

March 2017



Dreaming Big, Praying Bigger - GET READY—We have amazing events planned for everyone in the church to enjoy during Spring and Summer 2017. It is so easy to do the same old thing and lose momentum and life. Being a Christian is the most exciting thing we can do in this life. Every day is a gift from God! Let's Get Excited and Share the Good News of God's love and forgiveness for everyone!

FIRST: "Thank you" everyone who came out during the terrible weather on Wednesday night to enjoy dinner and start Lenten worship! Gail O. and her team fixed a delicious dinner and then everyone received ashes on his/her forehead. Why ashes? During this 6-week period, called Lent, we prepare for Easter by remembering that we were made from dust and need God, through his Holy Spirit, to empower us! It is also a time to open ourselves for the Holy Spirit to get his dust-pan and broom and clean out of us anything that prevents God from using us more powerfully. We are all encouraged by these familiar words from God's word: Philippians 4.13: *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me!"* Zechariah 4.6: *'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'* Here is a new verse that you can add to encourage you: 1 Samuel 2.9: *"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might does one prevail."* Remember: with God's help we can do amazing things in his will!

The Incredibles, our vivacious group of seniors and friends, will join for breakfast at Chick-Fil-A on Tuesday, March 14 at 9 AM. Please bring candy and put it in the youth room so they can stuff the eggs for our Community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 15 at 10 am.

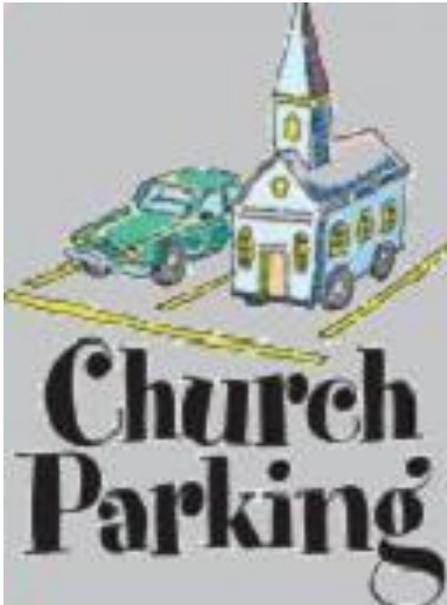
This past week's bulletin included information about a trip everyone is invited to enjoy to the **Biblical History Center** in LaGrange, GA. This trip will impact your understanding of the Bible in ways you cannot imagine. **Three fully paid scholarships** have been donated to make sure everyone can come. The scholarships are available, first come, first serve. Please see Jenny Mitchell to reserve your scholarship! If traveling in the van will be difficult for you, we will provide a car. Do not worry about the food—it is delicious. But, let us know about any dietary concerns you might have. Please see the bulletin for more information.

Of course during the Season of Lent we will enjoy special music and themes of worship to prepare us for our wonderful Easter Celebration which includes a Maundy Thursday Worship, April 13, at 7 PM, an Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages, Saturday, April 15, at 10 AM, and on Easter Sunday, April 16, we will begin with an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 AM, breakfast, and both worship services: 8:45 and 11:00 AM.

Get ready for something new this summer: LITTLE RIVER ADVENTURE CAMP. Children aged 6 and above (including adult-children) are invited to participate in something brand new for our church and community: **LITTLE RIVER ADVENTURE CAMP.** This camp will be kicked off at Vacation Bible School and begin after VBS. **LITTLE RIVER ADVENTURE CAMP** will meet from 8:30 – 3:30, one day a week, starting the week of June 18th, going through the week of July, 23rd, including lunch. We will explore, play, and discover secrets about Cherokee and surrounding counties! Get Ready for a Terrific Time of Exploration at **LITTLE RIVER ADVENTURE CAMP.** Sign ups begin soon!

FINALLY: Isn't it exciting to be a Child of God, living out our hope, joy, and peace in our family at Little River UMC? Soon flyers will be available for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors to invite them to become a part of the exciting, fulfilling Christian life at Little River.

Love, Pastor Gale



PARKING LOT

As all of you know, the parking lot has been in need of repair for a long time. The Trustees have been working on this problem, talking to contractors, getting bids, etc. On Monday, March 27, Bartow Paving will start work on redoing the parking lot. Two handicapped spaces will be added, and all the spaces will become ADA compliant. **We are cancelling all activities at the church from Monday, March 27, thru Friday, April 7. The facilities will not be accessible during this time frame.** Pastor Gale is looking for an alternate site to have a worship service on Sunday, April 2. We have been working on this project for a long time and are looking forward to seeing it completed.

- Gail O. & Roger Long, Co-Chairs, Trustees

Easter is almost here!

We have over 4000 eggs to stuff at Little River! Thank you to our Incredibles group for volunteering to stuff eggs! If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy, please place your donations in the Youth room collection bin.

At the Egg Hunt, the congregation pulls together to set-up and supply cupcakes/punch for refreshment tables. Please sign-up with Jessica Goddard if you would like to bring in cupcakes the day before on Friday, April 14th or early the morning of the hunt. 404-217-3158

JessicaGoddard1313@gmail.com

Volunteers will be needed for "hiding" eggs (placing them on the lawns/playground) & a Parking Lot monitoring/welcoming team. We may have a larger turnout than usual, based on Trunk or Treat this past fall.

Invite your friends and family! This has always been a great community event. Ages will be divided into 3 groups. 3 & under, 4-7, & 8-12



Community Easter Egg Hunt

**Little River UMC
Saturday, April 15th
10:00 AM**

Church Yard Sale



COMING SOON!!

BBQ Dinner / Yard Sale Fundraiser

April 29, 2017

It is time to start thinking about and preparing for our annual fundraiser. This is a Churchwide fundraiser, so this means each of you are involved. It takes all of us working together for it to be a success, so I need each of you to do something and to do your part to make it a success. The money we made last year went to cover the expenses of painting the sanctuary, narthex, the front porch area, and the parsonage.

It is spring time so as you start cleaning out your closets and basements, remember the giant yard sale coming up, and start putting back stuff for it. We will have the BBQ

dinner plates for sale, which will include a large BBQ sandwich, two sides (slaw, potato salad, corn-on-cob, or baked beans), chips, pickle, homemade dessert & drink. Plates are \$6 for adults, \$3 for child's plate (smaller portions). Eat-in – take-out – deliver.

These are some of the things Little River needs of you:

1. Bring stuff for the yard sale. We take clean clothes, toys, books, household items, kitchen utensils, furniture, appliances in working condition, etc. If you have items too big or heavy for you to bring, contact Gail O., and we will set up a time convenient with you to pick them up.
2. Donate items for the dinner. We will have a signup list available in April. Think about what you can bring: Money for supplies, baked beans, potato salad, corn-on-cob, potato chips, homemade desserts, tea, and soft drinks.
3. Sell tickets to your friends, neighbors, and businesses you frequent, and buy for your own family. We will deliver. Tell everyone you know and encourage them to come.
4. Volunteer to work.
5. Do all you can to make this fundraiser a success, so start thinking about what you can do today.

REMEMBER IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS!!

Gail O GailOls@bellsouth.net

770-926-9868(h) 678-641-5486 (c)



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Thanks to Nancy Northam (See Genesis 6-8)

10-29-1998



Adults \$6 / Kids 4+ \$3 / Max \$18 per family.

Christ's Kids & Youth Group eat FREE.

A reasonable priced meal and fun fellowship September – May.

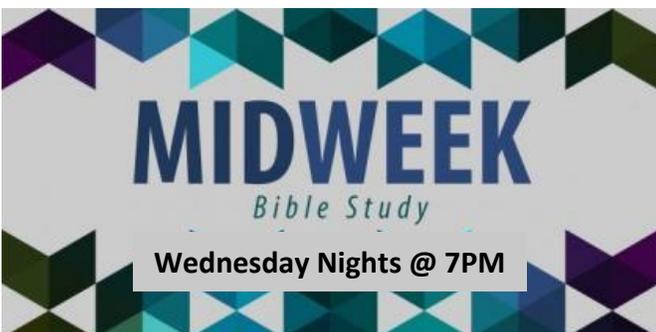
- March 15** Vegetable night: baked potatoes w/ all the trimmings, garden salad, peas, green beans, macaroni & cheese, cornbread, rolls, drink & dessert. Kids: Same
- March 22** Pork chops, vegetable medley, cheesy scalloped potatoes, cucumber salad, bread, drink & dessert. Kids: TBD
- March 29** NO MEAL – PARKING LOT PROJECT IS GOING ON – NO ACTIVITIES THIS NIGHT
- April 5** NO MEAL – SCHOOL IS OUT.
- April 12** Grilled hamburger steak, baked potato, baked beans, garden salad, Texas toast, drink & dessert. Kids: Same.
- April 19** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NIGHT - Country fried steak, yelloweyed beans, creamed potatoes, cucumber salad, gravy, biscuits, drink & dessert. Kids: TBD
- April 26** Chicken & wild rice casserole, vegetable medley, garden salad, Texas toast, drink & dessert. Kids: TBD

Wednesday Night Meals upcoming fundraisers.

All proceeds donated and cost absorbed.

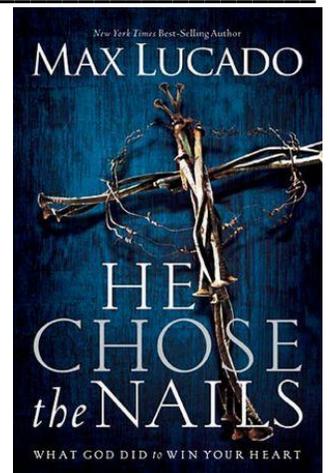
March 8: Camp Glisson Summer Camp – Youth (Thank you! Over \$900 raised)

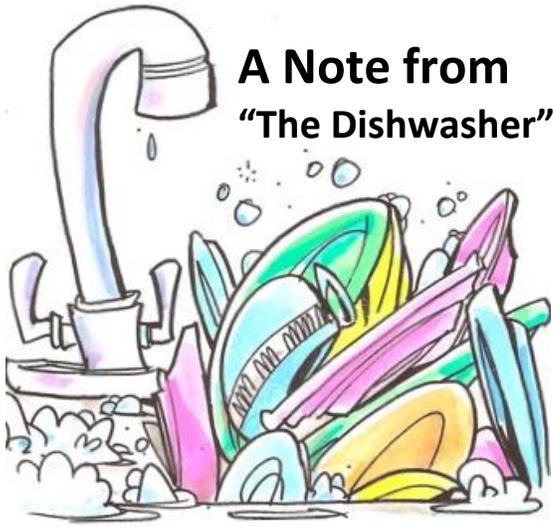
April 19: Vacation Bible School Nightly Meals



adults are invited to be part of this study. Childcare will be provided for children too young to enjoy Christ's Kids. See Levada Eller or David Pope for more information.

Our Lenten Study by Max Lucado, *He Chose The Nails*, started on March 8 and will continue for six weeks. This study begins with a video in the sanctuary, which both men and women will watch, then we will divide into our Men's and Women's groups to discuss. All





A Note from "The Dishwasher"

Happening Ahead: Soon we will have a wonderful, new, God given parking lot with all the "bells & whistles". If you would prefer a certain spot, just maybe a donation could help your chances. Please talk with the dishwasher office staff of one. Donations will help fund the Dishwasher's retirement fund.

Theresa Bailey, a friend, and a proud member of the "Kitchen Crew", has been recognized, along with Clark Elementary School, with the 2017 Program Excellence Award. Theresa and two of her colleagues will travel to Dallas Texas, March 16-18 to receive further recognition at the Conference's Program Excellence ceremony. We are so proud of you!

Preacher's Parrot:

One day, brother Steve was walking by the preacher's office and saw the preacher's parrot sitting on his perch. The parrot looked at brother Steve and said, "Wow brother Steve, you are old and ugly." Shocked, brother Steve shrugged and walked away. The next day brother Steve found himself once again walking past the preacher's office. Curiously, he peered inside the office at the parrot. The parrot looked up, saw brother Steve, and said, "You're twice as old and ugly as you were yesterday." Horrified, brother Steve immediately tracked down the preacher and explained the situation. She apologized and promised it would never happen again! The following day brother Steve peers into the preacher's office at the parrot. The parrot looks up and says, "YOU KNOW!"

Remember, free dishwashing lessons on Wednesday evenings.

God Bless America
Amen

Christ Kids & Youth

Mrs. Leyla Jones works with the children 5th grade and under, along with a volunteer, down in the Long Room for crafts, games, and a lesson after they eat dinner. They



have begun studying "24 Hours That Changed the World" for the season of

Lent. We would like for every child in the church in this age group to attend each week.

Ms. Jessica Goddard & Mrs. Paula Goddard entertain and teach the Youth upstairs in the Youth room after they eat in the Fellowship Hall. They are currently using "Good God Theatre" to learn more about the Old & New Testaments. These lessons are composed of a scripture reading, dramatic 1-2 man play on the big screen, and group discussion/prayer requests/weekly challenge to conclude.



A huge thank you to those who attended and donated to the Youth fund to provide scholarships for these children to attend Summer Camp at Camp Glisson!! \$900 will go so far! The Youth Spiritual Life Retreat is March 17th-19th to the Methodist church camp, Camp Glisson, in Dahlonega, GA. Oscar King and Jessica Goddard are so excited to be taking 9 Youth! Details from our trip along with pictures will be featured in the April newsletter.

INCREDIBLES NEWS



The INCREDIBLES had a great February. We started off with our breakfast on Valentine's Day at Chick-fil-a Dwarf House. Seventeen people enjoyed a good time of food and fellowship. On Tuesday, February 21st, we had our **LOVE FROM ABOVE**

**SURROUND
YOURSELF
BY
incredible
PEOPLE**

luncheon. The meal was provided by two families who gave money in memory of Clara R. Ragsdale, Jenny Mitchell's Mom. Clara was an avid fan of our group. She always enjoyed hearing all about our outings. She was a kind and generous lady. This gift is greatly appreciated by all of our group. We had twenty-four attendees. The meal was delicious. Prizes were awarded to four men and four

ladies. We had very little time for any games; however, some did manage to get in one game. This was a lovely time of great memories, food and fellowship. Please watch the bulletin/newsletter for coming events. Come join us for lots of fun, fellowship and food.



Any questions, please call Jenny ([770\) 926.3172](tel:7709263172) or Sandra ([770\) 925.3595](tel:7709253595).

You may email Sandra @ Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com.
God Bless.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

Monday Morning Prayer Group continues to meet every Monday @ 10:30am. We mailed



71 cards during February. It is very exciting when we receive notes back from the original recipients. We need you to keep us informed of folks who need or would like a card. We have received many blessings since we started meeting. Please join us any time you can. We are very grateful to the church family for all your love and support. If you can't come on Monday's, please pray with us around 10:30am.

You can fill out a pew card or call Pastor Gale @ [706.910.8074](tel:7069108074) or galeseibert@gmail.com
Sandra @ [770.926.3585](tel:7709263585) or Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com God Bless.



**United
Methodist
Women**

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The second UMW meeting for 2017 will be on Tuesday, February 11th at the home of Gail O.

Bonita Cox will be starting a day circle hopefully on the same Tuesday the night circle meets. Please contact Bonita or Paula if you would like to join UMW.

All women in the church are invited to attend. We will be planning our Mother/Daughter/Special Friend Banquet which will be held the Friday evening before Mother's Day.

May God Richly Bless You! Please join us.

Paula Goddard - UMW President 2017

678-234-6909 Goddard.Paula@yahoo.com

Celebrations within the church:

Upcoming Wedding Anniversaries:

Pauline & Maurice Smith	3-1-1954	(63 years)
Julie & Peter Blake	3-17-1984	(33 years)
Frank & Carol Ford	3-22-1958	(59 years)
Ricky Blount & Shawna Blount-Barfield	4-4-2009	(7 years)
Fred & Ridgley Bayley	4-6-1953	(63 years)
Mike & Roxie Joyce	4-24-1976	(40 years)
Earl & Kendra Cosner	4-30-1994	(22 years)

Upcoming Wedding:

Joey Porter & Jessica Goddard
4-8-17

Upcoming Birthdays:

	March		April
Kaedyn Vanderberg	1	Leyla Jones	1
Rayleigh Walden	2	Frank Ford	5
Adam Schwartzberg	9	Doreen Pumphrey	8
Laura Hamby	17	Wayne Davis	9
Joe Pendley	20	Julie Long	10
Elizabeth Armstrong	20	Edward Leftwitch	10
Joyce Purvis	23	Brittany Oakes	11
Marci Watkins	30	Ashlynn Pope	15
Jorge Alvarez	31	David Bailey	24
Makoto Koyashiki	31	Bill Willis	25
		Janet Castleberry	29
		Aniston Watkins	30
		Ruth Ann Morrison	30

Thank you for Reading the March Edition "River News"!

If you did not get your group/individual segment into the newsletter this month, no worries. Simply send your next update to LittleRiverNewsletter@gmail.com and you will be included in the next issue.

Copies will be available at church & mailed to shut-ins.

If you would like a color copy, please send JessicaGoddard1313@gmail.com your email address.