



CERRYLOGUE



News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Volume 20, Issue 12

December 2017

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

Harry Gilbert, Music Director

PATHWAY THROUGH ADVENT

December 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. – Decorating the church

December 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. – Hanging of the Greens and potluck dinner

December 3, 2017 – First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017 at 4:00 – Prayer Labyrinth walk led by Trisha Senterfitt, to begin our journey through the Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Christ. Bonfire, music and fellowship will follow.

December 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4 to 5:15 p.m. – The Wednesday Centering Prayer group will be meeting in the choir room for 20 minutes of silent prayer, followed by a discussion of Walter Brueggemann's book *Devotions for Advent: Celebrating Abundance*. All are welcome!

December 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. - A special program by Rev. Adam Bradley as we continue Advent. Adam will speak on "Celebration Abundance", our church-wide readings for Advent by Walter Brueggemann.

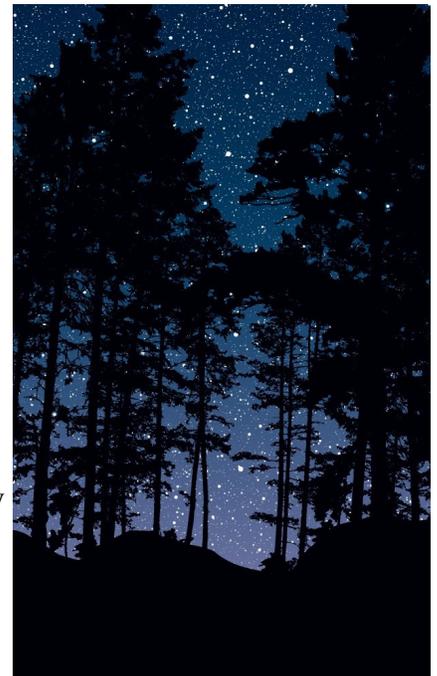
December 10, 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent. Our Church Choir will perform an Advent music spectacular in the 11am service, and we will have a wonderful guest preacher, Jessica McFarland, in both our services that Sunday. Learn more on page 5.

December 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.. - Blue Christmas Service - "Blue Christmas is a service which acknowledges for many the Holiday season can trigger hard feelings and memories. We will honor Christmas in ways that honor your pain, your struggle, your anger, and/or your worry. We will petition God for mercy. We will speak to the healing that comes with the Holy Spirit in our midst. If Christmas is hard, if the holidays feel more like a string of unbearable days and endless nights – come join us in Blue Christmas worship."

December 24, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Advent. Celebrate Early at 8:25. Worship service at 11:00 a.m.

December 24, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve evening service.



Outreach Opportunities

Christmas

Brooks Hill Christmas

This year the Brooks Hill Christmas Dinner will be on Monday, December 18th. If you would like to help with this dinner and presents, please contact Charlie and Sandy McCann.

Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots box has arrived, it is located in the fellowship hall. This year there is a critical need for teenagers ages 13 to 18. You may donate money or new unwrapped gifts. Contact John Murray for more info.

Tower Road Christmas

On December 10th at 2:30 p.m. will be our annual Tower Road Christmas. Santa will be visiting, pictures will be taken and goodies will be served. This year we will be collecting coats and gloves for the children. They can be new or gently used. A list will be on the volunteer board in the fellowship hall with names and sizes. Volunteers will be need to help with snack and coats, contact Marshall Burke if you can help.

Life for Children Ministries

Our new outreach opportunity. Would you like to help feed a family in Kenya for Christmas? We will have a special offering on November 26th. You can feed a family for \$20.00. Can you sponsor a family this year? For more information contact Jane Carwell. All money needs to be in by December 3.

Service of Covenant - January 21, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Please join your Cherry Log family for a special “Service of Covenant” on January 21 at 10:00 a.m. At this service, Reverend Adam J. Bradley will be formally installed as our pastor. It’s important for our whole church family to celebrate this joyous occasion together, so we will have one combined service that day, followed by a covered-dish fellowship dinner.

In this service, we will share covenants and promises that are the foundation of our relationship with our pastor. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren, former Regional Minister for Northern California/Nevada and an important mentor in Adam’s spiritual journey. Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert, daughter of Don and Nancy Brewer, will represent the Georgia region. We will have special music and other moments when we express our gratitude for God’s abundant gifts to our church.

Following worship, we will share southern hospitality in a fellowship meal with all guests present. Bring your best covered dish and a grateful heart for this very special occasion in the life of our church!

A Moment With Our Pastor...

On my drive into the church from my house, I pass a pasture. A few of them actually. One with little chicken tents, one with a couple ponies, and a couple with big angus cows in them. This kind of commute scenery is not found in suburbia California, let me tell you. I have passed my fair share of vineyards and shorelines...but not too many grazing pastures. In this one particular pasture, marked off by simple barbed-wire fencing, was a particularly ambitious cow. This cow was perched up on the little hillside where the barbed-wire fence separated the field from the road. An entire field of grass was behind her – must have been a couple acres, at least – but she was standing pressed up against that fence poking her snout through the bottom two lines of wire, straining to nibble on the grass just beyond fence. There must have been a little tuft of grass that looked enticing. I didn't slow down all that much to watch her struggle. But the few moments I was blessed to witness her, she was giving all she had to reaching the coveted "road grass". I hope she prevailed.



This image of the boundary-busting cow pressed up against a barbed-wire limitation has stuck with me.

Our tendency in holiday preparations is to strain for the nibble of perfection. The perfect Christmas dinner table. The gifts that will make you the best grown-up alive to the little ones in your life. The perfect words of encouragement and thanks in your annual Christmas cards. These are good and wholesome ways to prepare for Christmas, but they cannot be the sum total of our readiness. All the ways we convince ourselves that things must be just right - just so - is only an enticing tuft of grass. The pasture behind us is the abundance of our inner-relationship with Christ; the beckoning of the Holy which comes from deep within us.

Advent is a time to let your own leaves fall away, to hear the call of John the baptizer's call to *Repent!* This is a time to release the need for perfection and welcome the grace of the Lord. Advent is not just the season of service and giving and sharing and hospitality, although it is all those things, it is also the season of learning to *receive* gifts well. A time to practice our thank yous. A time to acknowledge the gifts already bestowed upon us, and in a response of recognition, lift our praise and thanks to the Creator.

Gratitude is preparation.

To be a Christian is to welcome the gift of Christ-among-us, a Divine presence which remakes our hearts and gives us words of love to speak. My prayer for each and every one of you is that you might be ready to receive these gifts from our Lord.

Blessings to all and Merry Christmas!

Thank You Ted Minick



Thank you Ted for loving this church and its family. Thank you for using your talents to build this banner cart to help with the storage of our beloved banners for both worship services. This cart will help us maintain our banners for many years. Your talent and your willingness to do whatever is needed is much appreciated.

I hope each of you enjoy reading this report as much as I have enjoyed writing it. In recent months, we have reported a declining attendance and revenue, and a cautionary outlook. We have associated this situation with our pastoral transition and held out hope that once Adam was in place, we would return to a more normal footing, positive outlook, and future with improving results. I am pleased to report that in October we saw increased energy and excitement along with improved attendance and better financial results.

In October, revenue of \$39,948 exceeded expenses of \$32,177 by \$7,771. This reduced the negative balance in our checking account to \$19,479. This is close to our checking reserve of \$18,247. October's positive revenue numbers were influenced by contributions from people who give quarterly and at year's end. October did not contain any 13th Month contributions. Council and Committee expense management continued with excellent expense control.

It was also reported that there has been a significant response to the 13th Month request. Through November 15, more than \$9000 has been received. Average weekly attendance in October was 152 compared to a weekly average of 136 through the first nine months of 2017. The combination of improved attendance, strong 13th Month support, and continued expense control means that we are within striking distance of balancing revenue and expense for 2017. This is a goal worth achieving. It would break a three-year string of expenses exceeding revenue and allow us to focus on continued resurgence and effectiveness in 2018.

From the Moderator...

Can you believe it? Advent is here. It is time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. I am thankful that I have all of you at Cherry Log Christian Church to share it with. We have many opportunities to serve and to be served this month. I hope you look over the calendar and find an occasion you wish to participate in.

I want to personally thank each one of you for your support during this transition year. The generosity, fortitude and kindness that I have found in all of you is inspiring. Cherry Log Christian Church *IS Poised for Abundance*. Financially we will end the year balanced and will enter 2018 with newfound energy and ideas that will make the new year very exciting.

There is a vibrant new energy and anticipation here. It is our time to plant seeds of happiness and hope. It is our time to build on our achievements and celebrate the love that we have in this place. It is our time to share with the community and our world a place where spirits can grow. It is our time to thank God for all HE has given to Cherry Log Christian Church. May our gratefulness and our gratitude build a bridge to abundance.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Caroline



Isaiah 26:12 *Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.*

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

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

- unknown

Milly Hastings

Born, raised and educated in Memphis, TN; studied German and history at Memphis State; began 33-year-long flying career in 1968 and loved it all, especially the lay-overs and the “mostly nice people” she served; “satisfied my wander-lust”; married Steve 1979; moved to Ellijay in 1982; has a son and daughter.



Millie loves reading, book studies and politics, studying with Roberta Bondi; loves the Seekers class, Centering Prayer and especially the Mystics poetry; acrylics painter (paints with “three old guys” in Nova Scotia where they have a summer home); about CLCC, “It’s the most loving, tolerant, kind church we’ve ever been associated with.”

Steve Stevens



Born, raised and educated in Boston, Massachusetts; earned a Georgia Tech degree in Industrial Management; enjoyed the work rather than the management, i.e., concrete finishing, plumbing, sheetrock, etc., eventually becoming draftsman for his company; married Millie 1979; bought property and built in Ellijay, 1982. There he did documentation investigation for Ellijay attorney, owned rental property; became one of the earliest stay-at-home dads and home-schooled their son and daughter so they could travel (a true love) in connection with Millie’s flying career; as tourists fell in love with Nova Scotia, bought a home and reside there in summers. Enjoys golf (champion in East Lake Golf Club,) and “fixing things”.

CLCC: “Challenging!”

Sunday, December 17th Worship

Don’t miss Sunday worship on December 17th! The third week of Advent will bring us two exciting special events. We will be hearing the Choir do a Advent music spectacular in the 11am service, and we will have a wonderful guest preacher in both our services that Sunday. Pastor Adam’s friend, colleague, and native Georgia daughter, Jessica McFarland, will be bringing us the Word. Here is a little more about Jessica!

Jessica McFarland is a commissioned minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and formerly served on the ministry team at Tapestry Ministries in Berkeley, California. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy/Political Science) from Swarthmore College, a Master of Theological Studies (Early Christianity) from Harvard University, and a Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion. She is currently a doctoral student in Religion and Literature at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Her research focuses on post-Holocaust Israeli poetry and its relationship to the language and narratives of the Hebrew Bible. She is currently compiling an adult education and preaching resource for Disciples congregations exploring supersessionist readings of scripture (that is, readings which privilege Christian perspectives over Jewish ones). Jessica is also a poet and short story writer. Jessica was raised in the Baptist church in Alpharetta, Georgia. She has recently relocated from California to Sharpsburg, Georgia with her family. She has two children, Elijah (12) and Olivia (11).



Cookbooks For the Holidays

Our lovely Cherry Log cookbook, *The Table Is Ready*, will be available during the holiday season, courtesy of Disciples Women, in both the narthex and the Fellowship Hall. It makes a good hostess gift! The book features not only delicious recipes, but lovely artwork by both current and former members who you may not have known were so talented. The price is \$10, and you may pay any active Disciples Woman, such as Nancy Zimmerman, Nancy Brewer, Lynn Chapman, Bev Cranston, Judy Barrett, or Georgia Meyers.



YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2018- Time to sign up.

DATE: February 2nd thru 5th, 2018

THEME: Mission: Go and Be

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS!

Friday Night

The Welcome Blast

Worship

The Chalice Mixer

Camp Fire Sing-a-Long and Games

Saturday

Keynote

Free Time - Island Sightseeing

Outdoor Games

Interest Groups - Prayer Stations

Dinner

Dance/Movie

Sunday

Worship Service

Senior Recognition

Installation of new YAC



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Danny Gulden

Danny has spent many years working with youth in Georgia. During his most recent time in Georgia, Danny served as a CYF director, camp counselor and keynote speaker at Camp Christian. He has accompanied the youth group from Sandy Springs Christian Church on several Mexico Mission Trips and served as an adult sponsor at the Regional Youth Assembly. Danny currently works as the Vice President of Client Relations for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church.

Danny is known by the youth in Georgia as a "funny, insightful, hilarious, caring, and inspiring" minister and friend. Fun facts about Danny include, he has been a part of 18 international mission experiences, he lives in Indiana with his beautiful wife and 2 daughters, and he is a nationally known leg wrestling champion. We are excited to welcome Danny back to Georgia!

Youth (6th grade-12th) interested in attending Youth Assembly at St. Simon Island February 2-4th please contact Georgia Meyers 407-948-3025 or georgia1267@hotmail.com

Women's Friendship Support Gathering

Whaaat?? You don't know about the Women's Friendship Gathering?

We used to be call "the Gals' Breakfast Club" but it didn't describe who and what we are. (And thank you to savvy Frabia Smith for the new name.) A couple of years ago some women got together to talk and just be with other women. Sorry, guys, it's a female thing. Ages varied, life situations varied. Some were working through grief. Others had different kinds of transitions. Some simply likes good company. A few were new to the area. We all had experiences to share, finding in the process that we gave support to each other. And we learned a lot from each other.

It's not closed or exclusive. All women are welcome. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at the church. Occasionally we meet at someone's home. There is no agenda and anyone an say what she wants or needs to get out int eh open, or just say nothing. Companionable silence is also a good thing. Everything is confidential and kept in the gathering, which lets sensitive subjects be brought up and life embraced.

There's no roll call and there are no admission requirements except to be there when it suits the person who wants to come. (That's you, sister.) We believe it should be comfortable to be with one's "sisters", whether born or acquired. No professional counseling happens. Questions or suggestions or reflections come from others' life experiences. There is a lot of, "This is what I did in a similar situation," and perhaps the result is that it worked... or not. The "AHA" reaction can come from any source.

We work from love and compassion, not judgement, because every woman is unique and valuable. Be prepared for hugs and laughter and maybe even tears. We do it all. And we do it well. Come, join in, give us a try. You will enrich the group b y being there.

Our December 7 meeting will be from brunch at a welcoming home. To arrange a ride or get other information, please call Barbara Ferer at 706-633-0660. Let's celebrate together!

Children's Garden Update

The first phase of the playground garden has been completed, with pansies, daffodils, iris, and phlox. Many thanks to Jim Bunnelle, Chuck Zimmerman, and Georgia and Mark Myers for the preparation, and to Josh Carwell and Miles Slemmons for the planting and watering. Next spring we'll do a second phase, featuring pollinator-friendly flowering plants. If you have something from your garden to divide and share, or if you would be willing to donate towards the purchase of plants, please contact Nancy Zimmerman, nzim4@yahoo.com. We will probably have to order some of the plants in the late winter as the ones we want may not be available locally.





- Dec 1 Becky Walls
- Dec 4 Beth Roberts
- Dec 5 Jim Colwell
Dorothy Morford
- Dec 6 Velda Harrison
- Dec 7 Joan Pettit
- Dec 13 Ida-Anne Clarke
- Dec 14 Shirley Colwell
- Dec 15 Malinda Geers
- Dec 17 Paul Porter
- Dec 19 Katie Griffin
Steve Stevens
- Dec 25 Judy Barrett
- Dec 26 Caryn Baines
Jack Sentrifitt
- Dec 28 Lauree Johnson
Jordan Merith
- Dec 30 Julie Johnson
Parker Peugh



October Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$39,948.02
Expenses: \$32,177.42

Year to Date Contributions: \$348,208.22
Year to Date Expenses: \$366,048.37
In the RED: \$17,840.15

CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made this past month:

In Memory of

- Bill Thompson
- Sterling Wood
- Kay Vanderhooff
- Will Roberts

In Honor of

- Steve Stevens
- Jim Bunnelle

Total: \$915.00



- Dec 8 George and Judy Barrett
- Dec 11 Nancy and Chuck Zimmerman
Jane and Ham Kimzey
- Dec 26 Tab Bomhard and Tim Anderson
Betty and Gary Schaefer

ATTENDANCE

	C. E. 8:25	10:55 Worship
Nov. 5	56	106
Nov. 12	39	112
Nov. 19	36	107
Nov. 26	46	121