

# FIRST FAMILY NEWS



December 2014-  
January 2015

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OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

### Parable of Two Christmas Prayers

The first was a prayer of a child.

Dear God, please tell Santa Claus to help the hungry children and give them homes and loving parents and food and fun and friends. If Santa can't be there, their parents will take care of them and that is better than any one any day. Dear God, see if you can't do this cause I hear there are so many who are so sick, so sad and so lonely. Tell Santa to do this first and I won't mind if he misses me, cause I have the Y.M.C.A., the Church and best of all a good home. Love, John

The second was a prayer of an adult.

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to help others in the spirit of Christ. Let me both say and do the things, which will make it a better world. Let my love overcome all prejudice and selfishness and laziness, that all may know Thy Spirit and rejoice this Christmas in the ways of mercy and forgiveness that Thy world may be brought into righteousness and peace. Amen.

And God heard both their prayers and in their hearts was peace and power and purpose and Christ-mas was real.

Merry Christmas- Jay and Sandy

## NEW YEARS THOUGHT

### *New Year – a New Beginning*

An ancient Chinese proverb advises: "If you do not change your direction, you are likely to end up where you are headed" (author unknown). We are standing on the threshold of a **new year**. There is no better time for us to examine and shift our direction.

None of us are here by chance. We have a purpose, a calling beyond the self, a unique responsibility to decide and act. Kierkegaard spoke of the "leap of faith." He was speaking of a commitment more dependent on faith than on proof. We are never capable of having all the answers. Those who would grow take many steps, even in the midst of obstacles, never exactly knowing what comes next.

This new year, let us all keep in mind that life calls us to move, to act, to make a commitment, to take a risk, to forge into new territory, trusting God to affect the consequences.

*"You can always trust the Holy Spirit, but it sometimes really helps to know what the actual situation is."*

Beginning early in 2015 we will commence with New Beginnings. An assessor from our national office will make an on-site visit and then generate a thorough report detailing our church's current condition, including property and financial resources, community and congregational demographics, stewardship profile and programmatic strengths.

We will also receive a comprehensive report of strengths and challenges, as well as a realistic picture of possible future directions.

**Our first challenge is truly hearing God's call to leadership.**

Please pray and ponder an essential question this holiday season. **Is God calling you to be one of the leaders to unite our future strategy and vision?**

Pastor J-



# SANTA'S A WOMEN

I Think Santa Claus is a woman....I hate to be the one to defy a sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off!

For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets, and mood rings left on the shelves. On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman.

Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag.

Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted and strapped to the rear bumper of the sleigh amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist.

Even if the male Santa DID have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions.

Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

- Men can't pack a bag.
- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
- Men don't answer their mail.
- Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described even in jest as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly."
- Men aren't interested in stockings unless somebody's wearing them.
- Having to do the Ho Ho Ho thing would seriously inhibit their ability to pick up women.
- Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment.

# LFCC Youth Meet Meagan

I am a first year student at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University seeking my Masters of Divinity with a concentration in Academic Research. I graduated from Columbus State University with a Bachelors of Social Work. I grew up in Auburn, Alabama with my parents and two sisters, Sydney (20) and Emma (13). I love books (especially Harry Potter!), crocheting, and being outside. My hidden talent is making balloon animals and I can't wait to meet all of you at FCC!

Meagan starts Sunday, December 7th.



## Upcoming Events for The Youth:

### December 7

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

### December 14

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

### December 20 (Saturday)

Help with Live Nativity

### December 21

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
No Youth Group

### December 28

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
No Youth Group

### January 4

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

### January 11

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
12:00 p.m. Spaghetti Lunch

### January 18

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

### January 25

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

## Financial Update

The treasury of the church would like to let you know the financial status of Lawrenceville First Christian Church. We have two separate Funds in which we operate. Our first is the general fund which pays our monthly bills and is tied to the budget we pass on a yearly basis. This fund is our regular checking account which is where salaries, utilities, insurance, and other expenses are paid from. Our second fund is our Capital fund. This fund is in a Money Market account and is where the mortgage for our facilities is paid from. The following is a breakdown of our Income and expenses in both accounts for October 2014:

### October

#### General Fund

October Income (Tithes and Offerings)	\$14,819.76
October Expenses	\$15,854.13

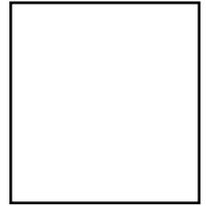
#### Capital Fund

October (Pledges)	\$ 3,605.00
October Mortgage Payment	\$ 3,303.85
Mortgage Balance	\$225,880.99



## First Family News

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



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Email [lgafcc@gmail.com](mailto:lgafcc@gmail.com)  
[lawrencevillefirstchristian.org](http://lawrencevillefirstchristian.org)

### LFCC Staff

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

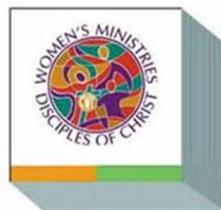
### Joy and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Mildred P; Barbara & Bill P; Reba & Virgil T; Chris K; Peggy R; M.L. & family; Ray & Blanche E; Harry E; Kris J; Bessie K; Our Homebound members; Dorrie's sister, Marty; Judy K's brother; Jan T's friends; Alma F; Jay's mom; Candis F's mom; Nelly's family; Sandy W; Nancy M's brother-in-law; Rosie T's daughter's in-laws; Donna B's friend; Connie W; Linda R's mom; Jay's family; Linda P-G; Dorrie's friend, Katherine; Grace A; Jay's family; those suffering from depression.

### Disciples Women (CWF) News

There will be a CWF/Disciple Women meeting on Sunday, January 11th in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. We need to set a budget for 2015. I urge all Officers and Chairs to be at this meeting. All the women of the church are also invited to attend.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the support of the church during 2014 as I led the women's groups. I look forward to our new opportunities for spiritual growth, and a renewed sense of responsibility for the mission of our church to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.



-Eva K

### Family Promise News

Family Promise will sponsor the 9th Annual Flashlight 5K Road Race on Wednesday, December 31st. The course begins at the First United Methodist

Church on Crogan St. in Lawrenceville and is certified as a Peachtree Road Qualifier.

Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), search: Flashlight 5K. The deadline for early registration is December 1st and is \$25. Pre-registration



will run until December 15th and will be \$30. Race day registration will be \$35. There will be prizes for the top three finishers in each category, ages 10-75. If you aren't running/walking, come and support the runners by volunteering to hold a flashlight along the race course!

**The Salt Light Center emergency housing** for women and children needs volunteers and bottled water. Contact Cristina at [slc@familypromisegwinnett.org](mailto:slc@familypromisegwinnett.org) for information.

## Deadline for February Newsletter is Thursday, January 22nd

### December Birthdays

2 Gen Ashby  
3 Andrew Jensen  
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  
26 Ann Kersey



### December Anniversaries

7 Scott & Leigh Britt  
26 Bill & Barbara Phyfer



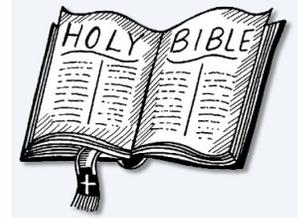
## AN ATHEIST HOLIDAY

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. It's unfair discrimination."

His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April first?"

## Youth Responsive Readers - December

December 7: Elizabeth Clackum  
December 14: Annie Ballew  
December 21: Rafael Evatt-Machado  
December 28: Gabriel Evatt-Machado



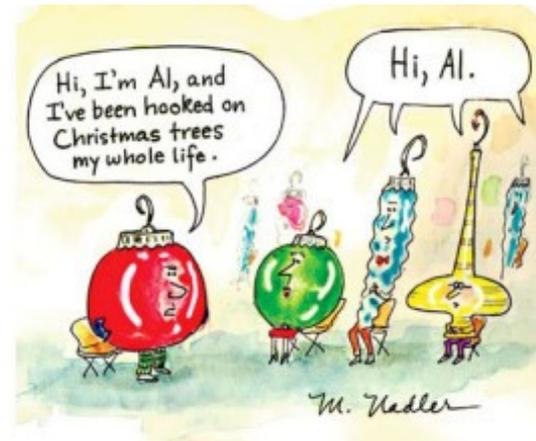
### Worship Helpers

**December 7:** 8:45 Reader - tba  
10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson  
Communion Meditation - Elizabeth McElhanon

**December 14:** 8:45 Reader - Jan Trinks  
10:50 Reader - Bruce Johnson  
Communion Meditation - Libby Ballew

**December 21:** 8:45 Reader - tba  
10:50 Reader - Jimmy Peeples  
Communion Meditation - Jimmy Peeples

**December 28:** 8:45 Reader - tba  
10:50 Reader - Marilyn Parks  
Communion Meditation - Connie Thompson



## December Elders/Deacons

### Serving at the Table

**Elders:** Sanford & Julie Thompson

**Deacons:** Connie Worrel, Josué Machado, Pamela Evatt-Machado

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

**Lead Server:** Connie Worrel, lead server, can be reached at 678-662-8392. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.

### Servant-Leaders

**Lead Server:** Connie Worrel

**Greeter/Bulletins:** Connie Worrel (14th & 21st)

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