



CERRYLOGUE



News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Volume 22, Issue 1

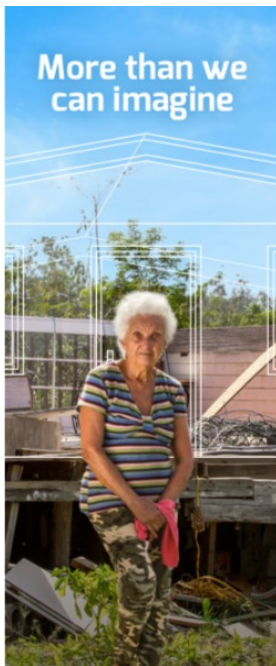
Winter 2019

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Pastor

Harry Gilbert, Music Director

Week of Compassion Offering February 17th and 24th

IMAGINATION.



The theme for the 2019 Special Offering for Week of Compassion is “More than we can imagine!” That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God’s children, for it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone - neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger - for we are the church together!
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience;
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person;
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect;
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives;
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence. And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. And we can help – through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence, we can make this world ever more like the way God would wish it, ever more the way that God would imagine it!



Souper Bowl of Caring helps young people across America develop a stronger connection to their communities by caring for their neighbors in need. Join the movement transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.
Learn more at tacklehunger.org

Date / Time: Sunday, February 3, 2019
Location: Cherry Log Christian Church
Collection: Chunky Soup or Money Donation

DAVID WILCOX in Concert!!

Cherry Log Christian Church is hosting an evening of storytelling and song with a true folk artist extraordinaire, David Wilcox. A local of Asheville NC, David blends a genuine sense of spirituality, personal reflection, humor, insight, and an honest understanding of the human condition into his performances. We are thrilled to bring such a dynamic artist to share his gifts here in the North Georgia Mountains. It will surely be a show to remember!

For a bit more about David Wilcox...

Wilcox was a winner of the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk award in 1988, and by 1989 he had signed with A&M Records. And most recently, he is the winner of the 2018 USA Songwriting Competition. His first release on the label, *How Did You Find Me Here*, sold over 100,000 copies the first year largely by word of mouth. His latest record *The View From the Edge* (2018) is a collection of powerful new songs, many of which he has been performing at live shows for the past

several years. Its an album that reflects four years of thinking, writing, crafting, playing and life.

Considered a 'songwriter's songwriter', his songs have been covered by artists such as k.d. lang and many others. In addition to his writing prowess, his skills as a performer and storyteller are unmatched. He holds audiences rapt with nothing more than a single guitar, thoroughly written songs, a fearless ability to mine the depths of human emotions of joy, sorrow and everything in between, and all tempered by a quick and wry wit.

David Wilcox finds inspiration wherever he looks. The songs, in turn, provide inspiration to longtime listeners as well as those finding him for the first time. Its in the song and the craftsmanship; its medicine for the soul; its story; its a restless spirituality.

“All these songs are the blazes on the trail, the stuff I need to hear in order to remember on a daily basis,” he says, acknowledging his own path. “It would have been easier if I could have heard these songs 20 years ago, but that isnt how it works. I had to live it to be able to sing it.” - David Wilcox

Tickets are \$30.00 each and are available at: <https://wilcox.brownpapertickets.com>

2018
Songwriter
of the Year!
from the
U.S.A. Songwriting
Competition

SINGER.SONGWRITER.STORYTELLER.

DAVID
WILCOX

LIVE IN CONCERT IN NORTH GEORGIA!
MARCH 23, 2019
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM
WILCOX.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM

CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1149 CHERRY LOG ST.
CHERRY LOG, GA 30522
CHERRYLOGDISCIPLES.ORG

BeLove
Cherry Log
Christian Church

A Moment With Our Pastor...

BeStill. That is our theme for the month of February.

In the chaos of modern life – even life in these here mountains – we often will get swept up in the urgency of now. There is an immediacy expected with so many aspects of today’s living. The lag time of sending letters has given way to the momentary anticipation of sending texts. The morning paper discussed at the water cooler has given way to the world wide web of outrage and inflammation. Our connections to one another are spread a mile wide - a million miles wide - but too often are left only an inch deep.

The temptation in the face of such a reckless runaway world is to retreat in some way. To run even faster towards a reminiscent refuge of what has been, a promise of simpler times and simpler lives. It is a seductive idea to return to the past, or to try to hold onto the present forever. Yet, Romans 12: 2 says, “*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (or self), so that you might discern what is the will of God...*”

Our Divine call is not rooted in yesterday, but it is anchored in tomorrow. God is the whisperer of the promised *future* ...the kingdom *come*, and God’s will be done. Responding to a chaotic world with *stillness*, with a resolve to listen first for the call of the Spirit’s leading, to pause ourselves fully in devotion to God, is the subversive act of calming the storms which desire to consume us from within. When we find stillness within, we can still the wind and the waters which surround us.

It takes great faith to choose stillness in the face of challenge or doubt – when we most feel like running away. It takes practice to seek out God’s peace.

We have much to discern this year, Church. Discernments about what it means to be a growing church and what it will take to thrive into our *future* calling. There are questions to ponder about who we are, who we will be, and how we are answering God’s call to make disciples. There are discernments about what needs we might be able to address in our witness, and for whom we build up this body of Christ. It may at times feel chaotic to be engage in such discernments. This process of becoming new in Christ might feel for you like a storm is brewing in your soul.

But I am confident that our embracing of sacred stillness will help to ground us in a coming time of transformation and growth. Moments invested in sacred stillness will amplify the call of God in our lives and in the life of this church. Stillness will give us time to breath. Stillness will be our spiritual strength to face what the future beholds for us, in this place and time.

Let yourself *BeStill* this month, with intention and prayerful resolve, so that you will hear the still small voice of God speaking.

In Christ,

Pastor Adam

BeStill



Cherry Log
Christian Church

Finance Committee Report

An unusual decline in attendance and giving per attendee during September, October, and November resulted in a deficit of almost \$20,000 at the end of November. When informed of this, you responded! December's revenue of \$59,653 exceeded expenses by \$20,169. This generated a surplus of \$383 for the year. Once again you have demonstrated your love for the mission of this church. THANK YOU, CHURCH!!

The revenue projection for 2018 assumed that average weekly attendance would be 150 and average weekly giving per attendee \$59, producing an annual revenue of \$460,000. Actual weekly attendance was 151 and average giving per attendee was \$59, producing actual 2018 revenue of \$463,632.

The 2019 weekly average attendance is projected at 158 with average weekly giving per attendee of \$60, producing an annual revenue of \$488, 852. This projection still appears reasonable. The Finance Committee thanks everyone responsible for an expense budget for being as conservative as you have been in the past and we know you will continue to be in the future.

New Tax Laws

With the new tax law changes that went into affect in 2018, many of us should see lower tax bills primarily due to a nearly doubled standard deduction. Especially for those of us who are retired and no longer have a mortgage payment, the doubling of the standard deduction is a welcomed benefit since social security increases have been few and far between.

If you still have a mortgage payment and other deductions, itemizing your deductions may still be the best approach. With the new doubling of the standard deduction, many of us may choose to no longer itemize. If that is the case you will no longer be able to use your charitable giving as a tax deduction. Please don't let that change how much you contribute to our church and other worthy causes! There is another way!

If you have an IRA and are taking distributions to supplement your retirement income, you can direct your IRA distributions directly to our church. IRA distributions are taxable income. But, when you direct them to a charitable organization, the IRS will not consider them taxable income. So, instead of losing a tax deduction by no longer itemizing, you can reduce your taxable income while continuing to receive the same tax benefit!

- Martin Titus

Resolutions for Creation



We are celebrating the birth of Jesus, the one whom John calls "the Word," through whom everything was created. If you are making New Year's resolutions, can you make one to better care for this wonderful Creation? A good one is to reduce consumption of something: packaging, plastic, gasoline, or electricity, for example. Consumption of anything drives the demand for more production, and production of just about anything has negative effects on the environment. Happy Greener New Year!

Legacy Partners

The Legacy Administrators have submitted a revised Legacy Fund Policy to the Board for approval. Revision of Legacy Fund policy requires approval by a majority of the Board in two meetings. The impetus for this policy change comes from congregation conversations earlier this year that revealed several areas of misunderstanding. A key area requiring clarification is that end-of-life gifts can be made to Cherry Log Christian Church either to the permanent Legacy Fund or directly to the church for a designated purpose. This has always been the case, but emphasis on the Legacy fund led some to believe direct bequests were not desired or possible. The donors always have control of how they direct their end-of-life gifts.



The revised policy makes clear that end-of-life gifts may be designated as the donor wishes. Undesignated gifts will go to the Legacy Fund. There are some other changes to eliminate unneeded and confusing language. If anyone wishes to review the proposed revised policy, copies are available in the Narthex or by request to the church office. It is not included in this issue of the Cherrylogue due to its length.

Other areas of confusion or misunderstanding are being addressed by issuance of a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document by the Legacy Administrators. Copies of this FAQ are also available in the Narthex or by request. There are 15 FAQ which will be published a few at a time in this and future issues of the Cherrylogue beginning here:

Legacy Fund FAQ

Will my planned gift automatically go into the Legacy Fund?

No, the church wants a donor to have complete freedom of choice. Your end-of-life gift can be designated to go into the Legacy Fund, a permanent fund, or you can designate it to be used, 100% upon receipt, for a designated purpose like mortgage reduction. Making a clear designation is important to assure the gift is used as you intend.

What is a permanent fund?

A permanent fund, often called an endowment fund, builds the principal for the long-term benefit of the organization it supports. Only a fixed percentage of the fund is disbursed annually to be spent. In our case, the Legacy Fund is a permanent fund. Annually an amount, generally between 3.75%-4.5% is disbursed to the church to be spent in accordance with the Fund policy. This helps assure that the fund will grow over time to offset the impact of inflation.

Does the way I designate my bequest affect my status as a Legacy Partner?

No, all supporters who commit to planned end-of-life giving will be recognized as a Legacy Partner (unless anonymity is requested). This is true whether your gift is designated for an immediate designated purpose or for the Legacy Fund. Some wish to see all of their gift used for mortgage reduction. Reducing the mortgage provides a long-term benefit just as does annual distributions from the Legacy Fund.

Can I designate for a purpose other than mortgage reduction?

Yes, you have complete freedom of choice. The Legacy Partner program was established primarily to enable supporters who love the church to continue that support after death. Distributions from the Legacy Fund and reducing the mortgage both provide a long-lasting benefit and most donors choose one of those. However, you may designate as you wish.

The spring schedule of Bus Ministry pre-K classes, for the children of Tower Road, has been set. Much thanks to Linda Jarred for her diligent work in bringing this inaugural program to fruition. The classes will begin on March 19 under Linda's leadership. They will meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for 8 weeks until the end of the school year in May, with a week off for spring break. The children will be taught the basics such as colors, shapes, numbers, ABCs through play and language. The classes will be taught in English so that they will be more prepared for what they will encounter at school when they enter kindergarten in the fall.

How can you be a part of this ministry?

Volunteer your time! We need 6 or 8 volunteers who love working with small children to work under Linda's guidance. You will need to talk with the children and play with them as they learn their lessons. You may work one or two days or just when you can. You will also need to help set up for the day and clean up at the day's end. If this program is successful, it is able to be scaled up in the future with additional sessions led by additional instructors. So the volunteer opportunities abound.

Snacks!! We will provide snacks for the children. There will be opportunities to donate snack items such as juice boxes, crackers, fruit, or string cheese.

Prayers. We need prayers over all of the children and volunteers as they work together. In fact, as we embark on a new ministry this spring, we ask all members to keep the Bus Ministry, the volunteers, the children, and the families of Tower Rd in your daily prayers. This is a ministry that really is the hands and feet of Christ.

The Outreach Council is pleased to be able to announce these classes. We are grateful to Linda for all of the hard work that she is done pulling together the materials needed for the children's instruction. We are grateful to Marshall Burke and Sharon Meeks for their vision and perseverance to find and equip the bus. And we are grateful for you and your upcoming support of the good the Bus Ministry will provide. The Outreach Council is faithfully certain this ministry will make a huge difference in the success the children will achieve in school. And for this, glory be to God.

If you are interested, please contact Jane Carwell, jane-carwell@yahoo.com.



Kyle Ermoian

Born in Chicago, IL, graduate of Southern Illinois University; 10 years in rock ‘n roll business in LA, then “God knocked on my heart” and my faith ministry began in LA; theological education in Disciples Seminary in Claremont, CA; pastored 6 years in Hayes, Kansas, a good place to raise children; was invited to established new church and ministered there 1996 -2017; met and married Debbie there; retired to Ellijay to be near family; now serving as a coach and consultant to Effective Group Ministry, a resource for pastors

Kyle is an avid golfer and enjoys sitting on his front and back porch with Cubbie Blue and Carrie Annie



Debbie Ermoian

Debbie was born in Great Bend, Kansas and was raised and educated in the Claflin, KS. She earned her BS in education with a focus in special education at Fort Hayes State University followed by over 20 years teaching in Hayes, KS. Debbie considers taking the path of special education in life a special blessing. She and Kyle met at Fort Hayes University where he taught leadership in her class. They share 5 children and 4 grandchildren.

A favorite hobby is walking -- five miles/day! She enjoys sewing, embroidering, as well as woodworking,

CLCC: The people are WONDERFUL – “I can feel they love the Lord and operate that way.

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

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

- unknown

Michele Bradley

Born in Bay Area, CA and lived there until moving to Blue Ridge, GA last October, “definitely a culture shock!” Entered the work force, primarily business management in law, computers, etc., but had passion for health/wellness. Received qualification as Massage Therapist from National Holistic Institute and practiced for 10 years. Wife of Adam and mother of Ethan and Emma

Passionate about health and wellness, and nutrition, “food is so much of our medicine”; enjoys yoga, essential oils (uses AND makes them), getting her hands in the dirt, walking –and outdoor work

As a 4th generation DOC “we do it right”, she feels Disciples need a bigger megaphone. As pastor’s wife, “I am extremely blessed that CLCC is my first experience. You have allowed me to be myself and I have a host of pastors and wives to help me learn what this role can be. It’s a gift from God.”



Jacob Baum

Jacob was born, raised and educated in the “wild west” region of the US, Dodge City, Kansas and Hayes, Kansas, respectively. He earned a BA, English and MS, Library Science as well as Computere Programming from University of Kansas. He has worked in his field of library science as well as in Management of Government Housing. He currently resides with his parents, Kyle and Debbie Ermoian in Ellijay.

Jacob’s most extensive hobby is in music and plays the piano, the guitar as well as drums. In addition, he has amazing skills in woodworking.



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

Mar 1 Bob Lewis	Mar 13 Jennifer Mills
Mar 3 Jerry Johnson	Mar 14 Bob Clarke
Mar 4 Jan Mitchell	Mar 16 Paula Miller
Cindy Avens	Mar 24 Cheri Thompson
Mar 6 Hal Doster	Mar 26 Walter Boleman
Mar 7 Zachary Cox	Mar 28 Judy Weiland
Mar 9 Peggy Cleveland	Kay Zimbrick
Carolyn Lakes	Mar 29 Sally Pamplin
Mar 10 Trisha Senterfitt	Mar 30 Thomas Smith
Becky Vallely	Mar 31 Adam Bradley



February 14 Murray & Vivian Wood (69)
 February 15 Jerry & Lauree Johnson (50)
 March 15 Ronald & Nancy Midkiff (62)
 Kelly and Angela Ray (1)
 March 26 Jim & Betty Willis (65)

Music Director Opening @ Cherry Log Christian Church:

Cherry Log Christian Church is beginning a search for a new Music Director. Harry Gilbert has served us so well for the last two years, but Harry has always intended to serve as an *interim* Music Director. Two years is already a lengthy interim, and so we want to honor both the desire of Harry for a time-limited position and the needs of this congregation as we move forward in growth and witness. The Worship & Music Committee has recommended that it is indeed an appropriate time to begin to look for the next Music Director. With the hiring of a permanent person in this role, we can include both worship services within the scope of that person's work, and in-so-doing, create a more unified musical experience in the life of the church. The onboarding of a permanent hire will ensure that all our worship services will receive the benefit of a well-lead music ministry.



I would like to express publicly my deep appreciation and admiration for both Harry and Katie. Harry's professionalism and grace have made my transition as pastor of this church much easier, in my sustained comfort knowing the music is being led in meaningful and competent ways. I have appreciated Harry and Katie's generosity of time and talents, and their kindness in all they do. I am grateful to have had the chance to work with Harry over this last year and a half. Harry has continued to show grace, in that, he has agreed to stay on with us until we have called our new Music Director. Join me in sharing your thanks with them for the indelible mark they have made on this church and upon our hearts.

Realm Privacy Changes

Have you tried to find a church member in Realm and they were not there? It isn't that the info isn't there, just that the permissions are set so that everyone must *opt-in* to sharing their contact information. This need to opt-in has proven to be too burdensome on the congregation. This process will be completed by Friday, February 8th. Instead of everyone needing to *opt-in* to sharing, the church office has decided that we will set everyone's contact information to automatically show as public (within the closed system of Realm) and let those who want to keep their contact information private *opt-out* of sharing.



This change will not affect your personal preference settings for notifications and emails, that will remain as you have individually set them. If it is your preference that your name, address, and phone number **NOT** be in the church directory in Realm, you may

opt-out by resetting your personal privacy settings to private, and if needed, Malinda will be happy to show you how. We hope this change will make Realm a more useful tool for reaching our fellow church folks.