



The Chalice

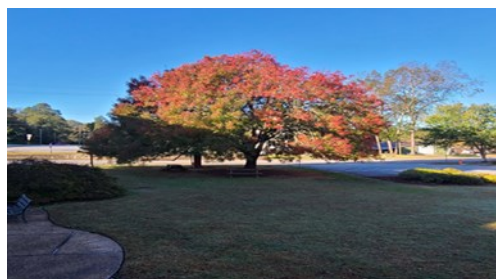
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4 N. Main Street
Watkinsville, GA 30677

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

“Heart Matters”
Sheila Hunter, Minister
October 2022

“Are Our Roots Healthy Enough for Flourishing?”



From the office window, I often look at the tree in the front yard of our church building. It is a symbol of seasonal change as it ‘shows off’ for Main Street, Watkinsville. In late fall, the leaves change from hues of green to faint yellow to brilliant flame red. It will be a week or two before we see the brilliance.

We anticipate the change as we trust the seasonal transitions.

Yet, just when the color is most glorious, it changes again. The leaves release and let go. They drop to the ground, revealing ancient looking, bare limbs against the winter sky. We live through the winter days and trust that the limbs will be green once again. The tree has not failed us!

Our own impatient attitudes want what we want when we want it! We think that the dead of winter will never end or the cool of fall is delayed. As my dad would remind his children when impatient and demanding – ‘timing is everything and God’s knows the best time for all things!’ “ This tree gives us a seasonal clock to mark change and to participate in transition, even if we participate by watching at a distance.

From **Master Gardener Association in Denton County, Texas:**

*The Chinese Pistache tree (Pistacia chinensis;): The roots grow deep and are non-aggressive, making it a safe choice near streets and sidewalks. The mature tree canopy can reach 35 – 50- feet high and 30 feet wide and provides great shade. It is virtually pests and disease free. It tolerates drought and wind once established. As a young tree it has spindly limbs and needs to be staked for support until it establishes itself. It grows well in almost all soil types. It has a long-life expectancy **unless the roots get soggy and develop Texas root rot which will kill the tree.***

The root –it is the root. The root, grows deep, stabilizes, nourishes, sustains, and grows the beautiful tree despite the changes that may come. It is the root that grows deep to reach down, keeping the tree growing.

The following scripture verses may help us move forward with sustainability and confidence:

“... continue to live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2: 6 – 7 NRSV

Are our roots healthy enough for flourishing?

The changes around us and the changes within us may challenge us to flourish and grow. We are rooted in Christ and built up in Christ and with Christ.

May we flourish as a community of faith, God's beloved community, rooted in Christ who loves us - - - despite our changes.

CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2022

Sunday, October 2
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
World Communion Sunday
Elder: Rosa Hall



Monday, October 3 – 6
Sheila at Retreat

Tuesday, October 4
8:45 – 1:15 PM – ACTS Volunteers

Wednesday, October 5
3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 9
8:00 AM - CMF Breakfast & Meeting
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Pam Gunter

Monday, October 10
10:30 AM – Coffee Chat
2:00 PM – Bible Study
6:30 PM – Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 12
3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 13
6:30 PM – Elders Meeting
Saturday, October 15
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Fall Festival
Property Parking Project

Sunday, October 16
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Cathy Moorehead

Monday, October 17
2:00 PM – Bible Study

Wednesday, October 19
3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 22
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Regional
Board Meeting - Zoom

Sunday, October 23
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Bill Hunt

Monday, October 24
10:30 AM – Coffee Chat
2:00 PM – Bible Study
6:30 PM – Disciple Women's Mtg.

Wednesday, October 26
3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 30
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Mary Lillie Watson

Monday, October 31
Halloween

BOARD MEETING - FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - WATKINSVILLE, GA. 8/8/2022

Present:	Ann Smith	Rosa Hall	Pam Gunter	Tracy Henson
	Cathy Moorehead	Melba Baker	Bruce Greenwall	Leo Baker
	Mary Lillie Watson	Michelle Greenwall (Diaconate)		Pam Crawford
	Sheila Hunter			

Chair Ann Smith called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Mary Lillie Watson gave a devotion and led us in communion.

Minutes of the July meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

No financial report was available.

The Minister's report was provided.

Committee Reports presented:

CHRISTIAN REPORT: CMoorehead - planning activities for Homecoming Day (during Sunday school hour)

EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP: MBaker - planning lunch after Worship on Homecoming. Will decorate Fellowship Hall on Friday before. Committee will also order large tray of meat (chicken) for Sunday.

OUTREACH: THenson: Change for Change last Sunday (no amount yet). FCCW @ ACTS this week (9 worked). Reconciliation offering the end of September. Bingo Night at the Cotton Gin on August 16.

PROPERTY: BGreenwall - Garage at annex has been cleaned. Items from storage unit on site. Banner noting our 125th Anniversary will be put out front when it comes in.

YOUTH: It was noted that Young Adults/Youth did Good job during recent worship service.

ELDERS: MLWatson. Elders will not meet this week. Working on new Shepherding & other lists.

DIACONATE: MGreenwall - Meals provided to families who had lost family members and those who had surgery. It was noted that a Budget is needed to assist w/meals costs for this ministry.

DISCIPLES WOMEN: PCrawford - Met 7/25 with 10 members presents to discuss general business and prayer concerns. One person will attend Fall Retreat in St. Simons in September. Donated \$150.00 to GA Region DW For Retreat Expenses and \$157.00 Back to School Project for a 4th grader needing back pack, head phones and school supplies.

CMF - No meeting this Month.

TRUSTEES - LBaker - Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ann Smith expressed her gratitude for all of the extra work, Church Secretary Elaine McTyre provided during the last month. Leo Baker made a motion to give Elaine a \$100.00 Thank You Bonus, Cathy Moorehead, seconded. Motion passed.
- Rosa needs news for the newsletter by August 30.
- Constitution Revision - It was agreed to send out copies of the Revision to the Congregation and ask for feedback - in writing to Chair of the Committee Ray Watson by September 4. The Committee will review and get back to Board.
- Leo Baker asked when it might be possible to start "Passing" communion (using the communion cups we have now) and the offering plates. Ann will put this back to Worship Committee (Bill Hunt) for discussion.

Sheila Hunter closed the meeting in prayer.

Pam Gunter, Secy, to the Board

Financial Report August 2022

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

AUG CONTRIBUTIONS	2022 CONTRIBUTIONS	2022 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$12,091	\$94,691	\$133,324

AUG EXPENSES	2022 EXPENSES	2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$13,401	\$109,731	\$127,738

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ -38,633 (UNDER)
2022 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ -18,007 (UNDER)

2022 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ -15,041
ADD ERC Q3 - 2021	<u>6,905</u>
NET GENERAL FUNDS	-8,136

FUNDS RECEIVED 04/10/22: ERC Q2 – 2021	\$ 5,503
FUNDS RECEIVED 06/26/22: ERC Q3 – 2021	\$ 6,904

	YTD AUG	MONTH OF AUG
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,809	\$3,809
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$2,705</u>	<u>\$3,023</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE	\$(1104)	\$ (786)

	AUG 31, 2022	DEC 31, 2021	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$34,963	\$36,655	\$ -1,691
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$36,063	\$36,171	\$ -108

JUNE STATEMENTS, AS OF	JUNE 30, 2022	DEC 31, 2021	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$199,808	\$254,159	\$ -54,351 -21.4%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$168,896	\$201,525	\$ -32,628 -16.2%

ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) YTD AUGUST 2022 GIVING DECREASED \$12,638 OR 13% VERSUS 2021
- 2) YTD AUGUST 2022 BUDGET SPENDING DECREASED \$3,550 OR 3% VERSUS 2021.
- 3) ENDOWMENT FUND & SAVINGS AT VANGUARD ARE UPDATED FOR 06/30/2022.
- 4) FCCW RECEIVED EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT Q2-2021 OF \$ 5,503 - APRIL 22
- 5) FCCW RECEIVED EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT Q3-2021 OF \$ 6,904 – JUNE 22
- 6) ANNUAL CORPORATE REGISTRATION FILED 01-13-22



SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING | \$50 (2021) |
| 2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION | \$743 |
| 3) DMF – EASTER OFFERING | \$708 |
| 4) DMF – PENTECOST | \$308 |
| 5) DMF – RECONCILIATION | |
| 6) DMF – THANKSGIVING | |
| 7) CHANGE FOR CHANGE | \$69.60 JAN 4 |
| 8) MARCH FOR CAMP | |
| 9) DONATION FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE | \$ 2000 |
| 9) CMF DONATION FOR YOUTH | \$ 1000 |
| 10) MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS | \$ 1240 |
| 11) PANCAKE SUPPER TO OUT OF DARKNESS | \$ 200 |
| 13) OUT OF DARKNESS | |
| 14) FALL FESTIVAL BACK PARKING | |



Registration is open!

For Regional Assembly REGISTRATION and more information, please scan the QR code or visit the website below:

www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly



Speakers:

Rev. Troy Tatum | Pre-Assembly Clergy Sabbath Conversation Leader
 Rev. Dr. Winston O. R. Worrell | Pre-Assembly Learning Speaker
 Michelle Tepper | Pre-Assembly Learning Speaker
 Rev. Dr. Amy Butler | Opening Worship Speaker
 Rev. Dr. Nathan Brown | Saturday Bible Study Leader
 Rev. Sylvia Stroy | Disciples Women's Luncheon Speaker
 Rev. Tom Edmondson | Disciples Men's Luncheon Speaker

Children & Youth:

Youth will participate in the Regional Assembly and re-connect with Georgia Disciples Youth in a Friday night lock-in. A Children's Program for ages K-5th grade and nursery care for ages Infant through Pre-K will be provided at First Christian Church, Athens, on Friday from 6:45-8:30 pm and Saturday from 8:45 am- 12:30 pm, with leadership provided by children's ministry leaders from Georgia Disciples congregations. A separate registration must be completed for each person attending, including children and youth.

Pre-Assembly:

The Pre-Assembly begins November 10 with a 6PM Clergy Dinner, part of the Clergy Sabbath, and continues with Breakfast and Conversation the next morning. On November 11 at 12PM, church members, leaders, and clergy are invited to lunch, followed by "Conversations About Evangelism." The Regional Assembly itself kicks off at 5PM with a Food Truck Tailgate Dinner.

HOSTED BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS
268 W DOUGHTERY STREET, ATHENS, GA 30601

You and your congregation are invited to the 170th Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia, hosted by First Christian Church of Athens, on November 11-12, 2022. The theme "Re-Church: Re-cast Your Net" from John 21 will guide us as we explore sharing the gospel in a changed and changing world.

Learn more and register [here](#) by November 5, and book your hotel by **October 10.** And to help you get the word out to your congregation, here's a **[flyer](#)** you can post on your bulletin board, website, or social media.

Georgia Disciples are reconnecting at the 2022 Regional Assembly. We hope to see you!

Disciple Women

The group met on September 26 with ten members present. We enjoyed refreshments and fellowship before meeting.

Project for October will be towels and wash cloths for ACTS! \$250 was set aside for this project. We encourage the entire congregation to get involved with this project by donating good used towels and wash cloths or funds to purchase these items by the end of October.



Group discussed the upcoming nominations for new President and Vice President and those were decided.

Cathy Moorehead represented DW at fall retreat at Epworth and gave a recap of the weekend which we enjoyed. Angela Ivey was able to travel with Cathy.

All women are invited to the next Disciple Women meeting on Monday, October 24 at 6:30 PM.

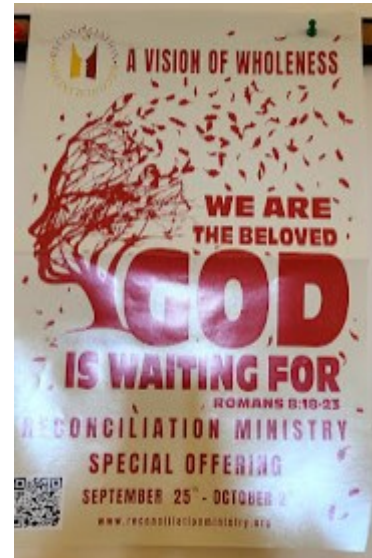
Pam Crawford
DW President



Outreach Ministries Special Disciples Offering -October

The Special Disciples Offering is for October designated for **Reconciliation Ministries**. Half of donations collected stay in the region of Georgia with the half being shared with the General church programs. The theme for 2022 is:

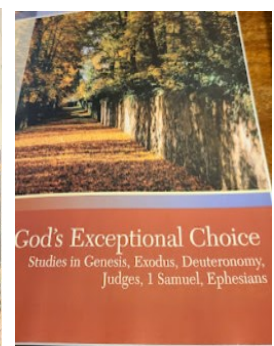
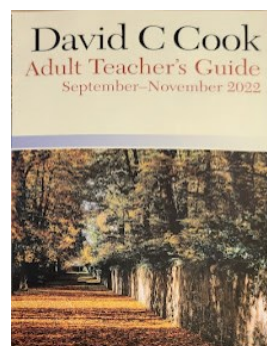
***A Vision of Wholeness:
We Are the Beloved God is Waiting For
Romans 8:10—23.***



FCCW Bible Study

Adult Bible Study Group re-starts on Mondays at 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. The dates for October are: October 10, 17, 24.

The study is David C. Cook, same as used on Sunday morning. We will explore more deeply the lesson from the Sunday before. (example: October 10 we will explore the October 9th lesson) This request to 'dig deeper' will be honored. Plan to attend and invite a friend!



Two Sunday morning classes welcome you to join in at 10:00 AM!

Coffee Chat

Enjoying fellowship and history of family and friends of Oconee! A visitor, Dave Durden, dropped in to share the 1949-1950 Watkinsville High School yearbook, *The Oconian*. The next Coffee Chat times are scheduled for Mondays at 10:30 AM on October 10 & 24.



"TRAVEL AND SEE" Looking toward November's Adventure



Join us on November 29th as we venture out to the beautiful ATHENS BOTANICAL GARDENS

Winter Wonderlights exhibit.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE.

Please sign up by texting Barbara at 706-207-0625 or use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Tickets are \$15 unless we get more than 20 then they will be \$13.50. Church bus will leave the church at 5:15 pm SHARP.

A Letter to Mama



Let me be very clear about this letter. This is not a letter from me to my Mother. It is a letter to our dear friend, Carol Toney, from her cat she lovingly named Kitty. Well, just to bring you up to speed, Kitty is now a member of the Watkins Clan, i.e., a family of spoiled rotten cats. That came about when Roger, Carol's brother, told me he had a question to ask me. This, being somewhat unusual, got my immediate attention. Well, I thought he may have a question about some plant or something along those lines. NOT! He asked if I could take Carol's cat. Needless to say, that was not at all what I expected. Well, my brain was saying one thing, but ya'll, when I opened my mouth, I was stunned at what fell out. The words that fell out were, 'Of course, I will love to have him.' As I left the sanctuary that day, and climbed into my car, I kept thinking to myself, and I quote... 'what on earth have I just done?' Then I thought to myself, what is one more cat? My house seems to be the drop off for other orphaned furbabies anyway. Besides, Roger told me the cat was an outdoor cat, no problem. Roger then said the cat was a barn cat, great, maybe the cat will keep the bunnies out of my hostas. Again, Roger assured me that because he was a barn cat, he would be no problem at all. Let me tell you, just because I now have a barn cat, the bunnies have not stopped enjoying hosta salads every day. My subdivision is home to several big fat happy rabbits now.

Well time passed before Roger could get Mr. Kitty into the trap and ready for drop off. Finally, my doorbell rang. There was Roger with this big ol' fluffy cat. They came inside, Roger unlatched the door to the trap and out strolled mister cat. Since he was an outdoor cat, I was sure he was eager to get outside. Because of my experiences with cats, I kept my eye on him, while at the same time, silently praying to God to not let him use the rug as a litter box. Well, we sat for a few minutes and chatted. Then Roger thanked me and left. I quickly opened the deck door to let Mr. Handsome

go outside. I wanted him to know there was more than enough space out there to use when nature called. Let me tell you, his being happy to go outside was only wishful thinking on my part. He looked at that opened door, then looked at me as if to say, *'if you think I am going out there you are nuts, lady. I have just won the Kitty Lottery and going outside is not a part of my contract'*. I promise, I could not throw that cat outside for months! By the way, he had no problem finding the real litter box, whew! As our first day together progressed, I remember wondering if Roger was pulling my leg about that 'barn cat' thing.

The first matter of business was to rename the cat. I understand Carol always named her cats 'Kitty'. Well with 5 other spoiled rotten cats, it would be impossible for me to have one named kitty. I so wanted him to feel comfortable in his new home, I thought giving him a name which rhymed with kitty would be just the ticket. I thought and thought and thought, then it came to me ---- Conway Twitty. Yep, Conway Twitty would be the perfect name. First of all, Twitty rhymes with kitty and secondly, he has long fur which could rival Conway Twitty's head of hair on any day. Win Win, so there.

CONWAY'S LETTER

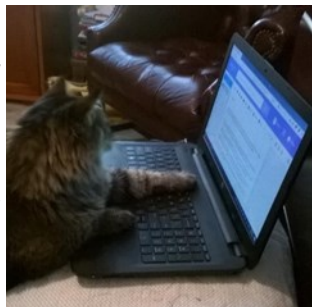
Dear Mama,

I want to tell you how things are going for me now. This 'city living' is so different, but it is OK.

When I came in the house for the first time, I looked around and there were big places suitable for napping (I later learned they were sofas and chairs). I immediately started thinking about the comforts that were surely coming my way. First, I had to convince the new Staffpurrson that I am a very loving cat. Honestly, to accomplish that, I purred to the top of my voice, I twirled around her legs and gave them a soft rub with my fluffy tail and finally, I looked her in the face and winked a great big heart melting wink. Those are my best tricks. Oh my catness, those tricks worked like a charm. I knew I was home free.



One day I discovered the most peculiar thing I have ever seen. It was sitting on the Staffpurrson's lap. She called it a computer. She told me not to even think about putting my paws on that thing. I just closed my eyes and played like I was napping, knowing all along that someday I certainly would so put my paws on it. Well, the day came. My Staffpurrson had that 'puter thing on her lap. For some reason she put it on the foot stool and left the room. AHA, the opportunity arrived. I went over and started pushing some of those buttons. Oh my catness, things started moving on that window thing. I just could not believe my eyes. Then after pushing a special button, I saw all these butterflies flying across that screen. After just a minute they all went away. I suppose they went back home which is behind that screen. One day when I can get to that 'puter again, I'm gonna smash that screen and let all those butterflies out. It is just my cat given duty to do so and let them know freedom.



Another time, the Staffpurrson went into what she called the kitchen. Being I had never been in there, it was quite interesting. She went to this big white, box shaped thing and opened the door. Well, at first, I thought this may be the box where I am expected to sleep. NOOOOOOO! When she opened that door, there were all kinds of things in there, the likes I had never seen before. There were bottles, bowls, plastic bowls with lids, red balls and grassy looking stuff in there. I later learned those red balls were apples and that grassy stuff was lettuce. Do you know she pulled some of that stuff out of that box and ate it. I sat on that floor, looking at the- box thinking there must be something in there I can eat. Surely there is some Fancy Feast, my new yummy food, in there somewhere. Not one Iota of gourmet chicken or beef pate were to be seen. I assumed that I would need to resort to my old habits and catch a mouse or chipmunk for my supper. I started to think that this new forever home just may not be everything it is cracked up to be. Oh, by the way, the Fancy Feast is in boxes in a closet. I get beef pate every morning, snacks every afternoon, and gourmet chicken with gravy every night.



Let me tell you about my daily routine. I have chores to do and naps to take.

Early each morning I am the first one to rise and shine. It isn't too bad since I sleep on Staffpurrson's bed, at her feet. I get up, wander up, put my head on her pillow and purr softly. She thinks that is just precious. She does not speak cat language, so sometimes telling her what I need is hard. All I am saying to her is to get up, make the bed because the sun will be up soon.

After that, I go outside and check for any boogers that may be hiding under the bushes. I have never seen so many places to check. My routine is to poke around in the boxwood, then I go over to the tea olive, then I check the camellias, hydrangea, daphne and finally the hollies. When I am sure the place is free of boogers, I then go up on the porch to get in a quick nap.



After my nap, Staffpurrson calls me inside for my brekky. Brekky is always good and gives me the energy to make my rounds again, that is, if the day is nice. If not, then I just sit on top of the outdoor table and eyeball everything. That tabletop is glass and it can get really hot on one's tail, but a fella has to do what a fella has to do, regardless. Then I take another nap.

After that nap, I come in for my snacks. They fill me up so much that I need to take a really serious nap. I climb up on Staffpurrson's bed, curl up and sink into a nice soft pillow for my nap. However, if it is the day that lady shows up, things change drastically. She gets a monster out of the closet; my nice nap is over. That darn monster has a name, a really strange name. She calls it 'vacuum cleaner'. That is an ugly name for an ugly monster. If that thing shows up, I scoot behind the china cabinet, so it won't see me. Of course, my nap is cut short. Hiss, Hiss!

When that monster goes back into the closet, I usually go back outside. This time, I may go through my morning routine again. I recheck all the bushes where boogers like to hide. If there are no boogers there, I will just curl up, close my eyes and if a booger comes up, he thinks I am napping. That is when I will go into attack mode if necessary.

When I am sure everything is secure, I come back inside. I always want to be inside when Staffpurrson begins to open the cat food cans. I am on my best behavior and because of that, I always get my food first. These other cats are so stupid, they just don't know how to work it so Staffpurrson will give them extra stuff.

After supper, I will settle down. If I should get mail that day, that is the time I read it. Staffpurrson has a friend who writes to me if she is on vacation. I always know it is my mail because she always addresses it to Conway Twitty. Sure am glad the mail man knows where I live and my new name. I have figured out that if I have to leave this forever home, I want to go live with the post card writing lady. I do believe she is a bigger push over than my staffpurrson.

After checking the mail, I like to watch a little television. I have a special place to sit so I can see it without those other critters bothering me. Sometimes those critters stand on my last whisker. However, when that happens, I bite their tails. I am not putting up with begging, nudging and being treated disrespectfully.

Now at the end of the day, I always go to the living room, climb up on the sofa and sit on my favorite pillow. I can look out the front door while I sit there and that gives me a great place to do a final check on the booger population. I like to have a little time to relax and plot the next day's activities.

The last chore of the day is to let Staffpurrson know when it is time to go to bed. I jump off my pillow, find her and begin telling her to turn off the lights. This is how I tell her meow, meow, meow, meow, meow. Sometimes she pays no attention to me, so I tell her like this, MEOW, MEOW, MEOW, MEOW MEOW. That usually gets her attention. Then off to bed we go.



Well Mama, I need to close this letter for now. I think I heard the can opener. I miss you and I love you.

Kitty (aka Conway Twitty)

Well, there it is Roger. I'll bet when you left Conway with me that day, it never occurred to you that you had just put that little rascal in the lap of luxury. Because he was a 'barn cat' (ha), neither did I. --

Oh, and another thing, writing Conway's letter gave me a carefree afternoon with no time for the news, no time for the grocery store, and no time to pull weeds. You know, I think I will write my Mama a letter now ---- I love a carefree afternoon.

