



~~CONNECTIONS~~

Volume 151 Issue 1

December, 2018

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Most of us learn about getting gifts for others at Christmas when we are young. Those early gifts are...sometimes embarrassing! Two memorable gifts from my childhood: my youngest brother, when he was 8 or 10 years old, got my mother a battery-powered poker game. You'd mash a button and things would spin, and you would get cards to play, and etc. For some reason, I thought this was the worst possible gift one could get for one's mother (and my teasing and ridicule toward my brother got so bad my dad had to tell me to "knock it off"!) Then, on another occasion I got my dad an electric back-scratcher! Yeah, my gifts to my parents weren't all that hot either, were they? Of course, both the gift my brother gave and the one I gave were not really "gifts" in the conventional sense; the money for both of them came from my parents, and not from us!

And so we come to Christmas. We give gifts to each other, and that is wonderful. But it's Jesus' birthday! If anyone should get a gift, it is Him! Of course, anything we give Him comes from "money" that came from Him. We have no

funds, really, of our own. Nothing much has changed since we were kids! Still, I think it is helpful to consider what we will give Him.

Our series of messages this December is called "My Gifts to Jesus". We'll look at Bible characters that gave Him something. Interestingly, there is a parallel in each of them for me and you. We could, if we were so inclined, to present Him with gifts very much like those that were given to Him in the 1st Century. In fact, I hope we will be inspired by those gifts to give Him the very same things, right now. I'll look forward to sharing this series with you!

Debbie and I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas in 2018! May the Christ Child be the center of your family's celebration this year! God bless you all—

Tony

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

SERMON SERIES

DECEMBER MESSAGES

"My Gifts to Jesus:

Dec. 2 "John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Him", Luke 3:1-20

Dec 9 "The Magi Opened Their Treasures for Him", Matthew 2:1-12

Dec 16 "Joseph Rearranged His Life for Him", Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 23 "Mary Opened Her Deepest Self for Him", Luke 1:26-38

Dec 30 Josh Cox preaching

Wednesday Menu

DECEMBER

- 5 Baked Ham
- 12 BBQ Chicken Tenders
- 19 Sloppy Joes
- 26 No Meal



2018 Graduates



Mission Spotlight Amor, Fe y Esperanza

Graduating Class of 2018

The graduating class is an extraordinary group of young people with many dreams and aspirations. The majority want to study in the health field. As doctors and nurses, they hope to help the people with illnesses in this community and serve society at large, providing quality healthcare. Others want to study law to be agents of change in their community. However, there are many limitations and burdens. These are students who desire to help their families, and at times, have thought about leaving their studies to provide more economic support in their homes. The job of AFE each day is to remind them that even though these are difficult times, the end result of continuing their studies will eventually help their families. Another difficulty some face is the lack of support and interest of their parents. But as a family in AFE, they carry with them each day the words of Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future."

Graduating students (left to right): Denis Adonay Cruz Osorto, Dennis Javier Henriquez Elvir, Isis Gabriela Carcamo Matamoro, Julio Cesar Medina Lobo, Jared Daniel Reyes Castillo, and Josue Daniel Licon Berrios

LCC Music Ministry

Upcoming Dates to Remember (along with our regular Wednesday night practices at 6:30 pm):

Sat., Dec. 1	10:00 am – Noon
Fri., Dec. 7	7:30 pm Christmas Program
Sat., Dec. 8	6:00 pm Christmas Program
Sun., Dec. 9	6:00 pm Christmas Program
Sun., Dec. 16	6:00 pm Christmas Program at Whistleville Christian Church



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What a wonderful day of service at Lilburn Christian Church's 12th Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal Outreach. Almost 200 volunteers baked and carved turkeys, boxed meals and delivered over 1,000 meals for Thanksgiving Day. These meals were delivered to shut in's and many others who might not have had a turkey meal for Thanksgiving around the Lilburn area. Thanks to all who participated in such a terrific cause.



STUDENT MINISTRY



Above, you'll find highlights from the High School Deeper Life Retreat at NGCC! With THIRTEEN 9th-12th graders, plus a couple of adults, we had an incredible weekend learning about how God can use our lives to make a difference! Examining the story of Esther, who was born for "such a time as this," we were encouraged to tell good, godly stories with our lives. (Thanks Buddy for all your help with our students!)

In other news, on Wednesdays, we're in the middle of a series called "Blockbuster Stories." Every week, we're using a Box Office hit from 2018 to help us tell a story from the Bible. For our final two gatherings of the year, we'll move on to a season-appropriate series entitled, "If a Baby can Change the World..." We'd love for your students to join us!

Below, you'll find our upcoming events! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at josh@lilburnchristianchurch.org or at 706-499-9773. Please know that I'm here for you and your family. Also, if your students are involved in extracurricular activities, I'd love to support them. Send me schedules for their concerts, basketball games, swim meets, etc. Thanks! Looking forward to what this upcoming month has in store for us! - Josh



The next Wendy's Wednesday for the 6th-12th graders is December 12th! Following an abbreviated lesson, our adult sponsors will transport our students to Wendy's at 7:30. They can be picked up at Wendy's before 8:25 or at the church after 8:30. Bring a couple of dollars for a Frosty! If you need help with that, no worries! Just let Josh know!

Student Ministry Christmas Party

December 15
5:30-7:30 pm
@ The Cox's
Bring a \$5 gift

From December 7th-9th, our students have the opportunity to join our congregation's Christmas program and enhance it in a unique, exciting way! Wouldn't it be awesome to have the aisles lined with students acting as messengers of God (angels) proclaiming the good news?!?! Encourage your students to participate as we bless our community and congregation! (Times: Fri@7:30p; Sat/Sun@ 6p)



Children's Ministry of Lilburn Christian Church



December 1st: KUC Cookie Bake

December 19th: KUC Christmas Party (during normal Wednesday night schedule)

Looking Ahead:

In March we will have a Heaven On Earth Retreat (Part 2) for 3rd to 5th Graders. Exact date and time and more details to follow.

Sundays

The upper elementary class has been learning about Obedience. We are learning how obedience brings blessing, obedience brings suffering, and obedience prepares us for holiness! We as a class are beginning to see how obedience is a theme through the whole bible and how important it is for us to be obedient to God.

The lower elementary class is still rolling through the bible, but we will take a break and focus on the meaning of Christmas.

The toddler to preschool class will also be learning about the meaning of Christmas.

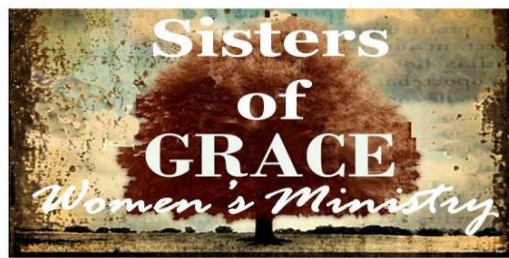
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We are continuing through our Believe series. The first 10 weeks we studied topics that Christians believe that we need to think about. Now we are looking at how Christians are supposed to act. **We encourage you to extend these lessons to your home. There are many ways you can do this:**

- Read the weekly Family Page and implement the ideas. (I will have copies of the take home family page each week. If you are interested in receiving this, please grab one off the KUC counter when you pick your children up each Wednesday. You can save these pages in a folder so that if you only have time for a few activities one week, you can look back and try the rest at a later time.

- Schedule family time with God outside of church. Church should not be the only place your children learn about God and what we believe. I understand that life gets busy, and I admit Jeff and I are not always great about spending quality time with God as a family outside of church and we have failed at this at certain times in life. I am praying that all of us can prioritize and schedule family activities that are pleasing to God. We have to make an effort because it won't happen on its own. This can be a fun time of worship, singing, prayer, Bible reading, and reflecting on the week's lesson.

Please be in prayer for all the children and all the teachers who will be participating in this Believe series. I pray it is meaningful and helps your children grow closer to God!!



All ladies are invited to our
LCC Annual Ladies Christmas Party
“Candlelight”

Thursday, December 13
7:00 pm in the Family Life Center (FLC).
Join us for dinner, fellowship & program.
Cost: \$5.00 per person (includes Dinner)

Our Service Project will be Gift Cards to
be given to Lilburn Co-Op.

Suggested Gift Cards: WalMart, Kroger,
Target just to name a few.

Sign up in the Foyer by Sunday, Dec. 9.

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		

Attention All Ladies (or anyone interested in a fun craft project)

You are invited to a 'Christmas in July' event.

Hopefully, you took the opportunity to buy some great material in the last few months since we first announced our 'Christmas in July' Folded Fabric Christmas Ornament no-sew craft project!!



Joann's Fabrics had some great sales and coupons during the month of November. Plus, holiday fabric will be on clearance before you know it!!

If you have not purchased your material, there is still plenty of time. We wanted to give you advanced notice so you can shop for fabrics you would like to use. You can watch for coupons and sales or go to Fabric World in Snellville.

It does not have to be Christmas prints, at all. Think fall colors, your favorite sports team colors, pastels for Spring/Easter or patriotic (red, white and blue)

By planning ahead, you can find appropriate fabric for the **next 7 months**, including all of your favorite seasons and holidays. (Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July....)

We are trying to narrow down a date in July of 2019. We will let you know once a date has been approved on the church calendar. Several ladies from LCC learned how to make these a couple of years ago and we look forward to teaching you how to make them!!

Materials (per ornament – in case you want to make more than one):

Polystyrene/Styrofoam ball (7 inch circumference, approx. 3 inch in height)

3 or 4 coordinated fabrics – dark, medium, and light hues work well

Select cotton blends

¼ yard of each color or you can buy fat quarters

Small prints work best (although solid colors work, too)

Dressmaker pins (these have small, flat heads – available at Walmart)

Ribbon (½ inch width)

Any questions: contact Rosie Bengtson or Pam Straughan

Prayer Requests

Geraldine Coleman
Bob Collier
Jim Gurr
Jamila Coleman
Russ Burchfield
Barbara Johnson
Donna Anderson
Diane Shelton
Betty Hubbard
Sandra Amrhein
Gensie McDonald

Sandra Denton
Augustus & Mary
Lakpor
Teresa Herring
Scott Phillips
Pam Morgan
Eddie Ballew
Marcia Heinz
Paul & Phyllis Macheski
Linda Proctor
Glenda Middleton
Wayne Starling

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 two prayer beepers out.

Gensie McDonald – prayer beeper number is 770-929-5130.

Here is the message you will hear –
Hello, you have reached the prayer beeper for Gensie McDonald. She has been diagnosed with bone cancer in her lower back. The doctor is pleased with the treatment she has undergone so far. Please continue to pray for complete healing. Thank you for your prayers on Gensie's behalf. Please press 1 and the # sign. Your prayer beep will be sent to her. Thank you.

Jamila Coleman - prayer beeper number is 770-929-5157.

Here is the message you will hear –
Hello, you have reached the prayer beeper for Jamila Coleman. She is scheduled for surgery on October 9th. Please pray for peace and comfort in mind and body. Also, pray for God's perfect plan to be accomplished in her life. Thank you for your prayers on Jamila's behalf. Please press 1 and the # sign. Your prayer beep will be sent to her. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 1 C& O Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am – Noon
KUC Cookie Bake 10:00 am – Noon
- 2 Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday; Annual
Congregational Meeting after Worship
- 4 General Election Run-off
- 7 Annual Christmas Program at 7:30 pm
- 8 LCC Christmas Program at 6:00 pm
- 9 LCC Christmas Program at 6:00 pm
- 13 Ladies Annual Christmas Party in FLC at
7:00 pm
- 15 Youth Christmas Party at the home of Josh &
Ashley Cox, 5:30 -7:30 pm
- 16 CTO at Whistleville for Christmas Program
at 6:00 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 No Wednesday Night Activities

Wednesday Night Activities

We encourage you and your family to join us on Wednesday evenings as our meal and then activities for all the family resume on Aug 1! Here's the way our schedule looks:

- 5:45 pm Meal
(Adults \$3, Children \$2, Family \$11)
- 6:30 pm Children and Youth Activities
- 6:30 pm Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 No Wednesday Night Activities
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Every Week

Sunday:

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes
- 10:15 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:45 am Worship Service

Monday:

- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

Tuesday:

- 9:45 am Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm KUC, Youth, Choir, Tech &
Orchestra
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study

**Please welcome our
new member
Herman Narcisso
11/4/18**



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"LCC: Where Cultures Meet Christ"

