



# Church of Christ in Gwinnett

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

- *Matthew 13:32*

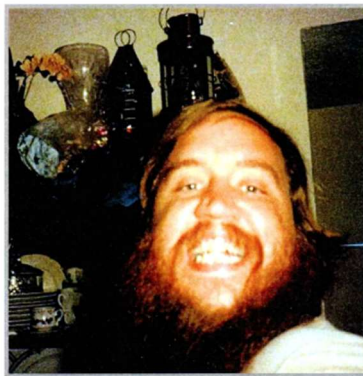
Issue 63

December 20, 2024

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*“...the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable...”\**

IN LOVING MEMORY



Gary Wayne Smith

February 19, 1954 - September 25, 2024

Loss and grief are always challenging to our hearts, but especially when they take us by surprise. At our online midweek on October 2, we learned that our beloved brother Gary Smith, who customarily went by his family nickname “Grub,” had passed away in his sleep a few days before. This was very difficult news to bear, although we can be confident that he is with God and beyond the reach of pain or tears for eternity. His heart to serve and give, his warm hugs, his work behind the scenes (and sometimes onstage) for our congregation’s Christmas programs and other activities, his playful and positive service in our Kids’ Kingdom, and his loving presence in our fellowship will all be profoundly missed! His family organized a memorial service that took place on November 8<sup>th</sup>, where everyone was encouraged to share their stories about this faithful and fun disciple; we all were able to see different aspects of Grub from all the stories, and there were probably more laughs than tears as a result. He enriched the lives of every individual who knew him, and his influence will continue to encourage and inspire us for years to come. Let’s remember his example and imitate Grub’s heart for Jesus! (1 Corinthians 11:1) On the next page are a few more pictures (please see Andreas Sjodin for more pictures his family shared at the memorial)—

\*1 Corinthians 15:54a

### OBITUARY

Gary Wayne Smith was born to Lightnin and Thor on February 19, 1954 the youngest of three brothers. We moved many times during the years and Gary was in three schools during his senior year. He was just the baby brother during that time and not really significant.

After college and the army Bryan returned home and then moved to Atlanta. Gary finished high school about that time and moved to Atlanta with Bryan into Tahoe Apartments. When Don, the middle brother, finished service with the air force, he too moved to be with his brothers. During the several years we lived there a friend nicknamed us Bad Bryan, Dirty Don, and Grubby Gary. Gary embraced the name and became Grub from that day until he died.

Grub was an artist specializing in sand sculptures. But this allowed him to never remove anything from his house. The concept that one man's trash is another's treasure was written for him. I know he is laughing now since I have inherited his treasures.

Grub was loving and giving to everyone with his last act taking me to dinner for my birthday. Just a few days after he died in his bed, hopefully with little pain.

He was very active within his church which became his second family. He created scenery for their productions and plays.

Dad died 1975 and mom in 1993 [she had moved to Atlanta after dad died]. Dirt died last year. Grub never married and so is survived by the oldest brother; one aunt; nephews and one niece; and many cousins and countless friends. He is loved by many and greatly missed.



## *Following the lead of the young marrieds*

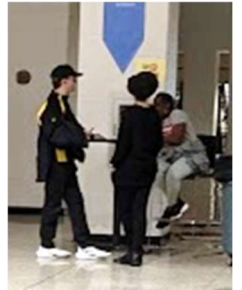
On Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the young married family group led us in a dynamic worship service, lending their talents and energies to welcome everyone to the service, leading us in prayer, communion and song, with Mikhail Krevosky bringing us a powerful lesson on the theme of "Glory Glory Hallelujah." (You can find the recording on our website, at <https://acocg.org/sermons/>). Here are some moments captured that

morning—



# An attitude of gratitude!

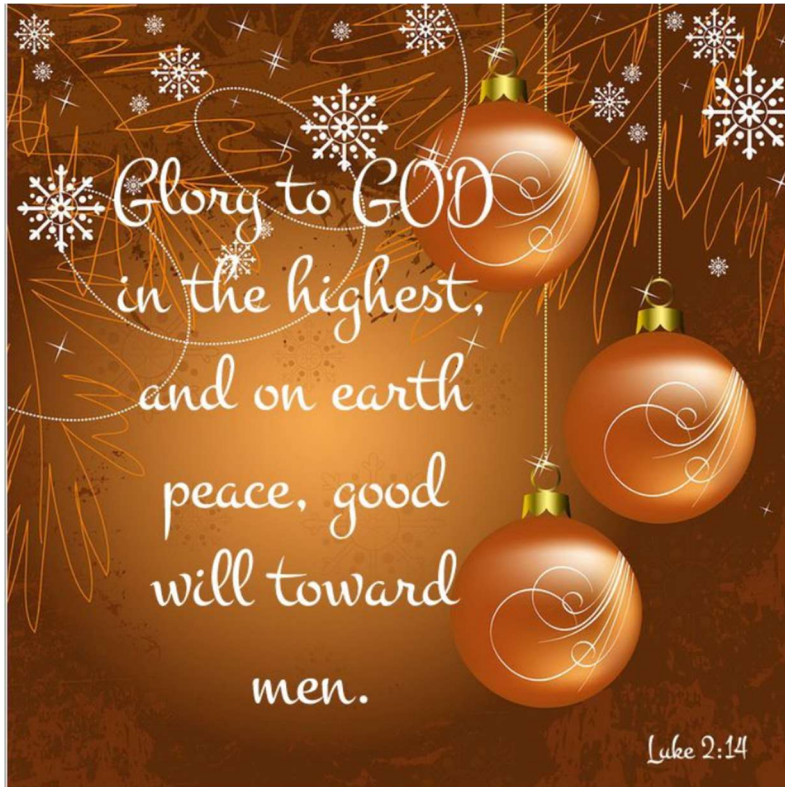
Every year, as the year comes to a close, the CoCG sets aside time to celebrate and appreciate everyone who gives their hearts and efforts in service to God throughout the year (which is basically all of us!). The church provides pizza and drinks, and every family group is encouraged to bring a dessert for all to share. Our leaders express their gratitude for all of us as we take part in the communal life of our congregation, and each of us can take home a memento (this year, a beautiful bookmark with a scripture on it) to encourage us through the year. Here are some pictures of the fun and fellowship—



# *Celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace*

Our Christmas program on December 15<sup>th</sup> offered an opportunity for all of us to sing praise to God for the tremendous gift He gives us in Jesus—the Word made flesh, born in human form to show us who God is and bring us back to Him. Isaiah prophesied that we would rejoice, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), and the songs and communion lesson reminded us how amazing and precious this gift from God is. With thanks to all who gave and served, younger, older, and in-between, here are a few moments from that day—





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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