JOHNS CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
10800 Bell Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097 • 770 418-1101 • fax 770 418-1766

Email jcccadmin@johnscreekchristian.org Webpage www.johnscreekchristian.org

Rev. Randy Barnhart, Senior Minister **Robert Mills,** Director of Music Ministries

Sunday Schedule
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Gathering Time
10:45 AM Worship

CROSS CURRENTS

June 24, 2009 **Volume XII, Number 6**

WHO ARE WE? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

Rev. Randy Barnhart, Senior Minister

Every once in a while we (the church) need to take a look at ourselves, assess what we see, and make plans to build on our strengths and shore up shortcomings. This summer will initiate a process of, not only of self assessment, but of strategic planning. Among other things, we'll be defining our values, our mission, and our vision.

Our values are simply those things that are most important to Johns Creek Christian Church. We can tell what our values are by looking at how we as a church spend our time, how we spend our energies, and how we spend our money. What do we value in actuality? We will also look at what have been called "aspirational values." These are those things we know ought to be of greater importance to us than they actually are. We'll want to identify these things and grow as a church in these areas.
Our mission is God-given; we don't have to decide what our mission will be. God has stated clearly the church's reason for being. We'll take a look at that reason and fashion a brief and memorable statement that we can use and refer to as a guide for doing ministry here. Mission questions are, what are we here for? and, what does God want us to do?

Vision, on the other hand, is a picture of how we at JCCC will live out the mission to which we are called. Though every church has the same mission (remember, that is God-given), each church is unique in many ways. Where we are located helps shape our vision. The unchurched people in our area help shape our vision. What are the needs of the people we have been called to serve? How can we best serve them so as to fulfill our mission?

According to Peter Drucker's book, The Five Most Important Questions *You Will Ever Ask About Your Organization*, these are the queries on which we need to focus:

1. What is our mission? (What are we here for? Why do we exist?)
2. Who is our customer? (Who are we here to serve? Who needs us?)
3. What does the customer value? (What are people seeking, needing, looking for?)
4. What are our results? (What is it we actually produce? What impact are we having on people's lives, the community, and the world?)
5. What is our plan? (How are we living into the future? What are our specific goals and objectives, why are they important, and how are we going to achieve them?)

What are the right questions for the church to ask? How do we come to our answers? Asking the right questions is critical for the church. Some folk may think it is more important for the church to have right answers than to ask the right questions, and I can see wisdom in that. But at the very least it is true that until we ask the right questions we're not likely to come up with faithful answers.
Recently we named a steering committee to come up with a process, a timeline, suggested goals for our study of values mission, and vision. The members of the steering committee are Dan McBride, Charlie Kittinger, Carol Matthieson, Allen Rogers, Richard Jerkins, and Jim Lozen. This group will not do the work of answering the big questions of mission and vision for the church. That will be the role of our Leadership Team, our Elders and JCCC's Pastoral leadership. The steering committee will provide a framework to help us stay on task and a reasonable date by which we hope to accomplish this work.
Please be in prayer for our church as we enter this period of self-assessment and growth. God will be glorified through your faithful giving of yourself to his magnificent mission!

Pax Christi,

FINANCIAL NEWS

From Ritchie Dickey, CFA – Finance Committee Chair

Summer is often a financially difficult time for the church, because vacations and travel take us away from our regular routine. While this offers us needed renewal and refreshment, missed Sunday offerings can play havoc with the church's cash flow. Additionally, the revenue that the pre-school provides during the school year is not present in the summer. Consequently, cash flow for the month of June is always a challenge. This June is no exception, and we had to pull some money out of reserves to pay the mortgage this month. The Finance Committee has set a goal to hold cash in the reserve account sufficient to cover three months worth of operating expenses. We believe this provides a prudent cushion to offset any extraordinary expenses and allow for variability in cash flow throughout the year. Presently, the reserve account has $29,000, and we need $71,000 ($42,000 more than present) to reach our goal. We will be striving to replenish the depleted funds and build the account over the last half of the year, but in the meantime, please keep in mind the financial challenges that the summer months present to the church.

We will be sending contribution updates in the second week of July. This will be the second update; the first round was sent in early April via email – to everyone for whom we had an email address – and by mail to everyone else. We will be distributing hard copies this round, either in church or by mail, so be sure to let us know if you have moved recently. With regard to contribution levels, the first five months of the year were great. The average level of giving is ahead of last year, and from February through May contributions were ahead of budget (unfortunately, January was not as good and we are slightly behind for the year). Our thanks go out to all families who have kept their pledge up-to-date, and I know that many of you have even exceeded your pledge. Obviously, the current economic conditions create additional financial hardships for many families, as well as the church. We will continue to pray for the world economic situation and particularly for the individuals in our congregation who have been affected.

JCCC CONGRATULATES…

…the scouts from JCCC Troop #27 who have earned the Eagle Scout award.
The first Eagle awarded to the JCCC chartered group was to **Derek Mackley** on March 29th.

Recognized at the Court of Honor held at Johns Creek United Methodist Church on May 31 were **Andrew Cliff, Sam Sherak,** and **Daniel LeClerq**, pictured here (L to R)

Each scout is required to complete a rigorous project as part of the Eagle program. Two of the scouts chose projects that benefited JCCC: Daniel built our preschool children's picnic tables, and Sam refurbished the trail and entry arbor.

Currently, about 2% of boys who start in scouting continue the journey and "climb the mountain" to earn their Eagle Scout award. We are proud of our scouts and their contributions.

…the JCCC Class of 2009 graduating seniors, honored in our worship service on May 17th.

L to R: **Rev. Reeda Allen, Hani, Hallye, Allen, Eric, Rachel**

Hallye Jerkins, Buford High School; to attend Piedmont College in Demorest, GA, on a volleyball scholarship majoring in Middle Grades Math and Science Education

Rachel Jones, Northview High School; to attend Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA, majoring in Early Childhood Education

Eric Matthieson, Northview High School; to attend Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL, on a tennis scholarship majoring in Business/Mass Communication

Allen Sims, Forsyth Central High School; to attend North Georgia College and State University Corp/Cadets in Dahlonega, GA, majoring in Education with a Leadership minor

Hani Suleiman, Northview High School; to attend Georgia State University in Atlanta and Middle Georgia College in Cochran, GA, majoring in Air Traffic Control\

…the 2009 Butterflies and Transformers class and baptismal candidates. We welcome these new members and express our gratitude to the ministers and sponsors who assisted them in their journey.

Candidates (bold print) and sponsors, L to R: (Candidates were baptized May 10th with exception of Michael Lozen, below)
Leona Kauffman, **Shelby McIntyre,** Donna Rogers, **Alyssa Boggs,** Rev. Reeda Allen, Bruce Kittinger, **Michael Lozen**, Sue Knight, **Caitlin Strong, Christopher Strong**

L to R: Baptized May 31st **Julie Smith, Nathaniel Smith** and **Michael Lozen,** with Rev. Reeda Allen

PRAYER CONCERNS

Beth Witkowski passing of *Darrell Taylor* soon after cancer diagnosis; prayers requested for his wife *Catherine* and family as they cope with this sudden loss
Jeff and Julie Smith *Tammie and John Adams, Hallie and Walthen*, loss of their 14 year-old son and brother
Allen Rogers death of *Libby Bowen*, grandmother of coworker *Tamara Callahan*
Rev. Nancy Oliver, Peachtree Christian Church loss of father, *David Litz*, in Chattanooga, TN
Julie Bloemeke friend *Beth Coffin*, loss of father *Bill Soper*
Patty Westerfield, JCCC nursery attendant recuperating at home after hospitalization
Marilyn Kolesar close friend *Pam Migliaccio* and her family, father in last stages of cancer
Ritchie Dickey death of *Rev. Jack Hudson*, former Disciples pastor in Guyton and Glenville
Cheri Lawson death of uncle, *Whitey (Ralph H.) Shively*, in Indiana; prayers for children *Debby* and *Don* and their families.
Marcia Goetz Larry's mother, *Mary Goetz*, stomach tumor; surgery June 24th
Jennifer Lozen *Marion Guess* and family, return of lymphatic cancer; also in bone marrow

Please pray for spiritual renewal, friendship, good times and safety for JCCC youth and friends attending Camp Christian this summer:
Michael Lozen: Junior Camp, June 8-12
Monica Farzad, Amanda Jordan, Charlie Witkowski: CYF Camp, June 15 - 20
Lydia Witkowski: Chi Rho Camp, June 22-27

Prayers for friends with continuing health concerns
Kevin Foard, Sharon Davis, Lori Campbell, Carol Almond, Mark Koenig, Charlie Fowler, Victor Yanez, Marcie Williams, Pam Jones and family, Larry Miller, Doty Sims, Dave Kettler, Bob Miller, Jennifer Stephenson, Spevak family, Olivia Wampler, Angie Crutcher, Heidi Jones, Louise Vestal, Joy-Lyn Trotti, Jeff Babilonia, Edsel Keller, Stu Smith, Patty Nance, Larry Ashmore, Jack and Emma Roberts, John Phillips, Dick Barth, Nancy Stinette, Dick Wasser, Maya Bishop, Marvin Hoffman, Fran Koenig, George Martin, Diane Teagarden, Becky Litz, Pete and Virginia Jones, Pauline Robinson, Marion and Iliana Guess, Margaret Lowry, Cristy McMillan, Donna Mertins, Terry Bergstrom, Kathryn Field, Betty Jenkins, Lee Gothels, Jo Pittman, Brenda Mathern, the Jacks family

Updates:
Karen Calhoun, long on continuing concerns list, still affected but back at work and recovered as well as possible
The *Watkins family*, who has been on our continuing list, is removed; Steve's cancer is in remission.

Special prayers for these in service to our country
Chris Barr, Amir Ansari, Scott Blair, Joseph Carter, Kenny Birge, Danielle Abrams Crenshaw, Lt. Col. Steve Simmons, Tony Dill, Eric Mason, Dan Sulentic, Matt Ehlers, Sean Benson

New addition: Major Jared Clinger, US Army, nephew of Marilyn Kolesar, recently deployed to Afghanistan for 1 to 2 years
Praise: Amy Thomas's cousin *Seth Damann* is now home from his latest tour of duty in Iraq.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

Our VBS this year was a big success! We had 80 children ranging from age 3 through 5th grade. This year's theme was a game show called "Studio Go" where we learned that we can all "go" and serve. We learned that we can take God with us where ever we go. We learned to Go Lead, Go Risk, Go Tell, Go Obey and Go Serve! We collected 132 cans of food for the Atlanta Food Bank and about $75.00 that will go towards the High School Mission Trip to the New Orleans area in July. I would like to say **thank you** again to everyone who volunteered during VBS and to everyone that donated items. Let's all "go" and continue to serve!

Betsy Boggs

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSIONARIES PACK IT IN!

On June 10th, Allison Green and I accompanied volunteers from JCCC's Middle School youth to spend the day at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. They delivered the food collected during VBS, packed food boxes for those in need all over north Georgia, and participated in a hands-on workshop about who is really hungry in Georgia and why-- and what they can do about it. They packed over 10,000 pounds of food! Best of all, they came up with a great idea for their own backyard: starting and tending a community garden right here at JCCC! Please give all these young people a pat on the back when you see them-- they are amazing people!

Beth Stubbings

JCCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

May 31	**145**
June 7	**150**
June 14	**92**
June 21	**101**

******* THIS SUNDAY JUNE 28th *******

MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP