



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 12, Issue 2

February 2017

The Pastor's Pen

Birthdays

- 04 Jennifer Kimbrell
Mike Ladun
- 07 Jake Bailey
- 10 Adelynn Jones
- 11 Sinclair Foster
- 12 Kirsten Pylant
- 15 Thomas Steed
- 17 Susan Walters
- 20 Les Yerger
- 21 William Dyer
- 22 Audrey Lammie
- 25 Josiah Jones
Jordy Rihl
- 27 Madison Steed

Anniversaries

- 01... Cathie & Charles McClure
- 06 Patty & Brian Marter
- 27 Anne & Gene Gojda

A Heart for the Nations: at Home and Abroad

As was common among many ancient cultures, the Greeks loved to tell stories: sometimes true stories; oftentimes myths. They told stories for entertainment. More importantly, they told stories to teach invaluable lessons. One such mythical story was that of Narcissus.

The Myth and Its Meaning

Narcissus, as the legend goes, was known for his handsome appearance and for being oblivious to others. He scorned and ignored those who were around him. On one occasion, so outraged was a man on account of Narcissus' self-absorption that he lashed out, "May he who loves not others love himself." With these words, a curse fell upon Narcissus. He happened upon a pool of water in which he saw his own reflection. He became so fascinated with his own image and fixated upon his own beauty and magnificence that he could not look away. He could not even hear the call of Ecco, but kept his gaze intently upon himself until finally he fell into the pool and drowned. He died a lonely, self-absorbed death.

The meaning of the myth is clear. The Greek sages recognized two critical things about human nature. First, they recognized the natural tendency of human beings to fall in love with themselves. Even the things we dislike about ourselves frustrate us because of our self-love and lead us to spend much of our time trying to fix ourselves. Our natural tendency is to be self-absorbed, caught up in our own image, our own families, our own tribe, and our own nation. Second, the Greeks recognized that this human tendency is self-destructive. This tendency is a curse that, left unchecked, leads to ruin.

The Greeks rightly recognized the problem, but they had no cure for what ails the human soul and leads to this suicidal tendency. Ultimately, there is only one who does: Jesus.

The Messiah and His Mandate

To be clear, Jesus is not a myth (2 Peter 1:16). He is the true Messiah, the eternal Son of God. Thus, He knows perfectly man's fallen tendency and the destruction to which it leads. So, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned against "lay[ing] up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). In close connection to this warning, He added the caution against having an unhealthy eye, for "if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness" (vv. 22-23)—and pointed to the folly of serving money rather than God (v. 24). Finally, He warned against anxiously seeking after self-preservation: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" For the Gentiles seek



Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4

(continued on page 2)

after these things..." (vv. 31-32a). In all these warnings, Jesus is exposing our narcissistic tendency. He is addressing the curse that has fallen upon man in his rebellion. Our fallen tendency is to fix our eyes upon the pool of this world and fall in love with our lives here and now—and so invest in that which will perish with us (vv.19-21). Our eyes, so fixed, are blind to what is supremely valuable and true treasure (vv. 22-23)—and so we become enslaved to possessions (v. 24) and are crushed by an anxious pursuit of preservation of our lives in this world (vv. 25-34).

To us, Jesus lovingly says: "Don't be like the Gentiles in their narcissism: looking in the pool of life here and now, fixated on self-comfort and self-preservation." Instead, He says, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." What does it mean to seek the Kingdom of God? The late John Stott gets to the heart of the matter when he says,

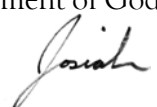
God's kingdom is Jesus Christ ruling over His people in total blessing and total demand. To 'seek first' this kingdom is to desire as of first importance the spread of the reign of Jesus Christ. Such a desire will start with ourselves, until every single department of our life—home, marriage and family, personal morality, professional life and business ethics, bank balance, tax returns, life-style, citizenship—is joyfully and freely submissive to Christ. It will continue in our immediate environment, with the acceptance of evangelistic responsibility towards our relatives, colleagues, neighbours and friends. And it will also reach out in global concern for the missionary witness of the church.

If we understand Jesus correctly, when He issues the mandate to "seek first the Kingdom of God," He is not merely pointing to the mission to which our lives are to be dedicated. More than that, He is prescribing for us the medicine that our hearts desperately need to cure us from our self-destructive narcissism.

The Medicine and our Mission

What do our self-seeking, navel-gazing shriveled hearts need? They need to be lifted up from the pool to see that which has supreme beauty and surpassing worth. We need to see Jesus, the King of glory: to be stunned by His beauty, captivated by His grace, compelled by His love. Then we will know the deep happiness of self-forgetfulness. Our hearts will be enlarged and filled with the joy that is inexpressible and full of glory. The love that surpasses understanding will be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Our upward gaze will then be turned outward to our neighbors and to the nations. A fire will be ignited in our souls that burns with white-hot passion for the glory of our King being displayed in our lives, in our church, in our community—and among the nations. Seeing and seeking the Kingdom of God are both the medicine we need and the mission we have been given.

That is why we have our annual Bible and Missions conference at Christ Church, Presbyterian. It is like a Z-Pack for our souls that aggressively treats the lingering bacteria of narcissism that infects our hearts and impedes our faithful and fruitful service to Christ. Let us take our medicine and renew our commitment to Christ's mission for His church. Make plans to join us for our 2017 Bible and Missions Conference. We are grateful to have Dr. Joel McCall as our Bible speaker, along with several of our church-supported field missionaries. Dr. McCall is the Project Director of Equipping Leaders International, Inc. (ELI), and a former pastor of Lakeshore Church PCA in North Carolina. He has ministered in church planting and church revitalization. Dr. McCall has completed six conferences with Ugandan pastors, having taught over a thousand pastors and church leaders in such areas as Leadership, Stewardship, Biblical Counseling, and Biblical Interpretation. He was deeply moved by the incredible needs and opportunities in Africa and could no longer resist a change of call. Joel is thrilled to be involved in the significant movement of God's Spirit in Africa and Israel. Joel is married to Sarah. They have three children and are grandparents.



4th Annual

Bible & Missions Conference Schedule



with

**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Joel McCall**

and the following missionaries:

**Bob & Angela Burnham
Mary Elizabeth Goodell
Steve (in harm's way)
Mark & Susan Walters
Bruce & Barbara Wannemacher**

Friday, February 17

6:30 p.m. Missionary Reports and Message from Dr. Joel McCall - Sanctuary
8:15 p.m. Youth Mission Conference with Mary Elizabeth Goodell
of Hope Works, Chicago, and an Ice Cream Social - Covenant Hall

Saturday, February 18

5:00 p.m. Catered Dinner: "Meals with Missionaries" - Covenant Hall
6:15 p.m. Missionary Reports and Homily by Dr. Joel McCall - Sanctuary

Sunday, February 19

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Sweet Rolls - Covenant Hall
9:45 a.m. Missionary Reports for those in 6th Grade through Adult
Sunday School - Covenant Hall
11:00 a.m. ... Worship and Message from Dr. Joel McCall - Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. ... Fellowship Luncheon - Covenant Hall
5:00 p.m. Prayer for Missions - Covenant Hall
6:00 p.m. Presentation of Local and Global Missions Opportunities
and a Message from Dr. Joel McCall - Sanctuary

Ministry through Music

How does breakfast and supporting the Augusta Youth Chorale sound? The AYC is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, February 4, from 7:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. at the Twisted Burrito (4446 Washington Road in Evans - Across from WalMart). Tickets are \$8 each and include pancakes, sausage, cheese grits, coffee, and orange juice. Meals may be eaten in the restaurant or taken to go. Our profit will benefit the AYC's tour this coming June! See me for a ticket, drop by the church office, or just come to the restaurant.

An upcoming music celebration that one does not want to miss is **Monday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.** when **Rodrigo Rodriguez**, a classically trained Christian guitarist will join us in the Sanctuary. This is a great time to invite your friends and neighbors. For more information and to listen to Rodrigo, you might check out his website at <http://rodrigorodriguez.net>.

Interested in singing celebratory Easter music with the Christ Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra? We have begun and you are cordially invited to join us each Wednesday evening for our regularly scheduled rehearsals. Our extra rehearsal, highlighting Easter music, is scheduled on Saturday morning, March 4 at 9:30 a.m. Contact me for further information (706-210-9090 or music@christchurchpres.org). Our **Evensong: An Easter Celebration** will be Sunday evening, April 16.

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High." (Psalm 92:1, 7&8).

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

Trail Life Trek

It's been a busy Fall for Trail Life at Christ Church. In September, the troop participated in National Hunting and Fishing Day with a fishing derby at McDuffie Public Fishing Area. October saw us camping on the windy shores of Clarke's Hill Lake and finishing the weekend off with several games of Capture-the-Flag. The troop ran the highly popular inflatable archery range at the church's Fall Festival. In November, we held our annual First Thanksgiving Feast, where each family contributed to the meal with a recipe that might have been used at the Plymouth Thanksgiving by either the Pilgrims or their Native American guests. Then in December, we again participated in the Christmastime wreath laying at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, afterwards visiting the South Carolina State Museum and viewing the planetarium show, "The Star of Bethlehem."



We look forward to more adventure and learning in the new year. The troop has grown to 36 boys and many new families. Our Navigator patrol for middle school boys is off and running. Boys can join at any time during the year. You can use the contact link on the church website or contact John Norkus, Troopmaster (706-373-2173, thenorkusfamily@comcast.net) for more information.

Student Stuff

Oh how the year is flying by! We are all familiar with February being the month of love. Or should I say, collecting all the candy that was taped to the Valentine Cards. And...the Sweetheart Candy that tastes slightly like flavored chalk (I am almost certain it can be used as chalk). This is the one chance the world is allowed to love another, of course in a "feel-good" and worldly manner. But what about God's Love? God's love is timeless, steadfast, and powerful. His love doesn't happen in one day..."For God so loved the World...." Let's stop there and bring it to reality, God so loves the world that we live in, the sinful world that commercially "loves" one day out of 365 days; the world that does not love Him nor know Him, **YET HE STILL LOVES THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD**. That is love. As we move into this month of love, let us reflect on the following passages that remind us of God's Love: **John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 Peter 5:6-7, and 1 John 3:1.**

Youth Events this Month (For more information, please contact Chris Nabholz, Interim Youth Director, at youth@christchurchpres.org):

February 5—Super Bowl Party: Join us for a Youth Gathering at the Parish home to enjoy the Super Bowl. We will be able to catch the last half of the game following the evening service. Come ready to enjoy the classic tailgate foods and fellowship with all of our friends.

February 17—Youth Missions Conference: Join us for an opportunity to learn more about our young missionaries that we, as a congregation, support. One of our very own, Mary Elizabeth Goodell, will be talking to our youth about her courageous work in Chicago and its community. You don't want to miss out...especially since the church will be providing an Ice Cream Social! This event will occur at 8:15 p.m. in Covenant Hall.

February 26—Sunday Evening Youth Gathering: Please join the youth after the evening service for delightful food and fellowship at the home of Billy Hatcher.

Christ Church Press

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 4201 Southern Pines Drive
 Evans, GA 30809
 706-210-9090

Address Service Requested



February

Weekly Sunday 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
			6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Young Couples & Young Families Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	7:30 a.m. AYC Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Twisted Burrito
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering : Super Bowl Party	7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	17	18
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	6:30 Session Prayer & Meeting 7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Women's Daytime Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Young Couples & Young Families Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	<i>Bible & Missions Conference</i> (Full Schedule on Page 2)
19	20	21	22	23	Prayer	25
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting <i>Bible & Missions Conf.</i>		7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
26	27	28				
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