



# Voices of Christ

## Christ Church Ministries Newsletter



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## Pastor Message

### Thanksgiving

Being thankful is an extremely powerful key to spiritual breakthrough. There are four reasons why we give thanks:

- ◆ First, it is a **command from God**. It is neither a suggestion nor an option; it is a command. The Bible says, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (*Col. 3:17*).
- ◆ Secondly, giving thanks to God is a **sure indication** that the Holy Spirit is operating in you. We are told to "be filled with the Spirit ... giving thanks always for all things to God" (*Eph. 5:18-20*):
  - The measure of the Holy Spirit within you can be partly gauged by seeing how often and sincerely you give thanks to God each day. When you cease to give Him thanks, it is an indication that you are probably "leaking" the presence of the Spirit.
- ◆ Thirdly, giving thanks is the **will of God** for you. Paul says, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (*1 Thess. 5:18*).
- ◆ Finally, giving thanks is a part of **bringing your prayer requests before the Lord**. The Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (*Phil. 4:6*).

God does everything by prayer and nothing without it. Remember; never bring a prayer request to Him without first giving Him thanks. When we do that, two wonderful miracles begin to happen:

- ◆ Thanksgiving **opens the pathway** for you to enter into God's presence. Without giving thanks to God, there can be no access to God. We enter the gates of His presence through giving Him thanks (*Ps. 100:4*).
- ◆ Thanksgiving is a key that **unlocks God's supernatural power**. In John 6, Jesus wanted to feed the 5,000 men. He didn't pray a verbose prayer. All He did was to give thanks for the five loaves and two fish,

Immediately the power of God came to multiply the food for the multitude. Many times, we miss out on the power of God simply because we do not release it through giving Him thanks!

**Bishop Robert A. Baker**

As true disciples of Christ we must “*set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth.*” For if we then be risen with Christ, we must, “*seek those things, which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God*”(Col 3:1) .

I want to deviate a little from the passage in Colossians, and refer to Paul’s writings in the book of Acts (Act 26:22.) Remember once we begin any project, we must continue until its completion. Paul, a former persecutor of the Church, had a face-to-face encounter with God on the road to Damascus that caused a drastic change in his mission. Paul a true Jew from the beginning of his life, and of the strictest sect of his religion, lived as a Pharisee. (One who taught and had complete command of the Jewish Laws). However, in his early life, Paul did many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his ignorance of who Jesus was, he put the followers of Christ in prison, and punished them often from synagogue to synagogue. He even traveled to strange cities with the intent to beat intimidate and punish in any way as many believers as possible. As Paul traveled the road to Damascus with every intention to punish the next set of believers, God caused not only a GREAT LIGHT FROM HEAVEN to shine upon Him, but also a great TRANSFORMATION that would forever change his life. Paul realized it was God whom he persecuted.

From that moment on the Lord God commanded Paul to arise, and prepare to go forth as a minister. He was to speak of the things, which he had just seen, and those things the Lord would reveal unto him. Paul was commissioned to open the eyes of the Gentiles and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. He was to build their faith in God and help them realize that forgiveness of sin would be theirs through Jesus Christ. From that day forward, Paul said “*Having there obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: that Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles*” (Acts 26:22). Paul had no intention of stopping the mission until its completion. He continually preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ, though beaten, shipwrecked, and imprisoned, he still spread the “Good News” It doesn’t matter where you meet Jesus, or what state you are in. Once you repent, are baptized in the name of Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, receive the precious gift of the Holy Ghost, you must continue in the Word, in prayer, and witnessing to others of this Great Savior.

**Elect Lady Evangelist Patricia Baker**

## 20/20 Vision: Can You See Clearly? (Acts 9:1-9)

How blind can we be sometimes? Things that are right in front of us, we cannot see or overlook. Whether it’s physical objects or the truth about a situation or person – we just cannot seem to see things for ourselves. In Acts 9:1-9, Saul of Tarsus has just finished persecuting Christians in Jerusalem. He was heading northeast to Damascus to persecute more Christians. Yet, Saul experienced a divine encounter with God to where he lost his sight. This encounter was like none other because Saul had to realize that he had given himself over to the wrong thoughts and things. Likewise, we will sincerely do things according to our own understanding, all the while not really seeing God for what He truly is in relation to us. God called out Saul’s name twice to convey his deep emotions toward what Saul was doing. Likewise, God feels deeply about us, our thoughts, actions, hurts, dreams, and everything else about us. But God sometimes wonders – Why do we run from the very One who’s waiting to help us through it? Why are we resisting the direction of the very One who knows all, sees all, is all and yet is working it all out for our good? God goes on to say, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” A goad was a long, extremely sharp stick that was used to get an ox going the way you wanted him to when you were plowing. The person would jab the hind legs of the ox with the goad until the ox cooperated. Essentially, we are the ox; Jesus is the farmer. We are sometimes ignorant to His ways or stubborn – yet valuable and extremely useful to the Master’s service. Like Saul, Jesus is goading us into the right direction, and the goading (or the process itself) causes us pain, but instead of submitting to Jesus, we kick against the goad – and only increase our pain. When we fight God or do not remain sensitive to His direction, we only

end up hurting ourselves. Yet, God said that, “It is hard for you.” Here it is, Jesus is being hurt by the very ones He loves – us. Yet, God is more concerned about the pain and unnecessary changes we put ourselves through by resisting His will. It’s interesting to note that the same Saul that was a terrorist is now trembling before God (v6). Even in the midst of this life-changing encounter, Saul is not crying “Why me?” or “Why now, Lord?” He just simply asked, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” It’s not about the excuses I can conjure up. It’s not about what others are doing or not doing. It’s about me and what I can do to obey God. God’s response did not dwell on Saul and his sins. God simply said, “Arise...go...and you will be told what you must do” later on. Notice that God told Saul what to do for that present moment. Often we get frustrated with God because He doesn’t reveal everything right here and now. However, growing in the midst of your storm is like night driving: our vision/His plan for you will only be expanded and illuminated to the extent that we stay on the road set before us and drive forward. Even though His vision was not 20/20, Saul was willing to be led by the hand and brought into the city where God instructed him to go. We must have the same attitude: even though we may not be able to see everything clearly, we must move forward as God instructs. It is in moving forward that you have your victory. After all, it was only once Saul moved forward into Damascus that he was strengthened, received his sight, was baptized, and took on a new identity. Whether your experiences have you low in the depths of a valley or high upon a mountain top – can you see clearly? Can you really SEE God for who and what He really is? If not, do what you must to get 20/20 vision.

**Sister Jennifer Dilworth**

## My Experience as a Visitor

There is always a certain degree of awkwardness when going to a new church for the very first time especially when you do not know anyone there. You do not really know what to expect. On the other hand, no one really knows what to expect from you either. I feel blessed that my family was able to find a church home so quickly after moving back to Virginia. We tried one other church before attending Christ Church. We felt the other church was not the right place for us because most of the people did not speak to us at all. I felt more like an intruder than a visitor.

We had a very different experience at Christ Church. We were immediately greeted at the door and everyone that I spoke to seemed generously friendly. There is not a perfect church, but how we treat our guests is so important. Why would anyone return to a place that did not make them feel welcome? I look forward to fellowshiping and growing with Christ Church.

**Sister Sheila Richey**

# Women of Purpose Conference September 2011

Renew

Refresh

Revive



## THREE DUTIES OF EVERY CHRISTIAN



The three duties of every Christian are giving, praying, and fasting. In Matthew 6, Jesus provided the pattern by which each of us is to live as a child of God.

That pattern addressed three specific duties of a Christian: giving, praying, and fasting. Jesus said, "When you give...", and "When you pray..." and "When you fast..." He made it clear that fasting, like giving and praying, is a normal part of Christian life. As much attention should be given to fasting as is given to giving and to praying. Solomon, when writing the books of wisdom for Israel, made the point that a cord, or rope, braided with three strands is not easily broken (*Eccles 4:12*). Likewise, when giving, praying, and fasting are practiced together in the life of a believer, it creates a type of threefold cord that

is not easily broken. In fact, Jesus took it further and stated, "Nothing is impossible" (Matt 17:20). Could we be missing the greatest breakthroughs because we fail to fast? Remember the thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and hundredfold return Jesus spoke of (*Mark 4:8, 20*)? Look at it this way: when you pray, you can release that thirtyfold return, but when both prayer and giving are part of your life, I believe that releases the sixtyfold blessing. But when all three—giving, praying, and fasting—are part of your life, that hundredfold return can be released.

If that's the case, you have to wonder what blessings are not being released. What answers to prayer are not getting through? What bondages are not being broken because we fail to fast?

*Sister Denise Williams*

On Friday October 14, 2011, I attended Christ Church Women's monthly meeting.

I really feel God had met us at the meeting because we were able to come together on one accord in singing, praises, and His Word. The scriptures read by different sisters which were confirmed by the word given to the three speakers. Sister Denise Williams, Minister Colander, and Sister Joyce Richards.

The prescription scripture *Psalms 91: 1-4* was an encouragement for the test and trials I am currently overcoming with the help of Jesus. Thank God for Christ Church women coming together and fellowshiping on one accord.

*Sister Melanie Crooms*

## Come on in the Room

The Georgia Mass Choir recorded a song titled "Come on in the Room" and it stated that Jesus is my doctor. He writes up all my prescriptions and gives me all my medicine in the room. Yes sisters, God does know about the pain, the hurts and disappointments in our lives. The Word of God gives us results and a recipe to obtain a healthy life through our emotional, spiritual, and physical needs. The characteristics of a healthy lifestyle are:

**H-HEART**-*Proverbs 17:22* says "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women in the United States; heart disease is preventable, practice heart healthy habits.

**E-EXERCISE & ENCOURAGE**-Meditate on God's Word daily and keep your mind stayed on Him. Encourage yourself in the Lord! Get moving; establish some kind of fitness activity like walking or running.

**A-APPETITE**-Get a hunger and thirst for the Word of God to nourish your soul. Naturally eat a low fat diet consisting of fruits, vegetable and protein. Drink lots of water!

**L-LOVE**-Love yourself and others, *Lev 19:18* states...but thou shalt love they neighbor as thyself....

**H-HEALING**-Whatever is willing you in your mind, body, and spirit..Doctor Jesus will heal you, the Lord says in Jeremiah 30:167 for I will restore health unto thee and I will heal thee of thy wounds.

The sisterhood meeting encouraged, enlightened, and reminded the women of God that through faith, our active ingredient and in the Word of God, Jesus is our physician!

I can only encourage all of the women in the CC ministry to always mark their calendars and make sure they attend our Women's meeting. The information that is shared will bless your soul. God uses the woman of CCM in ways that prove that God intends to heal and deliver us from hurts and hindrances that we have encountered in our lives that we may not even be aware of. The meeting on Friday dealt with issues that women may find surprising in our minds and we may not realize that we need to get help. I am very grateful for all the information that was shared with me. I received it and plan to actively apply it to areas in my life that need to be dealt with. It is a wonderful thing to see our women of God use God's word to benefit us in such a way that our souls benefit tremendously. Thank you

*Sister Joyce Smith*

## Young People Summer Convention Orlando, FL

I am so excited about what the Lord is doing in the Young People's Auxiliary and grateful for how He is blessing us tremendously! We have the privilege to travel to the 2011 PAW Summer Convention in Orlando, FL and what a time we had!

We had the opportunity to fellowship with each other during the day and then with the saints from other churches during the evening worship services. We had young people that were truly hungry for the Lord and on Thursday night, He responded!

During the late night teen service, worship erupted in the house during praise and worship and when they were ready to move on in the service our young people wasn't ready to let go of God. So under the direction of the Holy Ghost we moved them out into the hallway where they continued to cry out to God! It was amazing to see them crying out to God with such purity and passion seeking the Holy Ghost.

Those who were already filled didn't just stand around and watch, but they carried and prayed with one another encouraging them to not let go of God until He blessed them. And their persistence paid off! Before the night was over, we had three young people that were filled with the precious gift

of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues as the Spirit gave utterance!! God reminded me of the promise He made to me that this was going to be the generation that no longer settled for mediocrity, but was going to be seek Him like never before and be atmosphere changers!

No longer were they going to be content with fitting in because they will count it a privilege knowing they were called to stand out! This is going to be the generation that seek the face of the Lord like never before (Psalms 24:6) and this is that generation that will do great works in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:17-18)!

I'm excited because every time I get discouraged God reminds me of the promise and that which He has already done! Since March of this year there have been 8 young people baptized and 9 filled with the Holy Ghost, and I have confidence that He is not done!!

So I ask that you continue to pray for the Young People's Auxiliary that the will of God be done and that we do and be all that He has called us to be. And as you witness Him moving in the auxiliary, rejoice with us in knowing that "This is That"!

## "On the Road!"

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the pleasure of going to Bridgewater College to visit Brother Timothy Holley for their friends and family weekend. Timothy is doing very well in school and adjusting to college life as a sophomore. When I walked in his dorm room the first thing I noticed was he had his Holy Ghost certificate proudly displayed on his desk so his roommates and anyone else that came in would know that he was saved and proud of it! Later that evening I also had the pleasure of attending the mini-concert of the school's gospel choir in which Timothy has been named the choir director. Not only did the choir sound well, but I was so proud to see him directing (and doing it very well) I might add! After the concert, we met one of the ministers at the church where Timothy attends while he is away at college. He had nothing but positive things to say about him including how proud he was of him for maintaining a standard and choosing to live a life of holiness while being away at college. It really did my heart good to see that he hasn't forgotten what was instilled in him and choosing to make holiness a lifestyle and not just something he pretends while he's here at Christ Church under our watchful eye. Please keep not only Timothy, but all our students away at college in your prayers. And I'm sure they'd love to hear from you sometime whether it's a visit to their campus or just a card in the mail!

Sister MaRhonda Echols



*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: be  
thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

*Psalm 100:4*

# Beginning Today

*Beginning today, I will no longer worry about yesterday. It is in the past and the past will never change. Only I can change by choosing to do so.*

*Beginning today, I will no longer worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will always be there, waiting for me to make the most of it. But I cannot make the most of tomorrow without first making the most of today.*

*Beginning today, I will look in the mirror and I will see a person worthy of my respect and admiration. This capable person looking back at me is someone I enjoy spending time with and someone I would like to get to know better.*

*Beginning today, I will cherish each moment of my life. I value this gift bestowed upon me in this world and I will unselfishly share this gift with others. I will use this gift to enhance the lives of others.*

*Beginning today, I will take a moment to step off the beaten path and to revel in the mysteries I encounter. I will face challenges with courage and determination. I will overcome what barriers there may be which hinder my quest for growth and self-improvement.*

*Beginning today, I will take life one day at a time, one step at a time.*

*Discouragement will not be allowed to taint my positive self-image, my desire to succeed or my capacity to love.*

*Beginning today, I walk with renewed faith in human kindness. Regardless of what has gone before, I believe there is hope for a brighter and better future.*

*Beginning today, I will open my mind and my heart. I will welcome new experiences. I will meet new people. I will not expect perfection from myself nor anyone else: perfection does not exist in an imperfect world. But I will applaud the attempt to overcome human foibles.*

*Beginning today, I am responsible for my own happiness and I will do things that make me happy ... Admire the beautiful wonders of nature, listen to my favorite music, pet a kitten or a puppy, soak in a bubble bath... pleasure can be found in the most simple of gestures.*

*Beginning today I will learn something new; I will try something different; I will savor all the various flavors life has to offer. I will change what I can and the rest I will let go. I will strive to become the best me I can possibly be. **Beginning today. And every day.***

**Author Unknown**

## Jonah's Talk with the Whale

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights (*NKJV, Jonah 1:17*). "Oh Jonah what have you done?" asked the whale. Jonah lay in the belly of whale angry, cold, wet, and crying.

"The Lord God asked me to go to Nineveh and preach to the people. Their sins have gone up before the Lord. He wants me to preach to them so they will be saved" Jonah whimpered loudly. He then sat up, wrapped his arms around his knees, and buried his face.

"Why didn't you do what the Lord commanded? You have brought great discomfort to me! Be still! The taste of your body is nasty and upsetting to my stomach! Because of your disobedience I am made to suffer with you", the whale said angrily.

"The people of Nineveh are an ungodly perverse nation. They do not deserve salvation. They sacrifice to and worship idols. The people are sinful and evil. The people should be destroyed! I refused to go and preach to them." Jonah proclaimed harshly.

"Oh foolish Jonah, there is no respect of persons with God (*NKJV, Romans 2:11*). You are a man of God and yet you have forgotten his word. Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you (*NKJV, Matthew 7:1-2*). Your judgment has come swiftly in the dark pit of my bowels. Can you not see the judgment of God is upon you" the whale asked?

Screaming at the top of his voice Jonah yelled, "Leave me alone! You are a curse to me! I'm hungry and cold! Who are you to chastise me? You are just a stinking fish! You do not know anything about mankind."

"How long Jonah will I have to endure this pain in my stomach? Casting

down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (*NKJV, 2 Corinthians 10:5*). Surely, you have things turned around! Will the potter be esteemed as the clay; or will the thing made say of him who made it, 'He did not make me'? Or will the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding" (*NKJV, Isaiah 29:16*). You are right Jonah I know nothing of dry land and mankind. What I do know is GOD made us. Who are we to go against the creator of all living things? I would not be so bold against our GOD."

"You're right" said Jonah sorry fully, "Because I have let my flesh, and my feelings get in the way of GOD's purpose. My sin of disobedience has caused you to suffer and me as well. I made the mistake of listening to the carnal mind instead of the Holy Spirit."

"Remember Jonah," the whale reminded, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (*NKJV, 2 Peter 3:9*). Not only that, you should be asking the Lord GOD for forgiveness more than me."

On the third day, Jonah prayed to the LORD his GOD from the fish's belly (*NKJV, Jonah 2:1*). In Jonah's prayer, he cried out to the Lord. Even though he was in the belly of the whale, he had faith that GOD still heard his voice. Surrounded by water and darkness Jonah still looked to GOD for mercy *Psalms 139:8*. If I ascend into heaven, GOD is there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, GOD is there (NKJV). After Jonah had repented and thanked GOD, the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land (*NKJV, Jonah 2:10*).

**Sister Ashley Turntine**



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Visit our Website for additional information  
about Christ Church <http://ccam.org>

## Challenge your mind How well do you know the Bible?

Look for  
answers in  
CCM Winter  
Newsletter

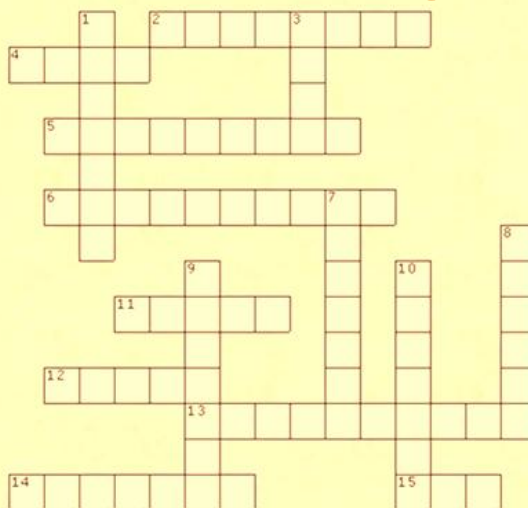
Answer to  
Summer  
Crossword  
puzzle

### ACROSS

- 2 Love your \_\_\_ as yourself  
4 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a \_\_\_. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen  
5 By this all men will know that you are my \_\_\_, if you love one another  
6 A new command I give you: Love \_\_\_  
11 For God so loved the \_\_\_ that he gave his one and only Son  
12 Love the Lord your God with
- all your \_\_\_, soul, and mind  
13 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the \_\_\_ be with you all  
14 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even \_\_\_ love those who love them.  
15 \_\_\_ is love

### DOWN

- 1 Love is \_\_\_, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud  
3 And now these three remain: faith, \_\_\_ and love. But the greatest of  
7 Love your \_\_\_ and pray for those who persecute you  
8 Husbands, love your wives, just as \_\_\_ loved the church and  
9 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his \_\_\_  
10 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain \_\_\_



### Worship Service Schedule

- Sunday:** Sunday School – 9:30 am  
Morning Worship – 11:15 am  
\*\*\*\*Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Children's Church – 11:15 am\*\*\*\*  
**Tuesday:** Prayer – 12 noon (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Prayer – 7:00 pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study – 12 noon,  
Christian Living – 7:00 pm  
**Saturday** Prayer – 8 am

Everyone is encouraged to submit writings, church ads, poems, and testimonies. **Please submit your articles to [m.a.hackney@hotmail.com](mailto:m.a.hackney@hotmail.com)**

*We invite you to come and fellowship with us*

A warm welcome and a loving smile will greet you the moment you walk through the doors. You will experience anointed worship and hear an inspiring message from our Pastor that will bless you. We believe you will experience the touch of God's Holy Spirit and power as we worship.