



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 6

June 2016

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 01..... Grant Kimbrell
- 03Brooke Marter
- 07.....MacKenzie McDaniel
- 11..... Loulie Driggers
- 13.....Diane Dunsmore
Joanna Miller
Don Townsend
- 20Julie Dey
- 21..... Ruth Ann Fliermans
- 22Nichols Parish
- 24..... Barbara Bowen
Debra Hatcher
- 26 Barry Smith
- 27.....Linda Jones
Brent Steed

When in Doubt, Don't Quit

—David Mathis, *Desiring God*

It may be harder to be happy in life and ministry than it's ever been.

From our earliest days, we have lived in an echo chamber, to varying degrees, of the voices of self-actualization. You can do whatever you set your mind to. Pursue your dreams. Find your passion — and make it profitable.

The voices speak in every sector of society, in casual conversation, in books and articles, on screens big and small, and sadly even in some quarters of the church. Work-life, and even ministry initiatives, become about peeling the onion of your heart to locate your passion, and then foist it on the world. The voices aren't new to the Millennial generation, but the volume did perhaps come to fever pitch in the mouths of our Boomer parents and teachers.

Such quiet and all-pervasive expectations destine us to be discontent in the work and ministry we already have, as we dream idealistically about the role we want.

Called to Meet Needs

The very nature of the Christian gospel, however, would have us orient on work-life and ministry in strikingly different terms.

Rather than first putting a finger on our own passions, often discerned in isolation, and then foisting it onto the world, we learn to find our vocational satisfaction in meeting the real-life needs of others. Ministry is not about self-actualization, but self-sacrifice in the service of others. The joy of ministry comes in helping others precisely where they need it, not in convincing them to buy what we personally find most satisfying to sell.

Which means a particular ministry, whatever it is — whether in the home or at the marketplace or on the college campus or in the church — is not achieved, but received. It is not from you, but from God. We don't produce the circumstances in which our labors are needed, but in God's good providence, He gives us His circumstances. Our calling is to see needs and meet them, and find satisfaction in fulfilling that God-given calling.

The backward assumptions of modern society have made us into what likely is the flightiest generation in the history of the world. In the midst of this confusion, the apostle Paul's enigmatic charge to a first-century Colossian has surprising relevance.

Say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord" (Colossians 4:17).

(continued on page 3)

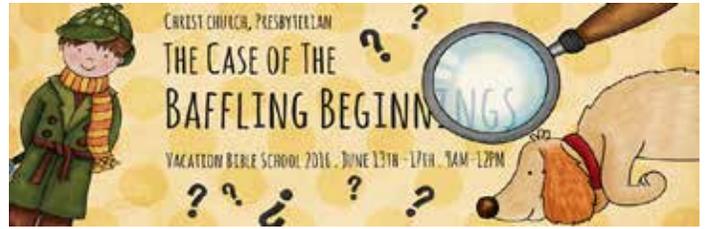
Anniversaries

- 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
- 24..... Susan & Mark Crenshaw
- 25 Cherry McPherson &
Joseph Wittemann

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

Get Ready! Get Set! It's almost time to go!

What: Vacation Bible School
When: June 13 – 17, 9 a.m. until noon daily
Where: Christ Church Presbyterian
Who: Children 4 years-old through 5th grade
Why: To learn about our Creator God and what He has done for us. To sing praises to our God and King.
To have lots of fun making things, playing games and discovering new things about Jesus.



Registration is now and cards are on the Welcome Table in the foyer or you may visit www.christchurchpres.org and sign up online.

Basketball Tournament



On Wednesday, June 8th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will be hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at our church. Our goal is to provide a time of fellowship for our members and to also use this as a time of outreach in our community. The tournament is open to everyone 13 years-old to adult of any age. You may either register as a team of three, or as a free agent; to which you will then be placed on an existing team. Put your church and/or community-membered team together today! We need plenty of teams to ensure that Pastor Josiah does not run away with the championship.

For those under the age limit, or those who just don't play basketball, come on out for a wonderful time of fellowship and fun in the Lord. There will be food, music and games for all ages. Please register to play in the tournament or RSVP for the event before June 5 by either emailing youth@christchurchpres.org, by calling 423-605-9321, or by communicating with Landon Gray in person.

Fellowship Luncheon



Sunday, June 5
12:30 p.m. after morning worship



Sunday, June 19, at 11:00 a.m.
During morning worship



Save the Date!

November 4-6 at the Lundy Creek Lodge in White Plains, GA.

Ministry through Music

Let's all welcome Laura Evans Doss to the organ bench as she begins her ministry as Organist. Because she is no stranger to Christ Church, many of you already know Laura to be a gifted, educated and experienced organist who loves the church and her worship. She is a wonderful addition to the music team. Her husband, Adam, just began a general dental practice in the Augusta area at Sparkle Family Dentistry. So we welcome the whole Doss family.

On Sunday, June 5, at our noon luncheon, I have been asked to share of my experiences during the recent CenturyMen tour to Cuba. What are your thoughts of Cuba, the people of Cuba, as well as of the Christian Church there? One tends not to know much about Cuba and it all seems rather mysterious as they are shrouded in their isolation. We were quite surprised. We found the Cuban people, especially the Christians, very resourceful and gracious. I look forward to sharing of our tour which was moving and very meaningful.

Two upcoming music ministry celebrations to mark your summer calendars: the Augusta Youth Chorale is traveling to New Orleans in mid-June with their Home Concert on Thursday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us in praying for our tour; for safety and that the gracious Spirit of our Lord would move through our offerings of music and Scripture. And on Monday, August 1, we will be hosting The King's Brass! I will share more later.

"The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth.... Those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:28b, 31).

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*



The Pastor's Selection *(continued)*

Ministry Meets Real Needs

Much ink has been spilled speculating what “ministry” it is Paul is referring to, but the surest thing we can say is that we don’t know. “All that we can conclude is that Archippus had been given a particular task related to his ministry, but what that task was – preaching? teaching young converts? – we simply cannot know” (Doug Moo, Colossians, 352). And there is a certain beauty to that. In this inspired epistle, God means for this straightforward charge to land not only on Archippus, but on all of us who have felt the temptation to abandon some difficult ministry before it was time.

It is important to observe that, whatever the ministry is, it was “received” – “fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” The risen Christ Himself, through providence and the confirmation of His people (whether Paul himself or simply the Colossian church), and through nurturing a corresponding aspiration in Archippus’s heart, gave this ministry. It didn’t originate with Archippus, but outside of him, in the needs of others and the grace of God.

Ministry Encounters Real Obstacles

What the charge to “fulfill the ministry” implies, then, is that Archippus has encountered some obstacle (or obstacles). Again, what these barriers are we don’t know – and it is perhaps better that we don’t, so that we draw the line to ourselves. When Christ gives us a particular ministry to fulfill, he emphatically does not promise that it will come easy. In fact, it is often precisely the opposite. You might even say that one way, among others, to confirm the genuineness of some specific calling is that genuine obstacles emerge.

Any ministry truly received from the nail-scarred hands of Christ will have its ups and downs. Every work in Him worth doing in a fallen and sin-sick world, where the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, will encounter difficulties. Anything really worth doing will meet real frustration and friction.

See That You Fulfill Your Call

With resistance like this, though, Paul doesn’t encourage Archippus to seek out greener pastures, to actualize his ministry self in something easier and more “life-giving.” Yes, a time may come to transition, when his particular ministry expression has been completed, when a new specific calling has been plainly revealed. But Archippus is not there yet. For now, he needs encouragement not to find something else, but to stick it out when it’s tough. The breakthrough will come not in retreat, but in enduring under trial. It may even be that the increased obstacles and barriers signal that the breakthrough is near at hand.

Which is a charge we all need in whatever ministry we have received. Whatever specific role, big or small, we have from the risen Christ, for the meeting of genuine needs for the advance of his kingdom, will encounter obstacles, and the day will come when we need to hear the clear apostolic charge to stick with it. Stay with something for the long haul, leaning on Christ, rather than fly the coup when it gets tough.

It doesn’t mean that we never transition, never take furlough, never make a career change or midcourse correction, never find ourselves in a new season of life. But it does mean that as we ponder transition, we ask ourselves, and those who know us best, “Is my work here really done?” Have I fulfilled Christ’s specific calling on me in this context? The whole work of the team or organization may not be done, but has God made it clear that my part – the ministry I received from Him – has been truly fulfilled?

You might say, when in doubt, don’t quit. Buck the trend in our flighty society, and stay with it, for the long haul, in the strength God supplies (1 Peter 4:11). After all, ministry isn’t about self-actualization, but self-sacrifice – about finding joy in being poured out for the actual needs of others.

A Missionary's Heart-Felt Appreciation

Dear Ladies of Christ Church,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your very generous gift of a washer and dryer for our future home at Christ’s College in Taipei, Taiwan. Now, I can keep Rachel in the “style” she has become accustomed to. As women, you understand these appliances are essential and I was delighted to receive them.

When Dessa presented me with her artistic cardboard box, I was absolutely stunned and thrilled. Never in my wildest imagination did I expect what you were up to. I was so surprised and touched by your thoughtfulness. I will always remember that day.

Ladies, I am going to miss you! Thank goodness we can stay connected through Facebook and email. I truly appreciate the appliances, but I especially appreciate your love and support.

With affection, Susan Walters

Christ Church Press

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Address Service Requested



June

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	2	3	4
					6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	5:15 p.m. AYC Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:30 p.m. Basketball Tournament		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	<i>AYC Mission Choir Tour</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting <i>AYC Mission Choir Tour</i>	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting <i>AYC Mission Choir Tour</i>	<i>AYC Mission Choir Tour</i>	<i>AYC Mission Choir Tour</i> No Midweek Gathering	7:00 p.m. AYC Home Concert	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
	VBS: 9:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday. Closing Program Friday at noon with picnic lunch.					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting					6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
26	27	28	29	30		
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting						

Midweek (Wednesday's) Schedule: 5:45 p.m. Dinner Begins ; 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering ; 6:45 p.m. Choir Prayer; 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal; 7:00 p.m. Midweek Prayer; 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble