



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 6

June 2015

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 01.....Grant Kimbrell
Matt McClure
- 03Brooke Marter
- 07..... MacKenzie McDaniel
- 09 Laura Nabholz
- 11..... Loulie Driggers
- 13..... Diane Dunsmore
Joanna Miller
Don Townsend
- 14..... Zander Law
- 18..... Betty Stacy
- 20 Julie Dey
- 21..... Ruth Ann Fliermans
- 22Nichols Parish
Abby Russell
- 24.....Barbara Bowen
Debra Hatcher
- 26 Barry Smith
- 27.....Chris Dunsmore
Linda Jones
Brent Steed

Either 'Okay' or 'Thank You'

— Jonathan Parnell, *Desiring God*

Everyday Life and the Father's Will

My five-year-old can't stop saying the f-word.

It just happened. I didn't teach it to her. Her mom didn't either. But again and again – and every Saturday without fail – she wants to know, in a voice tinged with concern, "What are we going to do today for fun?"

Kids have a corner on the market of fun, you know. It's basically enigmatic to most adults. Perhaps the new definition should go something like this: **fun** [fuhn]: noun; *an esoteric concept, embedded deep in the mind of a child, which they cannot adequately communicate.*

As a dad, I consider myself both an advocate and agent of my children's happiness. I want them to be happy, and I want to lead them in things that are, well, fun (whatever that is). But the problem is that, at least lately, I've not hit the target. Sub-par activities are greeted with grumbling, and the actual "fun" activities are brushed off with entitlement – all of which has led to a new rule in our house:

- when you hear instructions you don't like, you respond, "Okay."
- when you hear instructions you do like, you respond, "Thank you."

Those are really the only two options.

You can ask questions later. I'm good with questions. No issue there. But for the first response, it's either "okay" or "thank you." Counter-offers are not accepted. We don't do negotiations. It's "okay" or it's "thank you." Capiche?

More Than Manners

There's good reason for this. It's not merely a matter of manners. The words mean less than the habit of the heart I hope is formed by their use – the habit of trust and gratitude. Those are the antidotes to grumbling and entitlement. We only grumble because we don't trust the Providence of our circumstances (Exodus 16:7), and we only feel entitled when we mistake our gifts as something we deserve (1 Corinthians 4:7).

So behind "okay" is the wondrous resolve to accept reality not as chaotic happenstance, but as motions put in action by someone who loves me – by a dad who is both an advocate and agent of his children's happiness. And then behind "thank you" is the eye-opening bewilderment that I have received good for which I have neither paid nor earned – good from a dad who, at his own cost, delights in the smile of his children. *See, kids, it's either "okay" or "thank you." Don't you get it? Don't you know that I love you? Don't you know we don't have to do anything?*

Anniversaries

- 03 Yvonne & John Clark
- 04 Anne & Bill Alston
Monica & Mike Boyd
- 05 Frances & Tom Loughran
- 06 ... Stathia & Rick Hammond
Jenn & Josiah Jones
- 07.....Margaret & Joey Johnson
- 08 Pat & Don Lewis
Susan & Mark Walters
- 10.... Ruth Ann & Carl Fliermans
- 13..... Barbara & Paul Volpitto
- 18..... Jenny & William Jewett
- 19..... Jenny & Don Townsend
- 21.....Catie & Will Boyd
- 25 ..Cherry & Joseph Wittemann

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Fellowship Luncheon



Sunday, June 14
12:30 p.m. after morning worship

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: THE KING IS COMING!



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The time is growing near – Mark June 22–26 on your calendar. VBS time is here. The excitement is growing and preparations are underway:

Preparation Days:

Friday, June 19 &
Saturday, June 20.

Festivities Schedule:

June 22nd thru June 26th
9 a.m. Daily

Closing Program:

Friday, June 26, at noon
Picnic Fellowship Following

Church members are invited to come and see what has been happening all week. If you plan to stay for the picnic, please RSVP to Fay Deal (runningdeal@gmail.com) so that we can plan accordingly.

Be in prayer for many to come, eyes to be opened, and hearts to be transformed by the power of God through Jesus our King.



Sunday, June 21
11:00 a.m. during morning worship

The Pastor's Selction

(continued from page 1)

And then there's that moment when, in the face of your disgruntled piglets, you see your own heart before God. *Oh, Father. I get it. I see what you did there.*

Just as Convolutad

We Christian Hedonists believe that God is most glorified in us when we're most satisfied in him. We'll highlight this truth in our books. We'll tweet about it all day long. We'll sing about it on Sunday mornings. But then things don't go our way.

The traffic jam is ridiculous. The meeting lasts too long. The doctor tells you it's cancer. The company goes in a different direction. And suddenly we find ourselves, when the pressure is put on, oozing another grumble. We hurt. We shake our heads. We throw our tantrums. As it turns out, the rock-solid joy we celebrate is actually more illusive than we thought.

Or then things really do go our way.

We're killing it at work. The accolades are rolling in. That promotion is just around the corner. The mood at home is at an incredible high. The kids are doing well in school. The marriage bed is all it's meant to be. You wake up in the morning with a bluebird on your shoulder. And suddenly we find ourselves, if we could actually see ourselves, grinning from ear to ear, happy as a clam, thinking that we've done something great – that, because of a little success, we are awesome and this is how it should be. We smile. We cheer. We're glad. But that rock-solid joy we celebrate actually finds its anchor somewhere else.

So we come to find out that we're kids all over again. We're jerked around by the undercurrent of grumbling, tossed to and fro by the waves of entitlement. Our definition for blessing is as convoluted as a five-year-old's standard for fun.

For Day-In, Day-Out

We know this isn't right, and we wish it were different. What we need isn't so much new information, but the wisdom – the grace – to connect the dots of what we know to the circumstances where it matters. And that is why, within this vision of life known as Christian Hedonism, two of the most helpful, practical words for the day-in, day-out stuff of life are "okay" and "thank you."

When things go sideways, whether in the valley of deepest suffering, or even in the petty annoyance of disappointed plans, we simply stop, bow our heads, and say, "Okay." We don't like it this way. We wouldn't choose it.

But we know – we know – that every circumstance in our lives comes through the loving hands of a Father who is devoted to our eternal flourishing. We know, as the apostle Paul tells us, that because we were made his in Christ, God's incomparable power is only and always wielded for our good (Romans 8:28). No, we don't like it. And yes, we have some questions. But first, by his grace, we say, "Okay." Father, okay. It hurts. I don't understand. But I trust you.

And then when we're soaring, when we're skipping along the mountain peaks of life, we stop, find a quiet place, and bawl our eyes out that God would be this kind to me – a sinner, a fool, a hopeless creature, if not for his mercy.

So we laugh to scorn those subtle thoughts that try to take the credit, and we get beside ourselves in joy – a joy that knows these little pleasures in life are but a fleeting glimpse into that ocean of gladness that awaits us. And it is there, in that ocean, that we cast our anchor, and say, "Thank you." *Father, I don't deserve this. You are just this good, and even better.*

It's either "okay" or "thank you."

Missionaries Among Us

Bruce and Barbara Wannamacher, in the USA for Home Ministry Assignment (HMA), which we know better by the term furlough, have taken up residence in Augusta and are often in our meetings. They have served in South Africa for many years at the Bible Institute of South Africa (BISA) in Cape Town. Bruce has taught at the institute while Barbara had a ministry teaching Bible classes at a local elementary school, discipling women students at BISA. Together they have mentored other Mission to the World (MTW) missionaries in the Cape Town area and served as country directors for all of the MTW missionaries in South Africa & Zambia.

MTW asked the Wannamachers to be in charge of “Member Care” for all of its missionaries in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and South Africa. Member care entails shepherding, praying for and spiritually supporting all missionaries and their families on the field. As they begin these new duties, they will maintain their official residence in Augusta, but will travel frequently to Africa in support of the missionaries there. Meanwhile, for this year of HMA they will often be on the road visiting with supporters in several dozen supporting churches (furlough doesn’t mean “rest”). And all of this while Barbara is recovering from recent hip surgery.

Let us join Bruce & Barbara in praying for their requests:

- Please pray for our HMA year as we begin visiting our supporting churches from mid-year 2015.
- Please pray for continued healing for Barbara so that she will be able to start traveling long distances.
- Pray for us as we implement “member care/spiritual care and oversight” for all the MTW missionaries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Pray for us as we speak in our supporting churches about the need for more long-term missionaries in Africa.

Trail Life Tracks

On April 25–26, we enjoyed our first troop overnight camp-out at the Aiken State Natural Area. Despite the rain that caused us to cut things short, the families participating had a great time around the Friday evening campfire.

At our final regular meeting on May 18 before the summer, we held a flag retirement ceremony followed by root beer floats in the Fellowship Hall. Although we will not be meeting regularly during the summer, we are planning some special summer activities. On June 13, we’ll be going to the McDuffie Public Fishing Area to participate in a fishing derby. For some boys, this will be their first time going fishing.

Thanks to Ora Parish and Scott Doss, the church website has been updated to include a page for our TrailLife USA



troop. Please use email and other social media outlets to let your friends and family know about TrailLife USA at Christ Church and around the country. Please continue to pray for the Trail Life USA national team, as well as the troop here at Christ Church. You can help by being a part of our troop committee or making a designated donation to support the troop activities. If you know of a boy who would want to become a Trailman, please have him contact Troopmaster, John Norkus (706-373-2173, thenorkusfamily@comcast.net). Walk worthy!

Missionary Prayer Focus

Please remember the missionaries below 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).

Clay & Darlene Quarterman, MTW (Mission to the World) – Pray for the two ERSU (Evangelical Reformed Seminary) students ordained as elders in Kharkov, Eastern Ukraine.

Charles Rector, Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship – Pray for the inmates of the NC Department of Corrections facility where he is a Chaplain.

Mark & Susan Walters, MTW (Mission to the World) – Pray that the hearts of the Christ’s College students in Taipei, Taiwan, are receptive to the gospel being heard through our family.

Christ Church Press

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Address Service Requested



June

Each Sunday's Schedule: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School • 11 a.m. Worship • 6:00 p.m. Worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Families Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans Fellowship Dinner	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:15 p.m. Louie Drigger's 90 th Birthday Celebration Ice Cream Social	The Church Office will be closed June 8 thru June 12 for staff development.		7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble		7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	AYC Tour Trail Life Trek to McDuffie Public Fishing Area
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering AYC Tour	7 p.m. Session Meeting AYC Tour	7 p.m. AYC Home Concert	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Families Bible Study	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast VBS Preparation Day	VBS Preparation Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11 a.m. Holy Communion 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting			7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble		7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
Vacation Bible School: 9:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday. Closing Program Friday at noon with picnic lunch.						
28	29	30				
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering						