

FIRST FAMILY NEWS

OUR SECOND CENTURY

June
2017



A Summer Vacation Story

One of the most powerful, positive stories of choice is told by writer Niel Lorenz of Dayton, Ohio. Lorenz tells how her friend, a young wife and mother of three, chose to spend the last year of her life while afflicted with cancer. “Linda made it clear from the beginning that cancer was inconvenient, annoying and unwelcome, but that it would not rule her life.” Accordingly, she and her whole family continued to take scuba lessons at a local pool to prepare for a big family summer vacation in the Cayman Islands. Linda was determined not just to go, but to participate in the family holiday. So adamant was she about this that when her blood count proved dismal the day before the intended trip, she simply checked herself into the hospital overnight, and received the medication she needed through an all-night I.V. connection.

Once in the islands, she rested and watched her family go out for their daily excursions to the reef. But she wanted to go diving with

them, be a participant, not just an observer. In response to her incredible determination and positive spirit, a group of local diving instructors devised a way that she could join her family. Because her spine was too brittle and ulcerated to bear the weight of the tank, they fitted her with a mask and mouthpiece and, as she breathed in it, they weighted her just enough to put her under the water. Then they floated an oxygen tank on a piece of foam above her and carefully added weights until Linda, the divers, and the tank slipped slowly beneath the surface. For nearly an hour the entire family was able to explore the wonders of the island reefs.

Later, when Linda's husband Steve tried to pay for all the extra time and effort the dive team had gone to, he was turned down with these words:

“We dive here everyday. We have seen that reef literally hundreds of times. We know every rock, every piece of coral and practically every fish on it. Today, however, we saw it through the eyes of someone with such courage, such spirit and such a zest for living that we looked at it in a different way. It is we who thank you and your family for the day. It is we who can never repay you.”

Our choices have consequences for others as well as ourselves. For good or ill. **Jay**

New Sunday School Study

starting in **June**- Join us for this exciting reading ...

What Is the Bible?

How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything

Rob Bell

New York Times Bestselling Author of *Love Wins*

Rob addresses the concerns of all those who see the Bible as God's Word but are troubled by the ethical dilemmas, errors, and inconsistencies in Scripture. With *What Is the Bible?*, he recaptures the Good Book's magic and reaffirms its power and inspiration to shape and inspire our lives today. (amazon.com)

Jay's Retirement

For those that may not have heard, this is the letter I sent to the Leadership Council a few weeks ago.

I am writing you this letter to announce my retirement, which will be effective as of October 31, 2017. It has been a privilege to serve as the pastor of this congregation. In February of this year I will celebrate my 65th birthday. While I have never thought of age as a deciding factor and still don't, it simply feels to Sandy and me like the right time for us to move into a new chapter of our lives. A good friend of mine who retired a year ago put it like this: "I can't expect God to write the next chapter in my life if I don't open the page." Sandy and I are ready for that next chapter.

It has been a true blessing to serve this congregation over the past five plus years. I will treasure each memory and pray for the health and well being of every member. Please know I will do all that is in my power to support a smooth transition from my departure toward helping the church find its voice in a "new beginning."

I pray that I can be of strength to the congregation in my remaining time here.

Sincerely,
Jay White

Camp Christian Mail Bag

Stop by the table in the hall where you will find the names of those who will be attending camp.

Cards will be available for you to



send notes to our campers and counselors. After finishing your card, you may mail it yourself or put it in the large envelope for that specific camp/conference. We will make sure that all cards get to the camps this summer. Cards and notes brighten the day for those attending. Thanks for helping.

We will be represented at each of the camps:

June 4-9-Junior I Camp: Counselor-Rebecca Thompson

June 11-17-CYF Conference: Conferees-Annie Ballew & Rafael Evatt- Machado; Counselor- Joey Baker & Co-Director, Meredith Westbrook

June 18-23-Chi Rho Camp: Campers-Caleb Maxwell; Perry Westbrook; Counselor-Delores Maxwell & Co-Director Stephen Westbrook

June 25-July 1-Mid High Conference: Conferees-Riley Ballew, Tara Maxwell, Mason Thompson; Counselors- Amanda & Joey Baker

July 4-7-OASIS Camp: CIT-Rafael Evatt -Machado; Craft Counselor-Marilyn Parks

July 16-19-Chrysalis Camp: Campers-Sophia Baker, Eleanor McElhanon, Mary Kate Westbrook; Counselors- Joey Baker, Rod Baker, Elizabeth McElhanon, Meredith Westbrook; Craft Counselor-Marilyn Parks

July 16-21-Junior II Camp: Campers-Molly Ballew, Braxton Holden, K J Moon, Brooks Thompson; CIT-Annie Ballew; Counselor-Denise Holden; Craft Counselor-Marilyn Parks; Co-Directors-Libby Ballew & Rev. Jay White

July 21-23-Genesis Camp: Campers-Payton Holden, Denise Holden; Co-Director-Marilyn Parks

Canadian Summer

I asked my Canadian friend “Did you have a good Summer?” He replied “Yes indeed, we had a great picnic that afternoon!”

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Deadline for the July Newsletter is Thursday,

June Birthdays

- 9 Candace Richardson
- 10 David Britt
- 16 Patricia Taylor
- 19 Anna Harrison
- 20 Nan Anders
- 21 Angel Ramirez
- 21 Angelo Ramirez
- 29 Connie Thompson



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June Anniversaries

- 21 Kim & Jimmy Peeples



June Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Bruce Johnson & Jimmy Peeples

Deacons: Karla Johnson & Josué Machado

Servant-Leaders

Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord & Gen Ashby

June Worship Helpers

June 4: 10:50 Reader - Anna Harrison

June 11: Communion Meditation - Dorrie Toth

June 18:

June 25: 10:50 Reader - Marilyn Parks

June FRF

Join us on Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00 p.m. for our next FRF at Dominick's, located at 197 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046



I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger.



Then it hit me.

TONTO and Retirees Summer Schedule

TONTO and the Retirees will be meeting together this summer. They will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, (June 13th, July 11th, and August 8th), for lunch at Sweet Baby Jane's at 11:30 a.m.



Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Kameron C; Emma J; Linda G; Gen A; Melissa B; Jeannie M's friend, Marilyn; Rod's friend's daughter; Anna H's co-worker, Helen; John Wayne T; Christians in Nigeria and the world; Alma F's family; Karla J; Julie T's friend; Gerald's family.

Homebound: Louise C; Bessie K; Lenora L; Eileen Mc; Nettie P; Bill & Barbara P; Mildred P; Reba T.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Mabel has a new great grandchild; Riley B made high school softball team; Annie B is going to state in golf; Kameron C got engaged; Rafael has a new job; Congratulations to David B and Lydia P, graduating; Karla J, starts a new job.

LFCC G-BRAVES BASEBALL OUTING

Saturday, June 10th
@ 6:05 p.m. VS.
Charlotte Knights



Super Hero Night

Rio Ruiz "Super Hero" Bobblehead
Giveaway

Tickets \$11 Each



Contact Rod B

For Tickets 404-273-1444

Play Ball!

Disciple Women's Summer

This is June and we have already stuffed the Easter Baskets and played at the Card Circle. Do you have wonderful plans for the summer? London? Paris? Or like Tom and me; Spanish Fort, Alabama to see the cutest 2 year old there.



Have a wonderful rest and relaxation in June and July, because in August, we go back to work! August is the start of our busy season monthly until Christmas. Next month, I will print the calendar. But for now, Enjoy your Vacation.

Love to all,
Dorrie

Working to Eliminate Childhood Hunger and Building Community

For the last few months, our Church has been collecting snacks for the students at Cedar Hill Elementary School. The elementary school is located just down the street from our Church, and has a high number of students who receive free or reduced lunches. The additional snacks that we provide help make sure that students who cannot afford to bring snacks from home are not left out during snack breaks.

Beginning on June 5, Cedar Hill Elementary will provide a Summer Reading Program for some of its students. On Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the school will have approximately sixty students attend the Reading Program. These students will be from kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the school will have approximately ninety students from third, fourth, and fifth grade attending the Reading Program. The Reading Program will last for four weeks. Snacks will be provided as part of the program. The school has requested that our Church assist in providing snacks for this event. The school will need approximately three hundred snacks per week to provide a snack for each child.

A list of the types of snacks needed for the school are listed to the right. Please bring as many snacks as possible during the next few weeks so that we may provide the school with as many snacks as possible for their Summer Reading Program.

In addition to providing snacks for the Summer Reading Program, the school has advised us that volunteers are needed who can assist students with reading, and that the school would like to be able to provide the students attending this program with age appropriate books that they can take home to read. If you would like to donate books that are appropriate for children between kindergarten and the fifth grade, please bring the books to the Church. We will collect the books in the lobby, and provide the books to the Cedar Hill Elementary School. If you prefer to provide a cash donation, we will be glad to accept the cash donation and use the money to purchase books for the school.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist students with reading, please contact either Rod Baker or Lee Thompson, and they will provide you with more details regarding how you may assist as a volunteer.

Assisting Cedar Hill Elementary School with its Summer Reading Program provides us with an opportunity to help reduce childhood hunger and build a sense of community with our neighborhood children. In Matthew 18:5, Jesus said "...any of you who welcomes a little child like this because you are mine is welcoming me and caring for me". Come join in.

Suggested Snack Items: Pop Tarts;
Granola Bars; Small
Bags of Chips/
Doritos; Individual
Bowls/Boxes of
Cereal; Crackers/
Cookies/Chips
(individual size);
Fruit cups/
Applesauce (individual size); Individual
Sweet Snacks.



A Thought for June



Cliff Docterman, President of Rotary International, cleaned up and updated an old Russian toast (If you want to be happy for an hour, get drunk; if you want to be happy for a month, get married; if you want to be happy for a lifetime, have good friends) in the following fashion:

If you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap.

If you want to be happy for a week, take a vacation.

If you want to be happy for a month, get married.

If you want to be happy for a year, inherit a fortune.

If you want to be happy for a lifetime, help other people.

