

MARCH

2021



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

PASTOR'S PULPIT:

Next month we celebrate Easter. Lots of people will come to our services. Many will be there to once again hear “*the story*” — the great story of Jesus and His love. Some will actually hear the story as it is preached from the pulpit. Most, however, will “hear” the story as they *watch* — you and me; how we are different, how we are happy, how we walk to the beat of a Drummer that is not familiar to them at this time. Many will come because God is drawing them to Himself. The real question will be: *will we be as **effective** in being His church as we can be?* The last of the three lists of characteristics that we began in January deals with this very topic. I hope by now you realize how very fortunate you are just to be His. He has loved you with a love that has lasted from eternity past and will continue to eternity future. He has, and always will, believe in you! He believes in us as His church! That’s exciting to think about! The following points are once again points to *ponder, pray about, and put into practice* for all of us to really consider and take to heart.

- ◆ An **Effective Church** is making an impact in its community and world. It will have a reputation in the community as a church that makes a difference in the character and quality of its member’s lives as well as their city or town.
- ◆ An **Effective Church** knows the surrounding community and changes in the religious landscape. Members are exploring the demographics, values, and faith styles of the community along with history, trends, and projections. They have conversations with community leaders to keep ever abreast of human needs.
- ◆ An **Effective Church** is seeing its worship attendance increase. Regular members are coming with more frequency and the number of visitors is increasing
- ◆ An **Effective Church** is one that participates in the community to build relationships and networks. This could be with government officials, social service agencies, local schools, civic organizations, sports activities, and cultural groups.
- ◆ An **Effective Church** is actively and purposely listening to those who have a spiritual hunger but do not believe in institutional religion, or find it particularly meaningful! They often refer to themselves as “spiritual, but not religious.” The goal is to understand and to appreciate seekers without necessarily getting them to come to our church!
- ◆ An **Effective Church** has an effective system in place to heartily welcome visitors, record their attendance, and follow up with them, not just who attended worship, but anyone who attended other programs at the church.

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- ♦ An **Effective Church** will find members and regular participants describing their lives as being transformed by their involvement in, and relationship with, the congregation.

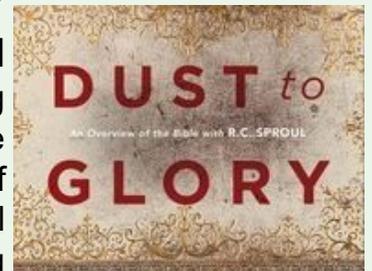
Well that's about it. That ends our 3-month look at the **3 Characteristics of a Good and Godly Church**. It is not an exhaustive list, but a good, basic look at what we really can, and probably should, strive to be. We've considered what being a *healthy*, what being a *faithful* and what being an *effective* congregation looks like. The book I used in researching each of these topics was "*Interim Ministry in Action*" by Norman Bedroth. If you're like me, you've been both encouraged and challenged! All I can say is, keep up the great work and keep being a great congregation.

Many blessings,

Pastor David

DUST TO GLORY BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY MORNINGS — 8:30-9:30 AM

This overview series by R.C. Sproul will help you see the overarching development of God's plan of salvation from the dust of Eden to the Glory of the resurrected life in the new heaven and earth. Each of the Dust to Glory classes are great stand-alone lessons. Don't feel you need to "catch up" to join us on any Sunday. The upcoming lessons are: *Moses and the Exodus; The Passover; The Giving of the Law; The Tabernacle; Aaron and the Priesthood; and Old Testament Sacrificial System.*" The Bible study is led by Pastor David, and includes a 23-minute DVD teaching video, followed by a discussion time. If you haven't been here for one of these yet, please plan to check it out!



The United Churches Spotlight

We are continuing the spotlighting of each of our three denominations. We as **Methodists (February), Presbyterians (March), and Baptists (April)** will take a month to emphasize:

- Who we are
- What we believe
- What we do, and
- How to join.

We want you to become a member of our Church ... but we want you to make an informed decision. On May 2, 2021, we invite you to join in a New Member class (11:15-11:45 AM) to answer any lingering questions you may have. Then on Sunday, May 9, we would then deem it a great privilege and pleasure to welcome you into your new church family! Information on each denomination is available in the church office if you missed one of the handouts in your Sunday bulletins.

Sharon Kalvels, UMC
Stephanie Nelson, PC (USA)
Garry Strauser, ABC

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

3 Sue Trobee
9 Carla Johnson
12 Joann Walker
13 Delores Hickman
25 Mary Jane Cape
Jim Zwetzig
27 Kevin Cape
30 Carol Posthumus



FEBRUARY Anniversaries:

16 Don & Sheila De Vries



If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office:

by email: uc@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.

CHURCH FINANCES AT A GLANCE

(2020 END OF YEAR – 4th Quarter)

The Stewardship/Budget Team, in partnership with the Board of Trustees, has made a commitment of reporting our financial standing to the congregation on a quarterly basis. The statistics below are reflective of January-December 2020 (YTD) accounting of the general fund.

YTD Income	\$167,578
YTD Expense*	\$173,049
Net (Loss) Year To Date	(\$5,471)
YTD Projected Income	\$155,000
YTD Projected Expense	\$171,050

Our reserve and Capital Funds total \$93,759 at the end of December 2020. All banking has been transferred to First Interstate Bank and the accounts at Wells Fargo are closed.

*Our YTD Expense includes several Covid-related expenses that were obviously not budgeted for: office expenses for required communications during pandemic shut-down, extra sanitizing supplies, signage, etc. We as a church continue to both give faithfully and live within our means. Thank you to our committees.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact one of the Board of Trustees (BOT) members: Jerry Wyatt, Claude Bent, Gerald Collogan, Dean Cape, Larry Bourne, Carla Richmond.

THIS AND THAT

MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS: Cornerstone Women's and Children's Shelter in Rapid City. The loose change offering will be designated for this fund (offering envelopes will be marked).

FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA: Wednesday, March 17th, 12:30 PM, Butler Park.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT: January Clients: 261 helped.

VALENTINE SWEETHEART BABIES CONTEST: And the winners were ... Owen & Jean Meadows; Sarah Bourne; and Pastor David. *"Thank you church family for sponsoring the Valentine baby contest. We enjoyed the Chocolate Valentine candy we won, Owen & Jean."*

FALL RIVER COUNTY HERALD STAR:

Be sure to watch for Pastor David's articles in the paper on Thursdays during the Month of March on the Church Directory page.

SPRING FORWARD: Don't forget to set your clocks forward 1 hour on before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th! Spring is on the way!



**COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
AT THE MUELLER CIVIC CENTER
SPONSORED BY
HOT SPRINGS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH
WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS**

Safety and Security

A Safety and Security Team has been formed to ensure the protection of the United Churches property (buildings), the congregation, and visitors.

This list of initial endeavors best describes the team's intent:

- Safe stairways
- Adequate lighting (indoors and outdoors)
- Snow & ice removal
- Well-marked exits
- Adequate door locks
- Handicap access improvements & assistance
- Add lighted exit signs with emergency lighting
- Adequate fire extinguishers
- Train persons interested in operating or assisting with use of the defibrillator.
- Ensure that First Aid kits are well placed and stocked.
- Existing eight security cameras are viewed in the office and balcony monitors. Team member viewing of camera monitor will communicate any need for action to other team members, and if necessary, request assistance from law enforcement.
- Acquire fire alarm system for the church building and integrate with existing system in the Fellowship Hall
- Formulate concise messages for announcement on the speaker system to warn of approaching storms, fire, or other dangers. Recommended immediate action to take would be included in the announcement. Safety and Security Team members and ushers will assist and direct congregation members.
- The United Church established text messaging system will be used by the Safety and Security Team. *Anyone not currently listed on the text system is encouraged to do so.*

The Safety and Security Team has been meeting since February of 2020 to design the best plan. During this past year, the team has kept a watchful eye and has improved some safety equipment. The team coordinates with our local law enforcement to ensure quick response to any request for help. Signed comments or questions may be submitted to Pastor David.

**United Churches
Safety and Security Team**



HAITI NEWS

**The United Churches of Hot Springs
Join us for the presentation of:
“Clinique Medicale Annie Zwetzig La Gonave”
During the Worship Service
Sunday Morning, April 11, 2021, 10 AM**

Haiti has a population of 12 million people. They have 20,000 police persons. La Gonave is a small island about 1½ hours over the water. It has 120,000 people and 10 police persons!

Our church family and friends have made a huge difference in the life of many Haitians. On the many trips our teams have taken to Haiti, we adopted William, who was a very young man, with the job of rolling 50-gallon barrels of water so our team could shower! His goal was to become a doctor. With our help that happened! He is now a Doctor in La Gonave with his own Annie Zwetzig Clinic!

William has been an orphan most of his life. He lived with his Pastor uncle in La Gonave. He adopted me as his mother. His birth mother's name was also Annie, so it was a natural fit! He is now married to Dr. Natalie and has a 3-year-old son named Nathan. William has always been our “go to” person. He always lets us know how, and who, to help. Over time, we have purchased hundreds of pounds of rice and beans, some seasoning and oil, to put in bags and give to many, many people.

We have also built (part of) schools, churches, houses, and have done medical clinics serving over 1,000 at a time. We have paid for many people to go to the hospital in Port-au-Prince for surgeries and care when it could not be done on La Gonave. We have taken many supplies to Haiti. Baby quilts are a huge hit! Can you imagine a mother, very poor, getting a brand-new beautiful quilt for baby! We have also taken lots of medical supplies and medicine when we did clinics.

You have supported teachers with some pay as the school had no money to pay but kids still went to school. You bought a vehicle for them to use as an ambulance, which they have used many times. You bought a small Xray machine, an ultra sound machine, several medical devices, plus more!

I hope you will be able to join us on April 11 at 10:00 AM to hear the rest of the story!

Mostly, I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayer, financial, and every kind of support there is. Without you, it would not have happened.

*Sincerely in Christ
Annie Zwetzig*

BASIC NEEDS BOUTIQUE

The Basic Needs Boutique is a new United Churches ministry that was started late summer in 2018. It is open and operating the same hours as our church-sponsored Spaghetti Supper. During a typical year, this is on Thursday evenings, from mid-October through mid-April. The Boutique is located in a small room in the church basement. Basic personal care items such as dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, etc. are provided at no cost to those in need. Individuals/families may shop for items once each month. We also have a small section of basic household essentials as well. This area includes dishes, silverware, towels, blankets and small kitchen appliances. Although we have been closed the past year, we continue to help people on an as needed basis. We also assist people in crisis, such as those who have suffered house fires, or other situations where they are without basic essentials.

In order to keep this Boutique stocked with essential personal care and household items, we rely on the support of our church family and community members. There is a mint green tote in the hallway at the back of the Sanctuary where you can drop off donations of new personal care items, or new (or barely used) household essential items, if you have items to donate. We also appreciate monetary donations for purchasing personal care items. You can mark your offering envelope "**BNB**". We greatly appreciate all the support we have received, enabling us to carry on this local ministry for those in need.

The BNB Team

BASIC NEEDS BOUTIQUE FUNDRAISERS PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS PURCHASING PERSONAL CARE KIT ITEMS TO BE HANDED OUT TO GUESTS OF THE HOT SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY



Chili & Fry Bread Luncheon Meal
Sunday, March 21, 2021
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
Carry out or Curbside Delivery
Free Will Donations Accepted



&

Silent Auction

Habor Air Fryer (New in Box)
Alfred Meakin N4983 China Set (white w/gold trim)
Worx 20 Volt Electric Drill 20 volt & Extra Drill Bits (new in box)

Items are on display at the back of the Bethany Room.

The auction will run from Sunday, February 21st until Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Bids will cease at 12:30 PM and high bidders will be notified!

To place bids, call Adair (308) 760-2139.

We will give updates on bids in the weekly reminders email.

The United Churches
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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #84
(Return service requested)

UNITED CHURCHES



HOT SPRINGS, SD