



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4 N. Main Street
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<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

2024-10-02 “The Life of a Day”

Funny thing about this pastor. If you want to see me looking like a deer in the headlights, sit me down and tell me I have to write something. While I may be hearing a whisper from the Holy, from God, I almost never know where to start. Perhaps that means it’s time to explore a little. As I set out in search of something to help express God’s whispering in my ear, I imagined it to be something about community or gratitude. My meandering brought me to this poem.

“The Life of a Day” by Tom Hennen

Like people or dogs, each day is unique and has its own personality quirks which can easily be seen if you look closely. But there are so few days as compared to people, not to mention dogs, that it would be surprising if a day were not a hundred times more interesting than most people. But usually they just pass, mostly unnoticed, unless they are wildly nice, like autumn ones full of red maple trees and hazy sunlight, or if they are grimly awful ones in a winter blizzard that kills the lost traveler and bunches of cattle. For some reason we like to see days pass, even though most of us claim we don’t want to reach our last one for a long time. We examine each day before us with barely a glance and say, no, this isn’t one I’ve been looking for and wait in a bored sort of way for the next, when, we are convinced, our lives will start for real. Meanwhile, this day is going by perfectly well-adjusted, as some days are, with the right amounts of sunlight and shade, and a light breeze scented with a perfume made from the mixture of fallen apples, corn stubble, dry oak leaves, and the faint odor of last night’s meandering skunk.

Wow. It doesn’t look like a poem or read like a poem. But it hit me with the unique punch of a poem, and I hope it does you, as well. This poem is a riff on Psalm 118, reminding us to receive each day with gratitude, even the difficult days. It got me early on with the observation, “*there are so few days as compared to people, not to mention dogs, that it would be surprising if a day were not a hundred times more interesting...*” It is easy for most of us to let a day slip

by, deciding “*it wasn’t the one I was looking for,*” despite to opportunities it places before us. So, what do we do, church, when we begin to wonder if we should just let this day “*pass by?*” How might we remember, along with Psalm 118 that “*this is the day the Lord has made!?!?*” How might we “*rejoice and be glad in it!?!?*” I thought I might answer that question with a few possibilities, but perhaps it is better that I don’t. My ideas are fine, but yours may well be better.

So how about it, People of God. If this day is about to “pass by,” how might we transform it into a “*wildly*” memorable, important day to be celebrated in some way, small or large, by both a neighbor(s) and ourselves. “The life of a day” is indeed too precious to be allowed to slip by unnoticed and unshared.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Alan, another "meandering skunk"

From the collection, “Darkness Sticks to Everything,” by Tom Hennen.

<https://www.coppercanyonpress.org/books/darkness-sticks-to-everything-by-tom-hennen/>

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Miss Grace had a wonderful time fishing recently. Too bad she doesn’t like to eat catfish.



Financial Report August 2024

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

AUGUST CONTRIBUTIONS	2024 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	2024 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$8,412	\$92,488	\$126,936

AUGUST EXPENSES	2024 YTD EXPENSES	2024 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$13,291	\$110,033	\$124,383

2024 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -17,545

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ -40,848 (UNDER) EXCLUDES CMF

2024 EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ -14,350 (UNDER)



YEAR TO DATE (34 SUNDAYS)

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,733
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$2,720</u> Includes CMF
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE PER BUDGET	\$(1,013)

	AUGUST 31, 2024	DEC 31, 2023	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$41,392	\$42,796	\$ -1,404 (-3%)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$32,696	\$34,412	\$ -1,716 (-5%)

STATEMENTS, AS OF	JUNE 30, 2024	DEC 31, 2023	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$230,664	\$203,861	\$26,803 13%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$229,208	\$207,105	\$22,103 11%

ITEMS OF NOTE:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE 7-31-24

CAMP CHRISTIAN 60 FOR 60

FAMILY PROMISE \$375.00

- 1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING
- 2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION \$542.50
- 3) DMF – EASTER OFFERING \$305.00
- 4) DMF – PENTECOST \$225.00
- 5) DMF – RECONCILIATION
- 6) DMF – THANKSGIVING
- 7) CHANGE FOR CHANGE \$120

8) DONATION FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE

9) MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

10) OUT OF DARKNESS

11) FALL FESTIVAL BACK PARKING

12) GRACE GROWS HERE (PLAYGROUND)

13) SALE OF CHURCH BUS LESS EXPENSES TO GET THE BUS READY TO SALE **\$11,618.26** This is currently in General Funds

INCOME FOR THE BUS: \$12,500.00

LESS EXPENSES TO SALE THE BUS: (\$881.74)

WFCC Board Meeting – August 12, 2024

Members Present: Rosa Hall, Leo Baker, Barbara Powell, Wayne McTyre, Roger Smith, Mary Lillie Watson, Steve Hansford, Ann Smith, Tommy Branch, Gina Hansford, and Interim Minister Alan Cloar.

Call to Order: Chair Rosa Hall called the meeting to order and provided an opening prayer.

Agenda Approval: On motion by Wayne McTyre and second by Gina Hansford, the August 12, 2024 Agenda was approved as submitted.

Prayer Concerns: Prayer concerns were shared and uplifted in prayer.

Minutes: On motion by Ann Smith and second by Steve Hansford, Minutes of the July 8, 2024 Board meeting were approved.

Old Business:

ANNEX – Wayne McTyre reported on repairs, replacements and removals that need to be made at the Annex to prepare it as rental property. The Trustees will be responsible for writing the lease, providing insurance, and collecting the rent. The CMF will manage the repairs.

It was also noted Leroy Moorehead is researching a fair price for the sale of the church van.

Committee Reports:

OUTREACH – Barbara Powell reported the Wednesday night Meal Ministry resumed on August 7th,

PROPERTY – Wayne McTyre said the side door to the church has been repaired.

WORSHIP – Mary Lillie Watson reported the August 11, 2024 Homecoming was a success.

CMF – Steve Hansford stated the CMF voted to discontinue the annual chicken mull.

Minister's Report: Pastor Alan expressed appreciation for all those who volunteered at the August 11, 2024 Homecoming.

Calendar: Committee meeting dates were noted for the calendar.

Devotion and Communion: Ann Smith provided the devotion and Communion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.



OCT 31 | TRICK OR TREAT ON MAIN STREET

When: Thursday, October 31, 2024 , 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Where: Downtown Watkinville on Main Street

Trick-or-treat with your friends and community along Main Street in downtown Watkinville. This event is free and open to the community.

If you are planning to join FCCW in the annual Trunk or Treat on October 31, in the front parking lot, please let Mary Lillie know.