



## Hope for Christmas

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 PM

Mark your calendars and plan for your family to give HOPE for Christmas to our community.

As Hope for Christmas approaches, we are continuing to build teams who will ensure that the 50 families we've selected will be served with excellence! We have spots remaining on many of our teams. If you have not yet signed up to serve, please contact your Sunday School teacher, Stephanie Broach, or Cyndi Ressler to do so. You'll notice that we've decorated for Christmas early this year. Our Hope for Christmas tree is where you will find ornaments representing children for whom we will be buying gifts. Please join us in bringing smiles to the faces of children this Christmas by stopping by the tree to pick up one (or more!) ornaments then purchasing gifts for that child. All gifts are due back to the church by November 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact Cyndi Ressler (404-717-6930) or Stephanie Broach (770-832-3974) if you have questions.



## Heart for the House

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> we will have the opportunity to express our love for God, His house, and His people with a Thanksgiving offering and estimates of giving for 2017. We're calling that weekend, "Heart for the House."



A few weeks ago we studied, "How to Neighbor," looking at several ways we can be a neighbor to the people God places in our path. God loves and welcomes everyone, so we are determined to do the same thing – rich and poor, black, white and tan, orphans and widows, insiders and outsiders – God loves us all.

In that series God moved our hearts and now he wants to move us to action. God is calling our church to be a neighbor to the families in our area, and we've already begun the effort. Our church hired a full time Children's Pastor to lead our kids' ministry. We've created an amazing kids' worship area and are offering the best sort of children's experience anywhere. The next phase is to do for our teens (student ministry) what we've done for kids – to create for our teenagers a similarly excellent gathering space, experience, staff leadership, and necessary facility updates to allow for growth. That's why we are having a 'Heart for the House' weekend.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we need every family to help launch the vision by bringing your very best offering to God's house on that day for our Special "Heart for the House" offering. We also want to ensure we sustain the vision by giving an estimate of our giving for 2017. We will launch with the special offering and sustain the effort with our estimates of giving.

God moved our hearts in the "How to Neighbor" series, and now he wants to move us. Let's put action to the emotion because God has given us exciting things to share. Please be in prayer as we approach our "Heart for the House" weekend.

## Sermon Series: Because God Is \_\_\_\_\_

What we believe about God can free us for abundant life or immobilize us and limit our lives. A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." If I believe God is trustworthy, I'll trust him enough to take risks based on his Word. If I believe he is speaking, I might just want to listen. If I believe God is truly sovereign, it makes sense for me to pray bigger prayers. If God is my loving Father, I'll know I can count on him every time.

During the month of November, we will subvert some of the warped ideas about God we tend to carry around and also gain a clearer view of the God of the Bible "who so loved the world."

### Operation Serve

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

WOW! October's Operation Serve blew us all away! With nearly forty adults and children working together, we were able to quickly fill over 500 goody bags for visitors to our Fall Festival. Thank you to each and every person who played a part in this project!

Operation Serve for the month of November will take place on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. This month we have the opportunity to partner with the Hembree family to serve the families who are currently staying in the Efficiency Lodge in Carrollton. We are excited about sharing a meal with the families residing in the lodge and hope to bring some LIGHT to their week! Any and all are invited to join us in this project. Please plan to meet at the church parking lot at 11:30 AM for prayer and instructions. The group will then caravan to the Efficiency Lodge and begin serving! If you would like to contribute to the meals that will be served, please email Ali Hembree (alicia.hembree@douglas.k12.ga.us) and let her know which of the following items you would like to provide:

- Canned Drinks for 50-60 people
- 2 cases of bottled water
- 2 gallons of sweet tea
- 4-5 family size bags of chips
- Paper plates for 60
- Napkins for 60
- 48 slices of American cheese
- 4-5 packages of cookies



October Operation Serve

If you'd like, you can have your children bring coloring books, dolls, games, balls (the boys always play football), etc. Please consider bringing items that you would be willing to leave with the kids (not required, but we usually at least leave them the balls). Corn toss is always popular, so please email Ali if you have a set.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

FCC Women's Retreat

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30 AM until 2 PM

# BECAUSE GOD IS

how you fill this blank  
is how you'll live your life



# Children's Ministry Update

## Family Hayride

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Yee-haw! Join us for a hayride at the King's farm! The Kings have once again graciously opened their home to the families of our church. We'll be celebrating this nice, cool, fall weather with a hayride around their property and some family fun for all ages. Meet at 4:00 PM in the church parking lot to follow someone to their house. If you already know your way, meet at their farm at 4:30 PM.



## Christmas Musical Practices

Sunday Evenings @ 6 PM

Our Christmas Musical, Special Delivery, is getting close! Parts have been assigned but there is still plenty of room in our choir for many more angelic voices. There will be no practices on November 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> during Thanksgiving break. If your kindergartener through 5<sup>th</sup> grader is not yet involved and wants to be part of this production, we would love to have him/her join us! If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering in anyway please contact April Thompson at [april.july.09@gmail.com](mailto:april.july.09@gmail.com).

## Attention All Teens & Adults: Small Group Leaders Needed for Our Kids!

Sunday Mornings @ 11 AM

As our children's program continues to grow, our FirstKids' small groups are growing as well. With this growth comes the opportunity for more adults and teenagers to invest in the lives of these children. We

know that change happens through relationships and that children can build stronger relationships with their leaders and each other when small groups are kept small. In order to provide the greatest opportunity for a meaningful experience for our K-5<sup>th</sup> graders, we're looking for men, women and teenagers who are ready and willing to take on the role of small group leaders for groups of 6 - 8 students

during our 11 AM FirstKids program! Your commitment to a few children has the potential to impact their eternity. Do for a few what you would like to be able to do for many.

Contact Stephanie at [Stephanie@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:Stephanie@1stchristianchurch.com) for more information!

## Relationship Building Experiences

The FirstKids' team strives to be intentional in relationship building between leaders and children. We believe that one of the loudest ways to tell kids that we care about them is to show up for them. Showing up says a lot. It tells them that they matter to us. It tells them that they matter to God. As leaders, we have the privilege of being "living demonstrations of God's love" to the children God sends our way.

One of the ways in which we're hoping to do this during the 2016 - 2017 school year is through engagement with students outside of Sunday mornings such as showing up for school lunches, attending sporting events, watching dance recitals, etc. If you have not yet received a letter from your child's teacher or small group leader about this initiative, contact [Stephanie@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:Stephanie@1stchristianchurch.com) to get connected!

# Student Ministry Update

## 306 Underground

Sunday Evenings @ 5:30 PM

306 Underground meets on Sunday's @ 5:30 - 7:30 PM. 306 Underground is for all middle and high schoolers. Dinner is provided from 5:30 - 6:00 PM. This is a great place to play games, make new friends, hang out with awesome adult leaders, and talk about Jesus! I would love to see you there!



We will be starting a new series in November called, "Shameless." Have you ever seen one of those really crazy celebrity headlines or photos on social media and thought, How embarrassing?! Maybe you've thought, I would never do that! Or, I'd never say that. Or, I'd never wear that in public. But the truth is, we've all done things that we wish we hadn't. We've all had a most embarrassing moment... or a few of them. There's nothing wrong with feeling a little red-faced every once in a while, but when that feeling of shame carries over to how we see ourselves, how we treat others, and even what we think about God, it can be really harmful. As we explore what the Bible says about our best and worst moments, we may just discover that the best thing we can do with one of the worst feelings is to shame... less.

## Sunday Mornings @ 10 AM

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

We are in a series called, "The Life of Jesus." The central focus of the gospel is the Life of Jesus. Through the end of the year, we are going to walk through the Life of Jesus in chronological form as best we can. We will not only discuss the Life of Jesus, but how His life affects us.

## How Can I Serve?

Volunteer with Student Ministry

1. You can serve by helping with the Sunday night program. You could run the computer, greet new guests, create friendships, lead a small group, or help with worship. We have something for everyone.

2. You can also serve by providing the youth a dinner on a Sunday night. I have several parents who have been helping out with meals, but I need more families. If you can provide the meal, we will supply the drinks and utensils. We aren't just feeding our students, but kids who are coming to our church for the first time. Some of the greatest conversations that happen in the youth are during our dinner.

If you would like to serve in any capacity, feel free to reach out to Jeremy Westbrook in person or by email at [jeremy@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:jeremy@1stchristianchurch.com).

**GET INVOLVED!**

## Alpha Ministry

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10 AM

Thanks to your help, our Alpha Ministry completed three hands-on projects recently and sent them on for mission outreach. We have sent 51 Angel Tree Bags/Backpacks for children in Mexico, 47 sewn Christmas stockings for Native American children in Arizona, and 15 bags containing T-shirt dresses with underwear, headbands and crocheted purses distributed to one of six countries with children in need.

The next meeting of Alpha will be Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM in the Joyful Giver's Classroom. Christian Holyland Foundation with six ministries in Galilee will receive our support. The Bible lesson will be about "Esther - How to Use Power to Benefit Others." All interested women are welcome to attend and become part of this fellowship, service and learning group.

The Turkish World Outreach Stamp Program is supported by Alpha Ministry and those willing to save certain cancelled stamps. The organization provides funds for purchase of Turkish Bibles for free distribution in Turkey and where there are Turkish populations. All theme, commemorative, and Christmas stamps are welcomed; please omit US bell and flag stamps as they are too common for resale. We request that the donors process stamps by cutting around individual stamps or groups of stamps with a margin of 1/4 inch. Put them in a plastic bag or envelope and leave them in the Alpha mailbox at the entrance to the library. Thank you for your support.

## Keenagers' Harvest Luncheon

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 12 PM

The Keenagers will celebrate a time of Thanksgiving in the Family Life Center. Each member is asked to bring a card and small token of appreciation for a staff member, teacher, or elder. We will enjoy a delicious lunch and have a time of fellowship.



Keenagers offers fellowship, fun and food to those 55 and over. You're invited to join us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month! RSVP to Marjorie at [marjorie1127@att.net](mailto:marjorie1127@att.net).

## Cans for Camp

It has been a tradition at FCC to save ALUMINUM CANS for recycling with the money going to benefit Woodland Christian Camp. Twenty dollars was collected from the last load taken for recycling. This is a reminder that we are still participating in the program and an invitation for those new to our congregation to join the effort. Please keep those CANS FOR CAMP coming! If it is convenient for you, crush the cans. Plastic bags of cans (please no trash) should be dropped in the top of the collection bin behind the lattice enclosure situated to the right of the Ward Street side entrance.

## Home Communion November Servers

11/6

Greg Shackelford

Ken & Puffy Beckett

11/13

David Fletcher

Shane & Amy Sadler

11/20

Larry Vierling

Matt Gray

11/27

Tony Ward

Tim McCreary

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve once every two months or be on call for weeks when extra help is needed.

Interested in serving or being served?

Contact: Stanley Reid  
678-234-8498 or email [sreid1957@yahoo.com](mailto:sreid1957@yahoo.com)

If you would like to submit an article for December, email Brittany Vibhakar at [Brittany@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:Brittany@1stchristianchurch.com)  
All articles must be submitted by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> in order to be included.

# November Events

Date	Time	Event
Wed 11/2	10:00 AM	Alpha (Meets in Joyful Givers Sunday School Classroom)
Fri 11/4	6:00 PM	Celebrate Recovery
Sun 11/6	2:00 AM	Don't forget to turn back your clocks! Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sun 11/6	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Youth Service
Sun 11/6	6 - 7:30 PM	Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsal
Tues 11/8	9 - 11 AM	Food Pantry
Fri 11/11	6:00 PM	Celebrate Recovery
Sat 11/12	4:30 - 7 PM	Family Hayride at the Kings'
Sun 11/13	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Youth Service
Sun 11/13	6 - 7:30 PM	Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsal
Mon 11/14	6:30 PM	Omega (Meets in the Bride's Room)
Thurs 11/17	12:00 PM	Teenagers' Harvest Luncheon
Fri 11/18	6:00 PM	Celebrate Recovery
Sat 11/19	11:30 AM	Operation Serve
Sun 11/20	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Youth Service
Thurs 11/24	All Day	Office Closed—Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri 11/25	All Day	Office Closed—Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri 11/25	6:00 PM	Celebrate Recovery
Sun 11/27	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Youth Service

## Christmas Brunch

Tickets will be available to the public on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 AM in the Family Life Center. The brunch will take place on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## October Numbers

	<u>10/2</u>	<u>10/9</u>	<u>10/16</u>	<u>10/23</u>	<u>10/30</u>
<b>Attendance</b>	303	297	238	270	302
<b>Offering</b>	\$ 18,308.95	\$ 12,926.00	\$ 7,338.00	\$ 12,602.13	\$ 6,018.00
<b>YTD Received</b>	\$ 466,710.20	\$ 479,636.20	\$ 486,974.20	\$ 499,576.33	\$ 505,594.33
<b>YTD Needed</b>	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 512,500.00	\$ 525,000.00	\$ 537,500.00	\$ 550,000.00



**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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