



Guyton Christian Church

October 2015 Newsletter

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Pastor's Peace/Piece

While looking for something else on the Disciples.org website, I ran across a Clergy Retirement Planning Guide. Kay and I have been thinking about what my retirement might look like so I downloaded the guide and began to read. I was surprised that it said three years is a minimum recommended notice before a pastor's retirement date.

Kay and I had been thinking retirement would be workable after she gets Medicare, May 2018. That is within the three-year period. So, even though we do not know where we will go or what we will do, I announced to the Board, September 14, that I will retire from active ministry and from Guyton Christian Church on May 31, 2018. That is 2 years, 8.2 months from today.

I believe the retirement guide is correct in envisioning a process of a planning season where the pastor's remaining time with the congregation is clearly known and understood. I do not intend to slow down or cut back during that time.

It is a surprise to me that a time of retirement is relatively near. Even recently, putting a date down on a calendar would have seemed premature. But after reading *Closing Well—Continuing Strong*, I see the wisdom of making such a decision.

This is ample time for all of us to see this concluding chapter of ministry as an opportunity for a renewed round of planning for the congregation's future ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Week of Sep 27, 2015		Special Offering Sep 27 and Oct 4
Mon Sep 28	7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study, Parsonage	Today and next Sunday we are receiving the special Reconciliation offering. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering providing for programs of leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities. One of the Disciples mission imperatives is to promote Christ's witness in the world that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!
Tue Sep 29	10:00 am Food Pantry open until 2:00 pm 2:00 pm Truck delivery at Food Pantry 6:00 pm Sojourners	
Wed Sep 30	5:45 pm Younger Youth & Older Youth 7:00 pm Prayer in the Prayer Garden 7:30 Pm Choir Practice	
Thu Oct 1	10:00 am Food Pantry open until 2:00 pm	



The children of our Children Worship and Wonder program have collected a weekly offering for the past several months as part of our worship. They are donating their offerings (\$78.00) to the Week of Compassion to be used to help the children of the current refugee crisis. They will continue to pray for the children and their families each week during the "Light a Candle for Children" prayer vigil leading up the National Observance of Children's Sabbath on Oct 18, 2015.

—Disciples Home Missions—Ron Degges

One item that contributes to the diminishment of the Christian faith is how we treat one another with less than the respect and integrity due to each sister and brother. If we spent as much time building up the body of Christ and its members as we do undermining and tearing the body and its members down, we might just start building interest and activity in congregational life once again. This is a no brainer!

Let me remind you that Christianity from its very beginnings was a movement of affirmation, love, and empowerment. Those whom God affirms and loves, God empowers. And we know that the faith is crystal clear about who God affirms and loves: "For God so love(s)d the world . . ."[John 3:16]; that is, God affirms and loves you and me and everybody.

The way of affirmation, love, and empowerment is a positive way. It takes us further than we ever thought possible. It opens our eyes to just what can happen when we and God lock and then open our souls in oneness to each other and to the world.

Let me remind you that author Rudyard Kipling received the following correspondence in 1889 from an editor: "I'm sorry, Mr. Kipling, but you just don't know how to use the English language." The young Kipling's work was rejected. George Orwell's, Animal Farm, was turned down in 1945 with the words: "It is impossible to sell animal stories in the U.S.A." And a publisher turned down The Diary of Anne Frank with this determination: "The girl doesn't, it seems to me, have a special perception or feeling which would lift that book above the 'curiosity' level."

Come on, Christians and Disciples, we can do much better than those editors. Let's cut each other some slack and work together to lift rather than denigrate. Don't let anyone take the wind out of your sails.

Prayer Concerns

Home John Battle Sandy Beckman Rita Ganaway Neal Ratchford Patricia Thomason	Cancer Jerry Burns Alex Burdo Kim Hankerson Annette Lamb Macy Varnell	All of our Seniors at home and in Nursing Homes Miriam Griffin All of our Military at home and abroad
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Advent begins November 29. We will again be producing our own Advent devotional booklet for the season. We need contributions to fill twenty-six days! Please submit a short devotion with a related scripture reading of your own writing or a favorite that you have found from another source. Deliver your writing to the church office by email, gcchurch@planters.net, if you can or hard copy if that is necessary. We need them by November 16 to compile the booklet in a timely manner.

The Finance, Stewardship & Outreach Committee will meet, October 13, to begin work on the church budget for 2016. All committee chairs need to have their committees review their current budgets and submit budget requests for next year prior to October 13. ALL members are asked to pray for mission guidance, as our budget says more about what is important to our congregation than anything we can say.

Our annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held Sunday, Oct 11 immediately following worship.

Board Chair, Jack Malcom, has announced and the Board has approved the following Nominating Committee: Marshall Reiser, Chair; Stacey Carothers, Ann Cavanah; Ron Clary; Jon Cote; Michael Moore; Steve Lafontaine; Kelly Long; and Faye Smith. The Committee will prepare a list of candidates for the Officers of the Church Board (Executive Committee) and recommend this list to the General Board for election at the Board's Annual Meeting, November 2. Nominations for Elders and the Diaconate will be submitted to the congregation on a ballot at the Annual Election Meeting of the Congregation, December 6. Please share your suggestions with members of the Committee.

The 166th Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, will be November 13-14, at First Christian Church of Atlanta, 4532 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA. The theme is *Becoming God's Beloved Community*. You can see all of the details and register now online at <http://www.gadisciples.org/news/RegAssm/RegAssm.asp>.

Our Older Youth are planning events called *Disciple Now* that are weekend retreats with worship, Bible study and a mission project right here at home. Two tentative dates are October 16-18 and April 8-10. We will need volunteers for hosts/homes, meals, and transportation. Contact Nancy Summerour (nvsammons@gmail.com) or Becky Malcom (malcommail@planters.net) if you want to learn more or volunteer.

Sunday Serving list for

Date	Elders	Deacons	Deaconess	Acolytes
Oct 4	Melissa Proctor Michael Moore	Ron Clary Tony Calhoun	Cindy Calhoun Shannon Thompson	Spencer Beahm
Oct 11	Laverne Cavanah Ginny Clary	David Proctor Jon Cote	Ann Cavanah Joyce Ann Tuten	Kylie Malcom
Oct 18	Fred Griffin Karen Cote	Brian Orrico Michael Bodnar	Mary Grace Fisher Molly Moore	Lance Perkins
Oct 25	Archie Jenkins Lainie Jenkins	Mike Smith David Lamb	Jennifer Reiser Bobbi Secich	Andrew Proctor



<p>Disciples Men</p> <p>October 19, 7:30 pm</p> <p>Hosts: Brad Trower & Michael Bodnar</p> <p>Devotion: Medie Still</p>	<p>Eula Powers Circle</p> <p>October 15, 7:30 pm</p> <p>Hostess: Beverly Bodnar</p> <p>Place: Beverly's House</p>	 <p>Communion for October</p> <p>Mike and Beverly Bodnar</p>
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October Birthdays

- Oct 2 Bodhi Carothers
- Oct 3 Roger Beckman
- Oct 5 Ray Zittrouer
- Oct 6 Zane Summerour
- Oct 8 Kylie Malcom
- Oct 12 Bob Reese
- Nancy Summerour
- Andrew Proctor
- Oct 18 Archie Jenkins
- Oct 19 Rohaya Taylor
- Julie Brinas
- Junior Burnsed
- Oct 25 Christopher Hall



- Oct 27 Fred Griffin
- Jewell Long
- Oct 29 Lamar Hall
- Oct 30 Clyde Alley
- Oct 31 Gail Lopez
- Vicki Wilkerson

October Anniversaries

- Oct 17 Doc & Julia Bolen
- Oct 20 Jack & Becky Malcom
- Oct 21 David & Kay Grandgeorge
- Oct 23 Ron & Ginny Clary
- Oct 31 Steve & Kim LaFontaine