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# BEARGRASS NEWS

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**Worship** Regularly **Grow** Intentionally **Serve** Generously

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2 BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) FEBRUARY 2018

## Lent 2018—“Following the Way”

*By Leigh Bond*

### Ash Wednesday Service February 14, 6:45 pm

The seasonal cycles of winter, spring, summer, and fall are echoed in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The season of Lent, culminating in Holy Week, invites those of us who follow the way of Jesus into a time of deeper reflection on our own seasons of life in the present age. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and we will have a meaningful worship service at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary.

**Copies of the Lenten devotional booklet, *Fellowship of Prayer***, will be available beginning February 14 at the Ash Wednesday service. The theme for Lent at Beargrass and the theme for this year’s devotional is “Following the Way.” The booklet has been written by “The Bethany Fellows”—many of the best and brightest young ministers in our denomination (including our own Jay Deskins).

### Some “Green Chalice” Options for Lent

*By Nancy Kuppersmith*

Ash Wednesday invites us into the season of Lent, a time during the church year to acknowledge that we are mortal and limited so that we might be transformed and become the new life God calls us to be. This year Ash Wednesday is also Valentine’s Day! Might one of our Valentine gifts this year be to God’s creation, the Earth and all of its creatures?

The Green Chalice Team has worked hard to gather a variety of activities to serve as “gifts” to God and God’s creation. The options range from simple things like eliminating unnecessary electrical use to more challenging options like taking “military” showers or buying local produce. Look for a list of these activities in future Green Chalice E-News articles and in a special **Green Chalice Lenten Devotional** which will be available online (some copies will be in the Gathering Space for those without computer access.)

We consider all of these activities to be spiritual practices and concrete ways of participating in the stewardship of God’s creation. The intention is to provide doable actions that can make a difference. Also in our follow-up E-News articles, we will have Bible verses to reflect on and “Creation Care” ideas to empower our congregation so we can challenge ourselves to be transformed.

## The Next Newcomers Class

*By Leigh Bond*

The next 2018 Newcomers Class will be Sunday, March 4, 11 and 18, at 10:00 am in the Chapel. (If there is enough interest I will also offer the class on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm.) The class offers an introduction to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the mission and ministries of Beargrass Christian Church. I recommend the class to anyone who is looking for a church home and a supportive Christian community. Childcare is available. Folks can register for the class by calling the church office at 896-1161 or emailing me at leigh@beargrass.org.

## Well Done Beargrass! 2018 Budget is Fully Funded

*By Leigh Bond*

We have heard wonderful news from the Finance Team. Not only did we finish 2017 **in the black**, we have fully funded all of the budget requests for 2018 for the first time that veteran stewardship educator, Rex Cox, can remember! The response from the congregation to “answer the call” was outstanding. Over 100 members/households increased their pledge and we received 30 new pledges for 2018.

**The proposed budget of \$1,291,000** has been approved by the Finance Team and Ministry Leadership Team. It will be presented to the congregation on February 10 and 11.

## Nominations Needed by February 4 *By Mike Puckett, Nominating Team Chair*

There is still time for members of our church family to nominate people from the congregation to serve as elders, deacons, youth elders and youth deacons. Those who serve in these important servant-leader roles are vital to the ministries and mission of the church. They are expected to live out our mission statement—to Worship Regularly, Grow Intentionally, and Serve Generously—in an exemplary way. Nomination forms are due in the church office by noon on Monday, February 5. Nominations can also be made by calling the office at 896-1161 or by emailing me at mike.t.puckett@gmail.com or John Hull at john@beargrass.org.

**In the Beginning: Genesis**  
**Wednesday Bible Study**  
**10:30 am, Room 202**  
*By John Hull*

Genesis is a story of origins. *In the beginning*—Genesis begins with the universal context of the creation of the world (*the heavens and the earth*). Then Genesis narrows the focus to human origins and eventually to the origin of Israel (*the generations of Jacob*). The Genesis stories help establish Israel's identity. Join us Wednesday mornings as we reflect on these entertaining stories of origin.

**Bible 101: A Basic & Simple Survey**  
**Thursday Evening Bible Study**  
**6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall**  
*By Daniel Spurlock*

This survey continues through May, meeting every other Thursday. The class begins with a light supper at 6:30. The study runs from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Please RSVP to the church office each week of the study so the light supper arrangements can be accurate. The class dates are:

February 8, 22; March 8, 22; April 5, 19.

**Empowered! Women's Gifts**  
**to the Church and the World**

**Sundays, February 11 & 18, 5:00 pm**  
**Led by Chris Rakestraw**

You are invited to join this two-part presentation and discussion led and facilitated by Chris Rakestraw, sponsored by Adult Ministries.

**Attention Men!**  
**2nd Anniversary Celebration February 25**  
*By Gerald Box*

It is hard to believe that it has already been two years since we began our men's group. We have brought together a committed core group of around a dozen men and we look forward to another great year and adding more members to the group. Dr. Bond will be with us on Sunday, February 25, for our anniversary celebration. Please join us at 4:30 pm in room 201.

**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
**February 3/4, 2018**  
*By Steven Straub*

Pro football's Super Bowl is fast approaching. That means **Souper Bowl** will soon be here at Beargrass. On the weekend of February 3 and 4, our Junior Youth Fellowship (grades 3-5) will collect money to help alleviate hunger in our community. One in seven households in America—including more than 16 million children—are "food insecure." **Please consider giving at least \$1 per person when you attend worship.** JYF will be collecting as you leave worship on February 3 and 4. Just look for the pots outside the sanctuary and chapel. Your cash or checks (payable to Beargrass) will help feed the hungry in our community.

In 2017 more than 6,500 groups throughout the United States used *Souper Bowl Sunday* to raise more than \$10.1 million (in money and food donations) for hungry and poverty stricken people. Each congregation determines where to send its offering. Beargrass received \$900 in 2017. Our funds were donated to Love the Hungry as JYF, Chi Rho, and CYF made packaged meals for kids in our community and around the world.

**New in 2018:** Based on a request from St. Matthews Area Ministries, we will also be collecting food items they need for their pantry. Please consider bringing canned beans, canned fruit, or canned meat to church on February 3 or 4. Special containers will be marked for these Souper Bowl donations.

**Scout Sunday 2018**

On February 4, Beargrass will celebrate Scout Sunday, and both Pack and Troop 115 will be present in worship that day. Scouting started at Beargrass in 1943, so the Scouts are excited to celebrate their 75th anniversary with the congregation. The Scouts will help lead worship as well as share some of their activities from the recent year. Several Scouts will have their religious awards presented to them in worship.

**Save the Date!**

Pack 115 Trivia Night  
 Saturday, March 10, 2018  
 6:30-9:30 pm  
 \$10 per person (includes dinner and desert)  
 Childcare available  
 Questions? Contact Steven Straub  
 More details to come in the March newsletter

### **Life Lessons**

#### **A Lenten Reflection Group**

**Sundays at 5 pm, February 18—March 18**

**By Susan Lowe**

There is much for us to learn in this life and there are many lessons—lessons “that are enormously difficult to master, but even attempting to understand them can be deeply rewarding.” This Lenten season, I invite you to join me in reflecting on and discussing some of these life lessons that Elizabeth Kubler Ross and David Kessler focus on in their book *Life Lessons: Two Experts on Death and Dying Teach Us About the Mysteries of Life and Living*. Using stories from their experiences of being with those who are dying, the authors share great insight and challenge on living life to the fullest. As the back cover says, “*Life Lessons* guides us to heal what is broken and open ourselves up to love and happiness to live meaningful and fulfilling lives.” This group discussion will be held on **Sunday evenings from 5-6 pm in the Conference Room beginning February 18 and ending March 18**. Due to the more intimate nature of this group, participants are strongly encouraged to commit to all five weeks so that trust is built and maintained as we share our experiences and reflections on *Authenticity, Relationship, Love, Loss, Guilt, Fear, Anger, Surrender, and Forgiveness*. With any questions or to share interest in participating, please contact Dr. Susan Lowe at susan@beargrass.org or at 502-896-1161. Until we run out, you can obtain a copy of the book from the church office for \$10 or purchase on your own.

### **Donations to Beargrass**

**By Marikeith Mercke**

*The Beargrass Christian Church Memorial Fund* has received donations in memory of:

**Bruce Pelham:** Edith Wallace, Florence Cotner, Alan and Mary June Forsythe, Robert and Joyce Streever, Brandon and Patsy Nall, Owners of Royal Ambassador Condominiums, Friendship Class.

**Kathleen Stone:** Friendship Class, Sandra Bowen, Patricia Eckerle

**Cecil Jones:** Carl and Wanda Crosier, Rich and Ashley Crosier, Jeanette Wortham, Friendship Class, Patricia Wardell, Stock Yards Bank & Trust, Bob Bartle, Debbie and Bob Berger, David and Brenda Bartle, Jeff and Tammy McClintic.

**Pat Jennings:** Scottye and Bettye Jennings.

A donation to Beargrass Christian Church **in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Byron Morgan and children** was made by Susan Phipps.

**in honor of Elizabeth Barrens** was made by Dr. and Mrs. Bobby DeWeese.

### **Notes of Gratitude & Appreciation**

**from Lexington Theological Seminary**

**By Mark Blankenship, VP for Advancement**

The Lexington Seminary community is blessed by your generosity and kindness. When students reflect upon their opportunity to attend LTS, words cannot describe how enthusiastic and appreciative they feel. If they could speak to you face-to-face, they would thank you for helping to make their seminary education possible. On their behalf, thanks for your partnership and gift of \$10,000.

**from Mission Behind Bars (MB3)**

**By Rev. Dean Bucalos**

As the new year begins and our treasurer submits his year end report to the board, I am reminded of the support you and your congregation have given to “Mission Behind Bars and Beyond” and I am so grateful. Your congregation’s faithfulness has not only helped to sustain this important ministry but also permitted MB3 to expand its programming to reach even more returning citizens. So, please accept our thanks—from our mentors, our volunteers, our board and perhaps most importantly, those who have been incarcerated and have returned to our communities. These are the direct beneficiaries of your life-giving generosity—your gifts of grace.

**from Habitat for Humanity**

**By Rob Locke, CEO**

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville and the families we serve, thank you for your support and belief in our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Your gift of \$2230 makes it possible for us to make a real difference in our entire community. Almost 500 new Habitat homes have brightened our city’s neighborhoods since 1985. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

### **Book Clubs meet Thursday, February 15**

**1:30 pm. The Library Book Club** will discuss: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Bring your book ideas and we will select the March book

**6:30 pm in Youth Room.** Disciples Women’s Book Club will discuss *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick. All are welcome



**Beargrass Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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## **Discipleship Class: Preparing for Baptism A Class for Children (and Parents) Sundays at 12:15 pm beginning February 4**

The Beargrass Discipleship Class for fifth grade children is led by John Hull and Steven Straub. The class covers important topics that help children understand what it means to be a follower of Christ: the Bible, Baptism, Communion and the Disciples of Christ.

The class meets four Sundays in February (4, 11, 18, 25), beginning at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Classes end at 2:15 except for February 18 which ends at 5:00. The class eats lunch at the beginning of each session. Although schedules occasionally interfere, it is important for children and families to commit to attending all sessions.

**Students will read the Gospel of Mark** and complete other assignments.

**A required one-hour session for parents will be held on February 18** at 5:00 pm. Dr. Hull and parents will discuss faith development in children, including the appropriate time for baptism and communion. February 18 is also bread-baking day. The children learn about Communion while baking bread. The class will last all afternoon. JYF will then have a special outing at 5:00 pm while the parents are meeting.

Members of the Disciples of Christ are baptized when they can express as a personal choice their desire to become part of the Body of Christ. We view baptism as one step in a lifelong faith journey rather than as a 'conversion experience.' In consultation with their parents, class members will decide if they are ready for baptism. Some choose to delay baptism.

The class is designed for fifth grade children and we strongly encourage parents to consider this. Contact Steven or John with any questions. **Enroll your child by February 2** with Steven Straub (steven@beargrass.org).