



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes –June 2018

Belonging is Action

How we use our time, talents and treasure falls under the theological understandings of “stewardship”. The scriptures direct us in some ways but leaves us a wide girth for choice and decisions. Summer time gives us the opportunity to change daily routine – sometimes even time away for rest and fun. I thank you for the time I had with family and I thank you for honoring my birthday! You are appreciated and include in my life, as I am in yours.

I use my time in various ways – sometimes wisely, and sometimes otherwise. One of the expectation of ministerial standing is to engage in a minimum of 16 hours per year for continuing education and renewal. Recently I attended an ethics workshop (June, 2018) entitled “Fragmentation, Fluidity, Integration.” The workshop was designed for the therapeutic community but was open to clergy. As minister, I registered for the workshop because of the subject of ethics and because of the person who was presenting. I found and became a part of a community of seekers as we gained inspiration.

The information shared was not foreign to my experiences in ministry, and yet new approaches encouraged me and renewed my thinking. The world needs the church. We are compelled to act out the Good News of hope and healing. It is our authentic work to initiate actions that connect

to individuals as they seek community. The world’s saving grace is about relationship nurtured by communities where all belong.

Disconnection leads to complacency (“don’t care”) and disdainment (ignored and uninvolved) to societal needs and develops into a loss of civility (rudeness, rage). To counter and transform this spiritual crisis of disconnection is to implement a spiritual practice of belonging. Belonging is being a part of something larger than self and yet being able to stand apart with confidence. Belonging is being vulnerable as we navigate the uncertainty, the risks of daily living. Belonging is accepting emotional sharing and listening with the exact same amount of passion that you want to be heard. Belonging is being wanted and included by others while also taking action to be involved and accepting of others.

Each week at my church a group of men and women come together for bible study. Some of them are new to the membership of the congregation. Some have deep roots in church life and Christian faith. Some are new to the faith and to the church. All are willing to seek truth but most importantly, they care about each other. One member has lung cancer and the treatments are no longer effective. This week when he came to bible study group, he was weak and tired. As he sat at table, he participated in the discussion but he was uncomfortable and unsettled. Before the end of the hour, he excused himself to go home and apologized for disrupting

the members of the group. As he stood up to leave, he offered this meaningful thought, "Being with you is important despite my condition."

I value you so much, I just had to be here today with you." His choice was simple - He belonged. They belonged. The connection was strong. The community was made.

(permission was granted to share this story).

Peace for today, Sheila



Church Calendar for June-July 2018

July 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Wednesday, June 20

5:45 pm - Bible Journaling
 5:45 - Youth Dinner & Movie
 7:00 - Choir

Thursday, June 21

FCCW Volunteers for IHN - Union Christian Church

Friday, June 22

6:00 pm - WWW Dinner Group - Cabin Creek

Saturday, June 23

9:00 am - Youth Car Wash
 FCCW Volunteers for IHN - Union Christian Church

Sunday, June 24

10:00 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship
 3:00 pm - Sheila leaves for Mid-High Camp (June 24 - 29)

Monday, June 25

Mid-High Camp - (Emma Baxter, Lucy Hunt, Kinsey Patrick, Lexi Pritchard, Annika Bonds, Garrett Clark, Payslee Bettis, Gregory Bays, Noah Smith, Harrison Bennett, Lourdes Hernandez)
 5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS
 No Disciple Women's Meetings

Wednesday, June 27

7:00 pm Choir

Thursday, June 28

8:00 pm - Theology Thursday

Saturday, June 30

5:00 - 9:00 pm - Parents' Night Out at FCCW - Sponsored by Young Adult Group

Sunday, July 1

10:00 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship

Tuesday, July 2

2:00 pm - Support Group

Wednesday, July 4

Office Closed
 No Choir Practice

Saturday, July 7

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - First Saturday

Sunday, July 8

8:00 am - CMF Breakfast and Meeting
 10:00 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship
 Email Board Meeting

Monday, July 9

2:00 pm - Bible Study
 5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Wednesday, July 11

No Choir Practice

Thursday, July 12

8:00 pm - Theology Thursday

Sunday, July 15

10:00 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship

Monday, July 16

2:00 pm - Bible Study
 5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, July 17

2:00 pm - Support Group
 5:00 - 9:00 pm - Pilot Club

Wednesday, July 18

4:30 - 7:00 pm - Friends Forever
 No Choir Practice

Sunday, July 22

8:30 am - Elders Meeting
10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship

Monday, July 23

2:00 pm - Bible Study
5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS
6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

Wednesday, July 25

No Choir Practice

Thursday, July 26

8:00 pm - Theology Thursday

Sunday, July 29

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship (Change for Change)

Monday, July 30

2:00 pm Bible Study
5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, July 31

2:00 pm Support Group

Porch Sittin' and Other Memories

Summer is HERE! When the stifling heat and humidity set in, I am reminded of my childhood. Summers of catching lightning bugs, summers of going to the public pool; and summers of playing with friends until dark. However, I'll share some of my favorite memories of our front porch.

The porch, being a major part of our home, was always busy. It was a place where Uncle Jesse could sit and rest a bit after a busy, day of working in the garden, all 10 acres. It was a place kids could come with a skinned knee or some other bumps, because there would be an adult within hearing distance to 'make it better.' After spending time swinging on the porch swing, getting a band-aid, some pampering, and the alligator tears dried up, all was well again.

It was also a place for Uncle Jesse's flowers --- pots all lined up across the front. He was not wild about ferns because 'they were just green, didn't do anything.' He had one plant per pot and if he ran out of flower pots, he would use a coffee can. I thought it was a bit unsightly to have all those Maxwell House cans lined up across the front porch. They all had flowers in bloom, but all I could see were the coffee cans. What wouldn't I

now give to drive up and see all those cans lined up across the front of the porch. Those days are long gone, but I don't really have to drive up to see all those pots and cans filled with Sultanas (aka Impatiens), geranium, petunias and marigolds, they live in my memory.



Another memory I would just as soon forget was the time I was practicing my saxophone while sitting on the porch. We had one neighbor across the road and I was sure my playing would not bother him, at least not as much as it bothered my family. I honked and tooted on that thing for hours. I graduated from the alto sax to the big kahuna, a baritone sax. Well, I could absolutely blow the leaves off the trees with that thing. It seemed I was the only one enjoying my efforts though. The old gentleman who lived across the road passed away one summer afternoon while I was practicing. It was a terrible sight to see him being brought out of his house, on a stretcher and put into the hearse. Uncle Jesse told me I had honked him to death. That really took the shine off my sax playing. My practice sessions on the front porch was then moved to the back porch.

The front porch was to me what home base is to baseball. You see, a train ran near the house at night. I had to be at home, on that porch before that train ran around 11:30. I remember hearing its whistle blowing and I was not even near home, much less the porch. The only solution to that situation was to outrun the train. Have you ever tried to outrun a train that is traveling at full steam ahead? I mean outrun it in a '55 Chevy. Sometimes we did, and sometimes we didn't. Enough of that story.

The porch was also a gathering place. Whether it was a happy occasion, a solemn occasion or a place for good conversation after a big Sunday dinner (that would be lunch to the younger generation). One such time was when I took my fiancé home to meet the family. That ol' city boy knew nothing about 'gathering on the front porch'. I tried to tell him there would be uncles, cousins and a few folks who were like family waiting on the porch to look him over. He did not pay much attention to my warnings and was dumbfounded when we drove up to find a dozen or so fellas on the porch awaiting our arrival. Yep, it was the fellas. Things got a bit quiet as I introduced him around. I do believe I could see sweat on Ed's brow. It soon dried up when he was told that the women were inside busily getting food on the table, ice in the glasses and pies out of the oven.

Now as a side, let me tell you, Ed Watkins thought his 'motherload' had come in when he saw all that food. He just knew that by marrying an old country gal, he would be eating like that for the rest of his days. Well, that absolutely was not going to happen and did not happen!

There is another porch which is really special to me. It is the porch of the First Christian Church, Watkinsville. After the service, most of the congregation will exit through the front door onto the porch. There is the richness in that porch gathering. I stand on the porch and see friends who have not seen each other since last week's service. I see children and youth scooting across the grass to the car so they can get out of there as fast as possible. I see young adults sharing with each other happenings of the upcoming week. The memory I shall always have is that of Sheila still ministering joy and happiness to us as we go on our way. It seems I see the world with different eyes after having those few minutes of 'porch gathering.'

Now I ask you, have you ever attended a church where the minister stands at the door, shakes your hand and then almost throws you out the door so he/she can get to the next person? I kind of understand that, but I don't like it. I am so grateful my church, my church family and my minister are 'warm and fuzzy' so to speak. I do believe that if there is a porch in Heaven, it has been modeled after the porch at the First Christian Church of Watkinsville, Georgia.

Happy Gardening and Remembering,
Nancy



Dear WFCC Church Members,

As the summer begins we are mindful of the traditions of Revival. The event brought people together to renew faith and strengthen their commitment to grow spiritually. Although we no longer organize a revival, it strikes a chord similar to our August Homecoming when we will welcome past members and celebrate our common faith and belief. For the Stewardship & Finance Committee, now is also the time for renewal as we begin to plan for the next budget cycle. We view the budget as the instrument through which our stated missions will become action.

This year, the committee is embarking upon a project to provide information, raise awareness, and encourage a commitment to giving. The project will unfold as we move through the process from the budget preparation work-up on to the final approval by the congregation at the annual budget meeting in November.

The committee has selected the name, GROWING IN GRACE, for the project. Most definitions of God's grace refer to the gifts of love and mercy God provides to us. These gifts do not have a material aspect. Part of our definition is, "...the divine influence which operates in humans to regenerate and sanctify...". With this in mind, we construe our expression of grace to involve using the gifts given to us to further God's Kingdom on Earth.

This letter to the congregation is the first in a series of activities as we develop GROWING IN GRACE. It is our sincere hope the program will be of assistance in clarifying the budget process to all and in helping us all as we consider our individual part in supporting the mission of WFCC.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship & Finance Committee.

There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.

Proverbs 11:24-25

SUMMER ON THE CORNER – 2018 – at FCCW!!

Opportunities to grow in grace together in ministry & mission in the world

Opportunities for Sharing Time, Talent, Treasure in service to Others:

FCCW Volunteers for A.C.T.S: pack up and distribute food baskets for clients.

Old Bogart Elementary School. Contact Pam Crawford.

Tuesday, August , 8:45 AM – 1:15 PM

FCCW Volunteers for Oconee Food for Kids-Summer: pack weekly food for Oconee children

Donations on “Change for Change” Fifth Sundays

FCCW Volunteers for Interfaith Hospitality Network: hosting and food for families to prevent homelessness. Work with Union Christian and Ashford UMC. Location is at Union Christian.

Contact: Bill Hunt or Cindy Pritchard for information and for training opportunities.

Thursday, June 21 and Saturday, June 23

FCCW Volunteers for First Saturdays at FCCW. 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM for set up. 10:00

AM – 12:00 N hospitality for the community. 12:00 N – 12:30 for clean-up.

Saturday, July 7

Saturday, August 4

Any Time give monetary donations for the “Kitchen” project. Checks made to FCCW, designated “Kitchen Reno” Project starts on June 13!

Opportunities for Children and Teens and Families:

Sunday morning learning: K – 5th graders in Friends Fellowship class.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM 6th - 12th graders in “Biblical Texting” class.

Parents/Grandparents – “Parenting in Faith” class.

Traditional Adult Sunday morning classes are in Fellowship Hall, the Annex, upstairs classroom

Wednesday, July 18, Friday, Aug 17 “Friends Forever” (K-5th graders)

4:30 PM – 7:00 PM Food, Friends, Fun, Faith at church.

Wednesday, June 20: Children and Teens – “Dinner and a Movie” Fellowship Hall

5:45 PM – 7:00 PM Contact Amy Baxter

Saturday, June 23: Youth Car Wash at FCCW – fundraiser.

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Contact Amy Baxter for details.

Sunday, July 29 “Water Day” at church

Sunday, July 12: Homecoming Sunday with children/teen activities

Wednesday, August 15 ,22, 29 Wednesday night children/teen group

5:45 – 7:00 PM Dinner and activities.

Sunday, August 26 “Church at the Lake”

Camp Christian weeks are in June. Junior I (June 4 – 8), CYF (June 11 – 16) Mid-High (June 25 – 29)

Opportunities for Adult Groups for Friendship, Learning and Serving:

Mondays, July 9,16,23,30 August 6, 20, 27 – Adult Study Group

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Tuesdays, July 10, 24, August 14, 21 – 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Adult Friendship Group

Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27 – 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Rehearsal.

Sunday, July 8 – 8:00 AM – CMF Breakfast

Friday, June 22 – 6:00 PM – Cabin Creek Bar-B-Q, Nicholson, WWW Dinner Group.

Opportunities for Worship and Prayer:

Sunday, July 22, August 19– 8:30 AM – Elders meeting.

Sundays, – 11:00 AM – Worship Services

VBS 2018

'Growing in the Son'

Vacation Bible School was a time for friends, gardening, music, and much more! First Saturday festivities were a great addition to our fun-filled weekend. Kathy Reising helped us plant hydrangeas from clippings of church members we fondly remember and our Disciple Women's group offered lunch to the community. Also, the Smith family brought their goats- yes, we had goats on the church lawn!



Bill Hunt led us in music at VBS- we sang some silly songs, of course. Mr. Bill prepared us to share the songs we learned in church on Sunday.



The Kitchen Renovation has begun at WFCC.

Lots of help from these ladies for phase 1 of the kitchen renovation! Cabinets and drawers were emptied and made ready for our men to start tearing out!



How many Christians does it take to bring down a wall?? Maybe they need the trumpets that brought down the Jericho wall!!!!



June Outreach to our Community

Pentecost Offering 5/20 & 5/27 - \$517 which was \$17 over our goal of \$500

First Saturday 6/2 – Train, Bounce House, Very successful, in conjunction with Vacation Bible School

A.C.T.S. – Tuesday 6/5 – Morning of Service - 9 Volunteers worked 4.5 hours each. Great group and served around 33 families.

Summer Food for Kids Volunteer Opportunity Wed 6/6 at OARC – Had 7 wonderful volunteers - Packed weekly boxes for 28 families – and set up for next week. We were there about 35 minutes. Plus we donated \$ 56.45 for School Year Program, collected at First Sat and Change for Change



Green Chalice Team – Has been very busy – planted the front beds, just before the rain! Summer has hit and now maintaining watering. We will be looking at plans and ideas for our Hydrangea Memorial Garden, as well as Simonton Bridge side of church. Thank you to Nancy Watkins for spearheading and getting us off to a good start. We also participated in First Sat & VBS with a hydrangea rooting project – all cuttings were from Teresa’s garden, an opportunity to share in Growing with Grace.



Upcoming Opportunities to Serve our Community

Inter Faith Hospitality Network – Thur 6/21 and Sat 6/23 – Need Van Drivers, Evening Hosts & Overnight Hosts and Meal for Saturday evening – This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others! Please get your training and sign up. This is a great experience!

First Saturday – Saturday July 7th 10 am – 12 noon – Provide drinks, bounce house, train, other activities

Financial Report April 2018

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$17,931

YTD BUDGETED
\$60,401

YTD ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$56,433

APRIL EXPENSES
\$15,802

YTD BUDGETED
\$64,705

YTD ACTUAL EXPENSES
\$52,545

YTD CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ (3,968)
YTD EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ (12,160)
YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ 3,888

GENERAL FUNDS \$ 29,563
DESIGNATED FUNDS \$ 31,718
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS \$134,075
ENDOWMENT FUNDS \$106,906



These are photos from in front of Old College on the UGA campus. The ceremony dedicating the bench for Teresa Guthrie was simple and brief. Teresa's brother, Tommy, and Kelly Kerner, her immediate supervisor spoke. Tommy gave a few personal anecdotes about Teresa and Kelly welcomed the family on behalf of the University and thanked the gathered group of Development colleagues for their contributions to the memorial bench. Everyone present spoke of her talents, strength, and love of life.

