



# CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2017

## Birthdays

- 03 .....Noah Edwards
- 04 ..... Marita Myers
- 05 .....Martha Holley
- 06 .....Allyn Dyer
- 08 ..... McDonald Law
- 09 .....John Clark
- 10.....Aaron Caruso
- 11.....Natalie Parish
- 12..... Mike Boyd  
Oliver Brown
- 17.....Jed Steed
- 18.....Al Lovingood
- 19.....Catherine Norkus  
Randy Self
- 24..... Mark Crenshaw
- 29 ..... Gloria Smits
- 28 .....Perry Barinowski, II
- 31..... Whit Caldwell

## God with Us

I have long thought it would be a wonderful thing to have front row seats in heaven to view in person all of the events recorded in Scripture. Sort of like a golden avenue along which are located magnificent theatres with flashing signs: "Saved in a floating barge, starring Noah and a cast of eleven; taming lions and dancing in flames, starring Daniel and friends; Jericho defeated, starring Joshua and his marching band; giant defeated, starring a shepherd boy with a trusty slingshot; shepherds alerted, starring questionable riff-raff in Bethlehem; five thousand fed, starring a young rabbi; empty tome discovered, starring startled women and bewildered disciples." However you imagine it, you cannot out-imagine what God has in store for us. But the event I most want to view is the best week that ever occurred on this planet—actually it is the creation of the planet. That unfolding succession of six literal days during which God brought all we know into existence. Moving from the first day when He turned on the lights in the universe and then methodically from one day to the next planting gardens, stirring living creatures into being, bringing order to all nature eventually leading to the most dramatic act of all. Unlike His creative methodology of speaking all into existence, we are invited to watch Him bend over to gather dust, gently form it inside and out into human form, and then wondrously come so close to this lifeless mold as to exhale His Spirit into the nostrils and lungs of His own image and likeness.

Man came into being and was greeted by the Creator Who wanted to be WITH Him. The fellowship was beyond description. Daily communication as they walked together in the garden. BUT, there was a reality. Adam was given two responsibilities: tend the garden and name the animals. Work was a joy; naming the animals caused deep need in the increasing lonely man. As he carried out his task, it became abundantly clear to him that all creatures had partners "fit" for them, but he was alone. God agreed, man should not be alone. It was not good for a being made in God's likeness to be without someone like him. The trinity enjoys "withness;" the angels created by God enjoy "withness" (some in ages past used that withness to conspire and rebel); human beings require "withness" to survive psychologically and spiritually.

As Jesus developed in His incarnational state, He became acutely aware of the need for withness. He was raised in a large family; interacted socially with extended family; attended synagogue services; celebrated in community and religious affairs; attended funerals and weddings; worked in Joseph's business dealing with clients and vendors. Our Lord enjoyed the company of others and was at home socializing in the home of His dear friends in Bethany. One of the first things He did in His public ministry was to reach out to a diversity of men whom He called to follow Him and, as Mark reminds us, to be WITH Him. He invested in their lives, taught and trained them and looked to them for companionship, assistance, and emotional support. Gethsemane defines this most clearly for us as He invited them to pray with Him and discovers their weakness. "Could you not wait WITH Me for one hour?" Abandoned at His trial, suffering death without their investment, buried by His mother, John and distant followers, we come to realize that in most desperate times of need He was significantly alone.

The prophet Isaiah announces and Matthew repeats the name by which Jesus will be known and characterized—Emmanuel: GOD WITH US! He comes to thoroughly invest in us and to share in the most intimate affairs of our lives. He is not a mere observer of our circumstances, or an arbitrary judge of our daily struggle. He is intimately, personally involved in every aspect of our physical, emotional, and spiritual journey. He is WITH us. "I will never leave you," is His eternal promise. The most familiar passage of Scripture declares, "Though I walk through the valley of death, I

(continued on page 2)



## Anniversaries

- 09 .. Jackie & Dennis Hillesland
- 12.. Mary Lou & Richard Turner
- 17 ..... Jane & George Bowen  
Tammy & Robbie Hendrick
- 19 .....Audrey & Chris Nabholz
- 20 ..... Allyn & Stephen Dyer
- 28 .....Margaret & Scott Doss

## God with Us

(continued from page 1)

fear no evil for Thou art WITH me, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." In the seemingly endless hours of a restless night, He is WITH me; in the great joys of children, family, success, prosperity He celebrates WITH me; in the hospital room during pain, uncertainty and diminished dignity, He is WITH me; when life is smooth and cooperative, He faithfully guides and reminds me that He is WITH me; in the funeral home He is there to weep WITH me. He is Emmanuel—the God Who is not only for us, but is WITH us.

For some, the greatest challenge of life is loneliness. Some have been abandoned; some have been betrayed; some have aged-out and their spouse, dearest companions, friends have departed this life. Some have failed to develop healthy relationships and do not know much of human connection. Some are afraid to trust again, or even perhaps, for the first time. Christmas somehow has a way of deepening this dreadful sense of loneliness.

The people of God have a "friend Who sticks closer than a brother;" we have a fellow-traveler Who "is able to be touched with the feelings of our weaknesses." He cannot be shocked by our failures, distracted by our indifference, overwhelmed by our needs or wearied by our "coming for grace in time of need." He is Emmanuel—the God Who not only welcomes us, but is WITH us.

I pray we will all continue to realistically connect to this powerful truth. The Creator God Who breathed into us His own Spirit, is not about to let go of His claim upon us. He sealed it by the blood of His Christmas baby, His faithful and obedient Servant, His resurrected Priest and His coming King. And in that glorious day of His Kingdom Come, He will be WITH us throughout eternity!

Praying you will each one know in a renewed way the joy of God WITH you especially during this very special time of reflection, celebration, and joy.

Blessings and **Merry Christmas**, 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 a special offering will be collected at the end. The concert will be very 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 upcoming AYC activities.

**Sunday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m.** will be *Evensong: A Christmas Festival* involving our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, Orchestra, congregational carols, and Homily by Dr. John Oliver. Invite your friends and come celebrate our Savior's birth together!

**Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.** All are invited to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship highlighted with Scripture, congregational carols, a string ensemble, and a message from the Word of God. A beautiful and peaceful time of worship for family and friends.

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NLT)*

## Community Service

Our next service opportunity will be Friday, January 19, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. We will once again serve in the dining room at the Master's Table located at 702 Fenwick Street in Augusta. This is a ministry of the Golden Harvest Food Bank reaching those less fortunate with spiritual and physical nourishment. If you are willing and able to serve with us, please contact either Emily Adams (706-627-0784) or Julie Dey (706-294-2436) to reserve your spot.

*This will be your opportunity to bear witness.*

*Luke 21:13*

## TrailLife Trek

It's been a very busy fall for Trail Life Troop GA-2215. New families have been joining every week.

In October, the Navigators camped out at Bussey Point Recreation Area and took a 7 mile hike.

During November, the troop participated in Operation Christmas Child along with the American Heritage Girls Troop GA-2345.



We celebrated Thanksgiving together with our annual "First Thanksgiving Feast" where each family brings a dish that could have been served at the Plymouth Thanksgiving in 1621.



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)).



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child! The members of Christ Church, Presbyterian, Trail Life, and American Heritage Girls had the wonderful privilege of packing 124 gift-filled shoe boxes to be delivered to boys and girls all around the world. A young girl from Benin shares how Operation Christmas Child changed her life.

"My name is Diane, and since I received the shoe box, I have rediscovered true joy. I have understood that God loves me and that he can offer me a gift; for this reason, I have decided to walk with Him and follow Him all of my life."

Please pray that the children who receive shoe boxes this year will not only enjoy the gifts inside but will learn the true meaning of Christmas and find joy and hope as they trust in Jesus.

## Missions Matters

### Bob & Andrea Burnham – Odessa, Ukraine – Mission to the World

Bob and Andrea Burnham have been ministering in Ukraine since 1995, overseeing MTW's church-planting work in Odessa's southern region, including Odessa, Belgorod-Dnestrovsky, and Izmail.

Bob, a Pensacola, FL, native, received a music business degree in Nashville from Belmont University. Andrea grew up in Littleton, CO, and received her architecture degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Having a passion to tell others of the grace of God has given us through Jesus Christ, they each joined MTW separately and met when placed on the same team in Izmail, Ukraine. Andrea and Bob served from 1995-1997 and grew to love the Ukrainian people, as well as each other. After marrying in 1998, the Burnhams relocated to Atlanta, where Bob worked as MTW's director for recruitment. In 2001, they returned to Odessa, Ukraine, where Bob led MTW's church-planting team there. The Burnhams are long-term missionaries who assist Ukrainian believers in organizing congregations that honor God in both word and deed. They covet your prayers for wisdom and the ability to faithfully teach and live in Christ-likeness.

#### Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the maturity of the church – While many folks are growing in spiritual disciplines like nurturing their relationship with God through prayer and Bible reading, the majority of our churches are comprised of first generation believers, who, culturally, find it difficult to take responsibility for their church brothers and sisters in love.
2. Reaching the next generation of Ukrainians – For the last few years we've worked alongside MIA Ministries and have used ELEVATE English Club to reach University students (as well as other ages!). The groups range from 50 to 80 people each week, and give us opens doors to challenge them and share with them a Biblical worldview that brings light and life. We'll continue being a part of this ministry, and are expanding to work with young teens in the north Odessa community.
3. Preparing for the next generation of American missionaries – We won't be in Ukraine forever, and there is much work to be done, so teammate Robin Price and Bob have been working to develop a mentoring program for Americans (especially college and seminary students) who are considering missions. We hope to begin next summer and are encouraged by the support we've already received from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis. Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to send more workers!
4. Building the church (Literally!) – Through supporters like you, God has graciously provided all the funding we need to purchase our building and do the renovations, but now the actual work begins! That is, as soon as we finish the legalities for transferring the ownership of the land. It's not a difficult process, just a bit drawn out. We hope to begin construction on Covenant of Grace church in the next few months.

Please pray we would be able to accomplish all these things, and should the Holy Spirit guide in a different direction, that we would have the faith and courage to follow where He leads.

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



**For unto us a child is born,**



**to us a Son is given, Isaiah 9:6.**



Question: What is the chief end of man? Answer: The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever! (Question 1, Westminster Shorter Catechism) As a teenager I memorized and recited the Shorter Catechism. (I have the Bible I received as proof!) And I have never forgotten that very first question. I have often pondered the word "enjoy." Do I enjoy God? Is He my delight? God's Word says that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God . . ." Therefore, is it my chief end to glorify Jesus and enjoy Him forever? How do I enjoy Jesus? John Piper sets forth this proposal: the chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever. (Desiring God)

Christmas is a time of enjoyment. Christmas morning brings joy in finding gifts under the Christmas tree, unwrapping presents, listening to the delighted oohs and ahhs when you receive that hoped for gift, seeing the smiles on children's faces as they pull out surprises from their stockings. But, do we stop and enjoy the greatest gift anyone has ever received? The Son of God give to us freely and graciously by a loving Father. No greater gift can ever be received than Jesus Christ. He is our greatest treasure, but do we really enjoy unwrapping this perfect treasure, not just on Christmas, but every sing day?

God the Father takes full pleasure in the radiance of His Son. He reveals Him in blinding light, and then says, "This is my delight!" (Matthew 17:5) Should we not take full delight in this treasure? One way to delight in Jesus is to know Him and spend time with Him. He is revealed in God's Word. All of God's Word points to Jesus from Genesis to Revelation.

This is the ultimate aim of our Sunday school curriculum, "Investigating God's Word," by One Story Ministries. John piper puts this so clearly and beautifully; "Our ultimate goal in reading the Bible is that God's infinite worth and beauty would be exalted in everlasting white-hot worship of the blood-bought bride of Christ from every people, language, tribe, and nation."

This Christmas season let us come together as that community of believers comprising Christ Church each Sunday during Sunday school, as well as morning and evening worship to glorify our priceless treasure and enjoy getting to know Him through God's inerrant and infallible Word. Come, let us adore Him.

*Merry Christmas!* Fay Deal

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 Evans, GA 30809  
 706-210-9090  
[christchurchpres.org](http://christchurchpres.org)

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## DECEMBER

**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	10:30 a.m. Choir Practice: Evensong 5:00 p.m. Christmas Mis- sionary Love-Gift Dinner
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4:15 p.m. AYC Christmas Dessert Concert 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	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		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	Trail Life: The Winter Sky
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	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	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	10:30 a.m. Choir Practice: Evensong Dress Rehearsal  <b>Trail Life: Navigator Campout: Wreaths Across America</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m. Evenson: A Christmas Festival 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	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. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 p.m. Men's Prayer	
24	Merry Christmas 25	26	27	28	29	30
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship						
31						
5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting						