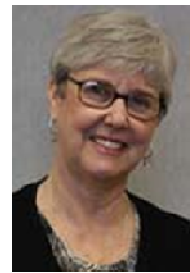


**Rev. Dr. Kaye Edwards, Director of Family and Children's Ministries for Disciples Home Missions, is Preaching at First Christian Church of Decatur on Sunday, April 29**

Kaye Speakes Edwards, born in Paris, Ky., has been a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) all of her life. She graduated from Lynchburg College in 1970, with a B.A. degree in sociology and religious studies, and from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Ky., in 1980, with a M.Div. in Pastoral Care.



She was ordained to the Christian Ministry at Antioch Christian Church, Lexington, Ky. in 1980. Currently she lives in Lynchburg, Va., with her husband, David, who is minister of Church of the Covenant, United Church of Christ. Kaye and David have two adult children, Kent and Shelley and a granddaughter due at the end of July.

Kaye has spent much of her professional life working with special needs children and their families. In Boston, Mass., she worked as a play therapist on the Psychosomatic Unit of Boston Children's Hospital. While in Lexington, Kentucky, she directed a program to meet the educational and social needs of children with profound and multiple disabilities. After the arrival of her two children, Kaye worked from her home as the Director of the Lexington Mother to Mother Program. Mother to Mother was a national ecumenical program designed to bring together, in mutual supportive friendship, women from different ethnic, social and economic backgrounds.

Kaye has also served as the Children's Advocate in a shelter for abused women and as the Family Life Education Coordinator for a family service organization. As a volunteer she has worked with Parents Anonymous, Adults Molested as Children, Special Olympics, and Youth Services.

Before being called as Director of Family and Children's Ministries for Disciples Home Missions (where she worked for 16 years) Kaye served as the Associate Minister for Education and Youth at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lynchburg, Va.

Kaye retired on March 30, 2012. She currently lives in Lynchburg, VA with her husband, David, and is a member of The Church of the Covenant, UCC/Disciples.

**Christian Education Calendar Update**



**Friday – Sunday, April 27, 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>** – FCCD hosting at least 25 people from metro Atlanta churches for Children Worship & Wonder training

**Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** – Our Children Worship & Wonder trainer, Rev. Kaye Edwards will be bringing the word from Mark 9:33-37

**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Children's Fun Run in the Park

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Anita Renahan-White's Ordination Service at 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Graduation Sunday service and lunch

**Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group Lock-In at FCCD

**Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** – Vacation Bible School (Leaders are needed, please let me know if you are able to help)

Thank you for all of the blessings you bestow upon me,  
**Brandy Alsobrook**

**Focus**



Recently at a formal event I found myself seated at a table for eight with seven folks I'd never met before. Aside from two couples at the table, most of us did not know our dinner neighbors. So for ten minutes we leaned across the table and shouted our names loud enough to be heard over the music, and we played the culturally-accepted practice of *Do-you-know-so-and-so?* One couple shared that they had just had a baby and were still unpacking from a recent move to Athens. They asked me (remember that we were close to shouting to be heard), "Is there a church in Athens that you recommend?" I used the back of a business card to jot down the names of some Disciples churches and pastors in the area, and then asked (bellowed), "Where did you move from?" "We moved from Decatur!" "Oh, my church is in Decatur!" "We lived on Northern Avenue!" "Oh," I said, "that is across the street from First Christian Church!" They responded (hollered), "You know, we were looking for a church when we lived there, but we never thought to visit you. Now we wish that we had!"

My friends, here are a couple thoughts I've gleaned from that conversation (shouting match). I'd love to hear your insights. No need to yell; just write (citykid4evr@gmail.com) or call (404-229-2326) or drop by for a (quiet) chat.

1. We have neighbors across the street and across the city who hunger for community. Families want a faith-based community in which to raise their children and to be fed and sustained. We as the Body of Christ are hereby challenged to do better to reach outside of ourselves in order to create and foster relationships. Remember that faith is relational. How hard can it be to walk ten steps and invite a neighbor in? The worst that can happen is your neighbor says no. However, imagine the best, and you may discover a new hope.

2. Neighbors, you have access to a vibrant, affirming, and hospitable faith community. Within easy reach of your doorsteps, fingertips, and wheels is a loving, service-oriented congregation whose folks would like nothing better than to simply get to know your name and needs, and see where the Spirit of all that is Good and Just leads us. You would be -- and already are -- welcome just as you are. Please know that we are life-giving, permission-giving, and forgiving. Some folks find visiting a new church a scary experience. I can relate. What is the worst that can happen? You waste an hour and learn a lesson. However, imagine the best, and you may discover a new home.

Think about inviting your neighbor; consider visiting this neighborly church. I wish you would.

As always, First Christian Church of Decatur, I am delighted to be your pastor. Shalom, **James L. Brewer-Calvert**

**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, Rev. Jose' Lingongo, Mona LeBlanc, Juanita Carson, Julie Mouton, Olin Hatch, Corey Mayes, Khwanza LeBlanc, Kayla Harriott, Amanda Kern, J.D. Fleming, Judy Kidd, including a wonderful assortment of faithful folks who participate regularly. Hope to see you again soon!

**Decatur Cooperative Ministry In Kind Needs for April**

15 new bed pillows, boxes of disposable serving gloves for dinner volunteers, 1" binders for PTC curriculum, Umbrellas, Ponchos, Sinus medication, Pine Sol cleaner, Lysol disinfectant spray. From Hagar's House: A mother lists her sizes as 16 petite, blouse - size large, bra 42 B, Panties 8-9. Her son wears-briefs extra large, pants 38/32, shirt-Large.

Please bring items to the church to be delivered!



**Graduation Sunday for the Class of 2012**

Please plan to be in worship on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be recognizing and honoring our 2012 graduates!

If you have a family member graduating and you would like him or her recognized during the 10:50 worship service, please email the person's name, school, and degree completed to Brandy.

*Blessings & Peace,  
Brandy Alsobrook*

**Welcome new member!**

*Updated photo of Karen St. Marie, who joined on Blue Jean Sunday, March 25. She is active in the U.S. Marines and is serving our country at the VA Hospital as a Systems Analyst. Welcome home, Karen!*



**Spring Sermon Series**

**"Follow the Leader: Re-Imagining Christianity After the Resurrection"**

Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

Date	Scripture	Theme
April 29	Mark 9: 33-37	We resolve to love
May 6	John 15:1-8	We reconnect spiritually
May 13	Acts 10:44-48	We re-imagine inclusivity
May 20	Luke 24:44-53	Graduation Sunday
May 27	Acts 2	The Day of Pentecost

**Watching our figures**

Sunday, April 15, 2012

8:30 a.m. Awakenings Service	5
10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Service	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>
Offering	\$2,525.00
Offset (Spring Into Spanish)	300.00
Offset (Jean Gay Cello Lessons)	105.00
Offset (Lisa Cantrell)	90.00
Offset (Naomi Andrews)	75.00
Christian Church of GA-reimbursement	143.58
Easter Offering	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,288.58</b>

**Total Easter Offering \$1,439.00**

Sunday, April 22, 2012

8:30 a.m. Awakenings Service	11
10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Service	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

Offering	\$1,913.00
Offset (Tanya Rodriguez Recital)	50.00
Offset (DeKalb Retired Educators)	15.00
Offset (WPD Center)	3,240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,218.00</b>

**Total Annual Giving March 2012**

'12 YTD Total Income	\$80,516.48
'12 YTD Total Expenses	\$79,445.67
'12 YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,070.81

**"Big Bertha" Capital Fund Campaign Update: \$58,000.00** has been received to date towards our Sanctuary HVAC system. Thank you, one and all, for your support. Our goal is \$130,000 to cover anticipated costs for the necessary replacement HVAC.

**April Birthdays**

- Apr. 27 - Jean Crowe
- Apr. 29 - Beth Schiavo
- Apr. 30 - Lyman Delk

**May Birthdays**

- May 1 - Sally Ann Darby-Jobson
- May 2 - Dan Cunningham
- May 2 - Deborah Revis
- May 2 - Joshua Tate
- May 3 - Linda Chesnut
- May 6 - Kathy Westbrook
- May 12 - David Middour
- May 15 - Deenie Kirkman
- May 20 - Olivia Adams
- May 21 - Hopkins Kidd
- May 21 - Lynn Parvin

**April Anniversaries**

- Apr. 24 - Jay White & Anita Renahan-White

**May Anniversaries**

- May Hai & Nga Nguyen
- May 21- Vivianne Aponte and Cristian Sepulveda
- May 22 - Hopkins & Judy Kidd



**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*

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The Newsletter of First Christian Church of Decatur

# Decatur Disciples

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Decatur  
Requests the Honor of  
Your Presence and Prayers  
at the

Ordination to the Christian Ministry of  
Ms. Anita Lynn Renahan-White  
2 p.m. on Saturday, May 19th, 2012

at

First Christian Church  
601 West Ponce De Leon Avenue  
Decatur, Georgia

Reception to follow.  
Clergy wear red stoles.

Please no gifts; your presence will be my present!

**Saturday, May 5th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

## Decatur Toy Park Spring Carnival

**Come, celebrate 10 years of fun and hospitality  
in the First Christian Church Park and Playground!**



Come and celebrate at First Christian Church's 2012 Spring Carnival! Bring the whole family to this fun-filled day of games, food, and great prizes! Attractions include a giant slide, obstacle course, games, face painting, crafts, and much more! Plus, enter to win great prizes from participating Decatur establishments including many of your favorite restaurants. This will be a very special carnival because we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the park. We hope to see many of our "Graduates" at the park. Proceeds from the carnival will go to the church outreach funds, part of which maintain and expand our Church and Community park. Every day children from all walks of life bring their parents to our park. We estimate that around 200 families enjoy the playground each week. We are delighted to play host and practice hospitality for the benefit of all. Please, come to our annual carnival, have a fun family afternoon, and support our park and outreach mission. Hot dogs and carnival treats will be available for purchase. Entrance to the carnival is \$5 per person with a \$20 family max. Visit our website at [www.decaturoytopark.com](http://www.decaturoytopark.com) or call 404.378.3621 with questions and to volunteer. *All hands on deck!*



April 25, 2012

### Volume 49, Issue 8

*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

### Children Worship & Wonder Training

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



First Christian Decatur will be hosting **Children Worship & Wonder** training Friday through Sunday, April 27, 28 and 29, with the Rev. Dr. Kaye Edwards as our trainer. Kaye Edwards will also be worshipping with us and bringing the good news on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. She is the Director of Family & Children's Ministries in the Disciples Home Missions office. For more information call 404-378-3621.



## Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 4th - Friday, June 8th

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Purpose: To foster and build relationships with each other and with God**

**Goal: To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our neighborhood friends**

**This year's VBS will be held in our park and in the church. If the weather is nice we plan on having outdoor activities planned for the morning then retreat to the church for other activities and lunch.**



- Provide healthy lunches
- Plan to be a leader or helper for music, crafts, games, worship, or story telling
- Put on your thinking cap and let me know of your inspirations for crafts, games, music, worship and/or storytelling
- Prayers are always helpful

I look forward to working with you to make this years VBS a great event.  
Blessings and peace, Brandy M. Alsobrook, *Director of Christian Education*

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

# May 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 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle 3-5 p.m. Spring Into Spanish 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  8 p.m. AA/ALANON	2 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Emory Chase 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  Glen and Brandy Alsobrook on vacation May 2nd-13th	3 9:30 a.m. SIS  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	4	5 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Disciples Women clean kitchen 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Spring Carnival 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
6 CYF after church 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group 8 p.m. NA  Glen and Brandy Alsobrook on vacation May 2nd-13th	7 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group  6-7:30 p.m. Lisa Cottrell In Carmack	8 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Music Theory Grp. 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 7-9 p.m. Caregiver Support Grp. 8 p.m. AA/ALANON	9 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Music Theory Grp. 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	10 9:30 a.m. SIS 2 p.m. Retired Teachers Board Meet- ing 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons 6:30 p.m. Suzuki Violin 7:30 p.m. Lydia Circle	11  7-9:30 p.m. Atlanta Stereo- graphic Assoc.	12 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Leukemia/Lymphoma Society in Toy Park  1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
13 Glen and Brandy Alsobrook on vacation May 2nd-13th 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group 4:30 p.m. Northlake Vespers 8 p.m. NA	14 Anita Renahan-White graduates 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group 6-7:30 p.m. Lisa Cottrell In Carmack 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	15 3-5 p.m. SIS  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  8 p.m. AA/ALANON	16 9:30 a.m. SIS 3-5 p.m. SIS 3:30 p.m. Violin Lessons  6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	17 9:30 a.m. SIS  12 noon Retired Teachers 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	18	19 1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures  2-5 p.m. Anita Renahan-White Ordination 6 p.m. Tonya Rodriguez Recital
20 12:15 p.m. Graduation Luncheon 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group  8 p.m. NA	21 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Evaluation and Planning 7:30 p.m. Mary Magdalene Circle at Yolanda's	22  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  8 p.m. AA/ALANON	23  3:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	24  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons	25	26 Youth Lock In May 26-27  1-2 p.m. Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
27 Youth Lock In 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group  8 p.m. NA	28 Office Closed	29 Pastor preaching at Briarcliff Oaks  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  8 p.m. AA/ALANON	30  3:30 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	31  3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons		