



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 2017

Birthdays

- 03Sophia Smits
- 06Charlotte Boyd
Will Boyd
- 08 Mark Goodell
Mary Elizabeth Goodell
Martha Seward
- 09 Olson Avery
Gloria Gill
William Jewett
Cathy Moody
- 10.....Brandt Caldwell
Eliza Caldwell
- 12.....Jackson Barinowski
- 16..... Grey Steed
- 18..... Faye Robeson
- 20Janet Ladun
- 21..... Gilbert Dylhoff
- 22Roy Emerson
Sam Myers
- 23 Cherry McPherson
- 24.....Lex Bailey
- 28Monica Boyd
Dessa Edwards
Avery Weidman
- 29Trina Davis

Anniversaries

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

Total Eclipse?

On Monday, August 21, we all became scientists. As the date approached we were bombarded with amazing amounts of information, specific data, speculations, and warnings. Special equipment was made available, the best sightings revealed, a minute-by-minute unfolding of the event explained.

Pictures appeared of school children on blankets in school yards, on their backs, hands behind heads, wearing glasses too big for their faces, gazing heavenward. Vacationers planned return trips to allow themselves the opportunity to pull into fields to view the phenomenon. Traffic pulled to a stop, family reunions were held to celebrate, work and schools paused to take it in. For a brief moment, many became reflective, drawn to another realm above the ordinary and were struck by an episode quite rare.

While others may have been deeply impressed with the intricacies of the scientific drama taking place over their heads, God's people who rest their faith deeply in the Sovereign Creator Who does all things with absolute purpose and delicate precision, found their heart's sanctuary and worshipped Him in a particularly intimate place as they looked at the Son.

That afternoon we had guests in our home, enjoyed rich conversations and intermittently took breaks to run to the front yard to look upward. The heat brought us in and out and while my wife and friends took it all in, I finally surrendered and waited for their returning report.

In those moments as I listened to them describe what they were seeing, reaching for superlatives to explain the slow movement of heavenly orbs, expressing their own spiritual responses, I found my own sanctuary and was reminded that we most often look for light by looking up and yet, here today, in these moments as we were looking up we were actually gazing into growing darkness. To be sure, darkness that would pass, be short-lived, and promised the return of light.

No Christian can ignore the powerful images of light and darkness in Scripture. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light...if we walk in darkness we do not know Him." Jesus is "the light." "We are translated from the kingdom of darkness...." These are graphic images of life with and without Christ.

Sometimes there can come an "eclipse of the soul": those times that may seem as if they will never pass, are destined to become our new life definition and show no promise of light to follow.

The "eclipse" may be self-imposed. We choose to sin. We become careless, failing to maintain good spiritual discipline, thereby stumbling and even falling significantly. We ignore the cultivation of healthy relationships, allow ourselves excuse and ignore conviction. The Spirit of God is quenched and grieved and the peace, joy, and hope He ministers are quickly overshadowed by our own willfulness. Remedies of repentance, confession, cleansing and restoration, always available, must be administered for the darkness to be resolved.

The "eclipse" may be the result of the ongoing battle we have with these "unreliable tents" in which we live. Bodies that no longer help us in our spiritual quests. Those whose physical equipment has enabled them to find holy places of worship through music can no longer move nimble fingers across instruments, raise voices in praise, compose or directly face the possibility that their best way to connect with God is no longer as easily called forth. Individuals who commune with God best as they read the Word, explore the classics, thrive on Christian literature may begin to experience dimming or darkening of vision. Now they must find less familiar means of grace. Minds

(continued on page 3)

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

But Jesus called to him, saying, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, September 10, is Promotion Sunday for Christ Church children. A new year and, for some, new changes.

Those in Nursery I who are mobile, separate easily, and are 23 months old will move over to Nursery II.

Our four-year-olds or those turning four will join a new class. This class is for four and five year olds and will be called 4k-5k class. Diane Dunsmore will be teaching this class with Kirsten Pylant leading the music. Diane has taught our kindergarten class for many years and Kirsten did a superb job with our music during VBS. The class will be meeting in the small room within Covenant Hall. Parents, please consider volunteering one Sunday a month to assist with activities.

Another change for our four-year-olds is that they will begin attending morning worship and leaving for catechism. Also, they may join the Children's Choir during evening worship. The 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th grade Sunday school classes will meet in the Children's Building as usual, as will all catechism classes.

We are also resuming our 5th-6th grade Sunday school class with Polly Cowart teaching. A longtime member of Christ Church, we welcome Polly and are looking forward to having her as a part of our Children's Ministries. This class will meet in the small room within the Youth Building.

A great thanks to Jordy Rihl, Anne Bowen, and Dr. and Mrs. John Oliver for their donations to the book fund for Toddler Nursery. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

All children should have received notice of where they should report on September 10. Sunday school is the foundation for training our children to learn, love, and live God's Word in this fallen world. It is more essential than ever that our children have a strong foundation on which to stand as winds of change and culture blow across their lives. Remember the parable of the two builders...which house stood solidly in the midst of the storm?

**"But tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and His might,
and the wonders that He has done."**

Psalm 78:4

Ministry thru Music

The Augusta Youth Chorale's ninth season begins this month. Auditions continue with this vibrant group beginning rehearsals at our Retreat, September 9 and 10. If you are an interested teen, or if you know an area teen who may be interested, please visit our website for information: www.augustayouthchorale.org.

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

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, "Fall Music Celebration" Sunday evening, September 17, and our "Evensong: A Christmas Festival" Sunday evening, December 17.

Our **Fall Music Celebration, "Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs,"** will be performed during Sunday evening worship on September 17 at 6:00. Anthems by our choir and orchestra will be "Psalm 150" (Franck) a powerful setting, "Evening Prayer" (Gjeilo) a gorgeous setting of a prayer by Saint Augustine, a meditative setting of "There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today" (Wilberg), ending with the rousing anthem "When the Saints Go Marching In" (Rutter). Melanie Buckner will sing a majestic solo setting of "How Great Thou Art" (Forrest). Come celebrate with us.

Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done." Psalm 105:1 NLT

Stan Pylant, Director of Music

2017 Apologetics Conference

Remember to mark your calendars now and make plans to join us for our annual Apologetics Conference next month. The conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 21 and 22. Our guest speaker will be our founding pastor, Dr. Gordon Reed. Please make every effort not to miss this opportunity to join with our church family in welcoming back Dr. Reed for these special services and hearing him proclaim God's Word.

Missions Prayer Bands

Our next Missions Prayer Bands will be held, Sunday, September 17, at 5:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall. Ms. Kim Green of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Augusta will join us to share a report of what God is doing through CEF/Good News Clubs locally and throughout the United States. Please keep this organization and its missionaries in your prayers for Christ to be revealed to boys and girls around the world—Matthew 19:14.

that captured biblical truth quickly and managed theology comfortably may not be able to organize, process and communicate as effectively as in the past. The ability to control speech, balance, bodily functions, may create challenges that not only severely limit one physically, but flood into the deepest parts of our souls with very "eclipsing" effects.

The "eclipse" may be some particular work God is doing. A work He chooses not to explain; a work He is not obligated to explain. A work for which the explanation is locked up only to be revealed in heaven. I am coming, after many years, to a much firmer belief in extending our viewpoint and expectations to a place well beyond what we consider the "bookends" of our lives. All that matters, all that occurs, all prayer, spiritual effort, all we hope for does not begin or end here. Solomon said, "God has put eternity in our hearts." Heaven will write the last chapter here and begin the new one in a much different place.

Every "eclipse" reminds us that something is headed our way, will end, and reveal again the glory of a Father Whose Son is light and Whose Spirit is power. Whatever your "eclipse of the soul" may be today, please know we follow in the train of millions who have looked up into darkness, but were enabled by God's magnificent power and sustaining grace, to wait just long enough for the Son to appear.

Edward Mote knew something of "the eclipse of the soul" and wrote. . .

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale; my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Blessings, Rev. Richard Hammond.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart,
yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11*

Missions Matters

Missionaries Mark & Susan Walters' Redirection

Recently, Mark and Susan Walters made the decision to not pursue their endeavor as missionaries to Taiwan due to family circumstances. The Walters will continue serving the Lord through the local branch of the International Link's English as a Second Language. Therefore, we will no longer accept monetary support on their behalf. Please read the letters below for further details:

July 20, 2017

Dear Friends & Supporters,

We are writing to inform you that we are no longer able to pursue our position with Christ's College through Mission to the World. As some of you know, our daughter, Rachel, has a rare seizure disorder called Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome. Over the years, we have pursued every form of treatment recommended to us by her doctors. Recently her neurologist has prescribed cannabis oil with some encouraging results. She has regained most of her balance and we are seeing cognitive improvements. She said two words the other day, after not talking for years. We are very excited, as these are huge improvements for her. Several friends, as well as her day program, have seen these changes also. The problem is cannabis oil is illegal in Taiwan. When we began this journey with MTW, this drug was not something we even considered as it was still illegal in the state of Georgia. Rachel is one of the Lord's greatest gifts to us and has always been our first priority. We feel, along with MTW, that we cannot take this treatment away from her.

This decision has been bittersweet as we fell in love with the students and the MTW team at Christ's College. Your support has made this possible and we are so grateful. Your donations will remain with MTW and will be used to support missionary endeavors worldwide. We appreciate your partnership with us in spreading the gospel in Taiwan by your sacrificial gifts.

God has intervened and Taiwan is not possible, but we covet your prayers as to where God is leading us to serve in the future. We have been privileged to train and work with many dedicated missionaries and we have learned much from them. We know God is sovereign, therefore we trust Him even in this change of direction. Please contact us if you have any questions.

In Him,

Mark & Susan Walters

Markwalters@gmail.com

706.589.8886 (Susan's number)

Philippians 4:13



July 20, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of Mark and Susan Walters,

We are grateful to you for your support of Mark and Susan, both financially and prayerfully these past few months. You have been a very real part of their team as they have been working to raise support to serve with us in Taiwan. As you may know their daughter, Rachel, is on a new medication that is not available in Taiwan. They have seen great strides in her health as a result of it. Because of this encouraging development, we have determined along with them that serving with Mission to the World in Taiwan is no longer an option for them. Please be praying with them about the days ahead. As you can imagine they are grieving the loss of this work. They are looking forward to speaking with each of you about this transition as their schedule allows.

We plan to close their account to donations on August 15. Please discontinue your financial support for them through MTW at this time. If you are giving electronically, your support will automatically end August 15, 2017. They are currently making decisions about next steps. They will not require monthly support going forward. Please be in prayer for them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you again for your support of Mark and Susan. May the Lord richly bless you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Brand".

Julie Brand
Mission to the World
Asia Pacific Resource Representative
678.823.0004 ext. 2254

Christ Church Press

Christ Church, Presbyterian
 4201 Southern Pines Drive
 Evans, GA 30809
 706-210-9090
christchurchpres.org

Address Service Requested



SEPTEMBER

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
					6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4:30 p.m. AYC Auditions 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	10:00 a.m. AYC Retreat 6:00 p.m. Youth: College Football Tailgate
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal	6:30 p.m. Session 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	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Missions Prayer Bands 6:00 p.m. Fall Music Celebration	7:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls 7:00 p.m. Trail Life		6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	8:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Church Workday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3:45 p.m. AYC Parent Meeting 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	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	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	Trail Life: Camping & Fishing Derby