



# The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
4 N. Main Street  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

## Staff

Sheila Hunter, Minister  
Amy Baxter, Youth Director  
Teresa Guthrie, Music Director  
Mary Venable McKeel, Organist  
Elaine McTyre, Secretary.

## Church Board 2016

David Smith: Chairman  
Joan Mann: Chair Elect  
Maria Turnbull, Secretary  
Roger Smith: Stewardship & Finance  
Cathy Moorehead - Christian Education  
Bill Hunt: Chairman, Rita Shadden: Co-Chair: Evangelism & Membership  
Pam Gunter: Outreach  
Larry Gunter: Property  
Becki Peterson: Worship  
Ann Hunt: Youth  
Karen Finnerty, Chair, Max Taylor, Co-Chair: Diaconate  
Leo Baker: Elders  
Russell Lee: Chairman, Trustees  
Ann Smith: Disciple Women  
Wayne McTyre: CWF  
Mary Lillie Watkins, Past Chairman  
Sheila Hunter: Minister

## Heart Shapes

Some, if not all of you, know that my door to the office is always open to you and others who might seek a time of conversation and sharing. “A cup of coffee” is the cue of invitation as we share from the hearts what is on our minds. I appreciate holding that cup with hot, dark coffee. I appreciate even more the opportunity to listen and receive you and your stories of the past or, of the present. It is in the sharing from the heart that relationships develop into partnerships for the shared ministry of our congregation. It is also in the listening to each other that friendships develop for the tough, demanding, sad, confusing times, yet unknown.

Jesus extended that kind of invitation. “Come to the table” “Come follow me” “Eat this bread, Share this cup.” These were his frequent words to those who would listen. The invitation was just the *beginning* of developing a relationship of trust and shared purpose. The first step for a community of believers.

Over the course of shared time together, relationships unique with each individual supported the purpose and mission of the gathered community’s work. Jesus engaged a diverse, inclusive population of folks – female and male, slave and free, religious and not, ancient and young, experienced and novice, red and yellow, black and white - - - all were precious in Jesus’s sight. The individuals who took the first steps toward his invitation and continued the journey with him became community. They also became the very ones who shared his story of love and acceptance with generations to come.

Some of Jesus’ relationship were close with benefits for both sides. Some relationships were lost to the fear and to resistance to the new. Some relationships for Jesus were about his earthly comfort, giving rest at the end of the day. Some of Jesus’s relationships brought sadness and disappointment where forgiveness was needed in order to move forward.

All of Jesus’ relationships brought a richness of story shared from the hearts, that shaped the individual and ultimately developed the community that continued to share Jesus’ story. Individuals hearts were shaped by Jesus’ open invitation to start a relationship and to become community.

Henri Nouwen writes, “Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own.” (Philippians 2:4) The question that Nouwen raises, for FCC-W is not “How can we make community?” rather, “How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?”

The invitation is extended and the door is open. Come, have a cup of coffee!

Peace for today, Sheila



Nancy Watkins joined FCC-W as a transfer of membership. Nancy’s church background most recently includes: United Methodist. Her work career included banking, non-profit project coordination and the UGA Law School. Her recent passion includes Landscape Design and gardening. Nancy designed and implemented the “Goodness Grows Here” landscape project – still in process – on the north side of our church building, in the courtyard. This spring will show the results of many hours of work! It is with warm welcome and appreciation that FCCW welcomes Nancy Watkins!

Nancy writes about her participation and membership at FCCW:

A new year! What does that mean other than another birthday; the privilege to (once again) meet with your accountant; a year to celebrate life's special moments and a year to meet the challenges life tends to send our way. The new year is also a time of resolutions, but more importantly, a time of renewal. We are given the opportunity to renew old friendships, to renew commitments that have fallen through the cracks and renew the stale parts of our lives with a new vibrant outlook.

For me, the new year is all of the above and much more. More importantly, it is a time of enrichment as well. My enrichment comes from being a member of the Watkinsville First Christian Church. I never seem to leave this church that I don't have some 'food' for my soul. Indeed, the little brick church on the corner is filled with loving kindness. That loving kindness seeps through the brick and into the community around it. The overflow of kindness comes from you and me by simply living our lives as God wishes. What a blessed gift it is to renew my faith, enrich my life and share it with those around me in 2016.

## ACTS Year End Report

Pam Crawford

ACTS Board of Directors, Sec. &  
Clothing Coordinator



ACTS Board of Directors meeting on January 20

ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) continues to grow and is still run by local churches and all volunteers. It takes a lot of people to make this possible and our church is known for all we do!

Jimmy Christopher, ACTS Treasurer, noted that ACTS is in better shape at this time than ever before. He also mentioned that over 45% of the income came in October, November and December. In December alone 26% of total yearly income was received. These monies come mainly from 30 participating churches, individuals, organizations and trusts.

In 2015 ACTS provided 2,488 baskets of food to Oconee County neighbors in need. There were also 383 boxes of food to Seniors to free up their funds to purchase medications. ACTS works closely with Sheila Jackson from ACTION on this program that started two years ago.

Over 200,000 items of food for the year was provided in 2015! Some foods were donated by church food drives, school food drives or purchased from funds donated. What we are noticing is that some clients come 4-5 times per year and a lower percentage come the full twelve times that are allowed.

I was recently asked to figure approximately how many man hours our church members had put in for 2015 and was surprised with this total. It was over 1400 hours! This includes our Closet Gals who work almost every Wednesday to keep our closets neat and put out the many items of good clothing donated, it includes the Monday Trader Joe pick-ups that is done by Leo and Doc each week, also working on this project was Pat to put out and refrigerate, to Cindy and Carrie for working on the new client cards for front desk, to Pam for picking up 12-20 bags of clothing each week from Child's Closet and taking to ACTS and to our members who volunteer on our workdays with clients. Wow...wonderful!!! This is more hours than another participating church.

A huge thank you to all who have helped in the past with ACTS and we look forward to a good year. There will be food drives and clothing drives with our church as well as February 2nd workday with clients. One day recently a record was set with 51 families coming in one work day for food.

## Outreach Committee 2016.

-CHANGE FOR CHANGE will be collected on 5th Sundays to support Oconee Food for Kids Program.

-Needed: Chairperson for FCC RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM - Relay is April 22 at OCHS, 6-12 pm. Already planned by the Committee is a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 2.

-WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING - will be collected Feb 21 and 28. This offering helps with disaster relief around the world. Look/listen for more information on this!

-ACTS: many opportunities to help! Our next time to work with clients is February 2, 9AM - 1PM.

-On the Calendar - The Second Annual - MAIN STREET FAITH JAM - MAY 15. More later on this.

Coming up: Other Special Offerings, First Friday on Main, Food Drive Competition and ....

Judges 18: 5-6. Then they said to him, "Inquire of God that we may know whether the mission we are undertaking will succeed." The priest replied, "Go in peace. The mission you are on is under the eye of the Lord."



## Disciple Women

Our regular monthly meeting was held on Monday. We had 16 members present.

Our Disciple Women will be visiting our Shut-ins for Valentine's Day. We have decided that this project is something that we want to concentrate on this year.

We will be filling Senior Boxes for March for Action. We are asking for donations of paper products and laundry detergent. Please leave these donations in the Fellowship Hall.

We want to encourage all the women in the church to join us for our next meeting on February 29.

If you see a lot of activity in the halls upstairs the next couple of weeks, it might be because the DW group has voted to do some updating to our minister's office. Sheila has not asked for this but this work is way overdue!

Plans include...to paint the built-ins, walls,

ceiling and light fixtures, to take down the wallpaper border, to put doors on the bottom shelves of built ins for added storage, to remove the old window unit and freshen up window and maybe add blinds, to add some decor and a mirror to walls, to clean old wooden floors and wax, to purchase an area rug, to work on existing table and chairs, maybe purchase a comfortable sitting chair and so on and so on!

The DW group has voted to spend up to \$500 on this project and are working closely with Larry Gunter, Property Chair and Peterman Painting will be doing the painting at no charge with the group paying for the paint.

Lots of excitement for this great project!!! If others would like to contribute...the ladies will not turn it down! Just write your check to WFCC DW for Sheila's Office Project and turn in to any DW member.

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### Evangelism and Membership

We have resumed Wednesday evening fellowship. Come join us in the fellowship hall for supper at 6:00 PM every Wednesday followed by bible study with Sheila for adults at 6:30. Currently we are studying Romans and it's not too late to join in the discussion! Bring your kids for youth choir with Teresa from 6:30-7:00!

Supper is provided by the Evangelism and Membership Committee. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday nights!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Hunt

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents with our committee, please contact me at [wwhunt1313@gmail.com](mailto:wwhunt1313@gmail.com)

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### Christian Education 2016

It is the hope of the Christian Education Committee that everyone will participate in one of the many Sunday School classes that we have at First Christian. Learning the teachings of the Bible never ends. Small groups provide a great environment for spiritual growth. If you are not already attending a class, please consider visiting.

It is also a good time to get to know your fellow church members a little better. There is usually coffee in the kitchen prior to starting time of 10:00am.

We thank all of our Sunday School teachers who provide leadership for our Christian education.

Pastor Sheila is currently providing a Pastor's Class for young people who may be interested in baptism. She has a great group of students at this time.

We are also discussing our annual church picnic usually held in summer or fall. Would a Sunday at the lake at Fort Yargo in Winder be interesting to you? Please let me know your thoughts on this.

### Annex Report

Larry Gunter has begun the transformation of the Annex Carport to a Garage.

Two pews are still needing to be cut down and placed in the sanctuary.

The kitchen has been cleaned out and a new refrigerator has been donated.

Plans are to paint and redecorate. The steps to the Annex need replacing. Thoughts are to move the steps closer to the Annex back porch and create concrete steps instead of wooden ones.

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### Youth

The next big youth event is the Georgia Regional Youth Assembly at Epworth-by-the-Sea February 5-7. This year's theme is "Oh the Places You'll Go". We have several very excited 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are making their first trip to Epworth! Please pray for safe travels.

Camp Christian dates are now available, so start marking your calendars for camp. Some past participants have already received letters about camp. We encourage everyone to take a look at the dates and try to plan your summer around Camp Christian!

For youth in 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, it's not too late to join the Youth Handbell Choir. Practices are on Sundays from 4-5PM, followed by Youth meetings from 5-6PM. Also, don't forget Youth Choir practice (for all age youth) on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.

We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about youth to join the youth committee. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at [ahunt@sports.uga.edu](mailto:ahunt@sports.uga.edu) Please know that you do not have to be a youth parent to be on the youth committee.



## Property

The Property Committee is gathering "tasks" that will be addressed at their first meeting MONDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 8, AT 7PM. If you would like to join that group, please attend or contact Chair, Larry Gunter

## Worship committee

The Worship Committee is ready for the beginning of 2016.

Lenten devotion books have been ordered. These will be distributed to families by Elders.

Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Easter Services plans are being made. There will be flowers adorning the sanctuary during Easter (more info later in the bulletins).

There a special baptismal service on March 6.

Be sure and check your emails and bulletins to keep up with all the services and events coming up!

The committee will meet again on Feb. 23 at 5:30. Join us if you are interested in serving on the Worship Committee.

## Diaconate 2016

2016 is off to a great start with the Diaconate members of FCCW. Sarah Greenwall is a new Diaconate member and Charity Baxter and Sam Hunt are new Junior Diaconate members. They will be installed on January 31<sup>st</sup> as a part of the Sunday worship service. Please congratulate them.

A Diaconate meeting was held on January 17 immediately following church service. Lists were distributed to Diaconate who serve communion and for greeters for 2016. Also general information about the procedures for serving were reviewed. Lists were mailed to all Diaconate who were not in attendance at the meeting with a copy of the information covered at the meeting. Diaconate members were asked to volunteer for being available to provide food or a gift card to a restaurant/food establishment for members of the church when there is illness, surgery, or a death in the family. Church members who are not Diaconate are also encouraged to contact Karen

Finnerty if you are interested in this service to our congregation. Pam Crawford volunteered to send cards to members of the congregation when there is an illness, surgery, or death and also to shut-ins from our church. She has mailed 14 cards in January. Pam will serve in this capacity for the first quarter, through March. Another volunteer will be needed for this service for the second quarter. Please consider helping with this important connection to each other. Cards and stamps are provided by the church. Diaconate will also be needed to help with baptisms on March 6.

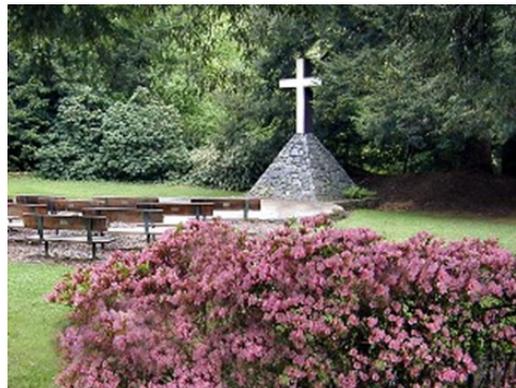
Throughout the month of January, eight Diaconate members have volunteered to provide meals for three different families on different occasions. Also meals have been delivered to four different families after Wednesday night suppers. Multiple phone contacts have been made with members regarding their need for meals. Please let Karen know if there is a need for meals or cards that is not being met.

Please remember to inform Max Taylor or Karen Finnerty and Elaine McTyre if you are not going to be able to fulfill your duties for serving communion on a Sunday that you are scheduled. Please find a replacement. Karen and Max are attempting to update the existing Diaconate list. Please let one of us know if you are active but not serving communion or if you are inactive.

Dates to remember:

February 2: Work at ACTS 9am to 1pm or any amount of time that you can spare.

March 4 and 5: Elders and Deacons Workshop at Christmount Center in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Contact Sheila if you are interested.



## Lectionary

Jan. 31, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany-Green  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 7, Transfiguration Sunday-Green  
Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Feb. 10, Ash Wednesday-Violet  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20

Feb. 14, First Sunday of Lent-Violet  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

Feb. 21, Second Sunday of Lent-Violet  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Feb. 28, Third Sunday in Lent-Violet  
Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

## Notes from the Editor

Please let me know of any additions that you would like to see in The Chalice of Watkinsville First Christian. I will be publishing the newsletter at the beginning of each month. I am open to suggestions and criticism because I want the newsletter to reflect the needs of our church family.

Please email me photos or articles anytime during the month. Unfortunately, I am unable to scan items and put them into the newsletter.



The Pilot Club of Oconee County, Inc. will begin meeting at Watkinsville First Christian Church on March 1. The Club meets the first Tuesday of each month and some 3rd Tuesdays. The Club will reimburse the church \$50 each time the Club meets at the Church.

Pam Crawford, Rosa Hall, Joan Mann, Connie Wheeler, Karen Finnerty, Nancy Watkins, and Kathy Reising are all members of the Pilot Club.

If you would like to become a member of this service club that focuses on brain related disorders please contact one of the ladies.