



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 48

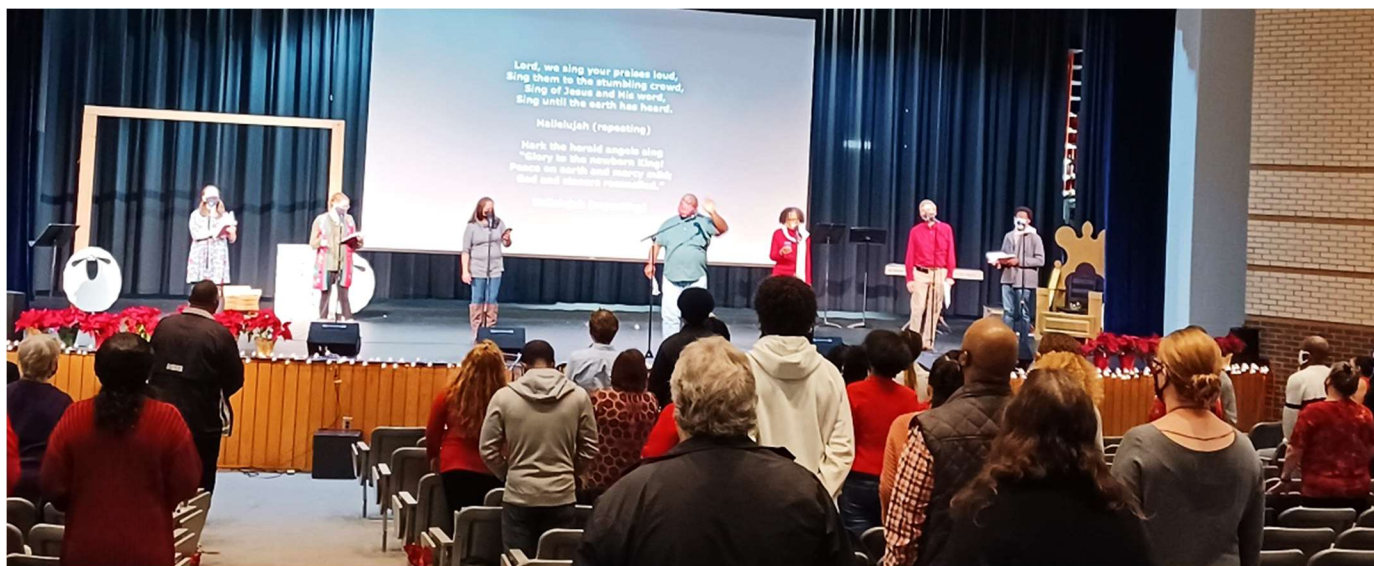
December 29, 2021

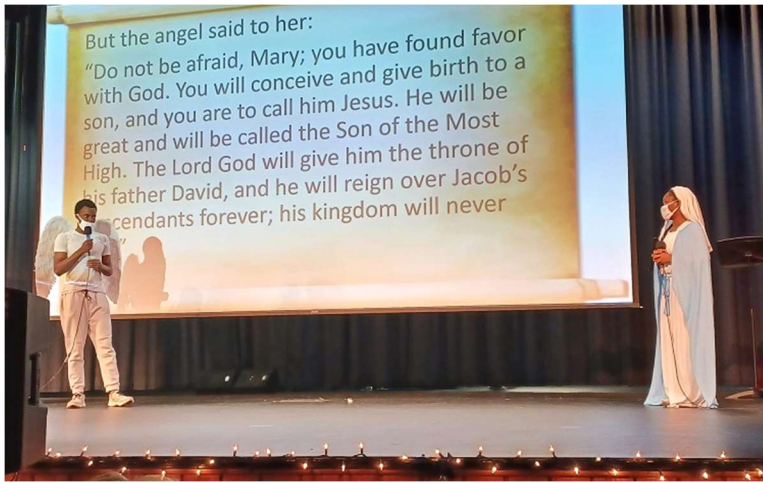
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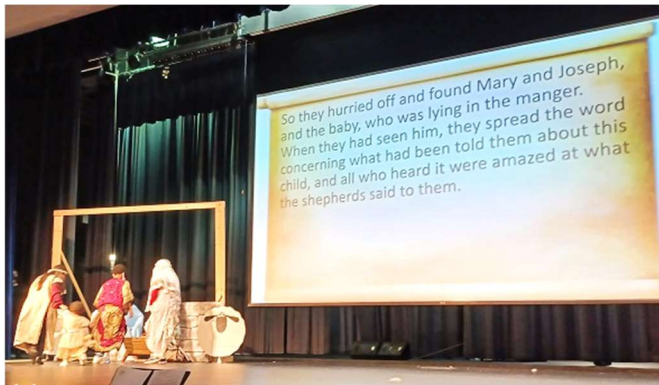
Joy to the world!

On Sunday, December 19th, we gathered in the Meadowcreek High School theater to worship together and to enjoy this year's Christmas program. Narrators drew on the Scriptures to tell the story of Jesus' birth and life, with children, teens, campus and singles acting out the roles of Joseph and Mary, Herod and court officials, wise men and angels, shepherds and sheep. Talented singers, musicians and dancers rounded out the program, and the audience joined in on a few carols. We continue to wear masks as Gwinnett Public Schools require, to help limit the risk of Covid-19, but that didn't hinder our joy in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

From the lighting and sound crew behind the scenes, to those who devoted so much thought and effort to creating the script and directing the performers, to the supportive families who made time for hours of rehearsal, to the shining stars who graced the stage, we appreciate everyone who made this a memorable part of our holiday celebration this year! Here are some moments captured that morning—











Looking back at 2021...

We started out the year still meeting on Zoom to worship God together; we were getting better as time went on with handling the technology, making the most of its benefits while working around its limitations, but all of us were eager to get together when we could do so without undue risk—there's just no good substitute for the warmth and encouragement of spending time together in person! Our first parking-lot service of the year was canceled due to weather, but starting in late March we began holding outdoor worship times at Meadowcreek every other Sunday. Here are some pictures from those spring and summer services—







Weather disrupted the schedule and put us back on Zoom at the end of June, but at our July 4th parking-lot service, we got the good news that Meadowcreek was allowing us back in the theater on Sunday mornings! Here's what the auditorium looked like that first Sunday back—



We met outdoors one more time in 2021, to allow some trunk-or-treat possibilities since that Sunday fell on Halloween—



We have been able to live-stream our services (working around the technological glitches) on Facebook for those who cannot safely come to Meadowcreek in person, and we continue to rely on Zoom to connect us for midweek services and other meetings. Thank God for the ability to see one another's faces, hear each other's voices, and keep building our relationships, encouraging and teaching one another, despite the impact of the Covid pandemic!

We have rejoiced together as God has added new disciples to our number through baptisms this year—



Joe Dang



Reese Kegal



Joseph Emmett



Camille Simpson



LaVerne Smith



Fabian Diomande



Neida Calloway

Please pray for these new Christians to continue to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15)—and for each of us to keep growing into Him also!

With many thanks to everyone who contributed or appeared in these pictures!

...comforting one another in our losses...

We have suffered at least one loss in our fellowship this year—brother Phil Dawson passed away in January—and many members of our congregation have lost loved ones over the course of 2021. God calls us to have compassion for one another—a word that comes from the Latin words for suffering together. Let’s keep one another’s needs in mind and remember to pray for one another, rejoicing in victories together and being there for one another through the hard times as well. Reaching out to see how someone is doing—a call, a text, a message of any kind—can make a huge difference, and when we do even these simple acts of kindness for one another, God sees them as being done for Him (Matthew 25:40)!

...and looking forward to the year to come!

Of course, God is the only one who knows what He plans for the future, but whatever He brings us in 2022, we can be confident that we're in good hands—His!

"But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love." (Psalm 31:14-16) Amen!



Just a reminder to family group leaders and shepherding couples about our upcoming Family Group Leaders' workshop on Zoom. We will meet from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday night, January 7th, followed by a session beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday the 8th. Please save the dates, and be on the lookout for an email with the Zoom link—and please pray for God to give us wisdom as we make plans for 2022!

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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