



THE CHALICE



Hi! I am Bob Brooks and I am your Interim Pastor. I have been a Disciples Pastor for 39 years now, serving congregations in Kentucky, Southwestern PA, Illinois, West VA., and Washinton State. I also served as the interim of the Disciples Church in Melbourne Florida.

I have been married to Annie for 15 years. I have two sons. Jeremy lives in Columbus Ohio. Joshua lives in Woodbridge VA. We have two wonderful granddaughters – Ruby and Luciana. If you come visit me, I'll be happy to show you all 500 pictures of the girls. Annie and I love to travel, spend time with our granddaughters, and go forwalks (when she can get the lazy out of me In my first few months here in Winterville I have found that our congregation is a very friendly and welcoming fellowship. I also quickly determined that you have a great Mission Statement for the church – “Our mission is to love and serve God and all of God’s children, striving to be the presence of Christ.” The most exciting thing about this mission statement is that I do not see this mission statement just printed on the bulletin, but also lived out in the life of our congregation. In fact, our ministry together for the time I am here will focus on ways to strengthen how we live out our mission in Winterville and beyond. Oh, we will work on updating records and administrative things for the new pastor but mainly working on discovering the ways God is active in our community and discovering how God wants us to live out our mission in the community.

I hope to meet all of you in the coming months. In fact, I'd love to talk with as many of you as I can and learn what it is you love about our congregation and your ideas on ways we can strengthen our presence in the Winterville community.

We want to live out our mission even more effectively and have others comment how we reflect God’s love as we let others know “You are welcome here just as you are. Your questions are welcome. Your doubts are welcome. We are in this together. God is here and ready to relate to us in fresh ways. Ephesians 3: 20

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In May of 2019 a tornado with winds of 104 miles-per-hour and tracked for 13 miles went through Elton, Missouri. Many homes were damaged, while others experienced power outages lasting several days. Many homes and apartments in the community had extensive damage, and the immediate future was uncertain. At daybreak, Pastor Bill Foglesong of First Christian Church began checking on his members, neighbors, and of course, the church building. Thankfully, Eldon First Christian Church had no visible damage. The Eldon Ministerial Alliance gathered, prayed and began organizing to address the destruction in the community. The Eldon churches, along with many of the Eldon community service organizations, were united in caring for their neighbors and meeting immediate needs. The local community center-- which was running on a generator--served as the primary shelter. Since they had power, many people came to the center for food, coffee, water and a warm place to rest. The two grocery stores in town were damaged, and sent all of their perishable food items to the shelter. Leaders of Eldon First Christian Church and Serve Eldon community group, who were not affected by the storm gave their time to help. Some gathered donations of food and water, or organized the supplies that began flowing into the center. Others began cooking meals and coordinating volunteers. Together, this community became co-workers in rebuilding lives and investing in their shared future.

Pastor Foglesong's wife, Lisa shares her perspective:

Neither of us had been through any disaster before and it was mind numbing. With some of our people being affected and the whole town in disaster reaction mode, we didn't know what to do. Our Regional Minister, Rev. Paul Koch called --he had seen Eldon on the news. When Paul asked how he could help, we were still stunned and had no immediate answer. Paul said he would contact Week of Compassion Executive Director, Vy Nguyen. Moments later, Vy called and said simply: "what do you need?" Just a few days after, we received a check to assist our congregation members who had suffered damage from the storm.

Those two phone calls with offers of help and concern made all the difference when we were feeling overwhelmed. In those moments, we knew there was someone out there reaching out to us; and we knew that we could go to the community center and begin serving others too. The rest is history: the community came together, food came in, hot meals were made and served, and pastors and church members came in to help. People were cared for and comforted...

Knowing we were not alone and were supported by our wider Church was the breath we needed to answer the call of those in need around us. No more time for tears or shock – work needed to be done. We did not need a large amount of money, but those who received support from Week of compassion were surprised and grateful that the church was walking alongside them as they dealt with their own personal disasters. In that time of need, we served our neighbors proud Disciples-- knowing the wider Church was behind us.

Thank you to the Week of Compassion and all who support this ministry

Wilderness

LENT 2020

Our theme Lent this year is “Wilderness.” Each week we will walk through the Wilderness with our worship service, sermons, Lenten Devotionals, and Soup n Scripture Discussion Groups to guide us until on Easter Sunday we celebrate the end of the wilderness and the full presence of God’s reign.

First Sunday Of Lent – Matthew 4: 1-11

Wilderness Lessons

Second Sunday Of Lent - John 3: 1-17

The Wilderness Requires Trust

Third Sunday Of Lent – John 4: 5-42

In The Wilderness Honesty Comes Out

Fourth Sunday Of Lent – John 9: 1-41

The Wilderness Can Bring Healing

Fifth Sunday Of Lent - Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The Wilderness Helps Develop Muscles

Sixth Sunday Of Lent - Matthew 21: 1-17

The Wilderness Brings Déjà vu All Over Again

Easter Sunday - John 20: 1-17

In The Wilderness There Is Resurrection

Bible And Broth Group – Each week during Lent we will have a discussion group to look at the weekly theme. We will begin each week with some homemade soup and bread. The group will meet for approximately one hour.

Keep watching for other Lenten and Holy Week activities.



As part of getting ready for our new Pastor we need to spend a little time refreshing our memories of Winterville Christian Church. How’d we get here. What are some of the important milestones. What from our past is still important to us today. We also need to help Pastor Bob learn more about this great church.

February 16th we will be having a Potluck Luncheon and a fun time of learning – Who Are We? We ask you to bring some food and some memories to share.

February 23rd – Following worship we will meet for the final “Who Are We” session. It will be a Bible study and discussion group on “This Is Who We Are, But Where Are We Going?” A soup and sandwich luncheon will be provided.

Easter Lilies

This Easter, the worship committee would like to adorn our sanctuary with gorgeous lilies. Please help us by completing the form below. Indicate the name(s) of those you'd like to remember or honor. Use one line for each lily you'd like to purchase. The cost is \$25 each. The money raised will be used for special projects at WCC. Make your check payable to WCC and include Easter lily on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Given by

In Memory of

In Honor of

*I wish to take my flowers home following Easter service. __

**I wish for my flowers to be delivered to church family who are shut in or have other limitations. __

Please place this card in the offering plate or return it to Candy or Annell by the end of February. The lilies must be ordered by March 1, 2020.



easter lilies

Symbolizing peace,
hope and purity,
their fragrant blossoms
trumpet the news
of the miraculous
resurrection.