

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 02/15/19

As winter winds down (hey, a guy can dream, right?) the leadership of the Candleberry Chapel has been hard at work on behalf of this wonderful congregation...and this seems a good time to give an update.

First, the campaign to pay off the mortgage continues, and so far the results have been great. In a little more than a month, over \$22,000 has been raised! That is closing in on the half-way point of paying off the mortgage for good! Thanks to all who have contributed, and thanks to those who are prayerfully considering how they can help. Watch for updates over the next few weeks.

Second, the Deacons have been hard at work studying and beginning to implement some of the recommendations made at the Visioning event near the end of last year. Here are some of what they heard and what is happening:

- More worship participation by congregants. A system has been set up to invite anyone who would like to participate through reading the scripture or leading the Call to Worship and Invocation. Some at the Visioning event thought broadening the range of voices would help make the service more of a shared experience. I think they are absolutely right and welcome all who would like to participate in that way. I am especially interested in getting some of your young people to help out, too. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board of the chapel for any an all to participate.**
- More fundraising events in order to expand the possibilities of our income. Two events are currently in the planning stages.**
 - First, sometime in the spring we will be collecting clothing and household goods at the chapel to be taken to Savers. Savers has a program where not-for-profit organizations can collect donations of clothing and other things, take them to the store. The store then weighs the donations and pays the not-for-profit by the pound. Be thinking about spiring cleaning and weeding your closet of clothes you don't need anymore and help Savers and the Candleberry Chapel at the same time! Watch for details as this comes together.**
 - Second, we are looking at a Candleberry Chapel Restaurant Night as fundraiser. The way this works is we arrange a special day at a chosen restaurant that participates in this type of program, they give us coupons that we then distribute to as many people as we can: family, friends, and of course, members and friends of Candleberry Chapel. On the designated day, anyone possessing a coupon presents it to the server and Candleberry Chapel will get form 15% to**

20% of the total bill! This is a great way to raise some money, to invite folks to support the Chapel and to have some great fellowship, too. Currently, we have put in applications at Chelos and HomePlate. When we know when and where, we will let you know.

- **More fellowship events in order to further strengthen our connection to each other. While many ideas are in front of the Deacons, here are a few that are in the works.**
 - **Certainly, the Restaurant Night is part fellowship activity and to me, there is nothing that says “fellowship” more than getting together over a good meal!**
 - **We are planning a concert at the chapel to which we can invite our friends and neighbors. Time and performers are not nailed down yet (but trust me, you will be interested in who is being considered!) There is still some possibility that this event may take place at the Spring Fair (the date will be announced soon) which will then also fit into our fundraising efforts. Again, watch for more information.**
 - **Spring Training started this week, right? So, how about a gathering and PawSox game at McCoy Stadium. It’s in the works, so stay tuned.**
 - **Plans are beginning to have a summer picnic at a local park that will serve two purposes: first, to give us all a chance to get together and enjoy the best food in the world: picnic food!. Second, to recognize and honor all those who volunteer to serve our chapel so wonderfully all year long. From gardens, to music, to leadership, to cleaning, to chapel repairs, to providing food for gatherings, to those who carry out special worship services, all are important and deserve to be recognized. Watch for details for time and date.**

These events are just the beginning...more will certainly come in different areas of our life together. And our life together is extremely important. Not just to the financial strength of the Chapel, but to the spiritual strength of each of our members and friends. Gathering together to worship, to have fun, to work, to help others are all important, but doing these things together makes it all the more powerful. So, watch for announcements of dates, times and details and join in! At the heart of it all, is become stronger in our faith journey so that we might support the strengthening of the Chapel.

**Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad**

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