,505. This reduces the year-to-date deficit from \$17,840 in October to \$7,702 in November. Assuming attendance remains strong in December and additional 13th Month giving is received, it is possible that we can end the year with a balanced budget! Thank you for making that possible.

We have received the final Financial Procedures report from the CPA firm, RL Jennings & Associates, PC. This was not a full audit, but a comprehensive review of many of our key financial processes and procedures.

To summarize, Jennings & Associates:

- Tested a sample of bank reconciliations to assure agreement with the statement of financial position.
- Tested 64 disbursement transactions to determine agreement with invoice, check and general ledger.
- Tested loan balance from loan statement to the statement of financial position.
- Tested Legacy Fund balance with financial statement.
- Analyzed expense accounts to determine that expenses are appropriately categorized.
- Tested two Sunday offerings to assure they were properly counted and deposited.
- Tested the same two Sunday offerings to assure proper recording to member's contribution reports.
- Tested to make sure that designated funds were recorded to the proper account.
- Reviewed the counting procedures to determine that they are appropriate and easily followed.
- Compiled a fixed asset schedule and depreciation schedule.

Three minor exceptions were found in area number 2 that were explained and reconciled.

Jennings recommended several procedural tweaks which can improve the audit trail, further protecting employees who handle collections and accounting. These have been implemented. Jennings's auditors complimented the knowledge and professional handling of our financial procedures by our Church Administrator, Malinda Geers.

Seekers Sunday School Class

Seekers Sunday School class started a new book on the last Sunday of 2017, eager to lean into the new year with a new topic. The book is *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*, by John Phillip Newell. He speaks of a "radical reemergence of the Divine" from deep within Christianity and each of us. If this topic interests you, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We welcome questions and discussion.

If you'd like to sample this topic in lectures given by Newell at Mountain Top Lectures, you can view them on mountaintoplectures.org. Go to recorded lectures of 2016.

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

Our Family is a circle of strength; founded on Faith, Joined in Love Kept by God, Together forever.

- unknown



Gary Schaefer

Born in Belleville Il. Graduated from Belleville HS and Belleville Area College. Gary is a 2-time US Army Vietnam War Veteran. After the Army, worked for a Corrugated Box Company in Illinois, Alabama, and Georgia. Retired from Peachtree Packaging, where he was a Human Resource Manager for 28 years. The Schaefer's have 2 sons, and one granddaughter. Their granddaughter, Haley lives with her parents in Watkinsville, GA. Bought a small cabin in Blue Ridge 26 years ago and retired to this area. Visited CLCC many times as a visitor from the beginning of the church and became members in 2013. Hobbies are high school and college wrestling. Gary has been involved for 35 years and has been installed in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. At CLCC, Gary is involved with the personnel and safety committees.

Ron Coburn

Born and raised in Kentucky; earned BS Math at U of KY; MS Math Rensselaer Polytech Institute; began career computer programming at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corp, 3 years; Bell-south 30 years, engineering, computer science, new technology planning, marketing, corporate planning, training organization, HR; retired 2001; "A lady wanted to buy one of my paintings and I wouldn't sell, but painted her one. She had a cabin in mountains and gave us a weekend here. Debbie said 'I want one' ". And here they are. Married to Debbie 50 years, one daughter, 2 grands; most time spent painting (oils), gardening and "knocking around". CLCC? "Debbie found it and brought me along"



Betty Schaefer

Born in Chester Illinois. Met Gary in high school and married after he was drafted into the army. Their oldest son was born at Fort Lee , Va a few months before Gary went back to Vietnam for the second time. Moved to Lilburn in the 1979 and in 1992 bought a small cabin in the mountains. At retirement, the cabin became their home. Also have a small house in in Statham, near Watkinsville, to be close to their granddaughter. Betty graduated from Georgia State after going to night school for 4 years after her sons finished school. Became a CPA and worked in accounting and financial software until retirement. Betty's hobbies are knitting, crocheting, weaving, painting. Also rides bike, swims and hikes. Betty is chair of the Prayer Shaw Ministry at CLCC and has been involved in the Finance Committee for several years.



Jim Tingle

Born Atlanta in a US Navy home; attended 14 schools, graduating in Guam; Navy scholarship to Georgia Tech; after two years' study, call to Christian ministry intervened; completed BA degree, Johnson Bible School; MDiv at Christian Theological Seminary; retired from pastorate in Minneola, TX; he and Dee married 24 years; bought family vacation home here when parents were gone. Collects and rebuilds hats; collects cameras and participated in camera shows; plans interesting day trips every week His brother, also a minister, told them of CLCC and Dr. Craddock; attended both previous locations; on retirement they joined and found it to be "a warm, loving Christian Community and we're delighted to be here."



Faith in Fiction

The book list for Faith in Fiction continues to stimulate good reading and interesting discussion. Our list was revised to accommodate a new book in December and now continues:

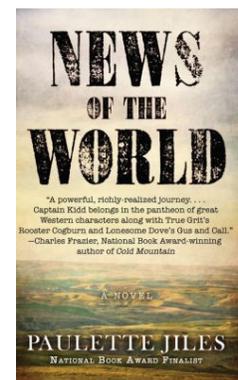
January--News of the World

February--The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

March--Shantaram

April--The Schopenhauer Cure.

We meet on the second Friday of each month at 11:00 in the choir room and we welcome anyone who has read the book under discussion. If you enjoy conversation about good literature, please join us.



Disciples Women "Disciples" Study Continues

This Fall Disciples Women have enjoyed and learned from several informative study programs as the group and visitors considered what it means for Cherry Log that we are a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Jim Tingle, Hal Doster, and Don Brewer have been our leaders. Paul Porter, also a Disciples pastor, will continue the study on Saturday, January 20, at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. ALL Cherry Log women are invited. We will concentrate on Blanket Sunday as our January service emphasis.

Youth Book Sale

The Youth Book Sale shelf has remained a secret benefit of being in or around Cherry Log Christian Church. It is rather hidden on the hallway that runs along the right side of the sanctuary from the youth wing of the church. Books are \$1 each, self-service; a donation box is on the top of the bookcase. Money donated benefits the youth program.



Currently there is a good supply of popular fiction and good literature as well as some recently published non-fiction. There is also a treasure trove of diet books and art books and some books on spiritual topics.

If you still read physical books, the youth book sale is a fabulous resource.

We also solicit book donations. If you need to move some books off your shelves to make room for new ones, add them to our donation box next to the bookshelf. We will shelf the books and move out some of our older stock. (They go into free Little Library book boxes.) Keep the flow happening. Shop and donate here.

Our Guest Preacher on January 18th

Rev. Dr. H. Ben Bohren

Fifty-one years of ministry as of September 16, 2017

And still going strong!

Over those 50+ years, Ben served:

...8 years as Regional Minister-President, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada;

...nearly 8 years as the Director of Church Relations for the National Benevolent Association;

...10 years as Director of Church Relations at Chapman University, Orange CA.

...He also served 9 years in pastoral ministry as senior minister at First Christian Church, Orange, CA; 10 years as pastor at First Christian Church, Lebanon, KY; and 2 years as student minister at Wintergreen and Beech Grove Christian Churches, Nelson County, VA.



Ben is a graduate of Lynchburg College and Lexington Theological Seminary and has additional course work at Claremont School of Theology.

One of Ben's greatest ministry passions has been working with youth and young adults. He has counseled, keynoted and served as chaplain at camps, retreats and youth conventions in over twenty Regions. At Chapman University, he created and helped build the Disciples on Campus (DOC) program to over 110 members, perhaps the largest young adult ministry in the Disciples. He has slept well over two years of his life on the ground, church floors and pews and bunk beds. (not any more!)eH

Ben retired to Palm Springs, CA nearly five years ago and holds dual membership at First Christian Church, North Hollywood and Redlands United Church of Christ.

In retirement, Ben is in his fifth year as a Mission Specialist Consultant for the National Benevolent Association working with XPLOR, a young adult ten-month internship which he helped create and launch and is now the key recruiter for this life-changing program. www.nbacares.org/xplor

Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 4th—Donate money to help with soup collection. Also, we are setting a goal of collecting 3000 cans of Chunky soup before the end of February to give to both Gilmer and Fannin Food Pantries. Help us reach our GOAL!





- Jan 2 Jim Stanley
Wanda Neal
- Jan 4 Emily Matthews
Nancy Blackadar
- Jan 6 Nancy Brewer
John Garceau
- Jan 7 Sue Moore
- Jan 10 Lynn Barrett
- Jan 12 Pam Young
- Jan 13 Diane Coleman
- Jan 14 Jeffrey Vaughn
- Jan 16 Donna Lehr
- Jan 21 Kenny Neal
- Jan 23 Milly Hastings
- Jan 24 Sandy McCann
- Jan 25 Zachary Kincer
- Jan 29 Ham Kimzey



Jan 18 Steve Stevens and Milly Hastings



November Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$52,643.38
Expenses: \$42,505.46

Year to Date Contributions: \$400,851.60
Year to Date Expenses: \$408,553.83

In the RED: \$7,702.23

CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made this past month:

In Memory of

Kay Vanderhooft
Gene Logan
David Lakes
Bill Thompson
Don Ebert

In Honor of

John Garceau
Jim Bunnelle
Bead Weavers

Total: \$2,799.00

ATTENDANCE

C. E. 8:25 10:55 Worship

Dec. 3	63	141
Dec. 10	Snow	Snow
Dec. 17	58	126
Dec. 24	33	92
Dec. 31	47	112



Lent begins February 14

Week of Compassion Offering will be collected on February 18th and 25th.