



~~CONNECTIONS~~

Volume 139 Issue 1

December, 2017

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

What did Jesus look like? We are curious, aren't we? Drawings, paintings, and movies are relatively in consensus about this. He is tall, slim, has a well-groomed beard, tasteful (but not too ornate) robe, sandals, white skin and usually either brown or dark hair (but usually neither blonde nor black). He sometimes has blue eyes. Of course, reality (He being of middle-eastern Jewish descent) tells us His complexion had to have been much darker, His hair and eyes much darker, and we have no idea about His eye color, or appearance of His robe, etc. Also: He is always handsome. Attractive.

What do we base these notions on? Oddly, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John say little (almost nothing) about His looks or appearance. We have very little info to draw from with contemporary accounts outside of Scripture, either. Could He have been short? Heavy? Dressed in an unkempt manner? We hope not! We want our Savior...attractive.

It's interesting, but the most info we have concerning all of this occurs in Isaiah, written 100's of years before Jesus came on the scene. Isaiah is writing prophetically, of course. Here are some descriptions from his account: people were "appalled at Him." "His appearance was...disfigured." Believe it or not, it says His appearance was such it was like nothing they'd ever seen before: "His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness." (Isaiah 52:14) The prophet goes further: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire

Him." (53:2) Worse: "Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised..." (53:3) This is painful to even read, isn't it?

I have no doubt that this description in Isaiah is meant to cover the way Jesus looked before and during and after His crucifixion. Still...

Our Savior was...Ugly. No one came running to Him, wanting to associate with His physical beauty and attractiveness. I have no idea what the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus looked like, and if I did no words could adequately describe His glory and beauty! But He left all that, and "He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (Philippians 2:7) He hung out with people who didn't look so nice themselves: "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?", people wanted to know (Luke 5:30). And the worst thing about me is not my physical appearance (which is certainly not so wonderful itself), but my spiritual nature; there is an ugliness and rudeness and vileness about me that is truly off-putting. And Jesus took that ugliness, my ugliness, upon Himself: "the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

He is an Ugly Savior. And yet...despite that, He is...a Beautiful Savior! The most beautiful sight we have ever seen! I look forward to sharing this story with you during December! I hope you will join us. My love to you and yours—

Tony

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Please email articles to
Office@LilburnChristianChurch.org
by the **23rd of each month!!**

SERMON SERIES

"Where Cultures Meet Christ"

DECEMBER MESSAGES

"My Ugly, Beautiful Savior",
Isaiah 52:13-53:3

December 3: "He Came In An Ugly Manner",
2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-8;
Luke 2:3-7

December 17: "He Hung Out With Ugly
People", Luke 5:27-32; 7:36-39

December 24: "He Took On Himself My
Ugliness", Isaiah 53:4-6

Wednesday Menu

DECEMBER

6	Chili Mac
13	Poppyseed Chicken
20	Vegetable Beef Soup
27	No Meal

The logo for UCS (Ugly Christmas Sweater Society) is displayed in a stylized, bold, black font. It is positioned centrally above the event details. The background of the entire flyer features a festive border of green pine branches with red and gold ornaments at the top, and a white background with a black and red geometric pattern at the bottom.

Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater to church
on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017
at 10:45 am

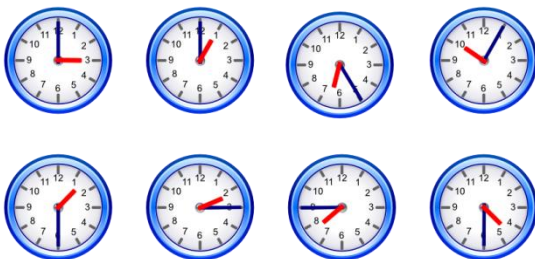
Lilburn Christian Church
www.LilburnChristianChurch.org
770-921-2993





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.

A.M.



P.M.

Although most of our activities occur during the day, we would gladly consider doing something in the evening.... We also welcome your ideas! In our July meeting, we talked about the possibility of doing some game nights. Some suggestions included playing cards, board games, or puzzles.

If you would like to gather in the evening with others of similar interests, please let us know!

We will not be pre-planning our events this year. We will continue to join Mt. Carmel's Young-at-Heart group whenever they have an activity that we are interested in. Unfortunately, the Young-at-Heart leadership team only plans their events a few months at a time.

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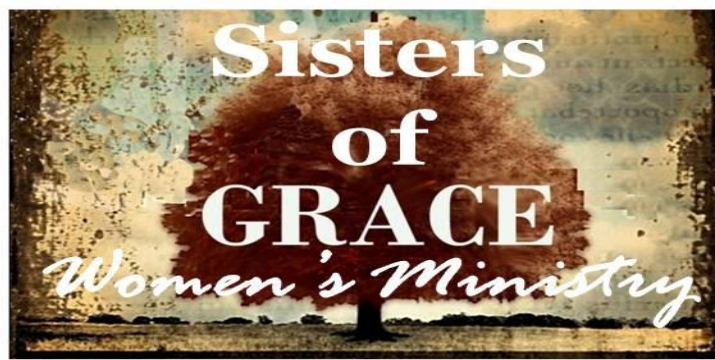
Upcoming Event

January 18th – Lunch at Buckner's Family Style Restaurant in Jackson, GA (with Mt. Carmel)
February 15th – Valentine luncheon at Mt. Carmel

The sign-up sheet will be put at the Welcome Center for several weeks before an event.
Any questions – call Rosie Bengtson at 404-403-5765 or 770-978-7774.

Interested?

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;
Janet Curtiss 540-819-3846.



Gingerbread Wishes

*It's finally here!
Thursday
December 14th*

- All ladies are invited to this year's Ladies Christmas Party on Thursday, December 14th.
- The sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- The cost is only \$5.00 which covers dinner and a craft project.
- You won't find a better bargain anywhere!
- We will be meeting in the Family Life Center at 7:00 pm.
- Come and join the fun!

Also: our service project will be collecting items for a non-profit organization called 'Honor the Homeless'. Please be on the lookout for the following items and come prepared!

Men's sizes:

Men's jeans or Khaki's (no dress pants)
Men's underwear/boxer shorts
Men's shirts/T-shirts (no dress shirts)
Men's socks & shoes (no dress shoes)
Men's coats/jackets

Ladies sizes:

Ladies pants (jeans/slacks)
Ladies button-down shirts/T-shirts)
Ladies panties & bras (especially larger sizes)
Ladies socks & shoes (no dress shoes)
Ladies coats/jackets

Other items: Blankets, flat sheets, plastic shower curtains, comforters, quilts

Now is the time to clean out your closets or check out your favorite thrift store, Salvation Army or Goodwill. All second-hand items should be in good condition.

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		



Choir, Orchestra & Tech Schedule for Dec.

Sat., Dec. 2	Choir & Bell Ringers Rehearsal 10 am - Noon
Sun., Dec. 3	Concert at Life Care Center of Gwinnett at 2:30 pm, Call time 2:00 pm 3850 Safehaven Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Wed., Dec. 6	Practice 6:30-8:30 pm
Sun., Dec. 10	Concert at LCC at 10:45 am, Call Time 10:00; and at 6:00 pm, Call time 5:00 pm
Wed. Dec. 13	Practice for Christmas Eve Program 6:30-8:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 17	Concert at Whistleville Christian Church at 6:00 pm, Call time 4:30 pm 83 Patrick Mill Rd., SW, Winder, GA 30680
Wed., Dec. 20	Practice for Christmas Eve Program 6:30-8:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 24	LCC Christmas Eve Program at 6:00 pm, Call time 5:00 pm
Wed., Dec. 27	No Practice, No Wed. night activities

I Heard the Bells

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
AT 10:45 AM AND 6:00 pm**

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster. The top half has a warm, golden bokeh background. In the upper center, there are three golden bells and two pinecones, all rendered with a 3D effect and surrounded by swirling golden lines. Below this, a dark brown horizontal banner contains the text "I Heard the Bells" in a white, elegant script font. The bottom half of the graphic has a background of dense, sparkling golden lights. At the very bottom, the text "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017" and "AT 10:45 AM AND 6:00 pm" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.



17 kids went up to North Georgia Christian Camp in Clarksville, GA on November 17. When they got up there, they got into their cabins, put their sleeping bags on their bunks then met together in the shelter.

They played some fantastic games and had a wonderful time. Then they all met together for worship and singing. After that, they all met together for a pizza party followed by a campfire.

They all went to bed around midnight.

The next morning everyone met by the flagpole at 8:30 am to pray for breakfast and to sing the national anthem. We had pancakes and scrambled eggs for breakfast. It was delicious. After breakfast, we met for



groups to work on skits. After a taco lunch, we played ultimate frisbee. Then we worked on skits a little while had free time, played some basketball and had a wonderful spaghetti dinner with salad and homemade rolls. After dinner, we had worship and teaching. Then we had skits, played wolf hunt had a great campfire and watched the sandlot while eating popcorn and candy left over from Trunk or Treat.

The next morning we had brunch at 10:30 french toast and eggs. We cleaned the cabins, packed up our gear had a teaching time, took this wonderful group picture and headed home. The kids are tuckered out, but they had a great time.



Our "Raise the Roof" Campaign continues as we strive to raise \$250,000 for our recent Sanctuary renovations. Donations can be placed in the special envelopes in the pews, or funds can be placed in the offering with "Raise the Roof" added so we know those funds are for this campaign. As of 10/31/2017, we have raised \$24,111.17.

Thanks for your help, as this enables us to continue to serve Christ here.



Children's Ministry of Lilburn Christian Church



KUC CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE



**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 16TH
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**IN THE FAMILY
LIFE CENTER**

**PLEASE RSVP BY
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 13TH**



Come see the KUC and CAYAC in “Super Christmas”,
a play about a group of famous super heroes who discover
that while Baby Jesus did come to save the world, he
won’t be stealing their jobs!

Wednesday, December 13th
At 7:30 in the Chapel



800 meals were prepared by 140 volunteers on Thanksgiving day this year.

42 Turkeys we cooked the day before by LCC members.

There were cooks, servers, boxers, dishwashers, line standers, pie cutters, roll tossers, drivers, and a bunch of other jobs. No one complained, no one argued. All you could hear was fellowship and kind words!

It was truly a blessing for each volunteer. I believe this is what heaven will be like!

Pam Straughan



Missions Spotlight

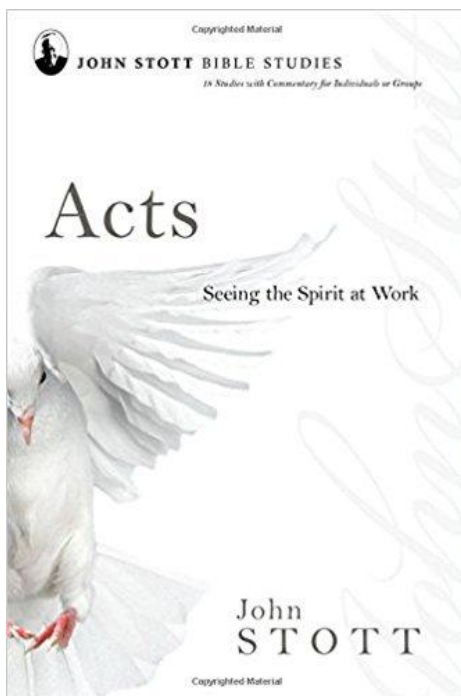


Mid India Church Partners



A Leadership Training Seminar was held at Imadol in Kathmandu. A number of evangelists from all over the country of Nepal attended the seminar where Vivert focused on equipping and training people to become leaders. They also had a session set aside for the evangelists to discuss with Vivert the challenges and hardships they face in spreading the Gospel in their country. Vivert took this opportunity to encourage them and explain how to reach the people in a Hindu nation effectively. Please continue to pray for Vivert and his wife Nelam as they spread the Gospel throughout India.

Attention All Ladies!



The **Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study** will begin a new series on January 9th.

We will kick off the New Year with a study of Acts by John Stott.

We meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Ladies Sunday School classroom just off the foyer of the sanctuary next to the Welcome Center.

This is a great time to review and discuss the study material and share Praises and Prayer Requests in a confidential environment.

Contact Dixie Grimm or Connie Barefield to order your book. Cost for this book is \$8.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 1 Gwinnett Young Singers & Atlanta Concert Ringers Concert at LCC at 8:00 pm
- 2 Choir & Bell Ringers Rehearsal 10am-Noon; KUC rehearsal in the gym at 9:30 am.
- 3 Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday; Congregational vote on the 2018 Budget; Wedding after Worship for Laurie Cole and Mac Scoggins
- 3 C&O at Life Care on Safe Haven Dr.
- 10 C&O Program at LCC at 10:45 am and at 6:00 pm
- 13 KUC/CAYAC Christmas Program at 7:30 pm
- 14 Ladies Christmas Party at 7:00 pm in FLC
- 16 KUC Cookie Bake in FLC at 9:30 am
- 17 C&O at Whistleville Christian Church at 6:00 pm
- 24 No Sunday School, Worship at 10:45 am; Christmas Eve Program at 6:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day; Office is closed.
- 27 No Wed. night activities, no meal
- 31 New Year's Eve

January

- 1 New Year's Day; Office is closed.
- 3 No Wed. night activities, no meal
- 23 Berkmar Choir Rehearsal
- 25 Berkmar Choir Concert

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

Tuesday:

- 9:45 am Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday:

- 5:45 pm Meal
- 6:30 pm KUC, CAYAC, C&O practice
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study



Cafe Five Fifty

located in the Lilburn Christian Church Chapel

Cafe Five Fifty is a community coffee house, game room, meeting place and entertainment venue. Our goal is to join with the community of Lilburn to support the Lilburn Co-Op as we provide live entertainment and free coffee. What a great reason to make this your regular Sunday evening destination.

Bring some canned goods to donate to the Lilburn Co-op and a couple bucks for brownies and cookies. The coffee is and always shall be free. Please put cafe five fifty on your list of things to do with friends and family over the holiday season. Entertainers coming up are:

December 3 Scotty Scoggins
December 10 Joy Belle Kelley
December 17 Christmas Party
December 24 Closed
December 31 Closed

Prayer Requests

Geraldine Coleman
Donna Hill
Bob Collier
Jim Gurr
Joyce & Terry Bissell
Jamila Coleman
Sharon Townsend
Russ Burchfield
Barbara Johnson
Donna Anderson
Diane Shelton
Beverly Underwood
Betty Hubbard

Marge Renshaw
Norah Nguyen
Pat Benson
June Strobino
Sara Williams
Richard Kloss
John Panuska
Denyse Galiothe
Sandy Young
Blake Fraser
Danette Green
Sherman Wade
Family of Midge
Umberger
Sarah Umberger

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

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 no prayer beepers out.



Please remember the less fortunate in our community and pick a child to add to your Christmas list. Give them a call at 770-931-8333 to sponsor a child. Thank you for all your support over the past year. It has been great to see such giving people first hand. God bless each and every one of you.

Lilburn Christian Church

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Lilburn, GA 30047

Phone: 770-921-2993

Fax: 770-921-6569

We're on the web:

www.lilburnchristianchurch.org

"LCC: Where Cultures Meet Christ"

CountryLiving

“

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

”

Calvin Coolidge