Musings

Dear Friends,

Well, college football is over for another year. Alabama beat Georgia for the national title. Now, I don’t talk about sports a lot in my musings or on Sunday because not everyone is a sports fan. FYI, I usually have my musings done on Monday, but I waited until Tuesday this week. Today I am going to talk about it a little bit because there is some history. When we lived in Atlanta, we were in the middle of two groups of people. We had Alabama fans and Georgia fans in the church I served. There were husbands and wives that had divided allegiance. Often, one went to Alabama and one went to Georgia. Let me tell you, this was serious business! Whenever Georgia and Alabama would play, that next Sunday was interesting. Often, the “split allegiance” couple would come to worship in different cars, and sometimes you could tell they were not speaking on that particular Sunday. I know of people who would not shop or buy gas for their car from a business that had a sign in the window representing Alabama, if they were a Georgia fan, and vice versa. My first time around with this I thought it was funny and didn’t take it that seriously, but I learned quickly that this was serious and I had better just leave it alone. I am a sports fan and have been all of my life, but I never took sports as seriously as those folks did in Atlanta. Let me say that after a week or two, people got back to normal, even though the subject was still a tender spot for those who lost.

I often wondered what makes a person become a “rabid fan” as we often call it? What makes a person become so upset over a football game that they will not speak to their spouse or friends that were for the opposing team? The only conclusion I came up with was that these people ate, drank, and slept their faith? This is just a preacher talking.

I once was a Christian student, and a friend of mine said, “I didn’t know you went to church. What church do you attend?” The response was the name of a particular church.

An interesting thing happened a few years ago in a church I know about. Two people were talking, and the pastor in me began to think about what we could do as a church if the members were as devoted to the church as they were to their Alumni Association, we would be fine. Now, I am not against alumni support, so don’t go there. I am not against rooting for your favorite team and feeling sad when they lose. My point is that the church holds the message that can change people’s lives, give them hope when they are hopeless, strengthen them when they are weak, and offer the keys to eternal life. I don’t want to seem overly dramatic here, but it is true, isn’t it? We, as the church, have what every human being in life needs, but we don’t seem to have the same level of enthusiasm as sports fanatics. No, I don’t think we have to stand on the street corner and try and “preach” people into heaven, but I do think, perhaps, we need to let our faith shine forth so that others can find the church as they were to their Alumni Association, we would be fine. Now, I am not against alumni support, so don’t go there. I am not against rooting for your favorite team and feeling sad when they lose. My point is that the church holds the message that can change people’s lives, give them hope when they are hopeless, strengthen them when they are weak, and offer the keys to eternal life. I don’t want to seem overly dramatic here, but it is true, isn’t it? We, as the church, have what every human being in life needs, but we don’t seem to have the same level of enthusiasm as sports fanatics. No, I don’t think we have to stand on the street corner and try and “preach” people into heaven, but I do think, perhaps, we need to let our faith shine forth so that others can find what we know to be true—God loves us and God’s love extends from here on into eternity.

An interesting thing happened a few years ago in a church I know about. Two people were talking, and the subject turned to religion and church. One person made a comment about going to church, and the other person said, “I didn’t know you went to church. What church do you attend?” The response was the name of a particular church and the person asking said, “Well, that is the church I go to, I didn’t know you attended my church!” When I think about what I have shared today, I wonder if these people I just referred to knew other people who need to hear the message of God’s love, and maybe we can be the “fan” to tell them. What might happen if we ate, drank, and slept our faith? This is just a preacher talking.

See you Sunday,
10 Wednesday
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill
   Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
6:00 Youth Group, Room 409 and Fellowship Hall

11 Thursday
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

12 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

13 Saturday
8-2 Neighborhood Action Group, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

14 Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
9:30 Confirmation Class Begins, Room 403
10:45 Worship Service

15 Monday Martin Luther King Day
   Church Office Closed

16 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
5:00 Rotary Club, Heritage Room
6:00 Board of Trustees, Room 410
7:00 Scout Eagle Board, Room 308

17 Wednesday
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill
   Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413

4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
6:00 Youth Group, Room 409 and Fellowship Hall

18 Thursday
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

19 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

20 Saturday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
9:30 Confirmation Class, Room 403
10:45 Worship Service

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Betty Hamilton and family on the death of her brother, Robert Roy Mandrell, Sr. who passed away on December 28, 2017 in Knightdale, NC.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Sam & Su Cox, family, and friends on the death of their niece, Laura Ellen Drake, who passed away on December 10, 2017 in St. Petersburg, FL.

Liturgists are needed: Liturgists are needed for both 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. If you would like to be a liturgist, please contact Sue Tresnak at 618-988-8664 or by email, hhsman75@frontier.com.

Altar Flowers are needed: Altar flowers are needed for the upcoming weeks of January 14 and 21. If you are interested in providing altar flowers to beautify our Sanctuary, please contact the office staff at 457-2416.

If you have not already done so, this is a reminder to please come in to the church office and add your 2018 activities and events to the calendar. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
11:30 A.M.
LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

Fellowship Hall, Luncheon $8

Disciples for Sunday, January 14, 2018
Outside Greeter: Doug Bedient
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15 Judy Dillinger; 10:45 Laura & Matt Bishop
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Barb & Doug Bedient; 10:45 Marianne & Steve Lather
Parish Nurses: 9:15 Sharon Meyer; 11:45 Dana Oberg
Children’s Church: K-2nd Claire Beaufre/Joan Hart; 3rd - 5th Linda & Rob Lucas
Children’s Church Registration: Shirley & George Everingham
January Nametags: Betty Graig
HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR BENEFICIARY LIST?
Have you had life changes? Divorce? Divorce of a child, grandchild or parent? Death of loved ones? Favorite charity closed? Every January, every person should review their beneficiaries for their wills; life insurance policies; IRA/retirement plan; trusts; and similar instruments. Be sure the names are correct; addresses are updated; statuses are current.

Be sure your intentions are up to date!

WILLS AND ESTATES
As Christians, we believe in tithing our income - - but what about tithing our estate to Kingdom work as well? Any bequest to the church is removed from the total value of your estate and may enable you to avoid probate or paying estate taxes. (Federal estate taxes are due on estates worth $5.4 million or more!) You may designate 10% or any percentage; you may designate a certain dollar amount; or the remainder of your estate after beneficiaries are included. Contact your pastor before you contact your attorney and tax advisor to insure your desires are known.

WAYS OF GIVING THAT COULD BE USED FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT OR THE BUILDING FUND

STORYTIME BEGINS ON JANUARY 10, 2018

Parents and children are invited to join us

Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught us to live and love.

CHECK IT OUT!!!
in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Dream Big Little Pig!
by Kristi Yamaguchi
“A little pig’s dreams can never be too Big!”

PARISH NURSE COMMUNITY NEWS

COLD SYMPTOM FLU
Pretty rare
Slight body aches & pains
Uncommon
Fairly mild
Develop over a few days
Hacking & productive
Common
Common
Mild to moderate
Mild to moderate
Fairly uncommon
Fever
Aches
Chills
Fatigue
Sudden Symptoms
Coughing
Sneezing
Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat
Chest Discomfort
Headache
Usually present
Severe aches & pains
Fairly common
Moderate to severe
Rapid onset of 3-6 hours
Dry and nonproductive
Uncommon
Uncommon
Uncommon
Often severe
Very common

REMEMBER TO DRINK LOTS OF FLUIDS, STAY AT HOME TO REST, AND PRACTICE GOOD HANDWASHING, WHETHER YOU HAVE A COLD OR THE FLU!
SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Opportunities

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School - (K - 5th grade) uses Deep Blue from Cokesbury. The morning begins with music at 9:30 a.m. in Room 415.

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children’s Church - (K - 5th grade). All children are invited to Children’s Church following the Children’s Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

January Children’s Church - Jesus, in the Temple

Bible Story: Luke 2:41-52
Bible Verse: “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49)
Main Idea: God’s “house” is a comfortable place to learn, ask questions, and discover God’s plan for us.

Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.

Faith development through Bible lessons, emphasizing a relationship with God through Jesus.

Middle School meets in Room 410 and uses On the Go.

High School Class meets in Room 409 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.

Renew - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection, and prayer. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.

The Investors Class - Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404 (the Chapel). Everyone welcome!

The Electives Class - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities

The Daniel Plan meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308.

Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

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From October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, the following memorials were received:

Ethan Baker
Spirit of Christmas
Harry W. Schultz

Mary Lou Brown
General Memorials
Chi Zeta Beta Sigma Phi (Wanda Greer)

Mary Lou Brown
Pastors Benevolent Fund
Charles M. Brown

Steve Neimann
Music Fund
James & Sue Legacy

Ruth Weiss
Music Fund
Duane & Sue Stucky
Anita Hatton
Nelda & Conrad Hinckley
Bill & Jane Workman
Brian & Donna Butler
Don & Susan Frey
Robert & Meg Buser
James & Sue Legacy
Ken & Betty Buzbee

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**In Loving Memory**