

## “The Always More of God”

### Focus

A friend in Tennessee wanted to emphasize to me the value of his sacrifice, so he told a story about a local farmer who chased his pig and chicken around the barnyard. You see, he said, the farmer had a hankering for a ham and eggs breakfast. The farmer discovered that the chicken ran fast but the pig ran faster. The chicken knew she only had to make a contribution while the pig had to make a sacrifice.

God has gifted us with talents, provisions, vocations, and an abundance of blessings. Regardless of the quantity, what is the quality of your sacrifice? Are you giving your all out of gratitude for what God is doing in your life?

Professor Walter Brueggemann speaks of the “always more of God.” We think all is over, that there isn’t enough, that supplies and spirits and souls are scarce. And yet here comes God, promising abundance. More! More grace, more joy, more love, and even more life after life on earth is done. In the loving arms of God we find we have more than enough; we discover God’s abundance, an overflowing, an extravagance of love and hope. “One of Brueggemann’s most helpful themes is the contrast between scarcity and abundance. We live, he says, with “anxious scarcity”: we never think we have enough of anything; we always want more. But the Bible operates with the idea of abundance. There is enough. [The Lord does provide.] The story of the loaves and fishes is a paradigm of God’s abundance, the saving antidote to the anxiety of scarcity.” (John M. Buchanan, “Time for Poetry”, *Christian Century*, Aug 12, 2010.)

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead into life everlasting is a paradigm of God’s abundance, evidence that the nature of God is to always start something new. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of the nature and nurture of God is the ability to create something new. God can and did start a new cosmos out of chaos; a new nation out of a wandering Armenian; a new liberation movement out of a baby named Moses; and a new Temple and a new

Jerusalem and a new holy people out of the lost, the last and the least. God built a new church out of frightened disciples; a new Disciples of Christ movement out of frontier men and women; and a significant church here in Decatur in the Shealy living room in 1921 – almost 94 years ago -- on a Christmas afternoon. God’s abundant gifts of Christian hospitality, healing and hope grace us and all of Decatur daily!

**“We think all is over, that there isn’t enough... And yet here comes God, promising abundance.”**

Through the practices of our giving we learn that God will do what God promises to do. You and I know that it is possible to give more than any accountant, financial advisor, or retirement planner might suggest. The Lord does provide. The more you take control of your money by making it your servant, the more you give away, the more you are blessed, and the more exhilarating the experience becomes.

God is teaching us to trust and to live in that trust. Giving means trusting God in risk, and such trust will not disappoint us. We speak boldly when we proclaim through our giving the words printed on the dollar bill, "In God We Trust". The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, saying, "...[God]...by the power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine." (Eph 3:20)

The world will belong to those who give it the greatest hope. When it comes down to being builders of hope, our collective and personal sacrifices are well worth the effort and cost. In a world of put downs and knock downs, may the Church of Jesus Christ be the source and strength for picking up and empowering disciples. Let the Church be the Church it is called to be.

As always, First Christian Church of Decatur, I am delighted to be your pastor. Shalom, **James Brewer-Calvert**



## Welcome new member!



On Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, **Barbara Hennig** joined First Christian Church of Decatur by transfer of membership. Originally from Florida, she now lives in Avondale Estates. She has been visiting regularly throughout the summer months and happily participating in various church and community ministries. Welcome home, Barbara!

## Disciples Men NW District Rally

Saturday, October 19, 2013, 9:30 a.m., Johns Creek Christian Church, Duluth.



Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert on “*Sports and Spirituality*”

Lunch includes hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies and a beverage for \$5. Disciples Men from all districts in the Georgia Region are invited. Go Braves!

## News and notes for God’s folks

### Did you meet and greet...? Recent Visitors

We are delighted to welcome friends and neighbors who recently visited to worship God here, including: Ashley Buchanan, Tommy and Cathy Archibald, Anne Barr, Sandra Brundage, Jeffrey Carroll, Aleda Gines, Mary Jane Goins, Jonas Hancock, Kayla Harriott, Jasmine Ice and Collin, Jenna and Jay, Darlene Kelley with sons Jamison and Timothy, Khwanza LeBlanc, Pat Marriott, Vincent Schoffner, Mary Lou and Ken Schuette, Javonte Sessions, Ariadne Shirley, Kalifa Toure, and many faithful folks who participate regularly.

### Decatur Co-operative Ministry In-Kind Needs for October

Space Heaters, 2-New-Style Cribs, 2-Crib Mattresses, Twin Size Mattress and Box Springs, Twin Size Blankets, Shower Curtains, Shower Rods, Umbrellas, Bug Spray (Off), Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Aluminum Foil, Plastic Wrap, Paper Napkins, Plastic Spoons, Disposable Cups, Bowls, and Plates, Hair Brushes, Mops, Powder Dish Soap, 55 Gallon Trash, 13 gallon Trash Bags, Lysol or Clorox spray. For needs, call Decatur Cooperative Ministry Marlene White 404-377-5365, ext. 8 or marlene@decaturcooperativeministry.org. .

## CHALICE THRIFT

**Chalice Thrift Store is open for repurposing goods and souls from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays**

Chalice Thrift store offers to the city plenty of space, energy, & great “gently used” products for people from all walks of life. During store hours we will be open for both retail sales and receiving donated products.

## Christian Contemplative Spirituality gathering here Sunday, Oct, 20 at 5 p.m.

Psalms 62:1 proclaims, “For God alone my soul waits in silence.” This brings to mind an even more well known verse also from the Psalms (46:10): “Be still and know that I am God.” These two verses, taken together, invite us to experience one of the loveliest forms of prayer: *contemplation*.

As Christians, we have so many wonderful ways to express our devotion to God: through Bible study, serving others, corporate worship, and our own private prayers. Contemplation is a way of prayer that takes us to a place beyond words. Just as a long-time married couple can enjoy simply being together without the need to always be talking, so too, contemplative prayer is a way for believers to embrace God’s love in their lives — by simply waiting in silence, in stillness knowing that God is present and at work in their lives.

If you would like to learn more about Christian contemplative spirituality, including a meditative, formational approach to reading the Bible (“lectio divina”), and a service of evening prayer which includes time of silence to be still before God, then please consider participating in First Christian Church of Decatur’s new contemplative gathering, which will meet at 5 p.m. every third Sunday of the month, beginning on September 15, 2013. **For more information, please contact the group’s co-facilitators, Carl McColman at mcolman@gmail.com, or Phil Foster at 404-314-8325.**



## Watching our figures

### Sunday, September 22, 2013

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service   | 81                 |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>81</b>          |
| Offering                       | \$3,602.50         |
| Offset (Jean Nicole Gay Cello) | 350.00             |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$ 3,952.50</b> |

### Sunday, September 29, 2013

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service | 75                 |
| Disciples Women on Retreat   | 9                  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>84</b>          |
| Offering                     | \$2,707.00         |
| Offset (Candlelight NA)      | 60.00              |
| Offset (Gloria Jacobson)     | 50.00              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$ 2,817.00</b> |

### General Fund Acct. Balance as of 8-31-13

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Current General Fund Checking | \$12,411.81  |
| Total Income for August       | \$ 11,432.00 |
| Total Expenses for August     | \$ 17,502.93 |
| Net Income for August         | -\$ 6,070.93 |

### October Birthdays

- October 4 - Susan Watts
- October 6 - Sherry Davis
- October 7 - Emily Smith
- October 15 - Hai Nguyen
- October 17 - Beatrice Ferry
- October 19 - Greg Tate
- October 23 - Lee Stanley
- October 24 - Helen Huyler
- October 29 - William Garner
- October 31 - Phil Foster

### November Birthdays

- November 2 - Barbara Powell
- November 4 - Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert
- November 6 - Rev. Austin Dickson
- November 7 - Tumara Jackson
- November 7 - Peggy Norton
- November 7 - Meredith Westbrook
- November 10 - Lynn Black
- November 11 - Becky Kidd
- November 14 - Khwanza LeBlanc
- November 17 - Ellen Young
- November 18 - Russell Faulk
- November 21 - Lynn Aniskiewicz
- November 21 - Imogene Maxey
- November 21 - Larry Todd
- November 23 - Nancy Shealy
- November 25 - Millie Linville
- November 26 - Henry Brewer-Calvert
- November 26 - Jay White

### October Anniversaries

- October 2 -Michael & Victoria Dodd
- October 3 - Lester & Sherry Davis
- October 6 - Hank & Beatrice Ferry
- October 10 - Glen & Elaine Alsobrook

### November Anniversaries

- November 8 - Kendall and Debbi Hamilton
- November 10 - Dick and Ruth Fuller
- November 17 - Phuong and Chi Thi Nguyen
- November 18 - Steve and Margie Maxey
- November 24 - Jim and Charlotte Ivey
- November 25 - Bryan and Becky Kidd
- November 26 - David and Diana Blake





**First Christian Church  
of Decatur**  
*(Disciples of Christ)*  
601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
Church Office — 404-378-3621  
Fax — 404-378-1875  
Email: 1stcc@bellsouth.net  
Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

**Ministers: All the People**

**Your Church Staff:**

The Rev. Dr. James L. Brewer-Calvert, *Senior Pastor*  
William E. Garner, *Director of Music*  
Brandy Alsobrook, *Director of Christian Education*  
Kathy Westbrook, *Church Organist*  
Sherry Davis, *Church Administrator*  
Azeb Gidey, *Custodian*

**Your Volunteer Ministry Coordinator:**  
Diana Blake, *Wedding Coordinator*

**“Decatur Disciples” newsletter  
available on-line and via email**

The “Decatur Disciples” church newsletter is being emailed to all church members and friends, and is being mailed First Class to members who do not use email or have requested a copy be mailed to them. Printed copies are available in the Decatur Toy Park and in various rooms around the church building. The newsletter is no longer being sent out via bulk mail.

In order to be added to our email distribution list simply contact Church Administrator Sherry Davis at [1stcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stcc@bellsouth.net) or 404-378-3621.

The “Decatur Disciples” is available on the church’s website [www.decaturdisciples.org](http://www.decaturdisciples.org). Go to the home page and click on Information/Resources; then click on Newsletters and Bulletins; then click on the date of the DD or Worship Bulletin and Insert you want. You can change the size of the zoom to more than 100%.

**Sunday worship & classes schedule**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Intercessory Prayer in Chapel                              | 8:30 a.m.  |
| Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall                   | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Sunday School/Spiritual Formation                          | 9:15 a.m.  |
| Sanctuary Worship Service with Communion                   | 10:30 a.m. |
| Linger Longer afterward with great coffee and one another! |            |

**Upcoming Messages for Such a Time as This**

**Sunday, October 6, World Communion Sunday**

Holy Scriptures: Luke 17: 5-10 and Chronicles 4: 10  
Sermon Title: *“Release Something Miraculous In Your Life”*  
Preaching: Pastor James Brewer-Calvert

**Sunday, Oct 13**

**Pulpit Swap with Gentle Spirit Christian Church**

Holy Scriptures: Luke 17: 11-19  
Sermon Title: *“One is the Loneliest Number”*  
Preaching: Pastor Paul Turner, Gentle Spirit Christian Church

**Sunday, October 20**

Holy Scriptures: Luke 18: 1-8 and Jeremiah 31: 27-34  
Sermon Title: *“Persistence in an Age of Immediate Gratification”*  
Preaching: Pastor James Brewer-Calvert



**Jesus Junction is  
Ready for the Trip!**

Our new curriculum lays a firm foundation for mature faith building for our kids. During our New Beginnings Mission Planning process we found that being a multi-generational church is a great resource and gift. This allows all of us to work together with our children and learn from EACH OTHER. So, put on your engineers hat and get on board this train!

Call or email me with how you want to be involved!  
**Brandy Alsobrook, Director of Christian Education**  
404.378.3621; Email: [DecaturChristianEd@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturChristianEd@gmail.com).

The Newsletter of First Christian Church of Decatur

**Decatur Disciples**



**October 2, 2013**

**Volume 50, Issue 16**

*We are Disciples of Christ,  
a movement for wholeness  
in a fragmented world.*

*As part of the one body  
of Christ, we welcome all  
to the Lord's Table  
as God has welcomed us.*

*--Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Statement of Identity*



**Church Space Vision for Enhancing Mission  
to Be Shared After Worship on Sunday, Oct. 6**



This Sunday, October 6th during Linger Longer after worship, Doug Schuette will be presenting a space planning and utilization vision that he and our Church Leadership Team have been working on. Over the past several months, Doug has been analyzing how we use space at First Christian Church, and seeking opportunities to rethink how we use our physical plant. There are a lot of exciting opportunities that can help many of our ministries, which may ultimately help us grow. The presentation this Sunday will be an opportunity for everyone to hear about the vision and ask questions. Doug promises that the presentation will be short, and he appreciates anyone coming and giving faithful consideration to the opportunities. The vision will also be presented and discussed at the November board meeting, but we wanted to give everyone an opportunity to hear the ideas in advance.

**Decatur Community Potluck  
in Decatur Toy Park and Playground**

**on Sunday, October 20 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**



Bring a dish to share with your neighbors! One of the main goals of the potluck in addition to good food, fun, music, and community fellowship, will be to build support and momentum for the Shade Structure construction effort. We have approximately \$16,000 raised for the Shade Structure. We are targeting for construction to happen in 2014. The Decatur Community Potluck on October 20th will foster excitement, engagement, (and hopefully funds!) for the shade structure effort as well as foster and build relationships.



**New Beginnings Small  
Groups to Gather in  
October to Explore Our  
“Future Story”**

Look for upcoming information about when and where small groups will gather together in the next month as we consider as a congregation where God is leading us into a new day and new beginnings. A variety of times and places will be offered so that everyone in the church may participate. We will all gather as one Body of Christ on Sunday, October 27 after worship.



**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

is here, and Komen Atlanta would like to invite you to participate in our **Worship in Pink (WIP) Sunday, October 27, 2012**. WIP is a free, grassroots partnership with local faith based organizations to open the lines of communication about breast health, promote breast cancer education, and celebrate the lives of those who have fought against breast cancer. As an active member of your congregation, you are in a wonderful place to help other women and men.

The vision of **Worship in Pink** is for each religious organization to coordinate its own breast cancer awareness campaign. Some congregations host a special luncheon for survivors, encourage members to wear pink or invite survivors to speak about their experiences with the disease. Komen Atlanta will provide sample bulletin announcements, suggested script, announcement posters, list of programming ideas, and free breast health materials to each participating religious organization.

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# October 2013

Sunday Worship Schedule  
 9:00 a.m. Sunday school for all ages  
 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service  
 Linger Longer after Service

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |   | 1 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m. Rocking Rockers<br>12:30 p.m. Lydia Circle<br>3-5 p.m. SIS<br>3:30 p.m. Music Theory Group<br>8 p.m. AA/ ALANON | 2 3:30 p.m. Music Theory Group<br>4 p.m. SIS<br>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir<br>7 p.m. Emory Chase in Pathfinders<br>7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | 3 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons<br>4 p.m. SIS  | 4  | 5 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m.-1 p.m. Blessing of the Pets and Fundraiser              |
| 6 Linger Longer in Fellowship Hall-<br>Church Space Planning Vision & Mis-<br>sion<br>12 noon Youth are going to Peachtree<br>corners CC after church<br>8 p.m. NA                   | 7 10 a.m. Staff Mtg.<br>11 a.m. Prayer Group<br>1-5:30 p.m. Homiletics in Pathfinders<br>7 p.m. Outreach Meeting  | 8 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m. Rocking Rockers<br><b>No Spring Into Spanish October 8-10</b><br>8 p.m. AA/ ALANON                              | 9 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir<br>7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  | 10 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons   | 11   | 12 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>1 p.m. August K. Head Memorial                                 |
| Hagar's House Meals October 6-8  | 14 10 a.m. Staff Mtg.<br>11 a.m. Prayer Group<br>1-5:30 p.m. Homiletics in Pathfinders<br>7 p.m. Stewardship Meeting  | 15 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m. Rocking Rockers<br>3-5 p.m. SIS<br>7 p.m. AA potluck<br>8 p.m. AA/ ALANON                                      | 16 4 p.m. SIS<br>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir<br>7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir   | 17 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>1 p.m. James Brewer-Calvert at Agnes<br>Scott College<br>2 p.m. Retired Teachers<br>3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons<br>4 p.m. SIS | 18 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Susan G.<br>Komen for the Cure | 19 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>9:30 a.m. Disciples Men at Johns Creek<br>Christian Church     |
| 20 4:30 p.m. Disciples Youth in<br>Metro Atlanta at FCCD-making hy-<br>giene kits<br>4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Block Party in<br>Park<br>5 p.m. Contemplative Spirituality<br>8 p.m. NA | 21 10 a.m. Staff Mtg.<br>11 a.m. Prayer Group<br>1-5:30 p.m. Homiletics in Pathfinders<br>7:30 p.m. Mary Magdalene Circle @<br>Yolanda's                      | 22 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m. Rocking Rockers<br>3-5 p.m. SIS<br>8 p.m. AA/ ALANON   | 23 James Brewer Calvert at<br>Disciples Clergy Luncheon<br>4 p.m. SIS<br>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir<br>7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir             | 24 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons<br>4 p.m. SIS<br>7 p.m. Book Club in Pathfind-<br>ers Room  | 25   | 26 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br><br>James Brewer-Calvert at Commission<br>on Ministry in Macon |
| 27 12 p.m. New Beginnings All<br>Church Luncheon<br><br>8 p.m. NA  | 28 10 a.m. Staff Mtg.<br>11 a.m. Prayer Group<br>1-5:30 p.m. Homiletics in Pathfinders<br>7 p.m. Evaluation & Planning<br>7 p.m. Playground Taskforce Meeting | 29 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>10 a.m. Rocking Rockers<br>3-5 p.m. SIS<br>8 p.m. AA/ ALANON   | 30 4 p.m. SIS<br>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir<br>7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir   | 31 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift<br>3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons<br>4 p.m. SIS   |  |   |