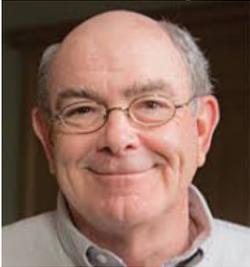




## Fall Issue



### *Our Ministry in These Times*

During stressful times, the world needs poets and prophets. One of my favorite poet/musicians is Bob Dylan. It was no surprise that in 2016 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. In one of his most popular songs, Dylan wrote and sang:

*Come gather 'round, people  
Wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters  
Around you have grown  
And accept it that soon  
You'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you is worth savin'  
And you better start swimmin'  
Or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'*

Indeed, it seems the waters are rising and it is time to start swimming. At MB3, we have been adjusting to the limitations the pandemic has placed upon our ministry and work. We believe that God still has work for us to do. It's not time "to sink like a stone." Digital worship services have begun at both Dismas Charities-Diersen and St. Ann. When we are able, we are still connecting people with our mentoring program. Our advocacy work is ongoing. And we are very intentional about updating our websites to inform returning citizens about available resources and services.

We are grateful for the continuing support of you, our donors, who affirm this work with your gifts and make it possible. We've started swimming so that we can reach the shore and continue our work fully once this pandemic is behind us. As the seasons change, so do we in response to the circumstances. Those behind the bars and beyond are not forgotten even as the waters around us have grown.

Blessings,  
Dean



### *Reflections from Rev. Caitlin Simpson Upon Her Ministry*

Before the pandemic, I had a chance to sit down with a resident at Dismas Charities-Diersen for a pastoral care session. Like many residents, she wanted to talk with me about how to repair a broken relationship with one of her children. Through tears, she explained how her time in recovery had helped her understand the burden she'd placed on her oldest child, who often had to step in and parent the younger children while their mother was high and incapacitated. She talked to me about having had an accountability discussion with her child, apologizing for her past actions and the impact. But still, months later, this resident felt like her child resented her, or constantly wanted to hear 'I'm sorry.'

I listened intently, granting safe space to share, something many residents rarely receive. Finally, she explained that even though she feels bad for what she put her daughter through, she feels like she's said sorry, that she's atoned for her sins and she wondered aloud "When will it ever be enough? How many times do I have to say sorry?"

I remember sitting in silence for some time, giving us both a chance to let the question linger. As I often try to, I affirmed that feeling stuck in a cycle of pain and hurt is always difficult. I asked her what it would be like to apologize every time her child asked her to. "Every time?" she asked. We talked about how every person has a different journey to healing, and for some, it takes time. We talked about how rebuilding trust can be a long process, and that apologizing often might be required, but in the end, once that trust is rebuilt, relationships can blossom in ways we didn't know were possible.

She left our session unsure, and admittedly, a little angry with me for challenging her to apologize every time. Several weeks later she approached me excited to share that she and her child have had wonderful conversations

-continued

*Reflections from Rev. Caitlin Simpson (cont.)*

and she feels more connected than ever. We hugged and I congratulated her for persevering. She then shyly admitted that she'd left our last session livid with me but that my advice actually worked! We laughed and hugged once more chatting about how sometimes, it's the hard things that allow us to travel the furthest distance. This interaction was like so many others I've had as pastor of New Life in Christ (Disciples of Christ).

My time at MB3 has taught me that the hard conversations can be the most sacred. While I am ending my time as pastor of New Life In Christ Church at the end of October 2020, I give thanks for all of the sacred conversations I've had the privilege of getting to be a part of. To all of the women and men who strive to rise above their demons and seek out authentic dialogue, may you continue to be blessed on your journey and may you always know that the strength lies within you.

-Rev. Caitlin Simpson

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## ***Rev. Caitlin Simpson Resigns as Pastor and Mentor Coordinator***



The pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to do the work that God has called us to do. Since March, New Life in Christ Christian (Disciples of Christ) has not been able to meet for worship. Pastor Caitlin Simpson has taken a number of steps to stay connected with the women residents, including spearheading a successful "Notes of Hope" campaign in which hundreds of loving notes, Bibles, devotionals and other items from outside supporters were delivered to brighten the days of the residents. We are sad to see Rev. Simpson move on to other employment as she concludes her ministry with us on October 31st. We give thanks for the time she has walked alongside those we serve and we wish her the best.

In this time of transition, Rev. Dean Bucalos will return as interim pastor of New Life in Christ Christian (Disciples of Christ) continuing to lead worship services remotely on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Please let Dean know if you would like to join these worship services which will be offered live through Zoom.

## ***National Benevolent Association Continues to Support MB3***



Those of us at MB3 are grateful for the continuing support of the National Benevolent Association of the

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [NBA]. The NBA lives up to its vision of creating communities of compassion and care. Through its COVID-19 Relief Grant program, MB3 has been the recipient of three quarterly grants totaling \$23,000 which have helped to maintain our present staffing and continue ongoing ministries with those incarcerated and those returning to our communities. MB3 is ever thankful for partnering with the NBA which continues to be a leading, glowing light of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

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## ***MB3 Awarded Funds for Collaboration with Oasis Retreat & Wellness***



MB3 was excited to be awarded \$15,000 from the Oreon E.

Scott Foundation to fund a unique two-year collaboration with Oasis Retreat and Wellness Center, a Disciples of Christ pastor-led program that leads retreats for women who have experienced domestic or intimate partner violence. The collaboration will serve the women of MB3's affiliated congregation, New Life in Christ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which is located inside a women's detention facility in Louisville, Kentucky. By connecting with incarcerated women through the church, MB3 offers women – many of whom have experienced domestic violence - life skills training and spiritual support. This project will fund eight (8) retreats for 96 different women from MB3's congregation over a two-year period. MB3 looks forward to beginning this project once the restrictions from the pandemic are lifted and to its partnership with Oasis Retreat and Wellness Center and the important work it is doing.

## New Worshipping Community at Dismas St. Ann's



Greetings, and the peace of Christ be with you, from the new worshipping community at Dismas Saint Ann's. This year has been a challenging one for all of us and the new worshipping community here has not been immune to the perils of 2020.

Ministry and meaningful connections have been difficult to cultivate due to required social distancing and virtual barriers in the midst of this pandemic. The gentlemen and the staff present on-site could all use your thoughts, prayers, and support as they navigate their own challenges with COVID-19.

However, we are certain it is our call to live with the hope of Christ. We are certain it is our call to actively embody peace and love regardless of any particular circumstance. Friends, we are the Body of Christ and we who gather around prayer, Scripture, and the communion table will faithfully continue to ask for God's change and transformation together.

I have been encouraged by the men remaining faithful to this ministry and the personal transformation it is creating in all of our lives. It is thrilling to see hope embodied as we all seek new life, new beginnings, and new adventures together. To be able to pray for both concerns and celebrations with the community at Dismas Saint Ann's is a blessing I am grateful for.

I am truly excited about and looking forward to continued ministry and transformation in Christ together with the wonderful children of God who have found their path at Dismas Saint Ann's.



- Rev. Ryan Stoess, Pastor  
St. Ann's church inside  
Dismas Charities-St. Ann.

**Become a Volunteer, Advocate, Mentor or Donor and help MB3 change lives.**

### Some of Those Helped by MB3



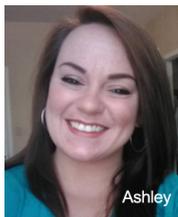
David



Crystal



Danielle



Ashley

*Your support can help us add more pictures to this group.*

- Create a Facebook fundraiser for MB3 in honor of special events such as your birthday.
- Have a lasting impact on MB3 with a Monthly Recurring Donation by checking the recurring donation box when you make your donation.

**Mark your calendar!**

**#Giving Tuesday - December 1, 2020**

*Do your holiday shopping at Amazon Smile and support MB3...*



Click here for information on how to shop on Amazon Smile and set MB3 as the non-profit to receive a percent of your purchases from Amazon.

**DONATE**



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