



First Christian News

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.



THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



In 1972, Neil Diamond recorded an album called *Hot August Night*. I was especially taken by the opening tune *Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show*. It reflected the days of Billy Sunday and other traveling preachers who held tent meetings all across our nation, motivating people with words like: *Now you got yourself two good hands, And when your brother is troubled, You gotta reach out your one hand for him, 'Cause that's what it's there for; And when your heart is troubled, You gotta reach out your other hand to the man up there, 'Cause that's what He's there for.*

Some such preachers were Pentecostal and Holy-Roller types who encouraged tongue speaking and baptism in the Holy Ghost. Some also added a healthy measure of faith healing, laying hands on the afflicted, purging unseen cancers, popping the deafness out of ears, making short legs grow longer, and challenging cripples to throw away their crutches.

Yet, many of those ministers were honest and sincere, interested only in leading people to Jesus. And if we had all the records, no doubt hundreds of thousands now deceased were baptized in creeks and ponds during revival meetings of that sort. In fact, the camp meeting in Cane Ridge, Kentucky in 1801, attended by thousands, marks the beginning of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Now, we don't do much of that sort of thing these days. We don't care much for strange behavior at church, and most people struggle to make it to church even one time on Sunday on a regular basis. We are busy with hundreds of other priorities. And we're not into that "hot august night" nonsense in a tent in the middle of a cornfield. We want air conditioning, ample restrooms, cushions on the pews, and we want it over and done in one hour. We'll sit three hours in a blizzard to see a championship football game, and in 106 degree sun or hard seat to see a baseball game.

Funny how soft and finicky we've become with regards to religion. Perhaps the real difference is that those people truly hungered for righteousness, knowledge, and Christian fellowship. We don't. What do you offer a people who crave only entertainment, comfort, and leisure? Jeremiah 12:5 asks a telling question: "If you cannot run with the foot soldiers, how will you contend with horsemen?" So, if God has anything to say in response to our pampered intolerance, He might say to all of us Christians something like this: For Christ's sake, get tough.

Brother Les

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Children's Sunday School
 - During service
- August 4 - Daniel Tisserand, Guest Preacher
- **August 11 - Honoring all Educators and Back To School Luncheon following service**
- August 18 - Board Meeting 9:30 am

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4TH OF JULY PARADE

Our float won 1st Place!!

Thank you to everyone that helped decorate the float and a HUGE thank you to Marilyn and Danielle Chamberlin for all their countless hours spent making all the float decorations!



Thank You Educators!



Sunday, August 11, 2019

We will be honoring all the educators in our congregation during our service.

Following our service we will enjoy a
BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHEON

AUGUST 4 - DANIEL TISSERAND, GUEST PREACHER

On August 4th, Daniel Tisserand will be our guest preacher. Other members of the congregation will serve as worship leader and children's moment leader.

Thank you to all who volunteered to lead us while Dr. Massey is visiting South Africa. Your generosity and willingness to lead the congregation is truly inspiring.



JULY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes were approved from the June board meeting.
- Mike Rippy presented the Financial Report. There were no outstanding expenses this month except the three graduation gifts that we gave. \$6,458.85 in income for June and \$6,183.96 in expenses. Special offering of \$90 was given for the Disciples of Christ Mission Fund. Mike Rippy asked about vacation pay for the three employees that receive them: Minister, Pianist and Secretary. Les Massey will be on vacation for three weeks coming up. We will put this on the August board meeting to discuss.
- Marilyn Chamberlin has received the permits for our two church signs. We will purchase two 3 feet by 5 feet metal signs to place on property coming into Weston. Kimberly Tisserand will call to get the signs ordered.
- Options for a hot spot are as follows: Option #1: cellular service plus hot spot with 9 GB of service: \$90; Option #2: cellular service plus hot spot with unlimited service: \$110; Option #3: fixed phone with hot spot with 50 GB of service: \$60. There would be a one-time \$200 charge for hardware no matter which option we go with. We currently pay about \$55 a month for our land line. Jim Mityng motioned to accept option #3 and pay the set-up fees upfront. Andy Dimock seconded. Motion passed. Daniel Tisserand will contact AT&T and set everything up. For two weeks, we will have no phone service while they will make the change.
- In order to move forward with a portable building, we need to pick a final location for the building. Option #1: portable building with restrooms; Option #2: enclosing tabernacle; Option #3: remove tabernacle and place portable building on the existing concrete slab. Marilyn Chamberlin will have the portable building company come out and do a site study and she will contact a couple people for bids on enclosing the tabernacle.
- Our Long-Range Planning Meeting was held on Saturday, June 29, 2019. New constitution and bylaws were submitted by Les Massey. Some changes still need to be made. We will add reviewing bylaws as an annual event for the Board during the year. The Board will review the constitution and bylaws and bring the revisions to the August board meeting. Changes will be submitted and we will vote on the final constitution and bylaws at the September board meeting.
- Our current directory was done about 4 years ago. It is outdated and Kimberly Tisserand has designed a binder type directory that could be updated easily with new families and when employees change. We will have the congregation review their information in the new directory and will update and distribute new directories at the beginning of the new year.
- Next meeting will be August 18, 2019 at 9:30 am.

HYMN OF THE MONTH - "THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD"

One of the leading Presbyterian ministers of his generation, Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901) wrote this hymn with such concrete language that even children can understand its message at a basic level.

Babcock was born in Syracuse, N.Y., and was a graduate of Syracuse University. He continued his education at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York. After serving two congregations at Lockport near Lake Ontario and Baltimore, he assumed the pastorate at Brick Church. He died just a few months short of his 42nd birthday in a hospital in Naples, Italy, following a trip to the Holy Land.

The original poem was composed in 16 four-line stanzas, each beginning with "This is my Father's world." One of Babcock's friends, Franklin Shepherd (1852-1930) adapted an English folk song inserting portions of Babcock's text into three, eight-line stanzas. The hymn in this form first appeared in the composer's hymnal *Alleluia*, a Presbyterian Sunday school book published in 1915. The tune name, TERRA BEATA, means "blessed earth" in Latin.

The "music of the spheres" mentioned in the first stanza is a concept borrowed from Greek philosophy. This is the idea that the most perfect sounds cannot be heard by human ears. They take place in the orderly movements of planets and stars. The actual sounds that we hear on earth are but a weak imitation.

The author shifts his focus in the final stanza from describing the visual and aural beauty of nature to the reality that all is not right with the world. With a strong sense of Presbyterian providence, Babcock observes "that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." The closing couplet, posing and answering a question, offers hope: "Why should my heart be sad?... God reigns, let the earth be glad."

JUNE TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$6,366.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$90.00
 Miscellaneous: \$2.85

Monthly Total:
\$6,458.85

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,500.00
 Utilities: \$71.78
 Supplies & Food: \$50.62
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$461.56
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$100.00

Monthly Total:
\$6,183.96

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

08/01 Sandra Zimmerebner
 08/01 Brad Chilton
 08/08 Joe Mangum
 08/17 Mary Smith
 08/19 Maggie Tingle
 08/19 Arlis Parish
 08/21 Gayle Strange
 08/22 Levi Cave
 08/22 Laura Latham
 08/28 Michael Waco
 08/29 Daisy Nicodemus
 08/31 Holly Franklin

Anniversaries

08/18 Scott & Kim Tingle

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR AUGUST

August 4 Daniel Tisserand, Guest Preacher
 August 11 The Dash
 August 18 Bible Bucket List
 August 24 Coping with Change

II Peter 3:8-14
 Ecclesiastes 11:7-10
 Isaiah 43:18-21

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Find us on Facebook!

Service: Sundays at 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:15 am

Rev. Dr. Les Massey
Cell (214) 704-0279
Email: lfmassey@swbell.net

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION NEEDED

To make the newsletter more personal, please send pictures or information on achievements, births, awards, or anything else of interest to Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com

School Year DECLARATION

I am CALLED for such a time as this.

I am anointed, appointed, and CHOSEN by God.

I have God-given WISDOM to handle each and every situation I'm faced with.

I have renewed STRENGTH each day.

The joy of the Lord is CONSUMING me.

Peace RESIDES in my home &
my children are BLESSED.

They are CALM, respectful, and passionate to learn.

They are OBEDIENT and KIND.

A hedge of PROTECTION is around us.

I am a WARRIOR destined for VICTORY in Jesus.

God is FOR me. My footsteps are ORDERED.

I DECLARE in Jesus' name this will be an incredible, amazing, LIFE CHANGING school year!

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Lester and Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Christian Dimock, Kyle Schindler, Brian Larson, Kim Rogers, Nancy Neill, Amy Davey, Les Massey, and Austin Daughtery in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a pew card or let Kimberly Tisserand know.