

Disciples Notes

Peachtree Corners Christian Church

February 2010

Volume 24, Number 1

6060 Spalding Drive
Norcross, GA 30092

770 447-5475
www.peachtreecornerscc.org

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

I have a confession to make. I love Lent. I know it sounds like an oxymoron to appreciate a season of the church year that conjures up images of fasting and prayer and sackcloth and ashes. But let's shift from stereotypes to reality, and then maybe you'll see why I love Lent.

Lent originated in the ancient church as a season of soul searching and repentance. And although we sometimes imagine that soul-searching means only personal spirituality, Christian preparation always includes community action. For me, Lent is a time where I can assess and take action to improve my relationships - with God and my neighbors.

Recently I came across an apt description of the Christian life, which can also be a guide as we move into Lent: "An ancient saying suggested that there are two wings by which we rise, one being personal piety and the other community charity. No one can fly by flapping only one wing." (Harvey and Lois Seifert, *Liberation of Life*)

One of the most important reasons for being on the journey together *as church* is to support each other in our personal piety and to work together in community charity. Our church is here to do just that and here are some ways to help you:

- Sign up for a 7-week Lenten small group on prayer. See display in narthex or email me at pastor@peachtreecornerscc.org.
- "Give up something for Lent" (Starbucks stop, purchased lunch, dinner out) and with the money saved, help someone else (Norcross Co-op, Haitian relief, Camp Christian, or your choice.)
- Attend worship regularly. Besides special Lenten and Easter worship, every Sunday during Lent we will be deeply exploring prayer, from thanksgiving, to petition, to lament.
- Develop a practice of daily prayer and incorporate prayer into your family life.
- Commit to a regular action that makes our community a better place. Pick up litter. Volunteer at NCM. Help a child read at a local public school. Bring a pot of soup for PCCC's weekly job ministry. Take your choice; there is no shortage of need.

May you be blessed on this Lenten Journey!

~Pastor Kathy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Board Report – 2
- Valentine's Breakfast – 2
- Outreach – 3
- Christian Education – 3
- Worship Notes – 4
- Lent Study – 4
- Summer Camp – 5

DATES COMING UP

Feb. 7 – Souper Bowl of Caring
Feb. 13 – Disciples Men's Valentines Breakfast
Feb. 13 – WOW³ Women's Meeting
Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome goes out to Sandi Lilly, who joined Peachtree Corners Christian Church Jan. 17. Sandi has been worshipping with us since December and many of you are already getting to know her since she has jumped right in by joining the choir. Here is a little more about her: she has two grown sons, Eric, 37, and Evan, 30. She also is an attorney with Peachtree Settlement Funding. Many of us knew her late husband, David, and she says, "The kindness of PCCC members during David's illness touched me deeply." She adds that since his passing, "I am learning to re-define myself and my life." For fun, she says, "I love to sing, I read incessantly; love good games, hockey and football. Although she says "I'm the most boring soul on the planet," many of us who have had the fun of being with Sandi know that isn't true. Welcome Sandi!



PCCC NOTES

BOARD REPORT

Dear PCCC Friends,

I am looking forward with great expectation to what God has in store for us in 2010! Pastor Kathy mentioned in her sermon on Sunday that this will be a year of prayer for PCCC. Praying with our Chinese Church members on January 5th was a wonderful way to begin this new year of prayer and I am looking forward to the Small Prayer Groups for Lent that are being planned. I hope that every one of you will be able to join us in one of them... or in one of the currently scheduled prayer meetings at 6:30 Wednesday evenings at PCCC, or on Thursday mornings at 6:30 at Magnolia Bakery Cafe. Please note that we can always use additional prayer support for our Wednesday Noon Prayer Power for Job Seekers Luncheons. Those of you who have joined us in the past have been an inspiration to the job seekers who attend. We also need additional volunteers to provide soup for the luncheons. Thanks to Margaret Austin for the Corn Chowder at the luncheon last week and those of you who have done so in 2009. Please email me at roddahl@bellsouth.net and let me know if you would like to participate or bring a pot of soup.

Please note that our next board meeting is Sunday Jan 31 at 6:30 PM.

We will be reviewing our 2009 year-end financial statements at this meeting and we will begin firming up plans for 2010. The officers of the Board (our Leadership Team) met Thursday January 21st at 6:30 PM to prepare for the Board meeting.

Thanks so much! Prayer is powerful, God listens, You are not alone!

~Rod Dahl – PCCC Board Chair

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Recently, Peachtree Corners Christian Church was contacted by Victory World Church, located in Norcross. It seems that Victory World had collected a special offering at Christmas and wanted to distribute half of it to smaller local churches who may have been affected by the economy but were working to do good community ministry. Would we be interested in completing a short application for such funds? I have to admit I did some discrete checking around, talked to a few people, and even though it seemed too good to be true, it wasn't. So with the blessing of our Leadership Team, I sent them a short application, and a week later, I was contacted by one of their pastors, who told me that they were pleased to contribute \$2,000 to us to be used for our 2010 Vacation Bible School at NCM as well as for banners for our "Prayer Power for Job Seekers" and related outreach ministries. On behalf of all of us, I want to offer a great big thank you to Victory World Church for their generous gift to our community ministries. What an amazing thing it is when the Body of Christ works together!

~ Pastor Kathy

VALENTINE'S BREAKFAST

All PCCC Disciples
Women are invited



to attend our 2nd Annual Valentine's Breakfast on Saturday Feb. 13 at 9am. This will be held at the church and all interested ladies should notify us of your anticipated presence by signing up on the list in the narthex. Like last year, the men will cook, serve, cleanup and present a musical special if all goes according to plan. Lou Mancuso and Eddie Trumble have teamed up to lead us in this venture. All men are encouraged to help facilitate this event. Stand by for more information and a practice time immediately after the Feb. 7 worship service.

~Will Perdue

DISCIPLE MEN ON RETREAT

The GA Disciples Men's Retreat will be held Mar. 19-21 at Camp Christian. Sign up is going on now at www.gadisciples.org. Dean Phelps, a previous GA Regional Associate Minister, will keynote each session. This year's theme is *Becoming Real Men For Jesus*. ~Will Perdue

DISCIPLE WOMEN

The WOW³ will meet Saturday, Feb. 13 at 9:30 a.m. or immediately following the special Ladies Valentine's Breakfast planned by the Disciple Men. All women are invited to share their ideas and talents to create a women's mission where we can enjoy each other's friendship as we serve God. ~Arlene Floch

OUTREACH NOTES

FEED MY SHEEP

Jesus asked Simon Peter "do you love me?"

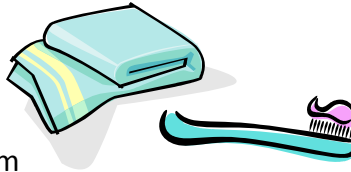
Simon Peter answered, "Yes Lord." Jesus replied, "Take care of my Sheep." (John 21:16)

Every year in February, Disciples across the nation take up an offering to help all of us care for Jesus' sheep. Through the Week of Compassion offering taken up February 21-28th, Disciples will be able to help give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty and clothing to the naked. I know it sounds too simple to be true, but I have oversimplified what WOC really does. WOC is a global organization created to help those that Jesus asked us to care for the most. WOC has missionaries around the world to respond to immediate disasters and help foster long-term relationships to help empower those living in those countries to better their lives. Again, what does that mean to us here in Peachtree Corners? Last year, heavy rains caused flooding across Georgia. Several ministers from local Disciples churches gathered, and money from WOC was given out to help people locally get back on their feet. Then in January, we joined with thousands of other Disciples as we took up a special offering to help earthquake victims in Haiti. All over the world, WOC is there to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. Help us care for Jesus' sheep on February 21st and 28th by giving generously to WOC.



HAITI DISASTER UPDATE

Your generosity on Jan. 17 for our special Haiti offering meant that \$670 was sent to Week of Compassion from



Peachtree Corners Christian Church to support disaster relief efforts there. In a related service project we are collecting supplies to replenish the hygiene kits that were rushed to Haiti from the Dominican Republic within 24 hours of the disaster. These kits are from Church World Service and Week of Compassion and need the following NEW items: 1 hand towel (approx. 16' x 28"), 1 washcloth, 1 wide-tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 bath size bar of soap in wrapper, 1 toothbrush in original packing, 6 Band-Aids. Bring your items to the display in the entrance area of the church by Feb. 28.



Don't forget to bring your \$\$\$ Sunday, Feb. 7 when our youth join with churches all over the country to support local ministries. The special offering they will collect in a soup pot will support Norcross Cooperative Ministry.

CHRISTIAN

EDUCATION NOTES

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We could really use more volunteers for the 3rd & 4th Sundays to help teach Children's Church. We will only be able to offer Children's Church on those Sundays when we have two volunteers, so let Bethanne Brown know if you can volunteer on the 3rd or 4th Sunday each month.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

As part of your Lenten practice, consider joining or rejoining a Sunday School Class from 9:45-10:30 a.m. each Sunday. Winter studies include the following:

- Good Age Class (adults) - Study of Mark's Gospel using Thoughtful Christian curriculum, led by teacher rotation
- Disciple Class (adults and high schoolers) - *Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by Louri Kearns and Arlene Floch. See Louri Kearns for a copy of the book--they are \$16.50
- Younger Grades (ages 3-1st grade) - Seasons of the Spirit Bible curriculum
- Older Grades (2nd-5th grade) - Seasons of the Spirit Bible curriculum
- Youth (6th-12th grade) - "Way to Live" - Christian Practices for Teens, led by Pastor Kathy

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 7 – Luke 5:1-11 – The Calling of the Disciples

What are we willing to let go of to follow Jesus?

Feb. 14 – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – “The Greatest of these is Love”

Our loving actions are a witness to Christ’s presence.

Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The season of Lent, a season of turning to God, begins on Ash Wednesday with a special worship service.

Feb. 21 1st Sunday of Lent

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Luke 4:1-13

“Questions about Prayer”

We begin a Lenten sermon series on prayer using the Book of Psalms as our guide. For millennia, the psalms have prayed the deepest longings of our human hearts.

Feb. 28, 2nd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 27, Luke 13:31-35

“When Bad Things Happen We Keep on Trusting”

In our lives of prayer, a trusting relationship with God is the key ingredient. Yet, prayer holds plenty of room for our questions, and in fact, **lament**.

LENT BEGINS FEB. 17

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. During this season of soul-searching, we are invited to “repent” which means to turn to God. Lent originated in the earliest days of the church as a preparatory time for Easter, when converts prepared for baptism and the faithful renewed their commitments. The season is 40 days long (not counting Sundays, which commemorate the resurrection), lasting this year from Feb. 17 to April 3. During this season, we will have many opportunities for soul-searching, through special worship (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Noon Community Holy Week Services, and Maundy Thursday) and a special Lenten study on prayer.



COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Churches in the Peachtree Corners Community will be hosting noon Lenten services Mar. 29-April 2 again this year. Our day to host worship and lunch over the noon hour is Tuesday, Mar. 30. Stay tuned for more information.

PASTOR’S STUDY

Although Lent is not the only time of year to learn about baptism and what it means to be a Christian, this season of repentance, or turning Godward, offers a good opportunity to explore our faith. Please contact Pastor Kathy to let her know of your interest and to arrange for this study opportunity for all ages.

SIGN UP FOR SMALL GROUP DURING LENT

No matter where you are in the faith journey, everyone has something to learn about prayer. And the best way to do that is with a small group of caring people who can journey alongside you. With that in mind, EVERYONE (ages 16 and up) is invited to sign up for a 7 week Lenten study, which will begin in mid February and end by Easter. You will have a choice in days and times of day for this small group meeting. Please see information in the narthex.

WEDDING BELLS RING

Congratulations



to Noriko Kato and Tomoo Harada who were married at Peachtree Corners Christian Church on Dec. 28, 2009, at 5 p.m., with many of their family and friends coming for this special event from Japan.

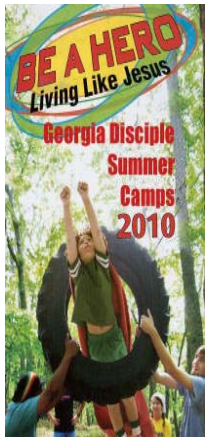
AROUND THE REGION AND BEYOND **DISCIPLE WOMEN SET PLANNING MEETINGS**

Disciple Women in Georgia are inviting all interested women to contribute their voices to planning efforts underway now in the region. Women are invited to complete a survey about women's ministries. Go to <http://www.gadisciples.org/organizations/CWF/CWFSurvey.htm>. Also a planning retreat for all women interested in women's ministries will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at Camp Christian. Go to <http://www.gadisciples.org/organizations/CWF/PlanningRetreat2010.htm> for more information and to register.



DISCIPLE WOMEN'S 2010 QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY

Mark your calendars now for June 23-27, 2010. The Disciple Women's Assembly will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. For more information, go to www.quadrennial.org.



SUMMER CAMP: SAVE THE DATE CAMP CHRISTIAN SUMMER 2010

THEME: "Be a Hero – Living Like Jesus"

Junior I: Completed 3rd-5th grades – June 7-11
Chrysalis: Completed 1st & 2nd grades – June 11-13
CYF: Completed 9th-12th grades – June 14-19
YADA: Completed 12th grade-30's – June 19-20
Chi-Rho: Completed 6th-8th grades – June 21-26
Junior II: Completed 3rd-5th grades – July 12-16
Genesis: Completed K – July 16-18
Balaam: Completed 11th & 12th grade – July 18-22
Camp Reunion Family Camp – August 13-15

Peachtree Corners Christian Church
6060 Spalding Drive
Norcross, GA 30092

YOUTH RETREAT REPORT

Every year there is a winter retreat for Disciple youth all over Georgia to get together at St. Simon's Island. It is called Youth-A-Palooza, and this year five of us went from PCCC - Natalie Moore, Amy Kim, Bianca Mendoza, James McDowell, and myself, plus our chaperone Jenny Miller. This year it was an awesome experience and I learned so much from it. The theme was "Unmasked," and not only did the message encourage youth to show their true selves, but it also made us realize that God does not want us to be shy about our faith. We have to go into the world and declare that we are Christians and show it through our actions and words.
~Leah Faulconer