



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 46
July 29, 2021

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Fruit in its season!

During the first three weeks of July, we have seen three souls "called...out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9)! Please pray for these new additions to our spiritual family, and look for them in the fellowship on Sundays. On Saturday the 10th, Camille Simpson was baptized...





...and on Sunday the 11th, LaVerne Smith was added to the Body...



...and Fabian Diomande (husband of Constance) was immersed on Sunday, July 18th. Welcome to all three! (And you'll see the Galbreaths were there to celebrate with Constance!)



With thanks to Sherry Rouse for most of these pictures!

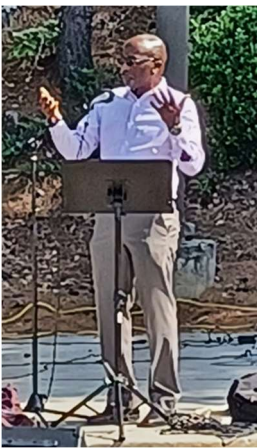
Gathered on the first day of the week...

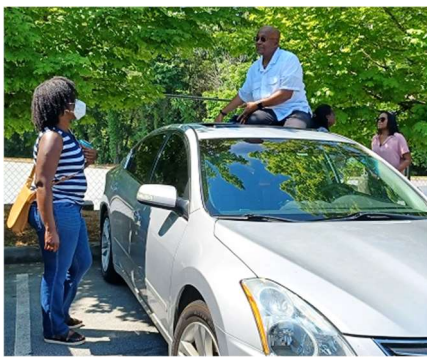
As spring warmed up into summer, we were able to meet more often in the parking lot at Meadowcreek High School, while still looking and praying for an indoor space we can lease or own that will accommodate the number of people we need seats for, breakout rooms for adult and kid classes, enough parking for ourselves and our guests, and a reasonable monthly cost—that's a lot to ask, but God can do more than we ask or imagine, so let's keep asking Him! In the meantime, we had to work around weather conditions and other factors, but here are some pictures of our last service in May and our first service in July (with apologies for the lack of pictures from our June 6th service, when our usual photographer was out of town; the other planned in-person service for June was rained out and replaced by meeting on Zoom instead).

First, here's what Meadowcreek's parking lot looked like on May 23rd:









...and here's our in-person worship service on July 4th:







...and this Independence Day service turned out to be our last scheduled parking lot meeting, because Meadowcreek is letting us meet in the auditorium again! (They sanitize the place before and after we meet, and we're following CDC guidelines to make sure we keep ourselves and one another as safe as possible in these new circumstances.) It's so exciting to gather to sing, pray, learn and fellowship together in the ways we used to take for granted! We're grateful for Zoom and the other technological advances that have allowed us to connect as well as we have during the worst of the pandemic, but our human natures thrive on true connections beyond what's possible through devices, and we thank God for making this development possible. On the next three pages you'll see pictures from that first indoor service! (Since we're now streaming services on Facebook, and our focus when we're together is on worship and encouragement rather than photography, this will wrap up routine photographic coverage of our services.)

Reaching forward to what lies ahead

Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-16 about forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to all that God has for us—we hope that our parking-lot-worship-service days are behind us, but let's take with us all the hard-won wisdom we've learned during our journey so far through this challenging pandemic "desert," as we go forward! God's church has always been called to devote ourselves "to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)—things that have been harder to do online, but which, step by step and with great mutual care, we're beginning to be able to do in person once again. In case you weren't able to be there, here's a glimpse of our first service back in the Meadowcreek auditorium on July 11th—







(That says it all, doesn't it?)

Hope we can all join together in praising God and building one another up more and more in coming weeks!

Please remember, new classes are starting! Next Sunday, August 1st, those who have signed up and been confirmed for the first Let's Talk discussion group will meet in the Meadowcreek band room at 10 a.m., with the regular service beginning at 11. New midweek classes, live on Zoom and taught by Alan Rouse, will use fun and illuminating videos from The Bible Project to help us to a deeper understanding of the books of Moses. Let's keep listening to God and to one another, sharing our hearts, and helping one another grow!

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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