



ECPC Newsletter ~ August 9, 2017



Gospel R&R: Renewal

This Sunday we begin a new series focusing on our vision statement. It's important to regularly rehearse the "why" and "what" of our church ministry to help keep us focused. Our purpose, and I believe the purpose of any church, is to glorify God through gospel-centered community. This community exists to experience and pursue God's vision for His creation, gospel reconciliation and renewal, what we refer to as Gospel R&R.

One verse in the holy Scripture has defined my life and ministry, 2 Corinthians 3:18. Here the Apostle Paul says, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

This verse set me free in my early days. I grew up under the heavy yoke of spiritual slavery to religious human determinism. In other words, I was told all my life that growing in obedience was something I was responsible to do. But this verse says that we are transformed and the word "transformed" is something that happens to me - not something I do. What peace came as I learned that God, specifically the Holy Spirit, does the transforming in my life.

But this verse also highlights the renewing grace of God: He *can* transform! In truth, *only* he can transform sinful man into faithful disciples, but he actually has the power to bring that "renewal" into our lives. This is being spoken by Paul, a man who persecuted Christians and now works for Jesus.

This verse drives my ministry and fuels the hope of our work together at East Cobb Presbyterian Church. We declare the gospel to each other, our children, and the community because it is "the power of God for *complete* salvation." (Italics mine, Romans 1:16) We believe that God can transform us, our community, and our world.

So come Sunday, and consider the transforming power of God's renewing grace!

~Pastor Tim

Upcoming Events

August 13	Life Group Leaders' Training Starting Point
August 19	Membership Class
August 20	Congregational Meeting
August 25, 26	Session Retreat
September 6	Life Group Kick-off



Life Groups

Perhaps you are ready to get out of the pew and into a circle? A circle of connection, growth and impact. This is what our Life Groups are designed to be for you. Life change happens in our small groups ministry.

We believe God created us to live in relationship with others and only then can we live the full life He intends for us. Sharing life through community is part of our design, but meaningful relationships aren't always easy to find. That's why Life Groups exist - to make these life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to you. Life groups focus on: fellowship with each other, praying together, application of the Word of God to our lives, service and ministry to others in His name.

Do you sense a desire to serve others? Hosting or facilitating a life group provides you an opportunity to utilize your spiritual gifts. We give you essential tools to make your small group successful through **Leadership Training on Sunday, August 13** from 11:30am - 1:30pm (lunch provided).

New groups will be forming for the **Fall Kickoff - September 6**.

Ready? Then let us know: click on the link below to fill out the Life Group Interest form.

[Life Group Interest](#)

Starting Point

Starting Point - August 13

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 August 13 from 11:45am - 1:15pm. Come enjoy lunch and a time of fellowship at the home of Pastor Tim & Debbie Locke. Children are welcome. **The deadline to RSVP is Friday, so hurry!** Register below or contact Donna Minday in the church office (770) 973-4114 x 100 or donna@ecpca.org.

[Starting Point RSVP](#)



ECCS Fundraiser - at Menchies Frozen Yogurt Shop

Please join ECCS on Tuesday, August 15th from 3-6pm at Menchies Frozen Yogurt at The Avenue. Our school will receive 15% of profits between those hours from anyone who orders a frozen treat! Come support our school.

Membership Class - August 19

If you are new to ECPC and want to learn more about us, please consider attending our next Membership Class on Saturday, August 19 from 8:30am - 1pm. The class provides a look at the beliefs and ministry philosophy of the church and a chance to ask questions and meet other newcomers. The class is required for membership, but attending it does not obligate you to join. If you would like to attend the class, RSVP below or contact Donna Minday in the church office at (770) 973-4114 x100 or donna@ecpca.org.

[Membership Class RSVP](#)



Women's Ministries Bible Studies

Our women's bible studies are kicking off the the fall semester. Here's our fall studies. Hope you will join us!

1. Revelation study - "The Returning King", by Sheridan Poythress

Begins, Tuesday, September 5, from 7:15-8:45pm

Meets in the Conference Room.

Book is available to order [here](#). Book is available for *free online* [here](#).

2. Amazing Collection Study- Year 3: "From Romans to Revelation

Begins Thursday, September 7, from 10-11:45am

Meets in the Conference Room

For book ordering info, please contact Becky Loechl (bloechl4@gmail.com) or Mara Retzlaff (mara@retzlaff.org)

3. Life-Changers Proverbs Study: Walking in Wisdom

Begins Thursday, August 4, from 10-11:45am

Meets in the Loft.

Book is available to order [here](#).

Opportunities to Serve

Outreach Team

Pastor Tim is forming an Outreach Team with the purpose of engaging the church in personal and corporate evangelism. If you are passionate about local outreach and would like to be part of the formation of this team, please contact Pastor Tim at tim@ecpca.org.

Hospitality Team

The church needs a team of people to aid in the monthly fellowship luncheons and other special events. We're looking for people with the gift of serving who can organize volunteers and help the church participate in our monthly luncheons. If you are willing to be part of this Hospitality Team at any level, please contact Pastor Tim at tim@ecpca.org.



Our Summer at Summerhill: Ten-Two-SCHOOL

This Sunday is our last collection day. Please consider buying one or two extra items for the Summerhill children whose families are unable to afford some of the basic school supplies. Specifically, they need: notebook paper, notebooks, pocket folders, pencils, pens, erasers, boxes of crayons, etc. You may drop off your donation during the week or on Sunday in the bin located in the atrium.



Children's Ministries Serving Opportunities

Recruiting for Children's Ministries 2017-18 continues. We'd love to talk with you about serving in a way that fits your schedule. Contact Christina Fisher (christinat@ecpca.org) or Marj Swierenga (marj@ecpca.org) for more information.



Summer Adventure Program

If your family was not able to join us this past Sunday for our Summer Celebration--but your child **did** participate in our Field Guide program, please contact Marj

Swierenga (marj@ecpca.org) or Christina Fisher (christina@ecpca.org) so that we can record your child's points and include him / her in the awards. We plan to announce our "Redwood" awards (top scorer in each age group) this Sunday.

If your child still has memory work to recite, s/he may recite to you, and you can sign off on their tally sheet that is located in the front cover of their guide.

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 (christina@ecpca.org)

Thank you for serving August 13:

Infants: Amanda Williams & Donna Wedekind

Toddlers: Scott & Stacey Porter

2s: Katie, Abbi, Emily, and LeeAnne McElvy

3s: Teresa Staley & Nancy Hull

Teach Me To Worship: Quincy & Jennifer Acklen and Mikki Mardis & Shankar Narayan

Serving Special Needs: George & Christina Fox

MUST Ministries Meals - Next Date October 10

The Elizabeth Inn (part of MUST Ministries, which ECPC supports) "is a shelter that provides a safe sanctuary of rest for those who find themselves in distress. Open to men, women and children, the 72-bed Elizabeth Inn provides three meals a day and extensive support services including case management, education and employment, computer lab, recovery meeting and assessments."

Joe LaRocca is organizing meals to serve the residents. The response was so great that Joe is coordinating a second dinner on October 10. Dinner is served at 6 pm at their facility located at 55 Elizabeth Church Rd., Bldg #200, Marietta. He will need several people to help serve the meal, as well as, financial support to purchase this - and hopefully future - meals. If you'd like to donate, click [here](#) and select *MUST Ministries Meals* on the designation drop down. Joe is willing to organize meals as long as funds are available and interested volunteers to serve the meals. Prayer for this ministry is certainly welcome. You can reach Joe at joenjoell@yahoo.com or by calling 770-558-4302. Thank you in advance for your participation. Watch for a 3rd date to be scheduled for January!



Student Ministries

JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

If you are interested in signing up for our JHL text reminders, just text @easypeazy to 81010!

- **Jr High Life** - We'll see y'all back in the fall - kicking off with Crud War on August 20.

SENIOR HIGH LIFE

If you're interested in signing up for our SHL text reminders, just text @JordanRoss to 81010!

- **Senior High Life** kicks off for the fall on August 23. More details about this coming soon!
- **Tuesday Morning Prayer** - See y'all back in the fall on August 22 at 6:30am at the Palmers' house.

Giving Status as of 7/31/2017

Ministry year started July 1.

Budgeted Income:	\$67,970
Tithes & Offerings:	<u>\$72,205</u>
Variance:	\$ 4,235

Giving on the Go...from your phone!

You can give even from your mobile phone when you are out of town and not at church. From your phone, go to the church website, ecpca.org, click Give Online, and you'll see the new simple online giving page. Just enter the amount of your gift, choose the fund to give to, enter your credit card number and some basic information, and you're done! It's that easy.

Tip: If you are using an iPhone and you've stored your credit card number in Safari on your phone, you can autofill that information into the form to make giving go even faster.

[Click to Give Online at ECPC](#)

Perimeter Church's 40th Anniversary Celebration

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 beginning at 6pm
Infinite Energy Center (formally known as the Gwinnett Arena) in Duluth
6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Duluth, GA 30097

This is a rare opportunity to come together and worship all in one space, which will include not only the entire Perimeter Church family, but also all of the daughter and granddaughter churches. East Cobb Presbyterian Church is the first ever church plant of Perimeter Church. Our church was planted by Perimeter Church back in the mid-1980s. Let's join the celebration of what God has done over the past 40 years, and also worship well through songs, special guests, and video. You won't want to miss it!

Details: Concessions open at 4:30pm; Celebration begins at 6:00pm. The event will be over by 7:30pm. There will be an area for nursing moms, and areas for parents with little ones who may need to get out some energy for a minute.

For further details: www.perimeter.org/pages/worship/40th-anniversary/

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STAY CONNECTED

