



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 9, Issue 11

November 2013

The Pastor's Pen...

Birthdays

- 03Ted Chew
- 04 Enrique Romero
- 06 Michael Goodell
- 10..... Jane Bowen
 Don Lewis
- 11.....Daniel McMillan
- 13.....Carol Ryans
- 15 Billie McPherson
- 16.....Mary Round
- 17.....Mary Lou Turner
- 18..... Catie Boyd
 Glynn Dyer
 Ian Jones
- 22Andrea Denis
- 23 Jackie Hillesland
- 25 Barbara Volpitto
- 26Sue Kemp
- 27.....Marian Losch

Anniversaries

- 01..... Margaret & Matt Fields
- 02 ..Betty Gene & Al Lovingood
- 06Jordy & Bob Rihl
- 23 Cheryl & John Manthei
- 26Sue & Bill Kemp

The Frightening Possibility of Vain Worship

It is clear that worshipping an idol is vain. Isaiah states poignantly—and sarcastically—what folly it is to worship idols that have no eyes to see, ears to hear, mouths to speak, or power to answer (Isa. 44:9-20; 46:1-7). Idolatry is vain, worthless, utter folly! Worse than that, of course, it is evil—and is at the root of all sin (Rom. 1:18-25). That is why God’s law addresses first and foremost the issue of worshipping the one true God alone. All other worship is absolutely vain!

But idolatry is not the only form of vain worship. It is possible, Jesus teaches us, to worship the true God in a manner that is vain. Quoting the prophet Isaiah (29:13), Jesus says, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:8-9a).

In Jesus’ startling indictment, He points both to the *evidence* and the *essence* of vain worship. The evidence of vain worship that Jesus addressed in His day was that leaders were teaching the traditions of men rather than—and contrary to—the commandments of God. This was what gave rise to Jesus’ stern rebuke in the first place. They were more concerned about pleasing man by passing on the tradition of men than pleasing God by teaching and encouraging obedience to His revealed will. Their disregard for God’s Word was clear evidence that they weren’t really concerned about God in worship—whatever their words and actions might otherwise suggest. It was thus evidence that their worship was vain.

What we want to pay special attention to, though, is what Jesus pinpoints as the essence of vain worship. At its heart, vain worship is that which may be outwardly orthodox (“This people honors me with their lips”) but does not flow from the heart (“but their heart is far from me”). In other words, it is possible in worship to do all the right things outwardly, to have all the right elements, and to pray, confess, and sing words that are in themselves orthodox and God-centered—and yet offer vain worship because what is said and done is not coming from a heart drawing near to God. Leon Morris summarizes this vain worship as going “through the motions of worship, evidently performing the

(continued on page 3)



A 14-year old girl in Paraguay wrote a note expressing how Operation Christmas Child had touched her life. "I'm very grateful for the beautiful gifts that we received, but the most wonderful thing was to meet Jesus through the Bible lessons," she said. "Now I keep talking to others about Jesus, telling them how much God loves them. Some of my friends have already trusted Jesus as their Savior." This scene will be repeated in over 150 countries as millions of girls and boys receive gift-filled shoe boxes this year. What starts out as a simple gift – a shoe box containing toys, school supplies and toiletries – is used by God to transform the hearts and souls of millions of children and their family members.

We at Christ Church, Presbyterian have the wonderful privilege of being a part of this worldwide project. Won't you take advantage of this opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with girls and boys? Prewrapped shoes boxes and brochures with complete instructions are available in the foyer. If you wish to participate but are unable to shop, please consider making a donation to Samaritan's Purse.

Filled shoe boxes will be collected November 3, 10 and 17. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans, 706-738-8259.

Missionary Prayer

Andrea & Bob Burnham

Mission to the World (PCA), Ukraine

- The team from Kherson has merged with the Odessa/Kotovskova team. Pray for the team during this transition time. In particular, pray for Mel Pike, who will oversee training for new leaders in all of the church plants in their region and for Melinda Wallace, whose primary focus will be training people in discipleship and assembling a working library of resources to aid Bible study, small group and Sunday School leaders throughout their Ukraine churches.
- Pray for continued language acquisition and work with their Ukrainian leaders.

Anne & Louis Carter

SIM, Kenya and Papua New Guinea

- Continue to pray for Anne's long recovery from her surgery in August for recurrent spinal stenosis. The recovery period for this surgery is six months.

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Augusta, GA

- Pray for the leadership in CEF as they seek to grow the ministry so that children in every school in Columbia County and the surrounding counties will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel.
- Pray that God would provide the financial support needed for staff to oversee the additional schools that need to be reached.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, November 14. They will then recess until January 9.

Stewardship Sunday

On Sunday, November 17, at the conclusion of Morning Worship, we will have the opportunity to lay before the Lord our financial commitments to the work of Christ Church. A letter will be sent to member households that will include a pledge card. Your pledged giving assists the Session and Diaconate in planning the church ministry budget for the upcoming year. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give in support of His work through Christ Church.

Thanksgiving Service

Plan to join us for our
Thanksgiving Day Service
 Thursday, November 28
 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Oliver will bring the homily and an offering will be collected during the service toward the support of the Palmer Home for Children.

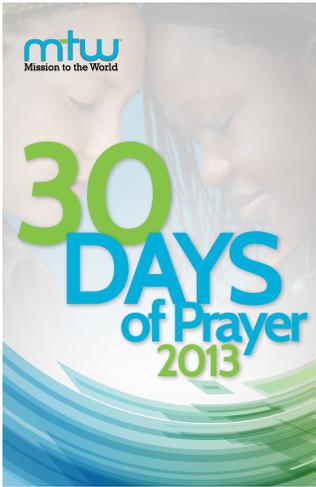
Christmas Festival

The Christmas Festival Service
 will be held
Sunday, December 15
 at 6:00 p.m.

The Christmas Choir rehearsal schedule follows:

Sunday, November 17
 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 14
 9:30 a.m. – Noon
 Dress rehearsal
 with orchestra



30 Days of Prayer 2013 A Month of Prayer for Global Missions

The 30 Days of Prayer calendar provides guidance for praying for the work of the Gospel, especially in restricted-access countries. You may pick up a copy of the prayer calendar from the Welcome Table, or download a prayer calendar from the Mission to the World website (<http://www.mtw.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Resources/30DOP.pdf>).

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Join millions around the world in praying on November 3, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, as we remember believers who suffer simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 1)

outward ritual as [one] should, but quite oblivious of the fact that punctilious performance of rites and ceremonies is no substitute for genuine, inward devotion.”

At Christ Church, you have probably noticed that we are quite intentional about corporate worship. Out of biblical conviction, we seek to include only elements of worship warranted by Scripture. We carefully select hymns that are biblical, theologically sound, and God-centered. We choose music that is reverent, worshipful, and singable. We even believe that form is important in God-honoring worship. The medium—not just the message—matters!

While we believe it is right to give such attention to reverent worship, we do well to take to heart Jesus' words. According to Jesus, we can get the medium right, our theology right, look and sound orthodox—and yet offer worship that is vain, empty, and so not pleasing to God. We can go through the motions, singing of God's majesty and yet not come to Him with humility and glad submission. We can proclaim His power and greatness without having a true sense of reverence and awe. We can declare His holiness without coming in brokenness and contrition for our sin. We can acclaim His goodness in prayer and praise without having a heart of delight and thanksgiving. We can acknowledge with our lips that God alone can give true satisfaction and lasting joy—while impatiently waiting for the service to end so that we can fill our stomachs and enjoy the football game. It is all too easy to honor God with our lips but have hearts far from Him. It is far too easy to worship the true and living God in vain!

But we were made and redeemed to offer and enjoy true worship (Isa. 43:6-7). We were meant in worship to encounter the living God, to see more of His glory, to stand in awe of Him; to fear Him, surrender to Him, love Him, thank Him, praise Him, delight in Him, and rejoice in Him. Oh beloved, the God Whom we worship is the source of life, joy, peace, and everlasting satisfaction, of Whom the psalmist boasts, “In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psa. 16:11b). Let us not be satisfied with right words, actions, music, and forms in worship, while our hearts are far from our glorious God. Rather, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Heb. 10:22), clinging to the sure promise of God: “You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you” (Jer. 29:13). Oh, may God spare us from the frightening possibility of offering vain worship!

November Notations

- The Sacrament of Communion will be observed during Morning Worship on November 10, and our Fellowship Luncheon will follow that service.
- To further the work of the mercy ministry, the Session approved at the request of the Diaconate that all undesignated cash offerings be directed to the Diaconate Relief fund. You may also contribute by making a designated offering to the Diaconate Relief fund.

Christ Church Press

Christ Church, Presbyterian
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 Evans, GA 30809
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 PERMIT 367



November

*Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes will be collected
 on November 3, 10 and 17.*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | 7:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering | | | 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal | 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Moncrief home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 6 p.m. Worship | | 7 p.m. Joint Session / Diaconate Mtg | 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal | 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Boyd home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering | | | 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal | 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Moncrief home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship | | | | 10:00 a.m., Thanksgiving Day Service Office Closed | | |