



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

Heart Shapes
February 2019

The Shape of Redemption

February is a month that is short but powerful. We start with Groundhog Day and a prediction tool that sets our hopes toward spring or dashes our expectations to more winter! Brrr! In the middle of the month, it is all ‘hearts’ with the symbols of Valentine’s Day – a day to remind us of love. At the end of the month, it turns us toward the practice and patience of Lent with Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras moving quickly to Ash Wednesday. A new journey begins toward the glory of Easter. And so, time passes quickly.

The calendar and schedule move us along through busy, full lives. Yet, our faith reminds us to take a moment of time along the way to listen openly and to respond simply to that still small voice of the Holy One. We are called back to a place and an attitude of love and a practice of praying that re-shapes us, re-energizes us, redeems us.

The experience of redemption comes to mind when we practice the habit of praying. The Old Testament understanding of redemption involves deliverance from bondage that is based on the payment. God has taken the initiative to act compassionately on those who are powerless to help themselves. God brings us back to reclaim the broken pieces and to heal. In the practice of prayer, we are shaped by the experience of receiving from God’s loving presence when we open up our quietest reflections and our deepest confidences.

The shape of redemption is a slow moving into the unknown. Redemption is claim in relationship to God and to one another. A habitual prayer time allows for our hearts to listen in a different way than the world would project.

Listen to the wise counsel of some writers who practiced the act of praying for the purpose of being reclaimed and healed:

“The desert fathers and mothers believed that prayer was a disposition of wholeness, so that “prayer and our life must be all of a piece” Diana Butler Bass

“Teach your mouth to say what is in your heart.” Abba Poemen

“Eastern Orthodox tradition have described prayer as bringing your thinking down into your heart. Love lives and thrives in the heart space. Keeping these images in the heart is transformative. Next time a resentment, negativity, or irritation come into your mind, move that thought or person literally into your heart space.” Richard Rohr

The path of redemption is shaped by our minds connected to the depths of our hearts. May we in this new season of faithfulness, practice the gifts of the heart, shaped through the claim of redemption that beacons us to be whole people of God. I look forward to the next days with you on our journey together. May we start with this Call to Worship – individually and corporately:

(cont. on page 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from “What Shall We Bring” from Center for Faith and Giving.

One: Come, you faithful, for today we gather with all the saints.

Many: We come, mindful of the people that God has worked through in scripture, in our families, in our world and here in this place.

One: Come, and find healing and deliverance from all the tired ways of this world.

Many: We come, for happy are those who live for the Lord!

One: Come, now is the time to worship, to pray, to be healed and to be love.

Many: We come, ready to fling open the doors, reaching out to all and worshipping our God of Love.

All: We give thanks this day for all the blessings of this life. The Holy One has worked through the people to be a source of love to this broken world. We pause and breathe deeply on this day, thankful for God’s story among us that is lived out in unique and life-altering ways. We pray that God moves among us once again.

Peace for today, Sheila

Epiphany or Three Kings Day is always celebrated on January 6. The youth enjoyed making crown during Sunday school.

Epiphany Star Cookies were beautiful and delicious! Thank you to the Patrick family for making the cookies and sharing them with us!



Reverend Orlando Scott filled in for Sheila during her Christmas vacation with her family in Minnesota.



The Christian Men Fellowship

met January 13 for a delicious breakfast of eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy prepared by Johnny Wheeler and Tommy Branch. A program featuring Dr. Branch, superintendent of Oconee County schools. It was a great gathering of FCCW men! The next meeting is the second Sunday on February 10 at 8:00 AM. Save the date and attend the next meeting!



Joe Stunzi – new member; Russell Lee – CMF Treasurer; Dr. Branch, superintendent of Oconee County school system and speaker; Leo Baker – CMF President for 2019.



Outreach 2019 – FCCW

January 8, 2019 6:15pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 12 @ 6:15 – If interested in any of our activities, please contact the following or come to our next meeting.

Co-Chair - Melba Baker (Jan- April, Sept- Oct)
706-207-3473: baker706@bellsouth.net

Co-Chair – Kathy E Reising (May- August, Nov, Dec)

706-207-7718

kreising@watkinsvillefirstchristian.org or
kathyr.fccw@gmail.com

Pam Crawford – ACTS Coordinator

706-202-4590: docsgirl@bellsouth.net

Cathy Milligan – Disciples Mission Fund Special Offerings Co-Coordinator

706-714-5190: cathy.milligan@yahoo.com

Marsha Lee - Disciples Mission Fund Special Offerings Co-Coordinator

706-614-0728: marshamlee@bellsouth.net

Cindy Pritchard – Coordinator - Food for Kids, Change for Change, Relay for Life

706-206-5094: Norr1909@bellsouth.net

Lexie Pritchard – Co-Coordinator – Relay for Life

Marsha Burgess – Interfaith Hospitality Network Co-Coordinator

706-296-3961: mljb1953@yahoo.com

Joan Taylor

706-340-3839: occstu@uga.edu

Sandra Lunceford

478-542-3488: slunceford_2000@yahoo.com

Bill Hunt –Board Chair

706-338-4897: wwhunt1313@gmail.com

Potential New Members/Volunteers –

Gina – 706-207-2708, ginalhansford@gmail.com

Steve – 706-714-6081, stevehansford5@gmail.com

Eddie Cobb – 706-614-9988

(cont. on page 4)

Outreach 2018 – Projects Recap

1) Relay for Life Oconee 04/20/2018 – Oconee County High School - \$3440.30

Relay for Life Team Leader - Kathy Reising, 2017 - \$1589.54

Fat Tuesday - Pancake supper – 2/13 - \$ 838 less cost = \$703.82

Wed Night dinner w/ Jimmy 3/21 - \$721

Other donations (J B SS, CWF, Online & Direct - \$655

Funds from prior years: \$1360.48

2) New: Interfaith Hospitality Network – \$432.00

Bill Hunt, Cindy Pritchard – FCCW Volunteer Coordinators

Location: Union Christian Church

Week of 3/18, Week of 6/17, Week of 9/23, Week of 12/23

Provided 8 meals, 16 overnight volunteers, 16 evening volunteers, 16 driver shifts

3) Change for Change – Oconee Food for Kids – School Year Program - \$ 600.80

2017 - \$617.87 on 5 Sunday

5th Sunday 2018 - 4/29, 07/29, 09/30, 12/30 - \$ 381.00

1st Saturday – Donations \$ 219.80

4) Oconee Food for Kids – Summer Program Sponsor-\$ 623.50

5/2 Wed night supper BBCue - \$770.50 less cost of \$147.

Volunteer Packing Week in June – 7 volunteers

4) DMF Special Offerings – \$ 5,135.00

2017 - \$ 10323.25

Week of Compassion – 02/18, 02/25

(Hurricane Disaster Relief) - \$1113.00

Easter Offering – 03/25 & 04/01 (Benefits the general ministries of the Church) - \$728.00

Pentecost Offering – 05/20 & 05/27 (Benefits new church development: 1/2 to Hope

Partnership for Missional Transformation & 1/2 directly to regions) - \$517.00

Reconciliation – 09/30 & 10/07 (Diversity) \$501.00

Thanksgiving Offering – 11/11 & 11/18

(Benefits 14 undergraduate & 7 graduate institutions covenanted with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - \$1187.00

Christmas Offering – 12/16 & 12/23 (Benefits directly our region) - \$1089.00

5) First Saturdays – Coordinated with Evangelism & Membership – Cathy Moorehead Visited with lots of young families & children, 6-8 volunteers per day

May 05/04

June 06/01 - Coordinated with Vacation Bible School

July 07/07 - \$ 105.09 Donations for Food for Kids

August 08/03 - \$ 33.01 Donations for Food for Kids

September 09/07 - Disciples Women used as a fundraiser

October 10/05 - \$ 25.25 Donations for Food for Kids

November 11/1 - Very low turnout – Cotton Gin Festival – Will not do Nov in 19

6) ACTS – Area Churches Together Serving: \$ 2400.00

Pam Crawford – Coordinator

Numerous volunteer hours, days and food collections

7) Disciples Mission Fund: \$ 9000.00



Outreach – First Quarter 2019

Reach out in Service to others

Upcoming service opportunities for all

Tuesday Feb. 5th – ACTS – Area Churches together Serving

FCCW serves clients at ACTS – 8:45-1:15. ACTS is the Food Bank and Clothes Closet for Oconee residents. Signup sheet on bulletin board next to Sheila's office. We need at least 6 volunteers. For details contact Pam Crawford 706-202-4590.

Sunday Feb 17th & 24th – Week of Compassion offering. Week of Compassion offerings benefit the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church. Our goal is \$1000. (Mission Moments 2/10 & 2/17)

Tuesday Feb 12th – Outreach Meeting at 6:15 – ALL are welcome!

(cont. on page 5)

Tuesday March 5th-Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 6pm

Fat Tuesday, also called Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday”, is the last day of feasting before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. FCCW is celebrating with a Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall. Cost for dinner is a donation to Relay for Life of Oconee County. Our goal for Relay for Life of Oconee 2019 is \$2500. We will have another supper event and sell Luminaries.

Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9th – Interfaith Hospitality Network – at Union Christian

This is an opportunity for serving families in need. Families will be hosted at Union Christian Church. In order to volunteer, you must complete 1 hour of training. (Except for providing meals). Sign-up sheet on bulletin board next to Sheila’s office. Encourage all to attend the training, if you think this might be of interest. Contact Bill Hunt or Marsha Burgess for more information.

Sunday March 31st – Fifth Sunday change for Change Benefits Oconee Food for Kids – school year program

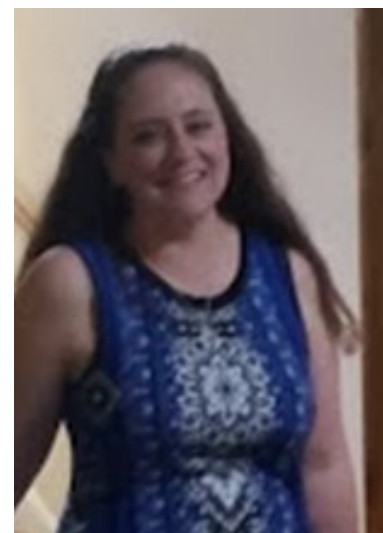


FCCW Family Fun Night with children, teens, parents and friends was held on Saturday, January 26. This event celebrated the leadership of Youth Director, Amy Baxter, as she completes a five-year position with FCCW.

This fun night launches the winter activities of faith, friends and fun for our children, teens and families crowd. What a fun night with games, tacos, campfire, and s’mores!!

The next FCCW Family Fun Night will be Saturday, March 23!

FCCW appreciates the work of Amy Baxter, Youth Director, during morning worship. Amy has served as staff member since June, 2013. We appreciate the leadership and relationship of Amy to the youth over the past five years. We look forward to the continued participation of Amy and her family as church members. Thank you, Amy!



The **Disciple Women Fellowship** appreciated the presentation of Watkinsville Librarian. Cara focused on the many services and benefits our local library offers. The FCCW Disciple Women Fellowship invites all women to participate in the fellowship and service to others programs of the DW.

The next Disciples Women meeting is Monday, February 25 at 6:30 pm at FCCW. Their February service project is the Mercy Clinic. Which is a volunteer-based, non-profit Christian Health resource center. They provide medical, dental, specialty, pharmacy, and behavioral health services as well as health education, social services and spiritual care to patients in need. The listed items will be collected during the month of February and delivered to Mercy Clinic the first week of March.



Items Needed at Mercy Clinic:

Copy Paper
Card stock
Hand Soap
Hand sanitizer
File folders
Pens
Paper towels
XL trash bags
Toilet paper
Travel size toiletries
Lysol wipes.



Youth Group at FCCW

Did you know the following facts about some of our youth group members:

- * Zip Lined across a waterway with alligators
- * Ate a worm
- * Slipped off a golf cart and hurt a foot
- * Favorite food is salmon
- * Made the High School Varsity Softball team as a freshman
- * Awarded Superior rating for each of the piano competitions
- * Named Young Farmer of the year for Oconee County 2019
- * Earned an "A" in math last semester

FCCW Youth Group (6th-12th graders) started for the Winter season on Sunday, January 27 and we learned a lot about each other as we shared around the table. We made some plans, ate some spaghetti, talked about Epworth and the Youth Assembly, played some ping pong and prayed a blessing.

Come be a part of a great group of young people. Here are the dates and times:

Most Sundays, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM downstairs at FCCW.

February 3 and 10 will work on the banner for our group for Epworth and some ideas for Relay for Life (April 26) Team.

February 17 – Random Acts of Kindness – we are traveling and being kind in service to others.

February 22 – 24 – Region of GA Youth Assembly at Epworth-by-the Sea.

Don't miss out! YOU are wanted for FCCW Youth Group!!



Financial Report December 2018
By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD BUDGETED
CONTRIBUTIONS		
\$ 17,005	\$156,281	\$184,758
DECEMBER EXPENSES	YTD EXPENSES	YTD BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$ 15,000	\$163,544	\$184,758

YTD CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ (28,477)
YTD EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ (21,214)
YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (7,263)

GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 18,664
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 50,006
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$127,912
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$105,172



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

The FCCW Young Adult group is hosting a "Parents' Night Out" for the whole family & we hope you can join us!
Children & youth will hang out at the church while the parents are invited to dine together at a local restaurant.

FRIDAY, FEB. 1 // 6:00 – 8:00 PM

FRIENDS FOREVER

(FOR K-5TH GRADERS)

Friday, February 8 from 4-7 PM

Bring a can of soup with flip-top for Food for Kids-Weekend Food Bags.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Winder
presents

Smoke on the Mountain



Book by
Connie Ray

Conceived by
Alan Bailey

Musical Arrangements by
Mike Carver and Mark Hardwick

Stage Direction
by
Elinor Hasty

Music Direction
by
Candy Stoffel

**February 15th, 16th, at 7:30pm
& 17th at 3:00pm**

Tickets available through the church office by calling 770-867-9056 or by
visiting the upcoming events page at fccwinder.org

Church is located at
275 North 5th Ave
Winder, GA 30680

Proceeds go to the Hasty Adoption Savings Fund
and the First Christian Church (DOC) Music Scholarships

Georgia Men's Retreat News

(Reprinted from a letter to the Johns Creek Christian Church Men's Group by Buddy Ray - Edited by Glenna With)

The Georgia Men's Retreat is April 5-7 this year, and it is at Christmount in Black Mountain, North Carolina. So, why should you attend?

The program is by Rev. Dr. Percy D. Johnson, Jr. Percy is both a pastor and a Psychologist/Counselor/Social Worker. He's also an amazing speaker who brings a TON of counseling experience to his presentations. This will be the first time EVER that Disciples Men have asked the same speaker back for two years in a row! **He's that good.** Last year he kept us enthralled, engaged and fascinated as he made us think about ourselves, our faith and our relationships with God and with each other. I expect no less this year.



Rooms at Christmount are comfortable 'motel' style rooms – **which means you can take the family.** Wives and family members are welcome. Some attend the sessions – my wife, Jamie, especially loves the robust singing we do before each keynote and, of course, the worship.

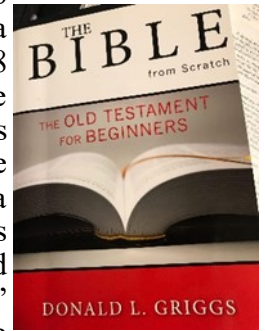
But if wives don't want to attend the sessions, Christmount has a **second story porch on the lodge** that overlooks the mountains, so they can sit, drink hot chocolate, read a book, relax and refresh, hike mountain trails, OR there are **antique shops** and other neat shopping opportunities in Black Mountain which is just about five minutes away. And, you're only about thirty minutes from Ashville which has a ton of shopping, museums and **The Biltmore House**. Also, you're only about forty-five minutes away from **Blowing Rock**, Bat Cave (no, not that Bat Cave), the Blue Ridge Parkway and lots of other fun things in North Carolina.

Christmount has a new chef, and I hear the meals are outstanding – especially the Sunday brunch.

Everyone who attended last year, left with new direction and motivation, a closer relationship with God, and a deeper appreciation of the relationships between all who attended the Men's Retreat. The men always conclude their meetings with the hymn, *Blessed be the Tie that Binds*, and this year promises to bring all participants a special blessing.

Don't miss this. This is an opportunity that will change your life.

Bible Study: Mondays at 2:00 PM – a small group bible study is offered to any who can attend. We are a self-directed group of 5 to 8 folks who enjoy the conversation and are curious about our faith and the path we can take. We are taking a different approach in our studies as we start "The Old Testament: Bible from Scratch" by Donald Griggs. Books are available and the company is good! Come and join us.



We are FCCW proud of Lexie Pritchard, daughter of Cindy and John Pritchard. At the Oconee Chamber of Commerce Annual Celebration Dinner, Lexie was awarded the annual Oconee Outstanding New Farmer of the Year - 2018. Lexie is the youngest recipient and the first female. It was a great surprise for Lexie since she was coaxed into attending the dinner under a false pretense! FCCW is blessed with young people, each on their own path of engagement with the world! And our church, our denomination and our world is already better for it!

Congratulations! Lexie! We are FCCW PROUD!!



Camp Christian Gala and Auction!

Saturday, March 16, 2019



Camp Christian Conference Center
"The Place to Be in the Heart of Georgia"
Join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship
As we bid on items in support of the GALA.
Help us reach our goal of \$14,000 to benefit Camp Christian.

Regional Youth and Young Adults will be your servers!

10:00 A.M. Registration in Woodland
10:45 A.M. Appetizers & Silent Auction
12:30 P.M. Sit Down Meal followed by live Auction

Tickets \$35 each
Call 478-743-8649 or
Go online: www.gadisciples.org
to make your reservations!
For questions contact Marilyn Parks/Pam Van Dusen
campoffice@gadisciples.org



Mr. Leo Baker received the Elder Emeritus title during worship on January 27 for his dedication and lasting contribution as Elder of FCCW.

Leo continues in the role of dedicated church member and volunteer leader.

Recently, Harrison Bennett wrote for his application to the Regional YAC planning team the following words about Mr. Leo and his influence in Harrison's faith journey:

Harrison Bennett

I would like to serve on the YAC team. I am beginning to be a leader. I am learning to make decisions and bring new ideas to a group. I will be able to bring new ideas to this team and help make decisions that are for the best for everyone.

I am serious about loving God. I became a Christian when I was in the 2nd grade and was baptized then too. This is one way that I can show other teenagers that I am a Christian because it will let me be involved in a group that is even bigger than my church. Right now, I sing in the choir of my church. This is fun but also important because there are not enough people to sing so it is important that I do my part to make the choir good every week.

The best talent that I will bring to this team is my ability to get along with everybody. I am not one to fight, argue or cause problems. Every group has somebody that causes drama. I am definitely not that person! I tend to be very laid back and easy to work with. I will listen to other people, be kind when people speak and not hurt other people's feelings when I speak.

I think my church needs a representative on this team. Maybe we need more than one. I would like to be that person. I would like to help this team complete their jobs, meet new people that will be on the team and be the person that my church is proud of.

On Sunday, my church recognized a man for serving as an Elder for a very long time. I know Mr. Leo from the choir. Mr. Leo is funny, has a very low voice and is always kind. He has been an Elder for a very, very long time. I think that he will make sure that I am a good member on this team because I can talk to Mr. Leo about this team and listen to his advice to me. He is a good friend to me and will help me learn to do my best with the YAC team. He has also taught me to be bold and try to do things for the church. This is would be a good start for me.

Thank you for reading this essay.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth, children, & parents are invited to join us
from 10:00- 10:45am each Sunday as we continue
in our celebration of the season of Epiphany!

We have great Adult Sunday School classes, too!
Contact Carrie Norris (706-540-8120 // carrieno@gmail.com)
if you are interested in more information.



Church Calendar for February 2019

February 1

6:00 pm - Young Adults sponsor "Parents Night Out"

February 3

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Youth Group

February 4

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 pm - TOPS

6:00 pm - Worship Committee

February 5

8:45 - 1:15 pm - A.C.T.S Volunteers

5:00 pm - Pilot Club

5:00 pm - Property Committee Meeting

February 6

5:45 pm - Community Supper and Study

7:00 pm - Choir

February 10

8:00 am - CMF Breakfast and Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Elders Meeting

6:00 pm - Board Meeting

February 11

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 pm - TOPS

February 12

6:15 pm - Outreach Committee Meeting

February 13

5:45 pm - Community Supper and Study

7:00 pm - Choir

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Camp Christian Work Day

February 17

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

February 18

Office Closed - Presidents' Day

February 19

6:00 pm - WWW Dinner Group

February 20

5:45 pm - Community Supper and Study

7:00 pm - Choir

February 21

12:00 pm - Community Lunch at FCCW

February 22 - 24

Epworth

February 24

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

February 25

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 pm - TOPS

6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

February 27

5:45 pm - Community Supper

7:00 pm - Choir



Friendship

© By M.S.Lowndes

We grow closer to each other
When we're closer to the Lord,
The common faith that we share
Binds our hearts in one accord

For friendships last a life time
When built on Jesus Christ,
Throughout each different season,
We find we are in life

Friends are there through times of grief
And times when hope is gone,
Always there with encouragement
So we can carry on

So thank the Lord for giving you
A true and faithful friend,
To laugh with you, and cry with you,
On whom you can depend

For friends will stay no matter what,
Giving you support
And together your hearts truly unite
With the love of the Lord.