

# First Family News

Our Second Century

November-December 2017

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## 2017 Thanksgiving Special Offering

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Currently, over 50,000 students attend our fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.

On November 12 and 19, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. Your gift to the Thanksgiving offering helps to support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

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## Fall Clean-Up

We are in the process of trying to get the church ready for advent. There are lots of small tasks to do from cleaning baseboards to cleaning windows. Let us know if you can help! If you wish to come during the week, contact Marilyn Parks to get into the building, or for info on scheduled use of the building besides:

- Haitian church – 9:00-5:00 every Sat.
  - YMCA in education building on Mon & Wed am
  - AA in the fellowship hall & kitchen every Sun & Wed pm
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## Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering will be received Sunday Dec 10 and Sunday Dec 17. This offering supports the region and Camp Christian Conference Center. Thank you for your consideration in making a donation to the offering.

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## Regional Youth Assembly

The Regional Youth Assembly will be on February 2-4, 2018 at Epworth by the Sea. Please make sure you have your registration form and fees turned in to Libby or Marilyn by Sunday, Nov 26. We will be mailing the forms to the region to have them there by the Dec 1 deadline. If you have questions please check with Marilyn or Libby.

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## Advent Decorating Party

The Advent Decorating Party will take place right after the 10:50 service on Sunday, Nov 26. We will need your help. The more hands we have the faster we will complete the decorating. Please plan to stay and help decorate the sanctuary. We are going to get some pizza, salad, drinks and dessert. Please let us know if you will be able to help so we will get enough pizza, etc. Contact Libby or Marilyn. Thanks for your help in advance.

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## Camp Matters

The Regional Camp Matters Campaign is in process and will run through Nov 19. Congregations and individuals have been asked to make a contribution to help pay off the mortgage debt. Our church will be sending a donation but individual donations can be sent to the regional office or given on line at <http://gadisciples.org/>. Please make sure you put "Camp Matters" on your check or if you choose to donate online, please select other and put "Camp Matter" in that section. Thanks to our church for supporting this effort.

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## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Tom McAfee  
7 Meredith Westbrook  
18 Dorrie Toth  
19 Lenora Langford  
21 Brian Ballew  
22 Kameron Carter  
25 Sanford & Julie Thompson – Anniversary  
27 M.L. Robertson  
30 Ralph McElhanon

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## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Gen Ashby  
3 Andrew Jensen  
7 Scott & Leigh Britt – Anniversary  
9 Julie Thompson  
12 Stephen Westbrook  
14 Elizabeth Anders  
17 Doug Carlisle  
19 Julie Mowrey  
23 Sophia Coker

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## Important Upcoming Dates

Nov 19: Thanksgiving Offering  
Choir meets immediately after 10:50 worship

Nov 26: Tom Balog, Lawrenceville Cooperative Executive Director, guest speaker  
Advent Decorating Party following 10:50 worship  
4:30pm – Choir

Dec 2: 1:30pm – CWF Tea

Dec 3: Hanging of the Greens  
4:30pm – Choir

Dec 6: 11:30am – Tonto Christmas Luncheon

Dec 10: Teresa Bensch (Connie Worrell's daughter), guest speaker  
Holiday Fellowship Meal following 10:50 worship  
Celebrate 20 years at our present location  
Christmas Offering  
4:30pm – Choir  
6pm – Board Meeting

Dec 12: 11:30am – Retirees & Tonto at Sweet Baby Jane's –

Dec 13: CWF Ewing Circle

Dec 17: Cantata at both services – *Forever God Is With Us*  
Christmas Offering  
Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after 10:50 worship

Dec 24: 10:30am – One Service of Worship  
5:30pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Dec 31: 10:30am – One Service of Worship

Jan 7: Take down decorations following 10:50 service (tentative date)

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## December Worship Helpers

Responsive Reader: Rafael Evatt–Machado

- Dec 3: Scripture Reader – Julie Thompson  
Communion Meditation – Anna Harrison
- Dec 10: Scripture Reader – Connie Thompson  
Communion Meditation – Gerald Kersey
- Dec 17: Scripture Reader – Julie Thompson  
Communion Mediation – Hoyt Huff
- Dec 24: Scripture Reader – Dorrie Toth  
Communion Meditation – Connie Thompson
- Dec 31: Scripture Reader – Julie Thompson
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## Serving at the Table in December

Elders: Sanford and Julie Thompson  
Deacons: Joey Baker, Dorrie Toth and Rebecca Thompson (17, 24 & 31)  
Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord  
Greeter: Libby Ballew

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## January Worship Helpers

Responsive Reader: Annie Ballew

- Jan 7: Scripture Reader – Mabel Simmons  
Communion Meditation – Jimmy Peeples
- Jan 14: Scripture Reader – Marilyn Parks  
Communion Meditation – Gerald Kersey
- Jan 21: Scripture Reader – Julie Thompson  
Communion Mediation – Dorrie Toth
- Jan 28; Scripture Reader – Karen Jensen  
Communion Meditation – Connie Thompson
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## Serving at the Table in January

Elders: Rod Baker and Elizabeth McElhanon  
Deacons: Marilyn Parks, Connie Worrel and Rebecca Thompson (7)  
Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord  
Greeter: Libby Ballew

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## **Annual Tea Party**

The Ladies Annual Tea Party will be on the first Saturday in December at Dorrie Toth's house. Bring something sweet or something savory to share. Dorrie will have coffee, tea and punch. We always have a wonderful visit and a few minutes of just social chatter before the Christmas rush starts. Please join us at 1623 Broomfield Way at 1pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

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## **Church Family Christmas Luncheon**

Mark your calendar for our church family Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017 after the 10:50 worship service. Find a favorite holiday recipe to share with your church family and plan to come for a wonderful time of fellowship with your church family.

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## **Holiday Fellowship for Youth & College Students**

The Youth parents are making plans for a holiday gathering that will include our college students when they return home for the holidays. Watch for date, time and details coming soon!

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## **Interim Minister Search Committee Update**

The Search Committee has been meeting weekly in pursuit of a Transformational Interim Minister. We have held several first and second interviews. We covet your prayer as we close in on our search.

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## **Youth will Host Spaghetti Lunch in January**

The Youth will host a Spaghetti Lunch on Sunday, January 20, 2017 following the 10:50 service. Our youth will be serving spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. Come and enjoy! We look forward to your support.

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# Thank You Note

*We received a thank you note from the Mt. Bethel Christian Preschool for the donation in lieu of flowers from LFCC in memory of Lynn Lane's mom, Olive Cook. It reads:*

The preschool is so honored to receive donations in memory of Olive Cook. She has been on our outreach card list and prayed for by our teachers and students. I am planning to use the money to purchase a listening center that all of the children can enjoy.

I am truly sorry for your loss but want you to know that these gifts will bring joy to many children.

Blessings,

Ginny Mateer



## **First Christian Church (DOC)**

3495 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
(770) 963-9922

[lgafcc@gmail.com](mailto:lgafcc@gmail.com)

<http://lawrencevillefirstchristian.org/>

Music Director: Kim Peebles