



CERRYLOGUE



News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Volume 21, Issue 2

February 2018

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

Harry Gilbert, Music Director

Week of Compassion

Special Offering



Through thick and thin, when dreams abound and when our imaginations run dry, we continue to do good. Your Week of Compassion gifts work “around the world, around the year” to bring more of God’s love and goodwill than we can ask or imagine.

You shared your compassion with families in South Texas and Puerto Rico who were impacted by hurricanes.

You offered food and shelter to families as far away as Sierra Leone and Bangladesh who experienced the most severe floods of the century.

You extended God’s care to refugees from Syria and Somalia.

You imagined an unimaginable world -- God’s world - - for empowered women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia.

In grateful partnership, we offer again our thanks and rejoice in the abundant good work of the gospel. As we continue to walk together in compassion for others, let us be strengthened in the knowledge that God is able to “accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.”



Nourished by Faith

Please plan on joining us for our annual - *Giving Celebration* - Sunday February 11th

Celebrate Early Service - 8:25am followed by a CLCC second annual - "Pancake & Sausage Breakfast" - held immediately following our early service...

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:55am followed by a CLCC "Classic Pancake & Sausage Breakfast" at our Fellowship Hall...

We hope that you will make it a point to attend our annual Giving Celebration - where the Spirit & Grace of Giving Forward is commemorated with the submission of your *Promise Pledge Cards* during each Service in exchange for our *Plant-Grow-Harvest* gift.

Nourished by Faith



Journey of Jesus and Social Justice

What is the role of pain in the human journey? Where is God with all the pain in the world? What does pain have to do with theology, the Eucharist, discipleship, empathy, unity, resurrection, identity, and growth? (Work of the People) Might you feel called to a deeper place from which you can work for positive change in the world, regardless of the risk or fear you may feel about that calling?

Wednesday Night Programs start back on February 21 with a continuation of Living the Questions, interviews with well-known theologians followed by discussion.

In addition, we are presenting short clips from “The Work of the People,” (theworkofthepeople.com) which calls us to a journey toward our shared humanity and our call to “Christ-likeness.”

Brené Brown, Barbara Taylor, Richard Rohr, Soong-Chan Rah, Walter Breuggeman, Brian McLaren,

Miroslav Volf, Father Gregory Boyle are guest speakers on topics of:

- Healing and Justice
- Loving Our Way Forward
- Pain, Struggle and Suffering

We begin on Wednesday, Feb. 21 with Lives of Jesus as we invite you to

JOURNEY

The remainder of Lent will bring programs addressing

TRANSFORMATION

Social Justice: Realizing God’s Vision; The Heart of Jesus’s Ministry; Creative Transformation
Embracing Mystery

Enjoy fellowship at 5:30 with a brown bag dinner, followed by the program beginning at 6, usually lasting an hour.

Facilitators are Marshall Burke, Peggy Cleveland, Sally Pamplin

Lent and Holy Week Services

February 14, 2018 at 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2018 First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2018 at 5:30 – Wednesday night Lenten studies continuing each Wednesday night during the season of Lent

March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday

March 30, 2018 at 7:00 Good Friday Service

March 31, 2018 Holy Saturday Labyrinth Walk

April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday

A Moment With Our Pastor...

“Turning to Revelation...”

This month we turn our worship attention to the theme of, *Revelation: In the Midst of the Holy*. The best definition I have heard of *Revelation* is ‘a new experience of a timeless truth’. There are other ways to think about revelation that is more active: a vision, a whisper, an epiphany... but every consideration of God’s breaking into the world boils down to some experience of the way things *really* were, *really* are, and/or *really* will be.



The problem with revelation is that it doesn’t come in ways that are easy to express to others, or even easy to accept ourselves. Often a revelation is visceral and not tangible, it is a sense more than a substance. Revelation is particularly personal, and so can appear to others as a rather unsound belief. It may be hard to even accept that one has experienced revelation, usually easier to justify away a spiritual moment as an emotional hiccup of some kind. Doubt is less disruptive to live with than conviction.

In day to day life, generally, we come to believe things are true by the evidence that is presented to us. This has been more and more true since the scientific age began some 400 years ago. We come to believe through either our own investigations - our own trial and error, or often we accept our community’s conventional wisdom of how things are. We sometimes do experiments and measure results. We sometimes take survey’s and collect data. We sometimes are swayed by testimony of another, either emotionally or logically. We sometimes even bend and twist our perceived experience to fit our already established belief. These processes of ‘verifiable knowing’ are doing damage to our very cultural conception of *truth*, and especially *spiritual* truth.

But divine revelation, that is ‘the Holy in our midst’, does not conform itself to the rules and conventions of our human societies. God’s revelation does not do a cost-benefit analysis. Sacred revelations do not come in predictable patterns, in regular intervals, or when we plead enough for them. Revelation isn’t market driven, and has no transferable value or worth. It cannot be deposited, leveraged, or pawned. Holy revelation cannot be stored away for a rainy day, it cannot be saved for later. Revelation is only in real-time.

And we rarely get a full picture in those experiences of divine revelation. Usually just a glimpse, just an echo of some ultimate truth which we will have to wrestle with in order to more fully understand what God is sharing with us. It is as if God is willing to share just enough to get us back on the pathway, back on the road Jesus set before us. Or, that we are able to receive just a glimpse of the bounty that God reveals.

It is no coincidence that throughout the Gospels the disciples were often confused. They needed Jesus to break it down for them all the time. And even when Jesus tries to tell them more plainly than he was willing to do for the masses – they still seem to struggle. The disciples had leading them, in the person of Jesus Christ, the greatest example of divine revelation the world had ever known. And yet, even in the midst of God-in-flesh there was three years of wide eyes and disbelief among them. How are we to do any better?

Over the course of the month, we will explore the answers to this question – How are we to do better? How are we to know the revelations of God? How are we to find peace in the Holy whisper, strength from the sacred vision, and conviction for stepping by faith into an unknown future?

How is it you experience God in your midst...and how can we respond more faithfully?

Finance Committee Report: THANK YOU!!!!

We faced a year-to-date deficit of \$25,610 at the end of September 2017. Average weekly attendance through September was 136 versus 162 a year ago. The Finance Committee believed that our pastoral transition was the primary factor affecting both attendance and giving. We thought that once Adam arrived, the excitement surrounding his call would translate into improved attendance. Also, in November, the Stewardship and Finance Committees asked the congregation for a 13th Month additional contribution to bring the year's finances into balance.

THANK YOU CONGREGATION!! Your response has been fantastic. Fourth Quarter, revenues were \$150,893, expenses were \$122,542, resulting in a positive balance for the quarter of \$28,351 and a positive balance for the year of \$2,741. The increased revenue was influenced by two factors. One was your generous over and above response to the request for a 13th Month giving. Approximately \$20,000 was given in response to this request. This made up most of the deficit. The second factor was increased attendance. In response to Adam's compelling ministry, attendance in October, November and December averaged 155. This compares to a weekly average of 136 for the previous nine months. Expense control is a third factor contributing to achieving a positive balance for 2017. Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and other leaders have done a yeoman's job of minimizing expenses again this year. Thank you for that!

You have a history of responding to need, whether external or internal. Once again you have demonstrated your love for this church and your desire to see our ministries thrive. You have laid a very positive foundation to launch an exciting and productive year in 2018.

Mortgage Update:

We have been notified by the Board of Church Extension that we will have to refinance the mortgage this year, after making three interest rate adjustments since 2011. We will meet with Church Extension in April to discuss options and conditions. In the meantime, Church Extension has extended our loan on current terms through June.

CLCC Children Volunteers Needed

"If you enjoy spending time with young children and don't mind sitting on small chairs or on the floor, we need your help in our nursery and toddler rooms. We have two staff members who serve us faithfully every Sunday morning and on other occasions when they are able. However, as we grow and expand church programs, our nursery needs are increasing. This is a happy problem for us to have. We need volunteers who have some flexibility with their time and could serve during the day and/or evening hours. The law requires that child care workers have a criminal background check. If you are interested in this service, please contact Becky Walls at 706-632-2509."

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

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

- unknown



Nancy Williamson

Born in Rockford, IL, one of 4 children. Summered in Lake Geneva, WI. Studied art and advertising at the University of Denver, then graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA in graphics design.

Nancy lived in Santa Barbara, CA until 1995, when she moved to the North Georgia mountains to be closer to family. She has 3 crazed, spoiled dogs that she loves dearly. Enjoys the outdoors, walking, swimming, traveling, arts and crafts, and reading.

Nancy attended CLCC with her sister, Anne, several times and went to Bible study taught by Bill Groce and Julie Johnson. It was there that she learned to love Jesus. Nancy joined the church and found that it was like opening a Christmas present full of love, giving, new friendships and a richer life. Nancy feels that she is indeed a blessed person.

Shirley Colwell

Born in Akron, OH and never out of county until she met Jim; raised in DOC church; married after high school and raised 4 children; began career in banking when children were all in school; in banking until retirement; opened a successful tempered chocolate business in home for 5-6 years

Craft-o-holic! crochet, knitting, embroidery, basket-weaving, currently into beading; arranged craft shows; loves playing cards; into rescue dogs – big time, 1st one Old English Sheep Dog; currently have a Sheltie



Jim Colwell

Born in doctor's office in Blue Ridge; attended one-room schoolhouse in Cherry Log; grandmother delivered most babies in the area; age 9 moved to Brimfield, OH; met and married Shirley after high school; earned mechanical engineer degree from Akron U; 36 in tool & die industry; ran R & D division Hydro Chem of Halliburton, traveling the globe (Europe, Middle East, Southeast Asia); retired 2007; lives in family home here 6 months then 6 months in Kent, OH

Enjoys outside work, gardening (flowers & food mostly for neighbors); proud owner of 4 antiques cars

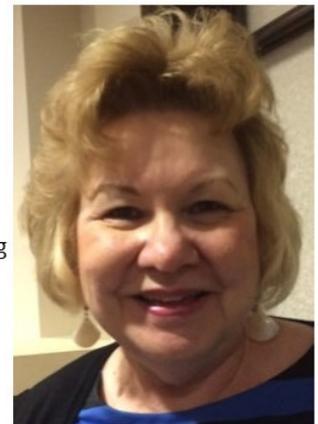
Baptist and Methodist roots; came to CLCC and "I like it!"

Linda Mosier

Born, raised and educated in Nashville, TN; moved to Chicago and began a career in the records storage industry as a Certified Records Storage Manager for an import/export company, designing a worldwide automated tracking system for trucking and shipping containers; eventually she developed possibly the earliest storing and tracking system for legal files; last several working years with large law firms and based in Worcester, MASS (serious snow)! Ask why she retired in the mountains!

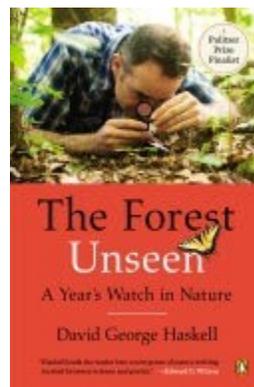
Exceptional "green thumb"; enthusiastic cook; avid mystery reader; yoga, water aerobics; compulsive organizer; ask about her son

CLCC: To neighbor, "I want a church that is open and accepting", the neighbor responded, "You need Cherry Log Christian Church", and Linda, "She was right!"



Green Chalice Book Review

The Forest Unseen—A Year's Watch in Nature by David George Haskell is not a book about environmental problems. It's a fascinating look at what is really going on out in the woods, or by extension, in our own back yards. Haskell is a professor of biology at University of the South, which is located on a large tract of forested land near the Cumberland Plateau between Chattanooga and Nashville. He chose a small, defined area in the woods and visited it frequently over a year's time, just sitting and observing. The book is written journal-style, so it can be read in short segments—good bedtime reading, for instance. Although the author doesn't directly address spirituality, the book leads to contemplating the Creation, the Creator, and our place in it all. This is a good book for both those who know a lot about the outdoors and those who know very little.



LET'S LOOK AT THE WOMEN!

What role have women played in the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? What role do women have today? We Disciples Women have quite a story, and we have a bold mission for the future. On February 17, 10:30, Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert, Director of Women's Ministries for the Christian Church in Georgia, will be program leader at DW's regular meeting. We met Betty at Adam's installation and look forward to her return visit. ALL women of Cherry Log are invited! You ARE a Disciples Woman, and are encouraged to find out just what that means!

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!

We're Over Half Way to \$50,000

“As of the end of December, the balance in Cherry Log’s (Legacy Partner Foundation) account is \$27,161.50”. Randy Johnson of Christian Church Foundation. Once our account hits \$50K, CLCC will begin to receive annual dividends towards “being the hands and feet of Christ.”

In the past three years, three Legacy Partners have given a total of \$22,500.00, pre-final estate dispersal event gifts. The \$4,661.50 difference was generated through CCF’s investment of these gifts in their Beasley Fund.

A huge shout-out and many thanks to Legacy Partner Cheri Thompson for her recent gift of an additional \$1,000 in memory of her precious Bill.



Have You Considered Centering Prayer for Lent?

The centering prayer group invites you to join us during Lent for a special program in which we will be using CDs by David Frenette, "Centering Prayer Meditations to Deepen Your Experience of God," as introductions to our centering prayer sessions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about centering prayer from one of its leading teachers, and to experience this form of contemplative prayer.

The centering prayer group meets every Wednesday afternoon and the Lenten program will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. We will gather in fellowship hall at 3:30 p.m. and our prayer session will be held in the choir room at 4 p.m.

GREEN CHALICE NEWS



The Sunday of Adam's installation, we moved one step closer to making Cherry Log Christian Church truly green. We now have enough place settings of dinner plates, salad and dessert plates, and flatware to serve well over 200 dinner guests. Thank you to Caroline Carder, who found these heavy dishes as a bargain, to add to those we already had in the kitchen. We appreciate the willing volunteers who unpacked them and found convenient shelving space. Thank you also to the diligent folk who hand washed most of them after we enjoyed the delicious meal on them on the 21st. And an especial thank you to the Green Chalice team who saw the opportunity to purchase them, said "Let's do it!," and made it happen.

THANK YOU!

So many people participated in the January 21 "Service of Covenant" between Cherry Log Christian Church and OUR pastor, Adam Bradley, that I would surely miss some folks if I tried to name everyone. But I do want you to know that the hard-working Installation Committee was comprised of Nancy Brewer, Caroline Carder, Hal Doster, Kathie Grubb, Mac McRoberts, Charles Walls, and me. Reverends. Don Brewer and Betty Brewer-Calvert led our service. Thanks to all for their creativity and commitment! Dr. Ben Bohren brought grace, humor, and challenge to all of us. Steve Martin, Carolyn Lakes, and Sharon Meeks generously shared their ideas and resources in the creation of our new "Ordinary Time" banners. Those images were used for the bulletin and bookmarks for the service, and will be on the clerical stole that is being made for Adam. Our musicians gifted us all with their heavenly sounds! Wendy Carwell and the Kitchen Committee made certain that we had a wonderful meal as a family (and cleaned up after!). And of course, Malinda assured that everything went smoothly, as she always does. If I failed to name you, please know that you are appreciated. It was a day for remembering our past and celebrating our future! I am so grateful to be part of the CLCC community.

--Beth Roberts, Pastoral Search Committee Chair



December Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$58,302.00
 Expenses: \$47,860.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$459,104.00
 Year to Date Expenses: \$456,414.00
 In the Black: \$2,690.00

- Feb 1 Ann Doster
Lynn Chapman
- Feb 4 Susan Pleasant
- Feb 5 John Jarrard
Teresa Snow
- Feb 10 Oneal Andrews
Nancy Zimmerman
- Feb 13 Jim Tingle
- Feb 17 Ethan Bradley
Cathy Vincent
- Feb 18 Charlie McCann
- Feb 20 Gloria Hitt
Charles Brewer
- Feb 25 Frabia Smith
Joyce Pruett
- Feb 27 Martha O'Neill
- Feb 28 Joan Huddleston

CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made this past month:

In Memory of
 Jessie Landreth
 Tom Rothchild

In Celebration of
 Ted Minick

Total: \$950.00



- Feb. 14 Murray & Vivian Wood (68)
- Feb. 15 Jerry & Lauree Johnson (49)

ATTENDANCE

	C. E. 8:25	10:55 Worship
Jan. 7	40	126
Jan. 14	38	115
Jan. 21		201
Jan. 28	44	119

