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# CHERRYLOGUE

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March 2012

News from Cherry Log Christian Church

Vol. 15 No.3

Dr. J. David Griffin, Senior Minister

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Minister Emeritus

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## Lent and Holy Week 2012 at CLCC

There are many different small group and worship opportunities throughout the season of Lent.

Lenten Small groups are being offered in February: *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God* and *Disciple I Bible Study* February. Visit the church website to Register for participation in the small group studies.

Our Family Night Suppers are on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. There are activities for children and the topic for the adults will be the Church's liturgical year led by Carl Hendrickson.

On Wednesdays from 4:00 -5:45 the Centering Prayer Group will meet. The meetings are held in the choir room.

On Fridays during Lent we pause for Noon-day Scripture, Prayers and Soup from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. This emphasis will be through April 6, 2012. The participants have scripture, prayer concerns and prayers followed by soup and bread for all who wish to participate.

April 1<sup>st</sup>, Palm/Passion Sunday, will begin our journey into Holy Week. Songs and scriptures will walk us through the story of Jesus passion and death. During Holy Week there will be special worship services and times for meditation.

Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, is Maundy Thursday. Our worship service will be based on the institution of the Lord's Supper and will be focused on Christ as the Lamb of God. Music by Rutter, Faure, and Handel will take us through Jesus Last Supper with his disciples and our journey will continue through the eve of the crucifixion.

On Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> at noon there will be a prayer service and observance of the Stations of the Cross. Following the service soup and bread for all who wish to participate.

The culmination of holy week will be Easter Sunday on April 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be two worship services at 9:15 and 10:55. Traditional hymns and music by Purcell, Handel and Stainer will be used to celebrate the risen Christ.



## SUMMARY OF CHURCH FINANCES

**The Business of the Church**, Finance Committee Reserve Proposal: Now that we have an agreement with Church Extension that balances our mortgage payment/income the Finance/Stewardship Committee is addressing other concerns. Basically the concerns we hear most are:

Can we pay our current bills?

Can we pay our mortgage going forward?

What will we do if we have major maintenance problems, like the tile problem?

Where can we get funds for needed ministry initiatives?

Regarding current bills, your contributions for operating funds are steady and have covered budgeted expenses in the past. Assuming that will continue we plan to maintain a checking account balance of about \$15,000. That should be sufficient to cover the normal cash flow differences between income and outgo.

The mortgage problem in the past was caused by having a payment much larger than building fund contributions. Reserves, which were accumulated at the end of the 2005-2008 Capital Campaign and beginning of the 2009 Campaign, were used to cover the shortfall between income and outgo from 2009-2011. **Now our mortgage situation is greatly improved. We have an existing building fund reserve from building fund contributions of about \$40,000.** Analysis of 2011 Capital Campaign pledges indicates that even with normal erosion over three years, the pledged level and current reserve will enable us to fully meet mortgage payments through the terms of our current loan agreement.

Potential large maintenance costs are a real issue. We have a current tile problem that will cost something, even if our lawsuit is successful. We know that as our buildings age major expenses will crop up for system repairs and replacements. One study indicates the need for a \$75,000 reserve for future major maintenance problems. The good news is that we have a significant amount available to start that reserve. We have \$51,339 deposited in an investment account with Church Extension. This money was funded from the \$600,000 loan from CE and not by member contributions. There is no requirement by Church Extension that it be used in a particular way nor can we find any Board resolution requiring a specific use. **Our committee is proposing that we use these funds of \$51,339 to establish a Building Maintenance Reserve Fund and add to the reserve as we are able.**

To provide for ministry needs, the committee is proposing that we move \$15,000 from the general checking account to a Ministry Reserve Fund. This will leave about \$18,000 in the checking account, within guidelines for that account. **We propose using the rent from Church on the Hill to build this reserve to \$25,000 to \$27,500 by the time Cornerstone moves into their new building, mid year.** The Ministry Reserve Fund can be used for major ministry and growth initiatives such as an Associate Pastor, a new ministry initiative for children, youth or young families or others as approved by the Board.

Members of the Finance/Stewardship Committee will be in the Adult Sunday School Room following the service on March 11 to take your questions or suggestions on this and any other Finance matter. Please let us have your feedback.

Bill Groce, Rusty Coleman, Co-Chairs, Finance and Stewardship Committee



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

“When did you first experience Lent?” That was the question in a small discussion group I attended. The answers were varied from, “I never observed Lent until I attended Cherry Log” to “As Roman Catholics we observed all of Lent – fasting and praying and giving up chocolate!” There are some Protestant denominations that do not observe Lent. Others give emphasis to the significance of the forty days of Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Vigil. In counting the days of Lent, one does not include Sundays, which are “little Easters”.

Lent is not a time to mope around and be sad. Lent is not a time of self-flagellation and predictions of gloom. Actually, for me at least, Lent is an invigorating time. Lent is invigorating because of what I learn about myself, my relationship to God, and to our community.

I do not need to grovel when I realize that I have been insensitive. I do need to make my apologies and then work on being sensitive to the needs of others and that invigorates me!

Several of us at CLCC have read Thomas Merton. In his book, *The Living Bread*, Merton writes of godless Christians – Christians whose religion is a matter of conformism and expediency. He writes that their faith is little more than a permanent evasion of reality. He says that they conform to the outward of others like themselves. Preach on, Brother!

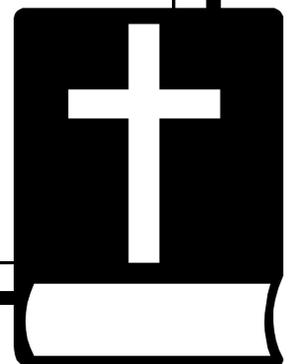
It invigorates me to look inward and listen to the words of Merton, for in his words I do find passive conformism in myself. I need to see the cracks and masks and to repair, toss out, and figure out who the real inner person is. For me, this is my Lenten task. That invigorates me.

In Matthew 6 Jesus talks those who make a big deal of their giving – “Make the plague on the stained glass a little larger and highlight my name.” Jesus talks of those who make prayer a street corner speech. No, it is about going in a secret place and praying. The same for fasting: dress up and be happy instead of complaining about how hungry you are and our stomach is growling.

In Lent we are to reconnect with God and to one another. Is that not invigorating to you? How good it is to worship together in Lent!

Peace,

*David*



*The Finance/Stewardship Committee will sponsor two articles in the Cherrylogue. One will focus on the business of the church, the other on the mission of the church. This article is the first to look at the mission of the church, how our church impacts lives. The name is changed, but this story Caroline recounts is true. Other stories will be signed by the writer. If you have a story that illustrates how CLCC impacts lives please contact Malinda or Bill Groce:*

**The Mission of the Church**, a Treasurer's report without numbers, Caroline Carder:

"Hello, my name is April. I am twenty seven years old and I am an alcoholic". These were the hardest words she had ever had to say. A college graduate with honors, successful business woman and star quality beauty, she never would have pictured standing in a room full of strangers making such an agonizing confession. Her life had become something she had only seen in movies.

The reality of her situation was, to her, the most humiliating she could have ever imagined. "How did this happen to me?" she asked herself. "How did I end up in Cherry Log Christian Church in an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting?" She sat and joined the meeting with hopes that she was wrong; with anticipation that maybe she was not an alcoholic. She was quietly listening to the stories of others, her mind slipping in and out of the room. April had said the words to strangers but could she really tell the world she needed help. Even more importantly could she tell her friends and family?

It has been almost a year since her first meeting. April did share her story with her family and friends who love her so deeply. She has been to a treatment facility and attends an AA meeting multiple nights a week, one night a week at CLCC. Her battle is hard, her burdens are heavy. Counseling has revealed a lot of hidden suffering in her life. She struggles daily with healing her heart and her desire to have a drink to ease the pain. April wants to be better. Her family needs her to be better.

For almost every addict who is mired in this terrible disease, other – a mother or father, a child or spouse, an aunt or uncles or grandparents, are suffering too. Families and friends are the hidden victims of addiction, enduring enormous levels of stress and pain. AA and Al-Anon are imperative to the recovery of addicts and their family. CLCC giving a facility for such a necessary treatment is a gift to this community that we provide on the teachings of Jesus.

The missions of Cherry Log Christian Church reach to depths in this community that not many are aware of. Next time you think of the building fund remember April. Next time the offering plate passes, please remember April. I am sure she and her family will always remember the night she stood in this house of God and said, "Hello, my name is April. I am twenty seven years old and I am an alcoholic".

## **Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa Planned**

Are you interested in helping to rebuild homes in Tuscaloosa? Disciples Home Missions is continuing to help rebuild homes lost in the tornado that hit Alabama. We have chosen the week of April 23rd, working with another church from Ohio. We have space for up to 10 volunteers to join the group. The church will help with registration fees, food and transportation costs. You are responsible for your own bedding and work related tools. Contact Bill or Cheri Thompson to indicate your interest in this mission trip.

## **Grief Support Group**

CLCC will begin offering a bi-monthly Grief Support Group on March 19, 2012 at 4:00 PM. It will meet on the first and third Mondays at 4:00 PM in the conference room. Gathering with others who are experiencing grief can be a great comfort. So often we find ourselves surrounded by those who just cannot really appreciate or respond to our deep pain. This will be an on-going group and you are welcome to attend as needed. You are also invited to attend if your grief is not recent, but is still very much current for you.

## THANK YOU!

Those of you who knew my Dad, knew that he gave easily and generously to all of us of his amazing intellect and ideas, time, and many talents. We all know that he did not judge us, he just gave.

What you might **not** know is that Tom judged himself harshly and when Tom needed emotional support it was impossible for him to ask for help. After he lost our Mother he could not find a way to fill the void in his heart. His best friend, Joe; the Sisson family; his children; his grandchildren and great grandchildren were not enough to quell his pain.

Getting to know him you would be very surprised to find out that it took tremendous personal risk and overcoming of fear for this proud man to reach out to this wonderful Church.

Your invitation and acceptance changed this 86 year-old man's life. In Carl, Tom, found a new soul mate and heart friend. What a gift for both of them to find this! In David he found unconditional acceptance. In Dave and Bobby he found another Son and Daughter. In the rest of the membership he found friendship and comfort.

There is no way for me to thank you church members for the way you embraced and nurtured Tom Rothchild. You enriched the last years of his life in ways I would never have thought possible, and you helped him find peace.

For all the legacies I expected my Dad to leave me with I never dared dream that he would find the one thing that I most hoped he could leave me. He risked, he reached out, and he found an unconditional love that he never knew existed.

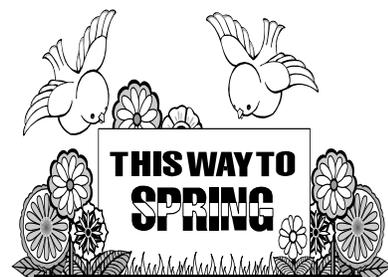
Thank you Cherry Log Christian Church from the bottom of my heart because the lessons Dad learned in this Church in the last two years of his life brought us a peace together that will become the legacy that I hold nearest to my heart.

Special thanks to you: David, Dave & Bobby, Carl & Peggy for holding me near and guiding me through this process of illness, loss, and then celebration of life.

Thank you

to all who embraced my father  
for your prayers  
for the prayer shawl which I kept placed over Tom's heart until his very last breath  
for the beautiful service  
for the music – the Men's Choral and (yes, Richard...Vince Gill better watch out!)  
for the food and comfort at the reception  
for all you do

Melanie Rothchild  
February 18, 2012



**MSP Volunteer Scheduling  
"Hands-on" Session**



Need any help using the MSP scheduling software?

- ? Entering 'can't serve' dates
- ? Finding your user name/password
- ? Contacting others in your volunteer role (roster)
- ? Seeing the most current volunteer schedule
- ? Signing into MSP from the church's website
- ? Volunteering now (or proposing a trade)
- ? Finding summary of your service times

Who: Julia and Jane (plus anyone who wants to share their experience)

When: 12:15pm or after CLCC services on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Where: Fellowship Hall

We are still learning about the many neat features of the MSP scheduling software. If having a hands-on session proves helpful, we may offer another in the future.

Alan Slemons is loaning us his computer laptop and display unit to offer this CLCC hands-on MSP scheduling software update. Check out his new Limbertwig Technology computer services company: [www.twigit.net](http://www.twigit.net), ([info@twigit.net](mailto:info@twigit.net)), 706-502-0554. He does computer repair as well as many other computer support services...even home visits if needed!!! Check it out!!!

**Family Night Wednesdays in Lent**

In 2012 Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The adult program on Wednesdays will be "Sanctification of life, of Time and of Space", a study of the Church Calendar, or Church Year.

March 7, we will explore the development of the concepts of "sanctification of life, time and space" as it happened in ancient Israelite practice, and in the time of Jesus.

March 14, we will trace the development of Christian year in the early Church until the Middle Ages, roughly the first 800 years, noting differences in the calendar as practiced in eastern, western, and Celtic traditions.

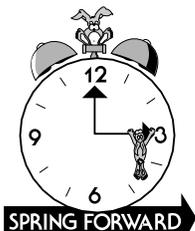
March 21, we will trace the development of the practice of the Christian year forward through the Middle Ages until the Reformations of the 16th and 17th centuries, with attention to how the Lutheran, Calvinist, Anglican, Anabaptist, and later the Methodist and Pentecostal traditions, transformed the nature of the Christian worship and the liturgical year.

March 28, we will examine the phenomenon of present-day recovery and re-emphasis of the Christian year, and trace our way through the year using a present-day calendar.

April 4, the last Wednesday of Lent, is in Holy Week, when we will have special opportunities for worship n Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, so there will be no Wednesday night program that week.

The class will be led by Carl Hendrickson. No special materials are necessary: each attending family will receive a Church Calendar for use in family worship. Bring your curiosity and your questions. Come one, Come all!



**DON'T FORGET TO**  **MARCH 11, 2012**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 01	Karen Kennedy	Trisha Senterfitt
	Bob Matthews	Lisa Register
Mar. 03	Jerry Johnson	Mar. 12 Lynette Nelson
Mar. 04	Jan Mitchell	Mar. 13 Jennifer Mills
	Cindy Avens	Mar. 14 Bob Clarke
Mar. 06	Hal Doster	Mar. 15 Ralph Davis
Mar. 07	Connie Arnold	Mar. 16 Cheer Shepard
	Zachary Cox	Mar. 24 Cheri Thompson
	Sandie Reed	Jim Self
Mar. 08	Carolyn McGinness	Mar. 26 Walter Boleman
Mar. 09	Peggy Cleveland	Amber Twiggs
	Reid Honeycutt	Mar. 28 Judy Weiland
Mar. 10	Hugh Lake	Mar. 30 LinZie Renneke
	Larry Lipscomb	

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 13	Bob & Meg Wilson	(58)
March 15	Ronald & Nancy Midkiff	(55)
March 21	Del Woods & Barbara Ferer	(14)
March 26	Jim & Betty Willis	(58)

### Results of our work in Haiti

Alex Morse, formerly a coordinator with Church World Services, sent an email this week giving the results of the work done by a team from our church and community two years ago. The team represented 3 churches: Cherry Log Christian, First Baptist, Blue Ridge, and First Baptist, Blairsville. Those from Cherry Log were Arch Cowan, John Dickinson, Ed Grant and Bill Harrison. Bencie Turner from FBC, Blue Ridge, and David Haight, senior, from FBC, Blairsville were also part of the work team. The following summary came from Alex Morse:

“The data your team compiled from home inspections was used to write a pilot project that secured funding for repairing 35 homes in Haiti. The project was so successful that the second part of the project was funded as well, so that the damaged homes identified with ‘red and yellow’ designations received repairs or newly built homes. The homes designated as ‘green’ homes received funds for making repairs. The total provided for the two projects was approximately \$350,000.00”. The week of work in Haiti was an unforgettable experience, and all who participated will be forever grateful for having the opportunity to provide help for those in desperate need.

## CELEBRATION FUND

The following made donations in **January**:

In Memory of:

**Tom Rothchild** by Hal & Ann Doster, Helen Sikes, John & Stephanie McNeill

**Victor Hopper** by Hal & Ann Doster

**June Yohe** by Hal & Ann Doster

In Honor of:

**Jim Weiland** by Hal & Ann Doster

**Lynn Barrett** by Hal & Ann Doster

**John Garceau & Kay Vanderhooft** by John & Dorothy Morford

**Ann Doster’s Birthday** by Bob & Ida-Anne Clarke

### Debt Reduction Contributions:

\* Total amount deposited into Celebration Fund \$225.00

## ATTENDANCE

Worship

February 5	177
February 12	183
February 19	195
February 26	201



### January Treasurer’s Report

#### General Operating:

Contributions: \$30,804.00

Expenses: \$24,405.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$30,804.00

Year to date Expenses: \$24,405.00

#### Building Fund:

Contributions: \$20,823.00

Expenses: \$15,000.00

Year to Date Contributions: \$20,823.00

Year to date Expenses: \$15,000.00

\*February not reported because March 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.

# Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Homecoming

## March 30, 1997 to March 30, 2012, Fifteen-Year Anniversary

Fred Craddock wrote in the CLCC's First 10 Years, "Cherry Log Christian Church is no rags to riches story; we are both rags and riches. This church is not an experiment in anything; it is a church and has been a church since a few souls joined hearts and hands and said 'Yes'. God has favored us with numerical growth, but God's favor is even more evident in the delight, the excitement, the expectations of those who worship here, who enjoy friendship here, who gather to stir one another to be servants of the compassionate Christ."



Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012 we will honor our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have grown from 80 charter members in 1997 to \_\_\_\_\_ members in 2012. Please join us as we celebrate the birthday of our church. Cherry Log Christian Church will be celebrating Homecoming 2012 with a potluck dinner following the regular Sunday morning worship service. Please bring a main course dish, a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share with others. There will be helpers to assist with getting your food ready to serve. During the luncheon, we will view a slideshow highlighting some of the year's important CLCC happenings, members who have passed away, and the on-going work of our church members. The theme of this year's homecoming is "Our Mission Church." Join us as we learn more about how our members serve others in our community and around the world.



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Cherry Log Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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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 am. Worship 10:55 am.  
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