

**River
News
2019**

Happy Thanksgiving



This year as a Church, we at Little River have so much to be thankful for. The Lord continues to bless us around each corner we turn. This community of believers is full of fire to serve those in need in the name of the Lord. From our new bakery ministry, to the thriving caregiver's ministry, to the continually growing women's & men's ministries, to the committed prayer warriors, to the ever-learning children & teen ministries, Little River is spreading her wings. What a great feeling it is when you are serving Him alongside fellow believers who know our God is faithful to the end. No matter what comes our way, we will not fear, "For our God is greater, our God is stronger, God you are higher than any other. Our God is Healer, awesome in power, Our God, Our God!" – Chris Tomlin.

Thanksgiving is a time where we as Christians have another time to reflect in thanks to our Lord. He is working in us and alongside us all through the days of our lives. Isn't it great to know that He has never forsaken or forgotten us? How are we showing our thankfulness to Him in return? Are we thanking Him daily, weekly, monthly, or simply this one time of the year? Maybe we consider thanking our Lord by reinvesting in his Church. Maybe we thank Him by intentionally being His hands and His feet to someone in our community in need. Will we continue to look past those we see on the corners, holding the signs, shivering in the cold, knocking on our door? What if those we turn away were truly the Lord in disguise? As some lose faith in humanity and in many cases this

country, we must remember to listen to the words of the Lord and continue to serve in the name of our Heavenly Father no matter what lies ahead. He calls us to serve the lost and the broken, no matter if they are Christ followers or not, just as our Lord did. Let us continue to serve as a church as we continue through this wonderful holiday season. Thanks to the Lord for sending his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him, may not perish, but have everlasting life. THANKS BE TO OUR GOD! Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year Little River!

Matthew: 25: 31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and

give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger

and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

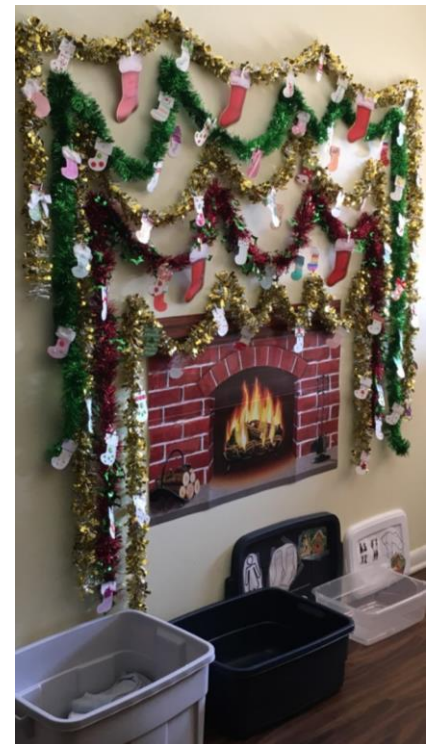
⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”



Sock Drive – Nov. 24th – Dec. 18th

sock drive runs from November 24th thru December 18th. Everything will be delivered to shelters, schools and those caring for our homeless population before Christmas.

For Winter 2020, we're bringing back a favorite – **Souper Sundays!** Dates are January 12, February 9, and March 8,



immediately following the 10:55 worship service. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this time of delicious fellowship! A basket will be available for donations supporting UMW/UMM programs. Condiments, chips, desserts

and drinks will be provided. We will need 8-10 soup makers each month. Please watch for the sign-up sheets on the tables outside our Sanctuary the end of December. Questions? Call Bonita Cox at 615-293-1670.



WOMEN'S RETREAT SUCCESS!

The Women of Little River UMW night circle, day circle, family, and friends had a wonderful women's retreat this past October. The 12 that attended had a great time following our very full itinerary that our famous Gail O. prepared for yet another year. What would we do without her?!

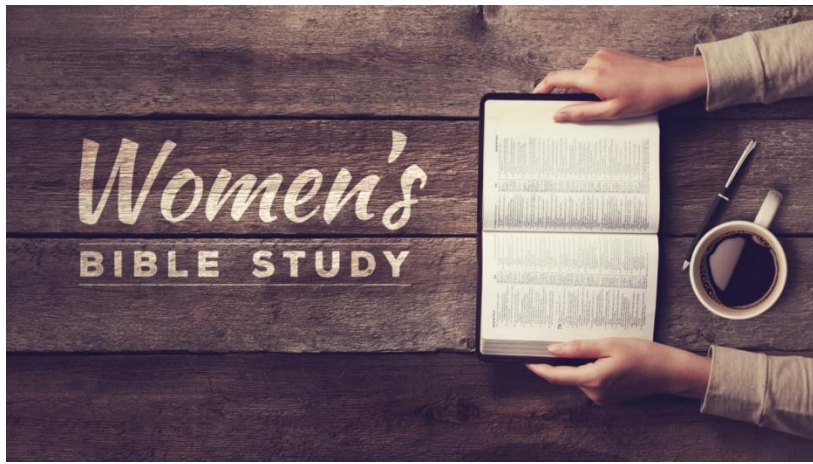
We began our trip at the home of Gail O. and loaded up the fabulous church bus. We packed everyone and their luggage in and drove to the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta. This is a beautiful facility that was opened by his wife Coretta shortly after the assassination of her husband. The self-guided tour was extremely interesting, and many stated they could go and spend a day there reading and watching the many displays and videos that were available for learning. We were also able to walk through Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin's own mother was shot while playing the organ during a church service. There was so much history to dive into. We then continued on our way after a picnic lunch onto Augusta. That evening, we ate dinner at Big Daddy's and drove over to the Imperial Theater to see the Queen's Cartoonists, a band from New York that accompanies soundtracks to hilarious/famous historical cartoons. We all had a great time at this evening event!

The next morning, we awoke to another rainy Saturday, as we drove into Aiken, SC for a 2-hour cultural tour. We rode in a beautiful enclosed trolley car and were taken all around the city. We drove past famous local schools, through famous horse training centers, and past the famous Augusta golf course. We stopped along the way to tour a horse racing museum, which was very interesting, and provided several laughs from Paula Goddard and Jessica Porter riding the kiddy horses. That afternoon we stopped at George Walton's historic home for a tour. He was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Georgia in 1779, and his home is one of the oldest landmarks in Georgia. That evening we had planned to have a Broadway Boat Cruise, but unfortunately, the boat ride was rained out. We highly enjoyed the musical performance located in the Augusta Canal Museum after our self-guided tour of their museum.

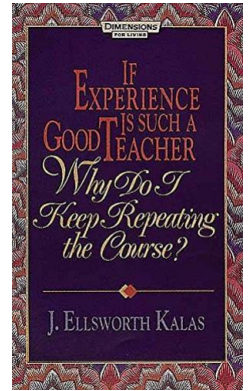
Sunday morning, we awoke to more rain, but it slacked off and cleared out as we arrived in North Augusta for the "Colonial Times – A Day to Remember" festival. We were able to attend an 18th century style Anglican worship service, then explore the grounds to view hornsmithing, pottery, a tomahawk throw, butter churning, weaving and spinning, quilting, candle making, scrimshaw, pewterer, musket firing demonstrations, calligraphy, gunsmithing, blacksmithing, woodworking, and meat smoking and curing. Some wished they could have stayed all day, but it was time to return home. Thanks to Mrs. Jessica Porter for driving our motely crew on this fabulous adventure.

If you are a woman, and you have never experienced a Fall Women's Retreat, this is something you definitely don't want to miss in 2020! We always have an excellent time playing games, making new friends, and having great fellowship along our journey. See Gail O. to confirm dates and plans on attending. She does her best to make this an affordable trip, but never wants cost to be the reason that you cannot attend. We will work with you to make sure you can come and grow with a great community of Christian women.





The **Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Study** is nearly over. We have learned an amazing amount about how our lives are filled with teachers if we allow ourselves to take advantage of the experience they offer. "If Experience is Such A Good Teacher, Why do I



Keep Repeating the Course?" has shown us how loneliness, friendship, pain, regret, love, sorrow, sin, success, defeating enemies, and even death can teach us lessons. God uses everything for His glory!! January will begin a new focus for our group of ladies. A book has not been chosen yet. If you are looking for a small group, please come and be blessed. Call Annette Davidson 770-924-8067 or Bonita Cox 615-293-1670.



GAME NIGHTS ARE BACK!! Let's kick off the new year with some game playing. We will meet in Fellowship Hall Jan. 1st from 3:00-6:00 PM. Bring a favorite game and snack to share. Drinks will be provided.

Call Becky Hughes at 678-761-6848 or Bonita Cox 615-293-1670.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The MMPG had a great year. We have sent over 600 cards to date. Without the support of the church family we probably could not continue. Generous gifts of cards, money and prayers are a blessing. As we wind down the year, our prayers continue for the church family and all those who need our support. If you

have some spare time, come join us on Monday @10.30am. It's a rewarding time together. Many blessings are shared during the hour. Any questions or requests can be addressed to Pastor Gale, Jenny, or Sandra. If you prefer, you may email Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com. Have a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. God bless.



Merry Christmas & A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR



What an exciting season we are entering. For many of us, Christmas is a delight, and for others who have lost loved ones, or suffered a tragedy at this time, it is difficult to gear up energy to enjoy all of the things going on. Both groups are in my prayers. You are all very dear to me, and I hope that in some way each of you will be uplifted during Christmas. You know of all of the big events, but may I encourage you to come out on Christmas Eve? It is such a special time, and I know many of you need to put finishing touches on dinners and gift-giving, but if you will take the hour or so to come to the church on Christmas Eve and worship, ending with candlelight, you won't be disappointed. This brief service will inspire you to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

Thinking about this year and all of the things we've done together, I thought you might like to have a brief snapshot of two new ministries. Our diminished attendance in worship does not reflect the life and ministry here at Little River. This year we have begun two new outreach ministries, which many of you do not participate in, but need to know about, and of course if you would like to participate, just let me know and we will plug you in. We have a bakery ministry. We pick up bakery products 3 times a week from a renowned local grocery and distribute them all around our community. How excited our precious firemen get when we give them cakes and breads to take home to their families. And we give bakery goods to apartment complexes, families living near the recycling center, and others. It's fun to give and see the faces of those whose lives have been touched. Join in the fun, if you can!



Also, a dynamic ministry to caregivers has been well-received by people all around Cobb and Cherokee counties. Isolated by the demands of caregiving, many people just need someone to listen and empathize with the difficulties they experience. They also need someone that understands and will laugh and cry with them. Life can be messy and difficult even in the midst of the joy of holidays, but when we keep our focus on the one who gives us life, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our troubles dim, and we are comforted. One more thing: after all of the

business subsidies, come to the church on New Year's Eve and enjoy drop in Holy Communion. A new year, filled with lots of activities to enjoy each other and serve our community looms just around the corner, and we want to begin this new year right. Right? Love, Pastor Gale.



Drawing for
3 Lucky
Winners

Prize: Free Meal the
following week!

Wednesday
Night
MEALS

6:15 PM

We would love to have you and any friends you would like to invite to join us on Wednesday Nights! In case you didn't know, you are welcome to order to-go boxes and take your meal with you! There has been great fellowship this Fall, and we hope to finish strong these last few weeks before Christmas break! The meal begins around 6:15 PM and our Bible Studies kick off in the education building at 7:00 PM.

Young children may sign-up to attend our Christ's Kids group from age 4 thru elementary school. This group signs-in on the playground at 6:15 and if there is bad weather, we will have check-in in the Long Room attached to the Fellowship Hall. Your middle and high schoolers can also sign-up to attend a Bible Study and discussion group with our Youth Minister, Jessica Porter at 7:00 PM. This new study is for students who are eager to learn and discuss seriously. They are currently reading through a chapter of Luke each week and having great discussion, as well as short games, and prayer. If you have small children, we have a nursery staffed by Pam King and Megan Adams from 6:00 to 8:00 PM going on Wednesday nights, and we sincerely want you and your family to become a part of it.

- Nov 27 NO MEAL – HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- Dec 4 Hot Dogs, Slaw, Trimmings, Chili, Chips, Dessert and Drink
- Dec 11 Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Green Peas, Tropical Fruit, Salad, Bread, Drink & Dessert.
- Dec 18 NO MEAL – See Christmas EVENTS info below on the 18th.

Wednesday, December 18th

Youth & Children's Christmas Pizza Party 6:00 – 7:00PM.
Adults & Families - Caroling sing along @ 7:00 PM - Sanctuary





The **INCREDIBLES** had a great fall. We have had great breakfasts and trips to Dekalb's Farmers Market, Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, . Attendance has been good. Lots of good memories have been made. Nothing like great fellowship among the church family.

The **INCREDIBLES** will go to the Tate House on Dec. 3rd for a tour. Cost will be \$20.00 to cover the bus ride and the tour. Lunch will be in addition to the other cost. We plan to have lunch at Biguns. We will leave the church at 10am. We will have our regular monthly

breakfast on Dec. 10th at the Chick-fil-a at 9am. Since this will be our last gathering of the year, please plan to attend. Mark your calendar for these dates. Watch the bulletin for additional information. Any questions, call

Jenny @ 770.926.3172,
Pat @ 678.938.5235 or
Sandra @ 770.926.3595.

You can also email

[Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandrwehunt1@yahoo.com).



Incredibles Outing
Tuesday,
December 3rd



\$20 + Lunch
Tate House Tour
Lunch @ Biguns



Methodist Melodies

The choir is a living entity and as such people come and others leave. We have lost 5 members recently bringing us to 17. So if you've ever wondered if you'd like what we do, give it a shot. Our spring session starts in early January.

Bob Hirsch 770-344-8763

P.S. We practice in the church and do the concerts at local nursing homes.



Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon

December 7th at Noon

Location: Gail O.'s House
505 Wagon Trail, Woodstock, GA 30188

Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Call Paula Goddard or Bonita Cox to RSVP and sign up for a dish: Appetizer, Veggie, Salad, or Dessert.

Trunk or Treat Success!

We had a wonderfully successful Trunk or Treat this past October! We had 800+ attendees and volunteers on campus the Sunday prior to Halloween. The dozens of volunteers, Scouts, and trunks were what made this event a grand success. Salvation tracts that were Halloween and Fall themed were passed out with treats to all of the children that attended the event. We pray each of these children grows to know Jesus Christ and gets plugged in within the local Christian community. Thank you again to everyone who was involved in this event of such great scale! There was a wonderful hotdog and chili dinner provided through donations from our community partners and church members. This event will help fund our Youth & Children's programs & events throughout 2020.





Pre-K – 5th Grade,
Wed. 6-8 PM

Director of Program
Children’s Minister

Jessica Porter

Teachers:

Paula Goddard

Sally Fedrigon

Leslie Coleman

Kids Fall Missions Project
School Supply Express

The Christ Kids this season have been digging deep into God’s word through the Gospel Project curriculum. This Fall we’ve been studying Genesis and loving every minute of it! There have been over 25 children come through this Fall! Children have been so excited to invite friends, and we have averaged over 15 every week! Each Wednesday night we begin with great fun on the playground then move inside for a fabulous dinner provided by the kitchen

crew. After dinner we begin our education hour by learning a new Bible story, praying together, discussing, singing fun Bible songs, playing a fun game, and taking up an offering for our current mission project.

We’ve just finished collecting over 200 canned pastas for the Never Alone Food Pantry! Thank you to everyone in the church who has also supported the kids’ project! They are so excited every week to see how our mission collections grow! Our current project is School Supply Express for Title 1 Elementary Schools in Cherokee County. You are welcome to drop off items for our current project downstairs in the education building.

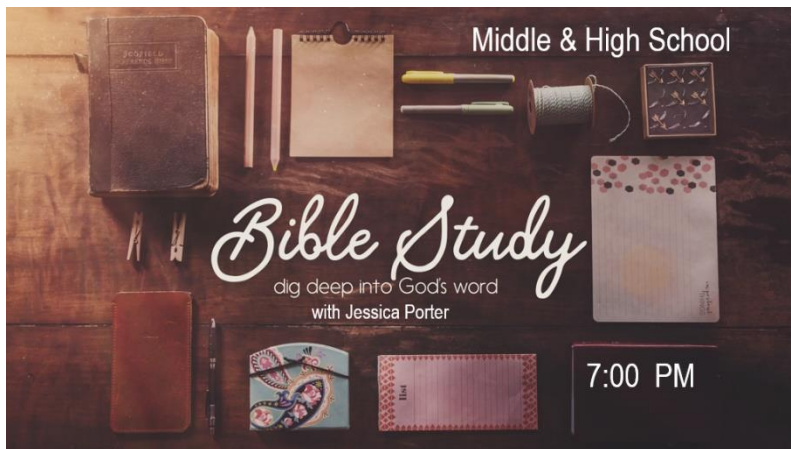


Back to School Supply Drive
Supporting Schools in Cherokee County

Donate Here

- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Magic Markers
- Notebook Paper, Composition Notebooks
- Pencils, Erasers, Pens
- Pencil Pouches
- Three-ring Binders
- Construction Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Rulers
- Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Wipes

Thank You!



The Youth on Wednesday nights have completed a Bible study on anxiety and are now studying the book of Luke. The youth study is open to kids 6th grade through 12th grade from 7 – 8 PM. I am so excited to have a group of kids that are excited to learn about the Bible and Jesus and have a great time doing it! We are also working on our skills of praying outloud for each of the other members in our group. We really are making strides in growing up our kids to love one another & follow Jesus.



News from the Trail

- November 2019 -

Why hello there, and welcome back to base camp! Pull up a log, and grab your mug. The hot chocolate is hanging over the campfire and the cobbler is almost ready. Our Scouts are still coming back, but they have already sent runners with the latest news. Hang on just a second while I get this lantern lit. It's getting dark early these days.

Is that better? Good.... Well, it's been a couple of months since we last had a chance to share where we have been, where we are going, and the accomplishments of the program. Our Scouts will be closer to home in the next few weeks as they take time to be with family, celebrate their accomplishments, and maybe avoid some of the cold that seems to have come early this year. You better get some of this cobbler, I think that I hear some of them coming now. In the meantime, I'll let you know what they have been up to recently.



BSA Troop 625

- Recently returned from biking the Silver Comet Trail.

BSA Pack 625

- Had over 70 attendees at the Spooky-Ree Halloween themed campout. Scouts in the pack took part in many activities including shooting BB Guns, Archery, HAM radio, soda bottle rockets, pumpkin decorating, crafts, and scout-sized ramp car racing.



- The pack showed civic and national pride during Veterans day activities including placing flags on Veteran's graves in the cemetery at Little River UMC as well as helping Arnold Mill Elementary with their annual Veterans Day program. The Pack placed flags in the front of the school as well as conducting



the opening flag ceremony and escorted veterans through the school.

- Second grade Scouts (wolves) recently updated the trail signs at Dupree park. The scouts painted and then hung the signs for the City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation department for a much needed facelift of this great community resource.



BSA Troop 1208

- They have teamed up with the Men's Group and delivered the first monthly birthday cake to Brickmont, honoring those born in November. While they were present, the girls served the cake and were able to talk to some of the residents. We couldn't have asked for better ambassadors of both Scouting and Little River UMC for this effort.



- Our Scoutmaster, Ms. Greenwell, took a Wilderness First Aid course at Bert Adams Scout Reservation last weekend. The rest of the troop volunteered to serve as actors for the event to simulate some of the worst things a Scout leader can face in the wilderness. Pictured to the side is Annalise, who had a bad accident with an axe buried in her foot. Note the improvised tourniquet on her leg and the bandage applied to her foot. She had

a rough day, but lived through 4 groups attempting to save her life. Another Scout, Sophia, was so believable that she received special recognition from Judge Frank Mills (yes, the man they named the Cherokee County courthouse after) following the event. Our other Scouts survived head injuries, broken bones, snake bites, and the odd sucking chest wound to enjoy cobbler after dinner.



Girl Scout Troop 14612

- Volunteered at Good Mews (a cat shelter in Marietta) where they washed windows, swept sidewalks, and picked up sticks in the yard. They went on a tour, and visited with the cats. Two of the girls took an additional class so they can volunteer on their own.
- Went to the Delta Flight Museum to participate in the Girl Scout STEM Expo where they heard a female astronaut tell of her adventures.
- Planted the fall garden by the church sign
- Delivered veteran's day cards and toilet paper donations to Right at Home.

Daisy Troop 20009

- Finished their 7th meeting and earned the Respect Myself and Others, and Respect Authority badges.
- Attended a bridging ceremony where the girls were officially pinned as Girl Scouts.
- Preparing to attend their first cookie rally in December.

Girl Scout Troop 18331

- They have been learning and working on team building while decorating pumpkins.
- Went on a tour of our beloved Woodstock Dwarf House.



Girl Scout Troop 16397

- Oct. 25-27, 2019: The troop participated in Serendipity which is a mother/daughter campout hosted by the Atlanta Council at Camp Meriwether in Lutherville, GA. The girls and their moms were able to enjoy rock wall climbing, horseback riding, archery, arts & crafts, and learn some new campfire songs. The girls also put together an original skit for the camp talent show on the final night.
- Nov. 3, 2019: The girls learned the proper way to fold a US Flag. Using their newfound skills, the girls folded flags in order for them to be properly retired by a local organization.
- Nov. 17, 2019: The girls participated in a local Thanksgiving Basket drive for families in need. Each basket contains everything needed to prepare and enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal. The girls also created a pumpkin centerpiece that listed all the things the girls are thankful for this year.



And so that just about brings you up to speed on things. Are you OK? You look a little dazed. Maybe a little more cobbler? You better hurry. It's been a long hike and they came in a little hungry. The last person in line gets clean-up duty!



On behalf of our Scouts, let me wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



*Until our trails meet again,
David Bailey*

Cookie Season begins January 1!

Please help the Troops at the Church meet their sales goals!

