



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Watkinsville, GA 30677

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<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

Vision, Mission, Vocation

Dear Church,

There are three words we need to be thinking about: 1) Vision 2) Mission 3) Vocation

I shared a short meditation on "Vocation" with the Elders recently. You will find it below. I have also recently mentioned Vision and Mission during worship more than once. Vision and Mission are often a challenge for organizations, churches included. We tend to want to do and be everything. We want our vision and mission to reflect that. Kudos for our ambition. But it can sometimes lead to a Vision that is too wordy, and a Mission that is too broad, making it hard to focus on life-changing ministry. The Rev. Cheryl Cloar (my wife) is currently pursuing a D.Min. through Lexington Theological Seminary. Provoked by one of her classes, we have recently been talking a bit about Vision and Mission, including the definitions/recommendations:

Vision:

What is the future we want to create for our community?

Too often, in the church, we will articulate a vision declaring what we want for "our church." But we are called to be a prophetic/missionary people. The focus should be on the future we want to offer the community around us, not ourselves. A Holy vision for God's world will be attractive, and draw others to participate, or partner in bringing it into being.

Mission:

A mission statement turns a vision into practice. It declares something we are doing, specifically, to fulfill our vision.

It is work we commit to do. What should it be?

Vocation:

It seems to me, Frederick Buechner intuitively incorporated these ideas of Vision and Mission into his meditation on Vocation. It goes like this.

VOCATION COMES FROM the Latin *vocare*, "to call," and means the work a person is called to by God. There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of society, say, or the superego, or self-interest. By and large a good rule for finding out is this:

The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work

- (a) that you need to do and
- (b) that the world needs to have done.

If you really get a kick out of your work, you've presumably met requirement (a), but if your work is writing cigarette ads, the chances are you've missed requirement (b). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you're bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a), but probably aren't helping your patients much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

A Vision can easily rise out of (b), the work the world needs to have done. Our Mission can only rise out of (a), work that brings us deep gladness. What is the work that gives us life, as it gives life to God's world as well? That is the work we need to pursue as God's people, and more specifically as First Christian Church, Watkinsville, GA.

I would encourage us to spend some time imagining with God and one another our Vision for God's world, our Mission to bring it forth, but most importantly, our VOCATION, those things that bring deep gladness to this community, and new life to God's creation.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Alan

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October 2023 Calendar

Sunday, October 1

Reconciliation Offering

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Rosa Hall

Monday, October 2

6:30 PM – CMF Meal & Meeting

Tuesday, October 3

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – A.C.T.S.

Volunteers

Wednesday, October 4

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 5

7:00 PM – Elder's Meeting

Sunday, October 8

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Bill Hunt

Monday, October 9

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat

6:30 PM – Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 11

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 15

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder:

Wednesday, October 18

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 22

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder:

Monday, October 23

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat

6:30 PM – Disciple Women's Meeting

Wednesday, October 25

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 29

Change for Change

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder:

Disciples Women September 2023

The Disciples Women met on August 28, 2023, with 8 Members present. The August Project was to continue the July Project of collecting bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths for ACTS. The September Project will be to collect items to donate to the Oconee County Senior Center Boutique. Ann Smith had the Program from one of Rev. Fred Craddock's sermons on Forgiveness.

Outreach Committee

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct 4th from 4-5 in Rosa's classroom! We will plan Trunk or Treat and ask members for Candy! We will also be discussing our next Family Promise volunteer time and look into several other areas of Outreach!

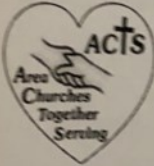
ACTS Update

For September there were a total of 161 households served with a huge buggy full of food, plus clothing and household items! 14 new families were added.

Items needed at this time:

Sheets, Blankets, Bedspreads, Comforters, Towels, Men's shirts & T-shirts, Men's jeans, Jackets, Children's clothing and Kitchen items of all Kinds.

**OCONEE COUNTY
FOOD BANK and
CLOTHES CLOSET**
Sponsored and Supported by
A.C.T.S.



*P O Box 638
Watkinsville, GA 30677*
Distribution Center located at
130 East Thompson St., Bogart GA.

ACTS is a completely volunteer Ministry of participating Churches, businesses, and individual supporters, working together to help people in Oconee County and in areas of adjoining counties served by those Churches. ACTS provides material and prayerful support for our "Neighbors in Need" with temporary financial needs who are permanently or briefly in our community.

Family Promise Needs



**NEEDING
SUPPLIES!**

- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- CLOROX WIPES
- DISH SOAP
- DEODORANT

ITEMS CAN BE BOUGHT ON OUR AMAZON WISHLIST, OR DROPPED
OFF AT OUR DAY CENTER AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Financial Report August 2023

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

AUGUST CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$13,989	\$87,476	\$131,486

AUGUST EXPENSES	2023 YTD EXPENSES	2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$14,536	\$110,673	\$126,397

2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -23,205

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ -44,019 (UNDER)

2023 EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ -15,724 (UNDER)



Stewardship
a way of life

YEAR TO DATE (35 SUNDAYS)

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,757
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$2,499</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE PER BUDGET	\$(1258)

	AUGUST 31,2023	DEC 31, 2022	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$5,423	\$30,680	\$ --25,257 (82%)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$39,118	\$47,179	\$ - 8,062(17%)

STATEMENTS, AS OF	JUNE 30,2023	DEC 31, 2022	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$237,642	\$204,534	\$ 33,108 16%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$195,194	\$174,431	\$ 20,763 12%

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been active in planning services for our church. Josh is planning with the choir a Christmas service/Cantata.

October 1: World Communion Sunday

October 1: Reconciliation offering

October 29: Change for Change

October 31: Trunk or Treat

November 5: All Saints Day

November 12: Thanksgiving offering

November 12: Host Christian College students for lunch

December 3: First Sunday of Advent: Hanging of the Green

(all Advent activities are in the planning stage)

December 24: Music service in morning & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service



Attitude

By Charles Swindoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company . . . a church . . . a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past . . . we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude . . . I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you . . . we are in charge of our attitudes".