



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Presbyterian
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Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2016

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 02Carter Boyd
- 05 Sarah Moore
- 08Amy Bailey
Maggie Lammie
- 10..... Jacqueline McGraw
- 11..... Gary Cowart
Seth Doss
- 12.....Flavia Gutierrez
- 15 Jim Avery
Joey Johnson
Linda Pentecost
- 16.....Brian Marter
- 17..... Maddie Bailey
- 21..... George Bowen
- 25 Chris Nabholz
Julianne Norkus
- 28Helen Caldwell
Maria Emerson
Jenny Jewett
Cayden Jones
- 29Baylee Avery
Kathryn Noblett

You Just Need to Obey

— Steven J. Lawson, *Table Talk*

Can you imagine a Christian couple actually praying about living together before marriage? Can you fathom a young woman who professes Christ even bothering to pray about whether she should marry an unbeliever? Can you grasp a Christian businessman having to pray about whether he should tell the truth in a transaction? When the Word of God is so clear, praying to discern God's will becomes a convenient excuse – or even a prolonged filibuster – to avoid doing what Scripture commands.

Many who profess Christ today emphasize a wrong view of grace that makes it a free pass to do whatever they please. Tragically, they have convinced themselves that the Christian life can be lived without any binding obligation to the moral law of God. In this hyper-grace distortion, the need for obedience has been neutered. The commandments of God are no longer in the driver's seat of Christian living, but have been relegated to the backseat, if not the trunk – like a spare tire – to be used only in case of an emergency. With such a spirit of antinomianism, what needs to be reinforced again is the necessity of obedience.

For all the true followers of Christ, obedience is never peripheral. At the heart of what it means to be a disciple of our Lord is living in loving devotion to God. But if such love is real, the acid test is obedience. Jesus maintained, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Genuine love for Christ will always manifest itself in obedience.

This does not mean that a Christian can ascend to sinless perfection. This will never be realized this side of glory. Neither does it imply that a believer will never disobey God again. Isolated acts of disobedience will still occur. But the new birth does give a new heart that desires to obey the Word. In regeneration, God says:

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezek. 36:26–27).

In this heart transplant, God causes the believer to pursue Spirit-energized obedience. The Apostle John agrees when he writes, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:3). In the new birth, the elect are granted saving faith, and they immediately begin to walk in "the obedience of faith" (Rom. 1:5). There is no time lapse between the time of conversion and when one begins to obey Christ. The exercise of saving faith is the first step of a life of obedience. When Jesus preached, "Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14–15), this was issued as an urgent imperative. The gospel is more than an offer to be considered – it is a word from God to be obeyed. John writes, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever

Anniversaries

- 09 Nikki & Greg McGraw
- 11..... Debra & Billy Hatcher
- 14..... Laci & Whit Foster
- 20 Diane & John Dunsmore
- 24.....Andrea & Landon Gray
Kirsten & Stan Pylant
- 26 Laura & Charles Caruso

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The Pastor's Selection *(continued)*

does not obey the Son shall not see life" (John 3:36). In this verse, believing in Christ and obeying Him are used synonymously. Simply put, true faith is obedient faith. Our obedience of faith is not the grounds upon which God declares us righteous, but it reveals our faith to be genuine.

At the moment of conversion, we transfer our allegiance from our old master, sin, to a new Master, Jesus Christ. Paul explains, "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16). Here, the Apostle quotes a general axiom in life, namely, that slaves live in obedience to their ruling master. In conversion, there is an exchange of masters, a relinquishing of our old bondage to sin for a new loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul further stresses this truth: "You who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, became slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18). Everyone is a slave, either of sin or of righteousness. Before conversion, we were slaves of sin and lived in obedience to sin. But in conversion, we became slaves of Christ and live in obedience to Him.

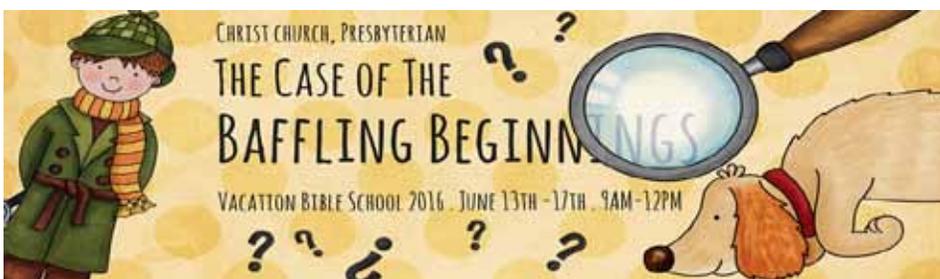
Throughout one's Christian life, John claims that genuine believers will continue to "Keep his commandments." "Keep" is in the present tense, indicating an ongoing obedience throughout the entirety of a believer's life. Here is the perseverance of the saints. All who are born again will pursue obedience to the end. "Commandments" is plural, indicating obedience to the full spectrum of the divine requirements. Following Christ does not allow for selective obedience. Rather, we must obey all the commandments of God, not merely the convenient ones.

When John says believers "keep" the commandments, this pictures a guard or watchman watching over a priceless treasure. In like manner, the one who knows God will keep a sharp watch over all that His Word requires. "And his commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3), but they are a blessing (Ps. 1:1). Every step of heart-prompted obedience leads to experiencing abundant life in Christ. Conversely, every step of disobedience takes us away from the joy of divine goodness.

Far from being optional, grace-fueled obedience is absolutely necessary for Christlikeness. Is there any need to pray about whether or not to obey God's Word? You just need to obey.

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



VBS Registration has begun! Pick up your registration card at the Welcome Table or visit christchurchpres.org to sign up online.

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ,"
1 Timothy 2:5.

Ministry through Music

In early April, I was indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with the CenturyMen (thecenturymen.com) to Cuba. I am grateful to Christ Church for the time away to participate. We presented sacred concerts around the country while also leading worship and music workshops in local Christian churches. It is incredible how the Cuban people have so very little in the way of resources for their lives and work. As many CenturyMen did, I also left a suitcase with most of my clothes with the Cuban people. I am continuing to plan to send strings and some equipment for stringed instruments to Cuba. If you would like to help me with this project, please contact me (706-306-3014 or music@christchurchpres.org).

I also need to share with you a recent note from our organist, Mark Dickens, "I have some bittersweet news to share: Aldersgate Methodist Church has offered me their open organist position and I've decided to accept. I would be happy to work until May 15th." Please know that we are currently seeking someone to fill our position as organist and would appreciate your prayers.

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*



Walk For Life

The Augusta Care Pregnancy Center's annual Walk-For-Life will be held Saturday, May 7, at the 9th Street Plaza River Walk. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the walk at 9:30. If you would like to participate in this great mission, please contact Linda Jones for more information at 706-231-3758 or via email to warrenjones0101@comcast.net.

Behold, children are a heritage
from the LORD, the fruit of the
womb a reward.

Psalm 127:3

Grounded Foster Family Ministry

Hello Christ Church family! Slowly but steadily, our ministry is growing! Our first active Care Community, placed around a local DFCS foster family, is switching homes unexpectedly, but the change is going smoothly and the new family is eagerly looking forward to the fabulous help and love they will be receiving. On the home front, Josiah and Jenn Jones are officially licensed as foster parents and received their first darling baby over Master's week. She is settling in and doing well, but please continue to pray for their family as they adjust, and for their Care Community as they find their rhythm in serving the Jones family. Also, John and Dessa Edwards are in the final stages of having their home approved, and Charles and Cathie McClure are moving forward with their approval process to become foster parents, as well. So of course, **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!!!** We would love to place a full Care Community around each of these families to provide the extra practical and prayerful support their families will need to foster well. Volunteers are needed for bringing meals once a month, occasional baby-sitting, and team leaders to coordinate everyone. Training and background checks are provided free of charge. Please contact Dessa Edwards for more information (706-627-9430 or dessa.edwards@gmail.com) and watch the bulletin for announcements regarding events and other needs. We are grateful that our sweet church is embracing this ministry and opportunity to serve both our members and our community!

Teen Missionaries Fulfilling God's Call

Virginia Lammie and Randy Self are two teens spending this summer going overseas to do mission work with Teen Missions International (TMI). So what is TMI exactly? It is an organization founded in 1970 – 46 years ago – specifically designed for interested teens to become actively involved in missionary work both in the United States and around the world during the summer. Most of the trips are for 8-10 weeks, including the initial two weeks at “Boot Camp” at Merritt Island, Florida, where each team member learns with their teammates the skills needed to complete the summer tasks – construction, language acquisition, puppet/song/mime/play presentations of the Gospel, as well as learning to share the Gospel. Each teen also learns personal devotion skills, discipline and team work. TMI has grown to involve six continents, 23 countries this summer, and 32 different Boot Camps for training teens from other countries to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is the same organization that Grant Kimbrell, Will Nabholz, John Self and Grace Cornelison worked with for their summer missions experiences.



Hi, I am **Virginia Lammie**. I am 13 years old, and I am going to Poland on a Teen Missions trip. In Poland, I will be teaching the children English. I will share my faith through puppets and plays. Then, we will travel to Jawor to dismantle a roof for later use. I chose to go to Poland because I liked the variety of things, and I work well with people and enjoy it at the same time. While I am in Poland, I ask you to pray for my safety. We will travel a long way, and we will be exhausted. Please pray that I will make friends, and that I will learn what God wants me to learn. Pray, as well, that I will be a light to those who do not know Him. Thank you.



Randy Self is a 17 year old high school senior. He has enjoyed helping with VBS and in the church nursery for the last few years. Trinidad will be his second mission trip (the first being to West Virginia).

“I first thought of going on a missions trip a couple of weeks before the mission's conference we had at the church. I wanted to help people who had lost something or did not have anything by giving them something that is more precious than silver or gold. That is to share the good news of Christ with them. After the mission's conference, I became even more determined to do so. I started to talk to other people about it, especially my mom. She helped me to get registered for Teen Missions International. I did not know which mission trip I should go on at first. I finally decided that the Lord was steering me towards Trinidad. I look forward to directly helping the church and the community, and also being able to witness because they speak English. Trinidad is a country that has a rising amount of drug distribution and gang activity. Building a security wall around the church will help ensure that no gangs will vandalize or destroy the church. The VBS that we will be running will target the kids who are exposed to gangs. I look forward to making as big of a difference as possible this summer.”

Christ Church Press

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Address Service Requested



May

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	2 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	3 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	4 Midweek Schedule: 5:45 p.m. Dinner Begins 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering	5 6:00 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	7 9:00 a.m. CPC Walk-for-Life
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study	6:45 p.m. Choir Prayer	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
15	16	17	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	7:00 p.m. Midweek Prayer	6:00 p.m. Young Family Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
22	23	24	8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	25	26	27
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Daytime Bible Study		6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
29	30	31				
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life					