



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CARROLLTON GEORGIA |

JANUARY 2023 – VOLUME 49



Randy Barnhart
Senior Minister

PRAY
WITHOUT
CEASING

Prayer

a poem by Eliza M. Hickock

I know not by what methods rare,
But this I know, God answers prayers.

I know that He has given His Word,
Which tells me prayer is always heard,
And will be answered, soon or late,

And so I pray and calmly wait.

I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the way I thought;
But leave my prayers with Him alone,
Whose will is wiser than my own,
Assured that He will grant my quest,
Or send some answer far more blest.

So commands the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Never stop praying. That's sometimes intimidating, but it's not meant to be. In fact, it's meant to be an encouragement. Clearly, Paul does not mean for us to be uttering an actual prayer every moment of every day. Even less does he mean we should keep our heads bowed and eyes closed! So, what does he mean?

“Without ceasing” means be determined never to allow a season of prayerlessness to enter your life. Not even one day. He means for us to make prayer a central component of our daily lives, running conversations with God that we have every day, multiple times a day. One theologian of a bygone era offered a schedule for praying:

- first thing in the morning (before your feet hit the floor)
- as you begin the day's tasks
- at lunchtime
- at the end of the day's activities (work or leisure)
- last thing each evening before you climb into bed

Do something like this, and you will “pray without ceasing.” You’ll develop a running conversation with your heavenly Father that honors Him, strengthens your faith, and encourages those around you. Paul recognized that “prayer is the Christian’s breath.” So, let’s keep on breathing, brothers and sisters. Maybe the thing to do is, each of us comes up with our own schedule -- built around things that repeat (meals and bedtime) -- that may be natural times for you to pray. Inhale. Exhale. Live.



HEART FOR THE HOUSE

a special offering for God's house

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

On Sunday, February 12, we will receive an offering that we are calling **Heart for the House**.

Heart for the House is a sacrificial offering that is over and above our regular giving of tithes and offerings. This single weekend (February 12) marks a potentially significant step forward in the life of our church.

While most special offerings go to persons and causes outside our church (missionaries, relief work, Christian colleges, etc.) the Heart for the House offering is to make improvements.

Our leaders have identified two “big ticket items” that hold great potential for our church’s movement forward. The first is a large digital sign to be placed on or near the corner of College and Ward streets (in full view of Cedar Street traffic also). Why a sign? Because at that intersection, an eye-catching, modern sign would receive about 2.5 million views per year. That’s advertising power which is tough to match. The second “project” is to replace the flooring in the Family Life Center. Not only is it worn out and no longer attractive, the edges of the flooring are curling up and have created a falling risk. A “new” floor will open the door to several recreational uses that will, in turn, open our church’s doors to the greater Carrollton community.

Please be in prayer about what God would have you give to our Heart for the House offering on Sunday, February 12.

By intentionally preparing and selflessly giving, our church is able to extend our reach and expand our influence to impact individuals, communities, and parts of the world that are often overlooked.



Troy William McPike was born on Wednesday, November 30th at 2:40 pm at Tanner Hospital in Carrollton. He had to stay in the NICU for a week for some breathing assistance as a result of fluid in his lungs. He was able to come home on December 7th and he and Erica are doing very well.



We would like to show our thankfulness to the many people who have given support to us. From the people who have brought meals to our home to the adult volunteers within our student ministry who stepped up to lead several Wednesday night youth groups as well as teaching Sunday school. It has all been appreciated. We are thankful for the community around us that has been incredibly generous and thoughtful.



*Aubrey Parson,
Children's Pastor*

Teaching your Child About Fasting and Prayer

While their little bodies are not prepared to go lengths of time without food or other nutrition, there is a way to teach your children the power of prayer along with fasting and purposeful restraint.

Creating habits takes a minimum of three days, studies have shown, and building proper prayer habits is no different. Fasting during the time of prayer is a biblical tradition that can be modernized for the current home.

Are you always busy? Everyone is busy, but we still manage to maintain a sort of schedule when it comes to bedtime and waking up in the morning. Here are some steps to add prayer and fasting to your daily routines:

Prioritize- make prayer a priority over something that isn't essential to your spiritual life. Does your family watch TV together every night? Have a simple prayer time at night instead.

Emphasize- ensure that your children understand the importance of prayer and reading of the Bible. It's not an inconvenience or a bore, it's an important step in our Christian journey to learn from God's word and to talk to our Heavenly Father.

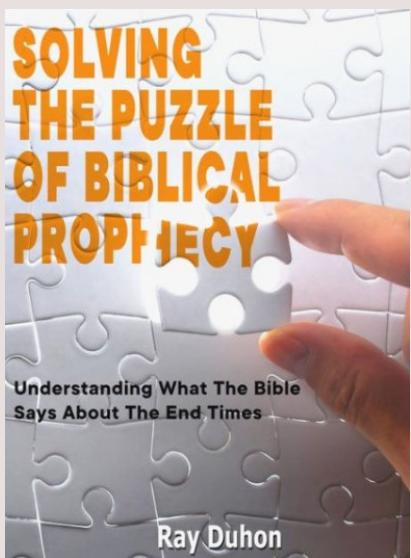
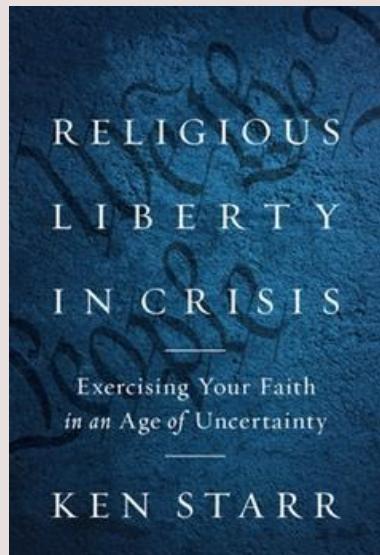
Strategize- have your children decide something simple they would like to "fast" from for 21 days. Don't let the younger children pick something difficult like all sugar or sweets but have them come up with something that will definitely be missed, but can easily be filled with prayer. We don't want them to think of it as a punishment, after all! Older children may be a little more flexible in their choices, but still need to feel their own sense of power that they chose what they wish to fast from.

Modeling prayer and fasting is one of the most important jobs we have as parents. I hope you'll join us in the New Year spending time with God and in His Word.

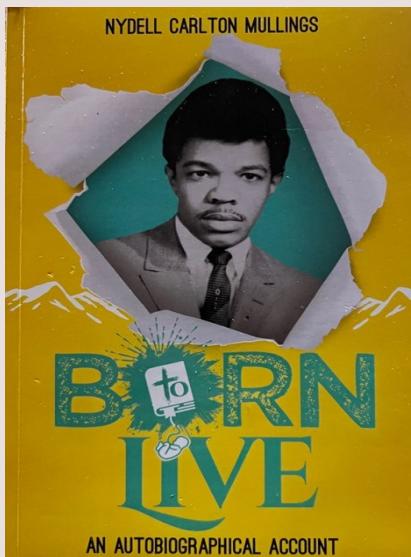
Church Library

The FCC library recently acquired three new books that are as interesting as they are diverse. These books are available in the library area featuring new books---at the checkout desk.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN CRISES is by Ken Starr a well-respected jurist who has long championed the cause of religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all people. In this book Starr shares his belief that circumstances have threatened religious liberty in America. He examines the ways well-meaning government action sometimes undermines the religious liberty of its citizens. The reader can examine how one can resist the quarantining of our faith within the confines of the law.



SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY was written by FCC member Ray Duhon. Ray has long had a keen interest in biblical prophecy and became frustrated while reading books on prophecy that never seemed to answer his questions. He finally decided the best way to get his questions answered truthfully was to do his own in-depth research. Ray explains, "My book is for the beginner, the one who wants a simple explanation of prophecy in a simplistic format." If you've never attempted to read about prophecy or you'd like to expand your knowledge of biblical prophecy, give this book a try.



BORN TO LIVE is an amazing autobiographical account of the life at Carlton Mullings, born in 1939 to a single woman in a remote, rural area of the mountains of St Elizabeth, Jamaica.

Stricken with malaria at the tender age of two, Mullings was nursed back to health by his grandmother's use of homemade remedies. When he was restored to health his grandmother proclaimed that he had been "born to live." These words, his mantra for life, never left his mind as he followed a path to fulfill his God-given purpose in life. His journey took him from rural Jamaica to the capital city of Kingston and eventually to Alberta, Canada, and the USA where he received degrees in ministry from Alberta Bible College and education from Milligan college.

This book relates wonderful stories of the way a faithful dependence on God guided Mullings as he built churches in Jamaica, worked to improve local education, and advocated for community improvements. The Church

of Christ on the island looked to Carlton as a visionary leader from the time of his first ministry in the tiny village of Beechertown. People of the North Coast knew Carlton not only as a minister of the gospel, but as an activist for cooperation and improvement. In 2003, Carlton was awarded the Governor-General's Achievement Award, a rare, prestigious acknowledgement of his leadership. Everyone who came into contact with Carlton Mullings went away better for the experience. This book is a very easy read.

New Sermon Series - *Prayer that Works*

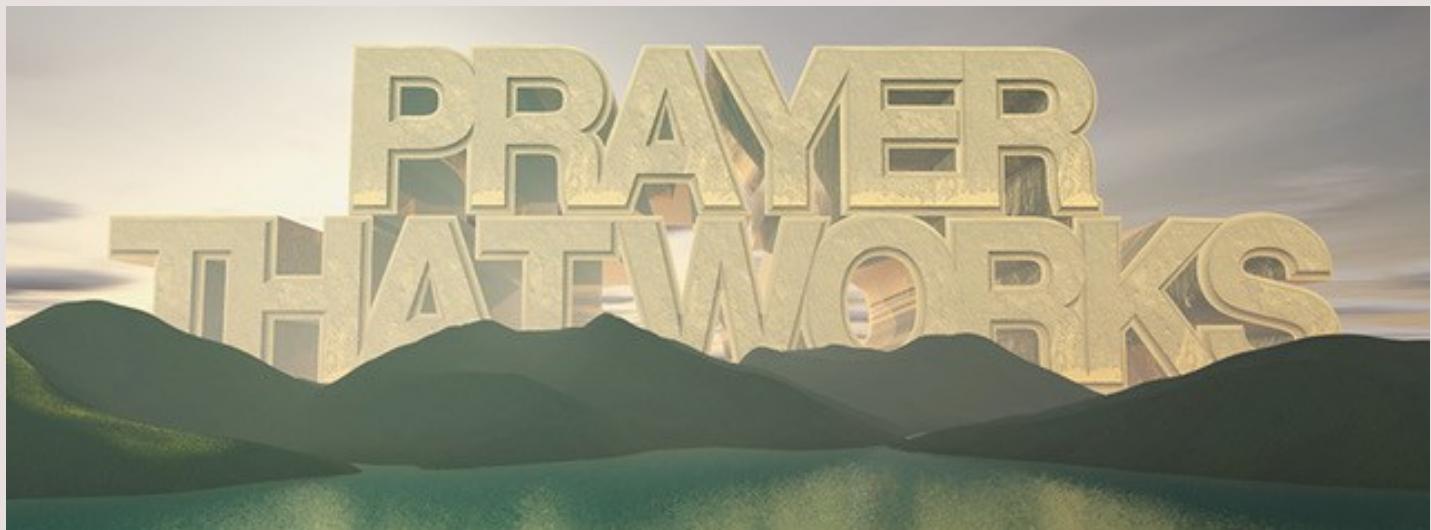
“I don’t know how to pray.”

“My prayer life is weak.”

“I can’t seem to get started praying.”

If you’ve ever felt like that, you are not alone. A lot of us struggle with prayer, but it doesn’t have to be that way. You can develop powerful prayer habits and experience the life change God wants to give you. This is our topic for the January Message series, “**Prayer that Works.**”

Effective prayer. Stronger faith. A close relationship with Jesus. A changed life. If that’s what you want, then make worship this month a priority at 1st Christian Church.



PRAYER

Beginning January 4, a Wednesday night class for adults. We'll meet at 6PM to study Jesus' model prayer, and learn how to pray like Him.

Start now reading
Matthew 6:5-15



Senior Fellowship meets the second Tuesday of each month

In the Family Life Center.

12 - 1 PM

Meal cost is \$10.00 per individual.

**Please contact Paul@1stChristianChurch.com or
call 770 832 3974 to reserve your seat.**

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Romans 8:26

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ pray continually,

Prayer Requests

- Troy McPike
- 21 days of prayer
- Heart for the House
- Celebrate Recovery
- Missionaries
- Our nation
- New year
- Food Pantry

UPCOMING

EVENTS

- **January 1** - Start of 21 days of prayer
- **January 4** - Adult Bible Study, Youth Group & 1st Kids 6 PM
- **January 6** - Celebrate Recovery 6 PM food, 7 PM program
- **January 9** - Omega 6:30 PM
- **January 10** - Food Pantry 9 - 10 AM
- **January 11** - Alpha 10 AM, Adult Bible Study, Youth Group & 1st Kids 6 PM
- **January 13** - Celebrate Recovery 6 PM food, 7 PM program
- **January 16** - Night of Prayer 6 - 7:30 PM
- **January 18** - Adult Bible Study, Youth Group & 1st Kids 6 PM
- **January 20** - Celebrate Recovery 6 PM food, 7 PM program
- **January 25** - Adult Bible Study, Youth Group & 1st Kids 6 PM
- **January 27** - Celebrate Recovery 6 PM food, 7 PM program
- **February 13** - Heart for the House Offering

WAYS TO GIVE



1stChristianChurch.com



Sunday
(Giving boxes located in foyers)



306 College Street
Carrollton, GA 30117



Text 1stcc to 73256