



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 10, Issue 11

November 2014

The Pastor's Selection . . .

Birthdays

- 03 Ted Chew
- 04 Enrique Romero
- 06 Michael Goodell
- 10 Jane Bowen
Don Lewis
Audrey McGraw
- 11 Daniel McMillan
- 13 Carol Ryans
- 15 Billie McPherson
- 16 Mary Round
- 17 Mary Lou Turner
- 18 Catie Boyd
Glynn Dyer
Ian Jones
- 22 Andrea Denis
- 23 Jackie Hillesland
- 25 Barbara Volpitto
- 26 Hayes Edwards
Sue Kemp

Rejoice
1 Chronicles 16:31

Anniversaries

- 02 .. Betty Gene & Al Lovingood
- 06 Jordy & Bob Rihl
- 08 Fay & Richard Deal
Julie & Joe Dey
- 21 Nancy & Lee Parks
- 23 Cheryl & John Manthei
- 26 Sue & Bill Kemp

Why Homosexuality Is Not like Other Sins

- Jonathan Parnell, *Desiring God*

Homosexuality is not the only sin mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

It's not the only sin mentioned, but it is different from all the rest, at least right now. At this moment in history, contrary to the other sins listed here, homosexuality is celebrated by our larger society with pioneering excitement. It's seen as a good thing, as the new hallmark of progress.

To be sure, the masses increasingly make no bones about sin in general. Innumerable people are idolaters, not to mention those who are sexually immoral, or who commit adultery, or who steal and are greedy and get wasted and revile neighbors and swindle others. It happens all the time. And each of these unrepentant sins are the same in the sense of God's judgment. They all deserve His wrath. And we're constantly reminded that "such were some of you" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Concerning Popular Opinion

But as far as I know, none of those sins are applauded so aggressively by whole groups of people who advocate for their normalcy. Sexual immorality is no longer the tip of the spear for the progressive push. Adultery is still frowned upon by many. Accusations of greed will still smear a candidate's political campaign. Thievery is still not openly embraced, and there are no official initiatives saying it's okay to go steal things that don't belong to you. There's no such thing as a drunk agenda yet. Most aren't proud to choose a beverage over stability, and there aren't any petitions that the government should abolish the driving restrictions of inebriated individuals. Reviling others still isn't seen as the best way to win friends and influence people. Swindling, especially on a corporate level, usually gets someone thrown into jail. In fact, the infrastructure of the American economy depends upon, in some measure, our shared disdain for conniving scammers.

Perhaps excepting fornication, these sins are still seen in a pretty negative light. But not homosexual practice, not by those who are now speaking loudest and holding positions of prominence. According to the emerging consensus, homosexuality is different.

What to Be Against

As Christians, we believe with deepest sincerity that the embrace of homosexual practice, along with other sins, keeps people out of the kingdom of God. And

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if our society celebrates it, we can't both be caring and not say anything. Too much is at stake. This means it is an oversimplification to say that Christians – or conservative evangelicals – are simply against homosexuality. We are against any sin that restrains people from everlasting joy in God, and homosexual practice just gets all the press because, at this cultural moment, it's the main sin that is so freshly endorsed in our context by the powers that be. Let's hope that if there's some new cultural agenda promoting thievery – one that says it's now our right to take whatever we want from others by whatever means – that Christians will speak out against it. The issue is sin. That's what we're against. And that's what should make our voice so unique when we speak into this debate.

Some would like to see this whole issue of homosexuality divided into two camps: those who celebrate it and those who hate it. Both of these groups exist in our society. There are the growing numbers, under great societal pressure, who praise homosexuality. We might call them the left. And there are people who hate homosexuality, with the most bigoted rationale and apart from any Christian concern. We might call them the right.

Those Glorious Words

The current debate is plagued by this binary lens. Those on the left try to lump everyone who disagrees with them into that right side. If you don't support, you hate. Meanwhile, those on the right see compromise and spinelessness in anyone who doesn't get red-faced and militant. If you don't hate, you support.

But true followers of Christ will walk neither path. We have something to say that no one else is saying, or can say.

Distancing ourselves from both the left and the right, we don't celebrate homosexual practice, we acknowledge God's clear revealed word that it is sin; and we don't hate those who embrace homosexuality, we love them enough to not just collapse under the societal pressure. We speak the truth in love into this confusion, saying, simultaneously, "That's wrong" and "I love you." We're not the left; we say, this is wrong. And we're not the right; we say, you're loved. We speak good news, with those sweetest, deepest, most glorious words of the cross – the same words that God spoke to us – "You're wrong, and you're loved."

God tells us we're wrong, that the wages of sin is death, that unrepentant rebellion means judgment, that our rescue required the cursed death of His Son (Romans 3:23; John 3:36; Galatians 3:13). And God tells us we're loved, that even while we were sinners, Jesus died for us, that while we were unrighteous, Jesus suffered in our place, that though we were destined for wrath, Jesus welcomes us into glory (Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:1-7).

Where the Gospel Shines

You're wrong and you're loved – that's the unique voice of the Christian. That's what we say, speaking from our own experience, as Tim Keller so well puts it, "We're far worse than we ever imagined, and far more loved than we could ever dream."

That's our message in this debate, when society's elites despise us, when pop songs vilify us, when no one else has the resources to say anything outside of two extremes, we have this incomparable opportunity to let the gospel shine, to reach out in grace: you're wrong and you're loved. We get to say this.

That's why homosexuality is not like other sins.

Thanksgiving Worship

In a day in which our nation is increasingly pushing God to the periphery of society, it is good and right to make much of the remaining opportunities afforded us to recognize as a nation the true and living God to Whom we and our nation owe allegiance, thanks and praise. Thanksgiving, as a national holiday, is such an opportunity. That is why on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at 10 a.m. we will gather together as a faith family to offer thanks and praise to our great God for His manifold grace and rich blessings. Make plans to come and invite others to join us for a service of heart-warming and God-exalting thanksgiving!

Being Good Stewards

The Scriptures teach clearly and frequently that everything we have ultimately comes from God, belongs to God, and is entrusted to us as stewards of His good gifts to be used for His great glory. As an important part of our growing together in Christian discipleship, we devote a season toward the end of each year to focus together on the stewardship that God has given to us. This is a time for us to be encouraged and challenged to consider what the Lord would have us do financially to invest in the extension of Christ's Kingdom through the ministry of Christ Church, Presbyterian. Sunday, November 16, will be Stewardship Sunday here at Christ Church. During the morning worship service, we will have an opportunity to covenant with God and each other to support the work of the church through the Lord's tithes and our offerings beyond the tithe. The pledges that we make should be in loving response to the bountiful grace which the Lord has showered upon us.

It's Time to Share Jesus in the World



Luis took pride in being the tough guy other kids feared. Fights at school led to his expulsion. His heartbroken mother prayed for God to save her 12-year old son from a life of crime and hopelessness. She started taking Luis to church in their Peruvian village. At Christmas the children were invited to a festival, and Luis was just as excited as the other boys and girls when he received a shoe box with gifts from Operation Christmas Child. At his mother's insistence, Luis enrolled in THE GREATEST JOURNEY, a 12-lesson Bible study and discipleship program offered to children after shoe box distributions. At first he was disruptive but soon he began to ask questions—something had changed in his heart. “It surprised me to learn that God sent

His Son to die for people like me,” said Luis. “I liked to hit people. But because of what the Word of God says, I know I don't need to fight anymore.”

Hundreds of thousands of children like Luis are coming to know Jesus as their Savior through the Operation Christmas Child discipleship program. What starts out as a simple gift—a shoe box containing toys, school supplies, and hygiene items—is used by God to transform the hearts and souls of children and their families.

We at Christ Church, Presbyterian have the wonderful privilege of being a part of this worldwide project. Won't you take advantage of this opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with boys and girls? Pre-wrapped shoe boxes and brochures with complete instructions are available in the foyer. If you wish to participate but are unable to shop, please consider making a donation to Samaritan's Purse. Filled shoe boxes will be collected on November 2, 9 and 16. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans (706-738-8259).

Missions Outlook

Missionary Report

The second annual Christ Church Bible and Missions Conference is scheduled for February 20-22, 2015. Dr. Louis and Anne Carter will be the missionary speakers and the Reverend Todd Erickson, Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, will be the Bible teacher. Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss this special focus on the work of the Gospel around the world.

Louis and Anne Carter are back in the United States after a busy year with mission trips to Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Guatemala and Greece. By the time you read this Anne will have had a knee replacement which was scheduled for October 22. Please pray for her rehabilitation and full recovery.

While Anne is recovering from surgery, Louis will be completing the revision of the book, *Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa*, with Dr. Peter Nthumba from Kijabe Hospital in Kenya as the coeditor. The revision will include 6-8 new chapters and be published as an e-book. Dr. Carter is a recognized and much-sought-after expert on reconstructive surgery and does several online consultations each week with missionary doctors around the world on their difficult reconstructive surgical cases.

Keep the Carters in your prayers as they tirelessly serve the Lord. Pray also for the missions conference preparations, asking God to thrust out laborers into the fields that are “white unto harvest” and instill in the body at Christ Church a growing heart for world evangelism.

Missionaries Prayer Focus

Please remember the **missionaries in harms way** and **Paul & Laura Chinchon**, African Bible Colleges (ABC), Malawi, Uganda, and Liberia, 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.

Sunday School Scoop

Things are off to a great beginning with our new year of Sunday School. Our new curriculum is exciting, and classes are learning so much of God's Word. Primary class is studying Genesis and the beginning, while the intermediate class is in Exodus. The Junior class and upper classes are in our history books and prophetic writings. Middle School is examining a worldview based on God's Word, and High School is surveying the Old Testament.

The relevance of the Old Testament is being shown in each class along with how this points to and shows Jesus and His fulfillment of the Old Testament as our perfect, sinless sacrifice leading us to salvation and eternal life.

In other news, parents of all children in Primary, Intermediate and Junior classes, please mark your calendar: we will have a Christmas party on Saturday, December 20th, from 10 a.m. until noon in Covenant Hall.

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 4201 Southern Pines Drive
 Evans, GA 30809
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November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
The schedule each Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship and 6 p.m. Worship						7:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m. Mini Workday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Saints' Day 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	7 p.m. Trail Life	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 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7 p.m. Trail Life	7 p.m. Session Meeting	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 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Stewardship Sunday 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	7 p.m. Trail Life	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 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting				10 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Service	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
30						
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering						