

CHERRYLOGUE

News from Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February, 2015

Vol. 18 No. 2

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus



Mark Your
Calendar!

Church Picnic
August 29th
ETC Pavillion

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Lent 2015

Ash Wednesday – February 18th

The Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 pm. At this service we will hear the traditional readings for Ash Wednesday and we receive the sign of the cross from the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday parade.

Worship during Lent

During the Sunday of Lent we will focus on scriptures that will support and challenge us to give up our pride and successes as measures of who we are and instead focus on serving and being disciples. The texts for Lent will be:

February 22 – Psalm 25:1-10

March 1 – Romans 4:13-25

March 8 – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 15 – Ephesians 2:1-10

March 22 – John 12:20-33

March 29 – Philippians 2:5-11 (Palm Sunday)

April 5 - Acts 10:34-42 (Easter Sunday)

Special Services

On Sunday evenings Paul Porter will be leading Lenten Vespers. The Sunday Evening Vespers will be at 6:00 pm in the choir room. This year we will have hymns and scripture readings from John's gospel. The focus will be on the "I AM" sections of John's gospel. There will be time for meditation, discussion and prayer.

From the Worship Committee

Becky Walls

As we leave this time of Epiphany and begin the Lenten and Easter seasons, we encourage you to take advantage of the many group studies, prayer groups, and worship opportunities being made available. Though it is still mid-winter in our lives and in many of our souls, as Christians we have the eternal hope of renewal and rebirth and everlasting life: Spring will come again. Please plan to be with us in the days ahead. We are an Easter people!

Put these special dates on your calendars:

Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 22	Lenten Vespers: I Am the Light of the World
Mar. 1	Lenten Vespers: I Am the Bread of Life
Mar. 8	Lenten Vespers: I Am the Good Shepherd
Mar. 15	Lenten Vespers: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
Mar. 22	Lenten Vespers: I Am the True Vine
Mar. 29	Palm Sunday/Lenten Vespers: I Am the Resurrection and the Life
Apr. 2	Maundy Thursday
Apr. 3	Good Friday
Apr. 5	Easter Sunday

Lenten Vespers

Paul Porter, convener

Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. To help you deepen your spiritual roots we are having six Sunday evening Vespers services. We will meet at 6:00 P.M. beginning February 22nd. The last one will be on Palm Sunday evening, March 29th. The focus will be on "I AM" sentences in John's Gospel. The first will be "I am the light of the world." Each one will be introduced by Old Testament scriptures that provide the spiritual background for these passages. Please join us each of the Sunday evenings in the choir room to deepen your spiritual roots as we prepare for Easter.

FAITH IN FICTION

Myra Kibler

Faith in Fiction's February book discussion is on Marilynne Robinson's **Gilead**, a novel featuring an elderly Congregationalist minister writing an explanation of his life to his seven year old son.

In March our title is **Running the Rift**, by Naomi Benaron. The main character in this book is a runner, Rwanda's contender for an Olympic medal, who gets caught up in the Hutu-Tutsi conflict. We see the terrible consequences of war on an individual's ambitions and life.

Fall on Your Knees, by Ann-Marie MacDonald is the April book. Set on the island of Breton, off the coast of Nova Scotia, this novel is a several-generations saga.

Anyone who enjoys an engaging discussion of fiction is invited to read one or all of these books and join us on the second Friday of each month at 11:00. For further information, contact myra_kibler@yahoo.com.



FROM MY HEART...

TO YOUR HEART

David Griffin

Charlie Brown was walking past Snoopy's doghouse. Snoopy was sitting on top of the doghouse just lying away. Charlie says to Snoopy, "I hear you are writing a book on theology." As he leaves Charlie says, "I hope you have a good name for the title."

With his usual air of arrogance, Snoop says, "I have the perfect title." (You are going to love this!) Returning to his typing Snoopy tells Charlie of his title: "Has It Ever Occurred To You That You Might Be Wrong?"

I think we pin a lot on being right. This rightness can be from slicing the turkey, diagonally cutting the grass, health care, The Federal Reserve, and of course, theology and biblical correctness. Have you ever thought that you might be wrong? Well?

We are on the edge of Lent. The theme I am choosing not only for Lent but for this year is "Humility". He was a well-known lecturer and often asked his opinion on heaven, truth, the inerrancy of the Bible, and so forth. "Have you ever thought you might be wrong?" Of course he had! Our opinions and our beliefs are not the truth though some of us act as if opinions and belief are the truth.

From Saint Augustine: "The sufficiency of my merit is to know that my merit is not sufficient." Is that not a humbling statement! We spend so much time appearing to be sufficient, prepared, and perfect. Whether in front of the mirror appearing stylish to ourselves, speaking in poetic rehearsed statements, or proficient in the latest operating systems, we still not sufficient. We still are not perfect. We still need grace and grace alone.

How humbling. How saving. How true. How divine. C. S. Lewis wrote that humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking less of yourself less. It is being a servant to others. It is washing the feet of others.

For Lent I would like for you to consider giving up something. No, not chocolate, not unhealthy habits, not caffeine, not _____.

For Lent will you give up a part of your self-image, your self-importance?

Jesus took a towel and washed his disciples' feet.



Voices OF CHERRY LOG

“A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be.”

~Douglas Pagels



Myra Kibler

Born B’ham; formative years in MS in segregation era, became outspoken thinker; English degree from Millsaps, PhD British Lit from Emory; 13 yrs teaching; 10 years admin. Barnes & Nobles and Borders (ask about draft horses); 2 sons, 5 grands.

Hiked Appalachian Trail (entire) 6 ½ mo. at age 59—life-balancing; chose Ellijay for mtns, hiking, nature, and forgot to ask for community; found that at CLCC.

“..[though] Unitarian, TM meditator, and somewhat-Buddhist...found a place for me here...exploring Christian dimensions of my faith has contributed to my spiritual growth. Not only did CLCC accept me as I am, but I [am] changed because of experiences here...continues to wonderfully enrich my life.”



Wendy Cox

Born Decatur, raised in Marietta; after HS met and married Bill while working in printing and graphic arts; seeking more meaningful life “prayed myself into nursing”, went to Kennesaw State U; did clinicals at Grady and felt “called” to ER nursing—incidentally fulfilling (20 yrs). For two years, night Clinical Supervisor, Kaiser at Chastain.

Loved mountains. House hunted 2 years; found it on 4+ acres including a “tiny” waterfall.

Reads; jigsaw enthusiast; knits; workouts; violin (learned with Zachary); “gardening with no gloves”; share 4 children, 2 grands

CLCC: followed family (Pat and Don Baker); “an amazing place”, the openness and the love for everyone “just as they are.”

David Lakes

Born and raised Brookville, Indiana; US Marine 4 years; BA Marketing, Ball State U; met and married Carolyn there & began banking career Bank of Ohio; MBA Xavier; climbed the bank mgmt.. ladder to Presidency, Lincoln National Bank; semi-retired as consultant, Dave Lakes & Assoc., Inc.; assoc. with many non-profits

Vacationed often in Ellijay; searched for and found mountain view: came to stay April 2012

Interests: golf (Creepy Crawlers); physical workouts; started and led many Bible studies; 2 children, 6 grands, 3 dogs.

CLCC: Tried “all” churches in the area and after one visit to CLCC, knew “this was it”



Ann Doster

Early life in Winder, GA; Undergraduate work, Woman’s College “Convent” of Georgia (English); post graduate, UGA and U of West Georgia (Library Science); professional life: 5 ½ years public library; 25 years Griffin school system; 8 years part time leadership with Junior Achievement of Central Georgia most personally fulfilling work.

Hobbies: reading—favorite is British mysteries; gardening; travel, 34 countries, 5 continents; news junkie; passion for hats; share 4 children, numerous grands and God-children.



Married Hal (chief cook) 2000 and lived on Lake Sinclair; came to CLCC as interim 2003; found their spiritual home and stayed; active in most every aspect of church life.

Friends?

Robin Norsworthy

When Lindsey and I moved up to the North Georgia Mountains, we immediately set out exploring. We enjoyed the Georgia State Parks, found all the Carter's Lake parks and ate at a different picnic spot every day. It was wonderful – well, wonderful until.....we looked at each other and said, "We're lonely." After months of spending all day with each other and talking about everything we knew to talk about, we found we needed more. So, we looked for a church full of prospective friends. Living life abundantly means sharing life with friends, interacting, conversing and looking for opportunities to make the world better. We are so glad we now have friends. At Cherry Log we gather in small groups in order to enrich our lives and seek ways to minister to our community – I hope you've found a small group filled with friends!

Good Friday Worship

Paul Porter, Convener

The congregation is cordially invited to attend and take part in the Good Friday worship service we will hold in Fellowship Hall during Holy Week. We will be remembering the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ using the story as reported in John's Gospel. There will be time for prayer, and there will be a communion service at the close of the service. At the conclusion of the service everyone is invited to stay for the funeral lunch of soup and bread provided by the Friday Prayer Group.

You are encouraged to read Psalm 22 in preparation for this service.

Classroom/Meeting Room



In order to reduce the utility bills, we have had groups and classes to meet in the Seekers classroom during the week. Yet as different groups met in that room we realized that we needed storage space. Actually several years ago the Seekers Class realized this and began setting money aside in the designated fund for cabinets to be built for storage.

All along we have been putting money from the bridge groups and AA (their requirement usage of space). Also at the end of this year, Marsha Kipling gave us a larger donation to honor Sharon's retirement and that money was designated for the cabinets. Right before Christmas the cabinets and sink were installed. We have a coffee maker also in this area.

We appreciate those who have made these contributions. Over a period of time your donations have built up.

Musical offerings for February

Celebrate Early:

"The Celebrate Early Service will include the following special music during the month of February, starting with the drumming group during the service on February 1.

The Celebrate Early Singers will offer the following anthems during the remainder of the month:

February 8th..... "Healer of My Heart"

February 15th..... "These Feet Got Joy", an enthusiastic celebration of the joy found in walking with Christ

February 22nd..... "Let the Peace of Christ", based on Colossians 3:15-17, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"

Hope these special music presentations will enrich the worship experience for all.

10:55 Worship Service:

During February we finish out Epiphany and begin our Lenten journey to Easter. Lent is a solemn religious observance that begins on Ash Wednesday and covers a period of forty days (excluding Sundays) ending on the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

The number forty has many Biblical references: The forty days that Jesus retreated into the wilderness, fasted, and overcame Satan's three temptations; the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God; the forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb; the forty days and nights God sent rain in the great flood of Noah; the forty years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land; the forty days Jonah gave in his prophecy of judgment to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed.

February 1 - Anthem - There is a Balm. A beautiful arrangement of this traditional hymn that uses the familiar melody with some not so familiar turns and harmonies.

Hymns - Healer of Our Ev'ry I'll, Take Time to be Holy , Now the Silence , Precious Lord, Take My Hand, O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

February 8 - Anthem - Amazing Grace. This Gospel style offering of Amazing Grace comes complete with close harmonies and an amazing piano accompaniment in full Gospel splendor.

Hymns - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' O Christ the Healer, Now the Silence, I Love to Tell the Story O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

February 15 - Anthem - Christ Beside Me. A contemporary of an excerpt from the poem found on St. Patrick's breastplate. This poignant text is often used as a blessing for missionaries.

Hymns - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face, Open My Eyes, That I May See, O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

February 22 - First Sunday in Lent - Anthem - Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God. With text taken from Psalm 51 this traditional anthem is perfect for the beginning of Lent.

*Hanbells will be ringing: ST ANTHONY'S CHORAL and IN REMEMBRANCE

Hymns - Be Thou My Vision, Lead Me, Guide Me, Hasta Tu Altar (Unto Your Table, Lord), Take My Life and Let It Be, The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Get Your Peanuts on February 15th!

David Griffin

At the end of last year as we discussed the budget for 2015, we talked of the opportunity that Church Extension (in actuality our mortgage company through the Christian Church) has offered us. Our monthly payment has been reduced to help us meet our budget, but also to give us an opportunity to raise extra funds to pay towards our principle. As we raise funds, we can help get the eight hundred pound gorilla off of our backs.

As I (David) look at our financial picture, this reduction of the principle is a must! If we raise an additional \$30,000 each year over a five-year period, we can reduce the principle by \$150,000. You do the math - \$50,000 each year over five years is \$250,000.

Okay, so we have been looking at projects to help us reduce the mortgage. Whoa! Are we talking about raising money? Of course we are. Churches have been doing this for years. Many a church has a pre-school or day care that went to pay off a mortgage. I know of one church that sells Christmas trees to support their mission projects.

One fund-raiser that I have seen work well is selling blister-fried peanuts. A small Methodist church in eastern NC where an aunt and uncle of mine attend has fried and sold peanuts for years. In fact my Uncle Alton was their official taste tester. This church has raised (netted) over \$20,000 a year. Church members bought the peanuts, gave the peanuts as gifts, took orders, and placed jars of peanuts for sale in stores.

Is this a possibility for us? We need to hear from you, but wait until February 15. We will be offering you four different flavors of peanuts to taste during our fellowship time.

We are not proposing that you go door-to-door selling peanuts! Of course not. But how about having peanuts out for your bridge groups or dinner guests and as the guests taste the peanuts, they just might ask where you got the peanuts. There are many, many marketing ideas.

So on February 15th for snacks, try the peanuts and tell us what you think.

Allergy Alert: these peanuts contain peanuts!



CLCC Drummers

Myra Kibler

The African Drumming group at Cherry Log now has six djembe drummers! The group is working on learning some of the African rhythms while also developing technique and the ability to hold a rhythm over time and in the presence of counter-rhythms. We encourage anyone who is interested in trying drumming to join in. We usually have an extra drum or two for newcomers to play. This group currently meets on the second Friday of each month at 10:00 am. The contact person is Myra Kibler myra_kibler@yahoo.com.

Disciples Women

Nancy Zimmerman

Robin Norsworthy to give Disciples Women Program

On February 21, the Disciples Women will host Robin Norsworthy as our program leader. She will talk to us about Ruth and Naomi, continuing our series on Biblical women. All women are invited to join us at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall for the program and meeting, then to stay for lunch--bring a sandwich, salad and dessert are provided.

Thanks to those who participated in our school kit project--we're still assembling and counting the kits and will let you know the final results and disposition. We seem to have a good number of them. Hope to see you in February!

Happy Anniversary!

February 14 Murray & Vivian Wood (65)

February 15 Jerry & Lauree Johnson (46)

CELEBRATION FUND

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

In Memory of:

Bonnie Williams
 Del Woods
 Milt Hunt
 Viola Kipling
 John Griffin
 Betty Muir
 Walter Mashburn
 John Fredal

In Honor of:

Bob & Ida-Anne Clarke
 Ronald Midkiff
 Donald Midkiff
 Charles Walls

In Celebration of:

Bob Clarke

* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund
 \$1,225.00

Happy Birthday

Feb. 01 Ann Doster	Feb. 15 Herb Leslie
Lynn Chapman	Feb. 16 Jackie Granger
Nicolas Honeycutt	Feb. 17 Cathy Vincent
Feb. 02 Catherine Sugg	Feb. 18 Charlie McCann
Feb. 03 John Craddock	Feb. 20 Charles Brewer
Feb. 04 Susan Pleasant	Gloria Hitt
Feb. 05 Teresa Snow	Feenie Midkiff
Feb. 06 Evelyn Doss	Hoyal West
Feb. 10 Oneal Andrews	Feb. 24 Dot Collins
Nancy Zimmerman	Feb. 25 Frabia Smith
Feb. 11 Susan Carruth	Joyce Pruitt
Phillip Doss	Feb. 28 Joan Huddleston
Connie Hogle	Richard Lumpkin
Feb. 13 Jim Tingle	



December Treasurer's Report

General Operating:

Contributions: \$48,322.00

Expenses: \$50,254.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$530,404.00

Year to date Expenses: \$542,538.00

ATTENDANCE

	Celebrate Early	Worship
Jan. 4	51	108
Jan. 11	46	113
Jan. 18	49	109
Jan. 25	45	107

We welcome two new members who join in January. Please take a moment to put their information in your contacts, and better yet, get to know them!

Becky Valleley
 41 Courtside Ct. #7014
 Ellijay, GA 30540
 ajvmev@yahoo.com
 706-633-9464

Tambra Logan
 6412 Cutcane Road
 Mineral Bluff, GA 30559
 Logantambra@yahoo.com
 706-633-9044



Note: ADDRESS CHANGE

David is changing his email to:
jdavidgriffin24@gmail.com