



“On the Edge”

November 25, 2008

**“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18**

When the economy is failing, wars seem unending, the political landscape is liberally changing and the everyday challenges of life are overwhelming...give thanks? Yes indeed! The Apostle Paul had it right when he proclaimed this message to the Thessalonians. The Lord God is still sovereign over His creation and His people! There is no need for fear or discouragement because our God is more than able to navigate us through the most difficult days. Think of the pilgrims at Plymouth in 1621.....they spent 3 days giving thanks yet they had lost friends and family to the wiles of the new world. Food was scarce and not many of the Indians were their friends. They gave thanks and celebrated God’s love and faithfulness because this was their “lifestyle,” not just a holiday. We too have much to celebrate. God has blessed our families and River’s Edge beyond measure. This season is so important to share our gratitude to the Lord by sharing Him! Whether during Thanksgiving or Christmas, our families and friends need to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. If we live in a “lifestyle of gratitude,” they may just want to know “how” we can be so thankful! So, we will tell them, right? Give thanks by giving Jesus!

Remember, our special Night of Celebration with Mosaic Christian Fellowship is Sunday, December 14th at 6:00 pm in their new building at the corner of Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and Tab Roberts Road. We want to be good encouragers to them as they begin ministry in their new building. Also, earlier on that same day, the students and adult Paintball Palooza will take place at the Ryan’s home right after morning worship.

As we begin the Advent Season this Sunday, November 30th, we will tell every part of the Christmas Story with candles each week in the Advent Wreath. Don’t miss a Sunday in December as we rejoice in our Savior’s birth. Along with our Advent emphasis we will be receiving our special offering for international missions. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is a dynamic way to support international missionaries around the world. This special offering goes only to support the 5200 missionaries Southern Baptists support in over 160 countries. Please make your gift to this special offering during the month of December. There will be Lottie Moon offering envelopes available for you to make your important gift. We give so the Story can be told!

You will notice that the Guatemala Mission Team slideshow is now on our church web site. Make sure to view it and show it to others. Use this video as a witnessing tool for lost friends. When they ask, "Why does your church go on missions to Guatemala?" You can tell them the story of our Savior!

On Sunday, December 21st, we will gather for breakfast on the Sunday before Christmas Day at 9:30 am. There will be no Bible Study classes on this day. After breakfast, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during the Morning Worship service. I look forward to this beautiful time of blessing with my church family around the Lord's table!

Let me say thanks for everyone who helped on the church work day last Saturday. We accomplished a lot in a short time. I appreciate each of you who shared a few hours to help make our space better.

As I close, I want each of you to know how thankful I am for you. The last four years have been the most blessed in ministry for me. I cannot tell you enough times how the Lord has showered me with His love through you, and the relationships we have together. Never forget my love and dedication to you and this family of faith. I can never praise the Lord enough for what He has done for me through River's Edge. Thank you for being my family!

I love you all,

Pastor Stephen