



Our Second Century Together



There are 3 essentials for breaking through the barriers of church stagnation according to the experts.

1. We must develop an unshakable conviction toward discipleship and advancing the kingdom of God (Colossians 2:19). An opinion is something we'll argue about; a conviction/passion is something we'll die for. We need to settle the issue that God wants the church to reach new people that presently do not understand or have heard the Good News. If a church is alive, it's reaching past its wall, (and not just with allotted mission money.) Growing a healthy church is hard work, and unless we clarify our convictions, we're going to be tempted to give up. We have to develop this conviction because:

- God commands us to build the Kingdom and that always means going out. Let's not forget the Great Commission and that primarily means doing Evangelism... not the dirty word we grew up with where folks went door to door, left tracks in conspicuous places or witnessed on soap boxes. Evangelism is introducing people personally to Christ with **word** and deed.
- People demand it. The world is desperately looking for spiritual anchors, ways to make their life more meaningful in a meaningless world. Jesus came to show us a way out of the mess, a way to have enduring hope.

2. We must change the primary role of leadership from managers (supervising long traditional programs) to creative visionaries and leaders.

- We need to establish and be able to communicate our vision.
- We should learn to motivate others.
- We need to discover ways to equip everyone for ministry. If you don't learn how to coach, you will not be able to equip. And, if we do not equip, we will burn out.
- We ought not forget financial sustainability. Over the next year, 5 years, 10 years how are we to finance our goals and initiatives? Unfortunately, money to accomplish our vision is obligatory.
- We should learn the skill of managing our time and energy more effectively.

3. Last and probably the hardest thing for us to do is trust.

We have to organize around the gifts of our people. In the New Testament, there is not a single explicit organizational pattern about church. It doesn't tell us how to organize the

church or give us job descriptions for leaders. Why did God leave the structure so vague? Maybe it was so that it could fit in every culture and every age. You must build our church around the talent God has already given us. Whatever God wants our church to do at this moment, the talent is already there in our church.

With God's direction we can accomplish great things.



Life Line Screening will be coming to LFCC on October 23rd beginning at 9:00 a.m. As many of you may not know, stroke is a leading cause of death today, affecting over 750,000 people each year. Every 45 seconds in America, someone suffers a stroke and every 3 minutes, someone dies from one. This means that during the time today it will take you to read this, approximately 15 people in the United States will have died due to a stroke.

Stroke can change your life, but it can also take your life. Please consider taking part in these potentially life-saving screenings. We are happy to announce that Life Line Screening is working with us to provide our members \$10 additional discounts off of a screening package in addition to a \$10 donation to LFCC. If you would like to take the next step in possibly saving your life or the life of someone you know and if you would like to help us as well, please place your name, the tests you would like and your phone number on the sign-up portion of the provided flyers today.

Please note that you must sign up on either the registration sheet (available on the flyers) or by calling the special Helping Hands registration number, which is 1-800-324-9458, in order for us to receive our \$10 donation as well. If you prefer to visit the exclusive Helping Hands website to register, you may do so by visiting www.helpinghandsforhealth.com. You must sign up one of these three ways in order to get both the \$10 discount as well as the \$10 donation for our organization.

Thank you so much.

-Linda Rowe

Outside The Walls

Caring and Learning for Me ("Cuidándome y Aprendiendo Juntos") program

The YMCA Caring and Learning for Me is an Early Learning Readiness (ELR) program that supports friend, family and neighbor caregivers as well as their children ages 0 to 5 in the development of skills and knowledge of basic subjects in order to get ready for and succeed when they enter school.



The ELR program meets caregivers and their children twice a week for two hours during the school year. Being a mobile program, facilitator and volunteer bring all the equipment, toys and materials to set up 15 different learning centers/stations to engage participants in hands-on learning activities and fun experiences.

The age appropriate activities are carefully planned to promote the children's social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive development, aligned with state early learning standards.

Simultaneously educate and support caregivers in a culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate environment.

The ELR at First Christian Church on Lawrenceville (Disciples of Christ) operate during the school year every Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, at not cost for the participant. The new sessions started on Monday, August 12, 2013.

The ELR program builds and supports the YMCA's work in strengthening the foundation of the community by responding to un-met needs, especially those of the underserved. It also provides accessible early learning opportunities to ensure school readiness.

Family Promise News

We hope everyone will be in church on **September 15th** for Family Promise Sunday as we anticipate having an inspiring guest speaker, Sarah Jackson. September 15th also begins our support host week at Peachtree Corners Christian Church. There are still volunteer slots open. Please check with Karen to see which slots are available.



Volunteers are vital to the success of Family Promise. Thirty seven families have been served so far this year! There are many times and ways to serve. Come to the next Volunteer Orientation on **September 9th** from 7:00-9:00 p.m., or on **September 22nd** from 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Both training sessions are in our Fellowship Hall.

The next SaltLight Center Volunteer Training will be on **September 28th** from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Building G at Lawrenceville Church of God, at 329 Grayson Hwy. Lawrenceville. For more information and to RSVP contact **Carol Karpf** at slc@familypromisegwinnett.org or 770-885-2947.

Let's Go Meet Our Neighbors

One aspect we have been discussing in the Vision Team meetings is that we as a Church need to have more interaction and involvement in our local community. So as a way for Lawrenceville First to meet our neighbors and let them know who and what we are about as Disciples of Christ, we have reserved a space at the Rock & Ribville event to take place in Historic downtown Lawrenceville on Oct 5th starting at 1:00 p.m.

We would like for this to be an event that involves the whole church either in the planning, preparation or manning the booth on the day of the event.

Preliminary thoughts are that we would have materials available to distribute that will inform people what makes us unique as a Disciples of Christ church, highlight our involvement with The Lawrenceville Food Cooperative Ministry, Family Promise and the SaltLight Center and invite them to join us on our journey.

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have heard about this event. If not and if you are interested in being involved please contact **Rod Baker - 404-273-1444**, Vision Team.

Save the Date - LFCC Blood Drive

We are getting closer to the date for our next Red Cross Blood Drive. It will be Wednesday, September 25th from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Donors can make appointments with **Charlie** at **404-455-6797** or flyguy32464@bellsouth.net.



Christian Women's Fellowship

All Church Breakfast – September 8

What: Everyone is invited to bring your favorite breakfast food to share, enjoy fellowship, and get to know others in your church family.

Where: In the church fellowship hall

When: Beginning at 9:45 a.m. during the regular Sunday School hour

Why: It's an opportunity to meet others who may not attend the same service as you and to get reacquainted with friends you already know. It's time to come back from summer vacation and get involved again!

What else? This is the kick-off event for the Disciples Women's year. A packet of information about Disciples Women and upcoming events will be available for each woman. There will be a BRIEF Disciples Women's business meeting in the sanctuary beginning at 10:30. We invite all women to attend!

Disciples Women's Sunday – September 22

During both services on this Sunday, we will be recognizing the contributions of Women's Ministry to our local church and our denomination. Here's what will happen during the service:

A Moment for Mission that will share information about the history and **importance of Women's Ministry to our churches.**

Everyone will be invited to give an offering to **Church World Service Blankets +** (see information below)

Women will be invited to bring their **Blessing Box offerings** (see information below)

Both offerings will be dedicated.

Women are encouraged to bring items for the service project and for the boutique at the **Georgia Disciples Women's Retreat.** (see Giving Opportunities for Retreat below)

Women attending the **Georgia Disciples Women's Retreat** will be commissioned (see separate article on the Retreat).

Church World Service Blankets +

Church World Service was born in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless.

More than 65 years later the mission remains, though where and how we accomplish it has changed dramatically.

Disciples Women is inviting you to join us in supporting a people-to-people network of local and global caring through participation in the Blankets+ program.

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity in which some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. participate. Through Blankets +, Church World Service works in local communities to provide assistance including:

Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.

Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields.

Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens.

Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Disciples Women ask that you prayerfully consider making an offering on Sunday, September 22. Each \$5 donated will purchase a blanket to be given to someone who may have lost everything they own in a hurricane, tornado, or tsunami or as a result of fleeing their home because of civil war.

We also ask your continued prayers for the work of Church World Service.

Save These Dates!

Saturday, **November 2, 5:30 p.m.**– Harvest Dinner – Covered Dish Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, **December 7, 1:00 p.m.** – Disciple Women's Christmas Tea – Details coming!

Christian Women's Fellowship

The Blessing Box

Living with Gratitude

For more than 50 years, the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have had a special way to express their gratitude to God for the blessings they have received – the Blessing Box. The Blessing Box was created in 1953, the result of a dream of the women who founded Christian



Women's Fellowship. Jessie Trout, who was CWF's co-founder and first executive secretary, developed the idea as an over – and – above way to help fund the wider mission of the church. Since that time, Blessing Boxes have been kept in the homes and offices of women across the church to enable them to express their gratitude for everyday blessings by giving to others. Thanks is given for a sunny day, a birth, a reconciling experience, a welcome phone call, a child's smile, a beautiful snow fall, a flower in full bloom, relief from pain, a good book, a safe journey, and many other things. It is a way of saying "Thank you God, for your world and especially for people." For those who participate, it is a spiritual discipline even more than a financial one. It helps keep a focus on gratitude to God and on the responsibility to share blessings with others. The amount put in may be a dime, a quarter or more. The amount is not nearly as important as the discipline of regularly remembering God's goodness through the acts of dropping in coins and praying prayers of thanksgiving.

On Sunday, September 22nd, women are asked to bring their Blessing Box offerings to be given at the service. Our total offerings will be taken to the Georgia Women's Retreat the following weekend to be added to those of other women from our region. The funds are used by the Office of Disciples Women and Georgia Disciples Women to support ministries in our own region and around the world.

All Church Picnic

What: Everyone is invited! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors! Bring your favorite picnic foods, and bring enough for a crowd!

When: Sunday, September 22 @ 5:30 p.m.

Where: We will gather inside for our meal and then stay for fellowship time after the meal. More details coming! It's a SURPRISE!

Why? So we can all get to know each other better! Food, fellowship, and fun!

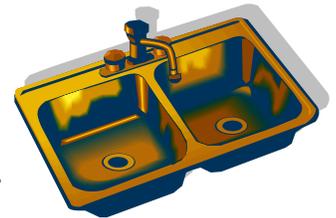
What else? Sponsored by Disciples Women, it's a celebration of our offerings to Church World Service, Blessing Box, and Retreat projects. You can also bring items if you didn't bring them on Sunday morning.



Kitchen Remodel Update

If you've been down the education wing hall lately, you have seen that our kitchen is a mess! BUT, things are getting better....we have a brand new ceramic tile floor AND a great new paint job on the walls. In addition, new sink side cabinets are on order. All of this was caused by a leak --- who said nothing good ever comes from plumbing problems!

We are very grateful to a church member who arranged for, designed, and paid for the new floor. We are grateful that the Lord sent a really nice man who can paint very well to work community-service hours in our church. He's now working on the Fellowship Hall...be sure and take a look.



The cabinets caused a lot of worry...as usual, money is always tight. We are very grateful that the Disciples Women/Christian Women's Fellowship came to the rescue. Their donation of \$1,000 from their budget saved the day. In addition, the CWF Card Circle donated \$88.00 from card sales to the cause. That money has allowed us to order cabinets, countertop, new sink and accessories to get us back in the kitchen business. Jay has offered to spray paint the cabinets.....we're anxious to see if he's really as good with a spray gun as we've heard!

We'll reinstall the old cabinets on the stove side until more funds are available, we have heard from several of you who want to help....thank you. Just make a note on your check or envelope for "Kitchen" and all will be well. We'll have a kitchen with running water again and can clean out the Nursery!

Any questions, comments, ideas, please ask Elizabeth McElhanon, Beth Thompson, Connie Worrell or Eva Krahwinkle.

Christian Women's Fellowship

Register NOW for the 2013 Disciples Women's Retreat

September 27-29, 2013

Toccoa Georgia Baptist Conference Center
462 Sunrise Way, Toccoa, GA 30577

"JUST BREATHE" ...

that's right, slow down... let go ... hold off ... and breathe. Ah-h-h, again. Just breathe.

2013 retreat leader Rev. Linda Whitmire says, "The last weekend in September, we shall be doing just that: you and me and a couple hundred of our favorite girlfriends, relaxing in the soft North Georgia hills amidst the early color of fall, breathing in God. Breathing out love and laughter and hope and renewal. A time to relax and replenish. A time to connect with the breath of God, to let go of stress and worry. A time just to be. Maybe be still at bit. Maybe try a hand at creating something new. Maybe, laugh so hard the tears come. Maybe pray so simply they flow still. Maybe 'just breathe' in community and in aloneness and know in some unexpected moment the amazing presence of God breathing with you."



Rev. Amy Beville, a singer/songwriter from Signal Mtn., TN will be the music leader.

Just Breathe! September 27–29 at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

Reserve your room now. Rates include 2 nights' housing (bed and bath linens provided), 5 meals, and retreat registration and materials. There is an option to add a Sunday noon meal to your registration.

Single room: \$235, Shared room: \$189

Teen/Tweens (age 11-18) \$100

RVers without meals \$80; RVers with meals \$120

Saturday-only Commuters \$55

The lunch meal on Sunday is \$8 extra if you would like to eat before you leave

Giving Opportunities for Retreat

Women at LFCC are invited to help with the following even if they are not attending Retreat. If you would like to contribute to any of these bring your items to church on Sunday, September 22, and offerings will be dedicated.

Boutique Items: Every other year at Retreat those in attendance are able to shop at a "boutique" which consists of items contributed from women at Disciples churches across the region. If you are crafty, please bring crafts, holiday decorations (Christmas, Halloween, and Thanksgiving), jams and jellies, jewelry, knitted or crocheted items, and other handmade goodies to raise funds for GA Disciples Women's Ministries. If you are creative, please contribute something!

Mission Project: Please bring items and gift cards for Foreverfamily. GA Disciples Women were honored as a community partner at the 25th anniversary gala last fall. Let's continue our support of this wonderful ministry! Forever Family was begun by Disciple Women, Rev. Sandra Barnhill, and focuses on children with an incarcerated parent, providing love and support as their parents, caregivers, and extended families work to remain a family.

Gift cards can be contributed to be used to purchase supplies. Supplies needed are: Toilet paper, Paper towels, Paper cups, Plasticware for snacks (bowls, plates, cups, utensils), napkins, tissues, Expo Markers, Scotch tape, Envelopes, Stamps, Construction paper, White Printer paper, Hand sanitizer, disposable serving gloves, Ziploc bags (any size), Hand soap, Trash bags (30 gallon black or 13 gallon kitchen), Clorox wipes, Disposable toilet bowl wands, Swiffer Wet Jet Liquid and Pads, Magic Erasers

Sweet Dreams Pillowcase Ministry: If you would like to contribute pillowcases for Egleston-Scottish Rite Hospital, please see details online at www.gadisciples.org/organizations/Women/service_opportunities.htm.

Pop tops: You may bring your aluminum can tops for delivery to Ronald McDonald Houses.

Registration forms and additional information are available in the church office or you may register online at www.gadisciples.org. Please let Beth Thompson know if you are planning to register. We will try to get carpools together to drive to Toccoa. We hope to have a group going for the whole weekend, and a group driving up just for Saturday.



Deadline for October Newsletter Thursday, September 19

September Birthdays

3 Donna Baber
7 Lois Haney
15 Donna Nielsen
17 Elizabeth McElhanon
22 Faye Robertson
24 Tadd Huff
25 Mary Jo Alvord
28 Al Taylor
28 Mary Kate Westbrook



September Anniversaries

28 Bill & Donna Nielsen



Sign-Change

September 1: Joey Baker
September 8: Jim McCollough
September 15: Brian Ballew
September 22: Tommy Hlass
September 29: Vacant

Bessie Kirby's new
address:
230 Collins Industrial Way
#121
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
770-280-2228



Young Helpers in Worship - September

September 1: Youth Responsive Reader: Rebecca Thompson
Acolytes: Vacant
September 8: Youth Responsive Reader: Kaeden Carter
Acolytes: Riley Ballew
September 15: Youth Responsive Reader: David Britt
Acolytes: Vacant
September 22: Youth Responsive Reader: Rafael Evatt-Machado
Acolytes: Molly Ballew
September 29: Youth Responsive Reader: David Trantham
Acolytes: Vacant

Worship Helpers

September 1: 8:45 Reader - Lynn Lane
10:50 Reader - Jimmy Peeples
Communion Meditation - Lee Thompson
September 8: 8:45 Reader - Jan Baker
10:50 Reader - Rafael Evatt-Machado
Communion Meditation - Hoyt Huff
September 15: 8:45 Reader - Matt Klimshuk
10:50 Reader - Joey Baker
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker
September 22: 8:45 Reader - Lynn Lane
10:50 Reader - Pamela Evatt-Machado
Communion Meditation - Josué Machado
September 29: 8:45 Reader - Julie Mowrey
10:50 Reader - Gabriel Evatt-Machado
Communion Meditation - Connie Thompson

AGE

There are four ages of man: 1) when you believe in Santa Claus, 2) when you don't believe in Santa Claus, 3) when you are Santa Claus, 4) when you look like Santa Claus.

September Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Elizabeth McElhanon & Rod Baker

Deacons: Libby Ballew, Brian Ballew, Julie Lee

Deacon-in-Training: Ashlyn Parks

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



Servant-Leaders

Lead Server: Libby Ballew

Greeter/Bulletins: Charlie Alvord (1st), Libby Ballew (8th), Connie Thompson (15th), Elizabeth McElhanon (22nd), Candice Richardson (29th)

Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord & Nettie Patterson



First Family News

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

Phone (770) 963-9922
Fax: (770) 963-6800
Email lgafcc@bellsouth.net
www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org

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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

A note from Hillary...

Greetings, Lawrenceville First Christian Church!

First, let me thank all of you for the warm welcome you extended to me! I have visited many churches over the past several years, and I can say honestly that First Christian has been one of the most warm and friendly groups of people that I have ever encountered.

Secondly, a little about me: I am beginning my first semester as a seminary student at Mercer University. I am studying for my M. Div at McAfee School of Theology and will pursue a dual masters degree in Organizational Leadership, concentrating in non-profits. Before this, I was a high school English teacher outside of Charleston, SC for three years before I gave up teaching to pursue seminary. I am originally from Columbia, SC, where my entire family still resides, and my fiance, Tom Kimsey, is also currently stationed South Carolina, at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station. Tom and I will celebrate our wedding in Lexington, SC this December, but I plan to finish my seminary education here in Atlanta before joining him at his first station.

Finally, let me express how excited I am to get to know everyone here at First Christian, and how honored and thrilled I am to be chosen. The faith journey we will be on together will be a fun and exciting one, and I can't wait to be a part of it. Thank you for bringing me on board; together, we can be torchbearers of the love and grace of Jesus in the world around us.

Grace and peace,

Hillary Beasley

Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Dorrie T; Betty H; Mildred P; W.O.; Bill & Barbara P; Ray, Blanche, & Harry E; Reba & Virgil T; Faye & M.L. R; Neva B; Mary Jo A; Kris J; Nancy M's sisters; Jan B's neighbor; Chris K; Alma F's grandson, Peter; Nancy G's cousin's husband; Melissa Mc's mother; Jim M's uncle passed away; Jan T's nephew; Anna H's sister, Rev. Peggy E; David B; Grace A; Stephen W's Aunt Peg passed away; Rosie T's daughter; Candice F's friend; Peggy R; Melissa Mc's friend, Andrea; Neva B's friend, David; Bruce R; David C's daughter; Sandy W's brother; Jim M's aunt passed away; those suffering from depression.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Melissa Mc's mom is home; David C's daughter is home; Virgil T is home.

Check out our revised website:
www.lawrencevillefirstchristian.org