



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes March, 2018

Stories to Shape Us

Story # 1:

The Samaritan woman who met a Jewish man at the well of their shared ancestor and what happened after they had conversation. Look up this story from scripture.

Story # 2:

In Sunday school class for the children and teens, I gave them a large piece of paper and many different shades of purple markers. I also gave them a variety of red and blue markers. As each one picked up a marker and begin to doodle, I asked them about the colors present and their symbolism. They were quick to share that the color purple represented the season of Lent. That's right!

The other two colors baffled them as they made many guesses as to why red and blue markers are on the table. "Is red for Christmas?" "Is blue for Advent?" What purpose would these different markers bring to the table? They appeared to not "fit in" to the theme of Lent. Some said that the red marker and the blue marker did not belong. It was easier to remove them from the table, than to figure out their relationship and purpose to the whole group.

It was in the effort of mixing the red and blue colors that purple was discovered. Together, they become the acceptable Lenten color of purple. The red marker and the blue marker really did belong on the table and in the season of Lent.

It was good discussion and led to the word 'judgement.' Each of the kids understood something about the element of 'judgement'. They shared their own struggles of being 'labeled' and not fitting in. A few had been left out of a friends group. Some could not understand why a teacher did not include them. Others sat quietly pondering their own situations.

Some of our kids were courageous enough to share how they, too, 'judged' others. Because of appearance, behaviors, beliefs, skin tones, or language or just following the crowd or what they learned from others, their confessional stories of judgement of others provided lessons to learn.

Our children and teens are learning skills, values and beliefs as they grow physically into adulthood. They are learning from us, their loving, caring adults in their world. We are entrusted to teach them well. Like the woman at the well who met Jesus, they experience judgement and rejection; exclusion and labelling. Like the woman at the well who met Jesus, they seek relationships that can be trusted and belonging.

Recently, I heard a quote from Brene Brown, research professor at the University of Houston. She has been studying courage, vulnerability, empathy and shame. One of her quotes that has

helped me with to grow past where I am and to mature is the following: Dr. Brown says, *“Until we can receive with an open heart, we are never really giving with an open heart. When we attach judgement to receiving help, we knowingly or unknowingly attach judgement to giving help.”*

Jesus went to the well because he was thirsty. He opened himself to ask for what he needed from a woman who was different in all ways from himself. In that very vulnerable act, Jesus opened opportunity for a relationship to develop through the sharing of their hearts and without judgement or rejection.

We finish the season of Lent and move into the Holy Week experience. May we be open to God’s leading and shaping as we share our needs and receive from one another, without judgement or rejection.

Peace for today’s journey,
Sheila



Our Learning time has been no less than amazing!

The children and middle schoolers have had their Learning time with **Amy Baxter** on the subject of “Resurrection.”

For the adults and high schoolers, **Jimmy Christopher** prepared and presented informed and rich lessons on **“Who Are We: The Disciples of Christ.”** Over the five Wednesdays, participants received much information on the history and purpose of historical religious movement which led to the development of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Campbell brothers, Barton Stone and John O’Kelly would be in awe at the lessons Jimmy has brought to us!! We are truly blessed with his gift of understanding and communication. **Thank you, Jimmy.**

The next Wednesday on the Corner series will start on April 11 at 5:45. Jimmy Christopher will return for 4 Wednesdays to finish our mid-week education nights. He will continue with meaningful information about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and who we are! Come and join us!

Lenten Studies with Jimmy Christopher



Lenten Wednesdays on the Corner at FCCW is a rich and amazing time of gathering for a meal and for learning. **Our Evangelism-Membership Committee and our Christian Education Committee and our Youth Committee** has partnered in the effort of feeding the mind, heart, soul and stomachs for the season of Lent! We are thankful! The food has been fantastic **with volunteers helping to arrange enough for over 55 meals** each Wednesday.



WWW dinner group at Butt Hutt in February



Green Chalice Team



Special Music on February 18



TOPS News



It's working! The TOPS members are lowering the numbers on the scale and learning to make healthy choices. If you would like to join us on Mondays at 5pm, please contact Carol Bennett or Pam Gunter.

A new team has emerged here at First Christian Church – The Green Chalice Team. The first meeting of the 'Team' was held on Saturday, March 10. From that meeting came plans for maintaining our current garden area, new garden projects for 2018, and a vision for future additions as well.

Four smaller teams have been formed to maintain the plantings. Each smaller team is responsible just 1 week of the month to water and weed. Can gardening get any easier? NOT – well maybe NOT.

One project which many of you have addressed is the plantings, or the dressing up or just a more 'finished' look for the Simonton Bridge Road side of the church. The Team has taken your wishes to heart and plan to plant some arborvitae (3) and possibly drifts of Day Lilies on that side. The plantings will not obstruct the windows.

The most heartfelt project to be completed this year is a Hydrangea garden. This garden will be in memory of Teresa. I can see her smiling as we lovingly design and install her beloved Hydrangeas. Along with that garden we are looking at installing a rain barrel to keep them watered and to halt the 'mudslide' at the steps. Of course, we want to add a plaque to the garden saying that the garden is in memory of our dear friend.



Another thought was to prepare a bed for our children to plant herbs and annuals such as zinnias, sun flowers, cosmos or whatever they wish to see. Children are never too young to enjoy the rewards of seeing their efforts come to fruition to say nothing of picking the flowers.

Now for our vision for continuing the growth of the garden. Future projects include adding shade trees near the patio and possibly some to shade part of the playground as well. Perhaps a pergola to provide seating and shade for parents as they watch their children play. There can possibly be a brick pathway from the patio to the outer area of the property. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a pathway of memories to honor our loved ones who have passed or who are still with us? This seems adventurous, but with time, patience and perseverance all these projects can be accomplished!

The Green Chalice Team is open to everyone. We hope you will jump right in with a helping hand to bring these ideas from visions to reality. As we begin various projects we will let you know, so you too can be an integral part of making the little brick church on the corner a welcoming place of peace and tranquility for all.

By the way, the garden is not only used by you, but it is also viewed as a place of peace and serenity for all. There have been members of our community who have come to the garden, sat in silence and in prayer searching for relief from some of life's difficult times. Our garden has been viewed as a lovely place for those 'senior pics'. It goes without saying that it is a welcoming haven for those who come for First Friday. All of this is to say, we often don't really know who or when they come to the garden, but it is safe to say that our garden certainly has a ministry of its own.



When Mother died last July our youngest grandson Logan asked if we could plant a tree in her memory. He said it had to be a tree we did not already have in our yard. It had to be one of a kind, just like Nana!

Last week Logan went to Cofer's, choose a beautiful Coral Bark Japanese Maple, listened to employee as to planting instructions and came back here and planted. He used this as an Ag project and wrote a paper which he'll turn in later this month! Logan is twelve and will always remember this.



WFCC Calendar

Saturday, March 24rd

FCCW Volunteer night for IHN at Union Christian Church

Sunday, March 25th

8:30 am - Elders Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship (Easter Offering)

12:00 pm - Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt

Monday, March 26th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting



Tuesday, March 27th

2:00 pm - Support Group

6:00 pm - Outreach Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 28th

5:45 pm - Parent Night - Jane Kilgo

Children & teens meet with Amy

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, March 29th

5:45 pm - Seder Meal & Lord's Supper

Sunday, April 1st

7:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service

9:45 am - "He is Risen" Fellowship

11:00 am - Worship (Easter Offering)

No Youth

Monday, April 2nd

11:00 am - Home Communion Visits

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, April 3rd

8:45 am - 1:15 pm - ACTS

Pilot Club

Wednesday, April 4th

No Community Supper or Study

Sunday, April 8th

8:00 am - CMF Breakfast and Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

5:30 - 7:00 pm - Youth

6:00 pm - Board Meeting

Monday, April 9th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, April 10th

2:00 pm - Support Group

5:30 pm - Property Committee

Wednesday, April 11th

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study (Jimmy Christopher)

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, April 12th

6:00 pm - Worship

Sunday, April 15th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship (Baptism)

5:30 - 7:00 pm - Youth

Monday, April 16th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

WWW Dinner Group

Tuesday, April 17th

6:00 pm - Youth Committee

Wednesday, April 18th

Chalice Info due to Rosa

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Constitution Revision Committee?

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, April 19th

12:00 pm - Community Luncheon - Watkinsville Memorial Baptist

6:30 pm - Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, April 20th

6:00 pm - 12:00 am - Relay for Life (OCHS)

Sunday, April 22nd

8:30 am - Elders Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

5:30 - 7:00 pm - Youth

Monday, April 23rd

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

Tuesday, April 24th

2:00 pm - Support Group

6:00 pm - Outreach Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 25th

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study (Jimmy Christopher)

Thursday, April 26th - Saturday, April 28th

Regional Assembly, Columbus, GA

Sunday, April 29th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship (Gideon's will speak) (Change for Change)

Monday, April 30th

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Friends Forever Fellowship

FCCW Youth Committee has started a new group for our children, K-5th grade. It was named, "Friday Friends" because the group meets on the third Friday of the month at 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Now that the kids have taken ownership, they re-named the group. It is now called "Friends Forever!" Ella, Max, Elizabeth cooked their own supper, enjoyed the great outdoors and experience the church as a place of "welcome". Seeds of friendship, faith and fun are growing at FCCW! The next meeting time is Friday, April 20 at 4:30 PM. Come and join in!!

Elizabeth



Max



Ella



FCCW Christian Men Fellowship (CMF) enjoy gathering for breakfast on second Sunday mornings each month. There are some great cooks in the group and food is always good and plentiful! A devotion is shared by CMF president, Doug Baxter and a business meeting keeps the group informed of their projects for others. We are thankful for their servant leadership as they support many community charities and manage the oversight of lawn care at FCCW. Thank you, guys!

All men of FCCW and any of the community are welcome to come and join in the next monthly meeting on Sunday, April 8 at 8:00 AM.

Outreach

The annual ACTS meeting was held on March 21st at Ray's United Methodist Church with a good representation of participating Churches.

ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) reported serving 2,372 families of Oconee County in 2017 plus 105 boxes for seniors. To do this it took 197,000 items of food!!!

This food is purchased with donations from churches, service clubs, schools, grants, and individuals and from food drives from churches as well as school Can-a-thon.

Photo pictured is of Reiny Hiss and wife Sally. Reiny recently stepped down as ACTS chairman after many years of service and dedication and was recognized with framed letter and plaque. ACTS is the food bank and clothing closet for people in need in our county.



We are blessed to have many members of our church who participate in working at ACTS. If you would like to volunteer please contact Pam Crawford.

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)

FCCW is known as a congregation who reaches out into the community in service to others. Our **Outreach Committee** offers a new opportunity for volunteering.

It is called the IHN volunteer week hosted at Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) is an agency that works to support and guide homeless families to find work and housing, while keeping the children, teens and adults together during the transitional time. IHN does this by working with churches and volunteers.

At any given time, there are three families in the 3-month program. They are housed in churches with volunteers to watch over the evening and morning routines. Each Sunday the families are moved to a host church building for the week. The adults work at job and save money for deposits or work at securing a job to start. The children go to school or to day care.

FCCW is partnering with Ashford Methodist as support congregations and with the host church, Union Christian Church (DOC). We have four weeks for the year, one week each quarter.

Within that week, FCCW will volunteer for two days. Our photos capture some of our volunteers at an Orientation/training hosted at Ashford Methodist Church.

Orientation/training can be arranged for other interested volunteers. Please let Bill Hunt and Cindy Pritchard, FCCW volunteer coordinators, know of your interests and questions.

The following weeks are our schedule for volunteering:

March 18 – 25, 2018 – FCCW volunteers cover the evening of March 22 and March 24.

June 17 – 24, 2018

September 23 – 30, 2018

December 23-30, 2018

Please keep these IHN families, the agency and staff, the volunteers and congregations in prayers for support, gratitude and courage as they work together to support children and their families.



Youth Outting

“We’re off to see the Wizard – the wonderful Wizard of . . . “but we **really want to see Toto (Max Patrick) and the Head Winkie (Emma Claire Thompson).**

Two of FCCW very own children and teens were in the Brightstone production of the “Wizard of Oz”. Our children, teens and parents attend the Sunday afternoon performance. It was delightful to travel over the rainbow with the cast that included Max and Emma Claire! We are proud of you! It was a fun time!



Kilpatrick Memorial Committee has been busy in Rosa's Sunday School classroom to freshen up and make this room a more usable space.

A huge thank you to Peterman Painting for the painting!

A table and six chairs and rug have been purchased and room should be completed soon. Please drop in across from Sheila's office and take a look.

Plans are after Easter to continue in two upstairs bathrooms to update and freshen up there too.

Save the date for
**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**

at First Christian Church
Watkinsville

**Friday, June 1-
Sunday, June 3**

There will be a **VBS Planning Meeting**
on **Monday, April 9** at **6 PM.**

All are welcome to join.

Community Luncheon

CCW hosted the Community Pot-Luck Lunch in February. The food table featured many wonderful dishes, including the famous Bargfrede Beef Vegetable soup (Thanks Bob!).

We welcomed the community members with bright table decorations and the invitation to stay and BINGO!!! Donations of prizes enhanced the festive time of playing as Susan Hansford called the numbers! FCCW Volunteers made the day possible for all to enjoy a little friendly competition around the tables of friendship! **FCCW Evangelism-Membership Committee** was the capable host as they made a place at the table for all. Community Potluck Lunch is every third Thursday of the month. The next one scheduled is April 19 at 12:00 noon and hosted by Watkinsville Memorial Baptist Church.



Steeple Repair

Our Property Committee takes on the restoration of the steeple. Photos show the intensity of effort to remove aluminum siding and replace and paint hardy board. Between rain and wind and sunshine the steeple now looks good as new! Also, as the steeple was worked on, the need for repairs to the metal roof was corrected. Both actions showed care and investment in the future of our church building to be used for generations to come. Also, please notice the great lights in the back hallway that shine on our path! And the new paint in the Sunday School room for our oldest and wisest members! (More pictures to come!)

Thank you to the committee members for their care of the building and their insightfulness to make our building better. Just in time for Easter morning and the celebration of the Resurrection!



Regional Youth Assembly 2018

Our middle and high school youth had a wonderful time at Regional Youth Assembly this past February. It was a great time for them to bond together, spending time at the beach, and worship with other youth of our region. The theme for the weekend was Mission: Go and Be. Encouraging the youth to Be in God as they Go out to be disciples of Christ. they are already looking forward to the trip next year.



NEW Sunday School Series

April 8- May 6

BIBLICAL TEXT-ING

Middle & high schoolers are invited to join us in digging deeper into God's word through an interactive 5-week study.

Devices (phones, tablets, etc.) are welcome as we discuss lectionary scriptures each week. **We will meet in the downstairs classroom on the right.** Youth do not have to be able to physically attend this series (as we will be using GroupMe)- if you know a youth who is interested in joining, please contact Carrie or Sheila.

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP SS

Elementary-age children are invited to join us for a time engaging in God's word. **We will meet in the downstairs classroom on the left.**

PARENTING IN FAITH

Connect with other parents as we discuss the rewarding, yet trying, lifestyle that is being a parent. This 5-week series will feature a parent panel session in which other parents will share struggles and joys of their own parenting experience. **We will meet in the downstairs classroom, last on the right of the hall.**

We have four additional Sunday School classes at FCC Watkinsville.

Are you looking to get plugged into one?

Contact our

Christian Education Chair, Carrie Norris
carrieno@gmail.com // 706-540-8120

Disciple Women

Thank you to Cathy Moorehead for representing our group at the DW spring conference at Camp Christian.

Great turn out for beautiful bridal shower for Rachel Greenwall.

Our meetings are always the Monday night after four Sunday!!! 6:30 in fellowship hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

