



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes – May, 2016

“Stronger Together”

Babe Ruth said: “The way a team plays as a whole, determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club won’t be worth a dime.”

I am not much of a sports follower, especially baseball. I do know the name of Babe Ruth. And although my knowledge base of his success is limited, I know something about Babe Ruth as being one of the most successful players of the game. His expertise, skill and longevity surpassed most individual players of his day. Collectors of baseball memorabilia are still excited for all things associated with the player named Babe Ruth.

His name denotes the game of baseball. Yet, this quote from the man himself points away from the individual to the value he placed on the teamwork of the whole. Babe Ruth concludes, “When individuals, talented and experienced as they may be, are willing to work with others as a team, then success is theirs – together.” Babe Ruth had it right.

Many years ago, I worked in a congregation where the adult choir included 50 voices and a professional, talented director. The individual members of this church choir were very talented, many sang in semi-professional settings. They should have produced the most beautiful music for the worship services. Unfortunately, their sound as a choir was always a little off. This choir had a difficult time making beautiful music together. The notes were right, everyone on key and to perfection musically. But their sound was not inspirational nor inviting. They did not work together – as a team. Even their musical talents and experience would not overcome the way that they treated one another. They did not know what the Babe knew – that team work is the path to success.

They competed with each other. Some of the most experienced members of the choir claimed the positions of influence. They wanted the music to be the same as it had always been because it was the ‘right’ music for church. These choir members would say that the ONLY way to praise God was to sing Bach and Beethoven, never Gaither nor Sleeth.

They struggled to respect each other and they were unwilling to open themselves to leadership. As the saying goes, ‘you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him/her drink.’ So was the case in this choir. The Director was hired to guide, to teach, to lead, to mentor the individual

musicians into a cohesive body called a choir. Individuals resisted and a team never materialized. The music suffered and God's glory did not shine.

They didn't listen. For some reason, the individual choir member didn't receive what others had to say nor sing. They were always a step ahead, rhythmically off and chaos ensued. Listening was key to singing together. Trusting each voice to blend was too difficult. Somehow, with all their experience and talent, some members of the choir were never willing to trust themselves and to trust others and to trust God.

This choir was not the only group of individuals who struggled with the concept of teamwork. Jesus' disciples had their moments of difficulty in relationship and team building. Remember the story when a few of the disciples started to compete for the place - sitting next to Jesus in glory? Or what about the argument among a few disciples who wanted confirmation on who was the favorite? Also, we can't forget Judas whose authoritative sense of self compelled him to question spending money for fine oils and ointments for use on Jesus' feet, instead of giving to the poor. (And we know where Judas ended up.)

We can't forget the difficulty all of the disciples had with their listening skills. They kept asking Jesus to tell them, "what does this mean?" If only they had listened with willingness to receive and be shaped by what they heard. Some of them had to go the hard path of experience first, understanding later.

Somehow these flawed human beings, named disciples of Christ, became the very ones to shine God's Light into the world. They matured, they learned; they changed; they accepted the responsibility to share with others. When Jesus called out to them as individuals, Jesus saw their potential. Jesus guided, taught, mentored, shaped, loved them into a relationship that changed them into a 'team' - now known as the Body of Christ - the church.

Jesus had it right. It is the team - the community - the Body of Christ - the church who will be successful in sharing the love and light of God in the world. Together, we are stronger. And together, we will succeed in Christ name. I look forward to our teamwork together.

Peace for today, Sheila

Youth News

Don't forget that our Camp Christian work day is May 7th. We need all the helping hands we can get! Meet at the church to leave at 7 AM.

Youth will host First Friday on May 6 and will be taking donations for our camp fund. We plan to offer fun activities, baked goods and snow cones!

God Bless!

Ann Hunt

Noah Smith and
Chandler Bays
help lead
worship on
Youth Sunday



Sunday, May 15, 2016

**The Second Annual
“MAIN STREET FAITH JAM!”**
*A Fund Raising Event to Benefit -
ORAC's Summer Food for Kids!!*

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM at FCCW
Fellowship Hall**

**Pull Pork Dinner (cooked by
'Popeye' Flannagan!) with all the
trimmings!**

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at FCCW
Sanctuary**

**Entertainment - The Faith Jam!!
*wonderful folks who offer their
talents to entertain on behalf of The
kids of Oconee county!***

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR
DINNER AND
ENTERTAINMENT.**

***In 2015, our goal was \$1,000. And
we exceeded with \$3,000. In
donations. What could we do this
year – with our faith and purpose?!
More details to come – start
spreading the word!***

**Volunteers Needed for many tasks
Please contact**

**Bill Hunt, Pam Gunter, Teresa
Guthrie, or Sheila Hunter
to help out with this great
community connections event on
behalf of Oconee kids.**

RELAY RESULTS

The Relay for Life weathered the "storm"...Thanks to **everyone** who did your part in 2016 Relay for Life - Our theme "Don't Stop Belevin' - Journey On" was appropriate. Through the rained out First Friday and almost stormed out Relay, we journeyed on!! Plans were made, raffle tickets were SOLD, we set up "camp", we lapped the track, we honored and remembered our loved ones, and when it got stormy - - - we made the appropriate decisions. I counted 44 people that supported our Relay site that night. Thank you for that.

With the proceeds from the Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday, Raffle, and Relay efforts, our donation for the American Cancer Society should be around \$1400.00.

Now on to the **Second Annual MAIN STREET FAITH JAM-SUNDAY, MAY 15.**

Main Street Faith Jam will be in support of the Oconee Summer Food for Kids Program. This is a 10-week program to assist families during the s by supplementing their food with a box of nutritious food, including fruits and vegetables from local farmers, each week. This will start with a supper in the fellowship hall (pork tenderloin sandwich with sides/desserts), and then "Jamming" in the Sanctuary. Bill Hunt is coordinating this. Stay tuned for the rest of the story.

FIRST FRIDAY - MAY 6 - YOUTH ARE COORDINATING EVENTS

Also, thanks for your support of the Special Day Offerings. The Total Easter Offering (supporting the General Church) was \$1262.00.

The Pentecost Offering (support of New Church Development) will be received on May 22 and May 29. The Outreach Committee chose to change date from 5/15 to 5j29 due to the Main Street Faith Jam.

Pam Gunter
Outreach

A meal was provided in the fellowship hall by members of the congregation for the family of Mrs. Mary Hannah Thomas on April 10, 2016 following funeral services. Approximately 54 people were served at this meal. Thanks to diaconate/congregation members for the response of help and food for this meal. Continue to keep the Thomas family in your prayers.



Monetary donations were collected and a snack basket prepared for Kevin and Macy Cown to use while their infant daughter, Hadelyn, was in the hospital in Atlanta for heart surgery. Hadelyn is the granddaughter of Fred and Amy Thompson and the niece of Emma Claire Thompson. Approximately \$500 cash, several gas gift cards, and snacks for the basket were collected and delivered on April 21. Thanks to the congregation for their overwhelming response to this project to support Kevin, Macy and Hadelyn throughout this time. Continue to keep them in your prayers as Hadelyn continues the healing process.

Carol Toney sent 12 cards to members of the congregation in April. Cards are sent throughout the month for sickness, hospitalization, sympathy, and thinking of you. Thanks to Carol for taking on this responsibility for the second quarter.

We continue to need one Diaconate representative to serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Please prayerfully consider serving on this committee and contact Karen Finnerty or Max Taylor if you feel led to serve in this capacity. Karen and Max have a document provided by Rev. Sheila Hunter that describes the duties,

responsibilities, and function of the Pastoral Relations Committee. Please ask to look over this document if you are interested.

Karen Finnerty & Max Taylor
Diaconate Co-chairs



Rita Bennett needs greeting cards for the Evangelism/Membership Committee. She would prefer the cards be blank inside, but all donations are welcome. She especially needs anniversary cards. For more information, contact Rita at 706-461-0416.

