

# ~ ~ CONNECTIONS ~ ~

Volume 128 Issue 1

January, 2017

## MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Joy is all over the place in this world. Everyone seems to have it. Everyone seems to want more of it. Joy is associated with the wine glass: drink, celebrate, find joy. Joy is associated with sports: my team won! Joy.

Do you associate Joy with God? Many don’t. God is a...killjoy. If we enjoy something, then, well, He’s probably against it. Is that true?

I did a quick search of the Bible looking for “joy”, in all of its word forms—joyful, joyous, rejoice, etc.—and came up with, roll the drums...almost 500 references! Later, I ran across a scholar who more carefully tabulated all the Hebrew words (from the Old Testament) associated with joy, and all the Greek words (from the New Testament) associated with joy, and he came up with right around 700! The Bible is literally filled with joy. C.S. Lewis, who before he came to a relationship with God through Christ, was famously an agnostic, a skeptic, a disbeliever, entitled his spiritual autobiography *Surprised By Joy*. With all this joy in the Bible, it should be a surprise if we DON’T find joy! God wants us to have joy.

In fact, it’s more than that. I noticed in the Christmas story in both Luke 2 and Matthew 2 expressions about joy that I had not paid adequate attention to before. The Shepherds were told of “great joy” that would be for all

the people. And the Wisemen, upon seeing the Star near the Christ child were filled with “great joy.” The words in the original language in both cases is, literally, “mega” joy! Big Joy. Enormous Joy. Gigantic Joy. Joy Bigger, Better, Richer, Sweeter, than all the rest! Why, who would settle for mere joy, ordinary joy, regular joy, plain joy—when Great Joy is right here right, now? In a very real sense: Jesus came to bring us Great Joy!

If that’s true, and I believe that it is, we need to know what that means. What, exactly, is Great Joy, and how does it differentiate from regular joy? How can I get some of it? Let’s talk about it! In January our messages will look at some marvelous Bible passages and look to both define Great Joy and explain how Great Joy can permeate our lives. I’ve got a lot of this or that; more Joy is always welcome!

Pray for this series and join us in January! Love, and Joy, to all—

Tony

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Please email articles to  
[Office@LilburnChristianChurch.org](mailto:Office@LilburnChristianChurch.org)  
by the 23rd of each month!!

# SERMON SERIES

“Where Cultures Meet Christ”

## JANUARY MESSAGES

### Great Joy: From God to Me

1. Jan 8: “Wider”, Luke 2:10
2. Jan 15: “Deeper”, 1 Peter 1:3-9
3. Jan 22: “Higher”, John 15:11
4. Jan 29: “Longer”, Jude 24

## Wednesday Menu

January

- |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 4  | No Meal               |
| 11 | Tacos                 |
| 18 | Roast Pork Medallions |
| 25 | Sloppy Joe Sandwiches |

Missions Spotlight



AMOR FE Y ESPERANZA

Honduras ranks as the second poorest country in Central America and is the top 15 worldwide. There is an estimated 60% of the population that currently lives beneath the poverty line. Just outside of the capital city of Tegucigalpa, a community of roughly 1,500 adults and 300 children fight to survive by rummaging through a mountain of garbage in order to make a living. Their goal is to find anything that can be used and/or recycled. On average, one adult working 12-15 hours a day can earn \$3 - \$5 and a child can earn \$1 - \$2.

In 2001, while serving with another ministry in the city, Pastor Jeony Ordoñez was given the vision to begin working with this incredibly poor population through his five year old daughter. Together they made a trip to the dump on a medical brigade when his daughter asked if there was anything else they could do. God eventually showed him the way. He didn't know originally what God had in mind for him, but he did know he needed to gain the trust of the families working at the dump.

As a population, they are largely ignored. However, that does not prevent visitors from coming to earn sympathy points. Two groups in particular, pastors and politicians, are largely viewed in a negative way by many of the workers. Many have come to make promises that are never implemented. For that reason, Jeony knew that he needed to convince them that he was here for the long haul. For more about the exciting work of this ministry that we have recently supported through VBS, please go to: <http://afehonduras.org/home>



**Goodfriends is for anyone who can join us! (young or not-so-young, young at heart or young in spirit). We enjoy an activity or an outing on the 3rd Thursday of each month (unless noted) from September thru July.**

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Goodfriends plus some additional friends attended the evening performance of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' at New London Theatre in Snellville. We had a total of 17 in the audience. John Berlo, Director of Publicity and Marketing, is always very accommodating. He roped off a section of seats reserved for our group which allowed us to look around the 'Hello Again' variety mall booths before the play started. The very large cast, comprised of mostly children with a few adults, was wonderful. It was a very funny and touching performance about the real meaning of Christmas.

**Next event: Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**Note: this is a change from the original schedule.** We are taking a short road trip! We will be car-pooling with Mt. Carmel Christian Church's Young At Heart senior group to have lunch at Buckner's Family Restaurant in Jackson, GA (yummy southern cooking) and then we will stop at Tanner's Outlet Mall to do a little shopping on the return trip. Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the foyer.



See our calendar below. You can pick up a copy of our Calendar of Events at the Welcome Center:

Goodfriends Calendar: 2017

Jan 19: Changed - Lunch at Buckner's and shopping at Tanner's Outlet Mall with Mt. Carmel CC

Feb 16: Movie and Lunch

Mar 16: Gibbs Garden + lunch at Arbor Café

Apr 20: In FLC – Service project / VBS prep + lunch at AgaVero Mexican restaurant

May 18: Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, plus lunch

June 15: Lunch at Chateau Elan, plus tour of Mayfield Dairy

July 20: In FLC – Planning Session, plus lunch

Sign-up sheet for each month will be at the Welcome Center.



# Interested?

Goodfriends is a group for people age 50+ and their friends (young or not-so-young, young at heart or young in spirit).

Any questions can be directly to Rosie Bengtson 770-978-7774 or 404-403-5765; Glenda Middleton 770-614-5972; Betty Hubbard 678-446-7926; or Janet Curtiss 540-819-3846.



# Sisters of Grace

Our Annual Ladies Christmas Party was held on Dec. 13 with 51 ladies present. Our theme was “Christmas Around the World”. We had six ladies tell us about Christmas in their country and there memories of Christmas there..

- Kim Simon – India
- Jan Kloss – Germany
- Fiorella Morgan – Peru
- Vicky Levy-Harrison – Jamaica
- Ana Smith – Mexico
- Cade O’Brien – England



Pat Ferguson told us about traditions in other countries such as Italy and Australia to name a few.

A total of 79 toys, games, puzzles and dolls were collected for the Lilburn Co-Op children.



If you are interested in the Women’s Ministries, or even if you’re just curious, call:

- |               |              |                |              |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Lynn Akins    | 770-923-6413 | Kandy Davidson | 404-697-7367 |
| Pat Ferguson  | 770-466-5212 | Dixie Grimm    | 404-932-5990 |
| Betty Hubbard | 678-446-7926 | Pam Morgan     | 404-697-4293 |
| Cathy Wade    | 404-867-6102 |                |              |

# LCC Music Ministry

This Christmas Season, we had over 700 in attendance on Fri. and Sat. evenings.

Many thanks to the following who took time out of their busy schedules to bring this program to us:

Music Director—Dwayne Wylde

Drama Director—Carrie Aleman

Costumes—Rosie Bengtson & Pam Straughan

Props & Set Design—Jaime Gordillo, Rob Hubbard, Jeff Denny, Rosie Bengtson, Deanna Scott, Jeff Stephens, Debbie Stephens, and

Berkmar High School and all the area Christian Churches that participated:

Whistleville Christian Church,

Hamilton Mill Christian Church,

Bethel Christian Church,

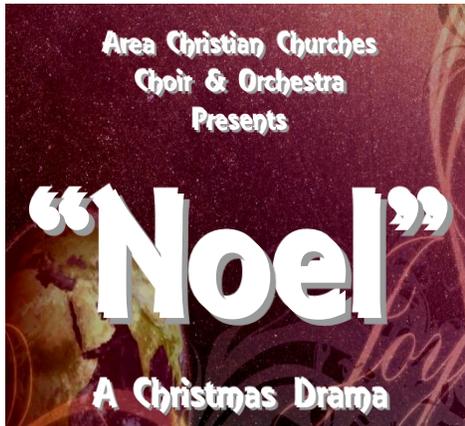
Snellville Christian Church,

Galilee Christian Church,

Mt. Carmel Christian Church,

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church,

and hosted by Lilburn Christian Church.

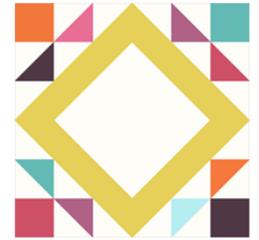
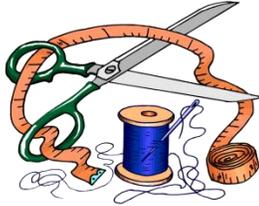
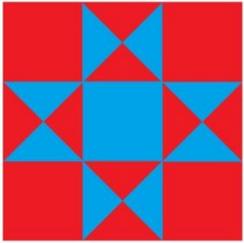


# “CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA”

Our young people did a marvelous job with their Christmas program, "Christmas in America" and their special during Christmas Eve. Under the direction of Jamie Renshaw, and with the help of many adult volunteers, the children and teens presented an entertaining and deeply inspiring production. Over 245 audience members watched as LCC youth sang, played instruments, recited poetry, danced, and led worship. Thank you to Jamie, the volunteers, and to our wonderfully talented young people!



## Prayers and Squares Quilting Ministry



We will be having a quilting session in the Family Life Center on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our main focus will be making Pocket Prayer Squares. We are planning to send at least 100 to Salamanca, Spain as part of our Missions outreach in April. If you have scraps or small amounts of cotton material, please bring them with you. Also: bring your portable sewing machine, thread, scissors, pinking shears, and skinny ribbon. We welcome beginners! Even if you can't sew, you can trim the edges and tie the pre-printed message to the prayer square. Let Betty Hubbard or Rosie Bengtson know if you are interested.

## **2017, Adult Sunday School "The Year of One"**

*This coming year 2017 will be the "Year of One", for the Adult Sunday school classes. Here is what I mean by that and some classes are already far ahead in this idea, so it won't be that much different than what they do now. Others will gain a new perspective on the power of prayer and personal involvement. In any church they are concerned with numbers. It's true, numbers are important. However those numbers are not important for any type of record keeping, goals or anything else, except this.....each and every number has a name, a heart and a soul.*

*This year, in every adult Sunday school class, We'd like each person to think of one name of someone who needs help, has an issue, is searching for something in their lives, or just may need a church home. During the class prayer time, have a silent prayer for this person by name. Place this "one" person as a burden on your heart. Ask God to lead this person to the people they need and also ask God to help you to be a tool to help this person where you can.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## January

- 1 New Years Day
- 8 AHG in Chapel
- 19 Goodfriends
- 22 AHG in Chapel

## February

- 04 Quilting Session 10 am – 1 pm
- 8 Lifeline Screening in FLC – Filers are in the Welcome Center. Call 1-800-654-6450 to make your appointment. Refer a friend and get \$10 off your fee.
- 12 AHG in Chapel
- 14 CAYAC Operation Date Night in Chapel
- 18 AHG Service Project
- 26 Alisha Hartman's wedding; AHG in Chapel



**Let's Be Healthy Together!**

### ***Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?***

*Life Line Screening will be here at Lilburn Christian Church on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Please refer to the flyer in the Welcome Center to get more info about how you can sign up while receiving \$10 off any package priced above \$139. For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease.*

*There is no time like the present to take action! Learn more by watching this short video:*

<http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>

## Every Week

### **Sunday:**

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes
- 9:30 am KUC Sunday School Class
- 10:15 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 10:45 am KUC Children's & WEE Worship

### **Monday:**

- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 7:00-8:00 Boy Scout Meeting

### **Tuesday:**

- 9:45 am Ladies Bible Study



# Prayer Requests

## Prayer Needs

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Geraldine Coleman     | Connie Miller          |
| Sami Lyew             | Barbara Johnson        |
| Donna Hill            | Donna Anderson         |
| Bob Collier           | Vicky Levy-Harrison    |
| Jim Gurr              | Juanita Baker          |
| Gary Korb             | A.W. Padgett           |
| Joyce & Terry Bissell | Robyn McKinney         |
| Jamila Coleman        | Augustus & Mary Lakpor |
| Sharon Townsend       | Charlie Lewis          |
| Judy Steverson        | Kathy Hill             |
| Dotty Fulgham         | Sara Williams          |
| Carl & Louis Johnson  | Harold Holcombe        |
| Russ Burchfield       | Barefield Family       |
|                       | Hankinson Family       |

If any of these listed on our prayer list need to be taken off, please contact the church office. We appreciate your help.



Congratulations to proud Grandparents, Jeff & Debbie Stephens and parents, Christie & Michael Hurst on the birth of Oscar James Hurst, born yesterday afternoon, Dec. 13. He weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 in. long.



## Prayer Beepers:



**Prayer Beepers** – Did you know that LCC has several ‘prayer beepers’? When requested, we assign one of the beeper numbers to an LCC member who is ill or needs prayer for a specific reason or time period. Basically, after assignment, we notify the congregation via e-mail with the name, beeper number and prayer request. When you pray for that person, you call the beeper number and it signals them. That way, they know someone just prayed for them. If you would like to receive a prayer beeper or just want more information about them, please contact Paul Bengtson. Many people who have used a prayer beeper in the past found great comfort and encouragement from them (even when they go off in the middle of the night!). Currently, we have 2 prayer beepers out.

### Connie Miller: number 770-929-5157

Message: Hello, you have reached the prayer beeper for Connie Miller. She has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please pray for strength and endurance as she undergoes chemo treatments. Please press 1 and the # sign. Your prayer beep will be sent to her. Thank you.



**Anita Crow & Steve Ramey  
Dec. 4, 2016**

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**"LCC: Where Cultures Meet Christ"**

