



*Resolve to Love – Agree to Differ – Unite to Serve – Break Bread Together*

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**Christian  
Options and  
Opportunities  
to Love and  
Learn, Give and  
Serve, Work and  
Worship**

**Congregational  
Congratulations!  
Dr. Bill Sexson  
earned a Master  
of Arts Degree in**

### **Christian Options and Opportunities to Love and Learn, Give and Serve, Work and Worship**

As you can tell, this is a community-grounded church that is committed to serving and involving families from all walks of life and needs in our fair city. We do hope that you will participate in one or more of the following Christ-centered ministries of grace. In no particular order:

- **Registration is Open for Pre-School Summer Camp** which will be held from June 1-5, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon for Children ages 3, 4, and 5. To register contact the church staff at 404-378-3621 or go to [www.DecaturDisciples.org](http://www.DecaturDisciples.org).

**Bioethics from  
Emory  
University! and  
Jan Shumake  
Witherington  
received a  
Doctor of  
Education  
from Piedmont  
College**

**Thanking God  
for his much-  
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health, for the  
first time in 7  
years Mr. Hank  
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to mow his  
lawn!**

**Choirs Sponsor  
All Church  
Luncheon  
Right After  
Worship on  
Sunday, May 31**

**The Book of  
Revelation:**

- Rev. Lynn Trapp is set to teach a Sunday Morning Seminar on **Revelation - God's Images of Conquering Evil**. Gather in the Church Parlor at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, May 3 and 10 Sermon Series:** "Family Values" Pastor James Brewer-Calvert preaching. Worship with Holy Communion begins at 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, May 17 Guest Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Gilberto Collazo, President of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- **Church Board to Gather Sunday, May 17, immediately after 10:30 a.m. worship service.** Everyone is invited and welcome at the Church Board Meeting for a presentation of our 2015 summer and fall plans & mission opportunities. Lunch provided. Church Board Officers, Deacons, Elders and Pastoral Staff are expected to attend.
- **\$10 Tickets Available for June 7 Concert** -- 4 p.m. concert features Indra Thomas, Ann Marie McPhil, Pamela Dillard, and Marcus Hill.

### **Congregational Congratulations!**

Dr. Bill Sexson earned a Master of Arts Degree in Bioethics from Emory University; and Frances Shumake's daughter, Jan Shumake Witherington

**God's Images of  
Conquering Evil**

**Please Help Us  
Send Church  
Youth to Serve  
as Counselors at  
Camp Balaam**

**Offerings for  
Spiritual  
Formation on  
Sunday at 9:15  
a.m.**

**First  
Christian  
Church of  
Decatur Book  
Club**

**Over My Head, I  
Hear Music in  
the Air**

**Recent Visitors**

**Continental Breakfast**

just received her Doctor of Education degree from  
Piedmont College.

**Thanking God for his much-improved  
health, for the first time in 7 years Mr.  
Hank Ferry is now able to mow his lawn!**



**Choirs Sponsor All Church Luncheon  
Right After Worship on Sunday, May 31**

Please join the choir for a baked potato and salad luncheon after church on Sunday, May 31! We will collect a love offering to raise money to send choir members to Music Workshop at Christmount Assembly in Black Mountain, NC in June. This year

Watching Our Figures



**Mother's Day,  
Sunday, May 10,  
2015**

Worship the Living  
Christ at 10:30  
a.m.

**Holy Scriptures:**

John 15: 9-  
17; Colossians 3: 12-  
17

**Sermon Title:**

*"Family Values  
Practices"*

**Preaching:**

Rev. Dr. James  
Brewer-Calvert

**Worship**

**Leaders:**

Lillie Sapp and  
Tom Rosenberger

the workshop director and accompanist are going to be our own beloved Director of Music William Garner and our own adored organist Kathy Westbook! Come to lunch on May 31 and help the choir send as many members as possible to the workshop to support William and Kathy and to learn new music that our choirs will present in worship in the near future!

**The Book of Revelation: God's Images of Conquering Evil**

For many people, the Book of Revelation is a frightening picture of a coming end of the world. They read about the dragons and beasts, and envision a world inhabited with scary creatures and disturbing pictures of destruction and devastation. In our short study of this vivid book, we will see how it is NOT intended as a book about the end of the world, but about how God breaks into the current world to destroy evil and avenge the persecuted. It is a picture for ALL ages and ALL cultures. We will follow the outline below to guide us through God's pictures of bringing peace and happiness to the suffering in our current world. Please take the time to read the designated chapters in the Book of Revelation prior to coming to class each week. This will help you to prepare your minds for discussion and, probably, generate numerous questions that will help move the discussion forward.

**Outline**

**Deacons:** Doug Schuette, Steve Oliver

**Greeters:** Danl Giles, Wiley Harris

**Acolyte:** Will Kidd



## Welcome Home!

First Christian Church of  
Decatur  
(Disciples of Christ)  
601 W. Ponce De Leon  
Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030

404-378-3621

[DecaturDisciples.org](http://DecaturDisciples.org)  
[1stcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stcc@bellsouth.net)

"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

| Topic                           | Chapters to Read | Date         |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Introduction                    | 1:1 thru 22:21   | May 3, 2014  |
| Reading the other Church's mail | 1:1 thru 3:22    | May 10, 2014 |
| I heard and I saw               | 4:1 thru 11:19   | May 17, 2014 |
| The Dragon and The Lamb         | 12:1 thru 18:24  | May 24, 2014 |
| More than Conquerors            | 19:1 thru 22:21  | May 31, 2014 |
|                                 |                  |              |

This will have you reading the entire Book of Revelation, at least, twice in the Month of May. If you are adventurous, you might also want to read it more than that (perhaps once a week, or even more). If you think of the Book of Revelation as the first century equivalent of a motion picture, it will help you see the need for reading it in large chunks at a sitting – maybe even reading it through in its entirety each time.

Classes will start promptly at 9:30 each Sunday morning, but try to arrive a bit early for a little fellowship and family discussion time prior to class.

Lynn Trapp,  
Your guide through the Book of Revelation

## Please Help Us Send Church Youth to Serve as Counselors at Camp Balaam

Camp Balaam is a summer day camp for at-risk children held at Camp Christian in Gordon, Georgia.

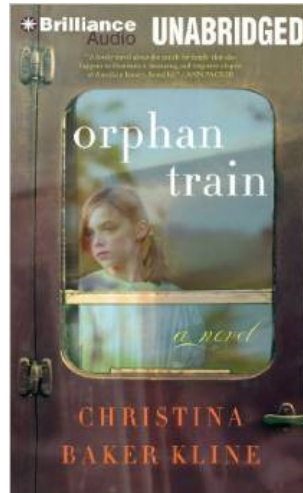
the Lord's Table as God  
has welcomed us." --  
Christian  
Church (Disciples of  
Christ) Statement of  
Identity.

This special camp is sponsored by our Regional Ministry and staffed by youth and adults from Christian Churches across the Georgia Region. While our congregation has resources to supplement half or more of the costs to send our church youth to a week-long experience at summer camp, we did not budget resources to cover the costs of sending support staff to Camp Balaam. The joyful fact that we now have two young people who are eligible (16 – 18 years old) and want to serve and guide children in Camp Balaam is a double blessing. Please give what you can and earmark your gift to Camp Scholarship Fund. In case there is any overage the funds will be designated for 2016 camp scholarships. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**Offerings for Spiritual Formation on Sunday at 9:15 a.m.**

1. Seeking Understanding in Scripture Bible Study in Carmack Room **“Exploring the Bible”**
2. Pathfinders Class gathers in the Pathfinders Room. This Week: **“Formations Adult Bible Study”**
3. Rev. Lynn Trapp is teaching a Sunday Morning Seminar on **Revelation - God’s Images of Conquering Evil**. Gather in the Church Parlor at 9:30 a.m.
4. Weekly Montessori-based **Godly Play for Children**, Sundays, 9:15 a.m. on the main floor near the Fellowship Hall.

5. **Jesus Junction Sunday School** for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade uses the study of Easter drawing on *Easter from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Books are provided for class members. All are welcome.



**First Christian Church of Decatur Book Club**


The Book Club is reading Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. The Book Club meets every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. at First Christian Church of Decatur.



The Music Ministry at  
The First Christian Church of Decatur  
presents

Over My Head, I Hear  
Music in the Air

In Concert



Indra Thomas  
Soprano

Ann Marie McPhil  
Soprano

Pamela Dillard  
Mezzo Soprano

Marcus Hill  
Baritone

June 7, 2015  
4:00 PM

Refreshments and merriment to follow.

Tickets \$10  
Childcare will be provided.

First Christian Church of Decatur  
601 West Ponce de Leon Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.378.3621  
www.decaturdisciples.org

For tickets, please contact any participant in the Chancel Choir,  
Handbell Ensemble or William Garner at [williamgarner@aol.com](mailto:williamgarner@aol.com)

## Over My Head, I Hear Music in the Air

### Soloists' Biographies

Of **Indra Thomas'** performance as Imogene in *Il Pirata* at the Caramoor Festival, *The New York Times* wrote: "The mad scene was a triumph, especially its reflective first half in which Ms. Thomas' affinity for long-spun, slow melodic phrases was impressive. The audience awarded her a tremendous ovation."

Considered one of the foremost Aidas in the world today, Ms. Thomas sang this role at the Chorégies, d'Orange in a performance that was televised throughout France during the summer of 2011. For the 2011/12 season, she performed in concerts with the Rome Symphony Orchestra (Georgia), and at the Atlanta Music Festival. Further performances this season will be *Aida* at the Hamburgische Staatsoper, and a performance of Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Florida



Orchestra under the direction of Stefan Sanderling. Ms. Thomas also sang at the memorial service for Maestro Dino Anagnost, music director of The Little Orchestra Society of New York, last December, and in the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where she performed Sir Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*.

During the summer of 2010, Ms. Thomas sang *Aida* at the Bregenz Festival in Austria. In the 2010/11 season, she performed in a Gala Concert for the Artist Series of Sarasota, sang *Aida* at the Palau De Les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Spain, made her New York recital debut in Weill Recital Hall, sang the Verdi *Requiem* with the Flint Symphony, *A Child of Our Time* with Radio France in Paris, and the Utah Symphony, and performed Chausson's *Poèmes de L'amour et la Mer* with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia.

During the summer of 2009, Ms. Thomas performed *Aida* in a new production at the Bregenz Festival, and Sir Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic. The 2009/10 season brought performances of the Verdi *Requiem* in a tour of four cities in Spain with the Euskadi Orchestra under the direction of Andres Orozco Estrada, a special holiday concert with the Little Orchestra Society of New York, Britten's *War Requiem* with the Orchestra de Paris, the Verdi *Requiem* with the Vermont Symphony, and *Aida* at the Avignon Music Festival and the Bregenz Festival.

During the 2008/09 season, Ms. Thomas made her debut at the Teatro Real in Madrid and the

Wiener Staatsoper, as Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. She sang in a gala concert in Abu Dhabi to open the *Abu Dhabi Classics Festival* which was hosted by Jeremy Irons, performed in a Christmas concert with the Vermont Symphony, and sang a concert of Gershwin songs and operatic arias in Istanbul. In addition, there was a Verdi *Requiem* with the Lahti Symphony in Finland, and performances of the Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra in Seoul, South Korea, and the *Missa Solemnis* with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo. Ms. Thomas sang works by Gershwin and Barber with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, performed a concert of opera arias with the Cleveland Symphony, and sang Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Malaysia Symphony Orchestra. To learn more about this artist visit: <http://indrathomas.blogspot.com/>

Atlanta-born soprano, **Ann Marie McPhail** one of the regions most seasoned performers and is quickly establishing herself as a versatile lyric soprano in the United States. She is a 1st place winner of the *American Traditions Competition* and *The Rose Palm Tenser Competition*. Other accolades include singing "Diva Goddess" in the *1996 Centennial Olympic Games, Closing Ceremonies* in Atlanta, Georgia. Her credits include opera singer in Tyler Perry's movie, *For Colored Girls* and *Strawberry Woman* in the Atlanta Opera's 2010 production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* for which she received

mention in *Opera News*. She has recently returned from Copenhagen, Denmark where she covered the role of Clara in *Porgy and Bess* with the Royal Danish Opera Theatre.

This Spring she will be in concert April 16, 2015 with the Atlanta Chamber Players at the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center and will premiere a work by composer Mark Gresham. This piece, written for the artist and world renowned clarinetist, Laura Ardan will be premiered at the Shakespeare Tavern, May 5, 2015. To learn more about this artist visit: [www.annmcp hail.com](http://www.annmcp hail.com)

***Mezzo-Soprano, Pamela Dillard.***, a native of Atlanta, Georgia is a professor of voice at Spelman College in Atlanta. She earned her B.F.A. from Newcomb College of Tulane University where she received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provided her a year of travel and study in Europe. She was the recipient of the Martin Luther King Graduate Fellowship at Boston University, where she received her M.M.

Dillard made her professional operatic debut as Irina in Kurt Weil's *Lost in the Stars* with Boston Lyric Opera staged by dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones. She returned to BLO as Ursula in *Béatrice and Bénédict* and Meg Page in *Falstaff*. Dillard made her debut with San Francisco Opera as Victoire in the world premiere of *The Dangerous Liaisons* (telecast nationally for Great Performances on PBS). She returned to San Francisco Opera to sing roles in *Rusalka*, *Carmen* and *Manon* Ms.

Dillard caught the international attention of critics for her stunning portrayal of the title role in Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' production of Offenbach's La Belle Hélène. She also appeared as Meg Page in Falstaff and Suzuki in Madama Butterfly for OTSL.

Dillard's most recent engagements include a patriotic concert with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during their summer concert series; singing Bess in a concert performance of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess with Plano Symphony in Plano, Texas; repeating the role of Lily in Porgy and Bess and Third Lady in The Magic Flute both for Atlanta Opera; and Grimgerde in Wagner's Die Walküre with San Francisco Opera..

On the concert stage, Ms. Dillard has appeared with symphonies across the United States including, The Brooklyn Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cobb Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Pacific Symphony and Marin Symphony Orchestras among others. Her debut with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra was as the featured soloist in Alexander Nevsky, returning the following season to sing the title role in Bizet's Carmen. She was presented in concert with the Boston Pops Orchestra in a tribute concert to the centenary of the birth of Marian Anderson. She has sung under the baton of great conductors such as, Grammy nominated composer John Williams, Seiji Ozawa, Keith Lockhart, Donald Runnicles, Robert Spano and Yoel Levi.

Ms. Dillard can be heard on **Watch and Pray, Spirituals and Art Songs by African American Women Composers** produced by Koch International Classics. Other recordings include the featured soloist for the Grammy nominated soundtrack to Stephen Spielberg's **Amistad**; William Grant Still's **Highway One** for Visionary Records; Superhero for Brian McKnight and Preschool Favorites by Music For Little People.

**Marcus O. Hill**, baritone and native of Atlanta, Georgia, is studied Voice with Uzee Brown, Jr. at Morehouse College and now, Sharon Stephenson. In the United States and abroad, Marcus has performed in many of the worlds most famous Churches, Theatre's and Opera Houses; some of which are the Opera-Comique in Paris, France; The Alhambra in Granada, Spain; Theatre Di Caen in Caen, Normandy; The Grand Theatre in Luxembourg; Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa, and many more in South Africa, Europe, and throughout America. As a past member of the world-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club and recipient of the coveted Presidential Scholarship in Music, Marcus has performed with MCGC in South Africa where he sang Handel's *Rejoice, O Judah to Hallelujah Amen* from *Judas Macabeus*. Also, with the Atlanta Opera Chorus in Paris as one of the soloist in the Funeral Scene in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in 2008. Marcus has been seen as Dancairo in scenes from *Carmen*, Douglas Moore's *Ballad of Baby Doe*, Verdi's *Il*

Trovatore, Alan Menken's *Little Shop of Horrors* and the Captain Steven Paulus' *The Three Hermits*. He premiered the role of Ndaka in Sharon Willis' *Three Kings and a Prince* and recorded the role of Smokey in the New Opera's *The Kitty who lost its Meow*. Marcus is also a longtime member of Atlanta's Y.E.A. where he's been seen in *Soweto, Soweto, Soweto, a Township is Calling, Times, Urban Soup*, and excerpts from *Jekonni's Song* and the famed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Marcus has participated in master classes with Daniel Washington, George Shirley, Donnie Ray Albert, and is coached by Walter Huff. Marcus is a member of NANM and the Atlanta Chapter MAMA, on the advisory board of the Atlanta Collegiate Artist Association (ACAA), and a past Southern advisor to the Collegiate Division of NANM.

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

We are delighted to welcome friends and neighbors who recently visited to worship God here, including: Josh Alexander, Ashley Buchannan, Randy Finley, Fred Gibbs, Kayla Harriott, Christine Jetta, Rhonda Lederer, Maryellen Merrill, Michael, Masika Nyaku, Hope to see you again soon.

### **Continental Breakfast**

Ever run late to church on Sunday morning and don't have time to eat? No problem; a continental breakfast is available! Feel free to sign up to bring

breakfast once in a Blue Moon. First Christian Church offers Continental Breakfast year round, and everyone is invited to participate in both enjoying and providing delicious fare. Fill in your name on an open date, place in the offering plate or return to Church Office:

May 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
May 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
May 24: \_\_\_\_\_  
May 31: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jun. 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jun.14: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jun. 21: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jun. 28: \_\_\_\_\_

### Watching Our Figures

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Sunday, May 3rd Worship |            |
| Participation           | <b>56</b>  |
| Church Offerings        | \$5,382.14 |
| Utility Offsets Totals  | \$1,835.00 |

"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.

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