

The FYSH say "thank you!"

On October 28, we had a fabulous party at Tower Road – our Trunk-or-Treat! Ten families from CLCC brought trunks filled with goodies (and toothbrushes!). The Story Express was present, with Ms. Trisha distributing books. Apples were on hand (courtesy of Mercier's), topped with warm homemade caramel. The kids played games, were tattooed, had their faces painted, and some watched *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. Everyone had a blast! Most importantly, we received requests for coats and shoes for 173 young people.

We were amazed at the turnout - 173! Fortunately, through God's blessings, shown also through your generosity, we had enough resources to fill all of these requests. A very large number of gently used coats were received courtesy of an unexpected donor. Over half of the shoes we received were brand new croc-style shoes, donated from Family Life Ministries in East Point. The rest came from you – donations of coats, shoes, clothing, and money, which we used to purchase items that were requested in sizes that weren't donated. In a week's time, we filled enormous bags with the items ordered by each family, and on November 4, we returned to Tower Road to deliver the goods.

Every family kept and returned their ticket (which was how we identified orders) to claim their bag. We even had two children request items the day we delivered, and fortunately we had extras in their sizes on hand. All in, 175 young people were served through this project, and will now be a bit warmer this winter. For this we are truly grateful, and we thank you for your support.



Mary

Weary, poor, afraid, she worried,
would he stay, would her baby live?
Was the prophesy real?
Emmanuel!

Stable scents could not obscure
the essence of the Child.
She held Him to her heart,
stroked His hair, sang Noels to
Emmanuel!

She gazed at the one bright star,
its light seemed to guide people
to the lowly stable, where sheep
donkeys and cows also rest beside
Emmanuel!

Happy Holidays from the Poetry Small Group
Barbara Groce, Facilitator, 678-571-1214



CHERRYLOGUE

December 2012

News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Vol. 15 No. 12

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus

ADVENT REMEMBERING THE FIRST CHRISTMAS... AND MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS MEANINGFUL

The term "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "appearance." Advent is the season marking the four Sundays before Christmas and developed as a way of helping Christians prepare not only to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Coming, but also to help them look forward to the coming of Jesus now in our lives. There are wonderful ways to find meaning in Christmas through the traditions of the church's celebration of Christmas.



Many Advent traditions come from Germany, where Martin Luther encouraged its continued observance as a way of teaching children and families more about the significance of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of the realization of God's promise. It is a grace-filled season of new hope, new life, and new love. There is a sense of urgency in Advent that wakes us up from our complacency. Advent should challenge us to prepare our world and ourselves for the coming of the kingdom of peace and justice.

As we prepare to exchange gifts with our loved ones, we must also prepare ourselves for the true gift of God's love. Do we accept God's gift with gratitude? Do we proclaim the good news to others? Are we becoming more ADVENTurous by being more joyful, hopeful, faithful lovers of God, others, and ourselves? Are we watching and preparing for Christ's coming now and at the end of time? The preface for Advent reminds us to "Watch for the day" so that our hearts may be "filled with wonder and praise" when the Lord comes. Those who are alert to his appearance every day will only recognize Christ's coming. May this season of Emmanuel fill you with the Lord's abiding presence.



December 2 - First Sunday of Advent. The Sanctuary will be beautifully decorated as we begin our journey to the remembrance of our Savior's birth.



December 16- Advent Lessons and Carols. The chancel choir Handbells and Men's Ensemble will present a wide variety of traditional advent and holiday music at the 11:00 service. Music and readings based on scripture and other sacred sources the will encourage our journey to the remembrance of the birth of the Christ Child.

December 21 - Join us at 6:00 pm for our Longest Night Service. As the holidays can be a difficult time for many people, this worship event offers the opportunity for us to call upon God's presence in our lives in a special way.

December 24– TWO Christmas Eve Services. Our Children's Christmas eve service begins at 5:00 pm. Costumes for the kids and carols for everyone are featured in this service as we tell the Christmas story fresh and new. The prelude (concert) for our 7:00 pm Carols & Candlelight service will begin at 6:30 pm with thirty minutes of seasonal music provided by our members.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**CHERRY LOG
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
706-632-1048
Website: <http://clccdoc.org>
1149 Cherry Log Street,
Cherry Log GA 30522
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m.
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

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Blue Ridge, GA
30513
Permit No. 58

Stewardship Moment

This is one of those “Good News/Bad News” stories. The good news is we have completed our most responsive Stewardship Campaign ever. To date, we have 74 pledges for a total of \$ 234,000 committed for next year. And, we still have many active members who have not yet pledged. The bad news is that overall giving has dropped dramatically in the last two months. The decline has been over \$10,000 a month. This has placed us in a very precarious position of barely being able to make our expense payments. These two situations seem to be at such opposite perspectives that our committee is confused.

While this is going on, we are trying to put together a budget for the next year. We know we will have increased expenses to maintain our various properties and facilities. If we want to continue to make a difference we cannot cut back on our ministry efforts. The finance committee is working with all of the other committees to determine their needs as the best as we can project. The board voted on the new budget on November 17th and the congregation will vote on it on December 2nd. Know that we are doing our best to make this the most realistic projection of our costs to operate our church efforts. We ask your continued prayers and support to restore our weekly giving so we can make a difference.

Our proposed budget for next year will require faith that our level of giving will increase. If each of us participates, I am confident we will continue to make a difference in people’s lives. Any extra gifts will make a big difference over the next several months.

Wednesday Morning Group Invites You

We have two Bible study groups that meet at 10 am on Wednesdays. One is for Men (in fellowship hall) and the other for Women (in adult classroom) of CLCC. We are currently combining our groups at 10:30 to study the scriptures together. We recently started a study of the Gospel of Matthew, with an online resource called “28 Days with Matthew,” by Don Tingle, the brother of our own Rev. Jim Tingle. Don is a missionary in Kosovo. The little book is an introduction to Matthew in daily readings of one chapter in the gospel. We are sharing 2 of these chapters per week with round-table discussion. We invite new members to join our fellowship/study group on Wednesdays.

Faith in Fiction Book Group

D. H. Lawrence's The Plumed Serpent is the topic for the next meeting of the CLCC book group, Faith in Fiction. It is the third novel in a trio of novels set south of the border. This one deals with a contrived religion and will likely be fodder for an in-depth discussion of the elements of religion and religious experience. This meeting moves to the second Friday for the month of December only, December 14, at 11:30; bring a brown bag lunch.

In January, 2013, we will resume meetings on first Fridays with the first title, Lambs of God, by Marele Day, an Australian author, about a convent on a distant island that has only a few nuns left. They have been alone long enough that they have developed their own combo of Christianity, paganism, and witchcraft.

This book group welcomes anyone who wants to read and discuss books.

To join or for more info, call Myra at 706-636-5657 or email to myra_kibler@yahoo.com. This will put you on the list for messages about upcoming meetings.

Adult Education: We have a lot going on for the next several months.

First, Michael Brunson is retiring as the teacher of the Lectionary Class. He has been teaching it for the past 4-5 years and needs a break. We are in the process of determining who the next teacher will be. It will probably be a series of teachers, rotating on a quarterly basis.

In the beginning of the year, Dr. Craddock will teach a series of lessons on “Confessions of Faith in the New Testament”. This should give us a good look at the theology of the early church and how it developed.

AFTER Dr. Craddock’s class, we will begin a study of the Gospel of Luke. We are intentionally trying to do more “Bible study” for those who might like more in depth reading and study of certain books. Our text book for the study of Luke will be Dr. Craddock’s treatise on Luke.

Our Wednesday night dinners will start again on January 16th. Dr. Griffin will lead us in discussing the book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Dec. 01 | Becky Walls | Dec. 17 | Paul Porter |
| Dec. 02 | Jack Westbrook | Dec. 18 | Leah Michael |
| Dec. 04 | Beth Roberts | Dec. 19 | Katie Griffin |
| Dec. 05 | Harry Doss | | Steve Stevens |
| | Dorothy Morford | Dec. 21 | James Harris |
| Dec. 06 | Velda Harrison | Dec. 22 | Julia Purcell |
| Dec. 07 | Joan Pettit | Dec. 25 | Judy Barrett |
| Dec. 08 | Genie Bearden | Dec. 26 | Ralph Heller |
| Dec. 09 | Melissa Montes | | Jack Senterfitt |
| Dec. 13 | Ida-Anne Clarke | Dec. 27 | Karen Barker |
| Dec. 14 | Becky Baker | | Joan Dickinson |
| | Shirley Brewer | Dec. 28 | Lauree Johnson |
| | Bill Henry | Dec. 29 | Rosemary Wilmot |
| Dec. 15 | Kay Vanderhooff | Dec. 30 | Julie Johnson |
| Dec. 16 | John Sugg | | Parker Peugh |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|------|
| December 08 | George & Judy Barrett | (46) |
| December 11 | Ham & Jane Kimzey | (30) |
| December 11 | Chuck & Nancy Zimmerman | (36) |
| December 21 | Ed Wolpert & Beth Roberts | (10) |
| December 26 | Tim Anderson & Tom Bomhard | (14) |
| December 27 | Ralph & Marge Heller | (43) |
| December 29 | Wendell & Jennifer Fox | (44) |
| December 29 | Bill & Barbara Groce | (50) |

October Treasurer’s Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$21,110.00
Expenses: \$31,666.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$274,229.00

Year to date Expenses: \$291,711.00

Building Fund:

Contributions: \$11,878.00
Expenses: \$12,936.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$154,400.00

Year to date Expenses: \$158,325.00

** \$62,310.00 proceed from sale of cabin applied to principal Church on the Hill mortgage.

*November not reported because December Cherylogue 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.

CELEBRATION FUND

The following made donations in November:

In Memory of:
Maria Christina Grabel by Richard Zelley & Cindy Avens

In Honor of:
All our Veterans by George & Judy Barrett

Debt Reduction Contributions:
* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund \$50.00

ATTENDANCE

	Celebrate Early	Worship
Nov. 4	48	126
Nov. 11	38	148
Nov. 18	47	143



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into our family fellowship:

Thomas Smith
1008 Pacer Court Unit 9084
Ellijay, GA 30540

Bruce & Jackie Granger
42 Mitten Leaf Lane
Ellijay, GA 30536

Bill & Peggy Lehmborg
10519 Big Canoe
Jasper, GA 30143

Looking Ahead....

December:		
2nd	Congregational Meetings	end of service
2nd	Tower Road Christmas Party	2:30 p.m.
7th	DFACS Christmas Party	6:00 p.m.
16th	Lessons & Carols	11:00 a.m.
21st	Longest Night Service	6:00 p.m.
24th	Christmas Eve Early Service	5:00 p.m.
24th	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.

	2012 Budget	2013 Proposed
Resource Council -		
Finance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Nominating Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastoral Relations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Personnel	\$0.00	\$209,123.00
Property Maintenance	\$25,000.00	\$32,650.00
Technology	\$1,825.00	\$1,000.00
Trustees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Resource Expenses	\$27,825.00	\$242,773.00
Discipling Council -		
Arts Guild	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christain Education (Adult)	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Christian Education (C/Y)	\$1,500.00	\$4,775.00
History	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$1,675.00
Membership	\$2,100.00	\$400.00
Music	\$4,000.00	\$5,500.00
Small Group	\$0.00	\$350.00
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Worship	\$2,000.00	\$2,440.00
Total Discipling Expenses	\$11,100.00	\$16,140.00
Outreach Council		
Denominational	\$800.00	\$1,650.00
Evangelism	\$8,000.00	\$7,500.00
Global Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Health	\$0.00	\$100.00
Local Missions	\$21,650.00	\$21,850.00
Total Outreach Expenses	\$30,450.00	\$31,100.00
Stephen Ministers	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Elder	\$150.00	\$150.00
Bereavement	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Deacon	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Non council Expenses	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
Non Council		
Tithe	\$37,000.00	\$36,361.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$200.00
Insurance - Property	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Ministers Expenses	\$9,200.00	\$9,200.00
Office Expenses	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Postage	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Salaries	\$196,000.00	
Utilities	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00
Total Non Committee	\$304,000.00	\$107,361.00
Grand Total	\$376,125.00	\$397,474.00

FROM MY HEART....TO YOUR HEART

Do you remember the quote about the best laid plans? Robert Burns wrote that "the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray." I keep that in my mind when I officiate at weddings. People are anxious, excited, nervous, or upset. They can forget no matter how long the rehearsal is or how many hours go into the planning of a wedding

I remember one wedding where a three-year old was nephew of the bride. The bride often kept the little boy, whom I will name Danny. Danny's feelings had been hurt that he was not included in the service. As the wedding party processed in, Danny rushed to help the flower girl scatter the petals. There was only a minor scuffle. Just before the bride was to enter, candles were lit in the archway, and the young man who lit the candles graciously allowed Danny to help him light the candles. Danny took his seat; the bride came in and was blessed by her father and mother. As I read the scripture from 1 Corinthians 13, Danny came up and stood between the coupe and me, looking up at the three of us.

After the scripture, I laid my book aside and picked up this precious little boy. I said to the Danny that I had some things I wanted to say to the couple and I would like for him to hear what I was saying, for he, like all of us, needed to learn about marriage and for those of us older, needed to be reminded about marriage. Danny listened to my words. When I spoke to the bride and groom individually, he held the hand of the bride and patted the groom on the shoulder.

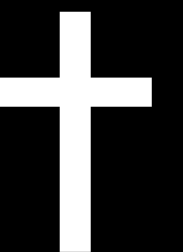
I then explained to Danny that I was going to ask the bride and groom to make promises to each other and also to God. I asked Danny if he could join his mother and let Sarah and Bob make these holy promises. His eyes grew wide, "They are going to talk to God?" I affirmed that and asked if he could join his mother and eavesdrop on their conversation. He slipped from my arms and joined his mother. He then prayerfully bowed his head.

All Danny wanted was to be included. Children do what we want to do but are too polite to do. He wanted to participate, to understand, to ask questions, and to be involved in something that was meaningful.

In Advent I would like to ask you to be like Danny. I would like for you to read the Advent texts, to ask questions, be involved, to make a place for your own self in the birth narrative. During the season of Advent I am going to focus on the first chapter of Luke. We will be longing with an older couple for a child and celebrate the joy of Elizabeth and Zechariah in the birth of their son, John. We will feel the wonder and amazement of a younger and inexperienced couple who will be parents to God's wonder of love to humanity. I often wonder why God did not use the older, experienced couple to be the parents of Jesus and the younger couple to have the rebel son to make way announce the coming of the Messiah.

Advent at Cherry Log is a time that we open our child-like wonder to the mystery of God. Can you imagine what it was like when Danny went to the Christmas Eve Service? That is another story! I do wish, however, that in each of our Advent worships and experiences you will open your hearts to the experience of God's love.

Peace, David



New Disciple Bible Group Starting:

Do you want to learn more about the Bible and what it can say to our lives today?

Do you want to meet some new people and forge a closer bond with a caring group?

Disciple Bible aims to meet both goals.

The Disciple Bible study book covers 34 sessions, 17 Old Testament and 17 New Testament. Rather than ask for a 34 week commitment, this session will cover the Old Testament in 17 sessions. After the 17th session those who wish to continue for 17 more to cover the New Testament can do so. In addition, we will open the group to new members when we start the New Testament study. Disciple Bible is a widely used and proven study course that is noted for its scholarship and impact on the lives of participants. Spiritual growth is a key goal.

This group will also emphasize being a caring covenant group for participants. Following the first, "get to know each other" session, the group will commit to some principles of Bible study, personal sharing, confidentiality and prayer support. Deep friendships can be formed through covenant groups.

The first meeting will be Monday, January 7, 5:30 PM at the church. **Child care is available.** Room location will be announced. Non members are welcome, feel free to invite a friend.

The preliminary plan (subject to change by the group), is to cover the Old Testament in 17 sessions from January 7 through May 13, break for June and July and begin the New Testament study August 5, completing December 2. The group will reopen for the New Testament segment to allow new participants to join.

Call the church office, 706-632-1048, or email Malinda at, clcc@tds.net to register. Bill Groce will be the leader/facilitator. If you have any interest please come to the first meeting to learn more. For additional information call Bill Groce, 678-571-1214, billg5@tds.net. Cost of the study book, which covers both Old and New Testament, is \$35.00.

Spiritual Practices for Today's Disciples Walking a Prayer Trail

This Fall, we have explored different types of "walking prayer." Many people, when they think of prayer, picture themselves seated with their head bowed or someone kneeling with hands folded. By pausing and refocusing our walk, we can be invited by God, through the power of intention, into a time of divine communion.

This month, we will end our series on walking prayer for now by introducing the surprisingly wonderful spiritual discipline of walking a Prayer Trail. If you are someone who has a regular circuit that you walk or run or a favorite path that you enjoy hiking, you can add this practice to your regular walk. To create your own prayer trail, simply mark or make a visual note of several different stops or stations along your route. You might pause first at the bend in the road, sit for a moment on a rock by the waterfall or sit on a bench in the park. Try picking 12-14 stopping places. Then choose what you will read, do or pray at each stop. For example, you might want to work or pray through the 10 commandments or the Beatitudes. Xerox a copy of what you wish to read or mediate upon and carry it with you. Then at each stop, read one section. You might follow that with a prayer or think and meditate on that beatitude or commandment until you reach the next station.

Two different Prayer Trails are being created for you at CLCC: one indoor and one outdoor around the church. This month, you are invited to follow and pray your way to Bethlehem by walking our new indoor Prayer Trail. Twelve different stations will be connected by this new prayer trail. In the Fellowship Hall-- beginning in Advent-- you will find a display that will have a handout containing a map of the Prayer Trail around inside of the church, as well as instructions and suggestions for what you might read or do at "each station". Consider taking thirty minutes and walking this new Prayer Trail or walk three stations on the trail each of the four weeks of Advent until you reach the end/beginning: the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

In the Spring, an outdoor Prayer Trail around the grounds of the church will be introduced during the Lenten and Easter season.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Important Congregational Meetings are scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2012, as components of our two worship services; please make your plans now to attend one of these sessions so that you may enter into the discussion and play a voting part in determining important issues for CLCC during 2013:

Budget for FY 2013 Slate of Officers, Board Members, and Leadership Team for 2013

We will need a quorum to validate these two issues. Our membership as of August 31, 2012 is 427 total members. 289 active members and 138 inactive members. So please plan on joining us for one of these two meetings on Sunday, December 2.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2013

Church Officers

Sharon Meek, Moderator
Jerry Johnson, Vice Moderator
Janet Tripp, Secretary
Caroline Carder, Treasurer
Kathy Knox, Assistant Treasurer

Board Members, At Large

Lynn Barrett Vacant
Kristie M. Johnson John Sugg

Elders

Ann Doster '13 Nancy Porter '13
Frazier Coffie '13 Charlie McCann '13
Jackie Lumpkin '14 Myra Kibler '14
Vacant '14 Don Brewer '14
Lucie Coffie '15 (Chair) Billy Harrison '15
Dan Pile '15 Janet Tripp '15

Deacons

Carolyn McGinness '13 Chuck Brewer '13
Marge Heller '13 Lisa Weir '13
Maureen Hicks '14 George Barrett '14
Jack Westbrook '14 Vacant '14
Amado Grabel '15 Tom Mitchell '15
Jane Carwell '15 Sidney Goss 15

Legacy Fund Trustees

Ida-Anne Clarke Hal Doster
Bill Groce Daniel Parrish

Outreach Council

*Bill Thompson, Chair
Darlene Fike, Vice Chair
Denominational Relations Chair: Cheri Thompson
Evangelism/Communications Chair: Steve Martin
Global Missions Chair: Jim Tingle
Health Chair: Vacant
Local Community Missions Chair: Jane Carwell

Discipling Ministry Council

Beth Roberts, Chair
Vacant, Vice-Chair
Arts Guild Co-Chairs: Ruth West, Joan Dickenson
Christian Education, Adult Chair: Byron Wyndham
Christian Education, Children/Youth Chair: Judy Wyndham
Church History Chair: Sharon Meek
Fellowship Chair: Tim Andersen
Membership Chair: Marsha Kipling
Music Chair: Vacant
Small Group Ministry Co-Chairs: Cindy Avens and Dick Zelle
Stewardship Chair: Rusty Coleman
Worship Chair: Paul Porter

Resource Council

Tom Mitchell, Chair
Vacant, Vice-Chair
Finance Chair: Vacant
Nominating/Leadership Development Chair: Mac McRoberts
Pastoral Relations Chair: Billy Harrison
Personnel Chair: Billy Harrison
Property Committee Co-Chairs: Charlie McCann and Kenny Neal
Technology Support Co-Chairs: Sharon Meek and John Garceau
Trustees: Ronald Midkiff Lynette Nelson
Philip Slemmons
Volunteer Coordinator: Mac McRoberts

Support Groups

CLCC Clothes Closet: Roxanne Neal and Darlene Fike
Disciple Women: Carolyn McGinness, President
Faith Partners: Jane Griffin
Gilmer County Food Bank: Katie Griffin
Prayer Shawl: Nancy Zarle
Stephen Ministry: Bobbie Cherry and Peggy Cleveland