



Atlanta Church of Christ ⁱⁿ Gwinnett

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The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

- Matthew 13:32

Issue 43
October 30, 2020

In this issue: Our first in-person service in months! – p. 1-5
Rejoicing in a new birth – p. 6
Worship with a Latin flavor – p. 7
Creative carving with the Youth & Family ministry – p. 8
Sending the Joneses off with our best wishes – p. 9
A time for healing and hope – p. 9

Sunny fellowship under cloudy skies!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways this year—terms like PPE, Zoom link, lockdown, self-quarantine, N95, flattening the curve, soft closes, social distancing, and more have become part of our daily vocabularies, and we're getting used to seeing one another's eyes above cloth or paper masks. Since public schools closed to outside contact in March, we haven't had a place to meet, and with safety restrictions limiting the number of individuals allowed to gather in one place, we made do with online meetings for most of the year. But Steve Mukenya had a great idea and Derrick Brewer worked out the logistics for us to have a drive-in service in the Meadowcreek High School lower parking lot this past Sunday. Everyone who felt safe in coming was encouraged to do so, either remaining in our cars or wearing masks and maintaining six-foot distances between us in the open air, while those who didn't feel comfortable meeting together yet could listen to the lesson online and catch up on fellowship by phone or online later in the day. It may not have been quite what we were once used to, but for those who could be there, it felt like a step back toward normalcy! Even the sprinkles of rain that came and went couldn't dampen the spirits there! Take a look—



From set-up, parking and preparation...



...to praying, singing and worshipping together...



With many thanks to Kathy Barnard for many of these wonderful pictures!



...with prayers, sermon, communion, announcements...



...and warm fellowship, with respect for safety guidelines (lots of elbow-bumping rather than hugging, for example)!







Welcome to the Kingdom, Debra!

On Saturday, October 3rd, Austin Hartman's mother Debra became his (and our) sister in Christ! As special as it is when God adds anyone to His Kingdom, it is doubly so when our family members see and respond to the changes in our lives that come from our growing relationships with God, and not only study the Word but join us in our commitment to walk in Jesus' steps! Moments such as this encourage all of us not to give up on our vision for our families. Here are some pictures of that wonderful day in the Rouses' backyard—



With thanks to Sherry Rouse for the pictures!

A spiritual and culinary feast!

A few weeks before the whole congregation met at Meadowcreek, the Latino Ministry held its first in-person worship time in the Ruiz backyard on September 27th. Since this date fell within Hispanic Heritage Month, we combined this meeting with a celebration of the many cuisines and cultures represented in this ministry. The service included William Ruiz leading "La Montana," always a favorite! We were happy to welcome several visitors, including the Rouses, Burrell & Alicia Pope, and Zack Matovu. Here's a taste—



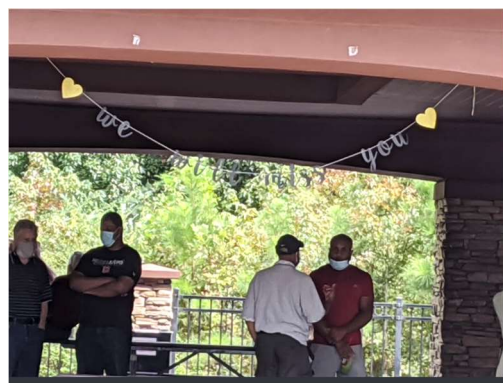
Carving out memories!

Last Sunday afternoon, the Youth & Family Ministry got together for a pumpkin carving contest! Creativity, talent and teamwork showed in every family's handiwork. Take a look—



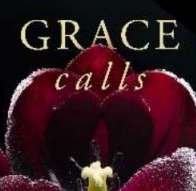
Let's keep up with the Joneses!

On Saturday, September 26th, we held a farewell party for Devonte and LaJasmine Jones, who are off to Omaha, Nebraska, where Devonte is stepping into a great job opportunity. We will miss them here at AcoCG, but they will always be part of us! We wish them all the best in this new chapter of their lives, and hope they will stay in touch across the miles!



Answer the call!

Sisters, don't forget to register for the Women's Day Webinar that's being held November 7th. It's free! Here are the details—



ACOCG Women's Webinar
with Robin Weidner
"Recovering what has been lost"
November 7, 2020 1-4:30pm

Session 1: Darkness over the deep- trauma and triggers

The pandemic has brought collective trauma and a boatload of triggers — ways that our current pain is magnified by our past wounds. In this first session, we'll learn how to move through trauma and diffuse triggers by leaning on God's grace.

Session 2: Re-creation - spiritual warfare and acceptance

In God's grace, he wants us to live with true dignity, our legacy from him. To do this we'll need to dismantle internal and external accusations and fears. The key to getting rid of shame and living in dignity is learning to drain our internal wells of abandonment and instead live in the acceptance of Jesus.

Session 3: Rest - forgiveness and empathy

In these chaotic times, we all long for spiritual rest. Yet this is a rest that must be battled for. In this third session, we'll look at forgiveness in a whole new light. We'll also see how empathy can gift us with a whole new way of seeing ourselves — as pain traders and wounded healers equipped to help others.

Register for free at:

<https://purityrestored.webinarninja.com/series-webinars/3090/register>

We welcome news and pictures on interesting personal stories, family group activities, and more. Please send them to Nancy Berry, nberry2@gmail.com. Thank you!

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