



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes: October 2016

The Experience of Liminality

I tried to write an article for the newsletter. I found it was difficult to figure out where to start and how to end. I was trying – really trying but the words were not there to write. There are so many important things to say - - - appreciation, thank you's, release, promotion, comfort. I thought that 'business as usual' would come easy for me.

It hasn't been easy nor has it been too difficult. It is what it is. What is going on with me is living into a time of change. Change because of the circumstances of endings, and always beginnings. Since my mother's death, I have not been the same. This is a significant time of experience, fresh and demanding emotionally, physically and spiritually. This time is named as liminal space . . . the space between what is "normal" – the way things were – to the way things will be. It is this sacred space where I allow myself to just "be" where I am, not forcing the schedule, the routine, the expectations. It is the best choice, maybe the only choice, to just "be" for now. It is an illusion to think that the 'routine' of the past will return to normal. I am in transition and hopefully, transformational time.

A friend shared the writings of Richard Rohr with me regarding 'liminal' time. Rohr explains this transformational time better than I have words for now. Rohr writes:

"We keep praying that our illusions will fall away. God erodes them from many sides, hoping they will fall. But we often remain trapped in what we call normalcy— "the way things are." Life then revolves around problem-solving, fixing, explaining, and taking sides with winners and losers. It can be a pretty circular and even nonsensical existence.

To get out of the unending cycle, we have to allow ourselves to be drawn into sacred space, into liminality. All transformation takes place here. We have to allow ourselves to be drawn out of "business as usual" and remain patiently on the "threshold" (limen, in Latin) where we are betwixt and between the familiar and completely unknown. There alone is our old world left behind, while where we are not yet sure of the new existence. That's a good space where genuine newness can begin. Get there often and stay as long as you can by whatever means possible. It's the realm where God can best get at us because of our false certitudes are finally out of the way. This is the sacred space where the old world is able to fall apart, and a bigger world is revealed. If we don't encounter liminal space in our lives, we start idealizing normalcy. The threshold is God's waiting room. Here we are taught openness and patience as we come to expect an appointment with the divine Doctor."

So here I am. Back to regular work and yet, not the same.

I am content with the way in which we cared for our mother in her last days here on earth. It was a demanding time on us, my brothers and sisters, but it was a sacred time of standing in the 'threshold' of God's waiting room.

Our family worked together the best way that we knew how. There were moments of the 'old' ways and there were moments of new learnings. Our time together took patience and openness as we experienced liminality – God's time of in between. But in all ways, we as a family were focused on walking the journey with our mom. The last two weeks of her life were filled with the hope of healing and recovery on earth. The last few days of her life involved knowing that she had made the turn toward leaving us and being restored to health and relationships within the heavenly realm.

The old is being released and I stand now open for the new. But I never want to return to "normal" in my thinking, in my routines, in my relationships, in my spirituality. I think my mom's journey of ending and beginning has brought me to the space of liminality – the in between time. And as chaotic as it may feel at times, standing here now, I am open and finding patience to allow God to shape my heart and to bring something new.

Peace for today, Sheila



To my church family and friends at FCCW - the words are too simple and the heart is too full to adequately express my thanks and appreciation to you for the support, care and kindness you have given to me and my family in the last few weeks. So many good words, kind gestures, food and help were given by you during my mother's illness and death. You have shown in word and deed what it means to be the church in the world. Thank you so very much for walking the journey with us. I am so thankful for you.

Peace for today,
Sheila and the family of Margaret E. Hunter

Youth

We had 25 participate in Church at the Lake on August 28th. A time of fellowship and fun was had by all!



Trunk-or-Treat will be held at FCCW on Monday, October 31st. The Youth are taking candy donations now, so please bring your candy to the church. Also, please let Amy Baxter know if you plan on decorating a car for this event.



Help Miss Myrtice celebrate her 95th birthday on October 24th by mailing her a note or card.

Myrtice Kilpatrick
1160 Ridgefield Dr
Bishop, GA 30621



Diaconate

The Diaconate have been busy over the last few months coordinating and providing support for several individuals and families through meals, gift cards, monetary donations, benevolence offerings, Sunshine cards, and prayers. Many thanks to the Diaconate and congregation for your overwhelming support through your many gifts and talents.

Meals and cards were provided for Doc, Pam and Myrtice Kilpatrick after Mrs. Myrtice returned home from the hospital. Meals, gift cards, monetary donations, and cards were provided for Kenneth and Linda Culp after Kenneth's hospitalization. A large basket of snacks was prepared and delivered to the hospital for the Hunter family when Mrs. Hunter was hospitalized. Meals and cards were provided for the Hunter family as well as a meal for the family after the funeral services for Mrs. Hunter.

The Diaconate met on September 25, 2016 to discuss several items. Jennifer Carter volunteered to send Sunshine cards for the fourth quarter of the year which covers the months October through December. Several names for prospective Diaconate candidates for 2017 were mentioned in the meeting. Those people were contacted and, depending on their acceptance, their names given to the Nominating Committee. The FCCW Diaconate members currently have the task of selecting a new Chairperson or Co-chairs to represent the Diaconate on the 2017 Board. Please contact Karen Finnerty, Max Taylor, or Joan Mann if you would be willing to serve in this capacity. It is extremely important to have the name of a new chair/co-chairs for the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

Please volunteer/sign up to help with the Chicken Mull/Cake Auction Benefit being held to support David, Melissa, and Noah Smith on October 22, 2016. Many volunteers are needed throughout the day from early morning until the last quart of mull is gone and the last cake is auctioned. Contact Teresa Guthrie if you are able to volunteer. Plan to enjoy the fellowship of the day by helping the church "Do the Work of Love".

Karen Finnerty and Max Taylor
Diaconate Co-chairs

Sacristy

A new place for preparing communion that welcomes all to the table in Christ's name. Through the cooperation of many, the new sacristy is almost complete with beautiful cabinets, counter top, sink and refrigerator.

Those who prepare communion each Sunday and other special times will benefit from its convenience to the sanctuary. A word of appreciation and thanks goes to the partnership of the Worship and Property committees; to the music folks for cleaning up; to the hands-on volunteers of Leo, Wayne, Larry; to those that donated with re-purpose and to the Smith Cabinet Shop for the installation. Stop in and see the beauty and the efficiency of this sacred place.



The DW just finished their Linus Project. There were 60 blankets made and donated. The blankets will be used for military families that have had parents deployed.



Outreach

The Outreach Committee gives a BIG THANKS to members for great participation in the GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT-GRACE GROWS HERE, A.C.T.S. Drive. A count of 625 food items and \$145.00 was collected.

We received \$460.00 towards Reconciliation Offering.

Also, \$120.00 was received on October 9 for Week of Compassion/Hurricane Relief.

We are continuing to reach out to the Community on First Fridays. Come out and join us.

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



Wisdom from the garden.....



As the hot summer turns to fall and the trees dress themselves in rich colors of red, gold and yellow, we are reminded it is time for the garden to rest. Although the roses are gone for a while, the hostas are now buried deeply in the ground and the hydrangeas are only bare stems which are reaching for the sky, the garden is only resting and not sleeping. The activity is that of readying itself for another spring day, another summer and another time of joy. Although it may seem nothing is happening, the garden is working patiently and slowly to welcome yet another season. The message shared with us is the one of patience.

The Daffodil Story shows us that with patience, our accomplishments are endless. As the story goes, a woman visited her daughter and grandchildren who lived a couple hours away. It was difficult for the lady to find the time for this visit as she was so busy with her clubs, church, luncheons and her life in general. However, on this lovely day, she did make the trip. Upon her arrival, her daughter exclaimed that they must go see the Daffodil Garden. Of course, the lady felt there just was not enough time for such. The daughter won the argument and they began to drive out to the country. As they came around a deep curve, there it was. It looked like someone had taken a vat of gold and poured it over the mountain and the valley, five acres of daffodils, actually 50,000 daffodils. When the lady asked her daughter how did all this happen, the daughter told her that one little woman had planted them all. The little woman had worked on it for 50 years and planted one bulb at a time. The lady stood with her daughter and thought of the little woman who, 50 years ago, had a vision of beauty and joy. Planting one bulb at a time, she created something of extraordinary magnificence beauty and inspiration. Her daffodil garden taught the principle of patience. That is to move toward our desires and goals one step at a time, often one baby step at a time learning to love the doing and learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply the tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world, one bulb and one garden and one baby step at the time.

The next time you see a daffodil, remember it took patience to create that little flower that brings a smile to our faces and hope to our hearts. Take a breath, clear your mind and enjoy your garden.



Music Director, Teresa Guthrie, has a very enthusiastic group of inter-generational participants in the handbell choir. They will be performing Sunday, October 23 during the morning worship service.

If you would like to become part of this group, it's now time to sign up for the Christmas season.



Books for Keeps works to improve children's reading achievement by addressing barriers related to the accessibility and appeal of reading material. We give books to children whose reading opportunities outside of school might be otherwise limited due to geography, income, or other factors. Since 2009, Books for Keeps has given more than 240,000 books to children from low-income families in grades Pre-K through 12. Please donate books for this worthwhile project. Donations can be left in the fellowship hall and will be collected by Mary Lillie Watson.