



# CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 7

July 2016

## The Pastor's Selection

### Birthdays

- 03 .....Mara Ramon-Gutierrez
- 05 ..... Sandra Brown
- 06 .....Linda Fleming  
Betty Gene Lovingood
- 10.....John Self  
Tracy Steed
- 11.....Joe Dey
- 12.....Jenny Townsend
- 13..... Kelly Caruso
- 14..... Elizabeth Seward
- 15 .....Billy Hatcher
- 18.....Margaret Fields
- 21 ..... Warren Jones  
Dale McPherson
- 23 ..... Sheryl Alba
- 30 .....John Dunsmore

### Anniversaries

- 05 .....Sheila & Lee Self
- 09 ..... Sarah & Brian Moore
- 11.....Joanna & Tony Miller
- 16..... Helen & Wade Caldwell
- 21.....Natalie & Ora Parish
- 25 ..... Ilona & McDonald Law
- 26 ..... Tracy & Brent Steed

### Independence Day Celebration

July 3<sup>rd</sup> after evening worship

- ♦ Finger Food & Ice Cream
- ♦ Patriotic Music
- ♦ Fun Inflatables Activities

RSVP Today

[www.christchurchpres.org](http://www.christchurchpres.org)

### Why Are So Many Christians Bored with the Bible?

—Marshall Segal, *Desiring God*

Unfortunately, many Christians love the idea of the Bible, but not really the Bible itself. We love having a Bible close by, even within reach, but don't make time to open it on an average day. We talk about Bible reading like we talk about cutting calories or cleaning our house. We're grateful for the results, but we don't wake up dying to do it again. It sounds like a fine thing to do, until we have to choose what we won't do in order to make time for it.

If that's you, you probably also know a Christian who loves reading their Bible. They can't get enough of it. As far as you know, they would just as likely go a whole day without food as without the Bible. Their happy discipline convicts and, if you're honest, sometimes even annoys you. Who is it in your life who is most likely to pray like this?

*"I enjoy reading the Bible more than the wealthy enjoy all their houses, cars, technology, and vacations. God, your word will be my first priority and focus each day. I will read and read the Bible, until I cannot forget it. Give me more grace, O God, and enable me to obey what I've read. Help me see more today than I've already seen before, even in these same pages. I only wish I had more time to read more of my Bible."*

Does that sound like you? Or more likely someone you know? Do you feel at home in a love like that? Or have you delegated that kind of personality and affection to other "more spiritual" people?

### God, Open Our Eyes and Hearts

The prayer above is a paraphrase of a prayer in Psalm 119:14-20:

In the way of Your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts and fix my eyes on Your ways. I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not Your commandments from me! My soul is consumed with longing for Your rules at all times.

Reading a prayer like that usually levels me. The psalm's passionate love for God's word can make me uncomfortable. The love seems so real, so right, so beautiful – and so foreign, at least some days. Why do I wake up worried about what's on Twitter, instead of wanting to open the Bible? Why am I more excited to read the best new book on whatever, rather than the only book with the very words of God? Why am I still likely to find my identity and worth in what I have or what I've done, instead of what God says about me? Why am I bored reading the Bible while the psalmist is having the time of his life?

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## Ministry through Music

The **Augusta Youth Chorale's** seventh season has come to a close. Traveling to New Orleans in mid-June was marvelous with their singing at three churches, five retirement communities, a juvenile detention center and at a downtown mission. Their concluding Home Concert on June 16 was exciting. Auditions for their eighth season will be held during August and rehearsals begin in September. Know someone that



might enjoy new friends in a choral setting with wonderful opportunities to share their gifts with others? Have them check our website for information; [www.augustayouthchorale.org](http://www.augustayouthchorale.org) or contact Stan Pylant at [music@christchurchpres.org](mailto:music@christchurchpres.org).

**Children's Choir** will take its summer break during the month of July according to their Director, Kay Lovingood. During that time, the children will remain in the evening service. We will resume rehearsals on Sunday, August 7.

An upcoming music ministry celebration you will not want to miss is the **King's Brass, Monday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m.** in our Sanctuary. This will be a great time to invite your friends and neighbors. We will be housing the nine members. If you can help with housing, please give us a call in the church office at 706-210-9090.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV).

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

## Student Stuff

Mark your calendars for several events this summer! Whether it's the girls night on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., the Green-jackets game on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. or our church-wide kickball tournament on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m., each event will surely be a good time of fellowship and growing together in Christ.

We are also planning various service events throughout the summer with the Child Advocacy Center in Augusta. The dates for our service have not been determined as of yet, so please keep an eye out for when those become available.

In addition, our youth group will be taking an overnight camping and rafting trip to Tennessee on August 2-3. If you would like to be a part of this exciting experience, please RSVP with Landon Gray at 423-605-9321 or with an email to [youth@christchurchpres.org](mailto:youth@christchurchpres.org) by July 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost for each student is \$25, and this fee can be placed in the offering plate marked with your name and "rafting" by Sunday, July 24, or mailed to the church office. A detailed itinerary will be made available in the next few weeks once numbers have been determined.

## Kickball Tournament



Due to the positive turnout from our basketball night in June, we will be hosting a church-wide kickball tournament on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, here at Christ Church. There will once again be food, music and prizes for the winning team. The format of this tournament will be 5 vs. 5, ages 12 and up, with each team consisting of at least one female participant. You can sign up either as a team of five or as a free agent. Please RSVP for this event by July 17 with a phone call to Landon Gray at 423-605-9321 or an email to [youth@christchurchpres.org](mailto:youth@christchurchpres.org).

### ***Our Basketball Winners and Highlights***

*Champs: Chris Nabholz, Tim Nabholz and Ross McDaniel*



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

Another successful VBS this year! It was a great week June 13-17 as our church was running over with children's laughter, lots of 4-square and games during recreation, the incredible crafts and lively Christ-centered music. Many children came and discovered that we have a God who created us, loves us even though we are not perfect and sent His Son so we may have a relationship with Him. Wonderful skits each morning revealed these truths to the children through the game of golf. The curriculum used was written by the same One Story Ministries that provides our kindergarten through twelfth grade Sunday School curriculum.

Promotion Sunday is coming up, so please prayerfully consider making this year one of consistent attendance in order for all our children and youth to benefit from this great curriculum.

VBS  
Moments



## The Pastor's Selection

*(continued from page 1)*

He says, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes" (Psalm 119:71). The author praises God for pain, because he believes the pain helped him understand God and His word better. Have you ever been able to draw a line like that, between your suffering and your Bible reading? He goes on, "The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces" (Psalm 119:72). What if you had to pay five dollars every time you read your Bible? What would your Bible budget be this month?

### Why Are We Bored?

A lot of us want to relegate love like this to others. Some people love the Bible, and some people love people. Or, some people like to read, and some people like to serve. But the Bible, like the gospel, can't be relegated only to a few. Bible reading isn't a spiritual gift like Bible teaching, or biblical counseling, or speaking in tongues. Bible reading and loving is a gift (and calling) for all believers.

Psalm 119 does not model extraordinary Christianity. It's showing us how people truly in love with God receive actual words from God. They realize the awesome gift they've received in this book. When they open their Bibles, or hear the Bible read or preached, they can feel as though God himself were walking down from heaven to speak to them.

I admit I have a hard time remembering and feeling that some mornings. Why are so many Christians bored with the Bible? Because we've forgotten what the Bible is.

John Piper reminds us, again, narrating his personal Bible reading with wonder,

*Think of it. Marvel at this. Stand in awe of this. The God who keeps watch over the nations, like some people keep watch over cattle or stock markets or construction sites – this God still speaks in the twenty-first century. . . . By this voice, He speaks with absolute truth and personal force. By this voice, He reveals His all-surpassing beauty. By this voice, He reveals the deepest secrets of our hearts. No voice anywhere anytime can reach as deep or lift as high or carry as far as the voice of God that we hear in the Bible.*

Absolute truth. Personal power and relevance. All-surpassing beauty. All-knowing love and wisdom. All from the mind and mouth of God. All in the pages of a book we can hold in one hand.

# Christ Church Press

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## July

**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
					6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
3	Independence Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Independence Day Celebration		6:30 p.m. Session Prayer & Meeting 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting 7:00 p.m. Student Girls Night Out	6:15 p.m. Brass Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7				6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer 7:00 p.m. Students: Augusta Green Jackets	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering				6:30 p.m. Church-wide Kickball Tournament	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting			6:15 p.m. Brass Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
31						
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering						