



Our Second Century Together

A SERIOUS QUESTION...

Why Are We Here? What Is The Primary Purpose Of Our Church?

This answer to this question is inclusive of all we do and is usually subconscious. As a church, we filter every decision we make through the above subject.

Maybe an illustration may help. 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.

In the above illustration, I think we could agree with the main purpose of a car is transportation.

Now, let's put "car operations" under the responsibility of a committee. Let's also split the view 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 purpose?

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 or maybe the term (in-reach/taking care of each other) is a better idiom?

According to Matthew 28: 19-20, (The Great Commission), the primary purpose of the church is to make disciples. Yet studies show that about 85% of all churches say the primary purpose of existence is internal.

Don't get me wrong, fellowship and the needs of our members are important. It is vital to the fulfillment of the primary purpose of the church (to make disciples), but it is not the Biblical key reason to be 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 reason we should be here.

What are the recognizable symptoms? The "make disciples" view person will say, "If we are going to invite guests to church, shouldn't we invest in ways to make our church more inviting, perhaps change our worship times, or combine our efforts in innovative ways?" The "fellowship with one another" view person will say, "I think everything is fine and my friends think everything is fine - we don't need to waste money or time?"

The "make disciples" person will think of the ramifications of church growth - multiple services, relocation, start of new programs, 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 grow too big, I won't have a say."

The primary purpose of the church with a focus on others outside our walls is huge! Understanding the presence of underlying and conflicting purpose is vital to the spiritual health and wellness of our congregation.

So, what is the question about? Are we debating **the symptoms or the underlying cause?**



Disciples Women

Time for Spring Cleaning!!!

Wondering what to do with those items you are keeping?



We need your treasures ... furniture, electronics, clothes, etc. for **The Disciples Women (CWF) Yard Sale** on Saturday, May 10th. There will be three sale sections: love offering, priced items, and seller tables.

Flyers and labels for pricing are in the church narthex.

Please call Jan Baker if you need someone to pick up your items.



Family Promise News

Carol Karpf has resigned as Director of the SaltLight Center to stay at home with her newborn, Tristan. The SaltLight Center has thrived under her direction. Over five hundred twenty women and children have been served since the Center opened. Cristina Junco is the new director of the SaltLight Center. The next training for the SaltLight Center will be on **May, 17th from 10:00 am.-12:00 p.m.** at the Lawrenceville Church of God, building G. The Saltlight Center will be open on weekends beginning in June if there are volunteers available.

The fifth annual Bed race raised \$40,000 for Family Promise! Thanks to all of those who supported, participated in, and watched the Bed Race!

The next FP volunteer orientation will be on **May 12 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.** at LFCC in Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Laura at volunteer@familypromisegwinnett.org if you plan to attend.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!!!

A Note From Hillary...

As you might have heard, this will be my last note. I am moving back home for the summer to work as a chaplain intern at Palmetto Health Hospitals, and then moving to Washington to be with my husband. I will continue my seminary studies at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology.



I have so enjoyed being a part of this family at Lawrenceville First. Leaving is bittersweet! The youth have kept me thinking, praying, and laughing, and the rest of the church reminds me of the beauty of community! I will always remember PCFCU with fondness!

My last month here will be an exciting one! On May 4th, I look forward to preaching for the first time, and after church, we will celebrate lunch with Kameron to celebrate her graduation! The next Sunday is Youth Sunday, and the kids are working hard on a great worship experience. May 18, we hope to celebrate the baptisms of several of our youth, and May 25 will be my final Sunday.

I hope you will all keep in touch and remember Tom and me in your prayers! I love you all. Grace and peace for the journey! To my youth: May Jesus' radical love continue to shine through you all!

Hillary B. Kimsey

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 March 2014:

March 2014

General Fund

March Income (Tithes and Offerings)	\$12,166.54
March Expenses	\$13,507.24

Capital Fund

March Income (Pledges)	\$ 3,855.00
March Mortgage Payment	\$ 3,303.85
Mortgage Balance	\$239,966.85

**Deadline for May 2014
Newsletter is Thursday,
May 22nd**

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 Brendon Parks
- 18 Debbie Huff
- 20 T.J. Austin
- 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

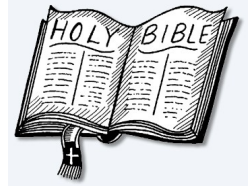


Sign-Changers

- May 4: Joey Baker
- May 11: Jim McCollough
- May 18: Brian Ballew
- May 25: Jay White

Youth Responsive Readers May

- May 4: Rebecca Thompson
- May 11: Kaeden Carter
- May 18: David Britt
- May 25: Rafael Evatt-Machado



Worship Helpers

- May 4: 8:45 Reader - Melissa McAfee
10:50 Reader - Gabriel Evatt-Machado
Communion Meditation - Connie Thompson
- May 11: 8:45 Reader - Jim Mowrey
10:50 Reader - Youth
Communion Meditation - Youth
- May 18: 8:45 Reader - Hillary Kimsey
10:50 Reader - Mabel Simmons
Communion Meditation - Rod Baker
- May 25: 8:45 Reader - Matt Klimshuk
10:50 Reader - Joey Baker
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"
~Robin Williams

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would
always greet it in a garden.
~Ruth Stout

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
~William James

"Most of the shadows of life are caused by standing in our
own sunshine."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

May Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

- Elders: Connie & Lee Thompson
- Deacons: Linda Gulden, Gen Ashby,
Connie Worrel (11th & 25th)
- Deacon-in-training: Rebecca Thompson
- Lead Server: Gen Ashby, lead server, can be
reached at 678-546-6996. If you can't be present
on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you
know.



Servant-Leaders

- Lead Server: Gen Ashby
- Greeter/Bulletins: Karen Jensen (4th & 11th),
Hillary Kimsey (18th), Lee Thompson (25th)
- Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord,
Nettie Patterson, & Gen Ashby



First Family News

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LFCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White
Music Director: Kim Peeples
Youth Director: Hillary Kimsey
Office Manager: Linda Rowe

Joy and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Betty H; W.O.; Mildred P; Bill & Barbara P; Reba & Virgil T; Chris K; Peggy R; M.L. & Faye R; Blanche, Ray, and Harry E; Jan T's friend; Jim K; Lynn B's cousin, Dan D; Linda P-G's family; Jim M's co-worker; Hillary's husband, Tom; Kris J's mom and granddaughter; Sha's mom, Debbie S; those suffering from depression.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Alma F's brother, Paul, recovering.



Who Are You, Really

If we cannot trust that we have an eternal identity in God, then we are burdened with creating our own personal importance day after day. Either we are made by another or we must be self-made--or we live in the hall of mirrors of everybody else's image of us. Then we vie with one another for a zero-sum dignity and importance. We become lost in comparison, envy, competition, and codependency.

~Richard Rohr

