

First Family News

Our Second Century

March 2018

Faithfulness – God’s Got This/Us!

We humans can count on the faithfulness of God, whether we are participating in a church or not. God cares for all creation. When I consider the word, faith, God enters my understanding of it. Faith is something very hard to put into human words, but we know it when we experience it, right?

In the wilderness of wondering what to share with you, this idea became prominent after I read a poem written by a friend. It will be at the end of this article. Next, I went to some translations or renderings of the Bible for the verses that are the foundation of this reflection. From Hebrews 11:1-3, we hear the following...

In *The Voice* translation of the Bible:

Faith is the assurance of things you have hoped for, the absolute conviction that there are realities you’ve never seen. It was by faith that our forebears were approved. Through faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God; everything we now see was fashioned from that which is invisible.

And in *The Message*:

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God’s word, what we see created by what we don’t see.

The elements of faith as explained by Mark Tidsworth in his book, *Farming Church*, include the following traits:

**Mystery* – *there must be something that is beyond being observed by the human eye.* [FC, 46]

**Uncertainty* *due to freedom to co-create with God; God believes in us!* [FC, 46]

**No guarantees* *even though we humans try to align our wills with God’s.* [FC, 46]

These are things I hope we will ponder as we get to know one another in these months together. It is important for us “to cultivate an invigorated living faith in God before considering changes.” [FC, 47] We will have additional worship opportunities to mark the important days of our faith at the end of Lent– please see more information elsewhere.

March is the time of new life springing into visibility. Lent is the time when we cultivate our relationship with God in preparation for Easter. April 1st will be here before we know it, Resurrection Sunday. Will you be ready spiritually?

In Christ,

Melinda

Here's the poem that nudged me.

What It Takes

Learn the difference

Between milestones and millstones

I will walk in your muddy footprints

If that's what it takes

Doug says if we were nice in an aggressive way

We would have nothing to fear

Tomatoes are red

Because they write well

Do not be afraid

To be afraid

I will walk in your bloody footprints

If that's what it takes

— Jeannie Babb

#40poemsforLent

A Word About Our Capital Campaign

In the latter part of 2014, our Church conducted a Capital Campaign that we called New Beginnings. The purpose of this Campaign was to raise money for capital expenditures and special projects. The funds raised were to be used to pay for our New Beginnings consulting program, some special maintenance projects, and to make our monthly mortgage payments on our building. Our goal was to raise \$125,000.00, and the congregation generously pledged more than \$135,000.00 towards this campaign. The amounts donated to the Capital Campaign are intended to be amounts above and beyond our regular giving to the Church. Regular giving is placed in the general fund and used to pay the ongoing expenses of the Church such as salaries, utilities, and day-to-day operational costs. The Capital Campaign contributions are placed in a special fund which is used only for mortgage payments, property expenditures, and special projects.

In 2014, we also refinanced our mortgage payments on the building. This refinance reduced our monthly payments by approximately \$800.00 per month, and has resulted in a savings of between \$20,000.00 and \$30,000.00 over the last three years. We used the Capital Campaign funds to pay for our New Beginnings consulting program, and we were also able to replace air conditioning units, put in a new hot water heater, and make some additional repairs to the electrical system in the building.

The pledges for the 2014 Capital Campaign technically expired in December of 2017. Since we were making a transition of ministers at that time, we chose to delay conducting a new Capital Campaign until later in 2018. Many of you have generously continued to make your regular donations to the Capital Campaign fund each month. We appreciate these contributions that go towards the payment of our Church mortgage, and we encourage you to continue to do so throughout 2018.

During the Fall of this year, we will need to conduct a new Capital Campaign to fund our mortgage payments for the next three years and to consider special projects for the Church during that time period. The Campaign will involve many members of the Church, and we will need someone to lead the campaign. Please prayerfully consider whether you would like to be involved in a leadership role in our Capital Campaign later this year. The Disciples Church Extension Fund provides consultants who will assist us with this project. If you are interested in working in a leadership role in this campaign, please contact Lee Thompson or a member of the Leadership Council.

Souper/Sandwich Fundraiser Lunch

On Sunday, March 11, plan to stay after the 10:50 service and join us for a "Souper/Sandwich Fundraiser Lunch". This is the finale to the Camp Christian Giving Tree. Many of you have already made a donation and we don't expect another; just come and fellowship. We hope to purchase playground balls, volleyballs, nerf footballs, basketballs, some rainy-day board/card games, a grill and cover, water bottles for the campers, and a new screen door for Lawrencevilla. We had a donation of a new ceiling fan for the Lawrencevilla (thanks to Al and Patricia). Our Youth and children love to spend time at camp (so do the adults) and we are so appreciative of your support.

Work and Fellowship at Camp

Join the Youth and some of our adults April 2-3 for an overnight trip to camp. We will complete some needed tasks (mainly inventories, window washing, and possibly other small tasks) and spend time in the evening enjoying our time there and possibly playing some board games. We stay in Woodland and the rooms have bathrooms, showers and are temperature regulated. Bring your own bedding, towels, toiletries, etc. We will decide about food for dinner, breakfast and maybe lunch. It has been advertised to other churches for their Youth/adults to arrive at 1:00pm on the 2nd and leave at 2:00pm on the 3rd, but no one else has made reservations yet. We will adjust accordingly. It is peaceful, quiet and beautiful at camp. Let Libby, Pamela or Marilyn know if you are interested.

Disciples Women's Spring Event

"A Day of Blessings at Camp Christian" March 17, 2018. Girls and women of all ages are invited to participate in this fun Saturday event! Friday night dinner, lodging, and fellowship is also available! Visit <http://gadisciples.org/> to register.

Disciple Men's Retreat

Join us on March 23-24, 2018 for "Servant Leadership for the 21st Century" presented by Rev. Dr. Percy Johnson. Music by Bob Grant! Fellowship, good food and more. Camp Christian Conference Center, Gordon, Georgia. Visit <http://gadisciples.org/> to register.

Summer Camp Registration

It is time to register children and youth completing grades K-12 for summer camp at Camp Christian. Please make sure you complete your registration form and turn it in along with payment to Marilyn or Libby. Checks need to be made to First Christian Church. Deadline is Sunday, March 25th, in order for us to meet the Early Bird Registration Deadline. Please let us know if you don't have a form and would like one. Counselor applications are due by March 12th. The forms can be found at:

Counselor: <https://goo.gl/YhygxA>

CIT: <https://goo.gl/hCTKtV>

OASIS CIT: <https://goo.gl/LD1E5o>

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Al Evatt
3 John & Julie Lee - Anniversary
5 Bruce Johnson
6 Hoyt & Betty Huff - Anniversary
7 Riley Ballew
13 Lynn Boren-Parris
16 Matt & Chris Klimshuk - Anniversary
19 Kim Peeples
22 Doug & Evelyn Carlisle - Anniversary
25 Joey & Amanda Baker - Anniversary
24 Charlie Alvord
30 Molly Ballew

Spring Forward This Weekend

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am this Sunday, March 11. Before you go to bed on Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour.

Important March Dates

Mar 4: Third Sunday in Lent – Women's History Month
First Sunday Food
2-3:45pm - Lenten Quiet Time
5pm – Choir practice
6pm - Leadership Council

Mar 6: 11:30am – TONTO Luncheon

Mar 10: Spring Clocks Forward 1 hour (before bed)

Mar 11: Fourth Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time begins
Souper/Sandwich Lunch – Camp Christian Fundraiser
5pm – Choir practice
6pm – Board Meeting

- Mar 13: 11:30am – Retirees/TONTO lunch at Sweet Baby Jane's
6pm – Bread & Broth Fellowship Meal
7pm – Lenten Devotion
- Mar 14: 1:15pm - Ewing CWF Group
- Mar 16-17: A Day of Blessings at Camp Christian - Georgia Disciples Women Spring Event
- Mar 18: Fifth Sunday in Lent
12pm – Disciple Women – Assemble Easter Baskets
5pm – Choir practice
- Mar 20: 6pm – Bread & Broth Fellowship Meal
7pm – Lenten Devotion
- Mar 23-24: Disciples Men’s Retreat
- Mar 25: Palm Sunday
Easter Offering
Summer Camp Registration Due – Early Bird Registration Deadline
5pm – Choir practice
- Mar 29: 1:30pm – Maundy Thursday Service
7pm – Maundy Thursday Service at LFCC with Salvation Army
- Mar 30: 7pm – Good Friday Service at Salvation Army Worship Center
- Apr 1: 7:30am – Sunrise Service in Prayer Garden
9:30am – Pancake Breakfast
10:50am – Easter Worship (no 8:45 service)
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March Worship Helpers

- Mar 4: Responsive Reader – Rafael Evatt-Machado
Scripture Reader – Bruce Johnson
Communion Meditation – Jimmy Peeples
Greeter – Candace Richardson
- Mar 11: Responsive Reader – Rafael Evatt-Machado
Scripture Reader – Patricia Taylor
Communion Meditation – Dorrie Toth
Greeter – Candace Richardson
- Mar 18: Responsive Reader – Annie Ballew
Scripture Reader – Karen Jensen
Communion Meditation – Bruce Johnson
Greeter – Candace Richardson
- Mar 25: Responsive Reader – Rafael Evatt-Machado
Scripture Reader – Dorrie Toth
Communion Meditation – Connie Thompson
Greeter – Candace Richardson
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Serving at the Table in March

- Elders – Patricia Taylor, Jimmy Peeples (4) & Karen Jensen (11, 18 & 25)
Deacons: Pamela Evatt-Machado, Josué Figueira Machado, Rafael Evatt-Machado (4, 11 & 25),
Libby Ballew, Brian Ballew & Annie Ballew (18)
Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord & Candace Richardson



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