



### OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER

## The Mission of Every Church



A family that wasn't in the practice of going to church attended the large, formal wedding of a friend. The family's youngest child, age three, sat perched on his father's knee watching all the comings and goings with great interest. There came a time in the service when a hymn was to be sung, and the organist crashed confidently into the opening chords of the song, putting the "pedal to the metal" in order to make a really good show. Immediately, the little boy cringed in terror and threw his arms around his father's neck pleading, "Daddy, make them stop the spooky music!" (Note: This story speaks volumes about busters and their reactions to Big Organ music.)

How many of you have ever been "spooked" in church? To those not familiar with the weird and wonderful ways of the church, its traditions and forms can seem not just odd, but downright threatening. We forget that the language and liturgy familiar to the initiated is strange and intimidating to those whose feet seldom stray into a church. The great French philosopher and skeptic Voltaire once said: *"If you would speak with me, you first must learn my language."*

While it is true that the church serves as a community for the faithful, a place where Christians can feel at home, it is not the mission of the church to become a kind of closed clique. The church cannot be a "members only" or "user-friendly" gathering. The greater part of the church's mission is to be a "visitors first" and "seeker-friendly" gathering-- to offer to the lost and lonely ones of the earth easy access to the divine love and recovery that awaits them in Jesus Christ.

Scholar/ethicist Stanley Hauerwas has suggested somewhat impishly that God is at work in the decline of the mainline church. Hauerwas suggests that the inward-turned focus of so many churches has made their existence irrelevant -- not to those who are "lost" but also to those who are already "found." Certainly, it is easier to plan a budget or maintain existing facilities if you know exactly how many you can safely number among your fold.

But the church was not intended to function like a "country club" for Christians. The church's **primary** mission is not to provide meeting space, or potluck dinners or musical entertainment. **The church's mission is to ring out the Good News of the gospel to all those who are outside the walls of the church.** When we primarily look to the needs and comforts of those already in our midst, we may be taking on the role of an Esau -- selling out our birthright mission for a mess of comfortable in-house pottage.

## Family Promise Updates



The average age of a homeless person in Gwinnett County is 6 years.

- During the 2010-2011 school year, the Gwinnett County School system accommodated over 1,655 known homeless students.
- Children without a home are twice as likely as other children to experience hunger, to become sick with moderate to severe health problems, to repeat a grade, to be expelled, suspended or to drop out of school and fewer than 25% graduate from high school, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness (America's Youngest Outcasts 2009)

## Meagan's Memos

July has been a busy month for our youth. Some of them have been at Camp Christian and some have been gearing up for band, sports, and other activities in the Fall. In Sunday School we are talking about becoming like Christ by reading about Jesus' **Radical Words** in the sermon on the mount. Each week we light a candle to symbolize our presence in that place and our call to be the light of the world.

August brings a new school year AND new youth activities. We will resume Youth Sunday Nights (YSN) on August 2nd with dinner and a movie at the Movie Tavern in Suwannee. We will head to the Peeples' for a pool party on August 9th. Please be in prayer for our youth as the summer ends and a new school year begins.

Blessings,  
Meagan



## August Youth Schedule



### August 2

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
YSN – Dinner and a Movie @ Movie Tavern (Time TBA according to movie times)

### August 9

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
12:00 p.m. NYC Mission Trip Info Meeting  
2:00 p.m. Peeples' Pool Party (until 5:00 p.m.)

### August 16

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
4:30 p.m. YSN

### August 23

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
4:30 p.m. YSN

### August 30

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
4:30 p.m. YSN

## New Beginnings Meetings

### Small Group Information:

Elizabeth McElhanon and Joey Baker  
**Wednesday morning at the Church**  
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Lynn Boren-Parris and Dorrie Toth  
**Tuesday evening at Dorrie's home**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Tadd Huff and Rod Baker  
**Saturday morning at the Church**  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Rosie Tripp and Linda Gulden  
**Sunday evening at Linda's Home**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Pamela Evatt-Machado, Josue Machado and Lee Thompson  
**Thursday evening at the Evatt- Machado home**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.



**The first session will be on Sunday, August 2, 2015 and will be a joint session of all of the groups.** The session will be conducted at the Church. We will have lunch after the 10:50 a.m. service and then hold the session.

The second session will be conducted between August 16th & August 30th.

The third session will be conducted between August 30th & September 13th.

The fourth session will be conducted between September 13th & September 27th.

The fifth session will be conducted between September 27th & October 11th.

The final session will be conducted between October 11th & and October 25th.

## Deadline for the September Newsletter is Thursday, August 20

### 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
- 27 Harley McElhanon
- 29 Marilyn Parks
- 31 Alma Franklin



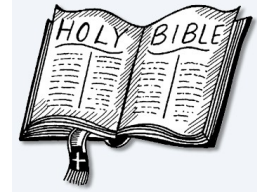
### August Anniversaries

- 2 Brendon & Sha Parks
- 8 Rod & Jan Baker
- 21 Kris & Karen Jensen
- 28 David & Leona Chamberlain



## Youth Responsive Readers - August

- August 2: Annie Ballew  
August 9: Rafael Evatt-Machado  
August 16: Rebecca Thompson  
August 23: Elizabeth Clackum  
August 30: Annie Ballew



### Worship Helpers

- August 2:** 8:45 Reader - Melissa McAfee  
10:50 Reader - Marilyn Parks  
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker
- August 9:** 8:45 Reader - Jan Trinks  
10:50 Reader - Elizabeth McElhanon  
Communion Meditation - Lee Thompson
- August 16:** 8:45 Reader - Jay White  
10:50 Reader - Bruce Johnson  
Communion Meditation - Rod Baker
- August 23:** 8:45 Reader - Tadd Huff  
10:50 Reader - Josué Machado  
Communion Meditation - Gerald Kersey
- August 30:** 8:45 Reader - Jay White  
10:50 Reader - Meagan Smith  
Communion Meditation - Jay White

### FRF/We Are Eating Around the World

Join us on Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 p.m. for our next Featured Restaurant Fellowship at Mimi's Café, located at 1180 Mall of Georgia Blvd., Buford, GA 30519.



## August Elders/Deacons

### Serving at the Table

**Elders:** Lee Thompson & Connie Thompson

**Deacons:** Josué Machado, Pamela Evatt-Machado, Julie Lee

**Deacon-in-training:** Rafael Evatt-Machado

**Lead Server:** Pamela Evatt-Machado, lead server, can be reached at 770-601-7592. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.

### Servant-Leaders

**Lead Server:** Pamela Evatt-Machado

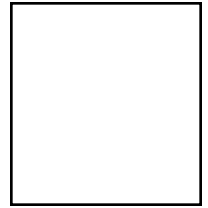
**Greeter/Bulletins:** Lee Thompson (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd), Brian Ballew (30th)

**Communion Preparation:** Mary Jo Alvord, Nettie Patterson, & Gen Ashby



## First Family News

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
3495 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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[lawrencevillefirstchristian.org](http://lawrencevillefirstchristian.org)

### LFCC Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jay White  
**Music Director:** Kim Peeples  
**Youth Director:** Meagan Smith  
**Office Manager:** Linda Rowe

## Hey Techies,

Interested in helping set up and monitor a new online tool for LFCC?

From the Energy Audit report we received from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) they suggested going to Networked Wi-Fi Thermostats to better control the seven zones we have in our church building.

To view of a typical Network Wi-fi Thermostat brand go to [www.networkthermostats.com](http://www.networkthermostats.com).

No monthly fee or cloud service is needed. A Smart phone or tablet interface is standard. Override button provides 2 hours occupied mode then automatically reverts to unoccupied.

The savings calculation: The Wi-Fi thermostats are estimated to reduce the annual energy cost by nominal 10 percent which is \$1,100 per year savings.

The cost estimate: The construction cost is estimated to be \$4,200 (7 thermostats x \$600 per thermostat including labor = \$4,200).

Simple Payback: 3.8 years ( $4,200 / 1,100 = 3.8$ ).

Interested in pursuing this application please let someone for the Leadership Council know.

## Joys and Concerns

**We never cease in praying for the needs of:** ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Mildred P; Barbara & Bill P; Reba T; Chris K; Bessie K; Ray E; Kris J; Dorrie T; Peggy R; Mary Jo; Ray E & Sharon J; Barbara T; Lucy S; James B-C; Jay's cousin, Brenda W; Alma F; Anna H and family; Candace R's brother; Harley Mc's classmate, Gavin; Andrew J; Donna B; Larry R; Kim P; Gabriel and Pam; Melissa M's son, Tom; All those at Camp this summer; Meagan S. Dorrie T; Rebecca T; Karen J's mom; Jay's mom; Jimmy P's co-worker; pray for persecuted Christians around the world; those suffering from depression.

**We give thanks and praise to God for...** Linda R got good results; Amanda & Joey; Next phase of New Beginnings.