



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2018

Birthdays

- 02Anne Gojda
Ed Russell
- 03 Hunt Holton
David Robeson
- 05 Matthew Russell
- 07.....Annette Campbell
Bob Pentecost
- 10..... Emily Adams
Adam Doss
- 11..... Wade Caldwell
- 12.....Bill Kemp
Chris Lammie
- 13.....Scott Doss
- 14.....Perry Barinowski
Liam Boyd
Gene Gojda
- 17 Susan Crenshaw
Ken Moody
- 20Janice Britt
Macy Stephens
- 21..... Delylah Avery
- 24.....Teal Bailey
Sue Moncrief
- 25 Bob Rihl
- 26 Sam Bailey
Avi Holton
- 27.....Silas Jewett
- 30Richard Deal



Anniversaries

- 08Erin & Chris Lammie
- 19..... Polly & Gary Cowart
- 26 Linda & Robert Pentecost

Are You Worthy of Jesus?

In what sense are Christians worthy of God or of Christ or of their calling? And in what sense are we unworthy?

On the one hand, Jesus and Paul both teach that we must be “worthy” of Jesus and His calling.

Jesus:

- Jesus says that in Sardis there are “people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, *for they are worthy*” (Revelation 3:4).
- “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is *not worthy of Me*, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is *not worthy of Me*. And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is *not worthy of Me*” (Matthew 10:37-38).
- “Those who are considered *worthy to attain to that age* and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Luke 20:35).
- “The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were *not worthy*” (Matthew 22:8).

Paul:

- “Repent and turn to God, performing deeds *worthy of repentance*” (Acts 26:20). Similarly John the Baptist had said: “Bear fruit *worthy of repentance*” (Matthew 3:8).
- To the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia Paul said, “Since you thrust the word of God aside and judge yourselves *unworthy of eternal life*, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles” (Acts 13:46).
- “Walk in a manner *worthy* of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1).
- “Let your manner of life be *worthy* of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).
- “Walk in a manner *worthy* of the Lord” (Colossians 1:10).
- “Walk in a manner *worthy* of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
- “May God *make you worthy* of His calling and fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:11).
- “Your suffering is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be *considered worthy* of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering” (2 Thessalonians 1:5).

In all these passages being “worthy” is something expected and necessary in the Christian life.

But on the other hand, Jesus commended the Centurion’s faith as unparalleled for humbly confessing his *unworthiness*. “‘Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. . .’ Jesus said, ‘Not even in Israel have I found such faith’” (Luke 7:6, 9).

And John the Baptist said of Jesus, “He Who comes after me, the strap of His sandal I am *not worthy* to untie” (John 1:27).

How shall we understand our worthiness of Jesus in view of our sinfulness?

Worthy of Repentance

The key that unlocks this mystery is found in the phrase, “Bear fruit worthy of repentance” (Acts 26:20; Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8). This cannot mean “Bear fruit that *deserves* repentance,” because the repentance is already there. It comes first: “Repent and turn to God, performing deeds *worthy* of repentance” (Acts 26:20).

“Worthy of repentance” means: repentance has such *worth* that the fruit it produces will share in that worth. “Fruit worthy of repentance” means that there is a suitable correspondence between the beauty of the repentance and the beauty of its fruit. Repentance is the turning to God from all else, and the valuing of God above all things. That is beautiful. That is what humans were made for. That is worthy.

(continued on page 2)

Ministry thru Music

Kirsten and I are grateful for Christ Church, Presbyterian. We are thankful for each of you and look forward to sharing and journeying together with you through the New Year.

All musical groups resume rehearsals in January. The Sanctuary Choir resumes on Wednesday, January 3, the Children's Choir and The Augusta Youth Chorale resume on Sunday, January 7. The Brass Ensemble resumes Wednesday, January 10. All groups will begin preparing music for upcoming worship services and special events. So, if you have any questions or interest in participating within the music ministry at Christ Church, please contact me for more information.

Interested in singing celebratory Easter music, Sunday evening, April 1, with the Christ Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra? You are cordially invited. Besides our regular Wednesday evening rehearsals, a few extra rehearsals will be scheduled on a few Saturday mornings to aid in learning the music. Come sing with us, we would love to have you. Contact me for further information.

Stan Pylant, Director of Music,
music@christchurchpres.org

Let the godly sing for joy to the LORD; it is fitting for the pure to praise Him. Praise the LORD with melodies on the lyre; make music for Him on the ten-stringed harp. Sing a new song of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy. (Psalm 33:1-3 NLT)

TrailLife Trek

On December 2, Trail Life Troop GA-2215 visited Ice Box Urban Gardens in the Harrisburg neighborhood for their December workday. Boys and parents helped clear an overgrown area in preparation for raised beds for planting in the spring. Afterwards, the participants were treated to lunch from produce earlier harvested from these gardens. On December 16th, the troop participated in the annual Christmas wreath laying at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.



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).

Are You Worth of Jesus?

(continued from page 1)

Then this inner treasuring of God above all things bears fruit in deeds. And these deeds reflect the supreme worth of God. And so they too, in all their imperfection, are worthy. Their worthiness is a reflection of the repentance which is a reflection of God's infinite worthiness.

So being *worthy of repentance* does not mean "being deserving of repentance" as if we earned it or merited it.

Understanding Jesus's Words

This solves the riddle of Jesus's words, "Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is *not worthy of Me*" (Matthew 10:37). This does not mean that we *deserve* Jesus, or *merit* Jesus, or *earn* Jesus. Nothing we do puts Him in a position of owing us anything good.

When Jesus says we are *not worthy of Him* if we treasure our parents or children or life more than Him, He means that He has infinite worth (far above parents and children and life), and the only suitable (worthy!) response from us is to see that, and prefer Him as our supreme treasure.

Seeing His Worth Is Ours

Thus our preference for His worth is our worth. To be worthy of the infinite worth of Jesus is to see and savor Him as infinitely worthy. This is not earning or meriting or deserving Him.

In fact, one aspect of His beauty that we cherish supremely is His *grace* toward sinners like us. Being "worthy" of a *gracious* Savior includes a sense of unworthiness similar to the confessions of the Centurion (Luke 7:6) and John the Baptist (John 1:27).

You become "worthy" of grace (a suitable beneficiary of grace) when you see your need for grace, and when you embrace the infinite value of the Gracious One. In this sense if you love mother or father or son or daughter or your own life more than Jesus, you are not worthy of Him. Your worthiness is your desperate preference for His gracious worthiness over all things.

Embracing the Worth of the Feast

This is confirmed in the story of the wedding feast. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast" (Matthew 22:3-4).

But they would not come. They "went off, one to his farm, another to his business" (verse 5). So the king throws open the doors to everyone who will come and sends messengers to invite them all (verse 9). But before he does this, he says, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy" (verse 8).

This is identical to the situation where Jesus said, "Whoever loves *son* or *daughter* more than Me is not worthy of Me." Only here He is saying, "Whoever loves *farm* or *business* more than Me is not worthy of Me." The principle is the same. Worthiness of the wedding feast is not earning or deserving or meriting it. Worthiness of the feast is preferring the feast over business and farm.

The worth of the guests is their embrace of the worth of the feast.

His Worth Above All Things

I invite you to apply this principle to other passages like the command to be *worthy* of our calling (Ephesians 4:1), and *worthy* of the gospel (Philippians 1:27), and *worthy* of the Lord (Colossians 1:10), and *worthy* of God (1 Thessalonians 2:12), and *worthy* of the kingdom (2 Thessalonians 1:5).

In every case, what we find is that our worthiness is not our deserving or meriting or earning, but rather our seeing and savoring something of infinite worth. *Our* worthiness is our preferring *that* worth above all things.

We do not merit or deserve or earn the Lord and His calling and His kingdom. But in our need God grants us to see them as infinitely precious – infinitely worthy. And we embrace them with desperate desire. We prefer over all. We treasure. We receive. We trust. That is what it means to be "worthy of the Lord."

– John Piper, *Desiring God*

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:9

Missions Matters . . . Bible & Missions Conference

The Bible and Missions Conference is scheduled for February 9th through the 12th. This is an important part in the life of our church. Please clear your schedules and set this time apart to be updated on the work of the missionaries we support and how we can be praying, giving to, and serving them. This will be time for personal and corporate encouragement at Christ Church. Reverend Sandy Wilson will be the conference speaker, along with the following missionaries planning to take part: Doug and Amy Nunziato, Noah and Karleigh Stephens, Erin and David Purvis, and Steve and Sherri Letchford.

Please be in prayer for these missionaries and agencies. As you pray this month, just put yourself in their place and pray for what needs you would have such as:

- trusting the Lord in all things,
- spiritual and physical strength to complete the task set before them,
- for patience, kindness, and gentleness,
- that they would courageously demonstrate the love of Christ.

Greg and Julieann - In harm's way

Rick and Betty Aschmann - Ecuador - Mission to the World

Dick and Nancy Baggé - Kenya/USA - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Bob and Andrea Burnham - Odessa, Ukraine - Mission to the World

Louis and Anne Carter - Kenya & Papua New Guinea - Serving in Mission

Paul and Laura Chinchén - Malawi, Uganda, & Liberia - African Bible Colleges

Thoughts about Missions, the Providence of Our Lord, and Assurance - Martyr Lloyd Jones:

- There is no greater ground of security in this world than to feel that you are a part of the grand plan and purpose of God.
- It does not matter what may happen in the future, nothing can disturb this plan.
- If you are a Christian, do you know that you were the object of God's interest and concern before foundation of the world?
- All these things have been worked out in Eternity past, before time, so we must always remember that nothing can happen in time which will make the slightest difference.
- "For I am persuaded, that neither death, or life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:38.

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.

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

Get ready! Our Scottish Sleuths are returning, ready to solve another case. This one involves a Super Hero! Whom? you might ask . . . it's a mystery. Also, our Scottish Sleuths might just have a big surprise in store - who knows?? During this week, we will unveil several mysteries. So get ready, mark calendars, and sign up to be part of a heroic tale.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the bulletin during January and a collection basket will be on the Welcome Table in the narthex.



So Come One, Come All!

Join in the Fun!

June 11-15 • 9:00 a.m. until noon

I Samuel 16:7

**Man looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.**

Appreciation

A note of appreciation from Mary Hudson, Choral Director, Westminster Schools of Augusta.

Dated December 11, 2017:

I am writing on behalf of the Westminster Fine Arts to express our thanks to Christ Church, Presbyterian for being gracious and willing hosts to us on Monday, December the fourth. We are so grateful to have been able to perform our Christmas Concert in such a beautiful space. We had our Middle and Upper School Chorus and our Middle School band perform, along with three student soloists at piano and violin. In addition, our Art Program featured works by the performing students in the beautiful lobby. It was truly an enjoyable and worshipful night for our audience and performers; and we couldn't have done it without Christ Church.

I hope you will extend our gratitude to your fellow staff members and congregation for blessing us in this way. It truly was a terrific experience, and I hope we may be welcomed again in the future.

WOCC

Women of Christ Church 2018 Officers:

Linda Jones, President

Helen Caldwell, Treasurer

Sherry Barinowski, Secretary

Meals Team Director: Sue Kemp.

Flower Ministry - Yvonne Clark. If interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary, contact either Yvonne at 706-414-0105, or the Church Office at 706-210-9090.

Shut-ins are visited regularly by Linda Jones, Cathie McClure, Stathia Hammond, Sherry Barinowski, Frances Loughran, Janice Britt, Anne Bowen, and Maria Russell.

Church Officer updates/reports are provided by Janice Britt.

Ladies Prayer Ministry is led by Diane Dunsmore, and meets every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall.

Ladies Retreat/Baby Shower Committee includes Faye Robeson, Karleigh Stephens, and Jackie Hillesland.

Fellowship Decorators are Faye Robeson and Martha Folley.

Bread Breakers Ministry is coordinated by Pat Lewis. Loaves of baked breads are frozen and stored for use during home visits.

Prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you participate in any of these ministries. We would love to have you join us! Contact Linda Jones by calling 706-231-3758 or via an email to warrenjoines0101@comcast.net if you are interested in serving in any of these capacities.

Christ Church Press

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

Address Service Requested



JANUARY

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
	<i>Happy New Year!</i>	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4:15 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, 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	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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, Augusta	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer 10:30 a.m. Community Service at Master's Table	<i>Trail Life Service Project</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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, 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 p.m. Men's Prayer	
28	29	30	31			
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