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THE REACH

Reaching Back • Reaching Forward • Reaching Out • Reaching In

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 5 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

MESSIAH

A LOOK AHEAD

NOVEMBER

- 3-** Daylight Saving Time ends
- 9-** Men's Ministry Pheasant Shoot
- 27-** No CCP Midweek activities or supper
- 27-** Church office closes at 12:30pm
- 28-29-** Church office, CDC, Rec Place closed.
Happy Thanksgiving!
- 30-** Rec Place closed

DECEMBER

- 4-** Children's Christmas Cantata
(part of CCP Midweek)
- 8-** *Messiah* at Weiuca Road Baptist- 6pm
- 11-** CCP Kids Christmas Party; Saints Alive
- 15-** *Messiah* at ChristChurch- 6pm
- 24-** Church office closes at noon
Christmas Eve Service- 5pm
- 25-26-** Office, CDC, Rec Place closed
Merry Christmas!

For more detailed information about what's going on at CCP, be sure to look at the Announcement insert in your Sunday bulletin; it's also posted online each week in the 'Our Publications' section of our website!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6:00PM AT WEIUCA ROAD BAPTIST IN ATLANTA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:00PM AT CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN

Wayne Wilson and the Sanctuary Choir are thrilled to be partnering with Weiuca Road Baptist Church of Atlanta for two special presentations of Handel's *Messiah*. The performances will be Sunday, December 8 at 6:00pm at Weiuca Road Baptist in Atlanta, and Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm here at ChristChurch.

The unique part of these presentations is that they are both audience participation concerts; a sing-along! Copies of the *Messiah* score will be available to those who would like to sing along with the choir during the concert.

Mr. Eddie Card, Minister of Music at Weiuca Road, will direct the performance in Atlanta. Wayne Wilson, Director of Music Ministries here at ChristChurch, will direct the performance in Dalton. Both performances will be accompanied by orchestra. Soloists will be from the Atlanta and Dalton area and will include ChristChurch's own George Ellis.

This will not be 'just another Christmas program' but will be a grand opportunity to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through what many believe to be the single most God-Almighty inspired musical work ever composed.

Admission is free and childcare will be available. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about these concerts! Promotional cards will soon be available for you to pick up and distribute to help us spread the word about this wonderful event.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Pheasant Shoot:
Saturday, November 9

All of the spots are filled and we're looking forward to having a great group out at Silver Shoe Ranch for the Pheasant Shoot!

Bible Studies:
Wednesdays at 6:30am
Sunday School in the Scout Hut

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

There are very few things I love more than Christmas decorations-- I adore the smell of a fresh cut Frasier Fur, gold glittery ribbons, brightly colored ornaments that adorn the tree, the handmade reminders of my childhood and the odd-shaped ornaments that have been glued, and repaired after falling off our tree numerous times. We have ornaments on my family's tree that are missing significant parts like hands, ears or heads but we keep them because of the memories and stories they tell. We stuff our family tree full with bright colored decorations to make it look alive, thriving and full of life and goodness.

Growing up, our Christmas tree was not to be touched at the risk of breaking something or an ornament falling out of place. We would walk closely as a toddler, and we would hear mom in a sweet voice (well, at least a few times it was sweet) say... "don't touch, be gentle!!" It was to be looked at, gawked at, if you will. It was to enjoy because it was so beautiful. Pause..... Let's remember that is a dead tree we are gawking over. It didn't produce those ornaments--- and guess what? The wonderful smelling sap went away. The needles would start to shed and it would start to turn brown. It was because the tree had been cut from it's original source. What made the tree so beautiful, green and fresh were it's roots. While it was still in the ground, connected to it's source of nutrients, it was producing thick branches, and needles galore. But, when the tree was cut from its nutrition- it immediately started to die. It started to shed. It started to turn brown. It started to hunch over a little bit. And before you knew it- we were trying to shove, hang, tie, wrap and put everything we could on it to make it beautiful but really, all it was was a dead and dry tree we had in our home.

DO NOT get me wrong, if I could have a decorated Christmas tree in my house year long I would. It's beautiful! But, someday that's all we are. We are disconnected from our source, not making any real fruit, and we are trying to shove, wrap and hang things on us to make us look like we are producing real things,

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies, please join us at one of our gatherings! We have learning opportunities for women of all ages.

Community Bible Study-
Mondays at 11am in room 213, led by Noel Temples
Studying *Twelve Extraordinary Women*

Wednesday Bible Study-
Wednesdays at 4:45pm in the Adult Commons
Led by Heidi Bethel, Betsy Snyder,
Stephanie Reynolds, and Rachel Cobb
Studying *Twelve Extraordinary Women*
Childcare is available!

Save the Date:
Mark your calendars for our Winter Retreat, which will be here at ChristChurch on February 7 and 8. Our guest speaker will be Julie Coleman, who is a popular conference speaker and author of "Unexpected Love: God's heart revealed through Jesus' conversations with women." More information will be coming soon!

but in the end, all of our ornaments are fake. Our "fruit" is only for looks- we do kind acts of service to make us look better. Just like we hang gold and sparkly ornaments on our tree to make it look more alive and fruitful.

It's a costly cycle this fruit production and it's not always consistent for me. If I'm focused on myself that day, or minute, or second-- it's not going to be beneficial to anyone what comes out of my mouth.

So, it's a challenge to all of us. To produce real fruit-- fruit that comes from the roots. Not the fruit we try to clip onto ourselves that makes us look more beautiful on the outside, when we are just dying on the inside. I challenge you this week as you water your dead tree in your home to be reminded of where you find your roots and nutrition. Is it the bottom of a plastic tree stand that often runs dry for days? OR is it Jesus Christ that is the provider of all things, in which His care and love for us never runs dry? Do your children see you as a tree that is decorated with fake ornaments who's nutrition is the plastic tree stand? OR do they see you as a tree deeply grounded in it's rootstock producing fruit that benefits others?

In placing our ROOTS in Jesus Christ, we produce REAL FRUIT. The tree that produces the wonderfully smelling aroma and the fruit that is beneficial to the community and real!

Elizabeth

Important Children's Ministry Dates:

November 9- Older Elementary Service Project
December 4th- Children's Christmas Cantata
December 11th- CCP Kids' Christmas Party

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Here we go, into one of the busiest times of the year. The children of the CDC are busy making paper turkeys, scarecrows, and learning to give thanks for all of our blessings. Soon we will be preparing for the upcoming Christmas season and the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The annual Christmas program will be December 20th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Each year we look forward to this festive occasion when we share our Christmas music with family and friends.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:10-12: Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

UNDER THE OAK: CCP YOUTH

A lot of great things have been happening in our youth group lately! We've had a great group of kids coming out for our Middle School and High School meetings. We're looking through the stories of the Old Testament that most of us have heard over and over again (like Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, etc) except we're trying to look at them with fresh eyes. We want to see the characteristics of God that are a common thread through all of these stories. The main themes we've discovered are that God is good, He is faithful, and He will come through even if it's not in the way we think He should. Sunday nights are always fun- we've played some crazy games, had some awesome food provided by awesome parents, and joined together in worship.

We have had a couple of '5th Quarter' events and they have all been great successes! The goal for the 5th Quarter is to give High Schoolers a safe, supervised place to come hang out after the home football games. FUMC does a great job of giving Middle Schoolers a place to hang out at their discos, but there wasn't really anything like this in town for the High School crowd. We have free food, music, an open gym, and plenty of supervised space for the kids to just hang out with their friends. We had close to 150 kids come through our last one! If you'd be interested in helping with any of our future 5th Quarter events, please let Ryan Cobb know. They're a lot of fun!

THE RAPHA HOUSE

New Counselors On Staff

At The Rapha House, the counseling ministry of ChristChurch Presbyterian, we are happy to announce the addition of two new counselors, Bucky Broadrick and Aaron Shaner, who are joining with Phyllis Spahn to provide counseling services to our congregation and community.

Bucky Broadrick, PharmD, MA, LAPC, was born and raised in Dalton and currently resides in Chattanooga with his wife Ashley (also from Dalton) and their three children, Bo (6), Mary Susan (4), and Caroline (1). Bucky's professional background combines the best in clinical training, that of being a licensed pharmacist, along with being a spiritually sensitive counselor.

Aaron Shaner, MS, LAPC, who recently moved from Arkansas, resides in Chattanooga with his wife, Kara, who is a teacher with Hamilton County Schools. Aaron's experience includes being a church youth minister for five years in Virginia Beach, VA. You will also see Aaron working at The Rec Place and Coffee Shop during his non-counseling hours.

In addition to helping individuals, couples, families, and groups at The Rapha House, Bucky and Aaron will be sharing their expertise with our congregation and in our community through educational seminars and groups.

Please meet and welcome Bucky and Aaron to our church ministry family. **Our counselors can be reached by calling The Rapha House at 706-264-1920. You may also find us on the web at www.theraphahouse.org.**

We'll be starting our Middle School Black Light Parties back up pretty soon, as well. This is, again, a great chance for our Middle School kids to have a safe, supervised place to come have a crazy good time with their friends.

Ryan has already met with parents about some of the mission trip opportunities coming up this summer! It will be a busy summer: Middle School will have the opportunity to go to The Great Escape and a mission trip to Chattanooga like last summer. The High Schoolers will be taking an international mission trip to Nicaragua and will also have the opportunity to go to Fun in the Son.

Keep an eye out for more information about youth Christmas events, 5th Quarters, and Black Light Parties!

THE RECREATION PLACE

The Recreation Place: Where to from here?

Greetings!

I am beginning my fourth week heading up the Recreation Ministries here at CCP, and I just want you all to know what a joy it is to serve in this wonderful community God has brought together. There are such amazing things happening through The Recreation Place, and I know there is the potential for so much more. In thinking and praying through where God will lead this ministry, I want to highlight a few specific things I am searching for that I hope might resonate with the congregation here at CCP:

I'm looking to listen: Being new to this area, I am trying to get adapted to the church and culture, and the best way to go about this, is to hear directly from you. I want to know individual stories and interests so I can build programs that are drawn from the congregation and community.

I'm looking for ideas: I have been blessed to have spent the past 5 months gathering ideas for sports and recreation ministry from many different parts of the country. In addition to bringing my own ideas, I hope the creativity of our congregation will shine through. If you have an idea, bring it to me and we will see if we can get something rolling.

I'm looking to build relationships: I have two purposes in building relationships. First, I am looking to build a network of people and resources in support of our programs. Second, I am looking to build and foster relationships that will in turn create opportunities to share the Gospel (not just from me personally, but from anyone involved in our programs). If you

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Season of Advent –

The weeks preceding Christmas can be some of the most difficult times for us to focus on God. We feel the weight of buying gifts, preparing for guests, putting up the Christmas tree, stringing lights, baking treats, attending parties and entertaining. All alongside our regular work lives. Sometimes it feels more like a burden than a celebration.

Yet, Advent is the season in which we watch, wait and prepare to bear witness to the coming of the true light of God's presence in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study of Scripture and prayer we train our eyes and our hearts to recognize God's presence, so that despite the hubbub of the holiday season, we are prepared to celebrate with fresh wonder a "Holy Day" – the day when God came down among us in human flesh.

Upcoming Events –

Saints Alive - CCP Senior Adults are invited to attend an Advent Concert at historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Chattanooga, Wednesday, December 11 at 12:00 noon. The concert will feature Advent and Christmas music. Lunch will be served at St. Paul's immediately following the concert. We will leave from our church parking lot at 11:00 am. Admission is free. Lunch: \$5.00.

Please call our church office to reserve your place on our bus no later than noon on Monday, December 9.

have a recreation group, Bible study, or just an individual that you would like me to meet, please let me know and I will gladly show up. Further, it is my hope that some in the congregation would take the time to come down to the Recreation Place, meet our members, build relationships, and create opportunities to share God's truth. If you have thoughts on ways we can encourage this, I would love to hear them.

I'm looking for servant-leaders: As we build new programs here at the Recreation Place, there will be opportunities for people to step up into leadership roles and actively minister to the community. Please let me know if you are interested in serving in our programs, particularly if we are pursuing an interest that you are passionate about (e.g. volleyball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, fitness, etc.).

It is my prayer that through this church and ministry, the light of our church will shine through our sports and recreation programs. I pray that these programs will create opportunities to grow in our faith, opportunities to build relationships, and ultimately opportunities to share the Gospel.

If you have any thoughts, concerns, or just a desire to serve, please stop by the Recreation Place, or contact me at the information below. I look forward to all that God has in store for this ministry. Blessings to you!

Matt Franck

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Adult Sunday School - Advent of a Savior - Special Advent Sunday School Class for Adults beginning December 1, 9:30 in the Adult Commons. Watch the Weekly Updates for more details.

Ladies Winter Retreat- February 7 and 8, 2014, featuring guest speaker Julie Coleman