



CERRYLOGUE



News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Volume 21, Issue 5

May 2018

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

Harry Gilbert, Music Director



HOMECOMING
May 20, 2018

Please mark your calendars to help Cherry Log Christian Church celebrate our 2018 Homecoming on Sunday, May 20th. We will celebrate with everyone coming together at 10:00 in the sanctuary for our combined worship service, followed by a potluck meal in the fellowship hall. This year we will be celebrating the clergy partners (spouses, husbands, etc.) who have supported the clergy by freely giving

their own talents to the church, year after year. Join us as we honor these important people in our church family.

We will also spend time celebrating the events that have happened over the past year. Please bring your best potluck dish and join us for this joyous occasion.

Notice of Congregation Meeting

May 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

On May 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. there will be a congregational meeting to elect leadership for the coming year beginning July 1, 2018 and also approve our new mortgage agreement with Church Extension. In order to reach a quorum, we need 107 votes. Please review the ballot and mortgage overview in this Cherrylogue on page 4 & 5. If you are unable to attend this important meeting, please contact the church office to get an absentee ballot.



We are planning with excitement for the four Sundays in June, when the Fellowship Hall will be transformed and we will explore with the children and youth: What did Jesus say about peace? Who were peacemakers in the Bible? How do we make peace? What is God's peace anyway? There will be storytelling, puppetry, games, crafts, and snack as we enjoy this time together. Please invite your grandchildren and any families you may know with children, especially those who don't have a church home. Each Sunday is stand-alone, so children can feel comfortable attending just one or all four Sundays. There will also be a welcome room for parents. Online registration begins in May and is available through the church website. The time is 9:45-12:15.

We are still looking for help. We need helpers immediately after the early service to do some quick setup, and some after the late service to put furniture back in place. We need people to provide and serve snack, to help with games and crafts, and to welcome children and their families as they arrive. Before we even start, we need some help decorating the Fellowship Hall. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway, to the left as you leave the room. We are collecting small glass and plastic containers, with lids, for a craft activity, and the box is in the Fellowship Hall. We would like our whole congregation to be invested in this effort, letting both our own children and any visitors know that children are valued here. So please look at the signup sheet to find the date and activity that you can help with! Call or email with questions: Nancy Zimmerman nzim4@yahoo.com 678-907-5707 or Georgia Myers georgia1267@hotmail.com 404-948-3025.

Finance Committee Report

Our First Quarter revenue of \$119,279 exceeded expenses of \$110,673 by \$8,607. This of course is excellent. It should be remembered that First Quarter revenue benefits from contributors who give annually, semi-annually and quarterly. It is encouraging that First Quarter 2018 revenue exceeds 2017 First Quarter revenue by \$17,000. Even more encouraging is the attendance comparison. Average weekly attendance for the First Quarter of 2018 was 161 compared to 134 for the same period of 2017. Average giving per attendee, per week, was the same for both years; \$62. Control of expenses has also been well done. This is an excellent start for 2018. Thank you for supporting the ministries of CLCC.

World Labyrinth Day: Saturday May 5

On Saturday, May 5, people around the world will be walking labyrinths and praying for peace and social justice in all lands. These labyrinth walks, which will take place at 1 p.m. in all the world's time zones, will create a "rolling wave of prayer" through the Earth. Join us at the CLCC prayer labyrinth on **May 5 at 1 p.m.** to participate in this worldwide walk for peace and justice.



The Labyrinth Society maintains a worldwide labyrinth locator that includes our Prayer Labyrinth in Cherry Log. CLCC is listed as one of the places where people may participate in World Labyrinth Day and we encourage others in our community and visitors to the area to share this event with us. All are welcome!

Greetings Church!!

The month of May brings with it all kinds of newness. New growth in the trees, new warmth in the air, and new life for little creatures just born. We face our own newness as well. Wonderful new members and visitors coming through our doors, new leaders being commissioned for God's work, and a new Spirit descending upon us as we celebrate both Pentecost and Homecoming. In worship this month, we move out of April's conversation on Creation and into May's conversation of "*Vision: Building the Beloved Community.*"

May is packed full with wonderful opportunities for our growing community to consider what it means to seek out God's vision for us. The first week of worship (5/6) has been planned by our youth! Youth Sunday has a very special place in my heart. I preached my first sermon as an eight year-old boy - on David and Goliath - and that first opportunity to preach was all I needed to keep the call of ministry alive within me. It is important and powerful to amplify the voices of the young in the experience of worship. For we never know what God will do with such experiences further than we can see down the road. While I will be bringing the message this Youth Sunday, the youth themselves have set the vision for what we will explore. Please come and support the youngest members of our community.

We also have a really important Sunday coming up on May 20th. At 9am we will have our annual congregational meeting to confirm the new slate of congregational leaders, and to affirm the good work the mortgage renegotiation team has done setting us on much more solid footing moving into the future. At 10am we will come together in a joint service to celebrate Pentecost - the birthday of the Church, and our homecoming - the anniversary of our beginning. And after worship, we will gather for a potluck community meal to celebrate each other - focusing especially on the clergy spouses among us (which is a pretty big club!!).

There is another new beginning that will start this month. We will hold the first meeting of the Communication Team. The Communications Team is a group of talented and dedicated folks whom I have asked to help us address issues of wider community engagement and more efficient internal sharing of information. We here at Cherry Log do so much good and important work on behalf of those in need. We here at Cherry Log take the call to walk a Christian life in serious and reverent ways. We here at Cherry Log create meaningful spaces in which to discern the call of God in our lives. We here at Cherry Log host create and engaging programs which could be of service to many. And, we here at Cherry Log could share the blessing of the gospel to new heights of glory...if we could learn how to tell these stories of our church in ways which our neighbors and friends will have ears to hear and eyes to see. This is the mission of our Communication Team - help us tell our story well!!

I would invite everyone to hold Cherry Log Christian Church in your prayers as we grow into our fullness, as we encourage newness, as we continue our call to build the beloved community of God. I am blessed to be building alongside you. Thank you for your witness in Christ!

Blessings, Pastor Adam

Mortgage Agreement News

Your Mortgage Negotiation Team has received Church Extension's commitment to new terms for CLCC's mortgage. The terms have been submitted to the CLCC Board and have been unanimously approved. Your Team and Board are convinced that this arrangement is in the best interests of the church and represent a significant step toward solidifying our financial future, and thereby, providing the freedom to continue or even expand our missions. Those of us involved to date feel enormous relief, as well as a sense of excitement, to have reached this milestone. This memorandum will outline for you the terms of the mortgage as well as the procedures leading to a closing in late May. We trust you will be similarly relieved and excited.

First, a word about The Board of Church Extension (CE). Rick Reisinger, the President of CE, as well as his entire staff and board have literally gone above and beyond to craft a loan within the capabilities of CLCC. They have a good understanding of our financial and ministry situation and have tailored this loan to facilitate achievement of both ministry and financial goals. They have also voiced their appreciation of this congregation's past efforts in reducing the principal balance by approximately \$1 million dollars. We have expressed our appreciation for the empathy and financial acumen they have demonstrated. We can now look to the future with increased confidence.

The major points of the new loan are:

1. Amount. The principal loan amount is \$2.2 million, which includes the current outstanding balance of \$2.178 million plus anticipated closing costs (i.e., title policy, taxes and origination fees).
2. Interest Rate. The interest rate is 4.75% (a modest increase of .25% over our current rate) with adjustments every three years to reflect market fluctuations. (We pay more if rates go up, less if they go down and there is a cap on the amount of fluctuations.) The resets will occur without need for further negotiation. The rate and adjustment are entirely consistent with CE's standard loan terms. The 4.75% is lower than their current standard rate due to our improved CE credit risk rating.
3. The term is 20 years, but if we perform as projected (and the projections are sound, not "pie in the sky"), the loan will pay off a few months short of 20 years (in 2038). This is a vast improvement over our previous loan which has a significant balloon in 20 years, and if paid at the present rate, would not be paid off until 2053.
4. Capital campaign. We will begin a capital campaign as early as next spring. Unlike prior capital campaigns, which used the proceeds to make the monthly principal and interest payments, with most going to interest, the money generated from this capital campaign will entirely be applied directly to the principal balance. The success of this campaign is a key factor to the payoff schedule we have structured. Towards that end, the CLCC Board has not only unanimously approved the loan terms, including the capital campaign, they have each pledged to contribute to the campaign. Contributions to the campaign will likely be payable over three years. CE will assist us in planning and implementing the campaign.
5. Payments. Our current monthly payment is \$10,833 per month. The new payment initially will be \$11,917 per month, a modest increase of \$1,083. The monthly payments are adjusted when interest rate adjustments occur (every 3 years), but the new payments will be based on the then current principal balance, which should ameliorate the effect of any interest rate increases. The anticipation is that our monthly payments will remain about the same, even with interest rate increases.
6. Other principal payments. For the past three years we have made a concentrated effort to reduce the loan balance. When loan terms were reset, in 2015, our monthly payments only covered interest. We have raised about \$30,000 per year for principal reduction through fund raising, like BeNuts and the yard sale, gifts to the Celebration Fund, and individual gifts and bequests. In addition to the capital campaign, it will be important to continue these efforts through May, 2021. When the loan resets at that time, the balance should be reduced to the point our monthly payments will retire the loan, within the original 20-year term. All of our focus thereafter can be solely on ministry and mission.

Continued

The mortgage team and the Board are very pleased with the results of this negotiation. It certainly establishes the foundation for a vital, active and serving church for the future. We trust that all of you will be equally pleased with this arrangement. Toward that end there will be a congregational meeting on May 20 to formally vote on consummating this loan. More details will follow about that meeting. In the meantime, members of the Mortgage Team will be available at 9:30 and 12:30 on April 22 and 29 and May 6 to answer questions and address concerns you may have.

Bill Groce
CLCC Finance Committee

Ted Minick
Mortgage Relief Coordinator

2018-2019 Officer Nominees

Church Officers

Caroline Carder, Moderator 2019
Marshall Burke, Vice-Moderator 2019
Beth Roberts, Secretary 2019
Phil Slemmons, Treasurer 2019
Nancy Porter, Assistant Treasurer 2019

Board Members, At Large

John Garceau 2020
Alan Slemmons 2020

Elders

Lynn Barrett 2021
Sidney Goss 2021
Vacant 2021
Vacant 2021

Deacons

Frabia Smith 2019
Daniel Parrish 2020
Bill Cox 2021
Anne Williamson 2021
Marcia Congdon 2021
Joyce Pruitt 2021

Youth

Emilyn 2019
Baylor 2019

Legacy Fund Administrators

Ida Anne Clark - Chair 2021

Outreach Council:

Anne Williamson, Vice Chair

Local / Community Outreach:

Vacant, Chair

Discipling Council:

Bobbie Cherry, Chair
Kathy Grubb, Vice-Chair

Christian Education, Youth:

Vacant

Resource Council:

Vacant, Vice-Chair

Finance Committee:

Ted Minnick 2020
Marshall Burke 2020

Nominating Committee – At Large:

Bill Harrison 2021

Personnel Committee:

Mac McRoberts, Vice Chair 2020
Sandy McCann 2021

Trustees:

Vacant 2021

From the Moderator

I think Spring has finally arrived and along with the sunshine and blooms there is a lot going on at Cherry Log Christian Church. I haven't been this excited for the church in a long time and I want to share in my joy.



On behalf of CLCC I want to give the Mortgage Team and The Board of Church Extension a HUGE thank you! With congregational approval on May 20th Cherry Log Christian Church will have an end date and no more loan renewal on our Mortgage. For the first time since we have moved to Cherry Log street we have a solid plan to pay off our debt. There are no words to describe the burden this removes for us. We can focus on our ministries and the new work God will call CLCC to do. Working with Bill Groce, Ted Minnick, Malinda Geers, and Adam Bradley was an honor. Together there was amazing attention paid to details and planning. Look for the specifics of our Mortgage in this issue of the Cherry Logue.

The Board has been at work as well. A new slate of Leadership will be voted on at the congregational meeting. It passed with unanimous support from the Board. A sincere thank you to all of you who agreed to help support the life of the church by sharing your time and talents.

There are some other things happening you may not be aware of. We have new security cameras outside the building. These cameras can be monitored by the church office and remotely. We can also add to this system as the budget allows. Thank you, Ron Zimbrick, for your help on this.

The Board has also approved the planning of CLCC to host classroom space to local Homeschool Co-ops. Teri Slemons and Laura Sturgis will be helping us with planning. I think it is a great opportunity to open our doors to young families and provide a needed community service.

If you are thirsty we have Bottled Water for sale! One dollar at a time we can reduce our Mortgage. At no cost to the Church 20 cases of water with the CLCC logo was delivered April 26. The water will be sold at events along with our B-Nuts. You can also buy it at church and by the case.

I think the energy at CLCC is growing! Along with our garden we are growing! So get ready to be busy, to be active, and to be blessed! Cherry Log Christian Church is poised for Abundance now we are ready to see what else God has planned for us!

Peace,
Caroline

Wednesday Night Supper Program

April 25 concluded the series, **The Prophetic Jesus and Social Justice** presented by Mary Encineas, reminding us:

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God!” Micah 6:8

Many of us are new to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) The Wednesday evening studies on May 2, 9, and 16 will provide an interesting (and entertaining!) overview and help us understand what makes us what we are. Rev. Jim Tingle and Dr. Hal Doster, Disciples scholars, will bring us up to date in our history. The final session on May 16 will ask and answer "What About the Women?" and "What about Missions?"

Bring a brown bag and a Joyful Spirit as we eat together at 5:30.
Program from 6 to 7.

Green Chalice News

Reduce **REUSE** Recycle



“As the world grows more and more out of balance, we urgently need to regain a relationship with the planet based upon the understanding of the world as a sacred and living whole, and to reclaim a consciousness that is centered in that understanding. Only if we redeem the problem at the root can we hope to heal and come back into balance with our environment.”

— Llewellyn Vaughn-Lee, *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*

What can YOU and I do? Make use of materials in a new way, or REUSE them as intended. Sometimes it is easier to dispose of packaging or of items that are unwanted. Can we avoid sending them to the landfill? As in Jeremiah 18:1-6, the potter didn't throw away the collapsed clay, he reworked his failed pottery into another pot!

Some ideas for Reuse:

- Get ideas from www.co-oproduct.org on reusing your household packaging and everyday waste materials to make desirable new objects
- Repair broken items rather than buy new ones
- Scrap paper can be used both sides, for children's drawings, shopping list
- Paper waste can be shredded, used as mulch in the garden
- Pack your lunch or snacks in usable containers
- Say No to disposable straws and cutlery
- Reuse canvas bags for carrying groceries or store bought items
- Dine in rather than take out
- Store leftovers in glass jars
- Take along washable cups or travel mugs instead of disposables; a lot of restaurants and stores will be glad to fill or refill your own mug.
- When you do use disposables like plastic cups, plates, utensils, and plastic food storage bags, don't throw them away! Wash and reuse them—most of them will last for a long time with many uses. They may not cost much to replace, but it doesn't make any more sense to throw away those things than it does to throw away your bicycle after one use.
- Swap magazines with friends, or give them to surgeries for waiting rooms, or to classroom teachers for cut outs..
- Reuse items wherever possible. For example yogurt pots are ideal for growing seedlings, plastic egg cartons make seedling greenhouses and cardboard egg cartons can be filled with potting soil and a seedling, and when the seedling sprouts, can be cut apart and planted

Reusing is the second most effective of the three Rs; like reducing, it avoids creating waste rather than trying to recycle it once it's already there.

You can "reuse" materials in their original form instead of throwing them away, or pass those materials on to others who could use them too! Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! Save your unwanted items for the **October 5th & 6th Church Yard Sale or the Clothes Closet.**

The most involved reuse organizations are "repair and overhaul" industries which take valuable parts. Check it out before throwing out.

Joining together with other faiths to care for creation.

<http://blessedtomorrow.org/creation-care-story-three-great-loves>

Presented by Blessed Tomorrow and **Green Chalice (Disciples of Christ)**

