



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 10

October 2015

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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



**Friday,
October 30
6:00 P.M.**

Join the fun!

*Kids games with candy prizes
Huge 50' inflatable obstacle course
Costumes & face painting*

Hotdogs, chips and drinks, too!

Next-Door Strangers

— Marshall Segal, Desiring God

Do you know your neighbors? I'm asking about the people who live immediately to your right and your left, maybe across the street or beyond your backyard or across the hall. If you can name them, the statistics suggest that this knowledge sets you apart in today's America.

But how much do you really know about them? What do they do for work? What do they like to do on the weekends? What matters most to them? What makes them happy? What are their fears, their struggles? What's the most significant thing that happened to them in the last year? What do they think about Jesus? Pretty basic, right?

For all that technology has accomplished in connecting us with people all over America and even around the world, it's built miles of distance between next-door neighbors. Most of us live less than fifty feet from our neighbor's front door, and yet we couldn't live further apart. It almost feels like you have to book a flight. Technology – think garage doors, air-conditioning, Amazon, smartphones, and Netflix – has tragically made strangers out of neighbors.

One recent study on social trends concludes [that] Americans spend significantly less time with their neighbors. In the 1970s, nearly 30 percent of Americans frequently spent time with neighbors, and only 20 percent had no interactions with them. Today, those proportions are reversed. In 2013, Trulia cited a similar study that looked at dynamics between neighbors in America, concluding that almost half didn't know their neighbors' names.

Relationships that used to be normal and natural have become rare and even inconvenient. As a people commissioned by God to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), trends toward isolation and away from real, face-to-face friendship should trouble us. These relationships are the highways for the good news, the widest channels for true hope, life, and happiness.

A Plan for Your Neighborhood

God has put you on the planet and in your neighborhood so that you and all the people in your life might seek him. That's God's mission statement for your neighborhood, wherever you live and regardless of the number of Christians there. Paul says that God "made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him" (Acts 17:26-27).

God has determined your dwelling place today – your home, in your neighborhood, in your city, in your state – so that you would seek him and help others do the same. It's not beyond God to use you to convert someone in a moment on a bus ride or through a random, brief interaction with a stranger at the gym

(continued on page 3)

Children's Chatter: Let's Talk About...

Fellowship & Partnership

For the summer sermon series, our pastor spoke of the Church (the body of Christ) and the fellowship of this body. St. Paul speaks of this, but uses another word – partnership.

Philemon 1:6 states, “My prayer is this: that the partnership which goes with your faith may have its powerful effect, in realizing every good thing that is at work in us to lead us to the King.” What St. Paul is saying in effect is, when people believe the Gospel, they are brought into that partnership with all others who believe it. In this partnership, the Holy Spirit is doing the work of putting into practice what we are professing to believe.

Children's Ministries is given the task of teaching the next generation, raising new partners in the work of the church. This is essential in growing the church and spreading the good news of the Gospel. There are many needs in this ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you as a member of the church of Christ might partner with us in this essential task. Our current needs follow:

- **Nursery 1** (birth–23 mos): Volunteers during Sunday school hour and evening worship.
- **Nursery 2** (2–3 years): 1st Sunday worship (need 2 volunteers), 3rd Sunday during Sunday school hour, 5th Sunday (when it occurs) morning Sunday school and worship (need 4).
- **Sunday School**: A kindergarten assistant teacher, two teachers to team with the 1st through 4th grade classes and a teacher to partner with Nikki McGraw in 5th–6th grade classes.

As a church, we are called to raise up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let us partner in this wonderful opportunity to reach the next generation. Please contact Fay Deal (runningdeal@gmail.com or 803-278-1176).

**But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,
“Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16).**

Choir Chords

“Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to Him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to Him. For the LORD is a great God” (Ps 95:1–3a).

All musical groups, including The Augusta Youth Chorale, are actively rehearsing now, preparing music for upcoming worship services and special events. So, if you have any questions or interest in participating within the music ministry at Christ Church, please contact me for more information (music@christchurchpres.org).

Our Christmas Evensong will be Sunday evening, December 20. Interested in singing Christmas music with the Christ Church Choir and Orchestra? You are cordially invited. Rehearsals are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings from 9:00 until 11:00, October 10, 31, November 14, and either, December 12 OR 19. Come sing with us, we would love to have you. Contact me for further information.

The Bob Jones University Chorale, the premier choral ensemble at BJU, will be in concert at Christ Church on Monday evening, November 2 at 7:00. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors. The concert is free but after the concert, a love offering will be taken at the door.

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*



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 collected and delivered more than 124 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories. In 2015, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children.

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 18. Filled shoeboxes will be collected on November 1, November 8, and November 15. 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).



or a coffee shop or the office. But friendships are the front lines of making disciples, and friendship requires some shared interest or hobby or space – a place where paths cross. Even the always-traveling apostle Paul found time for that kind of relational, life-on-life evangelism and discipleship (1 Thessalonians 2:8; Romans 1:11; Philippians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:4).

Old-Fashioned, Friendly Freaks

Don't expect people to answer the door the first time you ring the doorbell. Would you? But don't let that keep you from ringing (or answering), either. They'll immediately assume you're selling something. But you're not, so do not fear. Keep greeting, keep knocking, keep inviting until they know you're really only there because you love them. Be the old-fashioned, friendly freak on your block. You may even be surprised how many people around you have been starving for this interaction.

Being an engaged and friendly neighbor ironically will make you seem like a foreigner at first. You'll be weird. And buried in that weirdness is the unique window through which you witness to Jesus. In that way, even though neighborhood relationships have become more cumbersome, ministry may have become strangely easier, precisely because Christian efforts toward friendship will be all the more strange.

Face-to-face friendship is a lost art that's critical to loving the lost. When God put you where you are, he wanted you to be a witness to real people. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria" – and Minneapolis and Houston and your hometown – "and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Being that kind of witness, in word and in example, will require some kind of consistency over time. It requires a friendship aimed at Jesus's fame.

It Starts with a Name

Start simple: Learn (and remember) their names. Names are a small thing, but a crucial thing. It's the most basic unit of currency in friendship, but remembering someone's name says so much about whether you really care or not (and most people in any given neighborhood simply don't). Write their names down somewhere you'll see it – like on a prayer list – and pray for them.

As you have more opportunities to talk, ask questions and try to remember details here and there. You could start with the list above, but don't box yourself into any one series of questions. Look for what they love to talk about, and walk down that road with them as far as they'll take you. The real counter-cultural act of love in an attention-famished world like ours is to remember what they told you and bring it up later on. If they love a particular sport or team, ask them about it later or even invite them over for a game. If they're into gardening and have flowers all over their house, drop off flowers. If they watch a lot of movies on Netflix, plan a movie night. If they're foodies, take them out to an unusual, little-known restaurant. If they have kids, offer to babysit to give mom and dad a night out.

Jesus's test in Luke 6:45 – "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" – can be used to expose evil and it can be used to build bridges for the gospel. People talk about what they love. Listen closely and leverage their loves to lead them to Jesus.

It's never too late to be a better neighbor. The awkwardness may last a few moments initially, but the results also may endure eternally. Take the next step in their direction – they're only a few steps away – and trust God will overcome the weaknesses in you and the brokenness in American society to draw his own to himself.

Trail Life Tracks

In August, the boys in Trail Life learned how to play disc golf with a trip to Patriot's Park. Special thanks to Barry and Zach Smith and Wade Caldwell for helping out. In September, we went back to McDuffie Public Fishing Area to participate in a fishing rodeo as part of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

At the end of October, we will kick off our annual fund-raising activities with our partnership with Wreaths Across America (www.wreathscrossamerica.org). WAA mission is to "remember, honor, teach" about the sacrifices made by our veterans in protecting our freedoms. WAA is responsible for decorating the graves of service members with a wreath in our national cemeteries at Christmas time. When you sponsor a wreath through our Trail Life troop, a portion will be returned to the troop. The troop's involvement will culminate in the wreath laying ceremony at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC on December 12.

Our troop has grown over the past month, more than doubling in size. That all said, we need more adult leadership, both in support as well as direct program involvement. If you are interested, please talk with John Norkus, Troopmaster, Barry Smith, Committee Chairman, or Ben Robeson, Troop Charter Representative.



Christ Church Press

Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor
 Christ Church, Presbyterian
 4201 Southern Pines Drive
 Evans, GA 30809
 706-210-9090

Address Service Requested



October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Each Sunday's Schedule: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School • 11 a.m. Worship • 6 p.m. Worship				6:00 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		7:30 a.m. Student Hike
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	5:30 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study		9:00 a.m. Christmas Music Rehearsal
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12:30 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trail Life		5:30 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:00 p.m. Young Family Small Group Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study	5:30 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life		5:30 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble		6:00 p.m. Fall Festival	9:00 a.m. Christmas Music Rehearsal