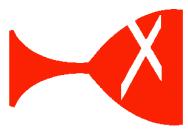


In This Issue...

- Four Views of Stewardship (The 4 T's)
- Ask the Pastor About the Types of Prayer
- See Pictures From Our **CHURCH PICNIC** below ↓

Volume 62
November, 2011



HAMBURGERS AT LAUREL PARK

Delicious scents of charcoal-grilled hot dogs and hamburgers wafted over Laurel Park in Marietta at the annual church picnic, October 8. Forty people, including children and adults of all ages, piled paper plates full of po-



tato chips, pasta and potato salads, brownies and chocolate chip cookies, and sat around tables at the pavilion, talking about everything from the weather to the fortunes of the Atlanta Falcons and Braves, and the state of the nation's economy.

Jeff Shimizu and Joe Kern traded turns keeping the grilling operation in high gear. "I'm really happy about the turnout today," commented Tommy Russell, the church's Administrative Assistant and co-leader of the picnic arrangements. "Several members from our Spanish service are here, and there are kids everywhere!"

"What a sign of new life!" exclaimed Laura Gladson, as she snapped photos of just about every family there. Jeff Shimizu agreed. "Picnics can be occasions for church members to 'let their hair down' and just enjoy each other's company. It builds the family atmosphere our church is famous for." Jeff, Minister of Administration, and his wife, Michele, planned and secured the food for the even, some of which was provided by those in attendance.



In previous years, the annual picnic came in the hot and sultry months of July or August. "This year we thought we'd have it when the weather was a little more comfortable," Tommy Russell noted. The day was sunny, almost cloudless, and comfortable.

We are a family worshipping and serving God.
We accept, inspire and empower for Christian service.

THe HARBINGER

News of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) of Marietta

Upcoming Sermons

November 6, 2011

Rev. Jeff Shimizu

November 13, 2011

Rev. Donna Kremer

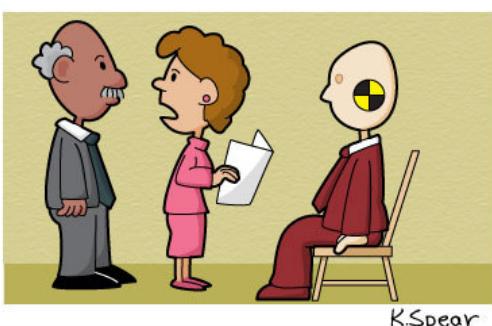
November 20, 2011

Rev. Dr. Jerry Gladson

November 27, 2011

Rev. Kimberly Russell

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"This church bulletin should be safe.

I tried it on the crash test dummy."

Conversations (a mid-week Bible Study)

November 2, 2011

Question/Answer Session

November 9, 2011

NO CONVERSATIONS

November 16, 2011

NO CONVERSATIONS

November 23, 2011

NO CONVERSATIONS

November 30, 2011

Looking Toward Advent



Caitlin Renee Fain is the first granddaughter of Ken and Tommy Russell. She was born October 21, 2011 at 5:48 am, weighing in at 6 lb 13 oz and measuring 20 inches. Mom (Melissa), Dad (Linc) and Aeden (brother) are adjusting well to the new addition.

Regional Assembly **November 11-12**

The Annual Georgia Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will occur at New Hope Christian Church, Lawrenceville, November 11-12. In addition to an intriguing series of workshops, the keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Dr. Watkins will be speaking on Friday and Saturday nights.

*Don't forget our
Rally Day Sunday, November 20,
the climax of our Stewardship
Program. Following the worship
will be a Thanksgiving Lunch.*

THE EARTH

(Stewardship of The Earth)

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God provided the air, water, and land – what we think of as the earth's natural resources. God then created the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and every kind of living creature. And then God created humankind, the pinnacle of creation. God granted humans dominion over the rest of creation. And it was so. God saw all that God had made, and pronounced it very good.

But now, can we still call this earth “very good?” At first, it was the so-called “environmentalists” who cried out about the destruction of the earth and its natural resources. But now, everyone recognizes that our planet is being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Scripture clearly states that God blessed all of creation and pronounced it very good. As people of faith, we are called to be stewards of God’s creation. Christian stewardship is a way of living. We have a twofold responsibility—first to God, but also to the Earth and all of its resources and inhabitants.

We must understand the interconnectedness of all creation. What we do – or fail to do- affects our relationships with the earth, each other, and especially with God. It is not enough to sit idly and watch. We all have a duty to participate in the process of restoring and rebuilding our earthly home.

Rev. Donna Kremer
Minister



Rev. Donna Kremer

“He who gives when he is asked has waited too long.”

“As you give, so shall you receive. Contribute more and you will receive more. If you want a stronger rebound, throw the ball harder.”



-Sunshine Magazine

Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Sunday

Worship & Communion

11:00 a.m. Sunday

Spanish Service

3:00 p.m. Sunday

St. Luke's Anglican Church

4:00 p.m. Sunday

AA Meeting

5:00 p.m. Wednesday

English Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Spanish Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

Gambler's Anonymous Meeting

7:45 p.m.

Choir Practice

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

Food Pantry

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday

Just For Today

Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy, enjoying the blessings that are mine.

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires.

Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. Just for today I will exercise my soul by doing somebody a good turn.

Just for today I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit.

Just for today I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

Just for today I will have a quiet half hour all by myself, and relax. During this half hour I will try to get a better perspective of my life.

TREASURE

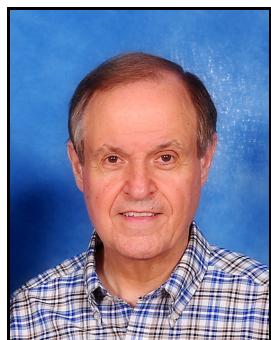
(The Money Question)

You've heard me say, "The gospel is free, but it costs to pipe it!" All our worship and study services here are free. So are our food bags we give out in the food pantry to more than one hundred people each week. The *Harbinger* you're reading comes at no cost. Like the gospel itself, all these things are free.

But someone must pay for them. Our lovely sanctuary, fellowship hall, classrooms, narthex, and grounds cost to maintain. Electricity and water must be purchased to operate. Even the convenient elevator costs. These are all part of the "plumbing" it takes to sound the message of the gospel in a modern world.

So the "money question" inevitably comes to the fore. Churches like ours operate on the freewill gifts of our members and friends. This is part of what it means to be good stewards of our treasure. We have no other real source of support. A financial adviser I saw on television recommended that every family set aside some of their income as savings, some to spend on necessities and the like, and some to share with others. This advice is good stewardship. No one of us is so impoverished that we can't share something from our treasure with the church. Here, a single such gift literally makes its way into the mission of this local church, into the mission in the state of Georgia, the United States, and into all the world through the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF).

Through the years, I have maintained the discipline of tithing. Each month, the first check I write is for my tithe (10% of my income). By doing this first, I affirm that, for me, God comes first in my life. I can't promise that if you share every week or month with the church in this way, whether it is a tithe or not, that everything else in your life will work out for the best, but I have found, strangely, that the rest of my income seems to go much further than it would, had I not shared. I encourage you to join with me in sharing with your church, regularly, faithfully. The blessing of sharing will be yours!



Rev. Dr. Jerry Gladson

Jerry Gladson
Minister Emeritus

TALENTS

(What is a Talent?)

On Sunday October 8th FCC kicked off the six week series on Stewardship. We started with a sermon on talents. Talents are one of the 4-Ts of Stewardship which include Treasures, Time and Terra (The earth). Over the years, talents have come to be thought of as abilities. In Matthew 25: 14-30 (The Parable of the Talents) Jesus talked about talents which represented money. In the sermon we discovered that a talent can be thought of as God's Blessings. How we use God's blessing is crucial. We are all stewards of God's gifts. Stewardship is about managing God's blessings which means using our blessings in service to God, God's church and God's people. There are reasons we use God's talents and blessings in this way. First we are blessed with financial gifts. No matter what our financial position is we give back to God knowing God will provide for our needs. Our giving is a measure of our faith. We use our abilities in service to God because we love God. Being good stewards is a measure of our love and respect for God.

Last Sunday the Reverend Jeff Shimizu handed our money. It wasn't his money. It was God's money. God asked him to hold onto it for a while and then give it away. He asked that everyone take the money and consider it a blessing from God. Each person was to manage their blessing and use their abilities to magnify God's gifts. Everyone should bring their talents back on November 20th which is the end of our stewardship series. If you use your talents and are able to grow God's blessing let the Reverend Jeff Shimizu know and he will share it with the congregation.

Rev. Jeff Shimizu
Minister



Rev. Jeff Shimizu

Ask the Pastor

What are the different types of prayer and when are they used?

—Puzzled about Prayer

Dear Puzzled,

Prayer is the language of the soul. Prayer may or may not use words. It is, after all, the heartfelt yearning of the soul. Like conversation we have with our friends, there is no set form for prayer. What is essential in it is communion with God.

Prayer is often classified according to use. Thus, there is *intercessory* prayer, prayers voiced in behalf of others, or prayer of *supplication* uttered in request for some need.

The book of Psalms contains many prayers of *thanksgiving* and of *lamentation*, the former when one is overflowing with gratitude for God's blessing, the latter, when trouble comes and a person needs to "vent" to God. *Centering* prayer is used in silent meditation to focus attention upon the Lord.

When a person comes to God with a sincere, open heart, the form of prayer doesn't matter. "My sacrifice," wrote the psalmist, "is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart" (Ps 51:17, TEV).

If you have a question you'd like to ask the pastor, send it by letter to First Christian Church, 569 Frasier St., Marietta 30360, or email it to: fccmarietta@comcast.com. Your privacy will be honored.



Additions and updates to the Prayer List include:

Ruth Adams' family, Lola Bethel, Bob Blazak, Jenny Hamm, Lisa Harrington, Betty Koch's family (Venn Heerman's mother), Travis Morlock, Kimberly Russell, Kevin Williamson, Neil Wyndom, Ruth Zalabak (Wilma's mother)

Ruth Adams died Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 11:00 pm as a result of several strokes. A memorial service was held in Indiana on October 7 and in Oklahoma on October 10. We are planning a memorial service, date to be announced.

Lola Bethel, age 90, died on October 30, 2011 at Kennestone Hospital. The Memorial Service was held Wednesday, November 2 at 2:00 pm in the church sanctuary.

Betty Koch died Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Please keep Venn Heerman and family in prayer.

Neil Wyndom, former interim minister, died. Please keep his family in your prayers.



You may request a complete prayer list from the office and request to have yourself or a loved one placed on the prayer list.

TIME

(Whose side is it on?)

I can't help but think of the Rolling Stone's song, *Time is on My Side*. The wonderful thing about time is the same amount is given to each person and it is up to each person in how he or she 'spends' it.

Now you might be thinking, "Kimberly...time isn't equal. Some people live longer than others and therefore some people have more time than others." I don't deny that we each have a life to live and that life is not attached to a determined number of minutes. Having worked as a Pediatric Chaplain, I experienced several families who suffered the loss of a loved one 'before their time'. Children are supposed to live to be adults, but life does not always happen the way it is *supposed* to. For every minute you are on this earth, it is the same minute as anyone else. So why does it seem like some people have more time than others?

We live in a society that values money and in order to purchase food or gasoline, one needs to barter time. I spent a total of 22 years in education (from kindergarten to the completion of my residency, minus some summers) and I will use that education to get a job in chaplaincy. Some jobs pay more per hour than others and still others require you spend time in other fields before you can be hired. Many individuals work more than one job, some attend school at the same time, and other costs of time are required just to pay the bills from month to month.

There comes a point, however, when the necessities are paid for and we are able to choose what we spend the remainder of our time on. We choose to 'need' those items that force us to spend more hours working. We choose what social groups we join or how many television shows we become addicted to (Grey's Anatomy is my guilty pleasure). We choose if we come to church or stay home on the couch. Yes, there are other factors but the question still remains. Are you allowing time to be on your side?

I do not have a lot of money, my time was spent in other ways. I give of my time as selflessly as I can, and schedule time specifically for God and for those in God's community. Identify moments in your life in which you can give. You will be surprised how giving time can actually free you! Take a moment and allow time to be on YOUR side.

~Rev. Kimberly Russell



Rev. Kimberly Russell

In September, we received **\$10,044** for the General Fund. As you know, the General Fund is the account from which the expenses of our facilities, salaries of church staff, and other essential expenses are paid. Also in September we received **\$1,227** in our building fund, which goes to retire our mortgage.

Currently being proposed to the church board for consideration in its next meeting is a budget proposal for 2012. This proposal, which includes the total budget, has an estimated **\$177,000** in it. Under this new budget, we need to receive **\$14,300** each month for all of our expenses. You will notice that we did not reach this amount in September 2011. The lesson is obvious. Our giving needs to be increased, especially as we continue the search for a new full time minister.

Thanks to all who continue to give sacrificially for the mission and ministry of our church.

Financial Picture

RECOVERY MINISTRY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING 5:00 PM
CHURCH LIBRARY

To be addicted is neither right nor wrong, it simply is. People who suffer from addiction are not at fault any more than someone who has heart disease, cancer or diabetes. Addiction is a no-fault illness. To believe that we developed it because there is something wrong or defective about ourselves will simply create that shame and guilt that may drive us back to drinking or using. However, we are responsible for what we do about it once we've admitted we're sick and know that help is available.



Warren Taylor

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 2- | Dottye Lee |
| 6- | Robert Nutt |
| 7- | Jacob Everette |
| 10- | Claudia Huerta |
| 12- | Donna Kremer |
| 15- | Stanley Hall |
| 18- | Larry Moon |
| 18- | Patrick Taylor |
| 25- | Betty Perry |
| 25- | Alexis Torres |
| 26- | Deborah Barton |
| 26- | Michele Shimizu |
| 28- | Daniel Huerta |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 3- | Tiny & Florence Harrison |
| 23- | Ben & Martha Anderson |

God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing

-Billy Graham





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Pastoral Staff

John T. Lee	<i>Minister Emeritus †</i>
Jeff Shimizu	<i>Minister</i>
Donna Kremer	<i>Minister</i>
Jerry Gladson	<i>Minister Emeritus</i>
Warren Taylor	<i>Minister of Recovery</i>
Eduardo Villarreal	<i>Hispanic Minister</i>

Church Staff

Tommy Russell	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Sherwood Smith	<i>Food Pantry Director</i>
Sean Warner	<i>Worship Leader</i>
Wilma Zalabak	<i>Choir Director/Organist</i>