



ECPC Newsletter ~ May 17, 2017



Woe Is Me: Going Vertical

Sunday we considered what the Gospel says to us in our moment of self-pity. God speaks compassionately to us in our suffering and sorrow. He's merciful and sympathetic. His mercy takes us to the foot of the cross to gently remind us of what we deserve from God, the eternal outpouring of his wrath. As we gaze at the suffering Christ, God then speaks to us of the goodness we receive from the one hanging on that cross. The Gospel undermines our pity party and brings us into Gospel celebration!

What do we do with our suffering? Is it wrong to sorrow? Is it wrong to mourn? Is it wrong to ask God why? These are important questions that we face. God doesn't leave us alone in our suffering, and he doesn't want us to push him away. He actually wants us to draw near him with our questions and our sorrow. In the Scripture these times with God are captured as laments.

Lamenting in Scripture has a specific pattern which we will examine. One of those elements is our complaint where we talk to God about what we're experiencing. Habakkuk's complaint starts out with him saying, "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?" Can you imagine opening up to God like this? Can you imagine walking into God's throne room with the faith that he loves you and sympathizes with your suffering?

Lamenting is faith refusing to push God away in our suffering and when we lament, we discover that God is pulling us close. This is taking our suffering vertically for the comfort and grace that only God can supply.

How does he respond? Well, come Sunday and find out.

~Pastor Tim

Upcoming Events

April 19 - May 17 Wednesdays 4:45-5:45pm	Communicants Class For children who have come to faith who desire to join the church. Watch for a class to be offered this summer.
May 23 Tuesday, 7pm	ECCS Eighth Grade Graduation Read details below.
June 4	Communion Summer Ministry Kick-Off
June 18	Communion
June 25	Starting Point Starting Point is for visitors and is designed for those in our community who want to meet our pastor and his family. Read more info below.



Our Summer at Summerhill: Ten-Two-School

This summer we will be investing in the ministry at Summerhill Community Ministries in three ways. See how you can help bring the truth of the gospel to inner-city Atlanta children and their families.

- **We've raised \$997 towards our goal of sponsoring 10 children** attend summer camp at Summerhill. To contribute, [click to give](#) on our website. Under "Choose Designation," select "Summerhill Community Ministry." If you prefer to pay via check, you may put your check (with Summerhill on the memo line) in the offering plate on Sunday.
 - We have **3 out of 10 lunches fully covered!** Most dates already have at least 1 volunteer, but need a couple more. ***Volunteer Needs Update.*** Donna Minday is willing to coach anyone or group who feel(s) like they need help. To assist you, there are sample menus and recipes are available. Click to [Sign up to volunteer](#) to help purchase, cook, or serve lunch for 85 campers. Contact Donna Minday (donna@ecpca.org) for further information.
 - We will be donating **school supplies** to help get the Summerhill children be ready to with all the school supplies that they will need. Details coming soon.
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East Cobb Christian School News



ECCS Eighth Grade Graduation, May 23

The eighth grade class of East Cobb Christian School invites you to attend their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

Employment Opportunity

ECCS is still looking for a PE teacher to begin this fall. If interested, please contact Teresa Staley (770-973-4114 x 112 / teresa.staley@eccs.org).

After Worship Refreshments

We have dates still available in May and throughout the summer for which we would like to provide cookies and beverages for the children (and adults too) after worship while we take the opportunity to know each other. The cost averages about \$25. If you would be interested, you may read more information and/or [sign up here](#).

Starting Point

Starting Point - June 25

Starting Point is for visitors and is designed for those in our community who want to meet our pastor and his family. Our next Starting Point will be on June 25 from 11:45am - 1:15pm. Come enjoy lunch and a time of fellowship at the home of Pastor Tim & Debbie Locke. Children are welcome. To rsvp, contact Donna Minday in the church office (770) 973-4114 x100 or donna@ecpca.org

Early Education (Nurseries, 2s & 3s)

Thank you for being the "hands and feet of Christ" to the body! Please let me know if you have any questions, please contact Christina Fisher (christinafisher@gmail.com)

Thank you for serving May 21:

Infants: Kathy Grady & Isabel Gregoire

Toddlers: Mary Ghasemi & Patty Robinson

2s: Boris & Marianne Kuzmin

3s: Edie Oliver & Kevin Kahle

Serving Special Needs: McGill family

HL HIGHLife

Student Ministries

JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

Sunday Night - Jr High Life is done for the 2016 - 2017 school year! We'll see you back for more this summer starting on the 4th of June!

Murder in the Dark, Friday, May 19th from 6-8:30pm. Just in time for the end of school! All current 5th - 8th graders are welcome to come play at the church. Bring a friend!

SENIOR HIGH LIFE

Sr High Life - Sr HL is done for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Keep an eye on our summer calendar for what events we have coming up for our senior high youth this summer!

Tuesday Morning Prayer - is done for the school year. We'll start back this summer at 9:00 am in the church's conference room on Tuesday, June 6th!

Murder in the Dark, Friday, May 19 from 9 - 11:30pm. Just in time for the end of school!! All current 9th - 12th graders are welcome to come play at the church from 9:00 - 11:30 pm on Friday, May 19th. Bring a friend!

D-groups - meet this Sunday. Contact your leader for more information!

Giving Status as of 4/30/2017

Ministry year started July 1.

You may make contributions at any time online at ecpca.org. Click Give Online at the bottom of the homepage, and then direct your funds as you desire on the drop down menu. If you would like to divide your giving among multiple accounts, select Add Another just below the drop down menu.

Budgeted Income: \$777,737

Tithes & Offerings: \$795,953

Variance: \$ 18,216

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STAY CONNECTED

