

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)

- **Lotosha and Carter Ross and Laila Eroid** shared that they "really enjoyed the Palm Sunday service. Thank you!"
- **Wiley and Danl** ask for God's wisdom and guidance to work through their mother's death and settling of her estate.
- **Saundra Brundage** asks for prayer for her cousin **Paulette Young**; she is in a lot of pain from surgery.
- **Randy Finley** says, "My mother's pneumonia, breathing and heart are improving. She is back home now. Thanks to the church for all the prayers."
- **Carol Givens McGinness'** sister **Joan Givens** died on Tuesday, March 31. Keep the Givens family in your prayers please.
- **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.
- **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."
- **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.
- 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.**

Acts 10: 34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts people from every nation who fear God and do what is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37** You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41** He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, April 5:

9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
9:30 a.m.	Lambs and Sheep on the church lawn
10 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, April 6:

10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3:00 p.m.	Cello Lessons

Tuesday, April 7:

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interplay
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
1 p.m.	Lydia Circle
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON

Wednesday, April 8:

12 p.m.	Wisdom Weaver's Lunch and Movie
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Thursday, April 9:

10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4 p.m.	AJC Book Festival in Pathfinders Room

Saturday, April 11:

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
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Sunday, April 12:

9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12 p.m.	Disciples Women Executive Committee Meeting
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