

Central Gwinnett Gazette

C E N T R A L G W I N N E T T M I N I S T R Y

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov. 12th Guest Speaker - Peti Szabad (Budapest, Hungary)
- Nov. 19th - Worship at Athens COC
- Nov. 26th - House Churches
- Dec. 10th - Christmas Program and Meal
- Dec. 17th Guest Speaker - Mike Tallaferra

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Music and Worship

By Peter Berry

A large part of each worship service involves music: from rock-influenced opening songs to traditional hymns sung in parts to songs performed as background to meditation during the Lord's Supper. Tastes vary, and we are not all moved by the same forms, but I believe it is important for us to find a scriptural and spiritual common ground in this as in all things as we give glory to God.

In my various roles as a song leader, part singer, trumpet player, or member of the singing congregation, I have found some thoughts and scriptures that have assisted me in using music to help me worship. I share these in hopes that others will also benefit.

- **Sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs"** (Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19). Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, tells us to sing, to speak to each other through song with gratitude in our hearts to God. Not necessarily to have a beautiful voice or to sing always on key, but to sing. At this

level, this is not an issue of ART but of HEART. Join us when we sing; surrender yourself to the moment.

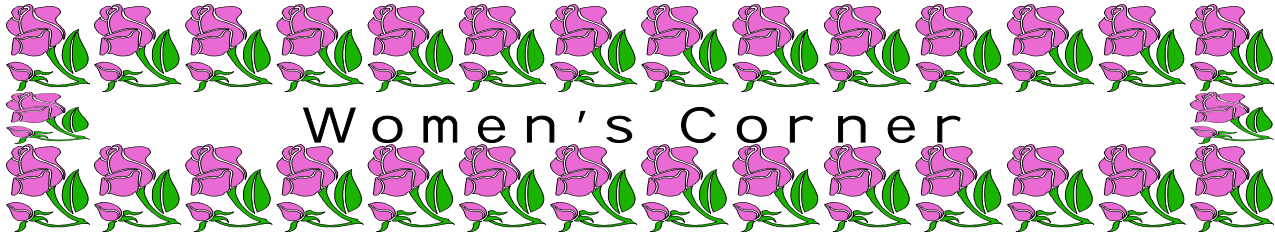


- **The words of the songs we sing are meaningful, and frequently poetic.** A psalm is in fact defined as "a sacred song or poem of praise," (*Encarta*) and God provided many Psalms for us in His Word; note that many of the songs we sing use text directly from Psalms. Hymns and spiritual songs have also been written to communicate deep and spiritual emotions and ideas. Take the time to really read the words we sing; these can make great quiet times and meditation themes. And,

should you find words that are not true for you, please don't sing them – you should never sing a lie. Please note (and appreciate!) the effort some are making to project the words to songs on Sundays; this is done because we consider the words important. However, please bring your song book (it is \$13 at www.dpibooks.org), especially on Thursday nights, and use it.

- **Let the music touch your heart.** What do you like? Slow, stately? Fast and rocking? Country and heartfelt? Psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs? Does it depend on your mood? All are fine, but let the music in, let it touch you. The times of singing (or listening) are not times for fellowship and note passing, but times to reflect on God and the song's meaning, and to let the creativity of others and your own mind worship God. Ephesians 5:19 says "Sing and make music in your heart to God."

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Women's Corner

The Women of Strength

By Kathy Vogt

The Women of Strength is a group within the Central Gwinnett Ministry for women with chronic illnesses. Our first meeting was in March of 2005. We meet once a month at Kathy Vogt's house. In September of 2006, we began sharing our personal journeys with God, including how we found God and how we were converted. Each person shares their story once a month. Every couple of months, we have a

fun activity. We have had a karaoke night and a movie night. We are planning a karaoke night again after each person has shared their story.

Our goal is to have a place where we can share our struggles with each other and grow through them spiritually.

There is time set aside for us to share personal concerns about our illnesses and our own situations. We do, however, try to stay focused through the sharing of Scriptures. We strive to uncover God's plans for our lives, even through our pain and fatigue.

Our goal is to have a place where we can share our struggles with each other and grow through them spiritually. We welcome new people to our group, hoping that they will also come to feel loved and encouraged.



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- **Be led.** Singing is a group activity; participate, follow, join in. Some songs you'll want to sing slower or faster; please resist the temptation, and follow the leader in tempo and spirit, and join in with your spiritual family to make it all great. Note that the command to sing in Colossians 3:16 is immediately followed by verse 17 "And whatever you do, whether in word of deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." and shortly later by verse 23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."



Join us. We seek the service of the musically inclined to help build our worship. We can use more talented song leaders, parts singers, instrumental musicians, and knowledgeable sound system folks. Don't hide your talents but be eager to serve (Matthew 25:15ff). I would especially love to bring in additional cultural influences; Hispanic or Asian influences, traditional church tunes, classical, bluegrass... Can you help us?

Don't miss out on this opportunity to draw nearer to God. William Congreve wrote that "Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak." God created us so that music can reach us; let it reach you.

Join Us!

FAMILY GROUPS

If you have not yet connected with a family group, we invite you to join any of our ten groups below:

- John Yang — Lilburn
- Glenn Hayes — Loganville
- Phil Dawson — Lawrenceville
- Audie Flowers — Lawrenceville
- Russ McGarr — Lilburn
- Karl Lynn — Snellville
- Ward Rutland — Lawrenceville
- Barry Jennings — Lilburn
- Joe Washington — Lawrenceville
- Gary Roberson — Lawrenceville

Adoption: How You Can Help

By Danny Emmett

“Madonna Files Adoption Papers”

This was the headline just a few weeks ago. There has been lots of talk regarding whether Madonna is just jumping on the latest Hollywood craze in adoption, following in the footsteps of many stars or if she really wanted to adopt out of love. I know that God is in control of everything including this adoption. I do not know what caused Madonna to adopt; it really does not matter. The fact is that she did adopt and it has caused adoption to come into the spotlight.

The need for adoption support is great in the US, but even more so internationally. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, 128,980 children in public foster care were waiting for adoption in the United States as of 1999. By 2003 the number had grown to 1,193,492. The number increases daily. How can you help? Do something; anything you can do will help. The purpose of this article is to give information to motivate action.

Among children waiting to be

adopted in US foster care;

- There are more males than females.
- African-Americans are disproportionately represented.
- 2/3 of the children are 6 years or older.
- The average length of time a child waiting to be adopted has spent in foster care in the US is 3 years 8 months.
- Only 13% of children have spent less than one year in foster care.
- 22% have spent 1 to 2 years in foster care.
- 41% have spent 2 to 5 years in foster care.
- 24% have spent 5 or more years in foster care.
- Approximately 80% of the children waiting to be adopted have no prospective adoptive family.
- 52,000 children were adopted from public foster care in 2004, of these:
 - 89% of these children are receiving an adoption subsidy to assist their adoptive families with the expenses of raising a child with special needs.
 - Only 18% of all children

who left foster care in 2004 were adopted.

National Adoption Week was first proclaimed in Massachusetts in 1976. The number of states that designated a special week to recognize the practice of adoption gradually increased, leading to National Adoption Month in 1990. The purpose of National Adoption Month is to focus attention on the increasing number of children in the child welfare system waiting to be adopted. Each year, the president joins the adoption community across the country in proclaiming November as a month when Americans should be aware of adoption as a way to build a family. This year November 20th will be National Adoption Day.

In honor of National Adoption Awareness Month, HOPE for Children is waiving the \$275 application fee for couples applying to adopt from China during the month of November. If you or anyone you know is thinking about adopting (or adopting again!), log onto to www.hopeforchildren.org for further details.

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Deacon Corner			Weekly Attendance and Contribution		
			<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Karl Lynn	Single Parents	770-978-4747	10/8	373	\$7,448
Ken Watson	Benevolence	678-376-2677			
Peter Berry	Benevolence	678-376-1878			
Patrick Freeman	Kingdom Kids	770-921-1811	10/15	363	\$6,685
Glenn Hayes	Kingdom Kids	770-985-6921			
Dan Stehr	Visitation	770-925-2943			
Bill Francis	Visitation	770-806-8645	10/22	With North River	\$5,385
Todd Reynolds	Middle School	770-682-0027			
Russ McGarr	Middle School	770-381-5045			
Steve Collier	Teens-Parents	770-717-5784	10/29	383	\$8,261
Joe Hartline	Teens-Parents	770-277-4765			
Danny Emmett	Hope, events	770-985-4542			
Todd Shultz	Communications	770-277-4276			
Birt Anglin	Ushering	678-849-0180			
Jeff Mueller	Order of Worship	770-492-0544			
Kendall Knight	Music Service	770-972-6887			

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New York City Filled 7 Times

New York City could be repopulated seven times with the number of orphans worldwide. There are between 50 and 70 million orphans in the world. Adoption is a way to help someone else. My perspective is that the church needs orphans as much as orphans need the church. I feel that God wants us to invest our lives in the lives of others. The graph below shows international adoptions in 2004.

IMMIGRANT-ORPHANS ADOPTED BY U.S. CITIZENS BY GENDER, AGE, AND REGION AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH: FISCAL YEAR 2004

Region and country of birth	Total	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	Over 9 years
All countries	22,911	8,070	14,841	9,195	10,384	2,100	1,232
Europe	8,158	4,024	4,134	2,144	4,068	1,320	626
Asia	9,797	1,817	7,980	4,596	4,758	281	162
Africa	580	254	326	95	178	159	148
Oceania	51	24	27	19	20	8	4
North America	3,869	1,732	2,137	2,156	1,270	240	203
Caribbean	447	182	265	17	212	97	121
Central America	3,316	1,505	1,811	2,112	1,032	D	D
South America	452	217	235	185	88	91	88

If you studied the Bible from front to back, you would find many issues close to God’s heart, but you would also notice three groups of people that God’s word talks about time and time again. I believe God mentions them so many times to make sure that they are at the top of our priority list. These are three groups that especially claim “When you are harvesting in your back to get it, Leave it for the alien, that the Lord your God will bless hands.”

God doesn’t stop at caring for and heart. James 1:27-28 says: “Religion pure and faultless is this, to look distress and to keep oneself from

Caring for the fatherless is not only a Adoption is not merely an additional the desired size. Caring for the favery heart of God. Caring for orabout knowing and pleasing the God

What can you do?

For the people who want to do speak to me. I would like Central Gwinnett to develop an orphan’s ministry built on the foundation of prayer. We collect a weekly donation to assist in adoptions in the ministry, but I feel we could do more. I would love to have a few families and/or individual disciples who will become adoption advocates. Not everyone is called to adopt, but everyone can be an advocate for a child in need of a family.



They are: orphans, widows, and aliens (or matter to God. Deuteronomy 24:19 pro-field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go the fatherless and the widow, so you in all the work of your

defending those close to His that God our Father accepts as after orphans and widows in their being polluted by the world.”

compassionate and kind act. means of growing our families to therless and adoption are at the phans is about obedience...it is whom we serve.

something for orphans, please on the foundation of prayer. We collect a weekly donation to assist in adoptions in the ministry, but I feel we could do more. I would love to have a few families and/or individual disciples who will become adoption advocates. Not everyone is called to adopt, but everyone can be an advocate for a child in need of a family.