



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
- 17Jed 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 Magazine*

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

Merry Christmas!

*May your Christmas
be filled with the
Love, Joy and Peace
of the Savior.*

Children's Chatter

This year the children's classes will celebrate Jesus' birth with a Christmas party during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 13th, from 10:15 to 10:45 in the Children's building. Please make plans to join us for this wonderful time of joy as we honor our Savior. There will be refreshments, a story, delightful singing and a take home gift to help our children learn of the greatest gift of all – Jesus! All children from four years to sixth grade are invited to attend. The Preschool class (4-year-olds) will join us after their lesson in their regular classroom. We hope to see you there!



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child. The members of Christ Church, Presbyterian have had the wonderful privilege of packing 86 gift-filled shoe boxes to be delivered to boys and girls all around the world. A 14-year old girl in Paraguay wrote a note expressing how Operation Christmas Child has touched her life:

"I'm very grateful for the beautiful gifts that I received, but the most wonderful thing was to meet Jesus through the Bible lessons," she said. "Now I keep talking to others about Jesus, telling them how much God loves them. Some of my friends have already trusted Jesus as their Savior."

Please pray that the children who receive shoe boxes this year will not only enjoy the gifts inside but will learn the true meaning of Christmas and find joy and hope as they trust in Jesus.



Make plans to start the new year in the house of God with a special communion service lead by Dr. John W. P. Oliver during the morning worship on January 3, 2016.

Choir Chords

December brings with it several beautiful opportunities for celebrating Advent and Christmas! It is also a wonderful time to invite friends and family.

Sunday, December 6 at 4:15 p.m., The Augusta Youth Chorale will present a Christmas Dessert Concert and receive a love offering at the door (suggested \$8 per person). The concert will be a very worshipful and varied celebration. Then afterward, one can enjoy superb desserts. The offering is to help defray expenses and raise funds for upcoming AYC activities.

Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m., Vonda Darr, Harpist, will be our guest in worship. We also will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m., we have Evensong: A Festival of Christmas involving our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, The Augusta Youth Chorale and Orchestra.

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship involving an instrumental ensemble.

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).

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor, David, for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD will make this happen!" (Isaiah 9:7-8).

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

Poinsettias

Orders for Poinsettias being placed in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one during Christmas are being taken. If you would like to participate, the order forms are available in the weekly bulletin. Please place your order form and payment in the offering plate by December 6. Each plant is \$20.

Christmas Decorating

Everyone is welcomed to join us on Thursday, December 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. to decorate our church for the Christmas season. Contact Martha Folley at 706-733-8985 or mnfolley@gmail.com for more information.



Trail Life Tracks

TrailLife USA Troop GA-2215 has been busy the last few weeks. At the end of October, we went on an overnight campout at Aiken State Park. Everyone enjoyed the evening campfire, Bob Brinkmann talked to the boys about a deer scrape and rub we had found. Then we took a three-mile hike through the park before heading home. And no rain.

In November, our focus was on the two holidays in the month: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. The boys heard about the armor of God from Landon Gray, our Troop Chaplain, and about being a soldier from Capt. Daniel Novak, who just returned from a year in Kuwait. The boys have been working on thank-you cards that will be sent to Dan's company who are still in the field.

TrailLife USA is a national partner with Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. The boys in the troop learned about how their shoeboxes will impact boys and girls around the world with the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

On November 20th, we celebrated a First Thanksgiving Feast, with dishes made using the same recipes the Pilgrims would have used in 1621.

Our December activities will focus on Christmas. The troop will be donating and decorating a Christmas tree for the Children's Ministry classroom. On December 12th, we'll be going to Ft. Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, SC, to participate in the national wreath laying ceremonies.

Our troop meets every Monday night at 7:00 in Covenant Hall. If you know of a boy who would like to join, have his parents contact Troopmaster John Norkus (706-373-2173, thenorkusfamily@comcast.net). As always, if you are interested in helping out the troop, please give us a call or stop in on Monday night.



Missions Movement

During the Advent season while we enjoy numerous celebrations and festivities with family and friends, many of our missionaries labor in foreign lands away from family and friends to spread the glorious Gospel we celebrate at Christmas. That is why each December at Christ Church, Presbyterian we send a special gift to our missionaries, as an encouragement and an expression of thanksgiving for their sacrificial service. We invite you to join us this year for our Christmas Missionary Love-Gift Dinner on December 5 to enjoy a wonderful dinner (catered by The Brown Bag), fellowship and singing of favorite Christmas Carols, as well as to collect contributions for our missionaries' love gift. Please come prepared with your gift, or you may place your donation in the offering plate until December 13, indicating on your check Missionary Love-Gift. RSVP today online at christchurchpres.org.

On Sunday, December 6, during the Sunday school hour, we will enjoy a presentation by field missionaries Eliseo and Paula Guadagno, with Operation Mobilization. Everyone in grade six to adult will meet in Covenant Hall to hear how God has and is working through the Guadagnos.

SAVE THE DATE! The third annual Christ Church Bible and Missions Conference is scheduled for February 19-21, 2016. Our Bible speaker is Dr. Steve Lawson, one of the leading proponents and practitioners of expository preaching in our day. After serving in the pastorate for 34 years, Dr. Lawson now serves as president and founder of OnePassion Ministries, a ministry designed to equip biblical expositors to bring about a new reformation in the church. He hosts The Institute for Expository Preaching in cities around the world, is a Teaching Fellow for Ligonier Ministries (the ministry of R.C. Sproul), where he serves on its board. Moreover, he is Professor of Preaching and oversees the Doctor of Ministry program at The Master's Seminary, where he also serves on its board. Further, Dr. Lawson serves as the Executive Editor for Expositor Magazine published by OnePassion Ministries and is the author of some twenty books and numerous articles. Above all, he has a passion for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through local and global missions. Thus, we are honored and delighted to have him as the speaker for our 2016 Bible and Missions Conference and invite you to make plans to join us!

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).

Cheryl Crocker, Mission to the World (PCA)

- Pray for God to send new recruits with a heart to work in the medical field to provide physical and spiritual healing.

Karl and Debbie Dortzbach, Mission to the World (PCA), Kenya

- Pray for Karl's work to develop curriculum for refugee parents teaching how the gospel brings healing in the home.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age," Matthew 28:19-20.

Christ Church Press

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December

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
		Election Day 1	2	3	4	5
		10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:00 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	10:00 a.m. Church Christmas Decorating 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		5:00 p.m. Christmas Missionary Love-Gift Dinner
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 a.m. Guest Missionaries 4:15 p.m. AYC Dessert Concert 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	6:00 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	10:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study		9:30 a.m. Christmas Music Rehearsal <i>Trail Life Mission Trip: Wreath Laying Ceremony at Fort Jackson</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Party 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study	6:00 p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m. Evensong 7:30 p.m. Student Christmas Party				5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	
27	28	29	30	31		
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting						