



Our Second Century Together

Jesse was a chicken plucker. That's right.

He stood on a line in a chicken factory and spent his days pulling the feathers off dead chickens so the rest of us wouldn't have to.

It wasn't much of a job. But at the time, Jesse didn't think he was much of a person. His father was a brute of a man. His dad was actually thought to be mentally ill and treated Jesse rough all of his life.

Jesse's older brother wasn't much better. He was always picking on Jesse and beating him up.

Yes, Jesse grew up in a very rough home in West Virginia. Life was anything but easy.

And he thought life didn't hold much hope for him. That's why he was standing in this chicken line, doing a job that darn few people wanted.

In addition to all the rough treatment at home, it seems that Jesse was always sick. Sometimes it was real physical illness, but way too often it was all in his head. He was a small child, skinny and meek. That sure didn't help the situation any.

When he started to school, he was the object of every bully on the playground. He was a hypochondriac of the first order. For Jesse, tomorrow was not always something he looked forward to.

But, he had dreams. He wanted to be a ventriloquist. He found books on ventriloquism. He practiced with sock puppets and saved his hard earned dollars until he could get a real ventriloquist dummy.

When he got old enough, he joined the military and even though many of his hypochondriac symptoms persisted, the military did recognize his talents and put him in the entertainment corp. That was when his world changed. He gained confidence.

He found that he had a talent for making people laugh, and laugh so hard they often had tears in their eyes. Yes, little Jesse had found himself.

You know, folks, the history books are full of people who overcame a handicap to go on and make a success of themselves, but Jesse is one of the few I know of who didn't overcome it. Instead he used his paranoia to make a million dollars, and become one of the best-loved characters of all time in doing it!

Yes, that little paranoid hypochondriac, who transferred his nervousness into a successful career, still holds the record for the most Emmy's given in a single category.

Check next month's newsletter for the identity of Jesse.

What Your Pastor Is Reading:



Yes, I know I may be weird at times, but I was looking for best sellers that I had not read and came across this one. It was a New York Times bestseller, Amazon.com 2003 Editor's Choice book, Barnes&Noble, Discover Great New Writers, a Borders Original Voices book and winner of the Elle Reader's Prize.

I found the book strangely gripping with numerous amusing explorations of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. The book is very educational and respectful as it is irreverent and humorous. From her opening lines ("The way I see it, being dead is not terribly far off from being on a cruise ship. Most of your time is spent lying on your back"), it is clear that she's taking a distinctive approach to issues surrounding death. All the way through the book, I felt as if she was reminding me that we are more than just the physical body. "This old world is not my home..." THANK GOD!

Outside The Walls

Family Promise News

The Fourth Annual Family Promise Bed Race was a huge success! A record of twenty-three beds raced and raised \$30,000 for Family Promise. This is exciting as the program continues to expand.

Lawrenceville First Christian Church will support Peachtree Christian Church when they host homeless families during the week of April 21-28. If you can volunteer for meals, overnights, evening fellowship, at the Day Center, or with monetary donations, please let us know.



Please consider becoming involved with Family Promise this year. It is amazing to be involved with 35 local congregations working together to end homelessness in Gwinnett County--one family at a time. The next Volunteer Orientation will be on Monday, April 8 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.in Fellowship Hall.

The SaltLight Center is connected with Family Promise and provides shelter for homeless women and children. Volunteer Training will be on Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m-12 p.m. at Lawrenceille Church of God, Building G. Contact Carol Karpf at slc@familypromisegwinnett.org or 770-885-2947 if you can attend. -Kris and Karen Jensen

Mark Your Calendars for Camp!

Registration forms for Camp Christian are in the Church Office.

Dates for camps are below. Adults, if you want to go as a counselor, registration forms are in the church office or you can go online to www.gadisciples.org, then click on the Camp/Conference tab. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Libby Ballew or Connie Thompson.



Camp registrations should be turned in to the Church Office no later than April 21st.

Gala Success

Your support for the GALA was fantastic. As most of you already know we surpassed the goal of \$17,000 and received more than \$20,000. It is so exciting to know that we can do some maintenance and buy things to help with maintenance. Your gifts of auction items, gift cards and money toward the gift card tree helped raise more than \$1200 of those funds received. Others made some monetary gifts to the fund. Libby and Meredith were part of the planning committee with me and Rod, Joey and Melissa Mc. were volunteers. There were 9 others who also attended, bid on and won items and helped push funds received up higher and higher.

I am so thankful that you were there and found items you wanted because all of it will benefit Camp Christian. Thank you so much. Marilyn Parks

Camp Counselor Training

Anyone who wants to serve as a counselor at camp this summer must attend one of the sessions.

Camp Christian, Friday, April 5th, 10:00 a.m.-tba
 First Christian, Sunday, April 14th, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Camp Christian, Sunday, May 5th, time tba

Date	Camp	Grade (Completed as of June 2013)
June 3 - 7	Junior 1	3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th
June 7 - 9	Genesis	Kindergarten and parent
June 10 - 15	CYF	9 th , 10 th , 11 th , or 12 th
June 17 - 22	Chi Rho	6 th , 7 th or 8 th
June 29 - July 4	Balaam	For qualifying 11 th and 12 th graders
July 16 - 20	Junior 2	3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th
July 18 - 20	Chrysalis	1 st or 2 nd

Giving Tree

Lawrenceville First has supported Camp Christian and the summer camping program through the GIVING TREE for the last 5-6 years.

This year we hope to raise some funds to buy a couple of ping pong tables, balls, fishing equipment and water bottles.



Each Sunday in April there will be a table in the gathering area where paper apples will be displayed. You will be able to choose one or more and donate toward one of the mentioned items.

These are items that will be used by the campers during the camping season. Please come by the table and support camp and our youth that will attend camp this summer by making a donation.

Christian Women's Fellowship

Georgia Disciples Women 2013 Spring Conference



*Women of Strength: Growing Strong in the
Christian Life*

***"...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10***

Come and be strengthened for life's journey – for taking care of yourself and
others
and for handling life's demands with joy.

**HOSTED BY THE WOMEN AT LAWRENCEVILLE FIRST
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH!**

**WE WANT AS MANY OF OUR WOMEN AS POSSIBLE
TO ATTEND, BUT YOU MUST REGISTER!**

**REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE
CHURCH LOBBY BEGINNING THE FIRST SUNDAY IN
APRIL!**

**YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER ONLINE IF YOU WANT TO
PAY BY CREDIT CARD AT GADISCIPLES.ORG**

Reservations required for all. Cost: \$15 if paid in advance by check or credit
card. \$20 if paid at the door.

Child care, as needed, for age 6 and younger. \$5 per child; reservations
required.

Let's look together at Biblical women of strength as models for our
lives.

Workshops offered on building relationships, growing our prayer
life, managing life's demands, finding joy, growing leaders in our
women's ministry, building strong bodies, growing through mission,
and more.

The April 20 conference at Lawrenceville features workshops in
Spanish.

Please bring gently-used books which you've enjoyed and want to
share with other women. This used book sale is a fund raiser for
regional women's ministries!

Each event includes continental breakfast, door prizes, and a tasty
lunch!

You're invited to bring mission project
items:

April 20: Collecting birthday box
ingredients for Lawrenceville Cooperative
Ministry including cake mix; frosting;
birthday-themed plates, cups and napkins;
birthday candles, and small toys that would
fit into a cake box (preferably not gender-
specific).

Leave your check with your registration
form in the basket in the church lobby or
register online @ www.gadisciples.org
(credit card or check payment). If you have
questions, see Beth Thompson.

Some things we will need help with:

Members of the Regional Women's
Commission will arrive on Friday evening
from all over the state. We will need
volunteers to help them unload their
materials and set up the building. Probably
we will go to dinner with the Commission if
you want to join the group.

Some members of the Commission will be
coming from as far away as Valdosta,
Albany, Augusta, and Macon. We may
need housing for some members of the
Commission. If you don't mind having
someone stay with you, let Beth Thompson
know. It would be for Friday evening only.

We will need women on Saturday to greet
and direct visiting women around the
building. If you would like to be a greeter,
let Beth know.

WWC April Activities

Saturday - April 13th - 10:00 a.m. -
Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers -
The Monastic Heritage Center offers
exhibits on monastic history and life,
galleries, the Abbey Store, a Garden
Center, a Bonsai Nursery, Cloister &
Courtyard. It should be a beautiful time of
year to visit the Monastery. We will find a
restaurant to visit (of course).

Thursday - April 25th - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner
at Local Republic off the square in
Lawrenceville. Topic of discussion will be
local history - Lawrenceville &
Lawrenceville First. Beth Thompson will
lead a discussion about local history and
we might take a walking side trip down the
street to see the old church buildings.



First Family News

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org

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LFCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White
Music Director: Kim Peeples
Administrative Assistant: Linda Rowe

Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Susan G, Chris K, Kris J, all with health concerns; Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Betty H; WO; Reba & Virgil T; M.L. & Faye R; Ray & Harry E; Mildred P; Nettie P; Deborah S's mom; Judy K's Mom; Jim M's co-worker, Steve; Candace R's friends, Sherrie & Michael; Rosie T's father; Deborah S's co-worker's wife; Karla J's co-worker's husband; Connie W's sister; Anna H's family; Ashley H's student in hospital; Jimmy P's sister, Gail; Karen J's uncle passed away; Pamela E-Machado's uncle, James M, passed away; Melissa Mc's friend, Jamie's family; Bill & Barbara P; Duck's daughter-in-law, Ginger, passed away; Eva K and her brother, Charles; Tadd Huff's great aunt passed away; Jan Trink's friends, Becky & Steve Campbell; those suffering from depression.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Nancy Groves is a grandmother; Melissa B's test results were good; Connie T's sister's chemo is done; John & Barbara T are first-time grandparents; Craig R, good test results.

Camp Workdays

Camp Workdays will be Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, May 5. Hopefully, members from Lawrenceville First can attend the April 27th day. There are always many things to do to get ready for summer camp. More information to come closer to the date so you will know what kind of tools to take with you. Contact Marilyn Parks if you have questions

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without alcohol,
...Then You Are Probably...



Email or contact Jay for the answer!

It's what's right in front of you. You can't live anyone else's life.

The task is to live yours and stop trying to copy one you think looks better."

-- Sandy Nathan, Stepping Off the Edge: Learning & Living Spiritual Practice

Deadline for May Newsletter Thursday, April 18th

April Birthdays

2 Hoyt Huff
5 Matt Klimshuk
6 David Baber
7 Josué Machado
10 Kali Parks
11 Jim Welty
11 Scott Britt
15 Bessie Kirby
15 Chris Klimshuk
18 Leigh Britt
18 Don Bell
24 Lee Thompson
24 Alyna Lee
27 Beth Thompson
30 Libby Ballew
30 Braxton Holden



April Anniversaries

16 Stephen & Meredith Westbrook
18 Al & Patricia Taylor
27 Al & Nancy Groves
28 Lee & Connie Thompson

Sign-Changers

April 7: Joey Baker
April 14: Jim McCollough
April 21: Brian Ballew
April 28: Tommy Hlass

Young Helpers in Worship - April

April 7:
Youth Responsive Reader: Gabriel Evatt-Machado
Acolytes: Alyna Lee
April 14:
Youth Responsive Reader: Kali Parks
Acolytes: Molly Ballew
April 21:
Youth Responsive Reader: Emily Fisher
Acolytes: Grace Fisher
April 28:
Youth Responsive Reader: Rebecca Thompson
Acolytes: Riley Ballew



Children's Worship Leaders:

April 7: Elizabeth McElhanon & Helper
April 14: Lisa Trantham & Helper
April 21: Ashley Harrison & Helper
April 28: Maribeth Fisher & Helper



Youth Schedule

Sunday, April 7th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. Leave for Camp Christian

Sunday, April 14th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Spring Break - no meeting

Sunday, April 21st:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, April 28th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
3:30 p.m. Graduate Reception



April Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Rod Baker & Bruce Johnson
Deacons: Connie Worrel, Gen Ashby,
Julie Lee (14th & 21st)
Deacon-in-Training: Kali Parks

Lead Server: Gen Ashby, lead server, can be reached at 678-546-6996. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.



Servant-Leaders

Lead server: Gen Ashby
Prepare Communion/Cleanup: Elizabeth McElhanon
Supply Juice: Karen Jensen
Greeter/Bulletins: Karen Jensen (7th & 21st), Libby Ballew (14th & 28th)