



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>



Heart Shapes – April, 2017

What happens when the stone is rolled away, the tomb is found empty and Jesus moves into the world?

The scripture story tells us that on that very early morning while it was still dark, there were caring women who came to the tomb to take care of the body of their friend who had been killed a few days earlier. As they arrived, the unexpected was revealed with the early morning sun. The heaviness of stone and grief was rolled to the side. The caring women were presented with new opportunities and new responsibilities to share the good news of Christ with the world.

On that first early morning of Easter, the story tells us that Jesus appears and moves out in to the world. Jesus greets the women in their grief and sadness. He cares for them and helps them in this pivotal moment to gain purpose and direction. He tells them that he has kept his promise to them. He tells them that his love was focused on them and all. Jesus called and valued and accepted these women. Jesus's love changed everything for them and for us.

What happens when a stone is moved over and opens a path of possibility to share the good news.

Jesus meets us where we are and gives us new opportunities and new responsibilities. How will we respond?

FCCW has opened possibilities for sharing space with others. Our church building host the Pilot Club, a service organization. On First Fridays, FCCW invites children, teens and families to come and enjoy our playground, child-friendly activities, a fun train ride and friendly folks to share with all they meet.

In 2013, questions were raised regarding the use of the Annex for our use as a church and for our ministry for the community. Since those first questions and discussion, the house has been cleaned up, repurposed furniture added and an openness to follow God's leadings. In 2016, a possibility for its use came forward. After several months of collecting information, discussion at Board meetings and prayers for direction, approval was given to use our space in ministry for the community of learners.

In late spring, 2017, FCCW will welcome the Oconee County Adult Learning Center, housed in the FCCW Annex (the brick house). The partnership is between FCCW and Athens Technical College with support from Oconee County. The OC Adult Learning Center is a program for students who are preparing to take their GED exams, review for college placement text, participate in an ESL (English as a Second Language) and improve employment skills.

Judy Marable is the program instructor. The schedule is Monday – Thursday, 8:30 AM – 1:00

The Annex will be available for multi-purpose use with respect to schedule (please contact church office for scheduling.) Sunday School class will still meet on Sunday mornings at 10 AM.

In this Easter season, we seek the Light of Christ in our own lives that we may be healed of grief and confusion and we might stretch ourselves and open our hearts to follow God's calling. We will live into this new opportunity to be God's grace and healing and welcome and love in this world starting in our own back yard of Watkinsville!

Peace for today,
Sheila

Lectionary for Sunday Worship

April 16
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

April 23
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31



April 30
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

May 7
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 14
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Calendar

April 17th
2:00 pm - Bible Study

April 18th
4:00 - 9:00 pm - Pilot Club
5:30 pm - Youth Committee

April 19th
5:45 pm - Community Supper
6:10 pm - Bible Study/Youth (Service visit night)
7:00 pm - Adult Choir

April 20th
12:00 noon - Community Luncheon: Watkinsville
Memorial Baptist

April 23rd
8:30 am - Elders Meeting
10:00 am - Sunday School and Pastor's Class
11:00 am - Worship
5:30 pm - Youth Choir
6:00 pm - Handbells

April 24th
2:00 pm - Bible Study
6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

April 26th
5:45 pm - Community Supper
6:10 pm - Bible Study/Youth
7:00 pm - Choir

April 28th
6:00 pm - 12:00 - Relay for Life (OCHS)

April 30th
10:00 am - Sunday School and Pastor's Class
11:00 am - Worship (Change for Change)
5:30 pm - Youth Choir
6:00 pm - Handbell Choir

May 1st
2:00 - Bible Study

May 3rd
5:45 pm - Community Supper
6:10 pm - Bible Study/Youth Groups
7:00 pm - Choir
7:00 pm - Constitution Committee Meeting

May 4th
Property Committee work on Chairs
6:00 - 9:00 pm - First Friday (Volunteers needed at 5:00 pm) (Youth in Charge)

May 6th

7:30 am - FCCW goes to Camp Christian
Workday

May 7th

7:30 am - CMF Breakfast at IHOP
10:00 am - Pastor's Class and Sunday
School
11:00 am - Worship
5:30 pm - Youth Choir
6:00 pm - Handbell Choir

May 8th

2:00 pm Bible Study

May 9th

5:00 - 9:00 pm - Pilot Club
7:00 pm - Property Committee Meeting

May 10th

5:45 pm - Community Supper (The last
supper of the Season)
6:10 pm - Bible Study and Youth
7:00 pm - Adult Choir

May 14th - Mother's Day

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

May 15th

2:00 pm - Bible Study
7:00 pm - Board Meeting

May 16th

5:30 pm - Youth Meeting

May 17th

Newsletter Info due to Rosa
7:00 pm - Adult Choir

May 18th

12:00 noon - Community Luncheon:
Bishop Community Center

May 19th

School is Out

May 20th

Regional Workshop L.I.F.T - Macon

May 21st

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:30 pm Faith Jam

Finance & Stewardship: As of 3/31/17

Cash in Checking: \$67,276 Increase over prior year \$11,556
Endowment Funds: \$87,424 Increase over prior year \$8,679
Savings: \$115,491 Increase over prior year \$571

Offerings & Tithes:

March: \$11,808 Budget: \$13,547 Under Budget (\$1,814)
Year to Date: \$42,224
YTD Budget: \$46,528 Under Budget (\$4,304)
Average Weekly Financial Needs: \$3,387
Average Weekly Offerings (13 weeks) \$3,050
Average Excess/(Shortage) (\$387)

Budget Expenses: Programs, Payroll, Administration, Property:
March: \$11,751 Budget: \$13,053 Under Budget (\$1,302)
Year to Date: \$39,215
YTD Budget: \$44,302 Under Budget (\$5,087)

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Church Board has appointed a pastoral relation committee for the purpose of providing support for the pastor and also to provide a channel of communication between members of our church congregation and the pastor. The congregation is encouraged to use this committee as a tool to provide support and communication to build up the life of the church and its ministry.

This committee will meet regularly with our pastor. Members of this committee are: Joan Moore, Ray Watson, Bill Hunt, and Tommy Branch.

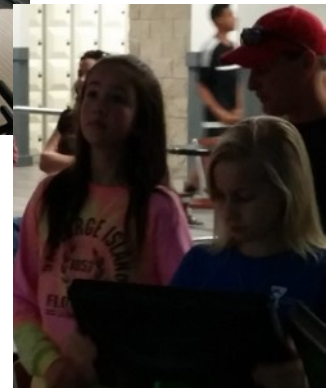
FCCW Constitution Revision Committee – April, 2017

Appointed by the chair of the Board, Joan Mann, this committee (Ray Watson, Chair; Cathy Milligan, Rosa Hall, B.C. Wang, Joan Mann, Sheila Hunter) has convened to prayerfully review and set forth a process for working with the board leadership and congregation. Under the current constitution expectations, the document is to be reviewed annually. In compliance with that expectation, committee members agree that the document as it is now has served well for the past but needs to be updated and revised to assure consistency and ease in the use of the constitution as a guide.

We will keep the congregation updated as we move through this process. We ask for your prayerful support and patience as we move forward with the task of revision.

Youth Activities

March 19 began with the Youth leading the Worship Service in observance of Youth Sunday. The youth and parents then had a lovely picnic lunch at Botanical Gardens and completed their day with bowling.

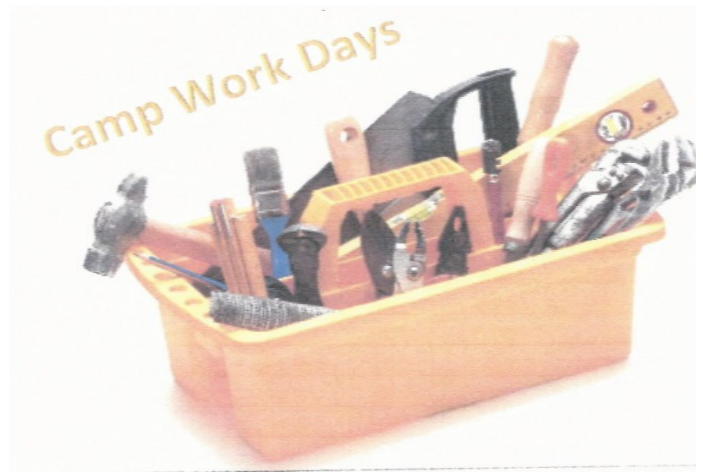


On April 9 the youth celebrated Palm Sunday. After the worship service the youth and adults enjoyed lunch and then an Easter Egg Hunt.



May 5 is First Friday and the youth will host alongside the Outreach Committee.

May 6 is a Camp Christian Work Day, please let Ms. Amy know if you plan to go or use the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall (Camp Christian asks that this only include middle and high school age youth).



Come One! Come All!

*Camp Work Days are scheduled for April 29th and May 6th,
8:30 am to 3:00 pm*

*Registration is available on line at gadisciples@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 you!

Camp Schedule for Summer 2017

Date	Event	Grade (Completed as of June 2017)	Registration (**see note below)	Directors
June 5 - 9	Junior 1	3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th	\$285	Brandy Alsobrook Teresa Bensch
June 12 - 17	CVF	10 th , 11 th , or 12 th	\$320	Katie Gibson Meredith Westbrook
June 19 - 23	Chi Rho	6 th or 7 th	\$285	Jackie Byrd Stephen Westbrook
June 26 - July 1	Mid-High	8 th or 9 th	\$320	Rev. Cheryl Clour Rev. Sheila Hunter
July 4 - 7	OASIS	For qualifying 10 th , 11 th and 12 th graders	\$200	Rev. Denise Bell Pam Van Dusen
July 17 - 21	Junior 2	3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th	\$285	Libby Ballew Rev. Jay White
July 17 - 19	Chrysalis	1 st or 2 nd	\$195	Christine Crutchfield Caroline Grant
July 21 - 23	Genesis	Kindergarten Accompanied by an adult relative (over 21)	\$250	Marilyn Parks Pam Van Dusen

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

From the garden-----

When asked to write a few lines about our garden for 'The Chalice', my first thought was 'you can't get words from dead brain cells, but here goes'! I began writing and writing and writing. Things were moving right along. Humor flowed through the paragraphs to the point that I found myself laughing out loud. I thought this is great and after a few laughs, I'll bring it on home with some inspirational thoughts from the garden -- yes, indeed. I was so engrossed in my laughter and the thought of wrapping it up, I neglected to save the piece. You see where this is going.....in one quick stroke, I deleted what had taken me hours to write. I stomped out of the room, ate a chocolate bunny and fumed. The next day, I whined and whined and whined. I whined at Bible study, I whined at the Outreach Committee meeting, I whined to anyone who would listen.

Of course, I came to my senses and realized all this whining isn't getting the job done. I thought I would thumb through some of my gardening books, come up with some good quotes and/or short inspirational gardening story and finish with a motivational thought inspired by our garden. Well, that seemed hollow and superficial. Anybody can surf the internet and find quotes and inspirational stories. So, reflecting on our own garden for inspiration I came to know, Grace Grows Here has its own story.

I began thinking about the garden and its beginnings. Whose dream was it to have a garden there, who dreamed of the patio, when did that magnificent Japanese Maple get planted or what is the story of our signature tree, the Chinese Pistache Tree (also known as the Tree of Life). I wish I knew all those answers and the answers to the many other questions I have.

I'll fast forward through those years to 2016 and my involvement. Sheila asked if I would be willing to look at 'that' side of the church and possibly make a few suggestions. Little did I know that a troupe of fellas would be waiting to hear what I had to say. I thought I would suggest to 'prune this one, move that one and eliminate the other one'. Not so fast! The meeting ended with me drawing a plan (I hate to draft plans as I truly cannot draw), the troupe pulling out all vegetation in the space and my finding suitable material to replace it.

The next morning around 8:30, I drove by the church to run my errands for the day. I looked over and I almost ran slap dab up on the sidewalk when I saw huge yellow machinery, dump truck and all the vegetation we had discussed the

afternoon all on the lawn of the church. Yep, those fellas had pulled out everything alive or half dead. I soon knew these guys were serious and I needed to get myself to the drawing board.

My creative juices began to flow. I measured, searched for plant material, I visited places to buy dirt, I went to every nursery I had ever dealt with to ensure I could get the material I needed. I drew all that in the plan. Next step...present all this to a committee (not sure which one), answer any concerns of the members. I thought great, got through that one OK. I was not through, I had to present the plan to the Administrative Board. Although I had spoken to various Atlanta City Planners, Home Owners Associations and clients, the Administrative Board of the FCC had me shaking in my boots. The Board approved my plans and we were off and running.

The next few weeks brought with them hauling dirt, plowing and enhancing the soil, going everywhere to handpick the plants needed, hauling them back to the 'site', unloading, placing them, digging the holes, and planting with care. This involved the tireless work of the fellas who met with Sheila and me on that first day. My old gardening mentor had a saying which sums up the 'behind the scenes' work of the fellas. I was always told that if I had \$20 to spend in the garden, \$15 of it should be spent on the dirt. That is exactly what happened in our garden through the hard work of the men.

Two weeks before Easter that year, the beds on each side of the church had to be cleared and re-worked due to yet another flooding problem. So, you guessed it, all that plant material was pulled out, the problem fixed and a need for more plant material. I was off again, searching for colorful annuals to be planted before Easter morning. Well, Easter that year was early March and finding colorful annuals was almost impossible, but it was done. Once again, the fellas showed up again with tools, pinestraw and compost to ensure the beauty of the garden.

We got through the summer and the winter. It is now time to revive our garden and give her a fresh new look. Once again, I made a few trips to find exactly what we needed. I found hostas, thrift, tea olive, roses, and yellow annuals for her face lift. The next step was to get all those plants in the ground. There were 150 plants in my truck begging for a home. Last Saturday was a cleaning/planting day. I knew folks would come and the job would be done. As soon as I got out the coffee and pastries, I looked up and here they came. Ladies with rakes, shovels, gardening gloves and hats. Men with muscle and pinestraw

and willingness to get this job done. The transformation is amazing.

I sat on a bench in the garden today just looking around and feeling the spirit of the garden. My mind began to wander. I thought of all who had gone before me in this garden, I thought of the memorials and hope the loved ones would approve of the garden, I thought of the laughter from the playground and of course the coolness and serenity the garden imparts.

Yes, Grace Grows Here continues to evolve. It began its journey many years ago and continues non-stop. Maybe that is what it wants us to gather from her --- not the flowers, but that our journey of faith is to be non-stop.

Grace Grows Here by Nancy Watkins



We want to thank Jimmy Gunter for making the lovely flowers that adorn our playground.



Property Committee

The steeple repair has been completed. The committee wants to thank Mark Thomas for his help with this project.



Christian Education

The committee will pay the registration fee of any committee chairmen or members that want to attend the LIFT conference in Macon. Please let Preacher Sheila know if you are planning to attend.



Georgia
L.I.F.T. - Loving, Impactful, Faithful, Transforming Communities of Faith
Conference
CREATING GREAT TEAMS
"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017
10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
FCC Macon
2306 Vineville Ave, GA 31220
This conference is open to all of our Georgia congregations.
The New Church and Church Redevelopment Commission of the Christian Church (DOC) Georgia Region is hosting it's 2nd L.I.F.T.- Loving, Impactful, Faithful, Transforming Communities of Faith conference.
Preacher:
Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert - Senior Pastor FCC Decatur, GA
Presenters:
Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton - Interim Regional Minister of the Great River Region
Raymond C. Schulte and Dale Ziemer - Center for Parish Development, Chicago, IL
Teams give strength to the work of building and sharing ministry for lasting fruit!
YOU WILL LEARN:
• The difference between teams, committees and work groups
• How to cultivate a spiritually enriching and personally supportive climate for team life
• How to identify spiritual gifts and skills
• How to build great covenantal teams
WHO SHOULD COME
Pastors, lay leaders and church members:
• Interested in getting things done in the church
• Who desire to learn how to share ministry
• Who want to improve on how to delegate ministry needs based on gifts and interest
We invite anyone passionate about building strong teams in the church!

Outreach Committee

Outreach hosted a blustery April First Friday with the Bouncy House, train rides, lemonade, water, and the Relay for Life Support Board.

Relay for Life is Friday April 28 at OCHS from 6 pm-Midnight. Our goal is \$1200. Proceeds as of April 7: \$773.54.

Disciple Women Fellowship

Six members attended the Spring Conference at the First Christian Church in Winder on March 25th. Great speakers and workshops. The ladies especially liked making blankets.



Our next meeting will be April 23rd at 6:30 in the church fellowship hall. Rosa has the program and refreshments will be provided by Susan Hansford and Cathy Moorehead. All ladies of church are encouraged to attend.

ACTS Annual Meeting was held on March 22nd at Ray's First United Methodist Church. Many representatives from participating churches were in attendance.

Reiny Hiss presided over his last meeting and thanked everyone for their help. Reiny is in his mid-eighties and has decided to retire.

Randy Dawson and Dennis Clarke are the new co-chairs of ACTS.

ACTS stands for Area Churches Together Serving and is there for people in Oconee County who have a need. Food, clothing and household items are FREE and clients can come once each month.

Pam Crawford
ACTS Board Member

Pam & Doc's grandson Stephen Barton has just retired from eight and half years in U S Army. Stephen served two tours in Afghanistan and was a crew chief and mechanic on medi-vac helicopter. He was in Egypt for last three years. Stephen plans to study for tests for license to work on airplanes and seek employment in that area. Welcome home Stephen!