

# BEARGRASS NEWS



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

**VOLUME 11, NUMBER 5 BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MAY 2018**

## Children's Choir Spring Musical

Sunday, May 20, 6:30 pm

Join us on Sunday, May 20th at 6:30 pm for an evening of entertainment. The children will be presenting "The Old Testament Fast Forward" in a night you will not forget. You will meet all the favorite characters from the Old Testament and maybe even a few new ones. Hope you can join us for a Biblical History lesson you have never seen!

Also, you will not want to miss out on the Spaghetti Dinner and Cake Auction hosted by the youth at 5 pm before the show. We promise the show will not start until all the cakes have found their new homes. It is truly a fabulous night at Beargrass you will not want to miss.



## Calling All Bakers

Twenty-five volunteers are needed to make cakes/desserts for the Spaghetti Dinner and Cake Auction on May 20. The person whose dessert receives the highest bid will have bragging rights for the year and "The GOLDEN Spatula."

To donate a cake or dessert contact: Deb Rakestraw (text/phone 502-802-3679) Deborah.rakestraw@centerstone.org or Kim Wilhoit at kimwilhoit@yahoo.com.

Donations need to be dropped off at church, Sunday, May 20, before the fundraiser dinner at 5:00 pm.



Vacation Bible School will take place June 10-14, 2018 from 6:00-8:30 pm each evening. Most nights will include an opening gathering, snack supper, music, crafts, Bible stories, and recreation activities. The last night will include family potluck, music concert, and carnival!

This year's theme is "Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!" As the children learn about different stories and people from the Bible, they will find adventure, acceptance, joy, rest, and peace on the river!!

The Children's Ministry Team is currently planning a wonderful experience for all children, but they need volunteers to help make the magic happen! If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School (including but not limited to crafts, storytelling, science, music, registration, meals, decorations, and carnival), please call Steven Straub at 502.896.1161 or email him at [steven@beargrass.org](mailto:steven@beargrass.org). All youth who have completed grades 6-12 can volunteer to assist with VBS. Any interested youth needs to complete a volunteer interest survey.

Again this year, JYF (those who have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade) will have a separate program. While they will join the other children for the opening festivities and dinner each night, the rest of the evening will be spent in their own program designed around the theme. Activities will include special outings, service projects, and much more. A special flyer will be mailed to all JYF parents with more specific details.

Registrations for VBS will open on May 1. Registration is based on grade COMPLETED in spring 2018, and all pre-school children must have turned 4 by June 1 to participate. Registrations can be made online OR registrations will be taken at VBS registration tables in the gathering space on Sundays May 13 and 20 before and after worship services. For those who register by May 31, the early bird cost is \$12 and one's t-shirt size is guaranteed. For those who register in June, the cost is \$15. For those participating in the special JYF program, an additional \$10 will be charged to cover the expenses for their special program. VBS Scholarships are available – contact Steven Straub for more information.

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## THE BEARGRASS FOUNDERS

By Mike Puckett, Nominating Team Chair

The Beargrass Nominating Team of 2018 has many exciting details to report from its work in recent weeks. The following have been affirmed by our Ministry Leadership Team and Official Board, and now await confirmation by the Congregation, the ultimate decision-making body for our church:

**Youth Elders & Deacons.** On the weekend of May 5/6, we will present one Elder and 49 deacons, 6 of whom are new, for your consideration. If approved, they will be ordained the weekend of May 12/13.

**Adult Elders & Deacons.** We have verified that 17 Elders will be returning from sabbatical effective July 1, along with 24 Deacons. On May 5 & 6 we will present one new Elder and 13 new Deacons for you to consider. If approved, they will also be ordained the following weekend in our traditional “laying on of hands”.

**Endowment Fund Trustees.** Leslie Geoghegan and Rev. Bruce Barkhauer are set to commence three year terms on July 1, joining the other four returning trustees, if confirmed by the Congregation.

**Elders Emeriti.** We are indeed pleased to inform you that two wonderful servants in the long Disciples of Christ tradition have been named for 2018: Ms. Pat Jones and Mr. Bruce Wiggins (posthumously). They will be honored and celebrated in worship services later in 2018.

In exploring and chronicling our 175-year history during the past year, it became obvious that many of the Beargrass saints of our rich past would fall back into the shadows after our celebration without some proactive measure on our part as the Beargrass of today. Elders Emeriti only began to be recognized in 1965 and females were first admitted to our Board as Elders and Deacons even later, in 1975. With your blessing, we will begin to recognize the builders and pillars of our church from long ago. They will be called the Beargrass Founders.

Our first two nominees for this new honor are Gilbert T. and Winifred Dick (GT & Winnie). GT and Winnie arrived in bucolic St. Matthews in 1906 with the opening of the St. Matthews Bank, the community’s first. GT first served as cashier and would later become chairman of the board, and has been credited with much of the bank’s success. His impact on Beargrass was equally significant, and Winnie’s was likewise very meaningful. The Dicks chose a residence at 112 Browns Lane, directly across from today’s Beargrass.

The Dicks quickly settled into life as servant-leaders of this church at its prior location on Westport Road. A local publication, the Jeffersonian, reported as early as 1912 that some congregants were in discussion for the church to move to the Shelby pike (as it was called then) in order to take advantage of the electric car lines. The first actual meeting of record to address this vision was held in the home of GT and Winnie in January, 1914. While they were apparently in the minority of those favoring the move, they and others of their persuasion obviously prevailed and a new Beargrass Christian Church was built, opened and dedicated at our present corner in 1917.

GT’s fingerprints are all over Beargrass history in the first half of the 20th century. Prior to the relocation planning, he was a dedicated teacher and mentor of its youth. He was elected an elder in 1918, and Chairman of the Board in 1931, only the second in the history of Beargrass. GT was prominent in the recruitment of Rev. Walter Lawrenson in 1931 and would guide the church into and through building expansions in 1939 and 1949. He served in that post for 17 years, longer than anyone else in Beargrass history. Upon relinquishing it due to health problems in 1948, GT was named Chairman Emeritus. He died a year later.

The culture of the day prevented Winnie from holding any formal offices at Beargrass, but her contributions were many. In 1925, she established the Women’s Missionary Society, the forerunner of today’s Disciples Women’s Ministries, at Beargrass. Winnie was not employed outside their home, so the church’s mission and her compassion for others were prominent in her day-to-day life. The Dicks had one child, daughter Betty. Winnie was a member here until her death in 1971. Her life, and that of her husband, exemplified servant-leadership.

So, Winnie and GT, giants in the annals of Beargrass, are the inaugural nominees for the Beargrass Founders. Thanks be to God for their faith, dedication and servant-leadership to the Beargrass church family of their time!

## The Search for a New Minister of Youth/Young Adults

By Leigh Bond

Greetings! Extending a “call” to our next Minister of Youth and Young Adults is one of the most important matters in the immediate future of our church family, so we all need to keep the process and the people who are involved in our prayers. We are extremely grateful for Dr. Tiffany DeTienne’s excellent ministry during the past few years and for her willingness to continue to serve through mid-July and the final mission trip of the summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

As we look ahead, here are some of the steps in the process:

- John Whittle, Chair, and the Youth Ministry Team will continue to provide leadership for excellent ministry to our youth during the transition and will focus on three areas—“big” events, week to week programming, and service opportunities.
- I have contacted the Regional Office, Lexington Theological Seminary, Christian Theological Seminary, Brite Divinity School at TCU, and Rev. Kim Gage Ryan who oversees the “Bethany Fellows” program, and other colleagues. The encouraging news is that I have already heard about three excellent potential candidates.
- A separate Search Committee will be established by our outgoing Board Chair, Bob Gilewski, and incoming Board Chair, Keith Wilson, to gather information and interview potential candidates. We will share the names of the committee members as soon as possible.
- Ideally we will have an outstanding candidate selected by mid-summer so he/she can “hit the ground running!” If the process takes longer than that, we may consider someone to serve in a part-time interim capacity during the transition.

## Summer Camps and Events 2018

*By Steven Straub and Tiffany DeTienne*

### Upcoming for Children and Youth

**Junior Camp** completed fourth or fifth grade – (June 18-22)

**Mini Camp** completed third grade – (June 1-3)

**Camp 101** (completed first or second grade – parent/guardian attends as well)

**Camp 101A** – (June 22-24)

**Camp 101B** – (July 20-22)

**Vacation Bible School** – Age four to completed fifth grade (June 10-14)

**Mission Day Camp** – children who have completed second to fifth grade (July 16-20)

**Chi Rho Camp**– youth who have completed sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. (July 2-7)

**CYF Camp**–youth who have completed ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade. (June 25-30)

**Chi Rho Mission Trip** – youth who have completed sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. (June 17-22)

**CYF Mission Trip** – youth who have completed ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade. (July 8-13)

## Youth Leadership Team during the Transition

By John Whittle, Chair

As the head of the Youth Leadership Team, I want to let you know what a group of adults is doing to support the process of transition. On the Monday after Tiffany made her announcement, we met to discuss how the team would support the programming during the time that a separate search committee will be determining the best way in which to staff the youth ministry.

During our meeting the YLT agreed to divide our task into three separate areas: “big events,” regular week-to-week programming, and service opportunities. In the upcoming months we will be doing specific work on planning the “big events” such as the Kick-off Pool Party, the Fall Retreat, the Lock-in, the Ski-Trip, etc. We will set dates and get them on the church calendar, we will recruit volunteers to assist in oversight of the events, and we will work with Tiffany to ensure that we understand what each event needs. By laying this groundwork, whoever fills Tiffany’s prior role will be able to hit the ground running.

It is my expectation as a parent and as the head of the YLT that someone will be in the position as a paid staff member by the time the school year starts. That person might be filling an interim role until long-term objectives are identified, but week-to-week implementation of programming should not be the responsibility of volunteer parents or volunteer youth sponsors.

The Youth Leadership Team will also establish a framework for day-to-day programming for the next school-year. Over the coming months the team will be talking about curriculum, about whether or not middle school students should always meet with high school students, and about how to best divide resources among Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings.

Finally, the team will be identifying regular service opportunities for our youth within our own community. This area was a hot topic throughout this year, and we intend to continue making it a focus of the Beargrass Youth.

The team will be meeting at least monthly to ensure that the auto-pilot switch never gets flipped. Our team wants to regularly hear feedback and is always open to suggestions and recommendations, so that we can make the transition as smoothly as possible. So please keep sharing, and continue to keep Tiffany, the Leadership Team, and the youth of our church in your prayers.

## In Appreciation of Your Generous Contributions to the Triplet's Fund

Dear Members of Beargrass,

It has been a tremendous joy to organize and process the Bennett Triplet Fund for the three wee Kings (as Pastor Leigh calls his grandsons). As a team of five, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our church. This letter of thanksgiving is to inform the church that our mission has been accomplished and the account has been closed after seven very successful months..

Although we have purchased many boxes of diapers, baby wipes and other small items, the most critical need from the parents was a neonatal nurse several nights a week. We all can be thankful that we could provide this much-needed respite care for the family.

Please know these facts:

\*every penny donated has been spent to support the triplets

\*every donor and amount of donation has been kept confidential to protect the privacy of the family and the donor

From all of us in the Saturday service, our deepest appreciation is extended to everyone who contributed to this project. We are basking in celebration!!

Please continue to remember the Bennett family and their precious little ones with prayers and good wishes. It will be so exciting for all of us to watch them grow-up and know we were a part of their early lives.

With gratitude from our Saturday Saints Team:

Alan Forsythe (Church Treasurer & Expert at buying Baby products!)

Justin Key (Attorney, great legal Advisor & father of a nearly one year old)

Gerald Box (Deacon & Men's Group Leader)

Carolyn Sander (Saturday Worship Leader, Elder, Accountant of the Fund)

Dr. Susan Lowe (Ministerial Advisor & Collector of most of the checks!)



### Significant Celebrations Coming Up...

Pending their approval by the congregation on May 5 and 6, all new elders and deacons and youth elders and deacons will participate in a service of ordination on Saturday, May 12, or Sunday, May 13, during the worship services. Members of the Nominating Team, Ministry Leadership Team, and Board have approved a great new group of dedicated servant-leaders.

### The Chalice Group to Meet, May 1

The group will meet from 6:30-8 pm in the Conference Room for the topic "God Talk". Participants will examine and share their personal understanding of God throughout stages of life – from birth to current day. Then we'll reflect on how we connect with God, where we find God's presence and when we feel lost from God's presence. If you are looking for a small group of spiritual learners, please join us. Contact Melissa Draut. (meldraut@bellsouth.net).

### Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, May 6, in the Gathering Space have your blood pressure checked at no cost.

### Spring—A Season of Baptisms and Baby Dedications

Springtime offers reminders of God's gifts of new life and new birth. If you are interested in being baptized or participating in a service of dedication for a new baby or child, please contact the church office at 896-1161.

### Donations to Beargrass

*By Marikeith Mercke*

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

**William Bruce Hamilton:** Carolyn Poppell Sander and Family

**Betty Gillis:** Jean Crosier, Sarah Gividen, Heidi Gividen

### Book Clubs Meet Thursday, May 17

**1:30 pm in the Library.** The Library Book Club will discuss *Before We Were Yours*, written by Lisa Wingate

**6:30 in Youth Room.** The Disciples Women's Book Club will discuss *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.

All are welcome.