



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 11, Issue 9

September 2016

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 02 Jackson Barinowski
- 06 Charlotte Boyd
Will Boyd
Grey Steed
- 08 Mark Goodell
Mary Elizabeth Goodell
Martha Seward
- 09 Gloria Gill
William Jewett
Cathy Moody
- 10 Brandt Caldwell
Eliza Caldwell
- 18 Faye Robeson
- 20 Janet Ladun
- 21 Gilbert Dylhoff
- 22 Roy Emerson
Sam Myers
- 23 Cherry McPherson
- 24 Lex Bailey
- 28 Monica Boyd
Dessa Edwards
- 29 Trina Davis

Supernatural Friendship

—Ryan Townsend, *Tabletalk Magazine*

One of my favorite songs in high school was U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For." It captured my youthful angst and dissatisfaction in this world and its friendships. Now, I had a great childhood, and I've always been a happy extrovert. But I wasn't raised in a Christian home, and never experienced the full joy of Christian fellowship until I found Jesus—in a local, evangelical church on Capitol Hill, when I was twenty-three years old. God used friendships in this church to bring me to Christ (Matt. 5:16). Then, the Lord used (and is using) these relationships to help me grow in Christ (Col. 1:28). This has been the greatest existential joy I've experienced here on earth (Ps. 34:8). It makes my heart long for heaven, where we will have unending, joy-filled fellowship with God and all believers (Rev. 21:3). So, friendship is deeply important for the Christian life and ministry. And the church is foundational in all this. Here are three reasons why.

BLOOD-BOUGHT FELLOWSHIP

The Apostle John tells us, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:7). This verse captures the relationship between the gospel, the church, and friendship. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sins, and we have genuine, joy-filled fellowship with God and with one another—if we walk in the light, that is; if we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus. This means that the church is a blood-bought community that grounds us in real relationship—with our Creator and with one another. It gives us real friendships that are unlike any other.

Biblical friendship, then, is a committed love that unites us in fellowship and allows us to finish the race and fight for faith together, through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). And a local church is the gospel setting in which these friendships take place and allow God's love to reverberate into the world. The church is the community where we serve King Jesus and learn to walk in a manner worthy of Christ—together, with friends. This community thereby allows us to encourage and exhort one another in the faith through the friendships it creates.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXHORTATION

During high school, I visited England. We were driving one afternoon in the country, and I remember seeing a flock of sheep for the first time in my life, stumbling down the road right in front of us. I had never seen sheep so closely before. I thought sheep were white, but they're not. Up close, they're dirty—and messy and stupid. Some were falling into the ditch by the roadside; some were going the wrong way and biting at each other. But after ten minutes or so, with the help of the shepherds and the sheepdogs, they all made it home safely to the sheepfold.

(continued on page 2)

Anniversaries

- 04 Rita & Leon White
- 06 Anne & Mike Bowen
- 10 Lanier & Mark Goodell
- 11 Linda & Warren Jones
- 23 Lena & Glynn Dyer

In the same way, stronger and weaker Christians need one another—for love, discipleship, and encouragement. You see, we're often like those sheep. We snap at one another and are easily swayed off the path. We fall into ditches and go the wrong way, but, by God's grace, by being together in a flock, we can make it down the road.

This means we're better stuck in the middle of the flock, even if it inconveniences our lives now. Why? If you know your own heart well, you know that it is actually more dangerous to be alone or on the edge of the flock because we're prone to wander. Older men and women in the faith are commanded by Paul to disciple and encourage younger Christians (Titus 2). Younger Christians are also called to care for and love older Christians. That means that in the church, there is no such thing as an individualistic Christian. God has bound us together as one body in Christ and commanded us to care for one another (Heb. 10:24-25).

By joining a local church, stronger and weaker Christians make their love for Christ definite by loving others in a committed fashion. These friendships become the instrument that enables us to:

- love one another deeply and sacrificially (Rom. 12:13-16);
- assemble regularly with one another (Heb. 10:25);
- encourage one another (Heb. 13:17).

Encouragement is a powerful antidote to unbelief. And friendships are a great gift of God that bring us together in covenant love. By God's grace, they enable us to carry out the countless "one another" commands and make disciples who image His holy, pure, unified, and loving wisdom (Eph. 3:10). This brings us to the third reason why friendships are important to the Christian life.

A DISPLAY OF GOD'S GLORY

When Christians covenant together in genuine fellowship, these friendships image God well and put His character on display as the gospel unites people across great barriers amid great diversity.

In his book *Love in Hard Places*, D. A. Carson tell us:

Ideally . . . the church itself is not made up of natural "friends." It is made up on natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common ancestry, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort In this light, they are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus' sake.

We sacrifice our comforts, preferences, resources, time, and habits to help foster unity in diversity, and serve as a picture of supernatural, God-glorifying friendships that image God in our communities, commend the gospel, and bring joyful satisfaction and blessing in our own lives.

So, ultimately, friendships are important for the Christian life and ministry because they create a supernatural, compelling community that displays and protects the gospel, transforms lives and communities, and shines as a beacon of hope in a dark world. This is God's plan for the local church (Eph. 2:13-3:21), and He carries it out for our good and His glory.

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

Grounded Foster Care Ministry



Keeping in mind James 1:27, we are pleased to announce two new opportunities for our congregation to reach out and serve foster families in our community. First, the deacons have generously offered space in their shed to house an equipment closet for local foster families. We will be accepting donations of clean, gently used baby items such as pack and plays, unexpired car seats, strollers, and highchairs to have available for families accepting children as they come into DFCS care. Second, we are planning a freezer meal party on October 8th to stock the freezers of the families our two Care Communities support, and distribute to other foster homes in the area if we have a surplus. Please watch for announcements regarding the details of this event.

Also, our two Care Communities are still in place, but there are dozens of other foster families who would appreciate their own, should we have enough volunteers to launch a third team.

Please contact Erin Lammie (erinlammie@yahoo.com or 484.574.7530) or Dessa Edwards (dessa.edwards@gmail.com or 706.627.9430) if you would like to sign up for the freezer meal party, or Dessa Edwards for any other volunteer opportunities with Grounded.

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

Sunday School

*"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children."
Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

The Children's Sunday School of Christ Church takes seriously the words above for our covenant children. To that end, our Sunday School curriculum has been chosen specifically to teach God's Word. Beginning with our Preschool Class (4-year-olds), we use Great Commission's "Show Me Jesus," designed to introduce preschoolers to God's Word. Then in Kindergarten through 6th Grade, One Story Ministries "Investigating God's Word," is in place. It goes from "In the Beginning" to "Amen" and teaches God's Word as history chronologically, demonstrating how all stories and teachings connect to one another. Below is a summary of the curriculum from Kindergarten through 6th Grade.

- Year 1: Genesis; Matthew (Kindergarten)
- Year 2: Exodus - Deuteronomy; Mark (1st & 2nd Grades)
- Year 3: Joshua - 1 Samuel; Luke (1st & 2nd Grades)
- Year 4: 1 Samuel - 1 Chronicles; John (3rd & 4th Grades)
- Year 5: Kings, Joel, Jonah; Acts 1-14 (3rd & 4th Grades)
- Year 6: Kings, Chronicles, Prophets; Acts 15-28 (5th & 6th Grades)
- Year 7: Ezra-Esther, Prophets; Epistles, Revelation (5th & 6th Grades)

At the end of Year 7, the entire Bible has been covered, which leads into our Youth Sunday School curriculum, Implementing God's Word. This is a six-year study of the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year 1: Bilical Worldview | Year 4: New Testament Survey |
| Year 2: Biblical Relationships | Year 5: Christian Apologetics |
| Year 3: Old Testament Survey | Year 6: Biblical Counseling |

This curriculum applies all of God's Word to all of life.

*"Surely the chief weakness of Western Christianity in our day is Bible illiteracy.
God intends each of His children to 'know the whole counsel of God.'
—A. Wetherell Johnson, founder of Bible Study Fellowship.*

Join with us each Sunday morning at 9:45 and bring your child(ren) to study the whole counsel of God so that they may grow in the knowledge of Him, "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you . . ." (Ephesians 1:18).

Ministry through Music

The **Augusta Youth Chorale's** eighth season begins this month. Auditions continue with this vibrant group beginning rehearsals at our Retreat on Saturday, September 10. If you are an interested teen or if you know of another who is, please visit our new website for information - www.augustayouthchorale.org.

The **Sanctuary Choir** continues rehearsals each Wednesday. Come join this great group of caring people who love to pray, and have opportunities to lead weekly in worship through music. Or one can also join us for two wonderful upcoming music celebrations with orchestra, "Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs," which will be held on Sunday, October 16, and our "Evensong: A Christmas Festival" on Sunday, December 18.

Children's Choir continues rehearsals each Sunday during evening worship under adult leadership ably led by their Director Kay Lovingood. This is a great opportunity for our young ones to have music training, fellowship with others, and to lead in worship.

Interested in helping by providing funds to send strings and some equipment for stringed instruments to a Christian youth (church) orchestra in Cuba? They are an energetic and talented group of young musicians. If you would like to help me with this project, please contact me. I am purchasing later this month and the products will go down with a group in October.

*"I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live" (Ps 116:1-2 NIV).*

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*



Christ Church Press

Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor
 Christ Church, Presbyterian
 4201 Southern Pines Drive
 Evans, GA 30809
 706-210-9090

Address Service Requested



September

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
					6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
4	Labor Day 5	6	7	8	9	10
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting		7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	9:00 a.m. AYC Retreat
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11:00 a.m. Promotion Sunday 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	6:30 p.m. Session Prayer & Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 3:30 p.m. AYC Parent Meeting 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
25	26	27	28	29	30	
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Student Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	

Save the Dates

Our annual Apologetics Conference has been scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9.
 Dr. Carlton Wynne of Westminster Theological Seminary will be our keynote speaker.