



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Watkinsville, GA 30677

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<http://fccwatkinsville.org>



Heart Shapes – February 2018

“Dusting Off the Heart”

It is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. FCCW offers Ash Wednesday service of worship to any who will come and sit in the silence with openness to truth, listening for the acknowledgement of our human frailty and enter into acts of prayer, confession, and healing.

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” that we are reminded who we are and whose we are. Life begins and life ends. Our lives like dust can be swept away. The Ash Wednesday service reminds us of our vulnerability and our participation in the human condition.

The Ash Wednesday service speaks of sin and calls God’s people to turn from sin. “Sin is a condition as well as an act. We suffer from being made less than God, as well as, from holding ourselves apart from God.” Writes Barbara Brown Taylor.

Sin manifests as brokenness, injury, deceit, disbelief, separation. We enter despair and become forlorn. Sin holds us with the condition

of anger, pride, selfishness, blame, isolation . . . coping responses that hold us captive by separating us from each other and ultimately from God. We humans hide the tender places and sit in the dark places, unable – perhaps unwilling – to share the depth of pain and the fear of release. We are vulnerable and we resist sharing with others.

We say, “Give us time” but God says, “Now is the time. You have carried the burden of separation long enough. I am here.” However, when we acknowledge our helplessness, we take steps toward God’s mercy and healing.

Psalm 51 witnesses to the pain of sin and the hunger for salvation. Brian Erickson states, “This psalm asks for more than forgiveness. It is an all-out plea for re-creation. Hidden in the psalmist’s desperation is the key to healing - - - God’s is a creative mercy, a grace that can take the dust of our broken hearts and re-generate our lives.”

During season of Lent, may we seek out each other with kindness and willingness to share as we extend acceptance to one another. May we sing once again as a community of faith the following: (Psalm 51: 10, 12.....*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*).

Peace for today, Sheila

Disciple Men's Retreat

Join us on **March 23-24, 2018** for "Servant Leadership for the 21st Century" presented by Rev. Dr. Percy Johnson. Music by Bob Grant! Fellowship, good food and more. Camp Christian Conference Center, Gordon Georgia. Register now on line at gadisciples.org !!



Georgia Disciples Women 2018 Spring Event

March 17, 2018

Camp Christian Conference Center, Gordon GA

**9:45am – 3:00pm (Note: arrival/breakfast/
devotional time beginning at 8:30am)**

Registration Deadline March 9

**Fees are non-refundable; however, you may
send a substitute if you cannot be present.**

\$25 includes Saturday registration fees,
continental breakfast and lunch.

**Optional overnight lodging and fellowship
Friday night, March 16
Check-in begins at 4:00pm with dinner at 6:00.
Sleeping accommodation 4+ per room: \$25
includes Friday lodging & dinner.
Bring your own twin linens and pillow, towels,
and toiletries. (\$50 total for Fri/Sat)**

The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 2018 Week of Compassion is February 18th-25th and the theme is *More Than We Can Imagine*. As we enter this month, we have an opportunity to show compassion to those in need by giving to our annual Special Offering. These gifts bear witness to the powerful work of God and allow us to respond to crises in places close to home and far away. Our partnership through the Special Offering answers the voices asking for food, water and shelter and lets communities who are struggling to find hope know they are not forgotten.

For many, 2017 was an apocalyptic year filled with unbelievable storms, earthquakes, fires, floods and violence. Even when we found it hard to envision recovery and new life, we accompanied our neighbors, strengthened by the assurance that God is working in, through and beyond us.

Our Week of Compassion gifts work “around the world, around the year” to bring more of God’s love and goodwill than we can ask or imagine. As we continue to walk together in compassion for others, let us be strengthened in the knowledge that God is able to “accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.”

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God’s world: there is hunger, sickness and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel that we are too small, too insignificant to make a difference, to believe that nothing we do can help. We can feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that there is little we can do to truly make an impact.

But there is hope! Better yet: we are that hope!

As Christians we act out of faith knowing that God is using our contributions in ways that we can’t foresee, multiplying blessings in ways we didn’t expect. We act knowing that we are part of God’s imagination.

Will you be part of God’s dream for the world? Will you accept the invitation to make a difference and see what God will do with our giving? Through our gifts to the Week of Compassion Special Offering and throughout the year, God is doing *More Than We Can Imagine*!



FCCW Sunday School Class had a great time and a great meal hosted at Melba and Leo Baker home on February 10, 2018. Thank you to all who cooked, decorated, shared dishes, and cleaned up. It was a great evening for friends!

FCCW Christian Education committee provides opportunities for learning for all ages during the Sunday morning class time 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM. Currently there are three classes for adults, one class for teens and children and potential for more classes if there is interest. Please share your suggestions with CE chair, Carrie Norris. Thank you to Carrie for leading and facilitating the work of Christian Education!

Sunday School[®] at FCC Watkinsville

Sundays 10:00- 10:45 am



The group that meets in the **Fellowship Hall (downstairs)** uses *David C. Cook curriculum* and rotates leaders.

The group that meets at the **Annex**, led by Cathy Moorehead & Ann Smith, incorporates study on *a variety of topics*.

The group that meets in the **Joy Baker Classroom (upstairs)**, led by Rosa Hall, uses *David C. Cook curriculum*.

The **Pastor's Class for youth**, led by Sheila Hunter, meets in the room adjacent to the nursery (downstairs).

Two new Series to run from April 8- May 6:
Biblical Text-ing* (for youth) and Parenting in Faith*
***more details to come**

Questions about Sunday School? Contact our Christian Education Chair,
 Carrie Norris // carrieno@gmail.com // 706-540-8120

Evangelism and Membership Committee News:

Update on the Directory: the committee is working on getting a lot of missing information. We are also planning to get some new photos of the various committees in the church. So it will probably take a little more time to get it right!

Beginning Monday, Feb. 12, a TOPS group will meet at the church under the direction of Carol Bennett and Pam Gunter. Come at 5:00 to check in. Meeting starts at 5:30 (1 hour). The cost to join is \$32.00 and dues are \$5.00 per month.

On Tues. Feb. 20, the WWW group will meet at the Butt Hutt on the old Macon Hwy (the former Parson's restaurant) at 6:00pm. All are welcome to join in! Please call the church office to let us know if you plan to attend.

Wednesday night suppers on The Corner are going great! Awesome food and sweet fellowship. Jimmy Christopher will be sharing the history of the Christian Church after supper on Wednesdays. Plan to start on Wed. Feb. 21. Supper at 5:45. Jimmy at 6:10.

On Friday, Mar. 2, 2018 at 10:00 – World Day of Prayer – The ministers from our community will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a service of prayer. Carol Bennett is giving leadership to this meeting.

A Maundy Thursday Seder Meal is being planned for Thurs. Mar. 29 at 6:00pm. This will be a *covered dish*. Here are some suggestions:

Holy Thursday Dinner Menu:

- **Roast Beef** (Reminder of the Passover Lamb, and Christ the Paschal Lamb)
- **Mashed Potatoes** (allergy free, made with dairy free spread, chicken broth, salt and garlic powder)
- **Cooked Spinach** (reminder of the bitter herbs)
- **Mixed Lettuce salad and raw carrots** (because we want them)
- **Applesauce** (reminder of the Charoses, the bricks and mortar in Egypt)
- **Bread** (reminder of the Unleavened Bread and the Eucharist)
- **Grapes** (reminder of the wine of the Last Supper which becomes the Blood of Christ)
- **Dessert** (because it's a festive day in the eyes of the Church)

We still need a few more members for our committee.

The answer to last month's Member Quiz is Mary Lillie Watson. If FCCW had an Olympic team, Mary Lillie would be our gymnast!

Just found out that one of newest church members really likes to cook. Who could it be?

Cathy Moorehead, E&M Chair

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY UPDATE



As most of you know, FCC-W is participating in IHNA (Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens). We, along with Ashford Methodist Church, are providing support to Union Christian Church.

IHNA provides shelter, meals and transportation for needy families in the Athens/Oconee area. As a support church we will help provide these services for one week each quarter. And since there are three churches involved we will only be responsible for 2 days of service with opportunities to fill in other days as needed.

This quarter our service week will be March 18 through 25.

Anyone interested in participating **MUST** go through a brief training session. On Sunday, February 25, Ashford Methodist will provide lunch and training right after worship service. We encourage all those interested to attend this training session to learn more about IHNA. Training sessions usually last 60-90 minutes. There is no obligation to commit to participating. Just come and learn more about IHNA.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful ministry. Please feel free to contact Cindy Pritchard or me for more information.

Blessings,
Bill Hunt

ACTS update...

Huge thank you to our ten church members who volunteered on our day at ACTS. It was quite a busy day with stocking canned goods, waiting on clients and working in clothing closets. Mark calendar for April 3rd, Tuesday from 8:45-1:15, our next church day.

Camp Work Days



Come One! Come All!

***Camp Work Days 2018 are scheduled for
February 24th, April 21st and May 5th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm.***

April "Work & Fellowship at Camp" either Monday, 4/2 (1:00pm)--Tuesday, 4/3 (2:00pm) (focus on inventories: Woodland, Lavery, Peachtree windows; (open to youth/campers/conferrees who are accompanied by parent or youth director). There will be a nominal fee.

Contact campoffice@gadisciples.org for more information and to register.

Registration is available on line at gadisciples.org or contact Marilyn Parks/Pam Van Dusen at campoffice@gadisciples.org

*Help get Camp ready for the summer.
Bring a lunch item to share. We look forward to
seeing everyone.*

Outreach News!

Thank you to all who made our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper a huge success! Thank you to the Outreach Committee and all those who volunteered to decorate, cook, setup and cleanup! We had guests from other churches, the surrounding community and our extended family. Thank you to all and with your help we raised over \$760 for Relay for Life - Oconee!



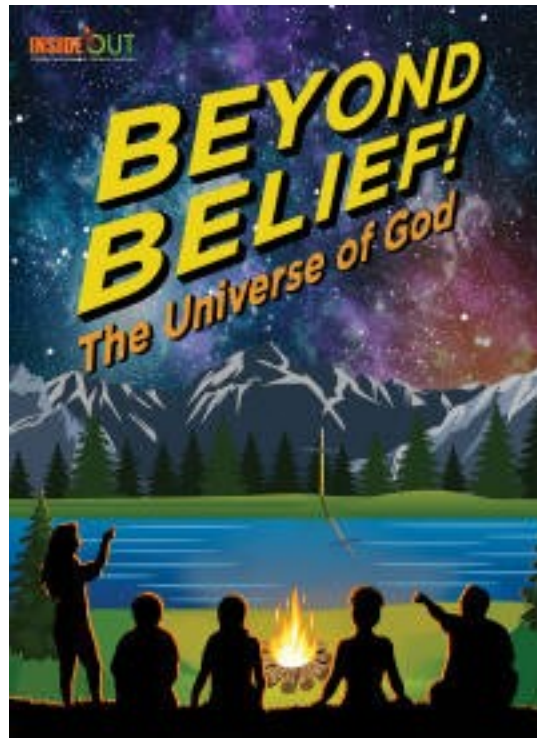
Upcoming Outreach News:

Sunday 2/18 & 2/25 - Week of Compassion
Offering (Goal \$1000)

Sunday 2/25 - Interfaith Hospitality Network
Training: 12:15 at Ashford Methodist.

Ashford Methodist is hosting lunch and a 1-hour training session. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

Kathy Reising, Outreach Chair



Beyond Belief! Summer Camp 2018

| Date | Event | Grade (Completed as of June 2018) | Registration First Deadline 4/3 to 4/16 (**see note below) |
|--------------|------------------|---|---|
| June 4-8 | Junior 1 | 3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th | \$285 |
| June 11 - 16 | CYF | 10 th , 11 th , or 12 th | \$320 |
| June 18 - 22 | Chi Rho | 6 th or 7 th | \$285 |
| June 25 - 29 | Mid-High | 8 th or 9 th | \$285 |
| June 4-8 | OASIS | For qualifying 10 th , 11 th and 12 th graders | \$200 |
| July 16 - 20 | Junior 2 | 3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th | \$285 |
| July 16 - 18 | Chrysalis | 1 st or 2 nd | \$195 |
| July 20 - 22 | Genesis | Kindergarten Accompanied by an adult relative (over 21) | \$250 |

Questions: Contact Marilyn Parks or Pam Van Dusen at campoffice@gadisciples.org

** Fees increase according to deadlines. Please refer to registration forms for specific cost.

Early Bird Registration postmarked by 4/2 is \$10 less the above fee

First Deadline fee listed above

Second Deadline 4/17 – 5/7 please add \$10 to Fee above

Final Deadline after 5/7, add \$30 to fee listed above. Registration at this point does not guarantee youth and adults a Camp T-shirt.

New this year – Sibling Discount – Applied to all but Early Bird Registration.

First Christian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
For the year ended December 31, 2017

| | <u>Jan - Dec 17</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>\$ Under Budget</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| BUDGET INCOME | 168,697 | 181,995 | -13,298 |
| Youth Funds | 254 | | |
| Total Income | <u>168,951</u> | <u>181,995</u> | <u>-13,044</u> |
| Gross Profit | 168,951 | 181,995 | -13,044 |
| Expense | | | |
| BUDGET EXPENSES | | | |
| PROGRAM MINISTRIES | | | |
| EDUCATION | 2,746 | 2,800 | -54 |
| EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP | 1,399 | 2,155 | -756 |
| OUTREACH | 11,819 | 12,300 | -481 |
| WORSHIP & MUSIC | 1,597 | 3,700 | -2,103 |
| YOUTH | 9,430 | 9,500 | -70 |
| Total PROGRAM MINISTRIES | <u>26,991</u> | <u>30,455</u> | <u>-3,464</u> |
| PAYROLL & PERSONNEL | 99,795 | 110,015 | -10,220 |
| OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE | 25,248 | 28,525 | -3,277 |
| PROPERTY | 10,107 | 11,000 | -893 |
| CONTINGENCY | 0 | 2,000 | -2,000 |
| Total BUDGET EXPENSES | <u>162,141</u> | <u>181,995</u> | <u>-19,854</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>162,141</u> | <u>181,995</u> | <u>-19,854</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | <u>6,810</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>6,810</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>6,810</u></u> | <u><u>0</u></u> | <u><u>6,810</u></u> |