

DR. PAUL PRYOR
INTERIM SENIOR
MINISTER

CHERRYLOGUE

News from Cherry Log Christian Church

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Music Fest
February 11
11:30 PM

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Cherry Log Christian Church Music Fest 2017

**Saturday, February 11, 2017 at Cherry Log Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ). Festivities begin at 11:30 AM.**

**Soup and sandwiches will be served and Baked Goods will be
available to buy. Music begins at 12:30 PM**

**Donations at the door: Proceeds go toward funding our out-
reach projects**

2017 Special Offering February 19-26



On February 19th and 26th, the annual Week of Compassion offering will be received. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. It seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities. From time to time as there are natural disasters, additional funds are received and can be designated 100% to that disaster relief project. Take advantage of this annual offering to respond through the Disciples of Christ. This ministry has been part of our mission since 1938.

From Pastor Paul

Recently I came across a very thought provoking article on the discipline of silence written by C. Kavin Rowe, Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School. What caught my attention was how Rowe emphasized the increasing volume of words we are subjected to everyday and how so much of it is just meaningless chatter; words, words, and more words often get lost in a barrage of noise. That's the problem with so many words being bantered about.



On the other hand, leadership, as Rowe rightly points out requires the proper understanding and use of words. This is where the discipline of silence can be helpful. Silence gives an opportunity for reflecting before speaking, something we all could probably do a little more. Rowe points to James 1:26 as a biblical reference to support the necessity of silence: "If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless."

The Bible has a lot to say about words and the way we are to use them. There are blessings for using words properly and cautions against using them improperly. While most of us are aware of these teachings, we are also guilty of neglecting them. Too often we say things that would be better left unsaid; and once they are said you can't take them back. Remember what your mother told you. "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all." Good advice.

What we often fail to realize is the effect our words have on the church. What we say about the church, what we say about each other, all these words have far reaching and very serious ramifications. Cherry Log Christian Church is full of wonderful people who do a lot of wonderful things. Yet, all those good things can be negated by one unthoughtful comment. The discipline of silence is a way for us to take stock of our words, and gives us time to think before we speak.

Rowe, C. Kavin, *Leadership and the discipline of silence*. Retrieved January 31, 2017, from <https://www.faithandleadership.com/c-kavin-rowe-leadership-and-discipline-silence>

Charlie and I would like to thank all of you who helped make Ashley's memorial service so special. Those who helped with parking, those who greeted people as they entered, those who set up the sound system, the joyous singing of the choir with Randy directing and Birdie playing, those who managed the kitchen, decorated the tables, those who prepared and brought food in, and those who cleaned up. For the time Marsha Kipling and Sharon Meek put into organizing the slide show and music. It was the hardest thing we have ever had to do. We are so thankful and feel so blessed to be surrounded and supported by our church family at CLCC. **Thank you, Charlie and Sandy McCann**

Thank
you 

Lent Begins March 1st

We have recently celebrated the season of Advent and Christmas and we are now in the season of Epiphany. As Epiphany ends we will begin the season of Lent. Lent begins 40 days before Easter. The liturgical color for Lent is purple.

The day before Lent begins is Ash Wednesday, March 1 this year. We will observe the Ash Wednesday service on March 1 at 6:30 this year. This is a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and return our lives toward Jesus Christ. In the Ash Wednesday service the minister will mark the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes. This a powerful symbol of Life, penance and mortality and a call to a deeper spirituality.

Come observe this important day with us as we prepare to begin the season of Lent.

- The Worship Committee



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER PROGRAM TO START IN MARCH

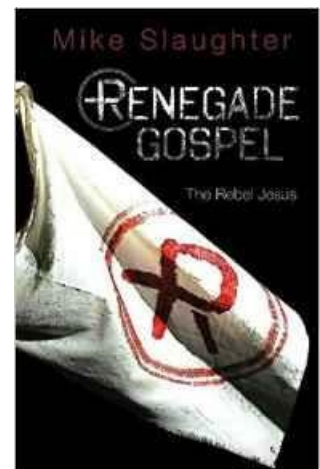
Wednesday Night Supper Programs are postponed during January and February, but will start back on March 8. Mark your calendars for an inspirational 6 week series coming in March!

Dr. Paul Pryor will lead us in a Lenten Program using the materials from

Pastor Mike Slaughter's Renegade Gospel - The Rebel Jesus, asking the question: "Who was Jesus, Really?"

Topics include:

- Discovering the Rebel Jesus
- Revolutionary Lifestyle
- The Most Important Question You Will Ever Have to Answer
- Seeing Jesus Today
- The Way of the Cross
- * Resurrection



Following the Lenten Program, several series are planned:

Beginning April 17 Peggy and Sally will begin a 6-week series on "Conscious Communications - the Christian Way".

Other topics being explored are:

- Social Activism in the Christian Church (or Social Consciousness) - with a variety of guest speakers
- Worship
- Heaven and Earth: an Eco-Theology topic Connecting Science and Religion
- Mystical Theology: Christian Saints, Seers and Mystics
- Bible Teachings (looking for presenters!)

Report of the Steering Committee to the Official Board of Cherry Log Christian Church

January 28, 2017

The Steering Committee is comprised of six members of the congregation: Lynn Barrett, Marshall Burke, Caroline Carder, Peggy Cleveland, Lucie Coffie, Sharon Meek, and our Interim Minister Paul Pryor. The committee began meeting on October 24, 2016 and has met 8 times since then for a total of 18 hours. During this time the committee has been involved in an intensive learning regimen and discernment process. Using the book "Grace for the Journey" as our guide we have come to a new understanding of who we are as a congregation and what skills and experience we need in our next pastor in order for our congregation to grow and successfully negotiate the changes we will need to make over the course of the next chapter of our corporate life. We want to share these learnings with you, and then, lay out the next steps we believe we need to take as we continue through this process.

Learnings:

1. The first thing we learned was the importance of the "in-between-time" for the future of the church. This time is called "in-between" because we are no longer where we used to be and it isn't quite clear where we are going. While this not knowing often produces a good deal of anxiety, it can also become a sacred time of discovering new possibilities and directions. It is a time when we need to listen closely for direction from God for the future of our congregation. What we on the Steering Committee learned is that waiting on God takes time; it can't be rushed. However, waiting on God does not mean we don't do anything. Instead it is a time for active listening and for paying close attention to things we usually dismiss.
2. The "in-between time" gives us an opportunity to do some self-examination. We learned about the three levels of culture that exist in every congregation:

Artifacts: These are the things we see as we pull into the parking lot and enter the church (paved lot; attractive building; the cars; the people; the sanctuary; the style of worship). Artifacts are the most obvious clues about the deeper cultural values of the congregation.

Espoused Values: This level of culture is where we state all the positives about ourselves. Espoused values are found in our Constitution and By-laws; our written and oral histories; on our website; etc. They give a fuller picture of who we are but to truly understand the church we have to go deeper.

Submerged Beliefs: These beliefs are called submerged because they exist below the surface. They are the deeply held convictions that are not usually spoken of but have a tremendous amount of influence in everything we do. Another term to describe them is "underlying assumptions." Again they are things that we assume everyone knows even though they are rarely ever discussed. These submerged beliefs came into existence in the life of the congregation as a way of solving a problem. The trouble with them is that in most cases they have long outlived the original problem, and are now creating new problems of their own.

3. **Size Matters:** Another learning we discovered is that different size churches operate in different ways. Our congregation is of a size in which it should be operating as a “program-sized” church. That has deep implications for the skill set we need in our next pastor and the expectations from the congregation for that pastor (See attachment).
4. **Implications for the new pastor:** As we already stated, we believe that we are a program sized church that has been operating with a pastoral size style of leadership. From our study we have learned that the shift from pastoral size to program size is very difficult because of the expectations placed upon the pastor by the congregation. Yet, we have also learned that without this shift, our congregation cannot and will not grow. One pastor can only do so much. Once that limit is reached, the church will begin to decline. While we know that our church cannot afford a second clergy staff person at this time, we need to find ways to deal with the problem until we can add an associate pastor. This is something that the entire congregation needs to understand and begin to grapple with.
5. **Intensive Leadership training:** In our discussions the issue of leadership training within the congregation was identified as an area that needs attention. Recruitment and training are ongoing needs in every congregation, and we are no exception. We have too many people in leadership roles that received little or no training. As a result there is a good deal of confusion about duties in specific areas of responsibility.

Next Steps:

- Congregational Meetings:** Beginning next month we will hold meetings with small groups throughout the congregation to pass on these learnings and to solicit input from the congregation about the future of the church and its leadership.
2. **Vision and Mission Statement:** From the information we receive from the congregational meetings we will begin to put together a vision and a mission statement. These will be presented to the congregation for further discussion and approval.
 3. **Initiating the Search Committee:** At the point where we believe that we have made enough progress to begin the search process we will recommend to the board that a Search Committee be formed and begin working with our interim minister on how to proceed. We recommend that two of the Steering Committee members be on the Search Committee to insure that the learnings will be incorporated into their process. As the Search Committee goes about their work the remainder of the Steering Committee will continue to meet to work on the final phase of the transition process: preparing for the new pastor.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 5th—Donate money to help local food banks. Also, we are collecting 1200 cans of Chunky soup again this year before the end of February to give to both Gilmer and Fannin Food Banks. Help us with our GOAL!



THE BeNUTS ARE HERE FOR THE WINTER DAYS AHEAD!!!

BeNuts are at it again! We have ordered more peanuts so we will have plenty ready - packaged and wrapped for those Super Bowl Get Togethers and of course Valentine's Day. Are you nuts for your Valentine? Get your orders in today. Remember that gift wrapping is available. Also like us on Facebook.

Julie Pugh and the entire CLCC BeNut team

Remember - BeGiving and we will BeGrateful!!!



Spiritual Discipline: Bible Study - Grace Pleasant's Story

A few years ago I was talking to some of my friends, that were fairly close to me at the time, about the books of the Bible. This happened at school and around one of the most "Christian" teachers at school. When we were talking I knew not to let it get out of hand or anything. As we were talking we had a competition. I recited how many books were in the bible and how many of those books were in the new and old testament. Then I told her what the first five books of each were as well as my favorite. When we got into that there were many spots that we hit that could have been controversial if we didn't see them in the same way. Luckily we mainly had the same ideas and concepts of the Bible. Once we were done my friend thought I was really cool for knowing all of those things just off the top of my head. Even though many people don't seem to have something in common with you, talk to them. You may find out that they are more like you than you think. Have more conversation rather than just saying with what you thought. When talking to someone about the Bible don't be worried to let your feelings out because then the people you are speaking with will understand that you are serious and have your "ducks in a row."



Spiritual Discipline for February

CLCC SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:

SERVICE...



"Truly...I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me..."
(Matthew 25:41)

What others say about service...

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living."

Albert Einstein

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Muhammad Ali

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

Mother Teresa

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

We THANK YOU for sharing your favorite '**SERVICE STORY**'
at www.DisciplesLoving.org/stories or on Facebook!

thank you!

I cannot thank you enough for your loving expressions of friendship, your many gifts, and the great good-bye party! I love you all and cherish each memory with you. The beautiful painting looks great in my office; it takes me "home" immediately every time I look at it.

I'm excited about my ministry here in West Virginia while at the same time missing Cherry Log. Transitions are never easy....My address is 1635 Mary Lou Retton Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554. May God continue to bless you as you minister to the community.

With lots of love, Robin



DISCIPLE WOMEN

We are collecting items for the domestic violence Safe House, maintained by the North Georgia Mountain Crisis Center, for our February service project. Everyone is invited to help with this project; there will be a designated place in the Fellowship Hall to leave items until the end of February. A list will be posted on the Disciples Women bulletin board just outside in the hall, but here a few needed items: bottled water, paper towels, dish soap,

dishwasher detergent, tissues.

Our February meeting will be at 10:30 on February 18. Nancy Brewer will give our program on "Let the Children Come." As always, all women are welcome; you don't have to be a DW regular member to come to any particular meeting. Hope to see you there!

Big month for our CLCC Kids.

Prayers for safe travel and a glorious Youth Assembly experience this Friday through Sunday. Peyton Peugh, Isaiah Sharp, Owen, and Samantha Plath attending with sponsor Georgia Meyers. Note: Good Luck Grace Pleasant at State Swim Meet.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST COMING THE CHILDREN'S THEATER

Go see Parker, Emily, Mya, Micah, Miles, and others as they play roles in the Beauty and Beast play. The play runs from Feb. 3 through 12 on Fridays, Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm in Blue Ridge.

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

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

- unknown



Julie Johnson

Born and raised in Indianapolis, IN; Purdue University (Religion and Psychology); Princeton Seminary graduate 1987; Doctor of Ministry graduate, 2005, ministry includes Associate Pastor of Church of Saint Andrew Presbyterian in Atlanta 7 years; developed Certification in Spiritual Formation program at Columbia Seminary and teaching post-graduate ministry students; she and Kristi married in 1995; they moved part time to Blue Ridge and invited to CLCC by Leslie Currie; received God's gift of Molly and Elliot (died at birth) born Oct. 2011; Molly became a real joy to entire congregation; moved back to Marietta for Molly's schooling, coming to CLCC once a month; "I love the diversity and many textures of this community"; Kristi implemented Godly Play in children's work; Julie is currently an elder to Atlanta-based members; leads a Bible study. Julie is now working as a spiritual director and leads retreats.

Judy Barrett

Born Christmas Day (by 1 minute), Miami, FL with childhood spanning Puerto Rico, Bronx of New York, Miami, Catholic orphanage, foster parents; guardian angels saw her through LPN training and then RN; nursing career as psychiatric nurse, first at Parkwood Psychiatric Hospital then Georgia Baptist 'til 2009; developed and worked position of medical nurse; married George 50 years ago; 2 sons, lost son, Rob 2007

Loves music (alto in choir); many crafts, "being a good grandma is best"; 2 granddaughters

CLCC: Knew McCann's from 1970's; "...if it's good enough for Sandy and Charlie it's good enough..."; the first visit, Ida-Anne Clarke toured them through the church, "we felt at peace when we walked in.."



Sherry Brown

Born in Atlanta, raised in East Point (true Georgia Peach); Business College in Atlanta; most of career in accounting in University System of Georgia (Clayton U., Southern Tech, Kennesaw)

Loves fishing and outdoor activities; raised on small farm with horses, gardening, a father who nurtured her green thumb; "I find my zen in nature – my calm and peace," making the mountains a logical place for retirement.

CLCC: Over time, lifetime friend, Jill Wolleat and Pam Young lured her in and Garden for Others started her involvement; watching things grow then sharing with the needy, the camaraderie; "I've been truly enriched by caring people in the church...can't imagine being anywhere else. "

Dee Tingle

Born in Fort Sumner, New Mexico and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her Mom; graduated from Albuquerque High school in 1955; worked for Albuquerque Telephone Company and Furrs Grocery Store and Cafeteria; met Jim in Corpus Christi, TX in 1992 at the Christian Church and they married in 1993; will soon celebrate their 24th anniversary and from Jim, "not long enough." Jim's parents built a house here in 1954; it became Jim and Dee's home in 2011. Dee loves to travel and regularly visits places around the southeast. In her early days, she loved to sew. As Disciples of Christ members, Jim and Dee found Cherry Log and from Dee, "we just love the people."





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|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|---|
| Feb 1 | Ann Doster
Lynn Chapman | Feb 20 | Gloria Hitt
Feenie Midkiff
Charles Brewer |
| Feb 4 | Susan Pleasant | Feb 25 | Frabia Smith
Joyce Pruet |
| Feb 5 | John Jarrard
Teresa Snow | Feb 27 | Martha O'Neill |
| Feb 10 | Oneal Andrews
Nancy Zimmerman | Feb 28 | Joan Huddleston |
| Feb 13 | Jim Tingle
Julie (Tibby) Pryor | | |
| Feb 18 | Charlie McCann | | |



- Feb 14 Murray and Vivian Wood
Feb 15 Jerry and Lauree Johnson



December Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$39,397.75

Expenses: \$42,682.35

Year to Date Contributions: \$435,053.32

Year to date Expenses: \$457,119.94

ATTENDANCE

	C. E. 8:25	10:55 Worship
Jan 1		111
Jan 8	snow	snow
Jan 15	39	139
Jan 22	41	96
Jan 29	29	103

CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made this past month:

In Memory of:

Ashley Weaver

Tom Rothchild

Appreciation:

Tim Anderson

Tab Bomhard

thank you!

Thank you, Cherry Log Christian Church, for your warmth to me at this time. Our church is doing as Jesus told us to do, care for one another.

Sincerely, Frabia Smith