



# CHERRYLOGUE

February 2012

News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Vol. 15 No.2

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus

## Lent

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on February 22, 2012, and ends on April 7, 2012, which is the day before Easter.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

Lent is a time of reclaiming the disciplines of the church: fasting, prayer, charity, and Bible reading.

Within this newsletter are additional opportunities that will help you with your discipline during Lent. We will begin Lent on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm with our traditional Ash Wednesday service.

## SOUP,SCRIPTURE, AND PRAYER EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

Our church will provide an opportunity for Noon-day Scripture, Prayers and Soup between 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. each Friday during Lent from February 24 - April 6, 2010. We have scripture, prayer concerns and prayers followed by soup and bread for all who wish to participate.

## February Special Outreach Offerings Coming

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday at Cherry Log Christian Church. At the close of church, our youth will be in the narthex to receive an offering to benefit Feed Fannin. The recommended amount is \$1 per worshipper, but any amount is welcome. Help to feed the hungry in our area through this offering.



On February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the annual Week of Compassion offering will be received. Materials will be placed in the church bulletin along with special envelopes. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. It seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable



development and the promotion of mission opportunities. From time to time as there are natural disasters, additional fund are received and can be designated 100% to that disaster relief project. Take advantage of this annual offering to respond through the Disciples of Christ. This ministry has been part of our mission since 1938.



## Shifting Focus from Mortgage to Ministry

The email message that was sent last Friday broke the news that the Board of Church Extension (CE) has proposed a very fair and favorable loan modification that, if approved, will be in effect until February, 2015. Concern about the large mortgage payment siphoned off a lot of constructive energy during 2010 and 2011 that could have been focused on our mission and ministry. This loan restructure now allows us to refocus on implementing the ministry areas our Vision calls for.

The email promised more detail about the proposal from CE. Our appeal to CE said that the unduly high mortgage was a barrier to ministry and growth. As an arm of our denomination, Church Extension understands and shares our desire to be in ministry and to extend the reach of the church to more people. Thus they have proposed a significant reduction in the monthly mortgage (from \$19,764 per month to \$14,014) with certain conditions. The primary condition is that we vigorously pursue implementation of our ministry and growth plans. Specifically, the loan modification provides:

35 month term

Reduced interest rate on both loans, both loans to be on same renewal timetable

30 year amortization schedule

Bi weekly payments of \$6,468. This is equivalent to \$14,014 per month but will reduce principle more quickly, saving interest expense

One month payment in reserve

Automatic payment of the mortgage every two weeks

Monthly financial statements available to CE

Semiannual CE visits to monitor and or help with mission/ministry program progress

Implement Legacy Gift plan

Aggressively attempt to sell Church on the Hill property

Effective date March 1, subject to approval of our Board and the CE Board

No fees charged by CE, recording fee and possible Georgia intangible tax are the only fees, amounts to be determined next week

Rick Reisinger, the Church Extension officer who met with us was pleased that we had a Strategic Plan and asked a number of questions about the status of implementation. We answered his questions and reiterated that fears and concerns about the ability to pay the mortgage had limited progress in a number of areas. We told him that with this loan modification we expected to hear a sigh of relief and to see a reenergized congregation.

Our Vision listed dreams for the future, to retain the desire of our founding members to know more about Jesus and learn to live like Him, to foster relationships and fellowship through hospitality, small group formation and the feeling of family. We dream of spiritual growth and development through multiple worship experiences and a variety of Christian education experiences. We dream of more opportunities for outreach and service to meet real needs in our communities. We dream of ministering to children, youth and young families through programs that meet their life needs. We dream of caring and healing to meet the needs of all our community and particularly needs of older adults in our congregation and community.

Isn't it exciting that we can now focus on our dreams? The loan modification does not solve every financial issue, but it does bring our mortgage expense ratio to 30% of our combined expense which is the low end of the normal range of 30-33%. This means our burden is no more than the average church and we can concentrate on planning and implementing programs and initiatives that will make our vision a reality.

Now that we have a positive direction, if you have not joined the many others in the congregation who pledged to make this happen, this is a great time for you to participate. Building funds not needed to make current mortgage payments will be applied to reduce the principle amount and accelerate the day the mortgage is paid off.

If you desire more detail, or have questions, representatives of the Finance and Stewardship Committee will be at a designated table in the Fellowship Hall after services on February 5 and February 12 to talk with you.

## FROM MY HEART....TO YOUR HEART

There are dreams and there are dreams. One writes me about her dream. "Last night I dreamed that I was a little girl and riding my bicycle with training wheels." She goes on to relive the story, but the story takes twists and turns and turned out differently than it did when she was a child. Another tells of a recurring dream. Gary says he is consistently being chased by a bear who is throwing darts at him. He always wakes up terrified and in a cold sweat. I will call these night dreams.

But there are also daydreams. These dreams are not simply wishful thinking, like, "What would I do if I won a million dollars." The daydreams that I am writing about are those dreams of imagining if things were different. What if there were no more divisions and struggles for power. In Revelations John envisions a new heaven and a new earth.

When we begin to imagine things being different and begin acting upon our dreams, there will be friction. The issue with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not that he had a dream, but that he began making the dream real, believing there was a new day for Black Americans. He was killed because he moved into the political arena and lived, marched, and preached what he saw in his heart and his mind.

The story of Jesus is much the same. He made clear his solidarity with the poor and his vocation to engage them in a liberating process; he confronted the entrenched political and religious powers. As suspicion of him turned to resistance and then to hatred and fury, he began to prepare his disciples for what he would have to suffer. Peter immediately took Jesus aside to protest his continuing on what was surely a collision course.

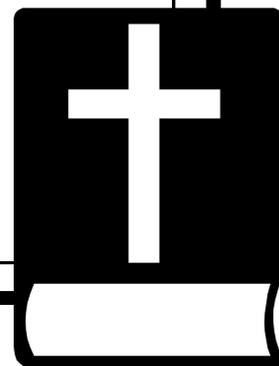
Cherry Log is now in the position to dream – to put see "a new heaven and a new earth," to see a new and different church that has mission as the goal. We have been given this reality of dreaming because of the way Church Extension has blessed us with creative financing for the next three years.

**We must dream. We must put these dreams into reality.**

Opposition to the new is very natural and should not cause any of us to be taken by surprise. I do not read the Bible as a conflict-free document. I do not see that God's people simply doing what God wants them to do without struggle. I am excited that we can now dream and are held accountable for the dream of mission for Cherry Log!

Peace,

*David*



## Register Now For Lenten Small Groups

Lent, the six weeks prior to Easter, is a special time within the Church year in which we are called to deepen our spiritual lives as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. One way to do this is to participate in one of the “covenant groups” that the Small Group Ministry is offering during Lent. These groups will emphasize a commitment to daily Scripture reading and prayer, attendance at weekly meetings, and caring and sharing with the other members of the group. Many have asked for a small group experience like the triad experience. Although each of these covenant groups can accept six to eight members plus two leaders, a key purpose of the covenant group is to facilitate the development of caring and bonding that occurred with the triad groups.

You will be able to choose between two different types of groups. The first is Disciple Bible I. This is a structured program for individual and group study that is designed to cover 80% of the Bible in 34 weeks. Since the concept of covenant groups may be new to many in the church, our groups will initially commit to 8 weeks in order to develop this unique type of group experience. Those who want to continue with the entire 34-week program may choose to do so after the introductory 8-week session is completed. For this group you will need a Bible and Disciple I Study Manual. The manual, which can be used for the entire 34-week program, costs \$36.75. Financial help is available to those who need it in order to purchase the book.

The second type of group will emphasize the contemplative approach to prayer and Scripture reading. Christian contemplation is the practice of interior silence that leads to a deep “resting in God” so that we are better able to perform God’s work in the world. Centering Prayer is one of the contemporary forms of this ancient Christian tradition. This group will give you a thorough introduction to the contemplative practices of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, a method of “praying with Scripture.” For this group you will need a Bible and the book *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer* by J. David Muyskens, which will guide you in a daily practice of contemplative prayer and Bible reading. Cost of the book is \$10.87. The group will meet once a week for 7 weeks for prayer and sharing. Those who wish to continue to share contemplative prayer with others may then choose to join a Centering Prayer group at CLCC.

Following is a list of the leaders and times for the covenant groups:

### Disciple Bible I groups

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Co-leaders:</u>
Sat. 10:00 a.m.-noon	2/25-4/14	Carl Hendrickson and Wanda Hitt
Mon. 5:30-7:30 p.m.	2/27-4/16	Bill Groce and Anne Williamson
Wed. 3:00-5:00 p.m.	2/29-4/18	Sheryl and Max Holstein
Thurs. 10:00a.m.-noon	2/23-4/12	Peggy Cleveland and Bobbie Cherry

### Contemplative Prayer Group

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Co-leaders:</u>
Sun. 12:45-2:15 p.m.	2/19-4/1	Cindy Avens and Richard Zelle

You may register for a Disciple Bible I or the Contemplative Prayer group on the CLCC website – [clccd.org](http://clccd.org) – or by calling the church office at 706-632-1048. **Registration will end Feb. 13** so that books can be ordered before the groups begin.

## Our Church was Generous in 2011 Outreach Support

by Bill and Cheri Thompson

Sometimes we do not see the whole picture of our support for helping others in our community and around the world. At a recent outreach committee meeting, I recapped the total spent on all outreach causes. They make for an impressive view of our missional focus at Cherry Log Christian Church.

Gilmer food pantry	\$7,256.00
Feed Fannin	\$3,400.00
Garden for Others	\$ 378.96
Local Benevolence	\$10,417.19
Other designated outreach (Staycation and other programs)	\$2,463.92
Disciples Women Blessing Box offering	\$798.21
Disciples Women other outreach support (Craddock Center, Georgia Women's Ministries, CCGA)	\$3,015.38
Week of Compassion	\$3,114.00
Special Disciples offerings	\$195.00
Blanket Offering	\$3,408.00
Disciples Mission Fund	\$35,557.50
Total outreach support in 2011	\$70,04.16

The committee voted to distribute \$250 each from unspecified outreach offerings to the two food pantries for their school related feeding programs. (Sack Pack and Snack in a backpack)

We thank all the members of the church for their strong support of our ministries that help others.

## WE NEED YOU.....

Your bell choir needs three to four new members. There are only two requirements:

1. that you have a commitment to the regular weekly practice at Thursday afternoon at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary; and
2. that you can read music. We will teach you how to ring the bells.

Call Bob Clarke (706-632-0113) to enjoy being a part of a great group of folks.

Thanks, Bob

## Guidelines for Inserts

Some Sundays it seems we use more paper for the bulletin inserts than we do for the bulletin itself. There are many worthwhile programs and announcements that people want to make. It also takes time to run the inserts, cut the inserts, and then insert them into the bulletins. Therefore, to be more efficient, we want to use a few guidelines for bulletin inserts.

- The inserts need to reflect the ministry of committees and small groups of CLCC.
- Inserts need to be the size of the bulletin – 1/3 of a legal sheet of paper.
- The front and back of inserts need to be used, so two different programs may be on the same insert.
- Inserts need to be in the office by Thursday at noon.
- The goal is to have no more than one insert sheet per Sunday.
- Announcements that reflect community concerns may be handed out by volunteers who have a passion for the ministry.

## HELPING OTHERS IS ONE CLICK AWAY

Want a quick, easy way to help others? Take 2 minutes daily to click on the eight opportunities below: at [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com). See what happened in 2011 because people cared.

**Hunger:** 27 million cups of food for the hungry (806,372,61 cups since 6/1999)

**Breast Cancer:** 5,462 free mammograms for women in need (54,352 mammograms since 10/2000)

**Animals:** \$300,000 for care and food (505,147,187 bowls of food since 2002)

**Veterans:** 260,789 meals for veterans in need

**Autism:** 2,771 hours of therapy/research

**Child Health:** 752,067 children helped to survive and thrive

**Literacy:** 406,051 for books for children

**Rainforest:** 12,352 acres of land protected

Surely you can spare a couple of minutes daily to help others?



## CLCC 2012 Leadership

Officers: (1 year term)

Moderator - Ham Kimzey

Asst. Moderator - Jennifer Mills

Secretary - Janet Tripp

Treasurer - Caroline Carder

Asst. Treasurer - Kathy Knox

Committee Chairs: (1 year term)

Worship - Jane Kimzey

Christian Ed Youth & Children - Judy Wyndham

Adult Christian Ed - Byron Wyndham

Finance - Rusty Coleman & Bill Groce

Outreach - Bill & Cheri Thompson

Membership - Mary Beth Sheppard

Property - Charlie McCann & Kenny Neal

Evangelism - Steve Martin

Personnel - Members at large: Paul Porter

Pastoral Relations - Fran Lake & Larry Weas

Small Group Ministry - Richard Zelle & Cindy

Avens

History - Sharon Meek

Technology - Sharon Meek & John Garceau

Strategic Planning - Susan Pleasant, Sarah Cox, Max

Holstein, Lynn Barrett, Bill Groce

Gilmer Food Bank - Katie Griffin

CLCC Clothes Closet - Donna Foley

Health Ministries -

Stephen Ministries - Bobbie Cherry & Peggy Cleveland

Constitution & Bylaws - Board appointed

Parking Expansion - Bill Groce

Elders: (3 year term)

Lucie Coffie, chair; Don Brewer (2 year term), Billy

Harrison, Dan Pile, Janet Tripp, Mike Smith, Nancy

Porter, Susan Pleasant, Anne Williamson, Ann

Doster, Frazier Coffie, Charlie McCann

Deacons:(3 year term)

Tom Mitchell, chair; Amado Gabriel, Frances Car-

son, Jackie Lumpkin, Jane Carwell, Jack Westbrook,

Lisa Weir, Marge Heller, George Barrett, Chuck

Brewer, Charles Argo

## WANTED AND NEEDED!

TWO (2) Baby Crib Mattresses for the CLCC Nursery. Please contact Becky Walls if you need additional information.



## Service Beyond the Walls of Cherry Log....

Mission reaches far beyond the walls of a church. Many folks at Cherry Log willingly share their talents and time with others on a daily basis. People do so because it is the right thing to do; recognition is not one of the outcomes they seek.

CLCC will be celebrating Homecoming on April 1, 2012. The History Committee thought it would be interesting to look at the multiple ways people serve. But, the committee needs your help in order to create this program. Please think about ways you serve in your daily lives. As it is said, remember to think "outside the box"! Things on your list for example might include: babysit grandchildren, pick up groceries for an elderly neighbor, volunteer with the local theater, answer calls for a Teen hotline, etc. Share your ideas via phone, email, or written note with members of the history committee:  
 Sharon Meek: 706-276-1531, cell 404-217-2029, [slmeek@ellijay.com](mailto:slmeek@ellijay.com)  
 Marsha Kipling: 706-276-1531, cell 404-217-3018, [mkipling@ellijay.com](mailto:mkipling@ellijay.com)  
 Jim Weiland: 706-258-2006, [jweiland@tds.net](mailto:jweiland@tds.net)

There will also be a box outside of Malinda's office to drop off written notes.

Don't be shy with listing the ways you serve. We want our church to realize how God works through us in our daily lives!

## To all Pickers and Wanabe Pickers:

The Cherry Log Pickers will begin learning and practicing again on Wednesday, February 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the choir room. All new comers and old comers are invited to come and join the fun of learning to play an instrument. If you have never played and always wanted to learn or played some and have an instrument (guitar, banjo, mandolin, base, fiddle or other), come join us. Getting together with a group who are learning basic chords, some picking, and familiar songs is an experience of joy. If you have any questions, call Ed Boye at 423-496-9878 or 423-836-6303.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 01	Ann Doster	Phillip Doss
	Lynn Chapman	Connie Hogle
	Nicolas Honeycutt	Feb. 13 Jim Tingle
Feb. 02	Mitchell Barker	Feb. 15 Herb Leslie
	Catherine Sugg	Feb. 17 Cathy Vincent
Feb. 03	John Craddock	Feb. 18 Charlie McCann
Feb. 04	Bonnie Williams	Feb. 20 Charles Brewer
	Susan Pleasant	Gloria Hitt
Feb. 05	Teresa Snow	Feenie Midkiff
	John Jarrard	Hoyal West
Feb. 06	Betty Osborne	Feb. 21 Jennifer Fox
	Evelyn Doss	Feb. 25 Frabia Smith
Feb. 10	Oneal Andrews	Joyce Pruitt
	Gwen Henry	Feb. 28 Linda Davis
	Nancy Zimmerman	Joan Huddleston
Feb. 11	Susan Carruth	Richard Lumpkin

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 14	Murray & Vivian Wood	(3)
February 15	Jerry & Lauree Johnson	(43)
February 28	Bill & Susan Haynes	(4)

### David's Schedule

As agreed upon when I came to Cherry Log, I will be taking a week for study as well as time for prayer. I am in need of this time – a time to see the larger picture and seek guidance from God. The week I will be doing this is January 30th through February 5<sup>th</sup>.

It will be structured as well as unstructured time. Malinda can contact me if I am needed during this time or refer you to the chaplain that week.

I appreciate Dr. Hal Doster preaching on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The time I would have spent in sermon preparation for that Sunday will be spent in prayer and study. Hal has completed sixty (that is 60) years of ministry and this is a way we will be honoring Hal.

### Christmas Tree Needed

Christmas is over and we need a tree? Is that bad timing or do you perhaps have one in the basement that you will never use again? Our Christmon tree has seen better days and needs to be replaced. It is a 12 foot artificial tree (single construction without separate branches is preferred). A 14 foot tree would work too. Let us know if you have a spare one or if you would like to donate one for next year. Call Jane Kimzey 706-851-5028. Thanks from the worship committee.

## CELEBRATION FUND

The following made donations in **November**:

In Memory of:

**Jeff Broom** by Hal & Ann Doster  
**Doris Burke** by Hal & Ann Doster  
**Kathryn Hale** by Hal & Ann Doster  
**Wiley Kiser** by Hal & Ann Doster  
**Joe Wells** by Hal & Ann Doster, John & Katie Griffin  
**L.P. Tanguay's** by George & Judy Barrett

In Honor of:

**Nancy Brewer** by Hal & Ann Doster

In Appreciation of:

**Our CLCC Family** by Jill Wolleat & Pam Young

**Debt Reduction Contributions:**

\* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund \$145.00

## ATTENDANCE

Worship

January 1	152
January 8	187
January 15	166
January 22	186
January 29	187



### December Treasurer's Report

#### General Operating:

Contributions: \$30,930.00

Expenses: \$230,443.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$354,481.00

Year to date Expenses: \$353,190.00

#### Building Fund:

Contributions: \$34,197.00

Expenses: \$15,000.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$171,552.00

Year to date Expenses: \$241,626.00

\*January not reported because February 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.

## The Plain Pine Box

A casket. You want me to build you a casket?

She is 87 years old. A sociologist, anthropologist, professor, author, lecturer, activist, and friend. And she has determined that it is time to start planning on leaving this earth the same way she lived it; on her own terms, with dignity, grace, and simplicity. Hence the plain pine box. Rough cut plywood, actually, with hand rails for handles.

She spent her life caring for the people of Appalachia, the miners, the poor, the needy. And now that the box forces everyone to face the realization that sometime in the not too distant future, it will actually be used, the rally cry went up. Pine box yes, but not plain pine box. Enter the casketeers.

Or at least that is what they called themselves. Actually Dorothy Morford, Ruth West, Velda Harrison and Joan Dickinson are artists. So the "box" (she calls it now her blanket box) was brought out of storage, set on sawhorses, and the work begun, and continued over many evenings in the garage, as these artist casketeers lovingly and painstakingly transformed the plain pine box into an item of beauty, an item reflecting the life of its owner. On the side, a panoramic view of her beloved Appalachian mountains; on the end, her rough hued barn with her cats; a flower arrangement and blue bird on top; on the other side, signs reflecting her passionate cause for social justice, peace, and equality. And on the other end, *the peace de resistance*, a full color photographic reproduction of the tail gate of her truck, the tail gate with its multiple bumper stickers and signs displaying to all the world her fervent belief in the humanity and equality of all God's creatures. Beliefs that earned her honorary Doctorates from colleges around the nation, to go with the PhD she earned for herself. And then the party.



A celebration, not of death, but of life. The casketeers, wearing banners appropriately saying "casketeer", with wine glass in one hand and felt tip pen in the other, leading the signing of the casket, where one after the other names and tokens of love and admiration were inscribed thereon. This to be followed the next day when the casket was placed in the fellowship hall of her beloved church, to be used by Barbara Ferer in her class on Dying Well, and where it was subsequently inscribed by many more with their names and feelings.

And someday, not anytime soon we hope, when we say good by to Dr. Helen Lewis, and her plain pine box, we will do so in the knowledge that the world is a better place, and we are better people for her having blessed us with her love, her knowledge, her compassion, her sense of justice, her kindness and friendship. She is truly, beloved in the sight of God.

«FamilyLabelName»  
 «Address1»  
 «Address2»  
 «City», «State» «ZIPCode»

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**Cherry Log Christian Church  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
 P.O. Box 289  
 Cherry Log, Georgia 30522  
 Phone: (706)632-1048**

**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