



A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

The Little Harbinger Bethany Memorial Church

October 2019

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Remembering Bob

"Bob Chambers (or Roberto, as I sometimes called him) was not the first friend I made in Bethany. He was, however, one of my best. Bob invited me to breakfast in the store on Saturday mornings. He shared his expertise whenever I needed advice on a project at my house. (He taught me that "damnsower" was one word.) He also helped with dinner menus. For years either Nancy or I would go to the meat counter and say, Well, Bob, what's for supper? He would disappear into the cooler and come out with the choice for that day. Bob was a true friend who stood by me for all of my 30 years in Bethany and I miss him more than sometimes even I realize.

---Dan Harry

"Growing up in Bethany (1940s) was a special time, no TV, computers or phones. All we had

were our bicycles and sunshine. We were outside until the street lights came on or the whistle blew for Bob to come in. Our territory was Pendleton Street and the surrounding woods. We explored the hillsides and built cabins in the woods. As we grew older, we moved to Main Street at the store fixing cars and bicycles in the alley behind. Bob's other interests were farming and his dairy, and I helped when I could and learned enjoyed learning these tasks. Learning from Bob continued in later life in conversations and the Saturday Morning Breakfast Club. Bob is sadly missed by me and my entire family."

--Jack Hoffman

"There's an old saying, "you can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives." If I had to pick a friend and a relative, it would be Bob Chambers. There

aren't enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe what a good human being Bob Chambers was. The line at the deli counter, in the store, could be a mile long, but Bob always took time to ask about you or your family. Bob was very skillful on just about everything, so if he charged by the session on advice he has given to people over the years, he would probably be a millionaire. Even his dairy cows could tell what a kind passionate person Bob was."

--Floyd McFadden

In the last ten years Bob transitioned from always being behind the meat counter at Chambers General Store to builder and farmer.

Bob greatly enjoyed his forays back into the farmer's world as he travelled to his son Robby's farm during the harvest season. He returned with stories about the modern equipment he was

allowed to use to help with harvests of soybeans and corn. Each year a group of us would travel into Pennsylvania to a National Pike Steam show. Bob would carefully walk among the tractors and talk to the owners about those workhorses of the past. He was drawn to the smaller red ones in the group.

His second interest stemmed from the rental housing he and his son Harry provided in Bethany. Bob was always on a project rehabbing apartments. He'd rebuild a kitchen, bath, and the rest and enjoy talking about the process anytime I stopped by. A difficult problem might take time, but he'd solve it, mostly with ingenuity learned from long experience.

What I remember about him is his cheerful demeanor and his normal greeting of "How's Robert". It wasn't just a formality he actually wanted to know.

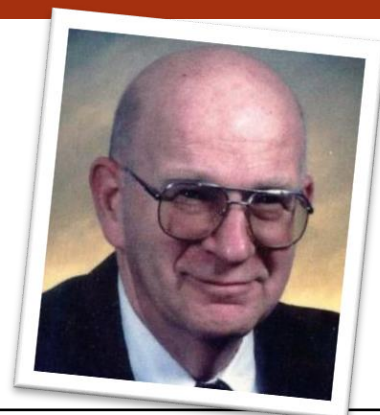
---Robert Paysen

I loved Bob Chambers for many reasons, one of which was our shared interest in "mystery objects" and old pictures and documents. Whenever I found something on the Buffalo creek bed or in the woods of Bethany, I would take it to Bob at the store. Holding my mystery find in both hands, he would turn it over and over, examining it from every side, eyes serious but twinkling as they so often did. More often than not, he would hand the object back to me and say "I know exactly what this is" and proceed to share his knowledge with me. Now and then he was stumped, and we would then engage in an exchange of ideas while I searched online for some hint based on our guesses as well as those of anyone who happened by and chose to offer an opinion. I don't think we ever failed to reach a conclusion.

Bob was not a "pew warmer," but he was a Godly man. When I think of Bob, I think of Micah 6:8:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

---Sydma Hatzopoulos



Robert "Bob" McMahon Chambers Sr.

Robert "Bob" McMahon Chambers Sr., 80, of Bethany, WV, passed away at 1:31 PM on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Weirton Medical Center, Weirton, WV.

Bob was born on January 11, 1939 in Wheeling, WV. He was the son of the late A. L. Chambers and Agnes Ellen (McMahon) Chambers.

Bob was a 1956 graduate of Bethany High School, attended Bethany College and was a member of Bethany Memorial Church. He served two years (1963-1965) in the U.S. Army stationed in Munich, Germany, with the 508th and 793rd M.P. Battalions. Bob loved the land and his farm, operating a dairy farm for 20 years with his brother and two sons. As a strict conservationist, he served on the Northern Panhandle Soil Conservation District Board for several years. Bob had a life-long association with the Chambers General Store in Bethany opened by his grandfather in 1917. Through the years, Bob worked with his father, mother and brothers in all capacities from stock boy to repairman and meat cutter. In 1992, he became owner-operator with Charlotte. After many years of hard work and pleasure, in 2014 the reins were graciously handed to Harry and Beverly. Even though "retired", Bob could still always be found fixing something, waiting on a customer or visiting with a friend.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his two brothers, William and David Chambers.

Bob is survived by his wife of 58 years, Charlotte Ann (Myers) Chambers, two sons, Robert McMahon Chambers Jr., and his wife, Melissa and Harry Lemont Chambers and his wife, Beverly, four grandsons, Robert M. Chambers III and his wife, Lindsey, Garret H. Chambers and his wife, Lexie, Austin P. Chambers and Talon A. Chambers, a great granddaughter, Caroline Elizabeth Chambers, four nieces and three great nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Bethany Community Recreation Association at PO Box 106, Bethany, WV 26032.

Please add or view condolences, photos and stories at www.chambersandjames.com



One of my first memories of Bob is behind the meat counter at Chambers Store after he returned from his tour with the army in Germany. When we first moved to Bethany, you could rent a food locker in the meat cooler at the store to keep your frozen food since not everyone had a freezer at home. Bob was a meat cutter and they would get sides of beef in the cooler, you would purchase a side of beef and they would cut it to your requirements, wrap it and place it in your locker. He was ahead of his times in stocking your freezer.

Bob also kept a great collection of screws, nails, bolts and nuts in the store and if you couldn't find what you needed on the shelves, he would go into his private collection in his workshop in the backroom to see if he had one there. In all my years at Bethany I was only disappointed four times.

As an unofficial Town Historian, Bob kept pictures and historical items on some of the shelves in the store. He had a knowledge of the town and the people that lived here, but he never was a gossip spreader. When I served on Town Council and was Mayor of Bethany, I knew I could seek his advice on issues, he would freely explain to me the possibility the actions might have on the town and or parties involved.

Both Bob and Charlotte and Vonnie and I attended dances up and down the Upper Ohio Valley, always dressed in our square-dancing duds, enjoying the snacks and having a great time. Age finally slowed the group down and square dance clubs disappeared, but it was great fun while it lasted.

--- His Friend Gary Larson



BMC Trustees Proposal

by John Cole

Trustees Chambers, Cole, and Rodenberg recommend that Huffner Contracting of Wheeling be awarded the contract for sidewalks and patio for the Old Meeting House. The total cost is \$12,320 for a 28' by 10' patio in front and two sidewalks, one to the street from the first door near Main St., and the other from the curb near the shrubbery along Church St. to the patio. Huffner will install railing along the steps and remove an old tree stump. Work can begin 30-45 days after signing. Huffner Contracting built the Beta Theta Pi house across the street and also did all the sidewalk work, so we have an excellent example of the quality of their work.

If you wish to review the contracts, I have placed a folder in Church office

in the Trustees' drawer containing some pictures of the intended work and copies of the contracts. I also contacted Ernest Blevins (304.558.0240), Structural Historian for Review and Compliance. He said no approval for the project was necessary as long as no Federal or State money was involved. He believed making the building accessible was worthwhile, especially since work would not alter the physical structure. Were we to add a ramp into the building for wheelchairs, he suggested we make it removable. I also contacted Mike Mayer, Disciples' Men's Chair, and asked whether the organization would be interested in making a donation to the project. I

contacted him because Sydma told me of a donation the group made several years ago for the gutters that was later returned when it was thought that the Historical Society was assuming financial responsibility for the OMH. Mayer said he would present the project at their Oct. 4 meeting.

If the Board approves the project, the Trustees recommend it be presented to the congregation for a vote. The money for the project will come from the Wells Fargo investments.

Note: The BMC Congregational Board approved the project at a meeting held October 8, 2019.



As liturgist, Floyd McFadden urged the congregation to "Repaint and Thin" no more.



Debra Hull, Outreach Chair, gave an affective Moment for Mission for the Reconciliation offering.



Eric Fithyan served as organist and vocal soloist. He is shown here with his parents who also attended the service.



Noah Gill, Bethany College first year with his two younger brothers.

Homecoming 2019

We can blame the football game that went on until almost midnight the night before. Or maybe it was the fact that the Bison Inn opened on Saturday of Bethany College Homecoming weekend to provide a place for alums to congregate, reconnect, and partake of adult beverages. The weather wasn't particularly good either.

We were ready at Bethany Memorial Church. Extra bulletins were printed and there were cookies and coffee in Heritage Hall. Floyd McFadden was to lector and Debra Hull was prepared to give a "Moment for Mission" to encourage giving to the Reconciliation offering. Eric Fithyan had a couple of awesome vocal solos planned and extra communion was prepared. Jan Forsty was delivering the message. And the sign outside welcomed all.

Unfortunately, not a single alum returning for Homecoming came to worship service that morning. Not one.

It would have been easy to be disappointed. Some in the congregation look forward to renewing ties with former students.

But then Noah Gill, first year student at Bethany College entered the sanctuary. Noah, who comes to Bethany from Beach City, Ohio, hasn't missed a Sunday since first-year orientation. He brought along his two younger brothers who had come to enjoy Homecoming with Noah. Things were already looking up when Noah said he had additional family that would be arriving. In the meantime, Eric Fithyan's parents, Ernie and Teresa arrived.

The arrival of the remainder of Noah's family came close to doubling the size of the congregation. There were parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins...you name it! They drove from the Beach City area for the day to spend time with Noah.

It was a wonderful Sunday.



Outreach Opportunities to Consider

by Debra Hull

Several BMC folks got the chance to visit with Paul Turner, Bethany College class of 1990, and Dr. Cathy Nichols, executive with Disciples Global Ministries. The website explains what they do this way: *“Global Ministries is a joint witness in mission between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Join us in our mission to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace.”* For the past four years, Paul has been in the Democratic Republic of Congo working with local agencies on economic development and towards effective ways of managing ebola outbreaks.

Besides seeing Paul, which brought back many happy memories, we were intrigued by the work Global Ministries does on our behalf and eager to explore ways we at BMC can become more personally involved. In addition to the \$2000 we send to the Disciples Mission Fund each quarter (this fund goes to many programs, not just to Global Ministries), here are two possibilities—one that we can start immediately, and another that will take some planning.

For \$30 a month, we can sponsor a child and/or an elder through Global Ministries, and 100% of our

contribution will go directly to the child or elder—no overhead. Again from the Website: “Your gifts through Global Ministries Child Sponsorship make a difference! The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the UCC and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training” and “In many countries an individual is not entitled to government assistance after retirement unless they have worked for the government. Global Ministries Elder Sponsorship centers assist elders who have no place to live and no family to care for them. Your sponsorship of an elder helps provide shelter, medicine, and meals. Elders are given the opportunity to live out their lives in dignity and solace in an environment where they feel loved and cared for.” What better fit with our emerging vision at BMC—to serve college students and elderly people—could there be than to support one or two of each. Stay tuned for updates as we proceed.

Over the years, BMC has sponsored members on trips to Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. If you’ve ever dreamed of going abroad and visiting a mission post, Global Ministries has a program for us.

Together as a church (another great way to bring our college students and church members

together), we could go somewhere to see mission work first hand. From the website, Global Ministries welcomes churches to consider prayerfully the idea of taking a journey to meet our partners in person. A mission pilgrimage is a transforming experience through which participants share themselves and receive God’s love in a new way. Participants take common steps of faith in walking with our partners, sharing their joys, understanding their challenges and experiencing their unique connection to our wider church.”

While you are praying for the children and elders we are preparing to sponsor and those who could make up a person-to-person pilgrimage, here are the names and locations of mission partners we are asked to pray for during the month of October. Look them up, look up their work and the issues facing their countries, and focus on how the scripture speaks to our global ministries.

October

- 6 Tom Liddle, East Timor - Luke 17:5-10
- 13 Phyllis Byrd, Kenya - Luke 17:11-19
- 20 Martha Mensendiek, Japan - Luke 18:1-8
- 27 Michael Joseph, Colombia - Luke 18:9-14



2019 Disciples Women's Retreat

by Connie McVicar

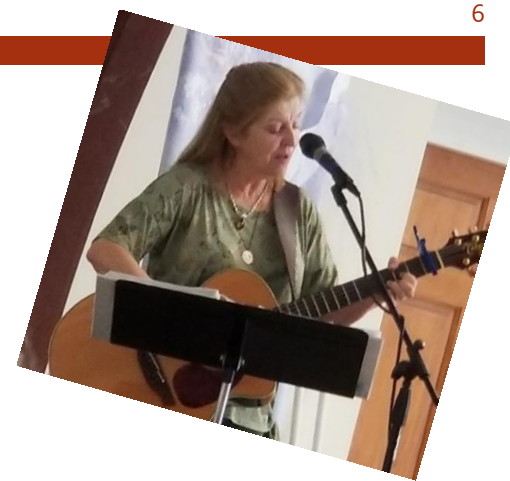
The Disciples Women's Retreat was held at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV September 6-8. There were 140 women, including seven women and girls from Pennsylvania, who attended the retreat. The key-note speaker was Renae Brame, an accomplished writer, musician, artist and cat-whisperer. Renae has led retreats at Christmount, the Georgia Region, as well as, many local churches. She led this year's retreat with the theme, "Who Am I?"

Renae spoke Friday evening on "Who am I within the depths of my soul?" and Saturday morning on "Who am I with my neighbors, loved ones, and the world?" and finally Sunday morning with "We are God's Beloved." She was an inspirational speaker, sharing personal stories of her faith, as well as, her beautiful gift of song and music. It was truly a Spirit-filled weekend. As with tradition, the Disciple Women brought their Blessing Box money, which they had collected throughout the year. The total collected was \$1,304.77.

Half of all Blessing Box giving goes to support the mission of the whole church through the Disciples Mission Fund. The other half supports women's ministries. Traditionally, we have also collected for World Hunger at Disciple Women's Retreat. The General Office of Disciples Women no longer collects for World Hunger. However, World Hunger offerings will now be disbursed through Week of Compassion's Famine Fund. The total collected at the retreat was \$748.00.

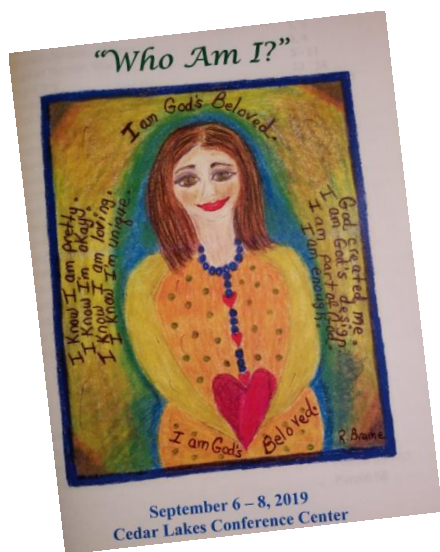
The West Virginia Women's Service Project this year was "Charleston Recovery", a nonprofit organization that provides residential treatment for women with substance abuse disorders at no cost. My gratitude and thanks to BMC, who generously gave items for this organization. Disciple women from all over the state donated items for this project. The director for "Charleston Recovery" came to the retreat and was overwhelmed at the generous giving. Tears came to her eyes, for we had tables filled and piled high with items that were donated. Along with the donated items, the total money collected at the retreat was \$3,687.00. This project doesn't end here. I'd like to share what happened next.

For Saturday evening dinner, our meal was catered by Olive Garden. It was served buffet style and with any buffet, there was food left over. As the women were cleaning up, they wondered what they



would do with the leftover food. They didn't want to throw it away, but at the same time, what do you do with the leftovers? Every time we meet at Cedar Lakes, there are always other groups sharing the facility. As the women walked out of the dining hall, wondering what to do with the food, they noticed a couple walking by. So the women asked them if they would like some food. They replied, "Oh yes, that would be wonderful! We haven't eaten for a few days." They went on to explain that their sister-in-law was in the hospital and that they had been at the hospital trying to convince her to get the help she needed. They told the women that their sister-in-law was struggling with "demons". The young woman explained that she herself had had demons but had been clean for three years and three months. She went on to say that they were at Cedar Lakes attending a support group organized by "Charleston Recovery". And had it not been for Charleston Recovery, she would not be where she was today.

The Disciple Women of WV will be continuing the Charleston Recovery project for next year's Fall Retreat. Charleston Recovery has plans to convert a room into a family room for women to spend time with their children. Be looking for an updated list of items to donate, which will include items for children.



Prayer List

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

- James 5:16b

- Della & Ed Rodgers (Parents of Vicki NeCastro)
- Holly Cramblet Bowman
- Mike Cunningham (Sydma's Dad) and Dottie Hanners
- Caden Knisley
- Joanne Sykes
- Ellen Sanford
- Nancy Sandercox
- Barbara Chambers
- Mary Jane Jackson
- Ruth Tye
- Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner
- Elizabeth DeJong
- Beverly Donini, daughter Bridget Burns, and son, Sam Donini
- Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)
- Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)
- Dottie Smith
- Robert Andrews
- Linda Owens Walters
- Paul Gardner
- Kerry Kerr
- Dara Cobb Lewis and family
- Chib Gratz (friend of Kim Lawless)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

*For by me your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.*

- Proverbs 9:11

Oct. 6—Harry Sanford and Chatman Neely (A-2013)

Oct. 8- Rev. William B. Allen (B)

Oct. 10 – Jackie Andrews (B)

Oct. 13 – Laura Cramblet (B)

Oct. 15 – ELLEN SANFORD

Oct. 15 – Robyn Cole (B)

Oct. 17 – Lloyd (Peanut) and Judy Van Horn (A-1964))

Oct. 20 – David Chafin (B)

Oct. 20 – Richard Beekman and Laura Cramblet (A-2011)

Oct. 30 – Herb Weaver



This month, we ask that you honor Ellen Sanford with a personal birthday greeting. Cards can be mailed to Ellen at PO Box F, Bethany WV 26032

Upcoming Events

It's close enough to Christmas to start thinking **BMC Christmas Bazaar!** The likely date is Saturday, December 7. We need vendors, but more importantly, we need someone to step up and agree to chair this annual event! If you would be willing to do so, please call the church office at 304-829-7138.

Almost time to **"Put Your Pink On"** as BMC recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Sunday, October 27. The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha will be participating in the service. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink. Alishah Hardway will be preaching.

Also, on Sunday, October 27 there will be a congregational meeting held immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the recommendation by the Trustees to construct sidewalks at the Old Meeting House, to approve the installation of a security system at the church, and to vote on the calling of a new Pastor. All participating members of BMC are encouraged to attend.

BMC is continuing its role as the "Soup Church" for the Salvation Army in Wellsburg. Please consider donating soup so we can meet our goal of 100 cans.

BETHANY MEMORIAL CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

CAN SOUP DRIVE

NOW THRU SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Help us surpass our modest goal of 100 cans! All soup will be donated to the Salvation Army of Wellsburg for distribution to those in need.

INFORMATION
Any kind, any brand, any size!
Donations of soup can be dropped off at the church on or before November 17. If the church is locked, please leave by the front door. We thank you in advance!!

100 CANS
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303 Main Street
Bethany, West Virginia

The
Little
Harbinger
Bethany
Memorial
Church

PO Box 149
Bethany, West Virginia
26032