



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Presbyterian
4201 Southern Pines Drive, Evans, Georgia, 30809

Volume 10, Issue 2

February 2014

The Pastor's Pen...

Birthdays

- 04 Jennifer Kimbrell
- 07..... Jake Bailey
- 13..... Nikki McGraw
- 17..... Greg McGraw
Susan Walters
- 20 Les Yerger
- 21..... William Dyer
- 23 Tony Miller
- 25 Josiah Jones
Jordy Rihl
- 28 Ryan Dyer

Two Paths: Choose Wisely!

There is a natural impulse in the human heart to seek to please people. We like to be liked and want to be wanted. There is a longing in our hearts to be accepted and appreciated that frequently gives way to actions aimed at the applause of people. As little children, much of what we do is driven by a desire to receive the praise of mom and dad or star on the teacher's behavior chart. When we get a little older, our focus turns to seeking the approval of classmates, college buddies, work associates, and so on. In short, people-pleasing is something that comes rather naturally to us.

While there is an appropriate sense in which it is good and God-honoring to aim to please people (e.g., within biblical guidelines, a child wanting to please her parents, an employee her boss, a husband his wife, and a businessman his client, etc.), it is inappropriate and unhealthy to be driven first and foremost by a desire to please people. There are both practical and biblical reasons for avoiding the path of people-pleasing and traveling a far better path.

Anniversaries

- 01... Cathie & Charles McClure
- 04 Betty & Phillip Stacy
- 06 ... Stathia & Rick Hammond
Patty & Brian Marter
- 22 Roseanna & Tom Marble
- 27..... Anne & Gene Gojda

Path of Frustration and Failure

If we are driven by a desire to please people, inevitably we will find ourselves on the perilous and, in some cases, paralyzing path of frustration. This is simply a practical reality. It is often the case that what pleases one party upsets another. Your mom wants things one way, your wife another. Mrs. Smith thinks the deacons ought to do things the way they have always done them; Tom insists there is need for change. If you feel you must please everyone, you will find yourself miserably torn apart and frustrated.

There is something far worse than frustration, however, on the path of people-pleasing: failure. I speak of failure in the sense of compromise and sin. If our primary motivation is to please people, we will inevitably fail to please the One who matters most, namely, God. The Apostle Paul zeroes in on this most serious problem: "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." In God's providence, we often find ourselves in situations where what pleases the people around us does not please the God above us. If our default, driving motivation is to please people, we will disobey God.

(continued on page 2)

Save the Date

Christ Church
Missions Conference
March 22-23

with missionary guests
Sherri & Steve Letchford

If Paul's aim were to please people, he would have compromised the Gospel to satisfy the Judaizers (the issue he addresses in Galatians). If we seek to please people, we won't witness when God opens the door. We will water down the truth that offends. We will compromise standards because of pressure from a peer or employer. We won't act upon clear biblical commands or the Spirit's promptings, because we are worried about what family or friends might think. We will not be faithful to Christ out of fear of losing the favor of people. In other words, we will fail! The path of people-pleasing is a path that leads to failure in its worse sense!

Path of Freedom, Faithfulness and Fruitfulness

There is a far better path that God has for His people, a path of freedom, faithfulness, and fruitfulness. This path is motivationally directed toward pleasing God first and foremost and on this upward path of obedience, profiting people along the way (as God defines profit).

If our primary aim is to please God, we will know freedom from a great deal of frustration that would otherwise plague us on account of the opposing desires of people. Why? Because God is not divided within Himself; nor will He change His mind based upon the current winds of culture. He knows and has planned what is best for us. If we are walking in obedience to the leading of God's Word and Spirit, we can have confidence that God will work out the present and settle the future.

Further, aiming to please God by the power of the Holy Spirit sets us on a path of faithfulness rather than failure. In reality, faithfulness is the most important issue here. Whose desires could possibly matter more than God's? He is the One to Whom we must give an account. He is the One Who, if we have trusted in Christ, has rescued us from our sin and its dreadful consequences, brought us into His family, and promised us eternal life and joy in His presence. The Christian knows success is finally to hear the Master say, "Well done, good and **faithful** servant. You have been **faithful** over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master" (Matt. 25:21; emphasis added).

While faithfulness is the most important matter, fruitfulness is no small consideration. On the path of faithfulness is a life of fruitfulness. To put it another way, we might say that the person who aims to please God will profit people far more—even if he or she does not please them. How could it be otherwise? God is good and wise. He knows and cares about what is best for us and others. Thus, if we are pleasing God, we will profit others far more. Your friend may not be happy with you when you speak the truth in love, but God may just set him free in Christ. Your boss might get upset when you refuse to lie for him, but he will be happy to know that you won't lie to him either. Your mom may be disappointed with you for a season, but you will honor her, your wife, and God Who gave you both. Please God and you will profit people. The path of faithfulness (God-pleasing) is the path of fruitfulness (people-profiting).

There are two paths that lie before you. Choose wisely!



Share Your Faith & Everyday Evangelism

There was a wonderful turnout at the Share Your Faith workshop on January 25. Over 50 people were given a memory tool to assist in sharing their faith with people with whom they come in contact. They learned how to better discern where God is working, how to join Him in the work, and how to engage people spiritually and pleasantly. The workshop was led by Wes Knight and Pastor Jones. Everyday Evangelism (Ev2) builds on the Share Your Faith workshop. For seven weeks starting February 4, five teams will be spending time in preparatory devotions, classroom instruction, and boots-on-the-ground training. Scripture verses, stories, and transitions will strengthen each person's ability to communicate the Good News of Christ and His salvation. Pray for the teams as they will be sharing the Gospel with people in the Augusta area.

Missionary Prayer

Please be in prayer for these throughout the month of February.

Alliance Defending Freedom

Scottsdale, AZ

- Pray for them as they are currently defending 50 cases related to prayer and religious freedom.
- Pray for God's financial provision to support the legal battles that ADF is called to take on for the sake of glorifying God.

Lana & Tim Higginbotham

NAIM, Vancouver, Canada

- Tim and Lana's regular prayer request is that they would appropriate all they have in Christ.

Bible Study & Prayer

*In addition to Sunday School each week,
there are opportunities for Bible study and prayer throughout the month.*

Youth in grades 6 through 12 gather each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall for a snack supper, fellowship and Bible study. In addition, the Youth join together for a time of fellowship every other Sunday following Evening Worship, (locations vary).

Young Families & Young Couples meet each second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish home (please note that on February 13, the group will begin with dinner at 6:30; the study follows). Childcare is provided.

Ladies are invited to study the Psalms on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month from 6:45 until 8:00. This study meets at Monica Boyd's home on the second Thursday; Martha Folley hosts on the fourth Thursday.

Men of the church are warmly welcomed at the Men's Prayer Breakfast that meets on the first Saturday at 7:45 a.m., then the following Friday mornings of the month at 7:00. Following breakfast, this group is currently delving into Tozer's *The Pursuit of God* before joining in a time of prayer each week.

All Adults have the opportunity to gather on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Studies currently meeting are exploring Genesis (the Moncrief home) and 1 Peter (the Warren Jones home).

Ministry Opportunities

For the Men: Additional ushers are needed to assist during our Morning and Evening Worship services. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact John Norkus, 706-860-4311, or Ed Russell, 706-860-4211.

For the Ladies: All Christ Church ladies are invited to join a **visitation ministry to our shut-ins**. Pairs of visiting ladies can enjoy a time of fellowship while bringing encouragement to members who are unable to participate in church gatherings. This is a wonderful opportunity to exhibit the love of Christ and requires the investment of only a few hours each year. For more information or to volunteer, please call Linda Jones at 706-447-2546 or Anne Bowen at 706-294-5071.

An Invitation

Your invitation to join the Resurrection Festival Choir

2014 marks the tenth Easter that Christ Church, Presbyterian has celebrated since our organization in 2004! Please consider joining us as we prepare for this important service.

In this anniversary year we will sing the "Five Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, on poems by George Herbert, just as we did in our first Easter celebration ten years ago. We will also revisit selections from the dedication of our new sanctuary in 2007.

Choral Rehearsal Schedule

*Please make your best effort
to attend at least three of the four
choral rehearsals.*

Saturday, February 1

9:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 22

9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 9

4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 30

4:30 p.m.

Rehearsals with Orchestra

*Attendance at both
orchestra rehearsals is expected.*

Wednesday, April 16

Time TBA

Saturday, April 19

Time TBA

Packets of music are available now, along with a part-learning CD. Please contact Mark Nabholz if you are able to join, and he will contact you to arrange delivery of the music and practice CD. Email Mark at music@christchurchpres.org or call him at 706-306-1374.

Christ Church Press

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February

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | 7:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Resurrection Festival Choir Rehearsal |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 6 p.m. Worship | | 6:30 p.m. Everyday Evangelism (Ev2) | 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal | 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study: Genesis (Moncrief home) 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study: 1 Peter (W. Jones home) 7 p.m. Joint Session / Diaconate Mtg | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
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