



Church of Christ in Gwinnett

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

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Changed hearts, new lives!

The month of October, with its cooling temperatures and falling leaves, often makes us think of endings as the year comes to a close. But this October saw two fresh starts—two new disciples added to the Body here in Gwinnett! First, on the 21st, Brandon Mitchell was baptized at the home of Barrington and Sydney Harvey and their family in Conyers—





—and the celebration extended to include Brandon’s physical birthday, which had taken place a few days earlier!

And one week later, Timi Shorunke was immersed into Christ at the Emmetts' home in Grayson!





We welcome these new brothers to our fellowship! Please pray for God to continue to keep them close to Him and strengthen them as they "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15)!

Rest for the soul...

At the end of September, the women of the CoCG retreated to the beautiful Enon Ranch south of Atlanta for a time of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual renewal. The one-day retreat on Saturday the 28th offered sisters the opportunity to recharge their spiritual batteries and return to their lives with fresh insights and energies. Our guest speaker, Shamarra Rose, and her husband Ronnie lead the church in Greenville, South Carolina, and are close friends of the Mukenyas. Shamarra sacrificially left her storm-damaged neighborhood—they had just gotten hit by Hurricane Helene—to come be with us!

Here is what one sister shared about her experience: "The retreat motivated stillness from beginning to end—the playlist, singers, and musicians amazingly matched the tranquil mood. Our speaker for the day helped us to acknowledge the gift of God's Rest in everything from His creation of the trees, to answered prayers and humility of just resting in not trying to figure out or judge everything and everyone, but instead we can receive and give his love. Lastly, the activities, meditation, painting, playing, poetry, the food, decor and absolutely the fellowship felt like icing on a day where God lowered the sun and held back the rain just for us to really enjoy every single detail." Below are some glimpses from that day—





CoCG's first annual men's retreat, held at Atlanta's Marriot Spice and Sky Hotel on October 18th-19th, focused on Philippians 2 with its clear picture of Jesus' humility. The event began with Friday night's dinner, and continued through lunch Saturday, with lessons and discussions, prayer times, activities, and good fellowship. Rather than inviting a guest speaker, several of the brothers took responsibility for speaking and organizing the retreat. They shared the Word, sang, and encouraged one another, along with taking part in some friendly competition. Take a look—



With great thanks to the brothers and sisters who shared photos and information!

Festival fun for all!

We celebrated the fall season with an in-person midweek meeting on October 30th, with sweet treats, fun costumes, and relaxed family fellowship! Here are some moments from that evening—







Enjoying the changing beauty of God's creation!

Just wanted to close with a few colorful pictures taken recently, showcasing the wonders of earth and sky—God's artistry available to us every day, if we'll take the time to notice it! Happy fall!



A little extra help...



...can go a long way! Please remember, we have a small food pantry available to disciples and their friends and families—whoever finds themselves able to pay their bills or to purchase groceries, but not to do both. We ask disciples to restock the shelves as needed; from time to time you'll see a large foam-core board in the lobby, covered in sticky notes—each note lists some item the pantry is low on, and you can stick that note onto your wallet or shopping list so you remember to pick that item up on your next shopping trip. We can only handle shelf-stable items—groceries in boxes, cans, or sealed bags, no produce, bakery goods, or refrigerated/frozen foods—so we also ask for \$15 gift cards which can be used for groceries or for fuel (Walmart or Kroger). If you are able to contribute to this resource to help those in need, please do (and many thanks to those who have helped already!), and if your or someone you know can really use this kind of support, please contact Peter or Nancy Berry to set up a time.



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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