

LCC CONNECTIONS

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Dr. Peter Rasor, PhD
Senior Minister

Lilburn Christian Church

LCC Staff:

Peter Rasor, Senior Minister

peter@LilburnCC.com

Dwayne Wylds, Minister of Music

dwayne@LilburnCC.com

Alex Aleman, Youth Minister

alex@LilburnCC.com

Jennifer Rasor, Children's Director

jennifer@LilburnCC.com

Schyler Umberger, Asst. Children's Director

sumberger@outlook.com

Lynn Akins, Financial Secretary

lynn@LilburnCC.com

Kandy Davidson, Office Administrator

office@LilburnCC.com

LCC Elders:

Ken Akins: 678-754-5422

Wally Curtiss: 770-231-5200

Jim Gurr: 770-925-8680

Jeff Stephens: 770-722-8553

Sherman Wade: 404-867-6101

Matt Yearick: 404-433-4142

Editor:

Kandy Davidson

Photographer:

Pam Straughan & Byron Davidson

CONNECT WITH US



770-921-2993



office@Lilburncc.com



lilburncc.com



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In a Lifeway research survey, it was reported that 69% of American churchgoers agreed that "God wants me to prosper financially" ("View on Prosperity," 2018). 38% agreed that "my church teaches that if I give more money to my church and charities, God will bless me in return." Evidently, a large swath of churchgoers views church as a monetary investment: if you invest money in the church and in charities, God will give you a return on your investment. As the report states, "For some Americans, dropping a check into the offering plate is a bit like having a Discover Card. Both offer a cash-back bonus."

This finding is understandable in a culture built on consumerism. Everywhere we turn, we see ads that promise numerous benefits if we just invest in a product. From Walmart's slogan "Save Money. Live Better." to Prudential's "A policy to meet your needs," we are promised financial gain and security if we just invest in their product. It is no wonder, then, that many churchgoers have a consumerist mentality about the church as well. Invest in God, and he will give you stuff.

The problem is that God does not want to give you stuff. He does not want to prosper you financially and give you a clean bill of health. He also does not want to move every obstacle in your life and give you a clear path without valleys, bumps, and rocks. It is true that "every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (Jam 1:17; NASB), but he is not mostly concerned with giving you "your best life now" in the words of Joel Osteen and other health and wealth "preachers." God is not a public offered commodity on the Stock Exchange.

Do you know what God really wants? A reborn and transformed you. Jesus himself said, "I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world" (Jn 3:17). Paul explained, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim 1:15). Then, when a person puts faith in Christ, "He is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor 5:17). God is in the business of recreating and restoring people.

Interestingly, Scripture never says that Jesus came "so that he can give you money and a care-free life." In fact, he said the very opposite. He told his disciples, "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (Jn 15:20). The Apostle Peter reminded his readers, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you" (1 Pet 4:12). As Christians, we ought to expect that life is going to be difficult.

Moreover, God uses the difficulties to strengthen our faith! "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 16-7).

The next time you are tempted to think that God wants you to prosper in this life, remember the words of Jesus: "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal" (Matt 6:20). The treasures God wants to give to us is not anything on this earth. They are laid in heaven for us. All things on earth are temporary and susceptible to decay. Our heavenly salvation and sanctification, however, are "protected by the power of God." This is what God truly wants you to have:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Your Friend and Minister,
Dr. Pete



Rehearsal



It is now our 2nd month of our resumed weekly gatherings of preparing music, sharing fellowship and praying together on Wednesday nights 6:30-8:00pm.

Attendance is extremely important. You are missed when you are absent. We are better together! As a reminder, particularly to the three singing out front (in addition to anyone who is doing a special), there is always a backup microphone that is located beside Dwayne's director stand. Should your microphone go out during a church service, there is no need to panic ~ Just discreetly grab the back up microphone, turn it on & use it as that is why it's there. 😊

Upcoming events

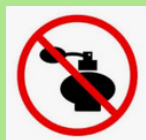
- Saturday, September 13th 10-12 rehearsal
- Sunday, September 21st 3:30pm call time
- Sunday, September 21st 5:00pm UNITED
- Sunday, September 21st 6:30pm reception held in the FLC after the program

Christmas Program - COME ADORE

- Special rehearsals TBD
- Sunday, Dec. 14th LCC
- CHANGE - we will NOT be doing the Christmas program at Whistleville Christian Church this year due to scheduling.

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday evening, December 24th

We are a SCENT FREE group. Please do NOT wear scented lotions, oils, colognes and perfumes.



Shine had a great swim party to finish up the summer! We ate a pizza lunch and then headed to the Bethesda Aquatic Center for an afternoon of swimming. Thanks to our Shine families, Schyler and Max who helped to make it a great afternoon!

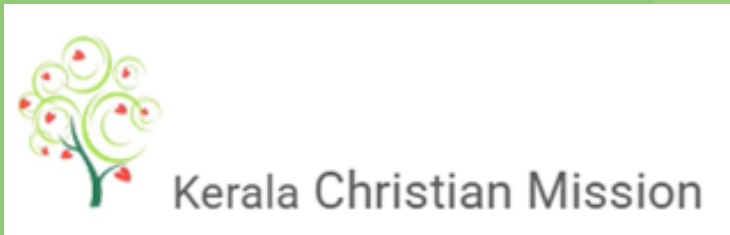
In September, we will be finishing up our Summer on Moses series. I challenged the students to memorize the 10 Commandments in order. Two of them accomplished it with two others very close! Another student has memorized the ENTIRE OT and NT books, while another student recited the NT books to me. I am so proud of each and every one of them!

Please continue to pray for Shine. If you are interested in helping out, I have a few openings on Sunday mornings, especially in the nursery during the worship service. What a joy it is to serve these precious students and their families!





Mission Spotlight



Please remember Rajan Ipe, the ministry leader for Kerala Christian Mission with the passing of his wife Reni. Please keep Rajan and his family in your prayers during this very difficult time. Rajan is scheduled to be in the states in November and is planning to meet with the LCC mission team. If anyone would like to participate in that, we would welcome your attendance. Whether his plans will change is still to be determined. Reni was a big part of the ministry standing side by side with Rajan where they started the ministry in their hometown of Kottayan, India in 1977.

Kerala has several different functions as a ministry, such as a charity, where they operate a senior home, they have youth welfare projects, awareness programs, seminars and camps and training programs, sports, talent fest, Carmel Girls Hostel, The Serenity Counselling Center, Child Development projects. They have a hospital where LCC funds have purchased a MRI machine in the past and offer various health programs. And lastly, they offer a KCM Retreat Center, Vagamon, which serves the community with seating capacity of 500 people. As you can see they are very active in the India community, and we know the loss of Reni will be felt for many years to come. Please pray for Rajan and the people working at this ministry.

July was a quiet month for everyone, but as mentioned in the last newsletter, Abide had a Campfire/Games night at LCC.....and everyone enjoyed the S'more, how could you not!!! We started back Aug. 6th with a two part video series and great discussions about How to Pray. The basis for the series and our discussion was based on Jesus's "Model prayer", often called the Lord's Prayer.

One key aspect of the Model Prayer in Matthew 6, is when Jesus encourages us to use the word Father, in addressing the Creator of the universe. If we have a relationship with God through Jesus, then what better way to "commune" with God than as a loving Father who craves our presence with Him. The Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Galatians, "And because we are his "children", God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, so now we can rightly speak of God as our dear Father." Galatians 4:6

Several of our Abide group volunteered to go to Corinth Christian Church to help with a program putting together food packets to be sent all around the world. Jennifer Rasor was contacted by them, then asked for volunteers, and several from Abide jumped at the chance to help this worthy cause.

It's a bitter sweet time for Abide as a few of our group are headed off to college and career opportunities. We will miss them while they are gone, but we know they will be back home when given the chance. They had better stay in touch with us, or we may have to go after them!! :-) Keep them in your prayers



GAL'S GET-AWAY RECAP

Thirty-one ladies attended our Georgia Mountain Get-Away on August 15-18 in Dahlonega, GA. We stayed at the Forrest Hills Resort, rooming in the Mountain Laurel Inn. The weekend study was based on the story of Ruth and Naomi. We explored what happens when we make God the foundation for our lives. We even made our own paper homes in our journals – including a firm foundation, sturdy walls for support and a strong roof for protection. We enjoyed the skit of the “Three Silly Sisters” and how to apply them in our lives.

The ladies did not let a couple of showers (both Friday and Saturday) stop our fun! We studied God's Word, prayed and worshiped in song together. (Many thanks to Trudy Daffron for leading our songs.) There were lots of discussions in our sessions, along with quiet times of reflection as we worked in our journals.

We enjoyed time on Saturday afternoon exploring the city of Dahlonega and the surrounding area. It was a great time to enjoy the beauty of the North Georgia mountains. Saturday evening turned into a game night with lots of fun and fellowship.

Sunday morning was our final session with prayer and reflection time, guided by questions and thoughts in our journals. Our time ended with communion.

Our service project was Dried Beans and Rice for the Lilburn Co-op. We donated 72 bags of beans and rice along with \$235 in donations.

Our hope is that all the ladies who attended were restored and refreshed in their relationship with their family, friends and Jesus.





ICOM (International Conference on Missions) 2025 is here in Atlanta! If you have never attended a Missions Conference, here is your chance. Many of the missions we support will have booths set up in the Exhibit Hall. It's a great chance to speak to them, as well as other missionaries from around the world. The main sessions and workshops are always wonderful and inspiring.

Nov 20-22 at Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, GA

If you plan to attend, tell them that we pre-registered as a church when you check in. Church-wide registration allows you access to workshops, main sessions and the exhibit hall. There are also ticketed events you can purchase (denoted on schedule with **).

See their website for details. <https://www.theicom.org/events/icom-2025/info>

Thursday, November 20th

1:00 pm – ICOM Registration & Exhibit Hall Opens
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Opening Main Session
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm – Visit Exhibit Hall & Anniversaries/Receptions

Friday, November 21st

7:30 am – 8:30 am – Bible Study Breakfast with Johnny Pressley**
8:00 am – ICOM Registration & Exhibit Hall Opens
9:00 am – 10:00 am – Workshop Period 1 (F9)
9:00 am - SICOM (6th-12th grade) Student REV-UP Pre-Con Session
10:30 am – 11:45 am – Morning Main Session
10:30 am - SICOM (6th – 12th grade) Student REV-UP Pre-Con Session
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Break for Lunch & Lunch with Missionaries**
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Workshop Period 2 (F2)
2:00 pm - SICOM (6th – 12th grade) Student REV-UP Pre-Con Session
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Workshop Period 3 (F4)
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Break for Dinner
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Evening Main Session
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm – Visit Exhibit Hall & Anniversaries/Receptions

Saturday, November 22nd

7:30 am – 8:30 am – Bible Study Breakfast with Johnny Pressley**
8:00 am – ICOM Registration & Exhibit Hall Opens
9:00 am – 10:00 am – Workshop Period 4 (S9)
10:30 am – 11:45 am – Morning Main Session
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Break for Lunch & Lunch with Missionaries**
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Workshop Period 5 (S2)
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Women of Purpose**
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Workshop Period 6 (S4)
5:00 - 7:00 pm - Break for Dinner
7:00 - 8:30 pm - Closing Main Session
8:30 pm – ICOM Ends, Exhibitor Move Out Begins

UPCOMING

EVENTS

September

- 01 Labor Day Holiday
- 08 Prayer Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 13 CTO rehearsal for United
- 21 United/Homecoming

October

- 05 Bridal shower for Schyler Umberger,
12:30 - 3:30 pm
- 06 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm
- 31 Fall Festival



Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests

Linda Proctor
Dennis & Marcia Heinz
Richard Walker
Ron & Carol Hill
Richard Blankenship
Teresa Elias
Terri Randall
Family of Bobby Roberts
Wanda McClanahan
Vicki Fontana

Promotion Sunday

August 3, 2025

Ava Rose Truitt was promoted
to our Thrive Youth Group





BIBLE READING PLAN



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF THE
BIBLE.

September
2025

- 11 Job 17-19; Psalm 102
- 2 Job 20-21; Colossians 1
- 3 Job 22-24; Colossians 2
- 4 Job 25-27; Psalm 26; Colossians 3
- 5 Psalm 111; Job 28-29; Colossians 4
- 6 Psalm 17; Job 30; Romans 1
- 7 Job 31; Romans 2
- 8 Job 32-33; Psalm 103; Romans 3
- 9 Job 34-35; Romans 4
- 10 Job 36-37; Psalm 29; Romans 5
- 11 Psalm 104; Job 38; Romans 6
- 12 Job 39-40; Romans 7
- 13 Job 41-42; Romans 8
- 14 Hosea 1-2; Romans 9
- 15 Hosea 3-6; Romans 10
- 16 Hosea 7; Romans 11; Psalm 145
- 17 Hosea 8-11; Romans 12
- 18 Hosea 12-14; Romans 13
- 19 Zechariah 1-4; Romans 14
- 20 Zechariah 5-8; Romans 15
- 21 Zechariah 9-11; Romans 16
- 22 Zechariah 12-14; Philippians 1
- 23 Psalm 107; Johan 1; Philippians 2
- 24 Psalm 116; Jonah 2-4; Philippians 3
- 25 Habakkuk 1-3; Philippians 4
- 26 Jeremiah 1-2; Psalm 28; 1 Thes 1
- 27 Jeremiah 3-4; 1 Thessalonians 2
- 28 Psalm 14; Jeremiah 5-6; 1 Thes 3
- 29 Psalm 81; Jeremiah 7-8; 1 Thes 4
- 30 Jeremiah 9-10; Psalm 79; 1 Thes 5

Lilburn Christian Church
314 Arcado Road
Lilburn, GA 30047
770-921-2993

