



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes – August, 2017

“Miracles Still Happen”

Miracles happened in Jesus time. In the gospel story from Luke 5:17, the story is titled, “Jesus Heals a Paralytic”. This story is also told in Matthew 9:2 and Mark 2:1. It was an event that people noticed and shared with others about Jesus. This event was passed down to us, to our children.

The story recounts the day when Jesus was teaching. A gathered crowd of people came to be near him for a variety of reasons. Some came to hear, to learn, to be healed. Some came to gather evidence to accuse and convict. Many had traveled from far and near, each with their own purpose. The “old guard” of religiously educated, devote leaders – the Pharisees, scribes and other teachers of the law - were part of the crowd.

In the crowd, there were men who wanted to get closer to Jesus. Their purpose was to help a man who was paralyzed. His legs which were deemed useless prohibited him to move through the crowds. He laid on a bed dependent on the caring acts of others. The men who were helping him figured out a way to get closer to Jesus. It was unconventional, perhaps daring and disruptive to normal order. But they found a way to give

their friend an opportunity to be healed. They were taking the responsibility and the challenge on behalf of other – the paralytic man.

They carried the man on his bed up to the rooftop. They worked together to remove the obstacles in the way. With ropes tied to the bed, and their creative problem solving, their physical strength and determination, the bed with the paralyzed man was lowered carefully from the roof, down into the crowded room, in front of Jesus. And Jesus recognizing the faithful determination, healed his legs. He could walk.

It always intrigues me when I read a ‘miracle’ story. Jesus’s acts of ‘miracle’ seem to include others. Feeding of the 5000 – the boy who shared his lunch. Water into Wine at the wedding – the servant who assisted with the jars of water. Healing the servant – the Centurion who made the request. Many miracles of healing, restoration, wholeness, hope and all performed with the assistance of others. Jesus could do it all alone. In all stories, Jesus included others.

Maybe the inspiration that can shape us as followers of Christ, includes the challenge to accept our call to be the hands, the feet, the heart, the voice of Christ in the world. No matter who we are now nor where we have come from, nor what the future holds – today is the day to share ourselves, our talents and skills and time in the name of Christ.

Miracles still happen when we spend time with someone who is alone. Miracles still happen when we share a meal with those with less resources

than ourselves. Miracles still happen when we face a difficulty and give support to our teens. Miracles still happen when our awareness of a deeply rooted conflict results in positive action. Miracles still happen when we resolve a dispute and accept each other to move toward wholeness. Miracles still happen when our hearts extend forgiveness and our behaviors change with purpose. Miracles still happen.

Peace for today, Sheila

A WORD OF THANKS – for your care and presence through flowers and good wishes for my husband Michael Small’s time of retirement on July 30, 2017. I was so proud and so blessed to discover the beautiful flowers in the Union Congregational UCC Church sanctuary. It was a good day to focus on the ministry and service of over 33 years with most of those years at Union.



I appreciate each of you.
Peace for today, Sheila

Contact information for our newest member.

Patti Wagner
102 Mimosa Drive
Watkinsville, GA 30677
powagner@gmail.com



WWW (Watkinsville Wise & Wonderful) at Bella Noche enjoying food and fellowship in July.



Micah and Michael Small

Outreach Committee

Change for Change (Food for Kids): \$115.13

Worked ACTS with clients on August 1, 2017

Coordinators for IHNA (Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens) for FCC-W are Cindy Pritchard and Bill Hunt.



The Youth of FCC-W enjoyed an outing at the Gwinnette Braves stadium.

2017 A.C.T.S. FOOD DRIVE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WATKINSVILLE, GA

TO THE TABLE Food Drive

October 1
World Communion Sunday

Let's bring these items "TO THE TABLE" in our Sanctuary August 27-October 1 and support A.C.T.S. (Area Churches Together Serving). The items will be blessed as we gather on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017.

PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY
SLOPPY JOE SAUCE
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, 24 OZ.
SPAGHETTI NOODLES
CANNED PASTA
CANNED TUNA
CANNED SALMON
CANNED CHICKEN
MACARONI AND CHEESE
BOXED CEREAL

2 Cor.13:13. "The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

Here is an opportunity for you to support some worthy outreach projects sponsored through the leadership of our Region of GA Disciples Women ministries! Our FCCW Disciples Women (DW) members will take all donations with them to the annual retreat on September 22 - 24. There is a table set up to collect your contribution or contact one of our DW leaders for more information. Thank you.

Retreat Service Project: We will bring personal care and other needed items for Tapestri.
More information about Tapestri can be found at www.tapestri.org

Toothpaste	Dish Liquid	Dry Erase Markers
Dental Floss	Facial Tissues	Loose Leaf Paper
Shampoo	Washcloths	Mechanical Pencils
Toothbrush	Granola Bars	Spiral Notebooks
Wipes	Shave Gel Bath Towels	Disposable Razors
Lotion	Multi Surface Cleaner	Tampons
Women's Socks	Umbrellas	Pads
Men's Socks	Fingernail Clippers	Pencil Sharpener
Pencil Erasers	Laundry Detergent	Hair Brush
Paper Towels	Hand Soap	Body Wash
Q Tips		

Sweet Dreams Pillowcase Ministry: Pillowcases for Egleston-Scottish Rite Hospital. Directions are online at www.gadisciples.org women's ministry link.

Pop tops: You may bring your aluminum can tops for delivery to Ronald McDonald Houses.