

DOBY'S BRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

THE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 2019

OUR CORE VALUES AND DEFINITION

1. **Follow Jesus**

To follow Jesus is to accept the gifts of salvation and grace and to demonstrate the love of God through service to our community and the world by witnessing to the abundant life shared by the children of God.

(Reference scripture: Mark 12: 29-31)

2. **Grow Spiritually**

To grow spiritually is to be receptive to the Holy Spirit working in us and transforming the Body of Christ through the renewing gifts of prayer, study, and Christian fellowship

(Reference scripture: Romans 12: 1-2)

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We are a community of believers welcoming all to worship, pray, grow spiritually and to passionately pursue God's work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Spreading God's way of life through spiritual growth and passionate service.

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"The Paper Pulpit"



Later this month we'll celebrate Thanksgiving. But I'm celebrating already and for good reason. I cannot put into words how grateful I am for the way this congregation has responded to a simple but sincere apology.

When we were contacted this year by the person who had broken into our church and stolen expensive equipment I was both impressed and cautious. Clifton wanted to apologize to us for his actions 12 years before. After meeting with him and hearing his story it was decided he would meet with the session to make amends.

His only request has been to apologize and say that after 11+ years in prison he wanted to tell us that he knew what he did was wrong.

He has served his sentence. He has returned to society and is trying to move forward the best he can in order to stay out of trouble and risk being sent back. He is well aware of the rough road ahead of him and yet one of his first requests was to tell this church that he was sorry. The session was both impressed and loving in response. After listening to Clifton they were unanimous in forgiving him. It was a true moment of grace and healing.

But then, on that following Sunday, you were presented with his story and his apology. And during the sermon time, when I presented you a poster sized card to so sign for him, everyone in the church came forward to sign it. The feeling of God's Spirit was palpable. ANYONE present could have said "sorry, he doesn't deserve it" or put some condition on his forgiveness. But NO ONE did. You didn't just hear about forgiveness in a sermon, you participated in it as the body of Christ. You didn't just sign some note about God's forgiveness, YOU FORGAVE!!! No words can fully express the holiness of that moment.

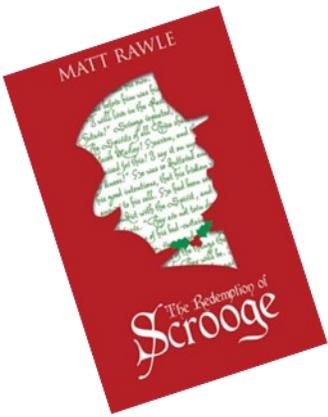
When I gave the card to Clifton he couldn't hold back his tears, as he had no idea that this was coming. He had been given a simple yet powerful gift. I saw it in his eyes as he read your comments. Not just 'signed names' but the personal 'comments of encouragement' which many of you wrote. I know pride can be a sin but I couldn't help myself that day. I saw what your loving kindness meant to another sinner. God alone knows what is in store for Clifton. But because of your action, Clifton knows that there is mercy and grace for him. Please continue to pray for this young man. He could sure use it.

I leave you with one thought.

When it comes to God's love, this church knows it and shows it. Thanks be to God.

Steve





Advent Study

For 3 of the 4 Wednesdays in December we will take a look at Scrooge as his story relates to the Word of God. Charles Dickens wrote several 'ghost' stories but he is famous for his 'A Christmas Carol'. For this study I will be referencing a book by Matt Rawle entitled The Redemption of Scrooge. While it isn't necessary for you to read the book to participate, you may wish to get your own copy. This book is available at Cokesbury.com for \$8.99 (paperback) or \$9.99 (eBook) and is an easy read.

Instead of using the video associated with Matt Rawle's book I will be showing clips from several different versions of Dicken's work which have been produced over the years. Yes, even the Mickey Mouse version. Our Advent study will start at **6:30pm** on **Wednesday December 4th, 11th, and 18th**. *Since the fourth Wednesday is Christmas Day, we won't be meeting that night.*

So, don't be a Humbug! Instead, plan to join us for a fun filled look at one of the most famous conversion stories of all time. We will have light refreshments and beverages each of the three sessions.

2019 Flower Calendar



In 2019 those in the church family can sign up to place flowers for worship by signing up in the Flower Calendar notebook in the narthex. Signs ups are on a first-come basis.



Our Fall Festival is set for November 2, 2019 @ 5:00pm. We are in need of volunteers to help set up for the festival, Friday morning at 9:30 am.

The secret ingredient for the festival baking contest is cinnamon, so pull out your best cinnamon baked goods recipes and strut your stuff for our judges.

There will also be a raffle for the beautiful quilt on display in the sanctuary, the tickets will be \$1.00 each.

