



# CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 12, Issue 11

November 2017

## Birthdays

- 04 ..... Enrique Romero
- 06 ..... Michael Goodell
- 10..... Jane Bowen  
Don Lewis
- 13.....Carol Ryans
- 15 ..... Billie McPherson
- 16.....Mary Round
- 17.....Mary Lou Turner
- 18.....Catie Boyd  
Glynn Dyer
- 22 ..... Andrea Denis
- 23 ..... Jackie Hillesland
- 25 ..... Barbara Volpitto
- 26 ..... Hayes Edwards  
Sue Kemp
- 30 ..... Stan Pylant



## Anniversaries

- 01..... Joyce & Harold Hyatt
- 02 .. Betty Gene & Al Lovingood
- 06 .....Jordy & Bob Rihl
- 08 ..... Fay & Richard Deal  
Julie & Joe Dey
- 17..... Liz & Hunt Holton
- 21..... Nancy & Lee Parks
- 26 ..... Sue & Bill Kemp

## The Annual Reminder

It could be called the lost holiday in some respects. We jump from spooks to Santa, from pumpkins to presents, from orange and black to red and green. We don't do any special decorating, we typically do not send cards, it comes and goes in a day. To prepare, we don't spend hours wandering the mall, we don't look for a tree or a wreath. We don't make lists, check them twice; we don't wear ourselves and others thin; we don't plan parties; we don't unravel and check strings of lights. We don't count the days, hang the stockings, trim the tree, review the plans for housing guests and, in general, turn a celebration in to a battle plan for survival.

Thanksgiving is easy. We visit the grocery store, duplicate a generational menu, set the table, make sure the TV is operational, eat, nap, and enjoy evening leftovers. People come and go quickly; meals for the next several days involve re-heating and microwave moments. No decorations to pack away; no gifts to return; no tree needles to sweep away.

The difficult part of celebrating the national holiday is finding that place in our hearts where true thankfulness is developed and nurtured. Many families follow the tradition of going around the table, each person, young and old, sharing that for which they are most thankful. These may be special acknowledgements of appreciation and gratitude; sometimes the tradition lapses into silly statements and unedifying comments. But, unfortunately, having begun the celebration with statements of gratitude and having "said grace," the day can become lost between the parade and the football game.

God's people are called to a life of thanksgiving. The deep awareness of His grace bestowed upon our lives equips us to be truly thankful people. Reflecting upon the love and the mercy of our Lord's sovereign work in our behalf awakes in us a genuine sense of worship, awe, and thankfulness for what He has done by drawing us to faith, reconciliation, forgiveness, cleansing and fellowship. Flowing from this remarkable connection with the Triune God comes unlimited blessing. We find ourselves adoring God for pouring out upon us the benefits of His Fatherhood.

We are grateful for good health, our jobs, our material blessings coming from His faithful hand. We give Him thanks for family, friends, and church. We revel in our freedoms, our biblical roots as a nation. We are grateful for religious liberty, churches with open doors, open Bibles, open proclamation of truth. We give Him praise for restraining persecution, for opportunities to advance the kingdom and for the security that comes from living in a country so richly blessed and so divinely protected.

**BUT**, what about thanksgiving when life becomes dark, when personal and family issues erupt and create severe pain, when health fails, jobs are lost, churches are compromised, friends fail, sin advances? Are we then exempt from gratitude as life grows difficult, harsh, or short?

While we may certainly enjoy extended times of peace, satisfaction, security and health, there will always be the potential and the reality of more challenging times. What about thanksgiving in the valleys and grim detours along the path God has charted for us? Here we meet the opportunity to go deep and view the picture from the underside. Here come the opportunities to celebrate the eternal blessings of being related to a God Who is unchangeable in all His ways, faithful in all His works, and generous in all His gifts.

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"You have to have a tough heart to live in Havana," said 18-year-old Edenette Klaasen about the community of makeshift corrugated metal houses where she has lived her entire life. No one there has electricity or running water.

One Sunday afternoon 60 children gathered in a local church in that same community for an Operation Christmas Child shoebox distribution. Edenette shared the Gospel, and hearts softened to the Good News. Many children responded to the message of salvation and eternal hope through Jesus Christ. As leaders uncovered the colorful stacks of shoeboxes filled with gifts, the children squealed with joy.

Edenette remembered her first shoebox—her first gift ever. Her favorite gifts were a gray t-shirt and blue jeans. She had been wondering, "Who is this Jesus?" Through the shoebox gift and the Gospel presentation, she began to have an answer. A short time later, she accepted Christ as Savior. Today she is active in the church and leads outreach events for Operation Christmas Child. "I know now that Jesus is my sole provider," she said.

What a privilege we have here at Christ Church, Presbyterian to participate in this global missions project and share the true meaning of Christmas. Pre-wrapped shoeboxes and brochures with complete instructions are available in the foyer. If you wish to contribute but are unable to shop, please consider making a donation to Samaritan's Purse. Filled shoeboxes will be collected on November 5 and November 12. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans via an email to [raflermans@comcast.net](mailto:raflermans@comcast.net).

## Thanksgiving Service

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Day Service at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 23. This is a time of worship giving thanks to the Lord for all that He has done for us individually, and as a church family, throughout the year.

The donations received during this service will be given to the Palmer Home for Children, Columbus, MS; an orphanage providing superior residential care for children birth to college-aged while introducing them to the love of God.

## TrailLife Trek



On September 22-23, Trail Life Troop GA-2215 took our fall troop overnight camping trip to McDuffie Public Fishing Area. Besides getting to experience God's creation, especially the incredible night sky, the boys were able to participate in the National Hunting and Fishing Day Fish Derby at the Public Fishing Area. Some catfish were caught and were enjoyed later that evening with family. Another great event included a kite derby, where boys built their own kites and flew them.

Upcoming, we have our annual First Thanksgiving Feast and participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project.

Boys can join the troop at any time. If you know of a boy between the ages of 5-18 years old who would be interested, have them contact John Norkus, Troopmaster (706-860-4311, [thenorkusfamily@comcast.net](mailto:thenorkusfamily@comcast.net)).

**And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

**Matthew 4:19**

## Community Service Praise

On October 12, a group from Christ Church served lunch to the homeless at the Golden Harvest Food Bank's Master's Table in Augusta. Approximately 300 hot lunches are served daily—365 days a year! The Golden Harvest Food Bank provides food and groceries across a thirty-county, two-state service area.



Watch the newsletter and bulletin for our next service date and join us as we serve!

**2 Chronicles 15:7**

**But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.**

## Missions Matters

### Missions Prayer Bands

#### How to Use the Scripture in Prayer for Our Missionaries

At Christ Church, Presbyterian, we financially support and have committed to pray for over 30 missionaries and missions agencies that are proclaiming the good news of the gospel. Many of these missionaries are in harm's way and we don't have regular communication of their needs and how the Lord is leading them in their called ministry. So how do we pray if we don't exactly know their needs? The Scriptures tell us of the work of the Holy Spirit: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-28). So we have this help of the Holy Spirit as we pray for our missionaries.

But we can, in addition, use the Scriptures to pray when we don't know exactly how or what to pray. For example Ephesians 1:16-21 indicates that we can pray for the Lord to give them the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. All of our missionaries have this need of specific wisdom for where they find themselves in the work the Lord has given them: "having the eyes of [their] hearts enlightened, that [they] may know what is the hope to which He has called [them]." There are many other Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments that we can effectively use as we pray for our missionaries.

May we make a regular time in our weekly schedule to pray for those whom we support on the mission field. Here are additional prayers from Scripture to incorporate into our prayer life on behalf of missionaries in the field: Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14, and 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

## The Annual Reminder

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Thanksgiving turns our eyes and our hearts away from the seen, the obvious, the present. We are invited to look upward and onward. We not only celebrate the immediate, the moment, the temporary; we are ushered into the permanent, the eternal, the ultimate fulfillment and bestowment of every promise God has made. Here we learn the vital lesson of being thankful people not only "for," but "in" everything.

Hopefully, as we give thanks IN all things, we will run out of time before we exhaust the list.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,  
Rev. Richard Hammond



## Ministry thru Music

Sunday, December 3, at 4:15 p.m. the **Augusta Youth Chorale (AYC)**, will present a **Christmas Dessert Concert** in our Sanctuary. You are invited! The Concert is free though there will be the opportunity to assist AYC through a special offering. This concert will be worshipful and a varied Advent celebration. Then afterward, in Covenant Hall, one can enjoy wonderful free desserts. What a great way to raise funds for AYC!

LAST CALL to join us for singing with our Sanctuary Choir Sunday evening, December 17, for *Evensong: A Christmas Festival*. Extra rehearsals are on Saturday mornings, November 2, December 3, and December 16. Come join us!

*Let us come to Him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to Him. Psalm 95:2 (NLT)*

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

## A Note from the Office

While it is wonderful, and appropriate, to teach our children to give back to the Lord by tithing, a little help from parents is always beneficial. When allowing children to prepare their own tithe/offering envelope, please check behind them to make sure their writing is legible, that their last name is also included, and that the amount of their offering is correctly stated. Without this information, it is hard – sometimes impossible – to determine this necessary information. Likewise, a contribution statement will either not be sent, or be sent with missing contributions, making it difficult to complete this wonderful lesson with documentation of their efforts. Parents, thank you for helping with these details.

*Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.*  
Proverbs 22:6

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

### Scripture

**"Faith is born and sustained by the Word of God, and out of faith grows the flower of hope." – John Piper.**

In a recent study by the Barna Group, several statistics emerged that should be of great concern to believers, especially parents and grandparents. Our country's young people ages 18 to 35 are classified as biblically illiterate. Less than 15% ever open a Bible, much less study or memorize God's Word. Even less say the Bible is relevant to their life. What has happened?

Psalm 78:5, 7 states, "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children . . . so that they should set their hope in God." Our spiritual life begins by the Word of God. Not only do we begin to live by God's Word, but we go on living by God's Word. The faith that starts our life in Christ and by which we go on living comes from hearing the Word of God. John Piper has stated, "The more of God's Word you know and love, the more of God's Spirit you will experience." It all begins in childhood. Young hearts and minds are open to hearing, learning, and loving God's Word. In Christ Church Sunday school, we are equipped to do just this. Our curriculum, *Investigating God's Word*, from kindergarten through twelfth grade is the Word of God. With this curriculum, the entire Bible is covered from Genesis to Revelation by the end of sixth grade. In Youth Sunday school, the Bible is reviewed and applied to life and relationships with apologetics included. By the time our children have graduated from high school and are preparing for college, they are grounded in God's infallible, inerrant Word. This is the Truth that they will stand upon as they are bombarded by the world and various cultures.

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in which the Word of God was given for everyone. Martin Luther was standing before the Archbishop of Trier and asked to recant. His reply was, "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason . . . my conscience is captive to the Word of God . . . Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise." "People whose minds are saturated with God's Word and submissive to His thoughts have a wisdom that in eternity will prove superior to all the secular wisdom in the World," says John Piper.

Will our children be able to say with Martin Luther, "Here I stand!" Please prayerfully consider making Sunday school a priority for our covenant children.

**Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life. Deuteronomy 32:46-47**

# Christ Church Press

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## NOVEMBER

**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		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	10:30 a.m. Choir Practice: Evensong
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	6:45 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	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering: Bonfire	6:30 p.m. Session Prayer & Meeting 6:45 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	6:00 p.m. Trail Life: First Thanksgiving and Court of Honor
19	20	21	22	Thanksgiving 23	24	25
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Missions Prayer Bands		7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Service		
26	27	28	29	30		
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