

First Family News



December 2012 -
January 2013

Our Second Century Together

The Season of Advent lies in Hope...

I just read about two Senior Citizens who were out for their usual morning walk. They both had been complaining about the aches and pains of getting older. As they passed the local funeral home one of them turned to the other and said, "Look there's no hope of recovery, we're just getting older. Let's just go in and give ourselves up." I also read about a (For Sale) ad in a local paper recently which read: "Hope chest: Brand new, half price, long story." I'd like to know the story behind that one, wouldn't you?

Advent is here and it is indeed the **Season of Hope**. It reminds us not only of the birth of Christ and the hope we find in that event, but it also reminds us that we live between times, between the beginning and the end. Maintaining hope is often difficult because if our life is like a half a glass of water, then some of us are the half empty people and some of us are the half full people. Half empty people only see doom and gloom. Half full people only see the glory. And the real truth is somewhere smack in the middle.

And in that truth lays the power of Hope. Because the underlying message of this season is one of Hope. If you boil it all down it basically says three things. One: "Jesus is coming." Two: "God's in charge of the timetable." And three: "Get ready."

That's a point we need to hear because there are so many messages being thrown at us. There are so many conflicting messages that perplex and interfere with our sense of well being and our understanding of the faith. We get confused and distracted. We forget who we

are and where we gain our strength. And when that happens it builds up and pessimism turns into despair.

But Advent Hope is like someone baking Christmas sugar cookies who decides to add a bit of food coloring to the dough. They pour a few drops of red or green food coloring into the dough, kneed it in and pretty soon all the dough has taken a new color. It doesn't take much, just a few drops. It's the same with Hope. It doesn't take much, just a touch.

This season is one of preparation, of waiting and of hoping. It reminds us that we are not alone, that hope became flesh and blood and dwelt among us. Hope knows the uncertainties of life as well as the dark side of life and it overcame them.

Hope lives or wants to live within each of us so we can face those uncertainties with faith.

Advent is here and like those two Senior Citizens I mentioned earlier, we are all asked to "just go in and give ourselves up" to Christ and the Hope he offers.

Wishing you and your family the best Christmas ever!

Jay

1. Preaching Vol. 14, #1
2. Autoillustrator

Family Christmas Party

We hope that you will make plans to join your Church Family on Sunday evening, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. to kick off the season with food, performances by our gifted young people, and a visit from Santa. Please plan to arrive by 5:45 p.m. so that the program can start at 6:00 p.m. sharp!

Our children and youth group will be offering vocals, instrumentals, readings of seasonal literature for our entertainment. We will share supper – a sign up sheet will be circulated asking for chili, soup, sandwiches, relish trays and desserts.

In the spirit of giving, we are asking families to bring gifts of non-perishable foods for the Lawrenceville Co-op. Bring your children, grands, and family and friends to visit Santa. It will be a great photo opportunity without crowds and lines.

Please join us for this evening of food, fun, entertainment, and worship to get you in the Christmas spirit!



Schedule of Advent and Christmas Services

December 2 Advent 1

8:45 a.m. Regular Service
10:50 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

December 5 Advent Devotions

6:30 p.m.

December 9 Advent 2

8:45 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.
Christmas Program
5:45 p.m. Participants Arrive
6:00 p.m. Pageant Begins
(followed by Chili/Soup Supper and Santa)

December 12 Advent Devotions

6:30 p.m.

December 16 Advent 3

8:45 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Christmas Cantata

December 19 Advent Devotions

6:30 p.m.

December 23 Advent 4

8:45 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Candlelight/Communion Service

December 30

8:45 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.
3:00 p.m. Undecorate the Sanctuary

January 6

8:45 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.



Youth Schedule



Sunday, December 2nd:

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

Sunday, December 9th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
5:45 p.m. Christmas Program & Church-wide Party

Sunday, December 16th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 23th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. No Youth Group

Sunday, December 30th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. No Youth Group

Monday, December 31st:

Youth to volunteer at Co-op Flashlight 5K Race

Sunday, January 6th:

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

Sunday, January 13th:

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

Sunday, January 20th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. No Youth Group

Sunday, January 27th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. Spaghetti Lunch Fund-raiser

Advent Devotions

The Christmas Season is here and with it, a barrage of noise, hectic shopping, traffic jams and pressing commitments. Yes, it is indeed the "busiest" time of the year.



But why not take a break and join US Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. – Dec 5th through the 19th for a *short Vesper Service*?

I hope you'll have time to drop by, pause, refresh and reflect on the real reason for the season.

Happy 90th Birthday Peggy!

Plan to stay after 10:50 a.m. church service on Sunday, December 2nd to help celebrate the 90th birthday of Peggy Renshaw with a luncheon in the fellowship hall. All are welcome - no gifts please.



Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of We continue in prayer for... Susan G, Chris K, Kris J, all with health concerns; Mildred P; W.O.; Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Faye R; Virgil T; Betty H; Ray E; Mabel S's grandson; Lenora L's son, Ed; Alma F's grandson, Peter; Connie T's sister, Sandy W; Deborah S's friend, Laurie; Jan T's friend; Jay's friend; Libby B's college sorority sister passed away; Karen J's friend's son, Neil; Sanford T's friend; Melissa B; Claire B.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Reba Thompson, home from rehab; Hoyt & Betty H, both doing better; W.O. celebrated his 91st birthday in November.

Outside The Walls

Flashlight 5K New Year's Eve Race

Help support the Co-Op by joining the fun at the 2012 Flashlight 5K on December 31, 2012 @ 6:00 PM Race course will be lit by volunteers holding flashlights. All proceeds will benefit Lawrenceville Co-operative Ministries. The route will be lit by volunteers holding flashlights! If you are not a runner, volunteers are needed to light the path. All proceeds will benefit Lawrenceville Co-Op.



Contact Rod Baker for additional information.

Schedule: Race Day: December 31st
Registration: 4:30 p.m.
Race Dedication/Prayer Service: 5:30 p.m.
5K begins: 6+:00 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville Race
Hwy 29 and Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Entry fees: \$25 pre-registration @ www.connectrace.com
\$30 race day registration

Atlanta Harmony Celebration

Come join AHC! as they raise money for The Quinn House. All donations will go directly to The Quinn House.

Date: December 9, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Place: Lawrenceville First Christian Church
Cost: FREE ! Donations for The Quinn House will be collected at the door.

For more information on The Quinn House, check out their website: TheQuinnHouse.com



New Offering Envelopes

In 2013, we will have generic offering envelopes. These can be found in the Gathering Area. Please feel free to take what you need. Remember if your offering is cash, put your name on the envelope. This will make sure it will be included on your giving statement.

Holiday Closing

The church office will be closed Tuesday, 12/25/2012 through Tuesday, 1/1/2013.



Christian Women's Fellowship

Christmas Tea

Our Christmas Tea for all women (this is our December General meeting) will be on Saturday, December 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Connie Worrel has graciously invited us to her home for the tea.

January Supper Club

Jan Trinks will be hosting the Supper Club in January. It will be lunch at Longhorn's at The Avenue. Date and time TBA. It will be announced in the egram and bulletin the week before.

Women's Wisdom Circle December and January Activities

Women's Wisdom Circle next meeting is Saturday, December 8th. We are planning to have a Christmas lunch at the Blue Willow Inn in Social Circle. Meet at the church at 11:00 to drive together. Let Lynn Lane know if you wish to attend so we will have the correct number for the reservation. Lynn_lane@us.crawco.com or 770/962-2315 (home)

January

Thursday, January 10th at 6:30 at the church to continue our self-care program.

Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 at the church to make plans for the next six months.

I wrapped my Christmas presents early this year, but I used the wrong paper. See, the paper I used said 'Happy Birthday' on it. I didn't want to waste it so I just wrote 'Jesus' on it. -Demetri Martin



Next to a circus there ain't nothing that packs up and tears out faster than the Christmas spirit. -Kin Hubbard



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LFCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White
Music Director: Kim Peeples
Administrative Assistant: Linda Rowe
Nursery Workers: Lauren Garhardt

“Stay Home and Shop”

In an all-out effort to maximize advertising receipts from our website link to Amazon, www.gadisciples.org/bookstore we want to get everyone in the region involved in a massive “Stay Home and Shop” campaign.

Up to 6.5% of every purchase-- including Amazon gift cards—comes back to Camp Christian. In 2011, Amazon returned \$1,271.48 in support of Camp Christian. That amount could easily double if we “Stay Home and Shop!”

You can support Camp Christian if you simply link to amazon.com through our regional bookstore, www.gadisciples.org/bookstore. Remind your family and friends.



State of Mind

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

-Calvin Coolidge



Lisa Trantham's Cheese Ball



2 8-oz pkg. Neufchatel cheese (reduced fat cream cheese)

packed 1/4 cup each finely chopped red and green bell pepper and yellow onion (chop by hand--unfortunately a food processor extracts too much liquid and you end up with a cheese patty instead of a cheese ball) packed 1/2 cup finely chopped ham (I like Hormel Natural Choice--low fat, no nitrates or nitrites)

1 tablespoon worcestershire (I like Lea & Perrins)

1 teaspoon Lawry's seasoned salt

Mix all ingredients by hand and mold into a ball in the middle of a serving dish, surround with tasty crackers. If desired, you can cut the remaining ham into 1/2 inch squares and “paper” the outside of the ball.

Deadline for February Newsletter Thursday, January 17

December Birthdays

- 2 Gen Ashby
- 3 Andrew Jensen
- 5 Grace Mary Fisher
- 7 Heather McAfee
- 8 Reba Thompson
- 8 Peggy Renshaw
- 9 Julie Thompson
- 11 Virginia Morton
- 12 Stephen Westbrook
- 14 Elizabeth Anders
- 17 Doug Carlisle
- 19 Julie Mowrey
- 23 Sophia Coker
- 30 Tony Penny



December Anniversaries

- 7 Scott & Leigh Britt
- 15 Gen & Frank Ashby
- 17 Tony & Mary Penny
- 26 Bill & Barbara Phyfer



IceBreaker

IceBreakers will meet on December 11th at 6:30 p.m. at La Cazuella in Lawrenceville.

See you there!

Young Helpers in Worship- December

December 2:

Youth Responsive Reader: Emily Fisher

Acolytes: Grace Fisher

December 9:

Youth Responsive Reader: Kaeden Carter

Acolytes: Riley Ballew

December 16:

Youth Responsive Reader: David Britt

Acolytes: Alyna Lee

December 23:

Youth Responsive Reader: Rafael Evatt-Machado

Acolytes: Molly Ballew

December 30:

Youth Responsive Reader: David Trantham

Acolytes: Grace Fisher



Children's Worship Leaders:

December 2: No Children's Worship

December 9: Elizabeth McElhanon & Eva Krahwinkel

December 16: No Children's Worship

December 23: Ashley Harrison & Connie Thompson

December 30: Libby Ballew & Kameron Carter



Sign-Changers

December 2: Adam Saulter

December 9: Sanford Thompson

December 16: Brian Ballew

December 23: Tommy Hlass

December 30:



December Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Sanford & Julie Thompson

Deacons: Connie Worrel, Melissa McAfee, Patricia Taylor, Jim McCollough, Marilyn Parks

Deacon-in-training: Kali Parks

Lead Server: Patricia Taylor, lead server, can be reached at 770-740-8424. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.



Servant-Leaders

Lead server: Patricia Taylor

Prepare Communion/Cleanup: Connie Worrel

Supply Juice: Elizabeth McElhanon

Greeter/Bulletins: Julie Thompson

Coordinate acolytes/youth: Kali Parks

Fill Candles with Oil: Sanford Thompson

Check paper supply/restrooms: Charlie Alvord

**Deadline for
February Newsletter
Thursday, January 17**

January Birthdays

- 1 Connie Worrel
- 6 Christina Tyler
- 8 Ray Emerson
- 11 Mikaela Thurman
- 12 Deborah Sutherland
- 14 Ashlyn Parks
- 15 Nicholas Anders
- 18 Melissa McAfee
- 19 Darryl Samuel



**January
Anniversaries**

- 7 Jim & Judy Kling
- 8 Jim & Eileen McCollough
- 12 Janis & Benny Parker



IceBreaker

IceBreakers will meet on January 8th at 6:30 p.m. at a location TBA.
See you there!

**Young Helpers in Worship-
January**

- January 6:**
Youth Responsive Reader: Kameron Carter
Acolytes: Riley Ballew
- January 13:**
Youth Responsive Reader: Gabriel Evatt-Machado
Acolytes: Alyna Lee
- January 20:**
Youth Responsive Reader: Kali Parks
Acolytes: Molly Ballew
- January 27:**
Youth Responsive Reader: Emily Fisher
Acolytes: Grace Fisher



Children's Worship Leaders:

- January 6:** Karen Jensen & Kali Parks
- January 13:** Adult Leader & Kameron Carter
- January 20:** Connie Thompson & Libby Ballew
- January 27:** Ashley Harrison & Eva Krahwinkel



Sign-Changers

- January 6:** Adam Saulter
- January 13:** Sanford Thompson
- January 20:** Brian Ballew
- January 27:** Tommy Hlass



January Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Elizabeth McElhanon & Rod Baker

Deacons: Brian Ballew, Scott Britt, Leigh Britt, Bruce Johnson, Karla Johnson, Marilyn Parks

Lead Server: Brian Ballew, lead server, can be reached at 770-963-2142. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call him as soon as you know.



Servant-Leaders

Lead server: Brian Ballew

Prepare Communion/Cleanup: 8:45 - Lynn Lane;
10:50 - Scott & Leigh Britt

Supply Juice: Connie Thompson

Greeter/Bulletins: Libby Ballew

Coordinate acolytes/youth: Joey Baker

Fill Candles with Oil: Brian Ballew

Check paper supply/restrooms: Karla Johnson