



# ~~CONNECTIONS~~

Volume 132 Issue 1

May, 2017

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Have you read John 15 lately? The subject is Jesus is the Vine and we are the Branches. It is quite a wonderful arrangement! He talks about our need to “remain” in Him. And when we do, magnificent fruit can be produced! More fruit than we ever dreamed. God is at work “pruning”, the painful process of cutting away parts of the plant which, while still alive, hamper further growth and development. God wants a bumper crop!

I see grapes...succulent, luscious, almost too beautiful to be real. But they are real! Two baskets won't hold them, or 5, or 25. There is more. Still more. The branches themselves keep getting bigger, and their ability to produce more fruit keeps expanding. Everything is alive. This is God's desire for us!

To me the passage reaches a crescendo in V. 11—“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” Well, imagine that! This is crying out to be preached as part of our year-long series on “Great Joy”, isn't it? “The Joy Connection”, that's it, isn't it? Connected—we bear fruit! If we are dis-connected? If we do not “remain”? Well...

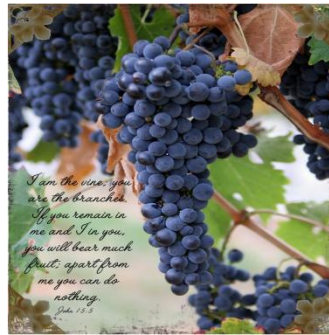
“Nothing grows under a banyan tree” is a proverb from India. Apparently the banyan tree is enormous, it's branches alive and full and huge, the plant forming ever-growing secondary trunks and spreading out.

A full-grown banyan may cover over an acre. Birds, animals, and humans find shelter under its shade. But nothing can grow underneath it. The ground is empty of plant life, looking like a big bare spot; lifeless. On the other hand, in India, there is the banana tree. Small shoots appear on the ground all around it. Later, another cycle of shoots takes root. At 18 months the main trunk produces fruit which feeds birds, animals, and humans, and then it dies; but the shoots emerge now and there is more growth, and before long there is more fruit...and more fruit...and more fruit...

God's fruit is like that. His desire is an endless supply of fruit—and we are the ones, with His help, who can produce it! We are living organisms with, when connected to Him, potential we can only dream of! Lord, bear fruit in us!

I look forward to sharing messages with you about this in May. My prayer: that all of us and many, many, many more begin and maintain, by God's grace and power, a living, vital connection to Him! I do like grapes, don't you?

Tony



### LCC Staff:

**Tony Dyer, Senior Minister**

tony@lilburnchristianchurch.org

**Dwayne Wylds, Minister of Music**

dwayne@lilburnchristianchurch.org

**Shane Hankinson, Youth Minister**

shane@lilburnchristianchurch.org

**Allison McAlister, Children's Director**

allison@lilburnchristianchurch.org

**Lynn Akins, Financial Secretary**

lynn@lilburnchristianchurch.org

**Church Office**

office@lilburnchristianchurch.org

### LCC Elders:

Jim Gurr:

770-925-8680

William Renshaw:

770-736-9460

Paul Bengtson:

770-875-9170

Richard Morgan :

770-338-9081

Sherman Wade:

404-867-6101

Jeff Stephens:

770-712-1172

### Editor:

**Kandy Davidson**

### Photographer:

**Pam Straughan**

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

# SERMON SERIES

"Where Cultures Meet Christ"

## MAY MESSAGES

*"The Joy Connection", John 15:1-17*

May 07: "The Essential Connection"

May 14: "Fruit Production With My Partner"

May 21: "The Fruit of My Dreams"

May 28: "The Only Fruit Which Lasts"

## Wednesday Menu

May

3	Lasagna
10	Tacos
17	Poppyseed Chicken
24	Spaghetti

## Missions Spotlight



This month we're focusing on Caleb Hankinson. The mission team agreed to provide support for Caleb while he is as an intern at Hope Chapel in Maui Hawaii. Caleb is currently enrolled in a disciple class where he's learned how to share the Gospel, how to share his testimony, how to study the bible and prepare for sermons, how to lead a small group, how to disciple and lastly how to mentor young believers. He's about to attend the School of the Bible which just started, continuing his study of the Bible. He went to Tween's Camp, which is a huge event for the Children's Ministry there organizing many events for kids to build relationships. He's had many opportunities to teach and share his testimony and the gospel. He also had the joy to lead his friend Austin to Christ, and got to baptize a few of the boys from children's ministry as well as one of the boys from his small group.

Caleb also went on a missions trip to Nepal, and got to see God work in so many ways. He has found that the more he asks God to use him, the more He keeps providing opportunities. Caleb was asked by Kyle Knight, the missions pastor at Hope Chapel, if he would lead a missions trip to Brazil next year, and he said yes. For now, Caleb plans to stay in Maui and continue to serve with Hope Chapel while studying and pursuing missions.



**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 Thursday, April 20, 2017, the Goodfriends met in the Family Life Center for one of our service projects. We worked on Pre-school craft preparations for VBS. We cut out daily verses, as well as Paper People Pals and Bubba, the Whale. For those of you who remember paper dolls, we also traced and cut out clothes for the Paper People Pals. After a couple of hours of working and chatting, we went to AgaVero Mexican Restaurant to eat lunch.



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

### **Goodfriends Calendar: 2016 – 2017**

Sept 15: Kick-off with Mt. Carmel CC: Soup & Chili lunch (program + Hi Lo Chorus) – **no attendance**  
 Oct 20: Atlanta Botanical Garden: Chihuly exhibit + lunch / Linton's Quick Café – **cancelled (min = 10)**  
 Nov 17: Thanksgiving lunch at Mt. Carmel CC (speaker + food basket service project) – 8 attended  
 Dec 16: Friday evening performance at New London Theatre – The Best Christmas Pageant Ever = 17  
 Jan 19: **Changed** - Lunch at Buckner's and shopping at Tanger's Outlet Mall with Mt. Carmel CC = 14  
 Feb 16: **Changed** – Valentine lunch with Mt. Carmel CC + Steve Roberts Bluegrass band = only 4  
 Mar 16: **Changed** – Spring Garden lunch with Mt. Carmel CC + Dawn Hines, Master Gardener = 6  
 Apr 20: In FLC – Service project / VBS prep + lunch at AgaVero Mexican restaurant = 7  
 May 18: Oakland Cemetery Tour and lunch with Mt. Carmel's Young-at-Heart – **cancelled**

### **Upcoming Events:**

June 15: We will join Mt. Carmel's Young-at-Heart for their Patriotic Celebration (lunch and speaker)  
 More information will be provided in the sign-up sheet 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.



## Goodfriends (Continued)

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More information will be provided in the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.



July 20: In FLC – Planning Session, plus lunch

Note: If we continue to have poor attendance, we will no longer have monthly events.

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

Questions? Please call –

Rosie 770-978-7774 or 404-403-5765

Glenda 770-614-5972

Betty 678-446-7926

Janet 540-819-3846



A short course in the Coop. I am reprinting a part of a recent email because there may be people new to the Coop mission or may need a refresher course.

The food ministry of the Coop operates on a family need basis. Families apply in person and once approved, they are given food items based on their needs. They may come to the Coop every other week and must demonstrate their continuing need. These items are taken from the shelves by volunteers at the Coop and designed to supplement that families foods. Most donations are caned items like what one would buy for their family. There are procedures for other donations:

Sugar, flour, rice and detergent often comes in larger bags. Those bags are broken down by volunteers into one pound bags that given to families.

Coffee that comes in larger than one pound bags would be broken down like sugar.

Tea bags and crackers are broken down into small units. A few tea bags or a sleeve of crackers would be given to a family.

Large cans are set aside for large families.

Feminine hygiene products and diapers are broken down and issued individually.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, special kits are made up to help those less fortunate have a better holiday. At Christmas, this includes toys for the Children.

When you are wondering what to donate, first please don't donate anything that requires refrigeration. Having said that, you have two pretty good sources of inspiration. First is the weekly email I send out. Second is your own family. What would your family like to eat? What would you buy if your refrigeration was extremely limited. Some staples include:

Mac and Cheese

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Canned Meat

Hamburger Helper

Sugar

Flour

Rice

There are many other possibilities. If you are in the store buying food for your family, consider picking up two cans where you would normally grab one. Shop the specials and BOGOs. If every family will grab an extra item or two, we will routinely collect over a hundred items a week.

There are always opportunities for volunteering at the Coop. They can be reached at 770-931-8333.

Steve Perry



# Sisters of Grace

## Ladies Mystery Fun Day

The 2017 Sisters of Grace Mystery Fun Day was a "SWEET" success. On April 22, 36 ladies met in the FLC at 11 am. They divided into four groups for a game where they listed songs, poems, bible verses, food, etc. with the word "sweet". Lynn Akins gave a devotional "Be a Pineapple" where she encouraged the ladies to "stand tall, wear a crown, and be sweet inside". The group then carpoled to the Peachtree Café on Holcomb Bridge Road for lunch. After the meal, they drove to Chamberlain's Chocolate Factory for a brief lesson on different kinds of chocolate, with taste tests of each. Each lady got to make a candy bar to take home. They also dipped strawberries in warm chocolate. It was a sweet treat mixed with lots of laughs and good fellowship.



**Gal's Get-Away**

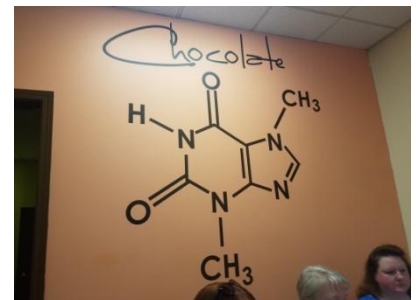
**October 20, 21, 22, 2017  
Savannah, GA**

**Cost: \$150 per person**

(Save \$1 per day, and this will help cover your expenses.)

Includes lodging, three meals, meeting space and all retreat supplies and materials. Our Retreat theme is "Lavendar Springs Spa", and we will be studying the Psalms.

All LCC ladies are encouraged to attend. It is a great time of spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship.



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

Lynn Akins 770-923-6413  
Pat Ferguson 770-466-5212  
Betty Hubbard 678-446-7926  
Cathy Wade 404-867-6102

Kandy Davidson 404-697-7367  
Dixie Grimm 404-932-5990  
Pam Morgan 404-697-4293



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Graduation Sunday is May 21. Please join us as we honor our graduates during our Worship service.

Summer Camp is coming up, see Shane for more information.



## CHAPEL RENOVATIONS

Thanks to generous donations and hard work from great volunteers our chapel has a whole new look. Stop by and see it some time. We replaced pink carpet, painted walls and woodwork, replaced light fixtures and will be installing wood floor on the stage. We also were way under budget!! Did I mention generous donations? It will be a great ministry space for years to come, starting with VBS right around the corner. Special thanks to Tony Knight, Jamie Gordillo, Alex Aleman, Pam and Jerron Straughan, Tony Dyer, William and Celia Renshaw, Jeff and Judy Denny, Kris and Anna Smith, Eric West, Larry Daffron, Jeff Kloss, Natalie and Brandon Kloss, Jeff and Allison McAlister and Mike McAlister.



# *LCC Music Ministry*



Many thanks to everyone that participated and helped plan our Palm Sunday and Easter programs.

## **Upcoming Events:**

June 25 – C&O along with area churches, practice at 2:00 pm

August 2 – C&O practice

August 6 – Antioch Christian Church concert at 6:00 pm

September 17 – Homecoming concert at 2:00 pm

October 1 - Ekklesia





*Children's Ministry of Lilburn Christian Church*

### **KUC News**

**April Report:** April flew by! The kids did a great job in the Easter Performance on Palm Sunday and then again on Easter Sunday. I was so proud of all of them. We also had a good time at Easter Egg Event and really looking forward to doing it again next. Thank you to all donated and made this event a success. Now moving on to a very busy May as we prepare for Vacation Bible School. Please keep this event in your prayers.

**Sundays:** We started a series on the Lord's Prayer. Each week the kids will learn a part of the prayer and add something to their very own prayer journals that they will get to take home when the series is complete.

**Wednesday Night:** We have been traveling around the world with our new series on Missions. Each week we learn about Paul's journeys and also learn about current mission trips going on around the world.

**VBS:** Vacation Bible School is Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose." You can find more information and register today by going to our church website or by following this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/9d1545>. Please see Allison if you would like to help. We are having VBS work days on **May 13<sup>th</sup>(9:00am-1pm)** **May 27<sup>th</sup>(9:00am-1pm)** and all week long following May 28<sup>th</sup> (various hours-whenver people are available to come). Please see Allison for more details about the work days. Lastly, we are collecting empty cans and CD cases (the thicker ones) and other supplies if you would like to help by donating. Please see your church emails or pick up a flyer in the KUC for a complete list.

**NEED VOLUNTEERS:** If you would like to serve in the KUC, we could use you! **We really need help in the Nursery on Wednesday nights** (will just need to serve 1 or 2 Wednesdays a month), and other areas include: Pre-school Sunday School, working the counter and other areas. Please see Allison McAlister if you are interested.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## May

- 7 AHG
- 14 Mother's Day
- 18 Goodfriends
- 19 Onward Day Care Graduation
- 20 Cregger/Renshaw Recitals
- 21 Cregger/Renshaw Recitals
- 21 Graduation Sunday, AHG
- 24 Bethesda Elementary Graduation; last Wed. night meal for the Summer.
- 27 VBS Work Day 9-Noon

### Our Salamanca Cinco:

Rosemary Bengtson, Lucy Huddleston, Kandy Davidson, Debbie & Jeff Stephens went to Spain April 27-May 7 to meet and assist the Salamanca University Campus Ministry Team. They said we were the only supporters to have ever visited their campus.



### A little history about Salamanca:

The first settlements in the province of Salamanca are estimated to date back to pre-historical times (1000-2000 b.c.) according to different archeologically findings in the area. Later the province was inhabited by Greeks and Carthaginians who also were the first to build a small village where the town of Salamanca is located today. The name of the town is supposed to have its origin from a famous Greek historian, Salamantica who lived in the town. And Christopher Columbus actually visited the University de Salamanca. The University was founded in 1218 A.D.

## June

- 4-8 Vacation Bible School, 6-8:30 pm
- 15 Goodfriends
- 25 C&O along with area churches practice at 2:00 pm at LCC

## 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

### A little history about the En Vivo Ministry:

En Vivo is a campus ministry at the University of Salamanca. It hosted its first Thursday night Bible Study in the Spring of 2005. Since then, En Vivo has continued offering the university students of Salamanca a place to connect with God, with others, and with the needs of world around them. Each semester En Vivo serves the Spanish students through activities such as Café Inglés, where the campus house is transformed into a café and students come to practice their English conversation skills. En Vivo also leads group Bible studies, and various social activities. Each semester En Vivo has retreats to destinations outside of Salamanca so students can connect with one another over a long weekend, have fun playing some crazy games, and enjoy learning more about the God who is in love with them so much that He sent His Son to die for them. In 2008 En Vivo hosted its first missions trip as students and staff traveled to Braga, Portugal to build a home with Habitat for Humanity.



# Prayer Requests

## Prayer Needs

Geraldine Coleman	Vicky Levy-Harrison
Sami Lyew	Janyce Perry
Donna Hill	Sheryl Peace
Bob Collier	Mary Lynn Harris
Jim Gurr	Glenn Botteicher
Korb Family	Diane Shelton
Joyce & Terry Bissell	Iya Davies & Family
Jamila Coleman	JoeAnn Toney
Sharon Townsend	Beverly Underwood
Dotty Fulgham	Patrice Evans
Carl & Louis Johnson	Frank Umberger
Russ Burchfield	Dennis Heinz
Barbara Johnson	Betty Hubbard
Donna Anderson	

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 join us in welcoming our new members.**



**Chris & Belinda Roberson**  
**May 7, 2017**



**Lilburn Christian Church**

314 Arcado Road

Lilburn, GA 30047

Phone: 770-921-2993

Fax: 770-921-6569



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

***To all our LCC Moms:***

