



# CERRYLOGUE



*News from Cherry Log Christian Church*

Volume 21, Issue 11

November 2018

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

Harry Gilbert, Music Director

## CLCC Prayer Labyrinth Walk on November 2



On Friday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. we will gather at our prayer labyrinth to celebrate “All Souls Day,” known as the “Day of the Dead” to our Mexican neighbors. Trisha Senterfitt will lead us in a walk through the labyrinth to honor our loved ones who have departed this earthly life. Please join us even if you do not want to physically walk. There will be hand labyrinths available if you prefer to “walk with your fingers” or you may simply hold the sacred space by sitting in silent prayer. Following the walk we will continue our celebration with fellow-

ship around the bonfire. Please bring chairs for seating if you can.

## Blanket Sunday Sunday, November 4

We have exciting updates from Church World Service, telling us where 19,201 blankets were distributed, just in the United States, from January through June. And every week we learn how much and how many have been shared since Hurricane Florence. Each one is an instance where we have helped bring comfort after disasters, warmth during the coldest months, and a reminder to families that they are not alone. Church World Service thanks us for building this movement!



The great thing is that the movement continues this fall, just in time for winter. We join with other congregations who are also part of the fall Blanket effort, making sure people are covered year-round. Our gifts to Cherry Log's Blanket Sunday on November 4 make us part of a great team effort to look out for our neighbor who are left out in the cold! On this All-Saints Day you will have an opportunity, if you wish, to give your blankets (\$5 each) in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life. Names of your dedications will be shared in a later

## **Congregational Meeting:** November 11th at 9:30 a.m.

According to our Constitution and By Laws, we hold a meeting of the full Congregation each November in order to vote on the upcoming years budget. It is scheduled for Sunday, November 11, at 9:30 a.m. See page 6 for copy of the proposed 2019 budget.

# 2018 Stewardship Campaign

Sunday, October 28th, was our congregation's 'Giving Grace' Stewardship Sunday it was a great day to pledge our support to give to our community and all the wonderful ministries we collectively support with our love, time and generosity. We had 60 pledges which is stronger than last year and we hope that we will receive more. You can still pledge by sending an email to the Malinda at office@clccd.org or filling out a pledge card when you are at church.

The Chili Cook-off was a lot of fun. We had several different types of chili and a baked potato bar. Congratulations to Marshall Burke, this years Chili Cook-off Winner! I did hear a few others say they should have won because their pot was empty. Next year's competition means great chili for everyone.



## Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee reports that July 2018 year-to-date (YTD) revenue was \$274,500 while expenses were \$264,000. This created a YTD surplus of \$7000. Average weekly attendance through July was 156. Average weekly giving per attendee was \$57. Revenue through July was above normal thanks to an unusually large number of lump sum contributions.

	August	September
Revenue	\$42,000	\$31,800
Expense	\$32,100	\$36,600
Surplus	\$9,900	-\$4,800
Average Weekly Attendance	144	137
Average Giving per Attendee	\$73	\$46

\*Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest 100.

As you can see in the above table, attendance dropped sharply in September and expenses exceeded revenue by \$4800. That is the first time this year we've had a monthly deficit. Indicators point to even lower figures in October. The large number of volunteers supporting BeNuts sales at festivals, the yard sale and low country boil, helped reach a number of non-members. It also attests to the excitement many are feeling for new opportunities for outreach and service. We expect to see November and December attendance and giving growing to meet our budget goals.

## A Moment With Our Pastor...

Greetings Church!!

We are moving into a new month, and so, a new monthly worship theme as well. To align with the wider community observance of the Thanksgiving holiday this month, we will at the church focus our time of worship and praise on the theme, ***Gratitude: A Life Worth Living***. And so, we will be asking ourselves if there is something Holy in the act of gratitude. How does thanksgiving change our experience of this life?

I am truly thankful for so much in this work as your pastor. Be sure to read Moderator Caroline Carder's article in this month's Cherrylogue – she has outlined the year's accomplishments and memorable moments in the life of the Church. When we take the time to look back and reflect on where we have walked this year in faith, I for one can't help but feel grateful for what this congregation means to one another and to the wider communities we represent.

There is one thing that has recently happened that I am especially grateful for, and I wanted to take the time here to tell you all about it.

A couple of weeks ago, a member of our Church came into my office and presented us a financial gift.

Now, we often have members and friends of the church that come by to make donations and contributions to various ministries. When someone passes away, for instance, many folks will make a donation to our *Celebration Fund*. Or some might come in to make a donation to the building fund, or for supplies to support the Be-Nuts ministry, or to contribute to the Youth's camp & conference fund.

But this gift was of a different nature. The anonymous donor of this particular donation had only a few requests for the use of their ***\$65,000*** gift.

First and foremost, the donor wants this church to be fully open and available to be used throughout the week – no longer limiting the building's usage on Mondays and Tuesdays (*in order to save money on the electric bills*). So, without further ado, I am grateful and excited to announce that beginning this month, November, the church building can be reserved and used (*Monday – Sunday*) for committee meetings, fellowship groups, flock gatherings, and other uses which our members and attendees have need for (*please do continue to schedule all usage of church facilities through Malinda in the office*).

The second direction for this gift was that I should use the remaining funds “however else you see fit”, so to help the church grow, thrive, and live well into the future.

**Wow!** I am so grateful to this donor for their confidence in me and the church, and for the affirmation of what has been accomplished so far in our first year together. This generosity has inspired me to think even more concretely about the real needs of this church, which if were addressed, would help us move into a realization of growth, renewal, and thriving.

And so, I want to take this opportunity to share some thoughts about how these funds might help us to be more connected to one another and more capable of connecting to those in our communities who have yet to learn the grace and peace which is Cherry Log Christian Church.

There are a few different categories of needs which I see as pressing in our next couple years of ministry. These categories would be something along the lines of: programming needs, communication opportunities, and finally an increased capacity of pastoral and support staff.

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Our ability to grow in number and wisdom, I believe, is dependent on how we steward our resources in our efforts towards the above categories of need: programming, communication, and pastoral staff and support.

Now, none of my thinking about our most pressing needs are yet *plans*, they are my assessments of where we are and what might have meaningful impact for a thriving future. Yet, I want to be quite clear that we will engage in prayerful discernment and be intentional about the use of these funds. While the donor of this gift did put your pastor as overseer of how this gift would be utilized, I am not a sole leader – we're a team. I commit to work communally for whatever need we are called to address. I am committed to be led by the Holy Spirit and committed to being faithful to God that God will make clear what is meant for us next. The future belongs to God.

We are blessed by the presence of the Creator, let us give thanks and be glad in it.

I just wanted to share my joy and gratitude about this generous gift with you all church. And let you know that Mondays and Tuesdays are open for use. May God continue to bless and keep us well, and may we continue to tell the stories of blessing from which we are blessed to all those who have ears to hear.

Thank you for BEing the Church! Amen.

## BeNuts Peanuts



The BeNuts team is up and running with our first Fall events-Apple Festival, Paws in The Park, and The Low Country Boil all being GREAT successes! The new labeling and bagging team has been hard at work as well as our sales and marketing forces. Our next events are Light Up Blue Ridge and Light Up Ellijay (November 23rd and 24th). We are in need of more volunteers to help our sales force make both these events possible. If interested, please contact Daniel Parrish or Sharon Meek.

We are now kicking off the Holiday Season as well. Sales will start every Sunday before and after each service beginning this coming Sunday. We will also have order forms available in the next couple of weeks for those interested in helping us promote Holiday sales with your friends and family-more information to follow. Gift bags and boxes will be available again this year for a minimal extra charge. Please keep BeNuts in mind, they make great hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, gifts for teachers, and on and on. Help us keep this ministry alive and thriving.

Be Loving, Be Kind and we will always Be Grateful!

## Thanksgiving for Others

Each Thanksgiving, we at Cherry Log share with those in our community who need help providing a Thanksgiving meal. We have five families on the list. If you know of anyone who might need this, please let me or Marshall Burke know. If you would like to participate, please bring food items to the fellowship hall by Sunday November 18. Green beans, sweet potatoes, cornmeal, cranberry sauce are suggestions of what would make a good Thanksgiving basket. Anything you have for your dinner would be good. We also accept monetary donations. There will be a box in the fellowship hall for your donations.

Thank you for your help.

## A Moment With Our Moderator...

Wow! If you haven't noticed, we have been busy! What a year at Cherry Log Christian Church and its not even over yet. We have a lot to celebrate!

I am still so excited about our Mortgage plan and having a payoff date, something we have never had here at CLCC. We have a new security system, a new web page, cameras and video equipment installed for online streaming, the introduction to REALM and a new sound system in the sanctuary. That doesn't include the thousands of dollars raised from events like the cookouts and movie nights for the bus, Yard sale and Be Nuts for our debt, our first Low Country Boil for the Mission Trip to Kenya and thousands of pounds of food raised in our Garden for Others.

Wait there is more! The prayer quilts and shawls made and given to so many, the labyrinth, the clothes closet, the Chaplin Core, Stephen Ministers, teachers..... whew I'm out of breath!

As you can see we are busy here at Cherry Log Christian Church, but we have so much more to do. The Board passed a proposed 2019 Budget and now I hope that on November 11th the congregation will also pass it as we look forward to many new things here at CLCC.

The attendance was low in October so lets have a push to fill the pews in November and December. We need each and every one of you, plus more (so invite a guest) to do all of the work that needs to be done at CLCC .

Thank you, Church, for "Being the Hands and Feet" of Jesus to your community and the world!

Peace,  
Caroline



**Cherry Log Christian Church Proposed Budget for CLCC for 2019**

<b>Account</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>		<b>Designated Funds</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$460,000	\$488,800		
<b>Expenses:</b>				
<b>Resource Council</b>				
Finance	\$700	\$0		
Pastoral Relations	\$0	\$0		
Personnel	\$198,673	\$207,655		
Property Maintenance	\$16,737	\$17,400		
Technology	\$774	\$1,710		
<b>Total Resource Council</b>	\$216,884	\$226,765		\$0
<b>Discipling Council</b>				
Ed-Children & Youth	\$1,350	\$1,790		\$393
Ed-Adult	\$100	\$100		
Fellowship	\$900	\$1,400	*	\$26
Music	\$0	\$0		\$5,209
Small Group Ministry	\$0	\$0		
Stewardship	\$500	\$1,000		\$397
Worship	\$1,624	\$1,764		
Legacy Partners	\$0	\$600		
Labyrinth Keepers	\$0	\$0		\$266
Membership	\$331	\$500	*	
<b>Total Discipling Council</b>	\$4,805	\$7,154		\$6,291
<b>Outreach Council</b>				
Evangelism	\$700	\$0		
Health	\$0	\$0		
Local Mission	\$12,500	\$15,940		\$1,565
<b>Total Outreach Council</b>	\$13,200	\$15,940		\$1,565
<b>Non Council</b>				
Elders	\$0	\$0		
Communications	\$0	\$2,500		\$474
Stephen Ministry	\$500	\$0		\$2,083
Insurance	\$10,000	\$10,902		
Minister's Expense	\$9,200	\$9,200		
Office Expense	\$13,733	\$11,243		
Postage	\$600	\$700		
Tithe	\$35,000	\$35,000		
Utilities	\$25,540	\$26,056		
<b>Total Non Council</b>	\$94,573	\$95,601		\$2,557
<b>Building Expense</b>	\$130,000	\$143,000		
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$459,462	\$488,460		\$10,413
<b>Rev vs Exp Difference</b>	\$538	\$340		
<b>* General Budget reduced, funds available in Designated Funds</b>				

## Low Country Boil: Huge Success!

The low country boil sponsored by the Kenya Mission Team was such a success. While we were planning the event, we had no idea it would be as big and as successful as it was. The Outreach Council and the mission team met many times and talked about what we could do. Adam suggested using the back parking lot as the venue. I had my doubts! But, he was right. It is a great place to have events. We will have to schedule other things there.

The silent auction was a great success. Monica and Christie Ledford worked hard to get items to auction off. The dinner by Amado and Sidney raised the most money of any of the items offered. A bidding war drove the price up. There are 6 lucky people in the church who will have this fabulous dinner. The auction brought in over \$3000. So many people in the church donated things like jewelry, paintings, handmade shawls, a garden wagon, an umbrella, and the list goes on and on.

The raffle offered three great items, a beautiful quilt by Debbie Coburn was won by our own Karen Martin. The lawn mower was won by a visitor from College Park and the bike was won by a visitor from Blue Ridge. The raffle brought in \$1500.

We sold over 150 tickets for the dinner which brought us another \$1500. The dinner was so delicious. The shrimp was fresh from the gulf and prepared by Jeff Carruthers of Gonzales Louisiana. Jambalaya and a hot dog plate were also offered.



We had costs of a little over \$1800. We rented the chairs and tables that we put outside. We also rented the porta potties and the bouncy house. The shrimp was expensive but the owner of the shrimp shop in Louisiana gave us a donation by lowering the price by \$2 a pound. We purchased the rest of the food and the boxes used for serving. Ingle's gave us a good price on the paper goods because we bought the food from them. After months of planning, it all came together. The weather was beautiful, the children had a great time bouncing in the bouncy house, the music was great, the laughter and conversation was a joy to hear. Thank you to all who worked and who attended. It was a great night for not only members of Cherry Log but the community people who came to the dinner. We might just do it again next year!!!

## Toys For Tots

### TOYS FOR TOTS



For those of you who enjoy giving to Toys For Tots, get ready. The Toys For Tots Box will be in the Fellowship during November only. Please bring new, unwrapped toys or stocking stuffers or monetary donations any of the 4 Sundays in November.

Thanks so much for your support. John Murray



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|--------|----------------|--------|------------------|
| Nov 4  | Sarah Cox      | Nov 16 | Maureen Hicks    |
| Nov 6  | Jane Carwell   |        | Chandler Ledford |
|        | John Murray    |        | Phil Miller      |
|        | Ruth West      | Nov 17 | Ed Grant         |
| Nov 8  | Tim Anderson   | Nov 19 | Robert Bondi     |
|        | Barbara Wilson |        | Birdie Towle     |
| Nov 9  | Kathy Knox     | Nov 21 | Lynn Starr       |
| Nov 11 | Ellen Grant    | Nov 22 | Caroline Carder  |
| Nov 13 | Marsha Kipling |        | Jim Willis       |
| Nov 14 | Jane Kimzey    | Nov 26 | Richard Bondi    |
| Nov 15 | Murray Wood    | Nov 30 | Eileen McRoberts |



- |        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Nov 1  | Gary Tomblin and Jean Rose  |
| Nov 3  | Rolf Meinhold & Caryn Bains |
| Nov 10 | John and Jane Murray        |
| Nov 25 | Caroline and Doyle Carder   |
| Nov 28 | Sally and Dell Pamplin      |

## CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made in September & October:

In Memory of:

Chuck Brewer  
Jan Mitchell  
George Fordham

In Honor of:

Ted Minick

\* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund \$ 725.00

## ATTENDANCE

	8:25 C. E.	10:55 Worship
Sept. 2	40	98
Sept. 9	40	127
Sept. 16	37	91
Sept. 23	One service	141
Sept. 30	24	87

### Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you to all those that helped, cooked, and donated items for our church yard sale. This year we raised **\$5,083.00** to be applied directly to the principle of our mortgage.



## September Treasurer's Report

### General Operating:

Contributions: \$231,810.76

Expenses: \$36,638.59

Year to Date Contributions: \$348,351.58

Year to Date Expenses: \$332,736.87