

beargrass christian church



BRUCE WIGGINS HONORED AS ELDER EMERITUS

By Mike Puckett

The 11:00 am worship service on March 10 marked a special occasion in the life of this congregation. Bruce Wiggins was posthumously recognized as Elder Emeritus. This is one of the highest honors Beargrass can bestow on one of its faithful. Consideration includes displaying a life which has demonstrated Christian concern, honesty, and integrity; the unselfish devotion of one's time and talent to God, our church, and community; and extended service, with distinction, to Beargrass and the Official Board.

Bruce visited Beargrass in 1983 upon someone's recommendation. He instantly felt the love and welcome of this congregation. Beargrass quickly became his family and his home according to wife Carol, whom he would meet and marry soon thereafter. With a strong inclination to give back through service, Bruce became a deacon within a few years.

Bruce enjoyed delivering bread to first time visitors. He visited those hospitalized with illness, as well as our elderly members in assisted living homes. When assigned to sacristy duty in the prior sanctuary, he set a high bar by leading that team for at least a decade. His reliability was something to behold—it's estimated he missed no more than a half dozen Sundays in his three and a half decades at Beargrass.

Our honoree left a remarkable legacy after the congregation moved into our new sanctuary in 2006. At Rev. Dr. Bond's request, he began to lead the hospitality team...and was ever-present at the gathering space desk.

Our church family was deeply saddened upon arriving for worship on Sunday, July 16, 2017, to learn of Bruce's sudden death the prior evening. His warm welcome each Sunday continues to be missed, even as we honor, celebrate and give thanks to God for the life of Bruce Wiggins.

SABBATICAL SUMMARY: LAUGH, LIVE, FAITH

By Susan Lowe

While I had many goals for my sabbatical, one of them was to try new things and find new hobbies so I could be intentional about continuing self-care and work/life balance beyond my sabbatical time. One of the things I wanted to do was a small woodworking "project." I loved my shop class when I was in 7th grade and I have often wanted to try my hand at woodworking as an adult. Fortunately, I have a friend who has a workshop in her basement and she invited me to come over to make something. What was once a simple block of wood became a useful, and dare I say somewhat decorative, key/coat rack for my home. Above each hook are the words: laugh, live, and faith.

One of the greatest gifts of my sabbatical was extended time with family in Austin, Texas. We laughed a lot for sure, but also had quality time conversing and simply being with one another. Having time away with family and friends to laugh and enjoy life was incredibly meaningful. Sometimes we get so caught up in life we forget how to laugh and how to truly live.

I am grateful for our Beargrass family who supports others within and beyond the church walls. I am especially thankful for your care and support for your ministers. The priority you put on allowing time away for us to care for ourselves, time away to grow in laughter, life, and faith so that when we return, we can better lead others in doing the same is extraordinary. Through regular meditation and prayer, journaling, exercising, and reading, my faith was strengthened and enhanced while I was away.

There is no way I can include all I did, learned, and experienced during my sabbatical. I hope to continue to share insights and lessons learned with you throughout the coming year. In this season of Lent, may we all take the opportunity for Sabbath- to laugh with family and friends, to live more fully in trying new and challenging things, to grow and deepen our faith in intentional disciplines and actions.

FAMILY FUED FUNDRAISER

On a Friday night in February nearly 150 Beargrass Christian Church members and friends gathered at the Frazier History Museum for a night of fellowship, fun, and fund raising. Live jazz music played as people gathered and perused a silent auction. When it was time for the dinner to begin so too did a rousing game of Family Feud "Beargrass Edition." Teams selected from Sunday school classes and the Beargrass ministerial staff competed for bragging rights in this light-hearted competition.

The staff team may have scored the most points, but the real winners were the Beargrass Youth and the communities they'll serve this summer. Over \$7,000 was raised by the event and all of that will go toward Beargrass Youth Missions.

This summer the Chi Rho Youth Group will travel to Perryville, Arkansas to spend a week at Heifer Ranch studying poverty and global hunger. The CYF Youth Group will travel to Birmingham, Alabama to study the roots of the Civil Rights Movement and the ongoing struggle against systemic racism. The tireless efforts of the volunteers and generosity of the congregation is just another display of how much Beargrass is a wonderful family.



JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (JYF) LIVE OUT OUR PURPOSE

Many have heard, "Children are the future of the church." Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) members showed they are the Church right now as they lived out a portion of Beargrass's Purpose Statement by serving together with generosity and a passion for justice.

JYF made no-sew blankets for babies and families in the NICU at University of Louisville Hospital. Tammy Witsiepe, OB/NICU Case Manager states, "Our patients are miles away from family or the family may not have funds to provide gifts for the infant. The nurses enjoyed placing a warm blanket over each infant's car seat and the mothers received a gift from a stranger with love." Many patients of the hospital are refugee or immigrants who struggle with language barriers, have little financial means, and a very small support system. JYF is being the church and serving with generosity and a passion for social justice.

FANTASTIC RESULTS FROM FINANCIAL PEACE

The Financial Peace University class has ended and the results are in. With seven households reporting, these are the outcomes from the past two months:

- \$20,000 in debt paid off
- \$11,000 in savings
- \$4,630.53 the average household "turnaround"

In the giving category, some class members are giving substantially more and some are giving for the first time! A huge thanks to Allison and Doug Dawson and John Wilhoit for their outstanding leadership.

DWM SPRING CONFERENCE

Women of all ages are invited to attend Saturday, April 27 beginning at 9:30 am. This year Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (DOC) in the US and Canada, will deliver the opening worship message. In addition, there will be socially relevant workshops and bible studies. Send your **registration form and \$35.00 registration fee to the regional office no later than April 13, 2019.** Forms are available in the church office.

BOARD MEETING APRIL 15

All active elders and deacons are encouraged to be present for the Board Meeting on Monday, **April 15, at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.** In addition to updates from our ministry teams, the report from the Nominating Team will be presented. Approval of the recommendations for our new elders, deacons, and youth elders and deacons will be needed in order to present these names to the congregation on May 4-5.

GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

The Beargrass Christian Church Memorial Fund has received the following donations:

- In memory of Gene Hovendon: Pat Eckerle, Jeanette Wortham, Ann Northcutt
- In memory of Harold Diamond: Ann Northcutt, Donna Lytle, Robert and Lynne Steineker, Wayman and Holly Ann Ng, The Schmits Siblings, Jeanette Wortham, Monica Borne
- In memory of David Hatfield: Jeanette Wortham

The Beargrass Christian Church Youth Missions received the following donations:

- In honor of Rex Cox: Rebecca Miller

The Beargrass Christian Youth Program received the following donation:

- In honor of Jeremy & Skylar Gillies 17 birthday: Rebecca Gardner

The Mary Beth Guy Helping Hands Fund received the following donations:

- In memory of Harold Diamond: The Friendship Class

A SEASON OF BAPTISMS AND DEDICATIONS

Easter and springtime are 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.

NEWCOMERS CLASS GRADUATES

We had a great group of folks attend the recent Newcomers Class - and they all passed with flying colors!

- Natalie Bridwell
- George Burns
- Dana Cantrell
- Jo Causey
- Brette Grant and Dean Conliffe,
- Jessica Dunn
- Sharon Estlick
- Ginny First
- Joan Gilezan
- Robin Harrington
- Michael Herbert
- Wendy Medley
- Sue Miller
- Patsy Nall
- Mike Shugart
- Bob and Karen Sutton
- Mike and Laura Watkins
- Marvin Yormie

Many of our "graduates" will be looking for ways to become more involved in the life of the church, so please continue to welcome them to the church family.

GREEN CHALICE

Are you a coffee drinker? Every Sunday morning when I come to Beargrass I carry my insulated "Hydro Flask" coffee mug. My beverage of choice is the hot java served up at our Youth HeBrews coffee table. Our Youth (and their parents) are very accommodating, providing paper cups that can be recycled – not so with Styrofoam cups. Still, paper cups are single use - fill them up, drink them down, and toss them in the recycle bin. Our Youth and the Green Chalice Team are encouraging us to bring our own mugs on Sunday mornings.

Read "8 Single-Use Items to Ditch from Your Life"

<https://www.1millionwomen.com.au/blog/8-single-use-items-ditch-your-life/>

Our reward for minimizing single use items? Less trash and a cleaner planet.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:1, *"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."* One of "God's mysteries" is God's creation, and we are called to be its stewards.

**ST. MAM'S EASTER FOOD BASKETS**

We need your help to provide Easter dinner for our St. Mam families! Purchase the following items and drop them off in the gathering space at church OR deliver to St. Matthews Area Ministries (201 Biltmore Rd.) on Monday, April 15 between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Contact Sarah Banks at 893-0205 or sarahbanks@stmam.com

- 1 bag of potatoes
- 1 bag of apples
- 2 cans green beans
- 2 cans of carrots
- rolls (non-frozen)
- Cake mix w/icing or Easter cookies

HOLY WEEK 2019

Palm/Passion Weekend, April 13/14

We will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The services will be at the regular times. Palms will be distributed to all who attend.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm

The word "Maundy" comes from the word "commandment." We will remember Jesus' commandment at the Last Supper "to love others as he loves us."

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 19, 7:00 pm

This worship experience will feature scripture readings that tell the story of the Passion and special music from the Beargrass Choir. The sanctuary will gradually be darkened as the story is read.

Children's Easter Egg-stravaganza, April 20, 11:00 am

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Brown Park. All children ages two through grade 5 are invited to participate.

Easter Saturday Celebration, April 20, 5:30 pm

The Easter Saturday service will be held in the sanctuary rather than the chapel.

Easter Sunday, April 21, 9:00 and 11:00 am

The Easter services will include communion, baptisms, joyful music, and an inspiring message. Plan to come and invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate the Good News of Easter!

APRIL 2019 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

02	Chalice Group	6:30 pm
03	Lent Bible Study on Luke	10:30 am
04	Jesus, Love Beyond Measure	6:30 pm
06	Fed with Faith Walk-A-Thon	9:30 am
07	Men's Group - Open Topic	4:30 pm
	Life Lessons II - Forgiveness	5:00 pm
09	Fed with Faith Egg Dying	6:00 pm
10	Lent Bible Study on Luke	10:30 am
14	Men's Group - "Dear Corinthians"	4:30 pm
	Alzheimer's Association Event	5:00 pm
15	Board Meeting	6:00 pm
17	Lent Bible Study on Luke	10:30 am
18	DWM Book Club	6:30 pm
	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm
19	Good Friday Service	7:00 pm
20	Egg-stravaganza at Brown Park	11:00 am
21	Easter Sunday	
25	Library Book Club	1:30 pm
27	DWM Spring Conference	9:30 am
	Message in Music	5:30 pm
28	Handbell Celebration and Mass Ring	3:00 pm
	Men's Group - "Dear Corinthians"	4:30 pm

Give online www.beargrass.org



EASTER LILIES 2019

To order Easter lilies, fill out the form below. The cost for each plant is \$11. **Please use one order form per plant ordered.** You may also order by bringing your form and payment to the church office, by dropping it in the offering plate, or mailing it to the church office at 4100 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40207.

DEADLINE FOR PLACEMENT OF ORDERS IS MONDAY, APRIL 15.

Please print.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 am worship celebration on Easter Sunday, April 21. Lilies not picked up will be delivered to our homebound members.