



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 12, Issue 5

May 2017

Birthdays

- 02Carter Boyd
- 08Amy Bailey
Maggie Lammie
- 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
- 29Baylee Avery
Kathryn Noblett

What's Next?

Loving Jesus is easy to do. The gospel record reveals One Who always spoke truth boldly and bluntly. He detested hypocrisy and legalism. Empty religious activity nauseated Him. Meaningless tradition annoyed Him. Pride, self-righteousness and aloofness offended Him. He challenged false super-spirituality; He confronted bullies and He consistently uncovered manipulation and deceit.

Loving Jesus is easy to do. He exhibited abiding compassion for the poor and outcasts. He hugged the leper, the immoral, the sinner. He forged deep and rich and lasting relationships with His followers. He made the ultimate sacrifice in dying as our Substitute. He loves and provides for us on our good days and in those times of despair and deep failure.

Loving Jesus is easy to do. The hard question is about His church. Loving the church isn't always easy. Millennials, not one by one, but in the tens of thousands are leaving the church. Saints long connected are looking for the doors. Spiritual leaders are abandoning ship. There is unrest in the pews of many evangelical congregations. Loving the church isn't always easy.

Loving Jesus is easy to do, and according to the One we love, our connection to Him not only advises a deep relationship with the church, this union with Jesus demands it.

I love the study of church history . . . not because the story is always pleasant, but because the story conveys the truth that God is thoroughly and unfalteringly invested in the manifestation of His glory through this divine/human partnership. And it is not as though His loyalty blinds Him to the reality of serious flaws in the instrument. Whatever we know, have experienced or questioned about the frailty of the church, comes as no surprise to our Lord. Yet His plan remains clear, His love remains compelling, His provision remains constant. "I will build My church."

So . . . our questions might not need to be: What's up? What now? What if? Perhaps the question needs to be: WHAT'S NEXT?

I am not a new-comer to this challenge of church. Pastoral ministry 40+ years has given a perspective that leaves me quite realistic about the pros and cons of church. I have had my share of emergency rooms, recovery rooms, and intensive care waiting rooms. I have sat with countless broken families, ministered to abused children, wept with broken missionaries and pastors. I have put on my funeral suit in the morning and my wedding suit the same evening.

I've experienced the joy of new converts, countless baptisms, preaching and teaching the word to hungry minds and hearts, visiting the church in distant places, serving with faithful soldiers of the cross.

Now I occupy a pew observing church from a completely new and challenging perspective. I don't make the rules anymore, determine the agenda or monitor the schedule. I gladly leave the nuts and bolts to others. I avoid meetings; I enjoy worship without strings attached. I let others dodge the bullets.

While I have been the one who decided when my ministry was complete in a particular church, now I experience a pastoral transition I cannot control. I now understand the lesson every congregation must learn—pastoral ministry is almost always (with very few exceptions) a transient call. God through a variety of means and measures calls and removes His servants according to His own will and purposes.

So along with you I learn how to distinguish love and appreciation for a servant's gifts and ministry from a loyalty that can hinder the Spirit's "WHAT'S NEXT?" in the lives of those He loves.



Anniversaries

- 11..... Debra & Billy Hatcher
- 14..... Laci & Whit Foster
- 20 Diane & John Dunsmore
- 24..... Kirsten & Stan Pylant
- 26 Laura & Charles Caruso

(continued on page 3)

Vacation Bible School • June 12-16 • 9 a.m. until noon

Ready! Set! Go! Register for VBS 2017!



Calling all Christ Church children, grandchildren, cousins, friends, and neighbors! Register for "The Case of the Puzzling Parables" taking place at Christ Church on June 12-16 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. On May 7th and 14th, a table will be in the narthex for you to sign up for VBS. All 4-year-olds (by June 1) up to 5th graders are urged to attend.

Our Bible sleuths will be leading us toward solving the mystery of the "Puzzling Parables" in order to find out all about God's Kingdom. Spend a week investigating God's Word, making crafts, playing games, and ending with a picnic on the 16th. Come one, come all!

For more information, please contact Fay Deal at 803-278-1176 or via an e-mail to runningdeal@gmail.com.

"That you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever, He will guide us forever." Psalm 48:13-14

Ministry thru Music

Easter, including our Evensong, was glorious! I express my appreciation to our Sanctuary Choir, Instrumentalists, Soloists, and Organist. Plus, I am grateful for the many who helped with setup and teardown of our Evensong set. I also believe it is interesting to note that the early church considered Easter more than just a one day festival. They, as many still do today, celebrated Easter for six weeks calling this time the Easter Season or Eastertide. The period ends with Pentecost, a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let's continue to celebrate life and resurrection!

The Augusta Youth Chorale's Home Concert is Sunday, May 21, at 4:30 p.m. You're invited to come join us as these youth share their giftedness. AYC's tour to Frankenmuth, Michigan, is June 1 through 6; Michigan's Little Bavaria. We appreciate your prayers for their safety as well as their opportunities to share.

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Missions Matters



May's Community Service Team is scheduled to visit the Golden Harvest Food Bank on Friday, May 26th, from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We have 11 volunteer spots reserved, so please contact Emily Adams (706-627-0784) or Julie Dey (706-294-2436) if you would like to serve. Also, there will be a barrel in the church foyer to collect donations from anyone who would like to participate but is unable to attend that day. We look forward to serving with you!

Missions Prayer Bands in April was another huge success with Chris & Cary Drinkard of Campus Outreach. This proved to be a united time of prayer for our supported missionaries and missions. Make plans today to join us on May 21 at 5:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall for yet another opportunity to receive missionary reports and/or view videos; as well as support them through prayer. For more information, please contact Ken Moody at 706-854-7977 or via e-mail to kjmcfm@gmail.com.

American Heritage Girls on the Go!

American Heritage Girls Troop GA2345 has gotten off to an excellent start at Christ Church! By God's grace, we have our feet on the ground and are up and running with an average of 20 girls attending our weekly meetings. We've had the privilege of visiting a nursing home to sing and pass out handmade valentines, we've been honored to participate in a baby shower for a local family who recently adopted a baby with Downs Syndrome, and we were able to learn about Downs and God's sovereignty and perfection in forming each of us in the womb. The girls have worked toward their Physical Fitness badge by learning about different aspects of health, nutritious eating, and by attending a Drumline class at the YMCA, as well as a CPR certification class. We delved into the lives of Fanny Crosby and St. Patrick and had the opportunity to go on a camping trip to Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen, GA. As we continue to master the AHG creed and pledge, we are memorizing Psalm 112:4 and learning about compassion by observing Christ's perfect example. Earning the Family Care badge is next on our agenda, as is a hike at Congaree National Park! Please pray for this ministry of our church as we strive to teach the girls the truths laid out in our troop verses (Titus 2:3-5) and in the AHG creed and pledge. We invite all girls between the ages of 5 and 18 to come join us! For more information, please contact Natalie Parish at 252-267-2793 or via an e-mail to oraandnat@gmail.com.



Psalm 112:4

Light dawns in the darkness

for the upright;



He is gracious,



merciful, and righteous.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning: How to Spring Clean Your Spirit

While you're cleaning out closets and sweeping under the furniture, think about this: Spring cleaning, while worth the effort, will only last for a season, but spiritual cleansing could have an eternal influence. So don't just dust behind those book shelves, dust off that favorite Bible and get ready for a spiritual spring cleaning.

1) Cleanse Your Heart — Get Spiritually Healthy:

The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. This is the first step in our spring cleaning project. We can't clean ourselves. Instead we must draw near to God and ask Him to do the cleansing.

Psalm 51:10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (KJV)

Hebrews 10:22: Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (NIV)

2) Clean Out Your Mouth — Deep Clean Inside and Out:

Spiritual cleansing requires deep cleaning ~ it is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. It's a cleansing from within ~ inside and out. As your heart gets clean, your language should follow. This is not just talking about bad language, but also negative talk and pessimistic thoughts that contradict the Word of God and faith.

This includes the challenge to stop complaining.

Luke 6:45: The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. (NIV)

Philippians 2:14: Do everything without complaining or arguing... (NIV)

3) Renew Your Mind — Take Out the Garbage:

This is one of the biggest areas of struggle for most of us - removing the garbage from our minds. Garbage in equals garbage out. We must feed our minds and spirits the Word of God instead of the garbage of this world.

Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 10:5: We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV)

4) Repent from Hidden Sin — Clean Out Your Spiritual Closets:

Hidden sin will destroy your life, your peace, and even your health. The Bible says to confess your sin — tell someone, and

reach out for help. When your spiritual closets are clean, the heaviness from hidden sin will lift.

Psalm 32:3-5: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (NIV)

5) Release Unforgiveness and Bitterness — Get Rid of Old Baggage:

Any sin will weigh you down, but long kept unforgiveness and bitterness is like old baggage in the attic you just can't seem to part with. You are so familiar with it, you don't even realize how it is hindering your life.

Hebrews 12:1: Therefore ... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress... (NLT)

Ephesians 4:31-32: ...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)

6) Involve Jesus in Your Daily Life — Let the Son Shine In:

What God wants most from you is relationship - friendship. He wants to be involved in the big and small moments of your life.

Open your life, let the light of God's presence shine into every part, and you'll have no need for a yearly spiritual cleaning. Instead experience daily, moment to moment refreshing of your spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:9: God ... is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NLT)

Psalm 56:13: For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping. So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light. (NLT)

7) Learn to Laugh at Yourself and at Life:

Some of us take life too seriously, or we take ourselves too seriously. Jesus wants you to enjoy yourself, and learn to have some fun. God made you for His pleasure!

Psalm 28:7: The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. (NIV)

Psalm 126:2: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." (NIV)

—Mary Fairchild, ThoughtCo.com

What's Next?

(continued from page 1)

I learn how to trust the Sovereign Lord of the Church to provide leaders who will guide us in our next steps. I learn to be more intentional and faithful in prayer for and encouragement of those who are truly motivated to serve Christ and His flock.

I learn to love, listen to, and respect my brothers and sisters; especially those who struggle with change and are particularly vulnerable.

I learn to become more dependent upon the Great Shepherd as I wait for His under-shepherd to arrive.

I learn how subtle the enemy can be in fostering distrust, self-reliance, bitterness and anger when I am not in control.

I learn to re-affirm my allegiance to Jesus, to the church He loves, to the ministry of the Word, to the proclamation of the Gospel, and to my fellow-travelers in the life of faith.

The life the Spirit calls us to live and the journey the Spirit calls us to make always demands we resist the inclination to allow the past to define the future. God's people must always be asking the question: "WHAT'S NEXT?" and be faithfully preparing for the inevitable blessing His Word guarantees.

— Rev. Richard Hammond

Christ Church Press

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Address Service Requested



May

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	5	6
	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	6:00 p.m. Young Couples & Young Families Bible Study	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	National Day of Prayer	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3:45 p.m. AYC Parent Meeting 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	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta 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	
Mother's Day 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4:30 p.m. AYC Home Concert 5:00 p.m. Missions Prayer Bands	7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	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 10:30 a.m. Community Service Team at Golden Harvest Food Bank	
28	Memorial Day 29	30	31			
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting			6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			