



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

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October 2014

The Pastor's Selection . . .

Birthdays

- 01.....Ron Moncrief
- 02 Michelle Brickhouse
- 03Carter Stacy
- 04Fay Deal
Mark Nabholz
Sheila Self
- 08Patsy Rector
- 09Lanier Goodell
- 10..... Frances Loughran
Leon White
- 12.....Jenn Jones
- 15 John Edwards
- 21..... Cathie McClure
Charles McClure
- 22Craig Bailey
Stephen Dyer
- 22Dennis Hillesland
John Manthei

Anniversaries

- 02Faye & Ben Robeson
- 11.....Barbara & Charles Bowen

Holy Communion

As an expression of our unity with the body of Christ around the world, we will be partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of October, designated as Worldwide Communion Sunday. Come prepared to commune with our Lord and His people through Holy Communion on October 5th.

Lay Aside the Weight of Irritability

- Jon Bloom, Desiring God

Sunday morning. The Bloom family is bustling to the van for church and a debate arises between two or three about who's going to sit where. We're cutting it close for time as it is. Out of my mouth come firm words in a sharp tone, "Stop the bickering! Get in and sit down!"

Saturday, early afternoon. The Saturday family chore list is still long and my anxiety rises when I think that we won't get done what needs to get done. I move into sergeant mode and start barking brusque orders. Things get done but the family tone has turned surly.

Weekday night, about 9 p.m. I enter the children's bedroom to give the occupants their bedtime blessing and find clothes and toys still on the floor. With a clap of my hands I tersely say, "Get up and get these things put away-now! You were told to do this earlier!" Nothing like a peaceful bedtime blessing.

Irritability. I give into it too often. It's time to take this sin more seriously and lay it aside (Hebrews 12:1). Every time I'm irritable I burden myself with the detrimental weights of prideful selfishness and relational conflict. And as my irritation overflows on others, it burdens them too because my harsh words stir up anger in them (Proverbs 15:1).

Does God Get Irritated?

We like to blame our irritability on someone or something else. We try to convince ourselves (and them) that they make us irritated. If they were different, we wouldn't be irritated. Or we blame it on being tired, ill, or stressed. But Paul diagnoses irritability as a heart disease; a failure to love: "Love . . . is not irritable" (1 Corinthians 13:5).

But we need to press on this a bit, because the Greek word that Paul uses here, *paroxynō*, which the ESV translates as "irritable," can also be translated as "provoked" or "kindled," or "incited." It's the same Greek word (*paroxynō*) that the Greek Old Testament uses in Isaiah 5:25 when the prophet said that God was provoked or kindled to anger by Israel. So if love (*agape*) is not provoked (1 Corinthians 13:5), and God is love (*agape*) (1 John 4:7), how can it be okay for God to be provoked to anger?

The answer is that being provoked to anger in general isn't the issue Paul is addressing. He (and we) knows there are just, righteous, loving, and therefore necessary reasons to be provoked to anger. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:5 is addressing the short fuse, or becoming too quickly or too easily provoked to anger. That's why the ESV chose "irritable" and why the KJV translators chose "easily provoked."

When God gets angry, he takes a remarkably slow time to get there (Exodus 34:6). God is provoked to anger, but he is never irritable. He only gets angry for very good reasons, when the glory of his holy righteousness and justice is despised and violated. And his anger, though when unleashed is the most devastating and terrifying thing any conscious being can experience, is always thoughtful, faultlessly appropriate, and perfectly measured. And like God, we too are to be "slow to anger" (James 1:19). We are to be angry, but not sin (Ephesians 4:26).

(continued on page 2)

The Selfishness of Irritation

Our irritability never has its roots in the soils of righteousness. It springs out of the soil of selfishness and springs up fast, like the sin-weed that it is. We get irritated or easily provoked, not when God's righteousness or justice is scorned, but when something we want is being denied, delayed, or disrupted. It works like this:

- When I'm **weary** I want **rest**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **sick or in pain** I want **relief**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **preoccupied** I want **uninterrupted focus**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **running late** I want to **avoid appearing negligent**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **disappointed** I want **my desire fulfilled**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **fearful** I want **escape from a threat**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **uncertain** I want **certainty, preferably reassuring**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.
- When I'm **enjoying something** I want to **continue until I wish to be done**, but if it's denied/delayed/disrupted I get irritated.

The reason irritability is unloving, unrighteous anger is that it is a selfish response to an obstacle to our desire. What we desire may not be sinful, but a selfish response to its denial, delay, or disruption is a failure to trust God at all times (Psalm 62:8—and often a failure to value, love, and serve another human soul).

Jesus didn't die for our punctuality, earthly reputation, convenience, or our leisure. But he did die for souls. It is likely that the worth of the soul(s) we're irritable with is infinitely more precious to God than the thing we desire. We must not dishonor God, whose image that person bears, by being irritable with them. There are necessary times for considered, thoughtful, measured, righteous, loving anger at priceless but sinful souls. But there is never a right time for irritability. Love is not irritable.

S.T.O.P Being Irritable

If you're like me and have cultivated over the course of your life a habitual indulgence in selfish irritation, it's going to take some hard work to retrain ourselves in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). We need something simple to call to mind when the oft-pulled irritation trigger is squeezed. This might be helpful:

- **S.—Stop, repent, and ask.** We must awkwardly stop immediately—even mid-rant—to repent of our sin, and ask, “What am I desiring that is being denied, delayed, or disrupted?”
- **T.—Trust a promise.** Collect promises like 2 Corinthians 9:8, Philippians 4:19, and Philippians 4:11–13 to trust that combat your areas of temptation to irritation.
- **O.—Obey.** Remember that your emotions are gauges, not guides. Don't let irritation reign in you (Romans 6:12). As you obey 1 Corinthians 13:5 in faith you will find that your emotions will, however reluctantly at first, follow. Love obeys (John 14:15).
- **P.—Plan.** Yes, plan. More forethought and intention can be spiritual discipline, an act of love, and a weapon against sin by avoiding temptations to irritability. Ask yourself, “When am I frequently irritable?” To test your self-understanding, ask this question of those who know you best (and often may be the recipients of your irritation). And based on the answers, seek to put into place some systems and habits that will remove irritable stumbling blocks from your path. Pursue the escape from temptation offered by the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:13) by taking advantage of the grace of planning.

Don't be discouraged by the fact that this is hard going at first. Changing ingrained habits is hard work. But it is possible through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). Keep working at it. Faithful effort to lay aside this weight will result in lighter, more loving, and more joyful faith-running down the road.

Missionary Prayer

Please remember these missionaries in your prayers throughout the month as they labor for the Lord,
 “Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart,” 2 Corinthians 4:1.

Anne & Louis Carter, SIM, Kenya and Papua New Guinea. Louis is a surgeon and teaches missionary and national doctors plastic, reconstructive and hand surgery. Anne teaches operating room staff how to assist on these procedures.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, Augusta, GA. CEF's purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel, disciple them in the Word, and establish them in a local Bible-believing church.

TRAIL LIFE USA

Adventure ▶ Character ▶ Leadership

On September 8, Christ Church received a charter to form a Trail Life USA Troop. Trail Life USA is a Christian adventure, character and leadership movement for our nation's young men. The exciting K-12 program centers on outdoor experiences that build a young man's skills and allow him to grow on a personal level and as a role model and leader for his peers. As young men progress through the various levels of the Trail Life USA program, they take part in camping, leadership development, rank advancements, awards, a trail badge program, community service, summer adventures, spiritual training, and a variety of special offerings. Currently, there are over 400 TrailLife USA troops with 14,000 members in 47 states after less than a year of operation.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, October 20, in Covenant Hall. We are currently recruiting both boys and adult leaders from within, as well as outside the church. If you or a boy you know want to be part of this Christ-centered, exciting program, please contact John Norkus, Troopmaster, at 706-373-2173 or at thenorkusfamily@comcast.net. You can find out more information about the Trail Life program on their website, www.TrailLifeUSA.com.

Let's Pack a Shoebox



Samaritan's Purse began with the mission to spread the love of God throughout the world by collecting shoeboxes filled with Christmas presents and delivering them to children in impoverished countries. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has delivered more than 113 million shoeboxes! These gifts have made it possible to share the gospel in some of the darkest corners of the world, reaching more than 150 countries and territories.

A small shoebox can teach a child about the love of God, lead him to faith in Christ, inspire pastors, and plant new churches. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. Many children who receive these shoeboxes are also invited to attend a 12-week follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Here they learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and walk with Him for a lifetime, as well as how to share their faith. Receiving a New Testament at graduation, they are equipped to grow and bear fruit for Christ's Kingdom.

It is our privilege again this year to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ. Brochures with complete instructions on filling the boxes are available in the foyer. Pre-wrapped empty shoeboxes will be available in the foyer beginning October 19. Filled shoeboxes will be collected on November 2, 9 and 16. Let's all take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans (706-738-8259).

Augusta Care Pregnancy Center

29th Annual Fall Banquet

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center
Thursday, October 16

Keynote Speaker: Jay Sekulow

For ticket information, contact Michelle at 706-724-5531.

Jay Sekulow is an attorney with a passion for protecting religious liberty. Time Magazine named Jay one of the "25 Most Influential Evangelicals" in America and called the ACLJ "a powerful counterweight" to the ACLU.

Prayerfully consider attending this fall banquet and helping to support the Augusta Care Pregnancy Center save the lives of babies in the Augusta area.

Reformation Sunday

On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic monk and professor named Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, an act that would set in motion a powerful movement known as the Protestant Reformation. Deeply indebted to this wonderful reforming and renewing work of God, we celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 26. We will enjoy a fellowship luncheon after the morning service.

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October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
The schedule each Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship and 6 p.m. Worship			6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Holy Communion 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering		7 p.m. Diaconate Meeting 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting		7 p.m. Session Meeting	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering		7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study 7 p.m. Children's Ministry Teachers Meeting	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Reformation Sunday 12 a.m. Fellowship Meal 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting			6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble			