

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
149 Main Street
Madison Heights, VA 24572



MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 8

May 15, 2019

George B. Harris, Minister
Email: bernerdharris@yahoo.com
mhcc16@yahoo.com
Church Telephone: (434) 845-3855
Minister's Telephone: (434) 215-4846

Pam Hubbard
Music Director

Brenda Harris
Administrative Assistant

The Gift of Living Water

Every civilization has developed around water; running springs, a river, a lake, or the sea. Today we pump water from miles away and it remains the center of our existence. Without it we would die. Water is used during baptism as a Christian symbol of purification, washing away sins and dying with Christ. As the individual is baptized, he or she comes up out of the water and rises to a new life in Christ. This act is a symbolism that binds us together as Christians. Water is the most valuable physical item on earth. Drops of water find a creek, the creek finds the river, and the river finds its way to the vast ocean. Small drops of water provide life to seeds. As a congregation, we are one drop out of thousands of congregations, large and small, united together for a common purpose; to spread life-giving water to the world so that the world may be saved through Jesus. Each effort of outreach and stewardship, either physically or financially, is an opportunity to dip into our well of living water.

A Samaritan woman asked Jesus why a Jew was asking her for a drink of water from the well. Being a Samaritan woman she was discriminated against within that culture. Due to consequences of the Exile, Samaritans were a mixed race and perceived by the people of Judea as unclean. Women were treated as inferior to men and were not allowed to talk with them in public. Jesus offered this Samaritan woman the greatest gift ever, the gift of God's love, the gift of living water. She did not understand what he was offering to her. Jesus educated her that if you just drink water it will take care of your physical needs but you will get thirsty again. However, if you accept the water that he offers it will become a spring of water.

From a ministerial perspective, the Lord's work is never done. There are many opportunities to serve. Even small contributions help to make your ministry here successful. In **John 7:38** Jesus said that streams of living water will flow from those that believe in him. Our Lord is referring to giving of yourself, to help fill the gaps of ministry, and to spread the gospel message. From Christ flows the strength and power and cleansing which gives us the power to perform necessary ministerial functions whenever we can. We are recipients of his message, love, and blessing. Now our responsibility is to be contributors of his message, love, and blessing. The life and death of Jesus Christ open the floodgates for the Spirit to become powerful to all. Jesus promises a cleansing, refreshing, life-giving stream of the Holy Spirit so that we will make a joyous response to this blessing.

From a stewardship perspective, your offerings provide emergency assistance through Week of Compassion. Emergency response funds are given to victims of disasters: hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, droughts, war, and tsunami. Support programs help refugees, hunger, poverty, and disease. Your offerings also provide local assistance through the Helping Hands ministry to help feed the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and help many with emergency needs. Our gifts flow together as we join with others in streams of compassion, a river of love flowing to the glory of God. Your offerings also provide the various ministries that you support as a church as well as the many individual needs that you help support on your own.

We are called by God to reach out to others in the name of Christ. We are called by God to come together, to offer compassion and hope to those that are struggling, in poverty, hungry and plagued by disasters. We are called by God to offer the word to anyone that has never heard it and to offer his love to anyone that has never received it. What kind of spring are you? How much spiritual nourishment are you providing? Do you do the best that you possibly can?

George