



*The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.  
- Matthew 13:32*

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## *Holiday giving with heart!*

Getting ready for Christmas, the women of the Hayes family group were not content to prepare gifts for friends and family alone, but looked for those in need where their gifts would make a great difference in their lives! They chose to participate in the Samaritan's Purse charity, known for helping the poor around the world, an organization based on carrying out Jesus' command in Luke 10:30-37. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, they gathered at Burrell and Felicia Pope's home to pack shoeboxes with items for boys and girls ranging in age from 3 to 14— and enjoyed good fellowship and fun in the process! Here's a look—



With thanks to Dr. Fredria Sterling and Andrea Tench for pictures and information!



## Encouragement at the foot of the cross



On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (the Sunday after Thanksgiving), a guest speaker brought us the communion message—Tewolde Gabrielmeskele from our sister congregation in Triangle, NC, who has spoken at AcoCG on previous visits, shared his encouraging words with us. As always, we appreciate how God weaves His worldwide family together, using His love and strength to bridge us closer together with brothers and sisters near and far!

## *Sisters celebrate the season!*

As fall moved into winter, the sisters gathered at the community center at Lucky Shoals Park for a special night of celebration. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the sisters and their guests came together to enjoy food, fun and games, fellowship, gifts, and more! Here are some moments captured that evening—













# Celebrating Christmas with spirit!

Our annual Christmas program brought the meaning of Christmas to life onstage as part of our worship service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. You can see the video of the Christmas program on our website, (<https://acocg.org/sermons/>, click on Browse Series, then click 2022 Sunday Sermons, and the video of the Christmas play should come up automatically), but here are a few snapshots to give you a taste of the heart, talent, and beauty given by everyone involved in the production—



With thanks to Joseph Emmett and Peter Berry for help with pictures!













Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talents, energy and prayers to make this program so special!



## *An evening full of gratitude!*

This year our leadership team chose a different format for the appreciation night we hold every year. Usually the leaders recognize those who have served in different aspects of AcoCG life by announcing their names and how they have served, but on December 21<sup>st</sup>, those who gathered in the Commons area at Meadowcreek High School were encouraged to do it themselves—to express our appreciation directly to one another for all the ways each of us makes AcoCG the spiritual community it is. The church provided plenty of pizza, and anyone who wanted to bring dessert was welcome to do so. Everyone present was also offered a wrist-sized lanyard with a message of gratitude on it, and an inscribed “gratitude rock”, as tokens of appreciation. Here’s a glimpse of the warm fellowship that evening—





## Out with the old, in with the new...

The Emmetts started early to say goodbye to 2022 and welcome the new year in—since travel can be hazardous on New Year's Eve due to the strong possibility of impaired drivers on the road, as well as a certain crucial college football semifinal championship game taking place on December 31<sup>st</sup>, they had a get-together to celebrate the turn of the year a day early, on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Here are a few pictures of old friends, new friends, food and fun—



With thanks to Danny Emmett for help with the pictures!



"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."  
— Matthew 5:13-14, ESV  
(AcoCG theme scripture for 2023)

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

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