



## OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER

### Faith – There Is No Substitute

I read a story a while back about a young woman who took a new job at the supermarket. First day on the job, a customer came in and asked for corn flakes, “Sorry but we’re out of corn flakes,” the new sales clerk said. The customers just shrugged and went off in search of another grocery store. The manager overheard the conversation and chastised the new employee, “Don’t ever do that again, you should have said, ‘Madam, we are out of corn flakes, but we have Shredded Wheat, Rice Crispies and All-Bran’” A few minutes later another customer came in and asked for toilet paper, and as fate would have it, that was also out of stock. But the young lady dutifully exclaimed, “Sorry, madam, we are out of toilet paper... but we have wallpaper... we have sandpaper... and we have confetti.”



***It’s pretty difficult to substitute for some things.***

One more serious note, one of the things we seem unable to do without is some purpose and power greater than ourselves. However, we can only find those elements with faith. In the book of Hebrews, we find one of the Bibles best definitions of faith. It’s not the only one. It may not be the best or most complete definition. But it is certainly one of the most familiar.

***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*** (Heb.11:1)

The word translated “assurance” literally means “things under” or “foundation.” According to the writer of Hebrews, faith is building our life, not only what we can see, but on what we cannot see. It is a conviction about an ultimate reality that says behind the tangible and obvious world our existence lies in the larger sureness of God.

Faith is living through the tough times into deepening and changing development because we believe that God will be faithful to us as we transverse the shifting sands of this early

journey. If faith in God means anything, it will have to stretch and grow. And we need help, we need our faith-family, some flesh and blood with whom to grow and change. One destination of this faith pilgrimage is toward spiritual maturity. The great philosopher Leslie Whitehead said “spiritual maturity comes to us as we move from God as enemy... to God as void... to God as friend. “Choosing to live by faith in Christ is to affirm that the God of this universe is not enemy or void, but friend.

I believe that Christ was God’s most personal and direct way of extending that friendship.

Leslie Whitehead recalls an old fable about a spider. The spider slid down a single filament of web from the lofty timbers of a barn and established himself on the lower beams. There he constructed his web, caught flies, grew sleek and prospered. One afternoon, wandering about his premise, he saw again the single thread that stretched up into the dark above him and thought, “How useless.” He snapped it. Whereupon his web collapsed, and his whole world came crashing down.

Yes, you may live without God, severing any conscious ties with the Eternal. You can choose un-faith as the center of your life. But in doing so, you may be forgetting one of the most important things about human existence... that faith ties us to God’s Ultimate Reality, without which even if life does not collapse, at the very least it languishes from a lack of centeredness.

**Faith works... but only if we’re willing to use it.**

## Regional Events

### Georgia Disciples Women's Retreat September 23-25, 2016

#### Finding Wholeness in a Broken World

Keynote:

Rev. Khalia J. Williams

Rev. Ann Haines, Music Leader

Ms. Teresa Bensch, Disciples  
Girls' Program Leader

GA Baptist Conference Center at  
Toccoa

Registration information is in the Gathering Area and online  
at [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org).



### North Georgia Disciples Men Fall Rally

This years Fall Rally will be on September 24, 2016 hosted by  
Lawrenceville First Christian Church Men. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. with the event  
starting at 10:00 a.m. The Rally concludes  
with lunch which should be at a nominal  
cost to be announced.



The keynote speaker will be Rev James  
Shelton, New Hope Christian Church  
(former Pastor/Counselor to Ga Disciples  
Men).

Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
In Georgia

### 167th Regional Assembly

November 11 - 12, 2016

*Hosted by:*

First Christian Church of Valdosta  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1905 North Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31602

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
**GEORGIA**  
*God's Beloved Community*

### Disciples Women's (CWF) Fall Activities Save the Date

Blessing Box  
Dedication will be  
Sunday, September  
18th during the  
worship service.

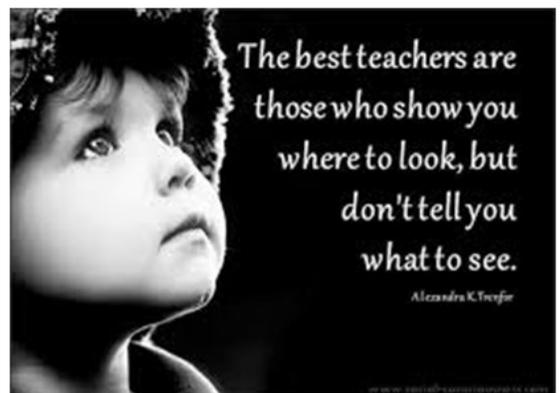


◆ The Annual  
Ice Cream  
Social will be  
Sunday,  
September 18th at  
5:30 p.m. There  
will be a special  
offering for Week of Compassion  
(on account of Louisiana flooding  
and other needs). This is in lieu of  
collecting blanket money.

The Annual Harvest Dinner will be  
Sunday, November 6th after the  
10:50 a.m. worship service.



### Harvest Dinner



The best teachers are  
those who show you  
where to look, but  
don't tell you  
what to see.

*Alexandra K. Trefler*

## Deadline for the October Newsletter is Thursday, September 22

### September Birthdays

17 Elizabeth McElhanon  
24 Tadd Huff  
25 Mary Jo Alvord  
25 Leona Chamberlain  
26 Willis Ramirez  
28 Al Taylor  
28 Mary Kate Westbrook



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

### September FRF

Join us on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. for our next FRF at Frida's Mexican Restaurant, 706 Grayson Highway, #206, Lawrenceville.



### Worship Helpers

September 4: 10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson  
Communion Meditation - Dorrie Toth  
September 11: 10:50 Reader - Anna Harrison  
Communion Meditation - Anna Harrison  
September 18: 10:50 Reader - Jimmy Peebles  
Communion Meditation -  
September 25: 10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson  
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker

### Family Promise Updates



Family Promise is a national faith-based non-profit organization which mobilizes communities and existing resources to help homeless families regain their independence. First Christian Church is a support church for Family Promise of Gwinnett County.

Donations of laundry detergent are needed for the Salt Light Center and the Day Center. If you are able to donate detergent, please bring it to the Day Center at the back of our church property between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Family Promise Recognition Week is October 16-23.** We will observe Family Promise Week with details to follow.



### September Elders/Deacons

#### Serving at the Table

**Elders:** Jimmy Peebles, Connie Thompson (4th, 11th), Bruce Johnson (18th, 25th)  
**Deacons:** Joey Baker

#### Servant-Leaders

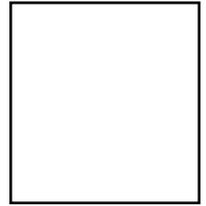
**Greeter:** Eva Krahwinkel (4th, 11th, 25th)  
**Communion Preparation:** Mary Jo Alvord & Gen Ashby



## **First Family News**

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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Lawrenceville, GA 30044

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[lawrencevillefirstchristian.org](http://lawrencevillefirstchristian.org)



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **LFCC Staff**

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White**  
**Music Director: Kim Peoples**  
**Office Manager: Linda Rowe**

### **Joys and Concerns**

**We never cease in praying for the needs of:** ... Gerald K and Family; Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Craig R; David C's brother-in-law; Mary V; Juliet's friend; Nettie P; Anna H's family in Illinois; Jonie M; Prayers for students/teachers as they begin a new school year; Sandy W's father; Candace's grandson; Connie W's sister; Sandy Wright; Homebound Members - Louise C; Alma F; Betty H; Bessie K; Lenora L; Nettie P; Barbara & Bill P; Reba T.

**We give thanks and praise to God for...** Good report for Craig R; Amanda and Joey are engaged.



A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.

*-Thomas Merton*