

# CHERRYLOGUE

News from Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January, 2014

Vol. 17 No. 1

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus



Mark Your  
Calendar!

Wednesday Night  
Dinners return

January, 8th at  
5:30 p.m.

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*The Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ—to the gentiles, in the persons of the Biblical Magi.*

**KING CHARLIE McCANN AND QUEEN SANDY McCANN**

INVITE YOU TO

**A ROYAL LUNCH!**

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER THE 10:55 SERVICE



**Come Celebrate with:**

**The Three Magi:** John Baird, Janet Tripp, Jerry Johnson

**The Wishing Tree:** Jane Carwell    **The Greenman:** Richard Lumpkin

**The Royal Court:** Led by Sarah and Zachery Cox. The Court will be all children who want to join in.

**The Children:** Bill Cox

**The Holy Family:** The Slemmons family

**The Twelve Days of Christmas:** Maureen Hicks

**The King's Cake**

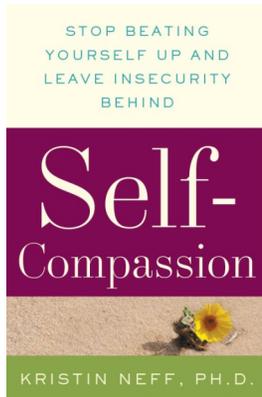


**WELCOME ALL!**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Roberta Bondi

Our Wednesday Night Dinners will resume, of all nights, on Wednesday, January 8! Dr. Roberta Bondi will be leading us in a discussion of Kristin Neff's book, *Self-Compassion: Stop Beating Yourself Up and Leave Insecurity Behind*. As Roberta discussed this book with the dinner group, Roberta said it was one of the most helpful and significant books for her. Below are several paragraphs from Roberta about the book.



“We all understand that Jesus' most fundamental commandment is to love god and our neighbor as ourselves: this is the goal of the Christian life. The trouble is, we do often love our neighbor exactly as ourselves, but we love ourselves very badly and we don't know how to love ourselves in the right way or better than we do now.

The book suggests that what gets most in the way is a competitiveness built into us, and that it manifests itself as the teaching of self esteem, which always has judgmentalism as it's backdrop. Self compassion, which is learning to treat ourselves respectfully and kindly and to see ourselves as members of the human race, which frequently makes mistakes, she suggests, is the way into the kind of transformative self love that allows truly to love others and the world as well.

If anyone is interested, each chapter also contains useful exercises.

This is a book written by a woman who does not profess to be Christian, but rather to have grown up in a vaguely Buddhist household. The way it is so easily translated into Christian terms is one of its appeals.

For me, the book has been transformative, and I have been very eager to share it with Cherry Log Wednesday night friends.”

## FAITH IN FICTION

Myra Kibler

Faith in Fiction Book Group continues to meet in 2014 discussing meaningful fiction. We meet at the church monthly on the second Friday at 11 am. Everyone who has read the book being discussed is welcome at any of the meetings.

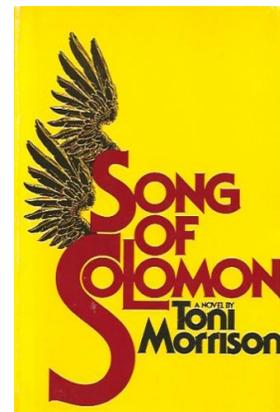
January through March titles are:

Song of Solomon, by Toni Morrison

Half a Yellow Sun, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

And the Mountains Echoed, by Khaled Hosseini

For further information, contact [myra\\_kibler@yahoo.com](mailto:myra_kibler@yahoo.com)



# FROM MY HEART...

## TO YOUR HEART

David Griffin

We are familiar with the word “Sabbath” in reference to the holy day set aside for worshipping God. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Maybe we are not as familiar with the word “sabbatical”. You will be hearing more about sabbatical because in the letter of calling me as you minister, I received a sabbatical after five years of ministry with CLCC. Let me give further definition of a sabbatical as I quote from a document of the Christ Church (Disciples of Christ):

Sabbath rest has become a lost concept in modern life. Current technology and multi-tasking have inhibited the ability to balance periods of work and rest. Many faithful people feel that they must work ever longer and harder even though this is contrary not only to the wisdom of biblical teachings but to all we know about learning, productivity and creativity. For peak performance, all humans need a good rhythm of work/rest. God’s people today need to re-learn the importance of Sabbath.

Sabbatical/Renewal Leaves have proven to be a blessing to both congregations and pastoral leadership. Sabbath is a central biblical concept. The word “Sabbath” means “stop.” As God rested from the work of creation, God also commands that very creation to stop working and rest. (A Document of the General Commission on Ministry)

My sabbatical leave, which I earned as of October 5, 2013, will be 90 days, but will be taken in two segments. I will be on sabbatical the month of February, 2014, as well as the months of May and June, 2014.

During the month of February, I will begin the process of finding and experiencing Sabbath rest. A part of that is using some of the month to reconnect with family. I do not have many opportunities to be with family. When it is basically up to me to travel to see family and I am “booked” on weekends, it is difficult to take or find time to connect with family.

I will also be on a retreat to reflect on life and ministry. A part of this time will be spent in prayer and reflecting.

In the other two-month period I want to finish a writing project that has been stuffed in my desk for some years. In addition, I want to take time to explore some writing ideas that have not been exposed to the light of time. This writing may be to enhance my spiritual journey or it may find its way to public print.

Dr. Jerry Johnson will be taking on the preaching responsibilities during the month of February. Sharon, Jerry and I are making plans for the May and June months that will help the congregation reflect and refocus on its needs for ministry and how to experience ministry as a congregation with its minister.

All is well and all will be well.



Sabbath

# Voices OF CHERRY LOG

On this page, listen to four more Voices that will tighten the “ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.” To know them is to love them.



**Michael Brunson**

Born July 4 and raised in Mobile, AL. Degree from Wm Carey U in Psychology and Counseling; New Orleans Seminary

Work journey: pastored in New Orleans, Mobile. In Atlanta became Certified Massage Therapist; Program Director Atlanta Interfaith Aids Network (7 years). In 2005 he and Jack (23-year partnership) opened Wrapsody In Blue.

Fun: Recently watched grandson Christian play football with Marilyn (always a dear friend) and their daughter. Grandson Parker in Marines. “For fun I sweat and dig in dirt; cut weeds; WASH CARS  
Passion: Cars; currently owns 33rd vehicle.

CLCC: “That’s my church! my mainstay; non-judgmental; everybody welcomed at the Lord’s table, the one constant in my life.”



**Fran Lake**

Born raised in Tidewater, VA; met Hugh in High School in St. Pete, FL. First year at U of FL, 1952, eloped to GA on Greyhound bus. Ask Fran for details—hilarious details.

Career: Wife and mother (3 children) through Hugh’s business career; added ‘Minister’s wife’ in 1961. “When Hugh told me of his call to ministry, my response was, ‘that’s fantastic!’”

Now I know why God has been telling me, ‘I want more of you.’” Any negativity? “Grief of moving.”

Interests: Reading, cross-stitching, 7 grands and 2 great grands.

CLCC: Came to hear Dr. Craddock. Hospitality and openness are strengths, “we enjoy the intimacy and spirit of Celebrate Early.”



**Nancy Midkiff**

Born in Alabama City as 3rd of 4 girls, grew up in Rome, GA.

Education and Career: Education degree from Berry College; married Ronald 1957; taught in Rome (daughter Julie born), SC, Jefferson City, TN (23 years) Ronald taught at Carson Newman U). Retired after 34 years of teaching, primarily 1st grade. At retirement, Midkiffs built first homes in Phase II of My Mountain.

Fun: knitting, crochet, quilting, jewelry making; loving 2 grandsons and wives; two great-grands (another one soon) beautiful cat, Precious  
CLCC: “Can’t imagine being in any other church.” Music and choir are special. She and Ronald are charter members

**Tony Carruth**

Born and raised in Atlanta; graduated UGA School of Pharmacy.

Career: PA, Atlanta, Maryville, TN (met and married Susan); Oakridge, TN (Mandy and Sam born here); Rome 20 years; bought get-away lake cabin on Lake Blue Ridge early 1990, became full time in 2004. “Now we need a get-away.” Currently Fannin Regional Pharmacist and part-time in McCaysville.

Fun: All are water bugs; love scuba diving in Carribean; woodwork; reading when there’s time.

CLCC: Came to hear Dr. Craddock; Enthusiastic greeters made it “feel right.” Joined Susan Pleasant’s small group study and soon joined. P.S. Will be a grandpa late spring. It’s a girl!



# Moment with the Moderator

Sharon Meek

Happy New Year! We look forward to making this year a year in which our church looks outward into the community and says “How can I help my neighbor?” We look forward to making this year a year in which our church members support each other in a loving and giving way as we share in our lives and our spiritual journeys.

Each time I worship in this place and look into your eyes and I am moved by how much we care about each person. I watch you take communion every Sunday and I get this overwhelming feeling that we are all somehow connected and in those holy moments, we share in the love that Jesus came to teach us. Truly ALL ARE WELCOME at our table. Our spiritual journeys are varied and move at different paces, but I know that within God’s love and understanding, we all gather to worship and to hear those whispers of God that brought us together, that guide our lives. Each night I go to bed and thank God that each of you are part of my journey in this life.

We will have a congregational town hall meeting on January 25th after the 10:55 AM service. Our pastor will share his look at the “state of our church.” We have much to be thankful for and this will be a time of celebration and thinking about where we go from here.

Sharon Meek  
Church Moderator

## Need Your Input!

We have gotten the flooring situation at the church stabilized. The bad tiles are all up; we have covered the most critical areas. All current bills have been paid and now it is time to think about next steps. We still need to finish the fellowship hall and hallway leading into the fellowship hall. We currently have a quote of about \$25,000 to finish the job. We need to know how you would like the church to proceed. Please read the options below and let us know your thoughts. You can either call me at 404-217-2029 or email [slmeek@ellijay.com](mailto:slmeek@ellijay.com) or email Charlie McCann at [cmmcann@bsnsports.com](mailto:cmmcann@bsnsports.com) . We need your input to determine the direction that the church should go.

1. OPTION: Do we move forward with mediation, additional attorney costs to try and get some money from the original installing companies or do we move on? Charlie McCann has been working with our attorney to get the companies that were part of the original install to pay us for the costs that we have incurred to date to fix the problem. We have been involved in this exchange for the past three years and have had little success. In order to take this to mediation and a possible court case, it will take more money (estimate of about \$10,000).
2. OPTION: Do we temporarily finish carpeting the fellowship hall and hallway with carpet of the same color and also paint the bottoms of the walls? We estimate that it would cost us about \$3,000 for this project. This would give us a more finished look in the fellowship hall and give us time to raise the money for a permanent solution.
3. OPTION: Do we borrow the money, \$25,000, from church extension or a bank to do a permanent solution and get it done quickly?
4. OPTION: Do we do some sort of fundraiser to raise the \$25,000 from members of the congregation to do the permanent solution and live with what we have right now until the money is raised?

Your opinions matter. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

# Happy Anniversary!

- January 18 Steve Stevens & Milly Hastings (35)  
 January 26 Don & Feenie Midkiff (56)  
 January 31 John & Dorothy Morford (15)

## CELEBRATION FUND

The following donations were made in **December**:

In Memory of:

**Andy Sugg**  
**Earl Baker**  
**Bennie Nash**  
**Jill Wolleat**  
**Jim Weir**  
**Nelson Mandela**

In Honor of:

**Sharon Meek**  
**Jim & Karen Bunnelle**  
**Bob & Ida-Anne Clarke**

\* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund  
 \$510.00

## ATTENDANCE

	Celebrate Early	Worship
Dec. 01	53	141
Dec. 08	47	119
Dec. 15	43	142
Dec. 22	33	126
Dec. 29	34	124

# Happy Birthday

- |         |                  |         |                 |
|---------|------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Jan. 02 | Wanda Neal       | Jan. 16 | Donna Lehr      |
| Jan. 03 | Luke Riza        | Jan. 17 | Danny Johnson   |
| Jan. 04 | Nancy Blackadar  | Jan. 20 | Ferris Leslie   |
|         | Emily Matthews   | Jan. 21 | Kenny Neal      |
| Jan. 06 | Nancy Brewer     | Jan. 23 | Milly Hastings  |
|         | John Garceau     | Jan. 24 | Sandy McCann    |
|         | Conner Honeycutt | Jan. 26 | Bette Jensen    |
| Jan. 07 | Sue Moore        |         | Judy Wyndham    |
| Jan. 10 | Lynn Barrett     | Jan. 27 | John Morford    |
| Jan. 12 | Pam Young        | Jan. 29 | Ham Kimzey      |
| Jan. 13 | Diane Coleman    | Jan. 30 | Yvonne McNelley |
| Jan. 15 | Beth Lipscomb    |         |                 |



## November Treasurer's Report

### General Operating:

Contributions: \$28,103.00  
 Expenses: \$33,399.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$319,761.00  
 Year to date Expenses: \$316,205.00

### Building Fund:

Contributions: \$7,358.00  
 Expenses: \$16,536.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$131,150.00  
 Year to date Expenses: \$170,471.00

\*Though it appears we are in a deficit position with the building fund, monies previously donated in prior years were used to make the building fund payments. Our reserve fund has not been used to make payments in 2013. Just a reminder, in 2014 the building fund will become apart of the general budget. For you recorded keeping, you may still divide your contributions.

Save the Date

VBS

June 24-27,  
 2014

