

Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

God answers prayers! Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7: 7)

- **Glen Alsobrook, Sr.**, is recovering at home after some unexpected medical attention in the hospital. Please keep the Alsobrook family in your prayers.
- **Rev. Paul Appleby** has been called to serve as Pastor of Central Christian Church of Killeen, Texas. **Paul** and **Sage** send their love, gratitude, and prayers to First Christian Church of Decatur.
- **Lily Delk** invites us to lift up **Jason** and **Jody Rigby** who are experiencing tremendous tragedy and grief.
- **Jeanette Duncan’s** daughter-in-law **Stephanie Duncan** has pneumonia.
- **Bryan** and **Becky Kidd** have a joy: Their son **Will** was a Page this week at the Georgia Senate.
- Prayers are needed for **Wiley, Danl** and **Wiley’s** family on the passing of **Beverly Harris. Wiley** said, “Praise God mom has gone to heaven. Her ashes will be taken back home and spread over her homestead.”
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for blessings for her son **Romain** and wife **Esther; Andre** and his wife **Vannia**.
- **Ruth Lutz** says, “My brother-in-law **Will Harris** found out Friday that his bladder cancer has returned. Prayers for a quick recovery.”
- We celebrate that **Kasey Bezio** gave birth to a beautiful son named **Ayden Rae Forrest**. He was born on Friday, March 13 in Vermont. Welcome to the world, Ayden!
- **Mark Ranney** requests prayers for his **Aunt Karen**, who had a reconstruction procedure.
- **Linda Chesnut** asks for prayers for **Judy McMahan**, for patience and a quick recovery.
- **Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King** asks for prayers for **Rev. Ralph McCoy** of Columbus, Georgia as he goes through the second leg amputation and the challenge to continue his call to ministry in view of physical limitations.
- **Barbara Powell** asks for prayers for **Roy Lee**, member of Shiloh Christian Church, who has been placed on dialysis.
- **Nancy** and **Steve Oliver** share, “Prayer’s are needed for **Steve’s** sister, **Kathy Williams**, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.”
- **Tumara Jackson** offers, “**Baby Benji**, my newest nephew, (6 weeks old) underwent a successful surgery to repair one of his kidneys. He is recovering well. Continue to pray for her brother, **Fred**, and his wife, **Carissa**, as they care for him at home.”
- **Geraldine Davis** asks for prayer for the **Day** and **Davis Families**.
- **Sandra Brundage** said, “I would like to thank you for your prayers for my friend **Maxwell James** who is in the Army stationed in Africa. He is still there. Please keep praying for his safe return.”
- **Mary Frances Early** asks for prayers for **James Camp’s** family.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayers for his mother **Sue Finley** who is hospitalized with pneumonia.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy, Glen Alsobrook, Sr., Johnnie Barber, Polly Brock, Betty Carroll, Julia Glenn Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, the Delk Family, Jeanette Duncan, Willie Mae Durr, 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, Nicolas Jordan, The Kidd Family, Patti King, Blair Lewellyn, Jay Love, Monte and Sarah Mathis, Judy McMahan, Carol Givens (Evans) McGinnis, Lynn Nabers, The Norton Family, Mary Beth Powell, Ramona Rathel, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Terry Tolbert, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler, Nancy Williamson, and Ellen Young.**

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, March 29:
 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
 After Worship Palm Sunday reception in the Jerusalem Room
 12-2 p.m. Christian Youth Fellowship stuffing Easter Eggs in Fellowship Hall
 12-2 p.m. Baptism Class in Jesus Junction Room
 8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, March 30:
 10 a.m. Staff Meeting
 11 a.m. Prayer Group
 12 p.m. Holy Week Sermon and Lunch at Decatur First Methodist
 Rev. Ashley Lytle from Holy Trinity Parish
 Cello Lessons
 Christian Education Meeting
- Tuesday, March 31:
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Interplay
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
 12 p.m. Holy Week Sermon and Lunch at Decatur First Methodist
 Pastor Dalton Rushing from North Decatur United Methodist
 Music Theory Group
 AA/ALANON
- 3:30-6 p.m.
 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 1:
 12 p.m. Holy Week Sermon and Lunch at Decatur First Methodist
 Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert from First Christian Church of Decatur
 Music Theory Group
 Bell Choir Rehearsal
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 3:30-6 p.m.
 6:30 p.m.
 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 2:
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
 12 p.m. Holy Week Sermon and Lunch at Decatur First Methodist
 Pastor Julie Pennington-Russell from First Baptist of Decatur
 Maundy Thursday Service
- 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 3:
 9:30 a.m. Christian Women United
 12 p.m. Holy Week Sermon and Lunch at Decatur First Methodist
 Dr. Katy Hinman from Decatur First United Methodist Church
 On the Lawn at the Cross
- 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4:
 9 – 11 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- Sunday, April 5:
 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
 9:30 a.m. Lambs and Sheep outside, on the lawn
 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn
 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
 8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

**First Christian Church of Decatur
examines the 'why' and 'how' we gather as a community of faith**

“Early in 2015, our Church Board and Administration Ministry explored the question of ‘Why do we gather as a community of faith at First Christian Church of Decatur.’ We also asked the question of how we accomplish each of the ‘why’ statements. Below are the combined results from the Board and Administration ministry’s visioning. We hope these exploration of ‘why and how’ meet your spiritual needs and aspirations. If you have any questions or wish to get more involved in one of these areas, please contact Elizabeth Hamm (moderator), Doug Schuette (vice moderator), or James Brewer-Calvert (senior pastor). Thank you for your participation in and contributions to our community of faith.” – Doug Schuette

WHY ARE WE HERE:

TO BE A FAITH FAMILY

HOW WE DO THAT IS:

- Make an effort to foster openness and sharing with others
- In addition to church fellowship get together when away from the buildings
- Help the “missing in action” (MIAs) know they are important to us

WHY ARE WE HERE:

FOR SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

HOW WE DO THAT IS:

- 1.) Education
- 2.) Prayer (praying together) and meditation
- 3.) Singing
- 4.) Sticking together in faith and fellowship
- 5.) Listening
- 6.) Having an open mind about different opinions
- 7.) Overcoming our fears
- 8.) Loving one another in a Christian way
- 9.) Being willing to share
- 10.) Faithful stewardship – living a life of generosity
- 11.) Practicing forgiveness

WHY ARE WE HERE:

TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD

HOW WE DO THAT IS:

hospitality is built into traditions { Tradition leads us to what worship looks like- a movement toward that
Weekly Open Communion – everyone welcome at table
Participation – we long to be with each other in worship
By not focusing on ourselves – but rather on God

Personal

Comment: all of these are more possible as we “believe”
Focus on optimism – less on negatives and critical outlooks
We need to enculture this and remove the critical rhetoric.
We need to be a community of YES!

WHY ARE WE HERE:

TO EMPOWER AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SEARCH OUT GOD’S WILL DAILY

HOW WE DO THAT IS:

Connecting with new members, encouraging them to do God’s will in their daily lives.

WHY ARE WE HERE:

TO BE A SANCTUARY IN THE STORM

HOW WE DO THAT IS:

- Welcoming – “eight days a week”
- Open – “open arms”
- Accepting
- Willingness to help
- Confidentiality – Be a safe place to share
- Safe place for children
- Supportive
- Reach Out/ Reach In