



2017—a New Year, filled with new opportunities for us all—I hope you feel the freshness, joy, and excitement this new year offers!! Rather than doing the same old things, consider keeping the best things that move us forward and seeking God for how he might like us to alter, and altar, our lives for him.

Have you ever thought about reading the Bible through in one year, but decided it would be too difficult? It is quite a challenge to finish! When you do it (and God will give you the grace to do it), you will have a better understanding about what our God is saying to all of us about life, especially life with him!

Remember, he is the one, true, living God: and believe it or not, God wants you and me to take him seriously and include him in all that we do. All that we do? Some may ask, “Does God like to go shopping?” Yes, it’s his money, after all, that we are spending!! Have you ever asked God about what he thinks would be the best purchase? His response might give you a feeling of drawing back: this means don’t make this purchase! Sometimes you will feel a peace that communicates that it’s O.K with God for you to purchase the item. Sometimes you won’t feel anything, and that means whatever you decide is fine with God! What’s important to remember when we are shopping is that everything we have is God’s and God wants to be consulted when we spend his money. Try shopping with God. You will discover that he is a lot more generous than we are!

You see, the bottom line is this: God wants to be first in our lives. Consider making a thought about God the first thought when you wake up in the morning. This first thought could be a “thank you” to God for a new day! Thoughts during the day could include questions such as asking God, “How can I love you and my neighbor today?” At the end of the day, how about closing out your thoughts with thanks to God for taking care of you today. Did you know there are amazing promises when we include God in our lives, especially our thoughts?

When we live like this, we feel perfect peace and delight ourselves in the Lord. Do you know where in the Bible to find these promises about perfect peace and delighting ourselves in the Lord? Those who delight themselves in the Lord are promised the desires of their hearts in Psalm 37: 4! Not only does God promise to give people who delight themselves in him the desires of their hearts, but God also promises to keep us in perfect peace when we focus our minds on him (Isaiah 26: 3)!

What a wonderful God we serve. Please pause and ask him what he wants you and Little River to do this year, and then let Chuck Sharp, our new Lay Leader, or me know. We will join you and with God’s help, assist you to fulfill all the dreams God is putting in your heart to accomplish this year! 2017—a new start, a new year, filled with possibilities—and all we have to do is talk to God, listen to his answer and then do it!! What an exciting life!

Love, Pastor Gale



## Pastor Gale’s Moment



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.

### **2017 Kitchen Crew**

Gail Olschewske

Debbie Hamby

Rosalee Little

Teresa Bailey

Tom Walbeck

Sandra Wehunt - Cashier

Pat Andre – Baker

Sam McCleskey – When needed

Bill Goddard – Country Fried Steak

### **January Menu:**

Jan 11: All you can eat spaghetti, garden salad, Texas toast, drink & dessert.

Jan 18: Parmesan chicken, rice, green peas, salad, bread, drink & dessert.

Jan 25: Meat loaf, mixed beans, creamed potatoes, cucumber salad, bread, drink & dessert.

### **Wednesday Night Meals has 2 fundraisers a year.**

All proceeds donated and cost absorbed.

**March 8: Camp Glisson Summer Camp – Youth**

**April 19: Vacation Bible School Nightly Meals**

**Scout Night – This is the last meal of the year prepared and served by the scouts and their parents. All monies collected help to fund the scout program.**

### **100% of the profit is poured back into LRUMC.**

Wednesday Night Meals fund a number of important church projects/necessities such as carpet, tables, chairs, a Christmas tree, paint, furniture, appliances, a new smoker this past year, as well as paper goods (plates, cups, napkins, silverware, foil, baggies, etc.), toilet paper, paper towels, soap, tea, coffee, sweeteners, cream, etc.

**As you can see, by coming each week and supporting us, you not only enjoy a good meal and fellowship but you also support important church projects. – Gail O.**



**Thank you Kitchen Crew!**

**- LRUMC**



## INCREDIBLES NEWS.

The Incredibles had a great 2016. We enjoyed lots of good times together. Some highlights included Annual Fish Fry and a trip to the Governor's Mansion where we were greeted by first lady, Sandra Deal. Thank you, Pastor Gale, for the new Incredible pins. This was our first official outing to wear them. During the year, we had lots of delicious meals and lots of fun and fellowship. We plan to begin 2017 with our regular monthly breakfast at Chick-fil-a Dwarf House on Jan. 10th and on Jan. 17th we will have a salad luncheon in the church fellowship hall. A representative from Elder Care will be with us to speak about Estate Planning. We are looking forward to a busy year. Other plans will be announced as necessary.

Please make your plans to join us for a great year. Any questions or suggestions, please contact

Jenny [770.926.3172](tel:770.926.3172) or Sandra [770.926.3595](tel:770.926.3595).

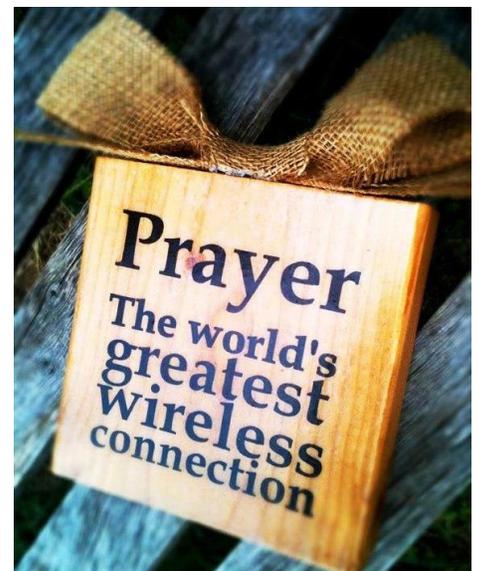
You can email Sandra [Sandrwehunt1@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandrwehunt1@yahoo.com)

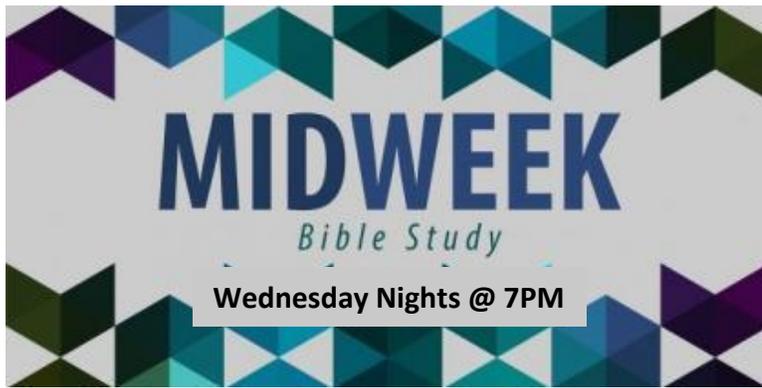
## MONDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group continues to meet every Monday with an average of 10 people attending. We mailed out over 500 cards during 2016. Our plans for 2017 are to continue to reach as many people with cards and prayers, as possible.

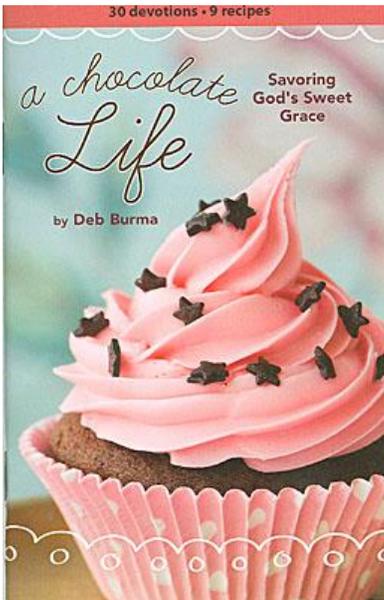
Please come join us any Monday you can. If you cannot come, please pray where you are around 10:30am. If you have concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know. You can fill out a pew card or call Pastor Gale @ [706.910.8074](tel:706.910.8074) or Sandra @ [770.926.3585](tel:770.926.3585). Emails: [galeseibert@gmail.com](mailto:galeseibert@gmail.com) or [Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com).

God Bless.





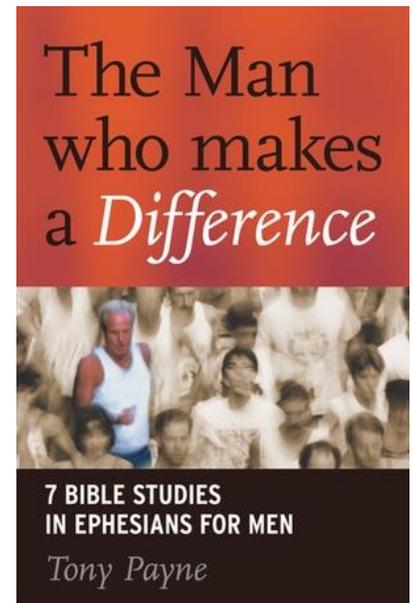
Both Ladies and Men's Bible Studies are ready to jump into their new studies for 2017. They've had approximately 15 individuals on average. They meet Wednesday Nights @ 7pm and have filled the Fellowship and Friendship Classrooms in the Education Building. Both groups are excited for the new curriculum.



Ladies will study "Living a Chocolate Life, Savoring God's Sweet Grace", led by Levada Eller and Bonita Cox.

Men will study "The Man who Makes a Difference, 7 Studies in Ephesians for Men" led by David Pope.

It's never too late to join us! See Bob or Levada Eller for a book this coming Wednesday or Sunday if you would like to join!



## Christ Kids & Youth

We had a great crowd of children on Wednesday nights during 2016 and we expect that to continue in 2017! Our children's group and youth group steadily gained higher attendance as the 2016 year came to a close, and we would love for the groups to continue to grow.

Youth and Children pictured to the right from our visit with Santa.

Mrs. Leyla Jones will continue to work with the children, along with a volunteer, down in the Long Room for crafts, games, and a lesson after they eat dinner.

Mrs. Paula & Ms. Jessica Goddard will continue to work with the Youth upstairs in the Youth room after they eat in the Fellowship Hall.





## Report from Youth New Year's Bowling Trip:

The Youth group loved their outing to Stars & Strikes between Christmas and New Years. Ms. Jessica & Ms. Ally Goddard chaperoned the 9 Youth while they bowled and played in the giant arcade. It was great to see everyone over Christmas break!



Ms. Jessica is currently working to get a Spiritual Life Retreat together for March 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> to the Methodist church camp, Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, GA. There is no cost for the Youth.

## UMW 2017 Invitation!

The new year is here, and our UMW at Little River is ready to get rolling! Some of you may be wondering what UMW stands for...this team is more than just an acronym.

[United Methodist Women](#) (UMW) is a faith-based membership organization of laywomen within the United

Methodist Church. UMW members are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ in community with other women and advocating on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. United Methodist Women has been in mission for more than 140 years.

So, there you have it! Little River's UMW has an important ministry in the life of our church.

Each year, we support various social action projects, as well as, local and global missions, such as:

MUST Ministries: Summer Lunch Program, Christmas Toy Campaign

Childhood Brain Cancer Research - Donation in honor of "Caroline's Crusaders"

The Covenant House

The Murphy-Harpst Foundation

The Hope Center

Prague Library Mission - Missionary Meredith Wynne (Good friend of Jessica Goddard)



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



UMW also hosts our annual Mother, Daughter, and Special Friend Banquet, and we also enjoy a fall retreat that is second to none. These women show Christian love in so many ways, and if you are not already a member, we welcome you with open arms! I promise you will enjoy the fellowship, and it's a great way to serve.



Women's Christmas Luncheon

The first UMW meeting for 2017 is on Tuesday, February 7th at the home of Gail Olschewske at 7PM.

Address: 505 Wagon Trail Woodstock, GA 30188  
Gail lives very close to the church. We would love for you to join us and learn about all the great things we have planned for 2017.

May God Richly Bless You!

Paula Goddard

UMW President 2017

[678-234-6909](tel:678-234-6909)

[Goddard.paula@yahoo.com](mailto:Goddard.paula@yahoo.com)



Mothers, Daughters, & Friends Banquet

Women's Fall Retreat



**Celebrations within the church:**

**Upcoming Wedding Anniversaries:**

<b>Eric &amp; Natalie Hartley</b>	<b>1-18-2007 (10 Years)</b>
<b>Rev. Dr. Gale &amp; Rich Seibert</b>	<b>2-7-1970 (47 Years)</b>
<b>Frank &amp; Ruby Lowry</b>	<b>2-14-1981 (36 Years)</b>
<b>Tom &amp; Debra Hord</b>	<b>2-19-2005 (12 Years)</b>

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

	<b>January</b>		<b>February</b>
<b>Jason Goecks</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Ann Smith</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Evan Schwartzberg</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Anna Long</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Julie Blake</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Betty Klau</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bobbie Hartsfield</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Timothy Sharp</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pauline Smith</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Lorraine Goecks</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Jenny Mitchell</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Mary Brown</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Nick DeCicco</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Betty Groves</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Katherine Walden</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Odie Mae Long</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Robert Connor</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Debra Hord</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Clayton Bailey</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Jonathon Chattin</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Kaylynn Barfield</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Thomas Thorpe</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Jean Jones</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Catherine Long</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Eric Hartley</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Kathy Walbeck</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Ruth Petherick</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Dawn Thorpe</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Beth Watkins</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Frances Guffey</b>	<b>19</b>
		<b>Brandon Hanson</b>	<b>20</b>
		<b>Ruth Lyons</b>	<b>20</b>
		<b>Jade Vanderberg</b>	<b>21</b>
		<b>Lois Allen</b>	<b>21</b>
		<b>Karen Hicks</b>	<b>24</b>
		<b>Britt Burch</b>	<b>25</b>
		<b>Brittany Neese</b>	<b>26</b>
		<b>Ricky Blount</b>	<b>28</b>



**Happy Birthday Jesus!  
What a fun Christmas Sunday!**

**If you would like Little River to celebrate an anniversary or birthday not listed above, please email Jessica Goddard, and she will update her listings, [JessicaGoddard1313@gmail.com](mailto:JessicaGoddard1313@gmail.com)**

Thank you for Reading the January Edition of the Little River Newsletter "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](mailto: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](mailto:JessicaGoddard1313@gmail.com) your email address.