

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, January 18: **Church Officers, Elders, and Deacons Installation**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
12 noon Christian Youth Fellowship gather
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, January 19: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
11 a.m. Prayer Group
3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons
7:30 p.m. Mary Magdalene Circle at Yolanda's home
- Tuesday, January 20:
9:30-11:30 a.m. Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers in Social Hall and Nursery
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, January 21:
12 noon North West Georgia Disciples Clergy Luncheon
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, January 22:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
6:30 - 9 p.m. Swanton Hill Homeowners Association in Social Hall
- Saturday, January 24:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
10 a.m. Reorganize Church kitchen
- Sunday, January 25: **All Church Luncheon**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
After worship Congregational Meeting
After lunch Personnel Meeting
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Spiritual Formation Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

- “Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room
“Escape from Slavery”, Exodus 13: 17-15:21
“Pathfinders Class” in the Pathfinders Room
This Week: “Lord, Give Me Patience! And give it to me right now!” by James Moore and Bob J. Moore
“The Nature of True Community” Bible Class Begins Sunday, Jan. 18
Texts includes Dietrich Bonhoeffer's **Life Together**



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
Phone: 404-378-3621
Email: 1stcc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

1 Samuel 3: 1-20

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. **2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." **11** Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. **12** On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. **13** For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. **14** Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. **16** But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." **17** Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. **20** And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

John 1: 43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." **46** Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." **47** When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" **48** Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." **49** Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" **50** Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." **51** And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

The joys and concerns of our congregation and community follow. Please remember that some requests are marked confidential and are lifted up within the Monday Morning Prayer Circle yet not reflected here. Sometimes, simply a person's name will be listed with no explanation. Trust in the wisdom and confidentiality of the Prayer Group, and lift up that person's whole being to God's holy, healing Light.

- **Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert** asks for prayers for the people of Haiti 5 years after the earthquake. Conditions are still very bad there with widespread cholera and other illnesses and much poverty. Continuing prayers for our Global Ministries interns including **Henry!**
- **Barbara Powell** requests travelling mercies for family members travelling home on Monday following a family wedding in Pennsylvania on Sunday. She requests prayer for her niece **Mary Beth Powell**. She is in a coma and things don't look good.
- **Larry Todd** requests prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is having surgery for kidney cancer.
- **Wiley and Danl** say Wiley's mother was moved back to the ICU because of breathing problems. They ask for continuing prayer.
- **Hank Ferry's** surgery has been set for Wednesday, January 28 at Piedmont Hospital. Please keep him and **Beatrice** in your prayers.
- Please pray for **Lily Delk** and all those who are ill at this time.
- **Pamela Head** has a praise. Her dad finished radiation treatments! She prays that the cancer is irradiated. She also asks for prayers for her adopted sister, **Sandy**. She has just come back into our lives after 35 years.
- **Doug Schuette** has a joy. Best friend **Shawn** and his wife **Tara's** first born was delivered on Sunday morning! All are doing well!
- **Jackie Jenkins** says, "My sister-in-law, **Patti King** will have a very complicated surgery on January 7th. She had been diagnosed with Stage 4 stomach and esophageal cancer but several miracles have occurred and they hope for a complete recovery."
- **Lillie Sapp** says her son-in-law, **Nicolas Jordan** is very ill. Prayers are needed for healing and the right physician.
- **Glen and Brandy Alsobrook** ask for prayer for **Romona Rathel**.
- **Sylvia Gibbs** asks for prayers for her mother, **Willie Mae Durr**, grandma and great grandma to the **Jackson family**. She is at home recovering from a stroke.
- **Furat and Deb Almauhy** request prayer for their daughter's I-130 USCIS petition to be expedited so they can bring her to the U.S. from Iraq and out of danger.
- We continue to lift up **Glen Alsobrook, Sr., Johnnie Barber, Betty Carroll, Julia Glenn Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, The Delk Family, Jeanette Duncan, Sylvia Ennis, Hank Ferry, Shannen Ferry, J.D. Fleming, Mary Ellen Fountain, Dottie Gill, Adei Grenpastures, Barbara Hennig, Clara Holley, Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis, The Kidd Family, Blair Lewellyn, Jay Love, Monte and Sarah Mathis, Judy McMahan, Carol Givens (Evans) McGinnis, Lynn Nabers, The Norton Family, Ramona Rathel, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler, and Ellen Young**.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of First Christian Church of Decatur, I write to thank you for your participation and prayers while worshipping Jesus Christ here amongst the whole people of God. Shalom, Pastor James Brewer-Calvert

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born in the early 1800s as a dynamic movement for God that spread across the American frontier. Seeking to move beyond denominational division and toward being a New Testament Church, our founders envisioned a united community of faith grounded in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Today we are over 3,700 congregations strong across the United States, Canada, and around the world. The red Chalice with St. Andrew's Cross symbolizes our focus on the weekly celebration of Holy Communion and the openness of the Lord's Table, where all are made welcome and invited to partake.

First Christian Church of Decatur was founded on Christmas Day 1921, and has served faithfully ever since with a significant urban ministry, an inclusive theology, and a Kingdom-building vision. We are open and accepting of all of God's people, and encourage women, men, and young people to follow their call from God to serve, just as Christ first served us.

Here is a brief theology and history lesson about this Body of Christ. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Decatur, Georgia has a covenantal relationship with sister churches across the city and around the world. While each congregation is independent – no one has the ecclesial authority to direct us what to do, say, believe, or call to serve as pastor—we are connected by a covenant of love. Beginning in the early 1800's, Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ congregations flourished across the USA and around the world. In 1968, the separate bodies yoked to become the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with three manifestations: local congregations, regional churches, and a general church to facilitate national and international missions. Ever since we have covenanted to support and encourage fellow Disciples and to practice Christian ministry locally, regionally and globally.

Having said that, there are some theological practices we share in common.

We are non-creedal; everyone is invited to love and serve God through Jesus Christ, but how and why you move in that direction is between each soul and God. We practice baptism by immersion at an age of understanding, yet we recognize all forms of baptism and therefore do not require anyone to be re-baptized. The Lord's Table is open because Christ is the host and the purpose. We celebrate the birth, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the context of worship we offer Holy Communion every Sunday. Everyone has a vocation, and we affirm Christ's call to children, youth, women and men to serve. We turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and direction in our daily living, yet also recognize that the Holy Spirit, in God's infinite wisdom, continues to lovingly communicate through additional voices and acts of grace. At the intersection of faith and reason we meet the Risen Christ and one another. The call of the Gospel for social justice and the building of community is intricately woven into the very fabric of the worship, study, and prayer life of the church.

How to Join: You may join First Christian Church by transfer of membership, confession of faith, or by renewal of the vows of your baptism. Please fill out a Friends and Visitors Card (found in your worship program) and bring it forward with you during the Hymn of Invitation, where our Pastor will be delighted to welcome you. Disciples of Christ congregations are delighted to recognize all baptisms. We baptize by immersion at an age of understanding. If you have not been baptized we will schedule one with you at a later date.