



### OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER



## I Am Human...

At camp and in the GA Region I run into so many dedicated, good people. I find them an inspiration and a challenge. They make me struggle with a deep question: What kind of person am I and what kind of person do I want to become?

Are we born normally good, until external circumstances compromise our goodness? Or are we naturally fragile and devious, needing some forms of external authority to keep us in line? Well, my answer is that we are both. I see us as having good and bad propensities. Everyone has charitable impulses and leanings toward selfishness, desires to be truthful and desires to lie. These tendencies are in constant tension. I thought of Jacob and Esau struggling in their mother's womb, the struggle of humanity even before birth.

Someone has said that you can measure a person's moral seriousness by what that person would do if they were sure nobody could see them. In Plato's *Republic*, Socrates recounts the myth of the Ring of Gyges, a magic ring that has the power to make the wearer invisible. He asks how an honest person would behave if they were to wear it, or a dishonest person. Socrates conclusion: If the person truly understood his/her own self interest, they would not take advantage of their invisibility to do anything wrong. There would be nothing to gain that would be worth the loss of their integrity. Of course there is in no Ring of Gyges, but real life imitates myth. Today's headlines are satiated with people who gave way to their delinquent fringe, when their cloak became invisible.

Everyone goes through 3 stages of moral development: doing the right thing out of fear of punishment, doing right out of a sense of communal solidarity with others and doing right simply because it's the right thing to do. Unfortunately, I do not think we ever completely grow out of our adolescent tensions.

One of the best examples of this tension is a story about a Native American tribal leader describing his own inner struggles. (Yes- I know I've used this example in one of my messages) "Inside, there are 2 dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The two fight all the time." Someone spoke up, "which of the dogs usually wins?" After reflecting for a moment, he answered, "The one I feed the most."

Good people will continue to do good things, many things, because they are good people. They will do bad things

because they are human. In the daily, if not hourly wrestling matches that set the tone of our lives. Let us not be overwhelmed. Sometimes we win and sometimes we temporarily lose to our ego, which demands full attention.

To be human is to understand that we have two natures and need both of them. But I hope never to stop asking myself what kind of person do I want to be?

## Family Promise Updates

Homelessness is huge problem in Gwinnett County.

Gwinnett County is second in the state only to Atlanta in homelessness. Family Promise is a faith-based program which screens applicants, then trains and assists individuals



in finding jobs and affordable housing. Last year Family Promise of Gwinnett County received 604 inquiries from families in need. In the past year, twenty-eight families completed the Family Promise program which can take 30-90 days.

We have completed our co-hosting with Peachtree Corners Christian Church for this year. We continue to have volunteers stationed at the Day Center on the third Sunday of each month.

Thank you to all of our valuable volunteers! Your commitment is making a difference with the families served.

There are several training sessions scheduled at various churches in the coming months. If you would like to become involved with Family Promise check with Rosie Tripp or Karen Jensen or contact Laura Hartman, the Volunteer Coordinator at: [volunteer@familypromisegwinnett.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisegwinnett.org).

**Deadline for the  
September Newsletter is  
Thursday, August 25**

**August Birthdays**

- 1 John Lee
- 3 Perry Westbrook
- 5 Grace Aguwa
- 6 Kris Jensen
- 9 Nancy Groves
- 9 Nettie Patterson
- 11 David Chamberlain
- 12 Nancy Welty
- 17 Linda Rowe
- 19 Mildred Pinion
- 20 Sanford Thompson
- 21 Denise Holden
- 29 Marilyn Parks
- 31 Alma Franklin



**August Anniversaries**

- 2 Brendon & Sha Parks
- 21 Kris & Karen Jensen
- 28 David & Leona Chamberlain



**August FRF**

Join us on Tuesday, August 16th  
at 7:00 p.m.  
for our next  
FRF at Olive  
Garden, 1565  
Scenic Hwy  
Snellville, GA  
30078.



**Worship Helpers**

- August 7: 10:50 Reader - Marilyn Parks  
Communion Meditation - Dorrie Toth
- August 14: 10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson  
Communion Meditation - Libby Ballew
- August 21: 10:50 Reader - Jimmy Peoples  
Communion Meditation - Bruce Johnson
- August 28: 10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson

**Joys and Concerns**

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Craig R; David C's brother-in-law; Mary V; Karla J's co-workers; Kameron & Kaeden; Lynn B-P; Margaret P's mother, Mena; Kersey Family; Kim P's friend; Libby's friend; Mabel's friend; Eleanor Mc; Family from Alcova Elementary; Jan T's friend; Linda R's friend, Amy; Debbie H's family; Juliet N's friend; prayers for our nation, the world, and all faiths; prayers for students and teachers as they begin a new school year.

Homebound Members: Louise C; Alma F; Betty H; Bessie K; Lenora L; Nettie P; Barbara & Bill P; Reba T.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Candace has a new grandson, Hudson Avery (daughter Cody); Candace's daughter, Caley, has accepted a teaching job in Gwinnett County at Walnut Grove Elementary.



**August Elders/Deacons**

**Serving at the Table**

Elders: Sanford and Julie Thompson  
Deacons: Marilyn Parks

**Servant-Leaders**

Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord & Gen Ashby