



Our Second Century Together

The Primary Purpose of the Church

Let's begin with an illustration. If I ask you to tell me the primary purpose of your car, what would you say?

We can probably agree that the primary purpose of a car is transportation. We can also probably agree that the primary purpose of a car is not to keep gas in the tank. Sure, gas in the tank is vital to the fulfillment of the primary purpose (transportation), but it is not the primary purpose of your car.

This primary purpose is a worldview. Worldviews are subconscious. We don't realize they are there, yet everyone has them and we filter every decision we make through them. In the above illustration the worldview of the primary purpose of the car is transportation.

Now, let's put "car operations" under the responsibility of a committee. Let's also split the worldview of the committee members. Let's have some say the primary purpose of the car is transportation, and have others say the primary purpose is gas in the tank. We now have a tension point resulting in arguments over the "proper use" of the vehicle.

Here's the thing: What the committee is arguing over is not the real issue. They are merely debating the symptoms of their underlying and conflicting worldviews.

So what does this all have to do with the church? Let me put it this way. If I were to ask you to tell me the primary purpose of the church, what would you say? Is it to make Disciples? Is it fellowship with ONE ANOTHER?

According to Matthew 28: 19-20 (The Great Commission) the primary purpose of the church is to make disciples. Yet in my work with churches, about 60% of members say the primary purpose of the church is fellowship with ONE ANOTHER.

Don't get me wrong, fellowship is important. It is vital to the fulfillment of the primary purpose of the church (to make disciples), but it is not the Biblical primary purpose of the church.

This is a tension point in churches all across America. It results in arguing over the symptoms created by their underlying and conflicting worldviews. What are the recognizable symptoms?

The make disciples worldview person will say, "If we are going to invite guests to church shouldn't we clean up the place, perhaps some fresh paint on the walls? The "fellowship with one another" worldview person will say, "I think the paint we have is fine and my friends think the paint is fine - we don't need to waste money on new paint?"

The make disciples person will think of the ramifications of church growth - multiple services, relocation, plant new churches, etc. The

"fellowship with one another" person will also think about the ramifications of church growth - only they will do so through the vastly different lens of their differing worldview. "If we grow to a certain point I won't know everyone." "If we go to two services then I won't be able to see everybody at church."

The primary purpose of the church worldview is huge! Understanding the presence of underlying and conflicting worldviews is vital to the spiritual health and wellness of every congregation.

So, what is our church arguing about? Are we debating the symptoms or the underlying cause?

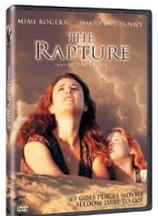
*PIZZA AND A MOVIE -
Wednesday May 15th -
7:00 p.m.*

*Let's get together for some
great fellowship...*

This is the story of a young woman (who lives in Los Angeles) with a very boring job. At night however, she and a male partner cruise the bars as swingers. After a time, she begins to believe that a conspiracy exists and decides that she must become a born-again Christian.

*If you've not seen it -
you are in for a treat. It
is rated R, so be advised.*

This is not your regular (rapture, seventh heaven or left behind) film- it explores the concept (what if you took faith and scripture literally...)



Outside The Walls

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE & MOTHER'S DAY

On May 5, the Christian College of Georgia will have its second annual special offering at our church to help the College.

Mother's Day was chosen because of moms' special bond in raising babies and teaching them to be Children of God. Minister and author Gloria McCall of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Decatur is spokeswoman.

Here is a brief look of joys and challenges at Christian College of Georgia during its 65 years:

It has prepared seminarians, ministerial candidates, and lay leaders to serve Christ through its vigorous curriculum. This includes the Disciples on Campus holding weekly meetings with an activity and a meal. VOICES provides a yearly weekend retreat for ministers.

During Jim Crow, it was one of the few institutions that would accept blacks.

The future looks bright as the College is in the forefront of Distance Learning and by improving the college's web site students also connect to other higher education sites.

For the past two decades, the College has given or made no-interest loans to the Church or affiliated organizations of more than \$600,000.

This outreach is in addition to carrying out its main purpose of ministry with and pastoral preparation for those who will lead and serve in Disciples churches in the 21st Century.

Christian College has not received support from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia since 1995. (That was also when the College had a legal contest in which the local government took its property without fair compensation through eminent domain for historic preservation of buildings which the College was using and maintaining.

The college is not funded through the Disciples Mission Fund or any other special offerings of the Church. It has become increasingly more difficult to serve and grow without asking for support. This is why, with the encouragement of our Regional Minister, the College resumed its fund raising in 2012.

The Future

"To maintain this kind of momentum," said Dr. Robert L. Harris, president, of the College, "We must keep up with the times and stay at the leading edge of education. We have a strong faculty and need to provide them the tools they need to provide students for ministry). We need to provide our students the support they need to study and develop the required competencies for ministry. It is imperative that we serve effectively in our Disciples on Campus program at Georgia's Flagship University – UGA. And we want to continue to strengthen our outreach to you, your congregation, and the world"

For more information: see the church bulletin on May 5th; talk with Kris Jensen, who is a College trustee; <http://transformingthechurch.org> or www.ccofga.info.

Phone: 770-815-9078 or 1-800-235-2496

Write to Christian College of Georgia, 285 Tallassee Road, Athens, GA 30606.

Family Promise News

Thank you church for an outstanding response to volunteer during our week supporting Peachtree Corners Christian Church. Our congregation provided 16 volunteers during the PCCC host week in April! Thirteen individuals were served each day during this week. There is always a need for more volunteers. Volunteer orientations will be held May 13th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and May 26th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. These sessions are held in Fellowship Hall.



The SaltLight Center is an emergency shelter for women and children associated with Family Promise of Gwinnett. Since opening they have served 280 homeless women and children. They have been busy lately. During the Spring Break week there were 3 nights in a row in which 11 people were served. Please consider ministering for Family Promise and/or the SaltLight Center. There will be a volunteer training for SaltLight Center on Saturday, May 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Church of God, Building G. Please contact Carol at slc@familypromisegwinnett.org if you plan to attend.

Disciples Women

WWC May/June/July Activities

Thursday - May 23rd - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner at Park Cafe - Square in Duluth. The topic of discussion will be labyrinths. Rosie & Lynn will lead a discussion on labyrinths in general and discuss the labyrinths in our area in preparation for the June trip to Simpsonwood.

Saturday - June 15th - 10:00 a.m. - Trip to the Labyrinth at Simpsonwood - meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. After visiting and walking the labyrinth we will have lunch at a restaurant the group chooses.

Wednesday - July 3rd - Lawrenceville Square - Pre-4th Celebration. Meeting time and details to be decided when more information is available.

We are also considering attending one of the Moonlight and Music concerts on the Square in Lawrenceville, like we did last year, possibly July 26th or August 30th but are awaiting details to become available.

Youth Schedule

Sunday, May 5th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, May 12th:

Youth Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship

Sunday, May 19th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. Last Youth Group Meeting of School Year

Friday, May 31st - Saturday, June 1st:

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. Lock-In



Save the Date - LFCC Blood Drive

We are getting closer to the date for our next Red Cross Blood Drive. It will be Tuesday, May 7th from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Donors can make appointments with Charlie at 404-455-6797 or flyguy32464@bellsouth.net.



Congratulations Class of 2013

We want to congratulate our two graduates. Kali Parks will graduate from Archer High School and Nick Anders will graduate from Central Gwinnett High School. We wish them both great success for their future.



Jesse was a chicken plucker. That's right.

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.

The wonderful, gifted, talented, and nervous comedian who brought us Barney Fife was *Jesse Don Knotts*.

NOW YOU KNOW, "THE REST OF THE STORY"

There is a street named for him and his statue in Morgantown, West Virginia, his place of birth.

Who Exhibits Inner Peace?

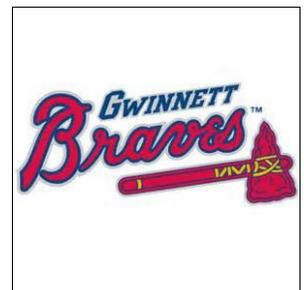
In last month's newsletter, there was the question "Who am I?".

The answer is ... the family dog



Save the Date

June 7th at 7:05 p.m. - Father's Day Fun/ Post-Game Fireworks at the Gwinnett Braves Game. We will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool or meet us there. If we could get 20, we can get the group rate of \$6.00 for Baseline Box or \$8.00 for Field box. Other wise, the ticket prices would be \$8.00 for Baseline Box or \$ 12.00 for the Field Box.





First Family News

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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: ... Chris K, Kris J, all with health concerns; Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Betty H; Reba & Virgil T; M.L. & Faye R; Ray E; Mildred P; Nettie P; Harry E; Bill & Barbara P; James P; Jay's brother and mother; Debbie D; prayers for birth of Reese Ryan J; Eva's brother home from rehab; Joseph H's father; Sylvia S's grandson; Susan Gaddis' family; Ashley Harrison, has two students in hospital; Ashley and Sandy Wright; Chris K's friend; Kaeden C's friend, Ryan C's father, John; Candace R's aunt, Elva G; Jay's brother; Bessie's sister, Grace and her caregivers; Ashley H, one of her students is out of the hospital; Al T; Patricia T's daughter's brother-in-law, Mark; those suffering from depression.

We give thanks and praise to God for...
Marilyn's 5th grandchild on the way.



Camp Workdays

The last Camp Workday will be Saturday, May 5. 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.

Camp Counselor Training

Anyone who wants to serve as a counselor at camp this summer



must attend one of the sessions. The next session is at Camp Christian, Sunday, May 5th, time tba.

Deadline for June Newsletter Thursday, April 23rd

May Birthdays

- 1 Matthew Britt
- 1 Gabriel Evatt-Machado
- 3 Rosie Tripp
- 5 Lynn Lane
- 10 Barbara Bagwell
- 12 Neva Briscoe
- 13 Kayla Lee
- 13 Thomas McAfee
- 16 Adam Saulter
- 16 Brendon Parks
- 18 Debbie Huff
- 20 T.J. Austin
- 23 Mary Penny
- 23 Tommy Hlass
- 24 Virgil Thompson
- 25 Eileen McCollough
- 27 Julie Lee
- 29 Karla Johnson
- 29 Matthew Hall
- 31 Mabel Simmons



May Anniversaries

- 21 Tadd & Debbie Huff
- 24 Josué & Pamela-Evatt Machado

Sign-Changers

- May 5: Joey Baker
- May 12: Jim McCollough
- May 19: Brian Ballew
- May 26: Tommy Hlass

Young Helpers in Worship- May

- May 5: Youth Responsive Reader: Kaeden Carter
Acolytes: Alyna Lee
- May 12: Youth Responsive Reader: Rafael Evatt-Machado
Acolytes: Molly Ballew
- May 19: Youth Responsive Reader: David Trantham
Acolytes: Riley Ballew
- May 26: Youth Responsive Reader: Annie Ballew
Acolytes: Alyna Lee

Children's Worship Leaders:

- May 5: Karen Jensen & Helper
- May 12: Youth Sunday
- May 19: Vacant
- May 26: Connie Worrel



Worship Helpers:

- May 5: 8:45 Reader-Julie Mowrey
10:50 Reader-Joey Baker
Children's Moment-Jay White
Communion Meditation-Bruce Johnson
- May 12: 8:45 Reader-Julie Mowrey
Youth Sunday
- May 19: 8:45 Reader-Jim Mowrey
10:50 Reader-Mabel Simmons
Children's Moment-Elizabeth McElhanon
Communion Meditation-Connie Thompson
- May 26: 8:45 Reader-Deborah Sutherland
10:50 Reader-Jay White
Children's Moment-Elizabeth McElhanon
Communion Meditation-Pamela Evatt-Machado

May Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

- Elders: Julie & Sanford Thompson
- Deacons: Linda Gulden, Candace Richardson, Joey Baker
- Deacon-in-Training: Rebecca Thompson



Servant-Leaders

- Lead server: Candace Richardson
- Prepare Communion/Cleanup: Eva Krahwinkel
- Greeter/Bulletins: Linda Gulden (5th & 26th), Youth (12th), Tommy Hlass (19th)

Lead Server: Candace Richardson, lead server, can be reached at 678-985-5509. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.