

GATHERING AT THE TABLE ON ELECTION DAY!

On November 6, 2012, Election Day, we will exercise our right to choose. Some of us will choose to vote for Barack Obama. Some of us will choose to vote for Mitt Romney. Some of us will choose to vote for another candidate. Some of us will choose not to vote.

During the day of November 6, 2012, we will make different choices for different reasons, hoping for different results.

But that evening while our nation turns its attention to the outcome of the presidential election, let's again choose differently. But this time, let's do it together.

Let's meet at the same table, with the same host, to remember the same things.

We'll remember that real power in this world — the power to save, to transform, to change — ultimately rests not in political parties or presidents or protests but in the way and truth of Jesus.

The liturgy and Communion service will be at noon in the sanctuary. The service will last no longer than forty-five minutes. After the service soup or chili will be provided in fellowship hall.

Acceptable behaviors are hugs and smiles. Please acknowledge our love and respect for each other by leaving campaign pins and rhetoric at the door.

CHERRYLOGUE

November 2012

News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Vol. 15 No. 11

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus



Brian D. McLaren will be teaching and preaching at Cherry Log Christian Church on Sunday, November 11th. Brian is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is an ecumenical global networker among innovative Christian leaders.

Brian has been active in networking and mentoring church planters and pastors since the mid 1980's, and has assisted in the development of several new churches. He is a popular conference speaker and a frequent guest lecturer for denominational and ecumenical leadership gatherings - across the US and Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

He is primarily known, however, as a thinker and writer. His first book, The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix, has been recognized as a primary portal into the current conversation about postmodern ministry. His second book, Finding Faith, is a contemporary apologetic, written for thoughtful seekers and skeptics.

Brian's recent book, Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? (Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World) is the premier release of Jericho Books. It explores the intersection of religious identity, inter-religious hostility, and human solidarity.

During Sunday school you will be able to ask Brian questions and hearing his proclamation in church.



Thanksgiving Is A Warm Blanket

What are you thankful for? You might not think to list the blessing of snuggling into bed, under comforter and quilt, in your warm home these chilly North Georgia nights. For countless thousands whose lives are disrupted by natural and manmade disasters, thanksgiving often comes in the form of a warm blanket. We at Cherry Log have the opportunity, each November, of expressing our own gratitude by giving blankets through Church World Service. \$5 will send a blanket; \$25 will provide for a family left homeless by a disaster. These blankets serve as tents, suitcases, coats, carpets, curtains, cover. Last year Cherry Log sent 159 blankets!

Blankets in the first half of 2012 went to 15 states here in our own country. As few as 25 to a homeless shelter in New Jersey, and as many as 1,020 to Moundsville, WVA in response to severe storms. Many more went to Pakistan's people after floods, to Haiti after storms, and all around the globe.



Blanket Sunday at Cherry Log is November 18. Envelopes will be available on November 18 and 25 for us to express our gratitude through giving blankets. You may, if you wish, give blankets In Thanksgiving for ____, to honor ____, or in remembrance of _____. We'll list the dedications in the church bulletin on December

«FamilyLabelName»
«Address 1»
«Address 2»
«City», «State», «ZIPCode»

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister
Dr. Fred Craddock, Minister Emeritus
Richard Lumpkin, Minister of Music
Birdie Towle, Accompanist
Malinda Geers, Admin. Assistant
Tammy Davidson, Custodian

1149 Cherry Log Street,
Cherry Log GA 30522
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m.

CHERRY LOG
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
706-632-1048
Website: http://clccdoc.org

Cherry Log Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 289
Cherry Log, Georgia 30522

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Blue Ridge, GA
30513
Permit No. 58

A Stewardship Moment

Rusty Coleman

Last month, we conducted our annual Stewardship Drive. Our campaign is over, but our stewardship continues. The purpose of this drive was varied: Most importantly it is a process to allow each of us to make a financial commitment for the next year. This process is part of our Christian heritage. It signifies our relationship with God as we follow his words to give back to our community. Secondly, it is a tool the Finance Committee can use as we establish our operating budget for the next year. To date, we have had 62 pledge cards returned for a total of \$209,000. Since many people were not present during the commitment Sunday, we do expect more to come in over the next weeks. For those who have not yet submitted a pledge, we encourage you to do so. You can place it in the offering plate any Sunday, or you can forward it to the church office. The positive results so far are that approximately 20 pledges were submitted from those who had not submitted one previously. For that we say Thank You. I hope you experience joy each week as you honor that pledge.

We are currently working with all of the committees to determine their needs and establish a budget for next year. The bad news is that our current commitments will cover only approximately ½ of our anticipated needs. If that occurs, we have several choices: 1) proceed with faith and pray that more people will continue to give without a pledge, 2) ask each to give more, or 3) cut our expenses to reflect only what is pledged—this is not a viable option as it is a going out of business plan. With all of the good things we at Cherry Log Christian Church are doing, I know you join me in a prayerful journey of faith as we continue with our ministry efforts. There will be more information on the 2013 budget in next months Cherrylogue.

We placed the Fruit of the Spirit tree in the playground area. Each time you drive into or out of our parking lot, look over at this tree. It is a symbol of our ongoing efforts as we provide our ministry to the community and help to change people's lives. Each time you look at it, think about what you are doing and what you could be doing with your time, your talents and your financial gifts.

CLCC Listening Team Update

The CLCC Listening Team was formed earlier this year by the Elders to work with the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute to design and execute an interview with the objective of defining the perspectives, hopes, and concerns of the congregation; develop a report of findings; and recommend next steps based on the findings. In August, 122 congregation members completed a survey. In September, representatives from the Fanning Institute conducted two focus groups with the objective of learning more about key themes that surfaced from the survey input. Anyone who wanted to participate was allowed to join the focus groups. Approximately 39 people participated.

The initial draft of findings has been compiled. The Listening Team is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Fanning Institute to explore the findings, have questions answered, and ensure understanding of the information in the draft. Once the information is understood, the Listening Team will provide the congregation with a report and make recommendations to the Elders and Board.



Belle Doss Continues to Serve at UGA

Belle Doss has taken on a mission at UGA and she needs our help. Belle is a member of the UGA HEROs team. HEROs raises money to support H.E.R.O. for Children, the only non-profit organization in Georgia solely focusing on providing quality of life care to children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Georgia has the 2nd highest rate of pediatric AIDS Cases in the United States. More than 12,000 children are affected by HIV/AIDS in Georgia alone. Belle and the UGA HEROs help raise money to send these children to Camp High Five. The camp gives the children a chance to be kids by helping them escape the stigma of HIV/AIDS with a week of emotional support and recreational fun. With your support, UGA HEROs hope to send 100 kids to camp next summer!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov. 01	Patty Crowl	Nov. 15	Murray Wood
Nov. 03	Dee Craddock	Nov. 16	Maureen Hicks
Nov. 04	Sarah Cox		Max Holstein
Nov. 05	John Pettit		Bill Thompson
Nov. 06	Jane Carwell	Nov. 17	Ed Grant
	John Murray	Nov. 19	Roberta Bondi
	Ruth West		Birdie Towle
Nov. 8	Tim Anderson	Nov. 21	Lynn Starr
Nov. 09	Kathy Knox	Nov. 22	Caroline Carder
Nov. 11	Ellen Grant		Rex Williams
Nov. 12	Terry Healy		Jim Willis
Nov. 13	Beverly Cowan	Nov. 26	Richard Bondi
	Marsha Kipling	Nov. 27	John Griffin
Nov. 14	Jane Kimzey	Nov. 30	Eileen McRoberts
	Emily Moreland		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November 01	Gary Tomblin & Jean Rose	(15)
November 09	Danny & Cathy Johnson	(9)
November 10	John & Jane Murray	(23)
November 25	Doyle & Caroline Carder	(31)
November 28	Roy & Marsue Dorn	(48)
November 29	Max & Sheryl Holstein	(37)
November 30	Richard & Yvonne McNelley	(39)



CELEBRATION FUND

The following made donations in **October**:

In Memory of:

Rob Barrett by George & Judy Barrett

Charles Argo by Maureen & Dan Hicks, George & Judy Barrett, Rusty & Diane Coleman

Elliott Johnson by George & Judy Barrett

Maria Christina Grabiell by George & Judy Barrett, Hugh & Fran Lake, Jennifer Mills & Susan Pleasant, Ronald & Nancy Midkiff

In Honor of:

Jill Wolleat & Pam Young by Michael Brunson

JJ Johnson by Michael Brunson

Molly Johnson by Jennifer Mills & Susan Pleasant

Debt Reduction Contributions:

* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund \$285.00

ATTENDANCE

	Celebrate Early	Worship
Oct. 7	52	136
Oct. 14	32	140
Oct. 21	41	162
Oct. 28	48	133



Can you help with parking?

One way we live out our value of being a warm and welcoming congregation is by having a parking greeter available each Sunday to wave a greeting to members and a helping hand to visitors. The number of volunteers available for parking duty has declined and we need some fresh faces to add to the team. We now have three regular greeters and need to add about three or four more in order to reduce the number of Sundays served per month. While the faces you have seen have been men, we would love to have some women and youth on the team. Training and support will be provided until you are comfortable serving by yourself. Bill Groce, 678-571-1214, billg5@tds.net, will be glad to answer questions and you can volunteer by notifying Bill or Malinda at the church office, 706-632-1048.

September Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$28,773.00

Expenses: \$27,660.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$253,119.00

Year to date Expenses: \$260,045.00

Building Fund:

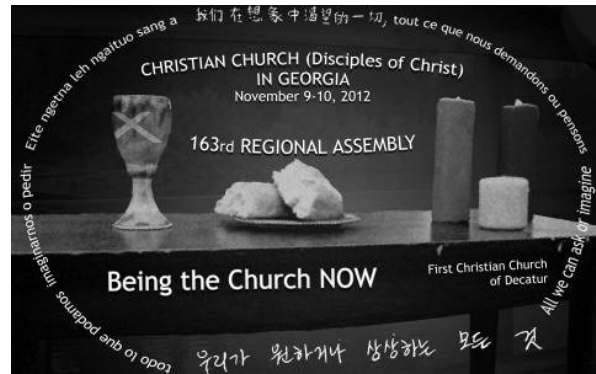
Contributions: \$10,739.00

Expenses: \$12,936.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$133,522.00

Year to date Expenses: \$145,389.00

*October not reported because November Cherrylogue is printed prior to the end of the month. A full detail of the church's finances are located on the members page of our website.



Would you like:

To learn more about our denomination?

Through workshops, learn what other churches in our denomination are doing to spread God's Word? Share in fellowship and worship with Disciples of Christ statewide?

Attend the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia
NOVEMBER 9-10 at First Christian Church, Decatur, Georgia

Theme: Being the Church Now!

"Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than **all we ask or imagined**, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever,
Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

KIDS' KORNER

Our *Explorers Class* has just begun a new learning focus on Prayer. This 8-week series will introduce the students to different ways of listening...and talking...to God such as listening through the scriptures, examen, intercession, and prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving. Invite a child to pray with you this month!

Candy, Candy Candy!! Our Youth are also preparing to provide a *Christmas Party* for the kids at Tower Road the first weekend in December. Want to play a small and easy part in making this a success??? Bring a bag of individually wrapped candy to the FYSH Room by Sunday, November 18th. No candy canes, please...Santa will be distributing those! The Youth will use this candy to make small goody bags to take to the party to give to the children.

Spiritual Practices for Today's Disciples *A Peace Walk*

(This month's column is our third article in a series of four lessons on walking prayer.)

When one talks about Christian Spirituality, many people automatically equate this focus with personal inward piety. In reality, this is only one part of the story. The Christian life is about both in the *inward journey of faith* and the *outward journey of service*. They cannot be separated; they are two sides of the same coin. Christian spiritual practices/disciplines include both movements. Sometimes one practice might even encompass both at the same time. So it is with this month's featured type of walking prayer.

The practice of a peace walk is not a new idea or one that is limited to the Christian faith. Like our other practices, it begins with a focus or intention. It is typically different from a protest march in that participants do not carry signs or enter into confrontation (peaceful or otherwise).

So, how do you engage in the spiritual practice of a peace walk? While you can do this alone, why not ask at least a handful of like-minded people to join you. What issue of justice or longing for peace pulls at your heart? Set a time and place to meet your group. Publicize and invite others if you wish. (If you have a large group, remember to get a permit.) Map out and plan your route ahead of time (about 1 mile). Consider if you want to pass out a flyer if people wonder what you are doing. Meet at your designated time and location. Begin with a spoken or silent prayer, the reading of names or the telling of a few stories. Articulate aloud to those gathered- the hope/hope/prayer/intention for your walk. After that sometimes people light candles, all wear the same shirt or wear a specific color. Then begin to walk at a slow, measured pace. Your walk should be reverent and your attitude humble. Consider praying silently while you walk. Greet others you encounter with a friendly nod or smile. When you complete your prayer walk, close with a silent or spoken prayer. Your prayer is your walk. The witness is your prayer. And your faithfulness is the discipline.



FROM MY HEART...TO YOUR HEART

I do not remember what we were discussing. Our friendship was well worn, meaning we had gone through good and bad times together. Our discussions were mostly meaningful; some were eccentric. We cared enough for each other that our arguments would not a detriment, our differences were not insurmountable, and our pet peeves were honored as laughable.

My friend stopped our discussion with a time out. "You are comparing apples with oranges. You cannot do that! Please compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges." We had been on that train track before. My response was sort of, "Who said that? Quote me a reference." Not trying to laugh, he responded, "It is common knowledge. It belongs to the wealth of humanity." So off we went into hysterics, bantering each other with clichés.

But finally I came back to the point. "Apples and oranges both have seeds, grow on trees, the peel is healthy to eat, and both contain valuable vitamins. You know, just because they are different does not mean that they are not the same." (My dear friend also pointed out the double negatives!)

Twelfth century Rhineland mystic Hildegard of Bingen wrote that God has arranged everything in the universe in consideration of everything else. Note that Hildegard did not say "in judgment" or "in rank of importance". The "consideration" is not inferior to one and superior to the other. Each part is in consideration of everything else.

Brain Swimme says it well, "Nothing is itself without everything else." We are participants in one another's lives at every level of being. Return to my nature image and think about nature's participation: soft woods and hard wood, water and dry land, hills and level places. One helps define the other, or participates in the life of other. The same is true for humanity.

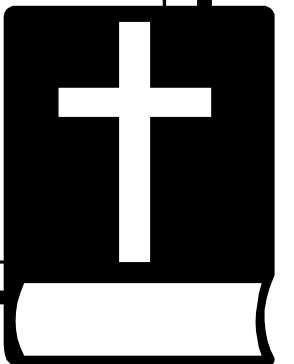
The church is the body of Christ. Maybe it would be helpful to review I Corinthians 12 where Paul is writing to the church and using our gifts for the building up of the church. The church needs every eye, toe, ear, and nose and none is inferior to the other.

We are entering a difficult time in the life of our nation. I feel that the closer we are to the elections, the more divided we will become. I am also fearful of the results of the election. This is not said because of one candidate or the other for president, but the response that we might make having "won or lost" the election. Besides, winning and losing might not decided at the ballot box but in our response and support of our values.

And this holds true for church.

Peace,

David



Hospitality & Welcome at CLCC

One of the frequent things said about Cherry Log Christian Church is that we are a "friendly church." Many visitors and guests comment on how welcome they felt when they attended one of our worship services or church events. All of us can remember when we first visited Cherry Log Christian Church. Who made you feel welcome?

In the next 3 months, many people will be visiting our church. Studies say that November is one of the busiest times for people to begin to look for a church. Couples, families, and single people are getting ready for the holidays and looking for a church home or a church to which they feel comfortable bringing any visiting family or friends. So how can *you* welcome visiting guests to our church?

Introduce yourself by saying your name and using a phrase like, "I don't believe I've had the chance to meet you before." Sometimes as members, we forget each other's names (nametags are helpful) or we are hesitant to welcome someone because we are afraid the person may be a member of the church and not a visitor or guest.

Get to know a guest for the sake of getting to know the guest. This is not about pouncing on visitors in the hunt for new volunteers. This is about being authentically interested in God's children. After your initial introduction, authentically try to find out three things about this new person.

Create a culture of inclusion and invitation. If you and a small group of people are going to brunch after worship, seek out someone who seems to be new or alone or really hungry and invite that person to come along. Church is not a private club. We are a community of people grappling together with issues of faith and life and new people also like to grapple.

Meet people in the parking lot with smiles (and umbrellas, if it's raining) and walk them into the building. Make sure they have what they need: a coat hanger, a bulletin or program.

If and when the person or couple returns wave hello or call him by name. Tell him how nice it is to see him again.

So keep your eyes open and take a chance on meeting someone you don't know. You'll have the opportunity to speak to a visiting guest or perhaps greet a member of CLCC whom you haven't yet met. Who knows...it might be the beginning of a great friendship.

Getting Ready for Advent & Christmas

You are invited to join in an intergenerational Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 18th during the Sunday School hour. Meet at 9:30am in the educational wing. You will have the opportunity to rotate through three stations during the hour. Station 1: Making your own personal advent wreath with simple materials, Station 2: Learning some simple sign-language for the Advent/Christmas season and receive some basic help in beginning conversational sign language (hi, thank-you, how are you?), and Station 3: Discussing ways to keep Advent a holy season rather than a hurried season. "Who's birthday is it anyway?" People of all ages are welcome. In order to get an accurate count for supplies, please register by calling or emailing Julie Johnson 404.217.8191 or holycreek@aol.com



Epiphany 2013

Epiphany. On the 12th night after Christmas, starting on January 6th, Epiphany begins. It is the 12th and final day of the Christmas Season. The term "Epiphany" means to "make known" or "reveal" and it remembers the coming of the Wise Men bringing gifts to the Christ Child and by doing so they revealed to the world that Jesus was "Lord and King". Fortuitously, this year January 6th falls on a Sunday, on which day we will be observing our church's 10th annual celebration of Epiphany. It is the custom that all Kings and Queens from our previous celebrations form the nucleus of our Epiphany committee, but we need further help. Help with such things as food, decorating, costumes, music, posters and advertising, and participants to take the part of the Jester, the Green Man, the Wise Men, the Holy Family, children, and more. We specifically reach out to some of the members of the church to whom this tradition may be new, or unfamiliar. It is a fun, light hearted, happy, festival time. It is a time to celebrate Christmas and Christ. And we need volunteers. Contact Barbara Ferer, 706-374-2120, havencrest@tds.net, or Tom Mitchell, 706-374-4872, tom-jan@tds.net.

With Gratitude

By; Caroline Sisson Carder

August 14th, it was about 4:45 AM when Doyle's cell phone started ringing. Everyone knows the fear of those unusual calls that wake you from sleeping. Immediately you know something is wrong. I sat up in the bed and tried to overhear the conversation. It was my daughter Amber. For those of you who do not know Amber, she is nothing like me. I cry at a good commercial. I do not know if Amber even has tear ducts. She is one tough cookie, a trait I admire and one I mourn.

"Dad, what are you doing?" she asked. "Amber it's the middle of the night I was sleeping what's wrong?" Doyle replied. "Well the kids and I are sitting in my van naked watching our house burn and I was just wondering if you and Mom could bring us some clothes." My feet immediately hit the floor Doyle is asking about the kids I am grabbing clothes and shoes and within in minutes we were out the door and headed across town.

As we approached the hill in front of Fannin Regional Hospital, I could see the night sky lit up where I knew her house stood. As we got closer, the flames became brighter and my heart began to sink deeper. We pulled into the driveway and while the car was still rolling I jumped out as we approached the van. Baylor 5, Emma 4, and Archer 2, all crying could not get to Meme and Pop fast enough. I do not really remember what I said. I looked at the house engulfed in the flames and just counted my kids over and over again. Everyone was out. The paramedics came to check out the kids and they would not let us go. "Pop let's just go to your house Baylor cried."

Doyle and I put the kids in the car ...Baylor up front with his pop and me in the back with Archer and Emma in my lap. No car seat...I could not let them go. When we got back to our house, we went straight to our room laid all three kids in the bed with us. We talked about the dogs and that they were fine. Doyle reassured Emma he could build her a new Toy Box, and told Baylor we could buy new transformers. Baylor told us how he helped Archer get out of the house while Daddy tried to wake mama up. Archer lay on his papa's chest and eventually the three of them finally feel to sleep. I held Doyle's hand as I cried and prayed thanking God my babies were safe.

As of October 19th Amber and Jeremy and their four kids are settling into a new home. An adjacent property was going through a foreclosure and they were able to reach an agreement. The house needs many repairs but in time, it will be a beautiful place to call home. Many of the repairs to get the inside livable were possible by the gifts given from you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

One may call it one of Gods gentle reminders of what is truly important in our lives. A nudge that awakens our hearts to see what can be replaced and what is truly valuable. It is not possessions that make us rich: it is the gift of those we love and whom love us. That is how we truly measure our value.



Faith in Fiction Book Group

The Faith in Fiction Book Group meets the first Friday of each month to discuss a novel with particular attention to issues of faith. The December title is The Plumed Serpent by D. H. Lawrence. At the November meeting three titles will be chosen from a list of classics for discussions in January, February, and March.

Newcomers are welcome to join the group at any time or to be one-time or occasional participants. To be included on the email list for announcements about meetings and books, email myra_kibler@yahoo.com. (Note there is an underscore between first and last name).

