

# First Family News



August 2013

## Our Second Century Together

### *Getting out of the Rut...*

We live in an age of spiritual assertions and self help media. It sounds so easy and healthy to say things like:

"I'm a child of God."  
"I am forgiven."  
"I am loved."  
"God is everywhere."

Yes, we say these type of clichés, but do we really mean them? A deeper *feeling* and perceptive of our lives is what develops and grows our spirituality. Only when we truly see ourselves in the scheme of all of life can we become positive and creative human beings. Yet, we still utter all these affirmations but we don't feel them. We say we are loved or special, but we don't *feel* that way. We so want to believe these pronouncements, but the inner voice of rejection, hurt and low-esteem shouts lies about ourselves. So we never truly hear the **Good News**.

We manifest our low-esteem in a variety of ways. We become addicted to drugs, sex, food, looking good through starvation diets or compulsive exercise. Some gamble or spend themselves into deep debt; others become addicted to just about any idea, behavior or repetitions imaginable. We may find that overcoming one compulsive behavior only leads to another. We give way to codependency. And why? Because deep down we still believe we are not worthy of love or admiration.

What happens is mislaid sight of our God -given inner worth. When we feel unloved or empty, we start to act that way.

One of the best and perhaps only practices out of this quandary is to replace those negative feelings and beliefs with daily positive thoughts. Yes, that's easier said than done, but it works! We keep repeating the truth, until we feel it. We utter (We are loved by God, just as we are) –again and again- until that contemptuous inner voice which keeps telling us we're not good enough is silenced.

Will it occur overnight, probably not. But over time... miracles happen!

## Soda Can Tabs and Soup Labels

The annual retreat for Disciple Women will be September 27th-29th. The **soda can tabs** and the **soup labels** you have collected will be taken to the retreat. Also, new pillowcases will be collected for a hospital. If you have any questions, contact the Service chairpersons for the Ewing Group, Eva Krahwinkel or Martha Ann Wages. The above items can be given to either of them or left in the church office.

William Easum sums it up like this:

*... life in Chris comes to us on its way to someone else, congregations should focus outward instead of inward, congregations exist for those who are not part of them, life is meant to be given away, not kept, God does not honor congregations that seek merely to raise money and survive.*

## Your Vision Team Update:

Bryan McClaren writes about a fishing association from long ago. Its members avidly studied fish, discussed fishing techniques, read books and magazines on angling, bought the best equipment, help meeting to indulge their fascinations with fish lore, and in general led active, fish-oriented lives. But after a while somebody asked; "Has anyone actually caught one lately?" The room was silent.

**Your vision team is hard at work trying to find God's leading and our special calling as a church.** Yes, we've got to go from talk to action. It's time to GO fishing. We'll have to wade into the river and may even get wet...

The first question we are trying to answer is:

1. *Where are we now?*

## Disciples Women Upcoming Dates ...

**Sunday, September 8th – Disciples Women's Planning Meeting** All women of the church are invited to attend.

**Sunday, September 23rd - Disciples Women's Sunday** - Blessing Box offering and dedication @ both services. **Followed by the annual Ice Cream Social at 6:00 p.m.** The Ice Cream Social is a celebration and dedication of the funds we raise for the Church World Service Blankets. \$5 buys one blanket. More details to come later.

**September 27th-29th** Georgia Disciples Women's Retreat GA Baptist Conference Center at Toccoa

**November 2nd** - Harvest Dinner @5:30 p.m.

## Deadline for September Newsletter Thursday, August 25

### August Birthdays

1 John Lee  
3 Perry Westbrook  
5 Grace Aguwa  
6 Kris Jensen  
8 Ashley Harrison  
9 Nancy Groves  
9 Nettie Patterson  
9 Owen Roberts  
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  
3 M.L. & Faye Robertson  
8 Rod & Jan Baker  
21 Kris & Karen Jensen



### Sign-Changers

August 4: Joey Baker  
August 11: Jim McCollough  
August 18: Brian Ballew  
August 25: Tommy Hlass

### Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Chris K; Kris J; Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Betty H; Mildred P; the Phyfers; Mary Jo A; the Emerson family; Reba & Virgil T; Faye & M.L. R; Neva B; Melissa Mc's mother; Nancy M' sisters; Jan B's neighbor; Jim M's family; Alma F's grandson, Peter; Nancy G's cousin's husband; Jan T's nephew; Anna H's sister; David B; Grace A; Sandy W's brother; Stephen W's aunt; those suffering from depression.

## Young Helpers in Worship - August

August 4: Youth Responsive Reader: Annie Ballew  
Acolytes: Vacant  
August 11: Youth Responsive Reader: Matthew Britt  
Acolytes: Riley Ballew  
August 18: Youth Responsive Reader: Kameron Carter  
Acolytes: Vacant  
August 25: Youth Responsive Reader: Gabriel Evatt-Machado  
Acolytes: Molly Ballew

### Worship Helpers

August 4: 8:45 Reader - Jay White  
10:50 Reader - Libby Ballew  
Communion Meditation - Jimmy Peoples  
August 11: 8:45 Reader - Deborah Sutherland  
10:50 Reader - Rafael Evatt-Machado  
Communion Meditation - Libby Ballew  
August 18: 8:45 Reader - Tadd Huff  
10:50 Reader - Pamela Evatt-Machado  
Communion Meditation - Josué Machado  
August 25: 8:45 Reader - Donna Nielsen  
10:50 Reader - Joey Baker  
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker

### Small Group

People are beginning to see the influence that small groups can have on the congregation as a whole. One of the most powerful aspects of growing churches is small groups. In Philip Yancey's book Church: Why Bother?, Yancey discusses community in relation to faith. "Christianity is not purely intellectually, internal faith. It can only be lived out in community."

Faith is not something designed to function alone. Jesus taught community with the disciples and the early church in Acts 2. This one major aspect is what sets the Christian faith apart from all the others. When it is done right, community propels the body of believers.

Anyone interested in getting together during weekday, after 6:00 p.m. for food/fellowship or study? See Jay with your ideas or interest.

M.L. & Faye Robertson's new address:  
580 Tommy Lee Fuller Drive Apt. #104-106  
Loganville, GA 30052  
Home number: 770-466-0607  
Cell phones: Faye 404-433-6719/M.L. 678-662-4645



## August Elders/Deacons

### Serving at the Table

Elders: Connie & Lee Thompson  
Deacons: Karla Johnson, Julie Thompson, Sanford Thompson  
Deacon-in-Training: Kameron Carter  
Lead Server: Sanford Thompson, lead server, can be reached at 770-355-5581. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call him as soon as you know.



### Servant-Leaders

Lead server: Sanford Thompson  
Prepare Communion/Cleanup: Eva Krahwinkel (4th & 11th), Connie Worrel (18th), Sanford Thompson (25th)  
Greeter/Bulletins: Karen Jensen (4th & 25th), Sandy White (11th), Linda Gulden (18th)



## First Family News

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### LFCC Staff

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

## Camp Christian Homecoming/Labor Day Weekend

Adults, Kids & Youth of all ages are invited to attend the Homecoming Event during Labor Day Weekend, August 31, September 1-2, 2013. You can attend the entire weekend, just one night, a day, whatever you can work into your schedule. Many activities are planned as well as some free time. Dr. John Richardson, Regional Minister of the CC in North Carolina, will keynote. He served as minister at

Winder First before moving to North Carolina.

Arrive Saturday after lunch for swimming & recreation until dinner at 5:30. Saturday Dinner is a Potluck Picnic (you bring picnic food to share) and Sunday meals & Monday breakfast are provided as part of the registration. Event ends mid-morning on Monday.

Cost \$50 per person over age 12 (up to \$150 total per family)  
Cost free for age 5 & under; \$25 for age 6-12  
(covers food, lodging, honorarium & incidentals)

If you can attend only part, then the above cost is adjusted to the time you will attend.

Please contact Marilyn Parks if you have questions. She will be attending the event.

Register online <http://www.gadisciples.org/news/CampHomecoming.asp>



## Family Promise News

Chuck Ferraro is the new Executive Director of Family Promise of Gwinnett County.

Family Promise will host the **9th Annual Golf Tournament on September 30th**. Let Kris know if you are interested in golfing on a team for this fundraiser.

Volunteer training for Family Promise will be on **August 12th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Another training will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church on **August 18th** from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Volunteer orientation for the SaltLight Center will be on **August 17th** from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Lawrenceville Church of God, Building G. Email Carol at:

[slc@familypromisegwinnett.org](mailto:slc@familypromisegwinnett.org) for information and to RSVP. The SaltLight Center needs disposable bowls. All donations can be brought to the Day Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. When bringing donations to the Day Center for Family Promise and the SaltLight Center, you can record donations on the In-Kind Donation form.

We will welcome a special speaker during worship on **Family Promise Sunday, September 15th**. Our next host week in partnership with Peachtree Corners Christian Church will also begin on September 15th.

Check out our revised website:  
[www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org](http://www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org)