

# FAMILY NEWS



## Upcoming Events

**2.16-18.17 Winterfest:**  
Gatlinburg, TN. Please be at the church at 10:30a.m. to board the bus.

**3.4.18 LCOC Church Business Meeting, 2:00p.m. Budget and Emergency Protocols will be presented.**

**3.11.18** Christie Gaskins' baby shower, 2:00p.m... Christie is having a boy and is registered at Buy Buy Baby

**3.24.18** Philine Mattingly's baby shower, 10:30a.m... Philine is having a boy and is registered at Amazon

## Prayer Requests

- Missions: Mike, Kris and Kaylee Bridges
- AIM: Hannah Baker & Donnie Guill (Mission UpReach)
- Grayson Carter- Ft. Riley, Kansas; Deployed to Germany
- Nathaniel and Alexis Goodley, Hawaii- Wheeler Army Airfield
- Steve Izard
- Patrick Hutto
- Robin Smith
- Nelson Bright- Karen Oliver's Uncle
- Heath Hartwell-Brian Devereaux's Friend
- Kimberly Craig and Mollie Carr, Kathy Upton's daughter and niece
- Gene Lowe-Vern Lowe's Father
- Laurie Bleux's Farther
- Marcello Assenza-Christine Stewart's Father
- David Dowdy
- Tom Domini
- Chester Warren
- Harriett Betterson and Family
- Katie Corley and Family
- Mark Black, Kris Black's Father

## "THE NARROW GATE"

Have you ever woken up one day and asked yourself: "how did I get here?" You look around and you are facing more troubles than you have the resources to handle. Maybe your debts are stacking up or your personal relationships are falling apart. Maybe you find yourself toxic and irritable. Maybe you find no joy in life itself. I know young people who are afraid of marriage because they see so many broken relationships. I know people who are afraid to trust because they have been burned. There are a lot of people who wander through life not thinking at all and they end up right where the crowd is, and find it barren, and boring.

Jesus offered a better way. He said "enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and here are few who find it.

This divine instruction contains **buckets of hope**. God sent His Son to teach us that there is a way that leads to life. Think of that alone! Here is God in the flesh saying there is a way that leads to life, and we know by many other things that this life, by its nature, is full of all the good stuff. The life that Jesus calls life, is full of faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, etc. We know the word life, when spoken by Jesus, is infinite in quality, and in length. Jesus said "he who believes in me will live, even if he dies, followed by "do you believe this" John 11:25? Worldly pleasures end in payments, downsides, addictions, darkness, and death. Conversely, heavenly pleasures wrap our pains in joy and give life, eternal in length and quality.

These divine words contain **instruction**. This instruction is to "enter through the narrow gate." Believing this and obeying this is our job. To help us get this choice made Jesus gave us two big strategies. The first strategy is not to pay attention to all the people and the way they are going. By and large the crowd is on the wrong road. This doesn't mean you don't love the people. It means you are able, and you must, think for yourself.

Next comes the great **opportunity**. Jesus warns us that "few" there be that "find" it. Contained in this is the affirmation that "the narrow gate" can be found. Found, not stumbled upon, found, because you choose to be among the few. Found because "seek and you will find" Matthew 7:7 is a true thing. Found because the spirit reveals it to you, because you chose to believe that it could be found. Found because He helps those who help themselves (old sage advice). Found, because the nature of the heavenly realms is to help us find it. Found, because God is good, and He rules the Universe. Found because His Grace reaches me! Find it!

Finally, the gate is **narrow**. The choice is a thin choice. You can't think or behave in any number of broad, death giving ways. But there remains, and there will be tomorrow, this thin set of choices that will lead you and I to Him, and to life.

Be grateful, be hopeful, choose life!

Your Shepherds

## Assembly Times

**Sunday Worship 9:30AM**  
**Sunday Class 11 AM**  
**AWANA, Sunday 10 AM**  
**Wednesday, 7 PM Bible Study**

## Weekly Stats

**AM Bible Class 96**  
**AM Bible Class Average 97**

**AM Assembly 135**  
**AM Assembly Avg. 128**

**Contribution \$5,331.00**  
**YTD Average Weekly \$4,367.31**

**Weekly Budget \$8,143.77**

## Shepherds

**Larry Baker 542.1600**  
**Dennis Carter 957.4625**  
**Rick Chamberlain 859.409.2063**  
**Rom Kellis 608.3423**  
**Wayne Kellis 404.376.4085**  
**Ernie Oliver 391.1312**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### New Members:

**Ryan and Christie Gaskins**  
214 Coronado Rd.,  
W. Columbia, SC 29170

### New Address:

**Wayne & Debbie Kellis**  
1084 Shull Island Rd.  
Gilbert, SC 29054

### Anniversaries:

**2.4 Wayne & Debbie Kellis**

**2.17 Mike & Nancy Spane**

**2.18 Kris & Deborah Black**

### Birthdays:

**2.14 Bryan Wisniewski**

**2.15 Lisa Swartz**

**2.15 Mahon Muery**

**2.15 Erma Claire Izard**

**2.16 Laura Izard**

**2.18 Jan Ortiz**

**Lexington Church of Christ**

**101 Ballpark Road  
Lexington, SC 29072**

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E-mail: office@lexingtonchurch.net  
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/50417968423>

**Online Giving!**

[Lexingtonchurch.net](http://Lexingtonchurch.net)

Contact the office for recurring payments.

**Opportunities to Serve**

**February 18, 2018**

**Worship:** Wayne Burress

**Sound Room:**

Cliff Brown

Ruben Macedo

**Lord's Supper:**

Allan Whitacre

**Servers in February:**

Wayne Burress

Ernie Oliver

Brian Devereaux

Vern Lowe

Matt Joy

**Door Greeters in Feb.:**

Dennis & Sharon Carter

**Nursery:**

**Toddler:**

**Address**

Billy "Patrick" Hutto Jr.  
356437 D3/B14, WRCl  
P.O. Box 189  
Rembert, SC 29128-0189

SPC Grayson M. Carter  
B CO, 1-63 AR, 2ABCT, 1ID  
UNIT 93105  
APO AE 09016  
[graysoncarter50@gmail.com](mailto:graysoncarter50@gmail.com)

**Ministry Leaders**

James Bost, Guest Relations	360-3693
Karen Bost, Guest Relations	609-2847
Krysten Miller, Guest Relations	(304) 771-1126
Sharon Carter, Fellowship	957-4625
Sandi Chamberlain, Missions	920-5211
Carol Brown, Ladies Ministry	446-5285
Justin Muery, Men's Ministry	(801) 726-6996
John Turner, Grounds	356-8153
Corey Wisniewski, Finance	951-8981
Lauren Brannan, Children	331-0155
Michael Spane, Security	600-2288
Cale Ferguson, Life Groups	212-5202

**Minister: Keke Brooks**

Cell Phone: (803) 608-8436, E-mail: kekebrooks204@gmail.com

**Youth Minister: Dawn Wisniewski**

Cell Phone: (803) 348-0084; 951-8981, E-Mail: dawn@lexingtonchurch.net

**Children's Ministry Leader: Lauren Brannan**

Cell Phone: (803) 331-0155, E-Mail: laurenb0529@gmail.com

**Counselor: Karen Close**

Cell Phone: (803) 261-9889; 520-7821, E-mail: KClose@sc.rr.com

**Worship Leader: Connor Watkins**

Cell Phone: (843) 670-5375, E-mail: cwatkins89@gmail.com

**Office Administrator: Sharon Carter**

Cell Phone 803.665.6015, E-mail: office@lexingtonchurch.net

**Missionaries:**

Guyana, South America: Basil Seeram and Ronald Thompson (romtom15@yahoo.com)  
AIM Hannah Baker, Donnie Guill, Mission UpReach in Honduras: Mike, Kris, Kaylee Bridges

## YOUTH NEWS

Last Sunday in the elementary class, I took a break from our study through the book of John and did a lesson on "love". There can never be too many reminders to love others, but there also can never be too many reminders about how much God loves us and how faithful He is. We played a couple of games of "Love is..." bingo to get familiar with the verses, then we read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and 1 John 4:8. These verses describe the kind of love that we should show to others, but they also describe the kind of unconditional love that God has for us. When 1 John 4:8 tells us that God IS love, we can substitute the word "love" for the word "God" in those famous 1 Corinthians 13 verses. We read that "God is patient is kind...God keeps no record of wrongs...God always protects...God never fails."

WOW!!! How beautiful are these words that describe such a powerful, forgiving, loving God.

This Valentine's Day I'll be sure to tell my hubby and little loves how much I love them as I do every day, but I'll also

remember how loved I am by my Creator every single day. That's what I hope the students took away from this lesson too. We are all fiercely and unconditionally loved by God. Every day.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Blessings,

Lauren Braman