



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2015

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 03Noah Edwards
- 04 Marita Myers
- 05 Martha Holley
- 06Allyn Dyer
- 08 McDonald Law
- 09John Clark
- 10..... Aaron Caruso
- 11..... Paul Lyday
Natalie Parish
- 12..... Mike Boyd
Oliver Brown
- 17.....Jed Steed
- 18.....Al Lovingood
Brian Marter
- 19..... Brian Moore
Catherine Norkus
Randy Self
- 31..... Whit Caldwell

Christmas: Prophecy and Fulfillment

—Derek W. H. Thomas, *TableTalk*

The Bible has a fondness for the number seven. For example, there are seven creation days, and Joshua and his men marched around Jericho seven times. And then, the book of Revelation features seven letters written by Jesus to seven churches, as well as seven seals, seven bowls, and seven trumpets. Seven, then, is often referred to as a “perfect number.” Even the infamous number 666 is alluding to the fact that it is not 777.

Matthew employs the number seven in the first section of his gospel (Matt. 1:17–4:17). As he describes the birth of Jesus and the period before Jesus begins to preach, he cites seven Old Testament fulfillments: the child, Jesus, is born of a virgin (1:22–23); His birth is in the city of Bethlehem (2:5–6); the flight to Egypt and the consequent return (2:15); the slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem (2:17–18); the home-base of Nazareth (2:23); the ministry of the forerunner, John the Baptist (3:1–3); and the start of Jesus’ ministry in the northern regions, where people who walked in darkness saw a great light (4:13–14). Careful checking of each of these seven events will reveal Old Testament prophecies fulfilled.

Christmas, and what follows, lies deep in the Old Testament. At every turn, Jesus was fulfilling a role that was shaped by more than a millennium of prediction. No aspect of the Messiah’s ministry of redemption was without anticipatory reflections. At the moment of Jesus’ birth, the entire scope and focus of the Old Testament came into sharp relief: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law” (Gal. 4:4).

Our salvation is something God has been planning for a very long time—outside of time, to be exact: in the counsels of eternity, in a covenant that was made between the three persons of the Trinity, namely, the so-called covenant of redemption. Scripture speaks of the Lamb as “slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8). The second psalm seems to depict a pre-temporal account of the terms of the covenant established between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (Ps. 2:7–9)

From eternity, the Lord has loved His people. Christmas is the visible demonstration of it; Calvary, the cost of it; resurrection and ascension, the triumph and effectiveness of it. Little wonder, then, that creatures surrounding the Lamb’s throne in heaven exclaim, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)—a sevenfold blessing.

(From Ligonier Ministries and R. C. Sproul. © Tabletalk magazine. Website: www.ligonier.org/tabletalk. Email: tabletalk@ligonier.org. Toll free: 1-800-435-4343.)

Anniversaries

- 09 .. Jackie & Dennis Hillesland
- 12.. Mary Lou & Richard Turner
- 17 Jane & George Bowen
- 19 Peggy & Daniel McMillan
- 28Margaret & Scott Doss
- 31.....Maria & Roy Emerson

Choir Chords

Our Christmas Evensong will be Sunday evening, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. Last call for those interested in joining us to sing Christmas music with the Christ Church Choir and Orchestra. You are cordially invited. Rehearsals are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings from 9:30 until 11:00, October 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; however, after the concert, a love offering will be taken at the door.

The Augusta Youth Chorale will be presenting a Christmas Dessert Concert on Sunday afternoon, December 6, at 3:00 and 4:30 for \$8 per person. The concert will be a very worshipful and varied celebration. What a great way to raise funds for upcoming activities.

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).

“Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! Sing to the LORD; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good news that He saves. Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise!”
(Psalm 96:1-2, 4a).

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*



Student News

We will be running in the Missions 5K hosted by First Baptist Church of Augusta located at 3500 Walton Way Extension on Saturday, November 7th, at 8 a.m. Race entry is \$30, with the proceeds benefitting local missions. If you would like to join us, please notify Landon Gray as soon as possible (youth@christchurchpres.org or 423-605-9321).

Missionaries' Thanks

Mark, Susan and Rachel Walters want to thank everyone who made their trip to Taiwan possible this summer. Because of these four weeks at Christ's College in Taipei, they feel that the Lord has indeed called them to this ministry of working with students from all over the world. Since then they have been confirmed as missionaries to Taiwan by the Presbyterian Church of America's mission organization, Mission to The World. They are now involved with preparing to sell their home, various training requirements, Visa applications and fund raising with the goal of returning to Taiwan in May, 2016. Please pray for them that these activities along with health will be navigated successfully.



Trail Life Tracks



In September, we went back to McDuffie Public Fishing Area to participate in a fishing rodeo as part of National Hunting and Fishing Day. The boys caught a bunch of fish and there was plenty of family time afterward, cooking and eating their catch.

We've begun our annual fund-raising activities with our partnership with Wreaths Across America (www.wreathsacrossamerica.org). WAA mission is to “remember, honor and 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 in Columbia, SC, on December 12. You can sponsor a wreath by going online to <http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org> and use our troop identification: GA0069P-Trail Life Troop GA 2215.

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.

Missionary Prayer

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).

Paul and Laura Chinchen, *African Bible Colleges, Malawi, Uganda, and Liberia*

- Pray for their efforts to restore the African Bible College in Liberia after the Ebola outbreak.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, *Augusta, Georgia*

- Pray for the Good News Club at River Ridge Elementary.

The Pastor's Selection *(continued from page 1)* & Thanksgiving Worship

Brothers and sisters of Christ Church, Presbyterian, the Gospel – the good news of what God has done in Christ to give eternal hope to hopeless and helpless sinners – is both the shovel to uproot the weed of our reluctance toward gratitude and the seed planted in the heart that grows into a beautiful flower of thanksgiving. Gathering together in simple worship to offer publicly and joyfully our thanksgiving to God is a wonderful way to water this Gospel flower of thanksgiving. Join us this Thanksgiving Day, November 26, at 10:00 a.m. for a service of praise and thanksgiving lead by our Missioner Dr. John W. P. Oliver, who will be bringing the homily. An offering will be collected during the service toward the support of the Palmer Home for Children. Let us water this most beautiful flower of grace, that it might grow in our hearts and blossom in our lives for God's glory.

Foster Care Ministry

Care Communities

We have two teams ready to launch who will surround two local foster families with the practical, loving support they need to continue fostering well. If you are interested in volunteering on a Care Community team, contact information is provided below.

Parents' Night Out

We need volunteers to join us on Saturday, November 7, from 5:00–8:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall as we care for local foster children while their parents enjoy a Parents' Night Out! All are encouraged to volunteer (feel free to bring your children with you).

Sweetcases

Did you know that when children enter foster care, they are usually given a trash bag to hold their few (if any) belongings? We are partnering with area churches to provide duffle bags along with essential supplies for local foster children. Through November 13, donations for fifty duffle bags and contents can be made by visiting www.togetherwerise.org/fundraise/csra. We will have a stuffing and decorating party on Tuesday, November 24, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Come join the fun and see the smiles when we present our bags to our local DFCS office!

If you have any questions regarding these Foster Care Ministry activities, please contact Dessa Edwards (706-627-9430 or dessa.edwards@gmail.com).

Manila Missionaries



Chris and Cary Drinkard visited Christ Church in October reporting on their first 15 months in Manila, Philippines, where they oversee the Short Term International Teams (STINT), which are involved in evangelism and discipleship on two university campuses in Manila. Chris' primary responsibilities are to oversee and shepherd STINT teams in Southeast Asia and develop a sustainable and reproducible model for future teams. Please pray for the health and safety of the Drinkard family and the team, as well as wisdom in shepherding teams and developing the CO STINT model. Pray also for favor with the churches and campuses the team will be working with in Manila. Pray for the provision of

additional support needed and additional missionaries to serve with them in Manila and southeast Asia.



November is shoe box collection month! Stop by the display table in the foyer, take a brochure explaining how to pack a shoe box, and take as many empty shoe boxes as you can fill. As you do this, you will be sharing in this exciting project that not only delivers gifts but brings hope, joy and the message of the Gospel to boys and girls around the world.

Ralph's story illustrates the power of a simple gift. Nine year old Ralph lives with his parents and six siblings by a city dump in the Philippines. Most days he helps his parents pick through the garbage, looking for things they can sell. Ralph says, "But today is a special day. There are gifts waiting for us at the school. I can't wait to open mine. I hope I get some school supplies." Ralph did receive school supplies and other small gifts as well as a storybook presentation of the Gospel, *The Greatest Gift*. After reading *The Greatest Gift*, Ralph said, "Not only did I receive a gift, but I prayed to receive Christ as my Lord. Knowing God will always love me means everything to me. Thank you!"

We at Christ Church, Presbyterian have the wonderful privilege of being a part of Operation Christmas Child. Not only can we share a box filled with gifts, but we can share the true meaning of Christmas with children like Ralph whose life was changed forever after receiving a shoe box. Filled shoe boxes will be collected in the foyer on November 1, 8 and 15. If you would like to participate in the Shoe Box Project but are unable to shop, you may make a financial contribution using the envelopes available on the display table in the foyer. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans (706-738-8259).



Christ Church Press

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November

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	Election Day 3	4	5	6	7
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. BJU Chorale Concert 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies 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	6:00 p.m. Young Family/ Couples Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		8:00 a.m. Missions 5K 5:00 p.m. Foster Care: Parent's Night Out
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Session 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		9:30 a.m. Christmas Music Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Baby Shower: Catie Boyd and Jenny Jewett
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering <i>Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due Date</i>	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	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/ Couples Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		5:00 p.m. Trail Life Thanksgiving Dinner
22	23	24	25	Thanksgiving 26	27	28
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting		5:00 p.m. Foster Care: Sweetcases Party		10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Service 		
29	30					
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. Trail Life					