



“On the Edge”

September 22, 2009

“In Your Presence is fullness of joy and at Your right hand, pleasures forevermore.”
Psalm 16:11

I've been overwhelmed by the presence of the Lord as we have met for worship in this last month. Our God has been so faithful to us as His church and He has provided for every need. Our new building has opened up so many more possibilities for ministry and service. I stand in awe of the Lord! Just think, five years ago today 26 of us met in a club house in Forsyth County on the edge of the Chattahoochee River and prayed. We asked God to show us His steps in beginning a new church family. We sang, we cried out to the Lord and we wondered at how He would answer. After that night, I went to Gate City, Virginia to preach in revival services for a week. All the while we were praying and seeking the Lord. The congregation in Virginia laid their hands on me and prayed during the last night of the revival and all the members shared with me that they believed God was going to do a mighty work in the new River's Edge Baptist Church. Then it happened. We met for our first worship time at the River Club in the Grand Cascades community on Sunday morning, October 3, 2004. During that worship service, almost 50 people committed to help start River's Edge. Now look at us...five years later the Lord has forged a mighty church with the opportunity to reach thousands of people who need Jesus as their Savior. God has provided for all the needs and has even placed us in a building positioned in the perfect location from which to minister. From a club house to a convenience store to a new warehouse to a building that is a ready made ministry tool, the Lord has been in all of them because the Lord's Presence is in us! Never forget that the God Who called us out to begin River's Edge five years ago is going with us today into every neighborhood, job location, sports event, school and home we walk within. His Presence gives us hope and celebration. His Presence is the reason we come together to worship and serve. It is His Presence that gives us hope and it will be His Presence that sees us faithfully through to the end! There is so much to rejoice over and so much that God has called us to do. As we celebrate our Fifth Anniversary as God's Church on Sunday, October 4th, never forget where we came from (God's Presence) and where we are going (God's Presence forever)!

We will celebrate our 5th Anniversary as a church on Sunday, October 4th! We will observe the Lord's Supper that day and we will also have a Fellowship Meal following the worship service. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the softball field and playground behind Sugar Hill Elementary School for just plain fun! I want to encourage you to invite friends on this day and catch the vision to share your faith. God has given us a story to tell and we need to share it. There will be no more appropriate day than this one to share what the Lord has done! Our Fellowship Team will be coordinating the meal for this special day.

I want to mention a few dates to place on your calendar and keep you informed on ministry opportunities.

- FAITH Outreach Teams are forming on Sunday, October 11th at 4:00 pm (This will be an 8 week semester of FAITH)
- The Awana Ministry Yard Sale is Saturday, October 10th beginning at 8:30 am at the church building
- New Member Training will begin on Sunday, October 11th at 9:30 am in the Pastor's Office. (This training lasts for 4 weeks)
- 1st Annual Missions Celebration will be Sunday, November 1st featuring Pat and Traci Ragan from AMG International

Let me take a moment and just say "thanks" to all of you! The last five years have been the most wonderful of my 29 years of ministry. The reason is simple. River's Edge is the family of faith I knew the Lord always wanted me to serve within. Each of you has made this possible because of your obedient spirit to God and your faithfulness to stay in His will. This church is made up of such a diverse group of people that I wonder at times why we haven't all stomped on each other, but as I say that I also know why we haven't. It's because the love of God is so real in River's Edge! We don't just talk about being the church of Jesus Christ, we are the church of Jesus Christ! I could never have asked the Lord for a family that I would love any better or want to be with any more than each one of you! Folks, not just as a pastor, but as a fellow believer and member of your family, I love you! I can't wait to see what God is going to do in the days ahead. I'm eternally grateful that I will be doing it with you!

With all my love,

Pastor Stephen