

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH OF GEORGIA



NOVEMBER, 2017

DEAR READERS,

As I write this I am torn between happiness and sadness. This pass month I lost a very dear friend. He was my brother, Douglas' best friend. His name was Chester. They had been friends since the third grade, stayed best friends till Doug's death. What make this friendship so special is not only the length or bond between these two but the devotion they had for each other. In the Bible, John 15: 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. As I read the verse I thought of Chester and Doug. No, they didn't lay their life down for each other. Instead when Doug was so sick and needed a blood transfusion who do you think was the same blood type, Chester. He stepped forward and donated blood every time his best friend needed a pint. As I listen to Chester's son, Lanier read a letter his father had written two paragraphs told the story of how blessed he was to have met his best friend when they both were 8. The last sentence of the two paragraphs Chester wrote I still miss him. The lesson I hope we all learn from this is if you have a best friend treasure them and give thanks for they are gifts from God. Medical speaking blood is a source of life. Jesus is our Savior and our best friend. What He did for us was give us our life with his blood. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year take time to give thanks for the gift of Jesus, our heavenly best friend.

Love,

Mary Carol



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

November 2nd - General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

November 3rd - Set up for the Bazaar beginning at 10:00 a.m.

November 4th - BAZAAR 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch available beginning at 11:00 a.m.

We would appreciate any of the following items to sell at the Bazaar: baked goods, crafts and items for Granny's Attic. You may bring these items to the church on Friday, Nov. 3rd or early on Saturday, Nov. 4th. We need and appreciate anyone who can come on the day of the Bazaar to assist as we support the Women's Fellowship and the Church. Come and be a part of this great day! Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me (Katharine Meier).

Saturday, November 18th will be the day we take down and pack the Bazaar items. We again will need your help. Thank you!



CHURCH DECORATION/POT-LUCK AND CANDLE WRAP

On Saturday, December 2nd we shall gather to decorate the church beginning at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a pot-luck dinner followed by candle wrap of our Love feast candles. If you ordered a wreath you may pick it up during the afternoon or evening. Come join us for fellowship, fun and good food!



As we consider our ongoing commitment to the NET Food Pantry let us briefly turn our attention to some of the religious roots of charity as noted in articles from Harvard Divinity School”

Charitable Giving in Judaism

Jon D. Levenson

Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies

"Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments in the Torah combined," reads an early rabbinic law code. The formulation comes from the Roman period, but the origin of this characteristically Jewish idea is much older. Its beginnings lie, in fact, in two places: in the general ancient Near Eastern notion that the king is the protector of the weak and the defenseless, and, more particularly, in the biblical story of God's redemption of the people Israel from Egypt and his gift to them of the Promised Land.

In Exodus, these two related streams come together pointedly when Israel's divine king gives them this revealingly phrased law: "You shall not oppress a resident alien, for you know what it feels like to be a resident alien, since resident aliens is what you were in the land of Egypt."

Through a host of institutions—most notably the tithe—Jewish law makes the giving of charity a mitzvah (a commandment), not an option. The framework is once again theological; charity is based in something higher and more enduring than feelings of compassion or guilt. A verse in Proverbs pregnant with repercussions in both Judaism and Christianity renders the vertical dimension explicit: 'He who is generous to the poor makes a loan to the LORD; / He will repay him his due.'

Lest potential givers think that by performing the mitzvah they will harm their own financial status; the proverb assures them that in the divine plan their gift is accounted as a loan—one that the ultimate protector of the poor can be trusted to repay in full. In this theology, charitable giving is not a zero-sum game. It results in wealth for both the donor and the recipient.

A celebrated passage—traditionally, the Jewish husband chants it in praise of his wife before the Sabbath evening meal—includes women in its ethic of giving: "She gives generously to the poor; / Her hands are stretched out to the needy." For a woman as for a man, generosity toward the poor is a sign of the God-fearing person.

Maimonides, the great codifier, philosopher, and communal leader of twelfth-century Egyptian Jewry, speaks of eight levels of charitable giving. Which is the highest? It is, Maimonides writes, "that of the person who assists a poor Jew by providing him with a gift or a loan or by accepting him into a business partnership or by helping him find employment—in a word, by putting him where he can dispense with other people's aid."

The ideal mode of giving inhibits both paternalism in the giver and dependence and resentment in the receiver. Sometimes the best love is tough love.

The Ministry of Healing in Christianity

Dudley C. Rose

Associate Dean for Ministry Studies and Lecturer on Ministry

For Christians, the role of charity is first built on the injunctions of the Hebrew Bible. But in the New Testament, Jesus's parables and actions also speak to the morality of charitable sentiments.

In the Gospel of Luke, for example, an expert in the law notes the Hebrew Bible injunction to "love thy neighbor as thyself" and asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds with the familiar parable of the Good Samaritan. A man on the Jericho road is robbed, stripped, and lies half-dead. After others pass by

him, a Samaritan—whose people were historic rivals of the Jews Jesus was talking to—takes pity on the unfortunate, binds his wounds, and transports him to an inn for care.

Jesus asks, "Who do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The expert says, "The one who had mercy on him," and Jesus responds, "Go and do likewise."

Through the parable, Jesus essentially tells his listeners: everyone is your neighbor, even the stranger by the side of the road. Those who show mercy obey God's law.

Throughout Luke, Jesus breaks through class barriers, consorting with sinners, the ritually suspect, lower-class people, the "other." That's what got him into trouble all the time! He socialized with people who made others uncomfortable—sort of how we might be uncomfortable with people who live on the street today. That was his "ministry of healing"—caring for the poor and others.

The parables, the stories of Jesus being among the poor and unfortunate are important. Narrating these stories, thinking about them, moves us. It gives us a way of thinking of "the others" as human beings. It's really easy for us to see such people as somehow not worthy of our respect. Telling these stories gives the poor the fullness they deserve.

As a minister for many years, the concern I have is that, at Christmastime, shelters and other places end up with more than they can use but very little the rest of the year. And so, I think there is a danger of unburdening our conscience at Christmas. I would like to see a more continual reminder of the need to care for others. When we do that, the gifts of Christmas locate themselves within a larger tradition.

Jack Vaiden



5 DESTINY PERERIA/ ANTONIE STOKES

12 VIVIENE MILLIG\=N/PEARL LUCAS

19 CORNEL WHITE

26 DELROY MCDOWELL



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Peter Vaiden

6 Jorge Lucas

7 Helenita Ellis

8 Cliff McKenzie

9 Kay Packard

14 Steve French

16 Jordan Rodriguez

21 Pat Gillard

27 Gary Hobbs

30 Denise Glasford Haynes

30 Bill Perryman



5 BAZAAR FOOD

12 DARWIN VIVAS

19 FOOD SALE

26 GLORIA WEISZ



CHURCH BUSINESS

November 4th Church Bazaar

November 19th Harvest Festival

November 19th Thanksgiving Lovefeast