



Atlanta 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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Returning renewed in heart!

On the weekend of October 4th-6th, women from congregations in our fellowship around the Southeast had the opportunity to take part in the ReNew! Women's Retreat. The schedule was designed to allow different forms of refreshing renewal—from yoga to circuit training, from discussion groups to mountain hikes, flexible mealtimes, movies and campfires, times for fellowship, or just time alone to walk, pray, study and rest. Craftswomen offered their works for sale, and participants could create their own works of art of many kinds. The weather turned out rainier than most of us had expected from the forecasts, but the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, NC, offered outdoor beauty and indoor comfort for all kinds of activities. If you were there, please remember what we brought home with us, and keep sharing it with others—we all need to keep "being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16)! It was hard to get a picture of such a lively group, so here are a few shots of at least most of us, with apologies for anyone we missed—



Our Identity in Christ

As you have likely heard by now, Atlanta church of Christ in Gwinnett is currently offering the Disciples InMotion program. When I first heard about it, I wasn't sure what to make of it, but since I am generally open to trying new things as long as they interest me and sound reasonable, I thought I would check it out. I am glad I did.

After four weeks (technically three because I missed one due to travel), I can tell you that I am already beginning to think differently about the things that have been plaguing me on and off for most of my life. The program's structure—a mix of interactive classroom/teaching, group work/support, and personal study/work/self-reflection—has been a blessing. I especially connected with Week Two (the week I missed), which dove into our identity in Christ. During my self-study I spent some time reflecting on what the author, Dr Timothy Sumerlin, had to say about our identity and our innocence.

It struck me that I had never thought about the two in tandem—that in Christ, as the author suggests, they go hand-in-hand. Christ gives us a new identity, and with it, restores our innocence. As Tim writes, "Your identity is not the sin you've been involved in – instead, your identity is rooted in the cross and the justification found there. Our identity is the result of being in Christ."

Tim reminds us that not only are we a new creation in Christ, but God also gives us many new ways to describe ourselves. Scripture is full of references to our new identity. We don't have to revert back to the ways in which we defined ourselves.

I did a bit of research and pulled together a few verses that I found inspiring. I hope they will bless you as well. Scripture has so much more. I encourage you to do a little study yourself.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NET) – So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away – look, what is new has come!

1 John 3:1 (NET) – See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children – and indeed we are!...

Galatians 4:7 (NET) – So you are no longer a slave but a son (or daughter), and if you are a son, then you are also an heir through God.

John 15:15 (NET) – (Jesus speaking) – I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father.

Ephesians 1:11 (NET) – In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession...

1 Peter 2:9 (NET) – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own...

Ephesians 5:8 (NET) – for you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in the Lord....

– Alex Neumann

Superheroes to the rescue!

For several years we've helped with and supported the annual HOPE *worldwide* Superheroes for Orphans fundraising walkathon held on the Georgia Tech campus every fall. Well, this year that physical walk won't take place—instead, this fundraiser has gone virtual. Instead of collecting checks from family and friends and trooping downtown en masse, we can design our own walks (actual or virtual) and collect contributions entirely online. The link for contributions—along with more information about how HOPE *worldwide* is helping orphans and at-risk children and families in Africa—was sent out in an announcement email, so check your inbox!

Some of the Women Who Walk set aside time on Monday and Tuesday, November 18th and 19th, to dedicate their walks to raising funds to support this important work.

Here are pictures of these generous walkers—Sherry Rouse, Wendy Muriithi, Kathy Vogt, Felicia Pope, and Barb Collier (Monday), and Bridgett Roberson, Wendy Muriithi, Constance Diomande, Eva Sjodin, Sherry Rouse and Mary Fields (Tuesday).



There's still time for you—or your family group—to organize an actual walk! Think of fun places to gather for fellowship and take a walk to raise money for this wonderful cause. We will announce the total raised by ACOC Gwinnett at our Christmas program on Sunday, December 15th.

With thanks to Sherry Rouse for pictures & info!

A colorful change

Here are a few pictures captured recently, showing a little of God's amazing artistry on display here in the Southeast as autumn has settled in—enjoy!





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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