

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CARROLLTON GEORGIA
AUGUST 2025 – VOLUME 75

Heroes (and a Few Zeros) of the Bible

A Wednesday Night Class by Pastor Randy You Don't Want to Miss

What do Abraham, Joseph, Ruth, Gideon, Elijah, and Esther have in common? They were all ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God—and their stories still speak powerfully into our lives today. Join us on Wednesday nights as we dive into the lives of these biblical heroes (and a few not-so-heroic characters) to see what real faith looks like when the pressure is on.

This isn't just a history lesson—it's a chance to see how God's faithfulness in their lives can build your faith in your own. Abraham shows us what it means to believe even when we can't see. Joseph teaches us to trust when life takes a turn we didn't expect. Ruth reveals the beauty of loyalty and courage. Gideon shows how God can use even the most insecure person for something great. Elijah teaches us to pray boldly and trust God deeply. And Esther reminds us that God places us exactly where we need to be "for such a time as this."

And yes, we'll look at a few "zeroes" along the way—people who got it wrong—so we can learn what *not to do, too!*



Each week is designed to be practical, encouraging, and thought-provoking. Whether you're brand new to the Bible or you've read it cover to cover, you'll find fresh insights and real-life application.

Come grow your faith, connect with others, and be reminded that the God who worked through these ancient men and women is still working through people like you. *Wednesday nights. Food at 5:30. The Word at 6:00.*

Bring a friend. You'll be glad you did.

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NIGHT OF PRAYER



4 AUGUST,
2025

DINNER @ 5:30 PM
PRAYER TIME 6PM - 7:30PM

Join us for a Night of Prayer on August 4th, a heartfelt gathering hosted by Scott and Ali Hembree, where we will unite in focused prayer as we embrace the back-to-school season. This is a precious opportunity for us to come together in love and support, lifting up all the vital individuals who contribute to our children's education and well-being—teachers, teacher aides, students, administrators, counselors, coaches, custodians, bus drivers, resource officers, librarians, school nurses, cafeteria workers, parents, grandparents, school board members, and the superintendent.. We invite you to be a part of this enriching experience and make a difference in the lives of those who dedicate themselves to our children's futures.

**WONDERFUL
WEDNESDAY
KICKOFF**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

FOOD, FUN, DODGEBALL & BINGO
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Get ready to mark your calendars for our Wonderful Wednesday kickoff on August 13th! The evening begins with a delightful free dinner at 6 PM, setting the stage for a night filled with laughter and camaraderie as the fun kicks off at 6:30 PM. Join in the excitement as Jake and the youth take on any brave dodgeball challengers who dare to step up—friendly competition is the name of the game! And let's not forget the thrilling Bingo session hosted by Brittany and Beth, where fabulous prizes await the lucky winners—because who doesn't love a little friendly rivalry? Bring the entire family, and don't hesitate to invite friends; this is a perfect opportunity to bond, connect, and share in the joy of our welcoming 1st Christian Church community. We can't wait to see you there!

PARENT POWER

Leading Our Kids to Trust in Christ

As Christian parents, our greatest calling isn't to raise successful kids—it's to raise faithful ones. More than grades, trophies, or talents, what matters most is that our children come to know and trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

So how do we lead them there? First, live it out. Children learn more from what we do than what we say. Let them see you reading your Bible, praying, worshiping, and turning to God in hard times. When you model a vibrant, personal faith, they see what it means to walk with Jesus.

Second, talk about God often—and naturally. At dinner, in the car, during bedtime routines—ask questions like, “Where did you see God today?” or “What’s something you’re thankful for?” Keep the conversation going.

Third, make church a priority. Not just attendance, but involvement. Serve together. Worship together. Let them see the church as a place of joy, truth, and belonging.

Finally, pray. Pray with them and for them. Ask God to open their hearts and give you wisdom. The seeds you plant today can bear fruit for eternity.

Your children don't need perfect parents—they need faithful ones. Lead them to Jesus, one step, one day, one conversation at a time.



The Roopville Road Baptist Church will host **West Georgia's Premier Pro-Life Event** the evening of September 18. This is an opportunity to help Pregnancy Resource Center serve families in Carroll, Haralson and Heard Counties. The keynote speaker for this year's event is Pro-Life Comedian Mike Williams. Be a part of this special night filled with heartfelt stories, delicious food and fellowship.

Doors open at 5:30 P.M. The event runs from 6:00- 8:30 P.M.

Please contact Marjorie Aldridge for tickets at 770- 459-7468 or Marjorie1127@att.net

OR contact Paul Johnson-Paul@1stChristianChurch.com

Join

THE NEW TEAM

Jesus said, "I was sick and you visited me." (Matthew 25:36)
Caring Hands puts that into action—one visit, one prayer, one heart at a time.



Informational meeting
in the Family Life Center
Wednesday, Aug. 6th @ 6 PM
Dinner provided

Contact Paul@1stChristianchurch.com or
call 770-832-3974
to register



What if your presence could be the very thing that brings someone hope? That's the heartbeat behind our new **Caring Hands Ministry**—a simple, powerful way to bring Christ's love to those who need it most.

Whether it's sitting beside a hospital bed, praying in a nursing home, or visiting someone who feels forgotten, this ministry reminds people they are seen, *known, and loved.*

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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NEW SCHEDULE

No Pickleball on Monday August 4th
Everyone is invited to our Night of Prayer

Starting August 10
courts open on Sundays 3 - 5 PM
& Monday nights 6 - 8 PM



FOOD PANTRY



2nd Tuesday of each month
9-10 AM

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Angel Bags 2025



First Christian has an opportunity once again to bless children in central Mexico and share Jesus' love with them through our Angel Bag project.

Bags were put out on display tables to be picked up and filled by you, July 27th. Put filled bags in the bins provided in both foyers. All bags are due to be collected by September 7. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation.

Making: Bags are handmade by the Ladies of Alpha Ministry.

Sending: The filled bags are sent to S.O.A.R. Ministries in Loganville, GA for storage until November.

Taking: Bags are loaded in vans and driven to the Mexican border and taken into central Mexico to Bethshean Mexico Mission.

Hearing and Receiving the Word: Children and their parents in nearby villages hear the Christmas story of Jesus and His love.

Gifts: Each child is given a bag of gifts from you. Sometimes it is the first gift they have ever received.

Sacrificial Giving Blesses Us

Sacrificial giving isn't God prying money from our hands; it is God planting joy in our hearts. When we give, we declare, "Christ is my treasure, not my stuff." That declaration reshapes our desires, loosens our worries, and grows our gratitude.

Our offerings become ministry: Bibles opened, children taught, missionaries sent, neighbors fed, lights on so worshipers can hear the gospel. Dollars become stories of salvation, healing, community, and hope.

And something happens in us. Generosity stretches our faith, knits us to one another, and invites God's provision into our very ordinary budgets. Don't be surprised when you find contentment replacing comparison, purpose replacing impulse, and deep blessing replacing bare-minimum religion.

Your financial gift today may be the answered prayer someone whispers tonight—and the renewal that your own soul has been longing for.

WAYS TO GIVE



Sunday (Giving boxes)

1stChristianChurch.com



**306 College Street
Carrollton, GA 30117**



Text 1stcc to 73256

Why Your Devotional Time Matters— *and How to Make It Happen*



Life pulls us in every direction. But there's one daily habit that centers us, anchors us, and brings us into God's presence: devotional time. When we spend time with God each day—through Scripture, prayer, and reflection—we're reminded of what's true, who we are, and that we're never alone. Jesus Himself withdrew often to be with the Father. If He needed it, how much more do we?

So how do you start? Keep it simple:

- **Pick a time** (mornings work well) and **place** (quiet helps).
- **Read Scripture**—even a short passage.
- **Reflect:** What is God saying to me?
- **Pray:** Talk with God. Listen.
- **Write:** A sentence or two about what stood out.

Start small. Even 10 minutes a day can change your heart over time. Your soul needs this daily bread. God is waiting—not to scold, but to speak.

Let's meet Him there.

Life Groups: Living in Faith Every Day

Spiritual growth happens in community; it doesn't happen in isolation. That's why we are so passionate about our small group ministry at 1st Christian. We call them LIFE groups, which stands for *Living in Faith Every Day*, and that's exactly what these groups are all about: *helping you build a faith that's real, personal, and woven into your daily life.*

In a world that often pulls us in a hundred different directions, LIFE Groups offer something deeply grounding. They are places where friendships grow, prayers are shared, questions are welcomed, and faith is lived out together. Whether you're new to church or you've been walking with Christ for decades, there's a place for you in a LIFE Group.

The early church didn't just gather in large crowds—they met in homes, broke bread together, supported one another, and shared life. We follow that model because we've seen what happens when believers walk together: faith deepens, burdens are shared, joy multiplies, and lives are changed.

LIFE Groups are more than Bible studies—they are lifelines. They are where you'll find encouragement when you're struggling, celebration when God answers, and wisdom when you're seeking direction. You'll grow closer to God—and to others—week by week, step by step.

If you're longing for authentic community, deeper spiritual growth, and real-life transformation, LIFE Groups are where you belong. Don't settle for just attending church. Step into a circle where faith comes alive. Contact Paul@1stChristianChurch.com or call the office at 770-832-3974.

On Sunday, July 20th our Family Life Center transformed into a vibrant tapestry of joy and warmth, where laughter bubbled up, lively conversations danced through the air, and the mouthwatering aroma of delicious homemade dishes beckoned everyone closer. What a delightful potluck it was! A heartfelt thank you to the tireless Carrie Veal and all the wonderful volunteers who poured their hearts into making this gathering a memorable celebration of fellowship after worship.





*Jake McPike
Youth Minister*



*Brittany Vibhakar & Beth Morgan
Children's Directors*

Pipeline Student Ministry would like to thank Tony and Lily Ward for hosting us for our poolside chat on July 2nd! It was a great night, and a good number of our youth were in attendance. Students swam, ate pizza, and had a devotional time.



Sunday Mornings

It's hard to believe a new school year is already here! August 3rd all students will officially promote up to the next grade (and move Sunday school classes, if that applies). We are very excited to begin our journey going through Bible chronologically, from creation to heaven, with our K-5th graders on Sunday mornings!

We are continuing to learn the books of the Bible and we have so many kids that already know the majority of the Old Testament books. We are so proud of them! This month we add on six more books to the list: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Matthew, Mark, Luke. Please continue to work on these at home with your kids.

Wednesday Nights

Join us on August 13th at 6pm for our Wednesday night kickoff!! We will have dinner, churchwide bingo and dodgeball. It will be a fun time to get together as a church family! Starting August 20th, we will begin classes and also work on this year's Christmas musical, "The Christmas Carol Special Report!" Classes will take place from 6pm – 7:30pm, with check-in beginning at 5:50pm. Please do not allow your child(ren) to go into the children's area unattended prior to check-in. Family style dinners will take place in the Family Life Center starting at 5:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Begins August 20th at 6pm

GOD OF COVENANT
 A STUDY OF GENESIS 12-50
 JEN WILKIN

Led by Lindy Gregory

Beginning with Genesis 12, walk alongside the fathers of our faith—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—to discern Jesus in the stories of His people. Over 10 sessions, discover how God orchestrates everything for His glory and the good of His people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Contact Paul@1stChristianChurch.com or Lindy to sign up and purchase your class book for \$20.00.

Prayer Requests

- Teachers
- Teacher aids
- Students
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Coaches
- Custodians
- Bus drivers
- Resource officers
- Librarians
- Superintendent
- School board
- School nurses
- Cafeteria workers
- Parents
- Grandparents

Baptisms & New Members



Mallory Howard



Brian Garrett

Mallory Howard was baptized by Rhonda Howard Sunday July 13th after the 11 AM service. She is the daughter of Matt and Julie Howard, granddaughter of Allen and Rhonda Howard.

Brian Garrett was baptized by Randy Barnhart on July 27th. He is a friend of Lisa Edison.

New members:

- Lynn and Garbo Thompson joined 7-20
- Paul and LaVue Vandecar joined 7-20
- David and Dawn Jolly joined 7-20
- Lisa Edison joined 7-28

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/4- Night of Prayer Dinner at 5:30, Prayer time 6 - 7 PM
- 8/6 - Care Team Meeting 6 PM in the FLC
- 8/10- Celebrate Recovery 4 PM
- 8/11- Pickleball 6-8 PM, Omega 6 PM
- 8/12 - Food Pantry 9-10 AM, Senior Fellowship 11 AM @ Suttons
- 8/13 - Alpha 10 AM, Wonderful Wednesday Kickoff 6 PM
- 8/18- Pickleball 6–8 PM
- 8/20 - Wonderful Wednesday 6 PM
- 8/25- Pickleball 6–8 PM
- 8/27 - Wonderful Wednesday 6 PM

- 9/28 - Potluck (Fellowship Meal) after the 11 AM service

July Numbers	<u>Weekly Offering</u>			
	<u>7/6</u>	<u>7/13</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>7/27</u>
Attendance	261	312	279	274
Offering	\$27,925.71	\$22,875.58	\$6,826.45	\$7,032.07
YTD Received	\$500,308.53	\$523,184.11	\$530,010.56	\$537,042.63
YTD Needed	\$464,711.58	\$481,923.12	\$499,134.66	\$516,346.20