



## Our Second Century Together

### *Living Beneath Our Means*



Thanksgiving has its own set of symbols—turkeys, pilgrims, pumpkins and Indian corn. But the symbol that best expresses the abundance that Thanksgiving celebrates is the cornucopia. The cornucopia is an ancient symbol used in both Greek and Roman mythology. In some myths, the goat Amalthea, whose milk fed the infant Zeus, was said to have a horn that was always filled with whatever anyone wanted to eat or drink. In other tales the Roman goddess of plenty, named “Copia,” always wore or carried a horn filled with fruits and drinks. The magical horn of plenty was always full; its abundance could never be exhausted.

One remarkable thing about Thanksgiving is that it has been less commercialized than many other holidays on our calendar, especially Christmas or Easter. There are still many families who would never dream of saying grace before meals that suddenly feel compelled to offer up some form of thanks before carving up the fatted bird and diving into the dressing.

Yet our grateful acknowledgment of abundance often has the tendency to drift into an orgy of sheer gluttony. Somehow, Thanksgiving has become diet-conscious America’s sacred day of overindulgence. Instead of being “commercialized,” Thanksgiving has been “internalized” and “narcissusized,” focusing wholly on satisfying the self.

Consider some of our recent traditions. We buy Butterball turkeys the size of not-so-small children and spend more time trying to stuff them into our ovens than filling them with stuffing. This enormous bird is then fed to family gatherings that keep getting smaller and smaller every year. Eating at least two desserts is practically mandatory.

We’ve even carried this spirit of “too much of a good thing is ... wonderful” into our Thanksgiving day entertainment—the day of

relentless rounds of unending football games. In many ways, Thanksgiving has come to embody our national tendency to “live beyond our means.” We surround ourselves with more food and drink and amusements than we can possibly enjoy in one day—but we refuse to give up any of it. Thanksgiving is a holiday that all too easily can symbolize our socially approved and nationally sanctioned addiction to consumerism and materialism.

**But, if we seem determined to live well above our means in our physical existence, we seem all too content to live well beneath our means spiritually.**

The cornucopia, the horn of plenty that symbolizes Thanksgiving so well, should sound the joyful noise of God’s bountiful blessings, of the abundant, overflowing graciousness that God makes available in our lives. Don’t live beneath your means.

This horn of plenty also sounds a warning: a note of caution to shake us out of our self-preoccupied complacencies and selfish accumulations, a note to remind us that we must use our blessings to bless others.

**Rev. Jay**



# Outside The Walls

## Family Promise News

This is a busy time of year for Family Promise and The SaltLight Center. LFCC will provide overnight coverage at Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church on **Monday, November 25**, from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Contact Kris or Karen if you are able to help with this.

Volunteer Orientation for Family Promise will be on **Monday, November 11** from 7-9 p.m. and on **Sunday, November 24** from 2-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All volunteers planning to attend an orientation need to RSVP with Laura at least 24 hours before the scheduled session. You may contact Laura at 770-310-4292 or at

[volunteer@familypromisegwinnett.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisegwinnett.org).

The next Volunteer Training for the SaltLight Center will be on **Saturday, November 16th** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Lawrenceville Church of God, Building G, 329 Grayson Hwy, Lawrenceville. Come learn about our different service opportunities: Evening, Overnight, and Morning Hosts, and Providing Meals for our Guests. You only need to attend one training. For questions and to RSVP for training contact Carol Karpf at [slc@familypromisegwinnett.org](mailto:slc@familypromisegwinnett.org) or 770-885-2947.

Watch for information about sponsoring an adult or child in the Family Promise program for Christmas. Details will be coming soon.



## Pamper Night

Pamper Night for the ladies of Family Promise is coming up on Wednesday, Nov. 13th from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at First UMC of Lawrenceville. We would love any donations of new nail polish bottles, lotions, or any small gift baskets with items that we can give away as door prizes. These can be dropped off with Lakeisha at the Day Center. If anyone would like to help that evening, please contact Linda Allen at (404) 454-7093.



"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence."

-Erma Bombeck

## Youth News

### A Note From Hillary...

November with the LFCC Youth!

As November approaches, we will trade costumes in for turkeys and hopefully, take on a spirit of Thanksgiving. The youth and I have been studying the classic old Testament stories and discussing them, and as we have, we have been thankful to the open and curious atmosphere that LFCC provides to us. We have also been thankful for the stories of the Hebrew Bible and the way God is revealed in them. So far we have explored Creation, Noah's Ark, Abraham and Sarah, and now, we're easing into Joseph and beyond. As we explore them, I encourage the youth to find the beauty in the stories (even those that leave us scratching our heads!) and hold on to the moments where God is moving humanity from despair to hope. Especially as we move into November with the excitement of Regional Assembly and Thanksgiving, we will continue to look for God moving us from despair to hope, emptiness to fulfillment.

-Hillary Beasley  
LFCC Youth Director

PS: This Sunday, November 3, is the absolute last day for the youth to give me their registration form and \$30 for the Regional Assembly Youth Lock in and Outreach activities if you haven't already mailed it in!



## Youth Schedule

### Sunday, November 3rd:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

4:30 p.m. Youth Group

### Sunday, November 10th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

4:30 p.m. Youth Group

### Sunday, November 17th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

4:30 p.m. Youth Group

### Sunday, November 24th:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

3:00 p.m. Decorating for Advent



# Disciples Women

## Regional Assembly Women's Breakfast

Remember all women are invited to the Women's Breakfast at Regional Assembly on Saturday, November 16th @ 8:00 A.M.

The breakfast will be held in the Salvation Army building since there are about 75 to 80 women expected for breakfast from around the region. The breakfast is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. with the Regional Assembly meetings beginning shortly after in our sanctuary.

The speaker for this year's breakfast is Rev. Suzanne Cole Wages, Senior Minister at Damascus Christian Church in Griffin, GA. Suzanne also has a connection to our church. Suzanne is married to Steve Wages, grandson of Vernelle Thompson Wages, former organist and choir director at LFCC. Vernelle is the sister of W.O. Thompson and aunt of Kim Peebles, Marilyn Parks, and Sanford Thompson.

The women of the host church for Regional Assembly are considered "hosts" for the breakfast. We will provide coffee and juice and be available to greet women when they arrive. Usually another church in the area and the Women's Commission will provide breakfast items, but if anyone would like to volunteer to bring breakfast items also, please let Beth Thompson know.

We hope to see many of our women there! You do not have to register for Regional Assembly to attend the breakfast, and there is no charge for the breakfast.

## Annual Harvest Dinner

The Annual Harvest Dinner is here on Saturday, November 2nd @ 5:30 p.m.

This is a return engagement for our new and improved Harvest Dinner. We know that the Thanksgiving and Christmas season is busy and stressful for all of us. So, we are giving you the opportunity to start the season at our annual Harvest Dinner in a less stressful way. To make this a joyful occasion for everyone, the dinner is a covered dish meal, and everyone is asked to bring their favorite Thanksgiving or holiday dish. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

The Harvest Meal continues to be a fundraiser for Disciples Women, but as the Youth do at their dinners, we will have an offering basket available for you to make an offering to Disciples Women if you choose. Please remember that all the money raised by Disciples Women is returned to other ministries in the church and community.



## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Annual Christmas Social Gathering for Disciples Women

All women of the church are invited to attend!



When: December 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: LFCC fellowship hall

What: Bring your favorite holiday party finger food to share.

What else: Also, bring a "White Elephant" gift. This is something you have around the house that you would like to "gift" to someone else, or something you purchase for less than \$5. We will have a "Pirate Exchange" to distribute gifts. If you don't know what that is, ask someone who has been before and come and enjoy the fun!

Still More? We will also be making holiday cards to send to our homebound members.

We still do not have a "hostess" for this event. Hosting involves decorating the fellowship hall, providing drinks, and greeting everyone when they arrive. Several people could do this together. If you are interested, please get in touch with Beth Thompson!

## Election Of Disciples Women's Officers

Watch the Wednesday e-grams for a called business meeting of Disciples Women after both church services on Sunday morning to elect our officers for the coming year. Since we are changing the terms of our officers to begin in January, we did not have a regular business meeting scheduled at an appropriate time to elect officers. The nominating committee of Karen Jensen (chair), Eva Krahwinkel, Linda Gulden, and Lynn Lane have been working diligently to fill offices. Their work should be finished soon!



## **First Family News**

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **LFCC Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jay White  
**Music Director:** Kim Peeples  
**Youth Director:** Hillary Beasley  
**Administrative Assistant:** Linda Rowe

### **Joys and Concerns**

**We never cease in praying for the needs of:** ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Betty H; Mildred P; Bill & Barbara P; Ray, Blanche & Harry E; Reba & Virgil T; Faye & M.L. R; Mary Jo A; Nancy M's sisters; Chris K; Alma F's grandson, Peter; Rosie T's daughter; Sandy W's brother; Judy K's friend; Kris J; Peggy R; Libby B's friend's husband; Brian B's family; Alma F's niece, Sally; Lisa T's family; Kameron C; Jeffrey N & family; Linda P & family; Eva K's family; Barry R; Candis F's family; Jan T's friend, Gladys; Deborah S's family friend, Sarah; Beth T's friend, Carolyn; Beth T's co-worker, Sarah; those suffering from depression.

**Please add to your prayers:** Margaret (Maggie) Joy Parks W, daughter of Meredith & Stephen (sister of Perry & Mary Kate) born October 8th.

**Check out our revised website:**  
[www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org](http://www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org)  
**New email address:**  
[lgafcc@gmail.com](mailto:lgafcc@gmail.com)

## **164th Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) November 15-16, 2013 Hosted by LFCC**

This is the one time a year for our brothers and sisters from across the region of Georgia to meet together in fellowship and worship. Each year the event is hosted in a DOC church and this year is our opportunity .

Friday's banquet theme is "Celebrating 50 Years of Camping at Camp Christian" Chefs: Jim & Marilyn Torbert. You are encouraged to Wear a Camp T-Shirt to the banquet. If you do not have one, one can be purchased at the assembly.

Other highlights of the assembly will be a Keynote address by Dr. Rick Morse on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

A Bible Study Saturday morning led by Dr. Stan Saunders

Children's FUNderful Day on Saturday and a Youth Lock-In (With a Purpose!) on Friday evening and Saturday.

There is also a canned food drive in conjunction with the Assembly. You are encouraged to bring canned meat for the Youth "Meat of the Mission" Project which includes a visit to the Lawrenceville Co-op.

As the host church you are encouraged to consider registering so we can show the region what a gracious and wonderful congregation we are here at LFCC.

Questions? Contact Dr. Jay, Connie T. or Rod B.

# Deadline for December/January Newsletter Thursday, November 14

## November Birthdays

- 2 Tom McAfee
- 3 Julie Kling
- 7 Meredith Westbrook
- 11 Matt McElhanon
- 14 Emily Fisher
- 16 W.O. Thompson
- 17 Ken Fisher
- 18 Dorrie Toth
- 19 Lenora Langford
- 21 Brian Ballew
- 22 Kameron Carter
- 23 Jim Ouzts
- 27 M.L. Robertson
- 30 Ralph McElhanon



## November Anniversaries

- 9 Jim & Carla Ouzts
- 14 Don & Meredith  
(McElhanon) Bell
- 25 Sanford & Julie Thompson



## Sign-Changers

- November 3: Joey Baker
- November 10: Jim McCollough
- November 17: Brian Ballew
- November 24: Tommy Hlass

## Young Responsive Readers - November

- November 3: Rebecca Thompson
- November 10: Kaeden Carter
- November 17: David Britt
- November 24: Rafael Evatt-Machado

## Worship Helpers

- November 3: 8:45 Reader - Donna Nielsen  
10:50 Reader - Libby Ballew  
Communion Meditation - Hillary Beasley
- November 10: 8:45 Reader - Jan Trinks  
10:50 Reader - Rafael Evatt-Machado  
Communion Meditation - Jay White
- November 17: 8:45 Reader - Jan Baker  
10:50 Reader - Hillary Beasley  
Communion Meditation - Josué Machado
- November 24: 8:45 Reader - Matt Klimshuk  
10:50 Reader - Joey Baker  
Communion Meditation - Ann Kersey

## Decorating for Advent

Join us on Sunday, November 24th at 3:00pm as we decorate for Advent. We need everyone who wants to help to do so but we will especially need some who can help get the Christmas tree and poinsettia tree out of the shed.

Also, someone who can climb up the ladder to get things off the shelves in the table storage room. This is always a fun afternoon as we get the sanctuary ready. Come be a part of this time of work and fellowship. Contact Marilyn Parks or Connie Thompson if you have questions.



## Christmas Gathering

We are planning another program similar to the one we had last year Sunday Evening, December 16th. We would like for all the children and youth to come and be part of this evening. Be thinking about what you would like to do: play a musical instrument, sing a song, recite a poem, read a poem or story, etc. Let Marilyn Parks or Elizabeth McElhanon know if you are willing to do something. We all look forward to what our children, grandchildren and extended family and friends will do that evening.

## November Elders/Deacons

### Serving at the Table

**Elders:** Libby Ballew & Hoyt Huff  
**Deacons:** Linda Gulden, Karla Johnson, Bruce Johnson

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

**Lead Server:** Joey Baker, lead server, can be reached at 678-699-7380. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call him as soon as you know.



### Servant-Leaders

**Lead Server:** Joey Baker

**Greeter/Bulletins:** Karen Jensen (3rd & 24th), Hillary Beasley (10th), Linda Gulden (17th)

**Communion Preparation:** Mary Jo Alvord & Nettie Patterson