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**We are BeargrassChristian Church (Disciples of Christ),
part of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
Guided by the love of God
and a commitment to an open Table,
we worship with hope,
grow together as a community of faith,
and serve with generosity and a passion for justice.**

A "SPIRITED" SUMMER SERMON SERIES

By Leigh Bond

The season of Pentecost begins on June 9 and it is a time for us to celebrate God's gift of the Spirit to the Church. Although the Spirit arrived in a dramatic way as described in the story in Acts 2, we read about references to it many years before—such as Ezekiel's declaration that God will put a "new spirit" within us. And sometimes we think of the gift of the Spirit as one gift, but it is actually a gift of many gifts. So the series for June and July will be "A New Spirit." The many gifts we will consider will include peace, hope, freedom, gentleness, growth, and glory. The messages will complement "Summer Stretch: An Exercise in Spiritual Practice" which the ministers and Dee Decker are organizing.



SUMMER STRETCH: AN EXERCISE IN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES BEGINS JULY 1

This summer, we invite the Beargrass Community to engage in *Summer Stretch: An Exercise in Spiritual Practices*. This weekday e-devotion sent directly to your email address will introduce a focus scripture and spiritual practice for the week. Each day we will offer reflections and various ways you might engage with the spiritual practice.

What is a spiritual practice? Spiritual practices, sometimes called spiritual disciplines or Christian practices, are meant simply to place us before God; to help us pay attention to God in our lives and to be aware of ourselves as God's people. They are things we do regularly, intentionally, and attentively that help us draw closer to God and open us up to God's love and transforming presence. We are meant to approach them with focus and intentionality, but not rigidity. They are a means, not an end to see more of the truth about God, about ourselves, and about the world. Some of the practices we suggest may be what you expect, but some may surprise you.

If you receive the weekly e-blast you are already signed up to receive *A Summer of Spiritual Practices*. It's easy to sign up on www.beargrass.org by filling out the e-news sign up form on our home page. We hope you find this summer to be a time of rest and renewal in body, mind, and spirit.

BEARGRASS FOUNDER 2019*By Mike Puckett, Nominating Team Chair*

Jim Noland's life was defined by his energy, his leadership, and his compassion. Beargrass Christian Church, the City of St. Matthews, and an endless array of organizations and people were the beneficiaries.

Noland was born in Frankfort in 1895, began employment with Louisville Bedding in 1912, served in the US Army during World War I, and helped found Kentucky Sanitary Bedding Co., serving as its Vice President, in 1924. He is first referenced at Beargrass in the board's minute book on December 3, 1929, when Chairman Gilbert Dick appointed him to the nominating committee. Noland would spend the next 30 years laying down a remarkable legacy here—in administration, the Men's Class, the scouting program, and leading building expansions in 1939 and 1949.



The mark Noland left in the civic arena was equally indelible. In the late-1940s, Noland led efforts which rebuffed annexation of this area by the City of Louisville, and then helped incorporate St. Matthews as a 6th-class city in 1950. He was elected its first mayor, serving two terms from 1950 to 1958, all without compensation and while paying his own expenses. He routinely worked 50 hour weeks in service to the city, but always shunning the limelight. Mayor Jim, as he became known, orchestrated a major annexation of 5,000 residents in 1953, creating a 4th-class city, and St. Matthews never looked back.

Noland's contributions did not end in the faith or political arenas. He helped found the Rotary Club of St. Matthews and served as its president. He was chairman of the Old Kentucky Home Boy Scout Council. And, as many in Beargrass history have done, he served the board of today's Christian Care Communities.

Two quotes appropriately offer us the measure of this man. After his death in 1960, a St. Matthews council member told the Courier Journal that Noland was "a man of great compassion" and "sometimes paid with his own money the taxes of people who didn't have the money to meet their city obligations".

The second tribute was offered by Beargrass's own Rev. Walter Lawrenson, while Noland lay ill with the rare disease which would take his life: "He [Noland] is responsible for the basic financial structure of our church. He undergirded the church's financial program during my first 20 years here as minister. Jim Noland's two greatest talents, I think, are his love of people and his ability to work with people. He has used them well."

We give thanks for the life, faith, and leadership of Mayor Jim, a 2019 Beargrass Founder!

STRATEGY SESSION NEXT STEPS

Thanks to all who participated in the All Church Strategy Session on Sunday, May 20. Nearly 150 people attended one of four different groups - worship, grow, serve, and stewardship. Many excellent ideas and perspectives were shared and the "buzz" and enthusiasm spilled out into the hallways after the sessions concluded. Our next steps will be to gather up and organize all of the input from the groups and specialty teams. The Ministry Leadership Team will begin to prioritize the strategies that will best help us meet our goals and fulfill our purpose statement. We are grateful for your prayers and participation in this important process.

A "SWEET" NIGHT FOR THE BOARD

All new, incoming, and outgoing elders and deacons are invited and encouraged to be present for a "sweet" night at the church on Monday, June 3, beginning at 6:30 pm in fellowship hall. An array of delightful, delicious desserts will be available. This gathering is the "transition meeting" for our Board members—a chance to look back and look ahead—and to give thanks to God for so many people who are offering their time, talent, and resources to serve the church.

PIANIST FOR 9AM WORSHIP

Beargrass is pleased to announce Tim Harper as the new Pianist for 9:00 am worship on Sunday mornings. Please give Tim a warm Beargrass welcome.



2019 GRADUATE PROFILES

Will Barlow, son of Elizabeth and Todd Barlow, is a graduate of St. Xavier High School and plans to study at the University of Kentucky. His church activities include youth group, camp, and the spaghetti and dessert dinner auction. During high school Will was involved in lacrosse, track and field, KUNA, FBLA, and Y-Club. Will is an honor roll student and member of the National Honor Society.

Aidan Butler, son of David and Sarah Butler, is a graduate of Louisville Male High School and plans to attend University of the Cumberlands. Church activities include camp, mission trips, and ski trip. Aidan was on the Louisville Male soccer team for four years and a member of KUNA/KYA.

Kendall Knight, daughter of Donna and Doug Knight, is a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy and plans to attend the University of Kentucky. Kendall's church activities include mission trips, youth group, and church camp. While at Sacred Heart, Kendall was a member of the cross country and track teams, made honor roll and the Principal's List.

Avery Travis, daughter of Sydney and Jon Travis, is a graduate of DuPont Manual High School and plans to attend Western Kentucky University. Avery is involved in the church youth group, camp, and mission trips. Her high school activities include Y-Club, cross country, and anchoring the school news. Avery is an honor roll student.

Jack Whittle, son of Mary Beth and John Whittle, is a graduate of St. Xavier High School. Jack plans to attend Centre College. His church activities include being on the Youth Minister Search Committee, Youth Deacon, and Youth Elder. Jack was a member of the Student Activities Council, baseball team, Football Team Mascot, and played many intramural sports. He is also a member of the German Honor Society, National Honor Society, Principal's List, Commonwealth Ambassador, and a Kentucky Governor's Scholar. Jack received the College of William & Mary Book Award for Outstanding Leadership, Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, NCAS/NCAA/NFHS Award for Excellence in Academics and Athletics, Bronze Award National German Exam, and 6th place in the Governor's Cup District Competition in Language Arts Written Assessment.

Carl Yoder, son of Sarah and Dave Yoder, is a graduate of Highlands Latin School and plans on attending the University of Louisville Speed School of Engineering. Carl has been active in sunday school and camp. His high school activities include robotics and Science Olympiad. Carl was commended student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and received a Gold Medal on National Latin Exam.

R W VAN NOSTRAND SCHOLARSHIP

The Outreach Team has awarded the following students R W Van Nostrand scholarship for 2019-2020 school year

- Ellen Blackwell
- Emmalynn Rakestraw
- Avery Travis
- Jack Whittle

GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

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

- In memory of Lynn Harding: Eric and Elaine Farris, Robert and Lynne Steineker, Charles and Sandra Daugherty, Wayne and Margaret Kemmerer
- In memory of Betty Perkins: Eric and Elaine Farris, Ruth and Leslie Black, Donna Lytle, Ronald and Martha Barnwell, Michael and Linda Guthrie, Dolores Kurowski, Nancy KupperSmith, Friendship Class, Edward and Paige Pinnix, John and Valerie Mohr

The Beargrass Christian Church Guatemala Mission Trip received the following donations:

- In memory of Harold Diamond: Michael and Jill Puckett

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

We were blessed to welcome **Beth Fryar** as our first new member of 2019. She attended the recent Newcomers Class and already knows many of the folks in our church family. Members of her family have Disciples connections, so she feels like she is “coming home.”

We are glad to welcome the **Meyer family** back to Beargrass—Nate and Karin and their children, Kadin, Jackson, Grayson and Emery. Nate was the principal at Fern Creek High School for many years and is now working with numerous schools in JCPS. Karin is teaching at Bates Elementary. And they are experiencing the “perfect storm” with regard to their children’s schools—all four are at different levels—college, high school, middle school and elementary school!

It was a joy to welcome **Jo (Josephine) Causey** to the church family. She attended the Saturday services and felt right at home. She has retired recently and now enjoys reading, walking, and cooking.

It was wonderful to welcome **Nancy Wesolosky**. She established a dual membership with her home church, Neville Island Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. She enjoys quilting, crochet, knitting, and playing bridge. She also volunteers extensively with Locust Grove, Habitat for Humanity and Hosparus for Veterans.

It was terrific to welcome **Tony Ellis**. He married Laura Curth a few years ago and they have a beautiful new daughter, Ainsley Grace. Tony is an attorney with the Ellis Law Group. He and Laura enjoy cooking, hiking, biking, traveling—and especially enjoy spending time with Ainsley.

We rejoiced when we welcomed **Rev. John and Jeannine Richardson**. They moved to Louisville to be closer to their daughter and granddaughter, Rev. Julie Richardson and Maddie. They have been attending the 9:00 am service and the Agape Class. They are enjoying their grandchildren and like to read and go on mission trips. Jeannine likes gardening. John also enjoys being outdoors, fishing and photography.

Two good friends, **Jessica Dunn and Natalie Bridwell**, joined the church on Easter Sunday. They participated in the Newcomers Class and have other connections to the church, including the scouting program. Jessica’s husband is Michael, and they have two children, Lindsay (6th) and Katelynn (2nd). Natalie’s husband is Robert, and they also have two children, Dereck (12) and Clare (8).

We joyfully welcomed **Jane Owen** “home” after many years. She attended as a child and has been living in Lexington where she was a member of McKendree Methodist Church. Jane moved back to the neighborhood and is glad to be back to Beargrass.

It was great to welcome **Grant and Brette Conliffe** on Mother’s Day. They have been worshipping with us regularly and they attended the Newcomers Class. They are also good friends with a number of other young adults at Beargrass. They have a young son, Dean, who will be dedicated soon.

We were also blessed to welcome **Ben and Tracy Gritton**. They have numerous relatives and friends at Beargrass. Ben serves as an insurance agent and Tracy teaches at KCD. They have two young sons, Charlie (3), and Sam (2 months).

NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER

Beargrass is pleased to welcome Roxanna Trivitt as our Director of Operations. Roxanna will provide leadership for facilities management, business and financial affairs, and technology systems. Roxanna holds a B.S. from Oakland City University and an M.A. in Spirituality from Bellarmine University. She served 20 years as the Executive Director of Shively Area Ministries, Inc. and founded Trivitt Consultants where she assists organizations in solving personnel issues, database management, bookkeeping, and marketing.

We are very excited to have Roxanna as part of the team. The experience and skills she brings to Beargrass promise to be a wonderful asset. Please welcome Roxanna to Beargrass when you have an opportunity.

