

Christian Education transitioning into Ministry of Spiritual Formation

Several years ago, Glen and I only showed up for 10:50 worship service. After counseling at summer camp, I realized I truly enjoyed working with our young people. The more we shared in the Sunday School class Teen Space and accompanied them to Youth-a-Palooza, the more I believed it was a calling. Since I have been serving as the Director of Christian Education, I have come to realize that Christian Education is really the beginning of an even greater ministry vision of Spiritual Formation.

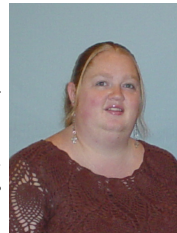
Christian Education is what we do within the walls of the church; Spiritual Formation is why we do it. It's often said we are a seven-day-a-week church and our ministries do not just happen on Sunday.

A Wikipedia article describes Spiritual Formation as the growth and development of the whole person by the intentional focus on one's spiritual and interior life; the interactions with others in ordinary life and our personal spiritual practices.

Education happens everyday of your life. Christian Education over the past years has been commonly associated with Sunday School, classes, teacher training, teaching materials, Sermons, and worship. Your Spiritual Formation is a more ethereal less concrete process. In *Care of Mind, Care of Spirit*, Gerald G. May has written, "Spiritual formation is a rather general term referring to all attempts, means, instruction, and disciplines intended towards deepening of faith and furtherance of spiritual growth. So, the way you act and react to the people around you and the way you act and react to God in your life is Spiritual Formation."

Daily interactions with our family, friends, co-workers, strangers in the grocery store, the unknown person walking down the street and God all aid in our Spiritual Formation. If we consider God's love to be all encompassing and we want to be more God-like in our love for each other then EVERY SINGLE person we come in contact with gives us an opportunity for Spiritual Formation. The key is acknowledgement. That stranger, the homeless man, the woman with a veil over her

face, the person sitting behind bars...everyone is a child of God! Have you ever met a stranger and was so compelled to tell him or her an interesting or fun story from your day, week or past? Have you ever said "Hello" to someone and 20 minutes later you know their entire life history? God puts us in positions to change and mold our own lives, and to change and mold each other's lives. This development is our Spiritual Formation and it happens all around us and all the time.



"God puts us in positions to change and mold our own lives, and to change and mold each other's lives. This development is our Spiritual Formation and it happens...all the time."

So, how do we apply spiritual formation to Sunday mornings? By going to the park and telling stories of faith, love and understanding to children and young people and by listening to their stories and letting them know that they matter. Our youth group and young adults are our present and very near future leaders and teachers. By opening our hearts to helping them realize their true potential; aiding in their vocation choices; and by encouraging knowledge seeking questions we can help meet the needs of our friends to experience God.

Our Spiritual Formation ministry is in transition that may involve ongoing and short-term classes. On Thursday, February 23rd I fly to Kansas City, MO to represent FCC Decatur at the Children Welcome! From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks of Faith conference. My time at the conference will be filled with music, worship, theological discussions, Biblical reflections, networking, Discovery Groups, and keynotes. I thank you, my church family, for the opportunity to go and grow. I look forward to coming home and sharing additional tools to help in our Spiritual Formation and working with my church family and our community in this ministry.

Blessings and peace,
Brandy Alsobrook

Volunteers are needed for Nursery, Sunday School Stories and Children's Church. Sign-up Sheets are on classroom doors.

*****Only requirements to volunteer: Darkness to Light training and willingness to have fun sharing your story with children*****

News and notes for God's folks

Did you meet and greet...? Recent Visitors

We are delighted to welcome friends and neighbors who recently visited to worship God here, including Vicki Hawkins, Rev. Robert Frank-Plumlee, Leland, Anita & Christie Mott, Russell Broomfield, Rev. Jose' & Marie Lingongo, Jeni Flock, Phil Foster, Roger Sizemore & Family, Bill, Viola Fowler, Rev. Naomi Andrews, Autumn, Karen St. Marie, Khwanza LeBlanc, Stephen & Perry Westbrook, Ralph Reiley, Pastor Paul Turner & Bill Pabst, Aly Houchin, and a wonderful assortment of faithful folks who participate regularly. Hope to see you again soon!

Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor for Ian Parvin-Asher

Riverside Military Academy senior and Boy Scout Ian Parvin Asher has completed all requirements for the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. His Eagle Court of Honor is set for February 26 at 3 p.m. at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. We also celebrate that Ian and Alex's sibling Kaitlyn has been accepted into the Master of Divinity Degree Program at Emory's Candler School of Theology. Congratulations!

Spiritual Listening Workshop

March 10th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Decatur First Christian Church

Have you heard? Would you like to learn what it means to listen in a spiritual way? Have you ever considered listening as a spiritual gift? Join us at the Spiritual Listening Workshop being held on March 10th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. with lunch together. The workshop is sponsored by the Caregiver Spiritual Support Ministry. A donation of \$20.00 is requested to cover the cost of the books each participant will receive. All are welcome. Email Rev. Daphne Reiley at daphne.reiley@gmail.com to reserve your space and/or (770-366-1206) to reserve your seat or ask any questions you might have.

Church Library Ready for Unveiling

After four years of work, the Church Library is ready for members to check it out. We have 1,282 books for you to read! The are categorized with an Excel spreadsheet of each book and information like Title, Type of Subject, Publisher, Author and Date. There is a listing of the type of subjects on a foam board along with a wicker basket to return the books in. There is a card catalog for each book that goes by author or the number of the subject. Ms. Davis has also organized the children's books alphabetically, with alphabetical tabs to use to return the books or use the basket. Several of the members donated books to use. When you donate books to the church library please inform us because they need to be cataloged and added to the spreadsheet and card catalog.

"Our Church Administrator Sherry L. Davis has been working very hard on this effort for many years because she hopes you will enjoy the library. Ms. Davis isn't a trained librarian; she saw a need and organized it so members and friends may grow in mind, body and soul. Thank you, Sherry, for your generous gift to faith and reason!" --Pastor James B-C

Decatur Cooperative Ministry In Kind Needs for Feb.

Furniture and Household Goods: 2 nearly new washers, 7.1 cubic feet, 1 nearly new electric dryer, 2 twin beds with box springs in excellent condition, 15 new twin bed sheet sets, 5 new full/queen bed sheet sets, Umbrellas & Ponchos, Paper Plates, Plastic Cups, Plastic Silverware Laundry detergent Powder dish detergent. **Toiletries:** Toilet paper, Paper towels, Pantene Pro-V Relaxed & Natural Shampoo, Cocoa Butter/Vaseline Body Lotion. **Other Supplies:** Gas Cards, New GED Books, Parenting Skills books, **Non-perishable Food:** Instant oatmeal variety packets, Boxed cereal.

Watching our figures

Sunday, February 5, 2012

8:30 a.m. Awakenings Service	9
10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Service	80
Total	89

Offering	\$6,390.00
Offset GIPL	400.00
Total	\$6,790.00

Sunday, February 12, 2012

8:30 a.m. Awakenings Service	10
10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Service	91
Northlake Vespers	4
Total	105

Offering	\$3,960.00
Offset Gentle Spirit	400.00
Offset Jean Nicole Gay	120.00
Offset Patricia Vas Dias	75.00
Offset NA workshop 2/18	99.00
Total	\$4,654.00

Total Annual Giving January 2012

'12 YTD Total Income	\$53,055.00
'12 YTD Total Expenses	\$18,568.83
'12 YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 34,486.17

February Birthdays

Phuong Nguyen - Feb. 16
Don Middour - Feb. 16
Tim Lohr - Feb. 17
Carl Sax - Feb. 19
Suzette Perrillieux - Feb. 20
Thomas Reiley - Feb. 20
Sally Anderson - Feb. 20
Ryan Sexson - Feb. 23
Will Kidd - Feb. 25
Sue Zur Schmiede - Feb. 26
Mary Ellen Fountain - Feb. 27
Genevieve Browning - Feb. 28

February Anniversaries

Sally Ann & Wayne
Darby-Jobson - Feb. 15
Barbara & Bob Powell - Feb. 17
Caroline and Jay Leslie - Feb. 20

Please Help Support Church Custodian Azeb Gidey's Family



Church Custodian Azeb Gidey's sister in Kenya passed away recently. Her sister had five children, and Azeb is trying to help support them. Azeb would like to have additional cleaning jobs in order to help her support both her family and her sister's. You can reach Azeb at the church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 404-378-3621. Thank you, *Sherry Davis*



First Christian Church of Decatur

(Disciples of Christ)

601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Church Office — 404-378-3621

Fax — 404-378-1875

Email: 1stcc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

The Rev. Dr. James L. Brewer-Calvert, *Senior Pastor*

William E. Garner, *Director of Music*

Brandy Alsobrook, *Director of Christian Education*

Kathy Westbrook, *Church Organist*

Elizabeth Hamm, *Bookkeeper*

Sherry Davis, *Church Administrator*

Azeb Gidey, *Custodian*

Mark Ranney, *Facilities Manager*

Your Volunteer Ministry Coordinators:

Diana Blake, *Wedding Coordinator*

Rev. Daphne Reiley, *Caregiver Spiritual Support*

FCC Decatur visited by new Co-Interim Regional Ministers for the Christian Church in Georgia



Dan'l Giles, Doug Schuette, Laura Andrew, Wiley Harris, Rev. Robert Frank-Plumlee, and Dave Andrew pose in front of the church on Sunday, Feb. 5. Not shown is photographer Rev. Karen Frank-Plumlee. The Frank-Plumlees began in January to serve as Co-Interim Regional Ministers for the Christian Church in Georgia.

Non-Profit Organization
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Decatur, Georgia 30030

Return Service Requested

Mark Your Calendars

- Gentle Spirit Christian Church Deacon Ordination of Robbin Brown Reception to follow on Saturday, February 25 at 2 p.m.
- Church Board Meeting on Sun., Feb. 26
- Sock Hop! Fun fundraiser for the Decatur Toy Park from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 3
- Elder Emeritus and Pastor Emeritus Recognition Luncheon on Sunday, March 18
- Blue Jean Sunday in the Park on March 25
- Disciples Women Spa Day on March 31
- Palm Sunday is April 1
- Maundy Thursday is April 5
- Easter Sunday is April 8
- Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 21
- Graduation Sunday is May 20
- VBS is set for the week of June 4-8



The Newsletter of First Christian Church of Decatur

Decatur Disciples



February 15, 2012

Volume 49, Issue 3

*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

Welcome New Members!



We are delighted to announce that on Sunday, February 12th, the Rev. Lori Adams, the Rev. Patti Case, and their daughter Olivia joined First Christian Church of Decatur by transfer of membership from Central Christian Church in Indianapolis. Both women are ordained ministers in the Christian Church. Patti just completed 12 years serving as coordinator of General Assemblies for the Christian Church. Lori was also on the general church staff, and recently began work at the Fund for Theological Education, based here in Decatur. Olivia is active in our growing youth ministry program. Welcome home, Lori, Patti, and Olivia, into your new church family!

Upcoming February Opportunities for Spiritual Growth and Community Worship

- Sunday, Feb. 19 **Week of Compassion "Sharing Brings Joy"**
*Special Offering and Worship Services Support
Emergency Relief Arm of the Christian Church*
- Tuesday, Feb. 21 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6:30 p.m.**
*Disciples Men will prepare pancakes as we
prepare for the start of Lent. Bring your palms
from last year's Palm Sunday to be burned for
Wednesday's rite of ashes.*
- Wed., Feb. 22 **Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7 p.m.**
*This is a family-friendly service which includes
the Rite of Ashes and Holy Communion.*
- Sunday, Feb. 26 **First Sunday in the Season of Lent**
*Lent is a liturgical season set aside for
repentance and preparation. Lent covers the 40
days and nights from Ash Wednesday through
Easter, not counting Sundays.*
- Feb. 26 -- March 27 **Lenten Course on Identity and Vocation**
5-Week Course, Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
"Who am I, and What the Heck am I Doing Here?"
Teacher: Sr. Pastor James Brewer-Calvert

Christian Youth Fellowship Updates



Our young people did a terrific act of Christian service by leading worship on February 12th. We are so proud of all of our teens! Thank you for sharing your love for God and God's people, and for inspiring this faith community.

Disciples Youth in Metro Atlanta will be meeting at Peachtree Corners Christian Church on Sunday, February 26th at 4:30 p.m. We will be learning about and walking a **Prayer Labyrinth**. We'll depart from the church parking lot in the church van at 3:30 p.m. All 6th - 12th Graders are welcome!

First Christian Church of Decatur
 601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue
 Decatur, Georgia 30030
 44-378-3621 office
 404-378-1875 fax
 1stcc@bellsouth.net

February 2012

Sunday Worship Schedule
 8:30 a.m. Awakenings Service (chapel)
 9:15 a.m. Sharing in Fellowship Hall
 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
 10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 a.m. Spring Into Spanish 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 3:30-8:10 p.m. Cello Lessons in Godly Play 7 p.m. Emory Chase 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 9:30 a.m. Spring Into Spanish 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	3	4 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
5 CYF meet during Sunday School 12:15 p.m. Disciples Women Board Meeting 8 p.m. NA	6 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group	7 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. GIPL 3-5 p.m. Spring Into Spanish 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 3:30-6:30 p.m. Music Theory Grp. 7 p.m. Thrifty Store Taskforce 8 p.m. AA/ALANON	8 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30-6:30 p.m. Music Theory Grp. 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 9:30 a.m. Spring Into Spanish 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 6:30-8:30 p.m. Suzuki Violin in Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Lydia Circle	10 7-9 p.m. Atlanta Stereographic Assoc.	11 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
12 12:30 p.m. Disciples Women Soup & Salad Luncheon 1 p.m. Personnel Meeting 2-4 p.m. Olive Branch CC Service 4:30 p.m. Northlake Vespers at Northlake Gardens 5 p.m. Pat Vas Dias 8 p.m. NA	13 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	14 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 7-9 p.m. Caregiver Support Group 8 p.m. AA/ALANON	15 3:30-8:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 2 p.m. Retired Teachers 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	17	18 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Gentle Spirit needs van 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures 2-9 p.m. NA in Social Hall
	No Spring Into Spanish February 14-16					
19 Hold Social Hall For Peggy Norton after church 2 p.m. Chapel Memorial Service Glen A. Hardesty 8 p.m. NA	20 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Mary Magdalene Circle At Yolanda's	21 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 8 p.m. AA/ALANON	22 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	23 9:30 a.m. Spring Into Spanish 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	24	25 8:30 a.m. Playground Taskforce Toy Cleanup 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures 2-5 p.m. Robbin Brown's Ordination & Reception in chapel and Social Hall
26 9:45 a.m. Lenten Course in Social Hall 12:30 p.m. Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. ATL CYF At Peachtree Corners 8 p.m. NA	27 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Evaluation and Planning	28 3-5 p.m. Cello Lessons 7 p.m. Emory Chase in chapel 8 p.m. AA/ALANON	29 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30-8:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Outreach Meeting 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir			