

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Sep.6:	Decatur Book Festival
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, Sep.7:	Office Closed
Tuesday, Sep. 8:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
10 a.m. -12 noon	Concerto Group
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Sep.9:	
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Sep.10:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
7 p.m.	Christmas Meeting
Saturday, Sep. 12:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, Sep.13:	Christian Ed Kickoff
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous



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

Mark 7:24-37

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, **25** but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26** Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27** He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." **28** But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." **30** So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32** They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33** He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. **34** Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." **35** And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36** Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37** They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

James 2:1-10,14-17

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? **2** For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3** and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? **7** Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **9** But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? **15** If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? **17** So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Deb Almauhy** has flown to Iraq to adopt a daughter. She asks for travelling mercies and for all to be well and for God's holy protection.
- **Marion Meador**, a beloved church member since 1959, passed away last Sunday. Her Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary at First Christian Church of Decatur on Friday, September 4, at 2 p.m., followed by visitation with the family and a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please keep the Meador Family in your prayers. .
- Prayers are requested for the **Gibbs, Jackson** and **Durr** families in the sudden death of their loved one, **Mr. Seneca Gibbs**. Mr. Gibbs, a husband and father of two sons age 12 and 5, is the youngest son of **Sylvia** and **Fred Gibbs** and the brother of **Tumara Jackson**.
- **Rich Spillane** gives prayers of thanks for **Jeff Carroll's** surgery results. He also asks for continued prayer for healing. **Rich** also asks for traveling mercies as he travels to Wichita, Kansas to move his 90 year old mother to Georgia.
- **Elaine Alsobrook** says, “**Hal Watkins** is in care of Hospice now and **Sally Sutton** has taken her last chemo treatment.”
- **Jackie Tate** asks for prayers for her family and that both cars are working again. Prayers requested for **Joshua** that he does well at Georgia State University.
- **Sandra Brundage** says, “Thank you for keeping her cousin **Paulette Young** in prayer. Please continue your prayers.”
- **Pastor James** is grateful for our congregation's blessing and support of a two month sabbatical, and returned to serve with joy and sincerity on Tuesday morning, Sept. 1. He is looking forward to being with y'all as we worship God together on Sunday, September 6.
- **Janice** and **Helen Huyler** rejoice to have our Senior Pastor worshipping with us this morning!
- **Todd Williams**, a 22 year old with cancer, is being lifted up prayers for a full recovery.
- **Stephanie Duncan's** nephew was in a bad car accident. Keep him in your prayers.
- **Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert** asks for prayers for congregations in our Region seeking pastors and for the 2015 Disciples Women's Retreat planners as they prepare for the September event.
- **The Brewer-Calvert family** is thrilled that son/brother **Henry**, after a month of vacation, returned safely back in the Dominican Republic for his second year as a Global Ministries Intern there. Prayers are requested for daughter **Katie** who is set to return for her junior year of college, as well as for all students seeking to better themselves and the world through education.
- **Amy Yandell's** mother's partner had surgery. Please pray for her partner and the family for a favorable outcome.
- **Susan Watts** asks for prayer for her and her husband as well as her family.
- **Larry Todd** says, “Please continue to keep my brother-in-law, **Terry Tolbert** in prayer.”
- **Rose Bianco** says, “My cousin **Wanda** has breast cancer; her 20 year old daughter **Aymara** had a malignant tumor removed from her lung. Pray for them.”
- **Wiley** and **Danl** ask the church to pray for them.

We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy, Johnnie Barber, Jeffery Carroll, Elizabeth Cunningham, the Delk Family, Willie Mae Durr, Sylvia Ennis, Hank Ferry, Shannen Ferry, J.D. Fleming, Mary Ellen Fountain, Alida Gines, Julia Glenn Carter, Adei Grenpastures, Robert Hamilton, Clara Holley, Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis, Nicolas Jordan, The Kidd Family, Jay Love,**

Judy McMahan, Alan Merritt, Don Middour, Rev.Carolynn Miller, Lynn Nabers, the Norton Family, William Pabst, Mary Beth Powell, Lillie Sapp, Matthew Smith Farrell family, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Carlene Trapp, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler, Nancy Williamson, 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.