

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

Our Family is a circle of strength; founded on Faith, Joined in Love Kept by God, Together forever.

- unknown



Lyn Thaxton

Born in Detroit, grew up in Knoxville, TN; BA Eng/Philosophy, Emory and Henry College; MA Librarianship at Emory University; reference librarian, William and Mary U, 4 years then to GSU, Atlanta; involved in organizational work; meantime earned PhD Community and Clinical Psychology; 2 years in commercial music program (managing bands); taught GSU 10 years; retired 2009; currently teaching research psychology on-line with U of Maryland Global Campus

Moved to mountains 4 ½ years ago; involved in community activities, theater, Friends of Library; enjoys hiking, her woods, and animals (ask Lyn)

Found CLCC through church website and attracted by support groups; progressiveness, outreach; loves participation of members in worship, Biblical preaching, labyrinth; Moravian background

Bobby Anderson



Born and raised in Savannah, GA; athletic scholarships (basketball, football, baseball) to Benedictine school and college; 12 years US Air Force pilot; in Atlanta started insurance business that led to CEO and Board Chairman of Financial Services Corporation, now serving in 38 states and is the founding company of financial planning industries; named in "Sell and Grow Rich" publication as Best Salesman in America; retired after 50 years to Boquete, Panama; has 3 sons

Avid golfer with a couple of championships plus taught over 300 golfers; follows all sports – whatever is in season and big Braves fan!

About CLCC: "I love the Word that's being taught" and the friendly people.

Helen Anderson



Born Greenville, SC; raised textile village in Pembroke, NC; back to Greenville, then Atlanta; some study at GA State; worked 4 years WR Grace and Company, management and personnel; 7 years with Financial Services Corp; met and married Bobby at work, 35 years ago; following Bobby's retirement moved to Panama for 13 years then to Blue Ridge Village

Avid golfer 30 years (Braselton), 5 times club champion! voracious reader; loves games; genealogist; owned by Addie, rescued champion (American and Panamanian) Lakeland Terrier;

Brought to CLCC by daughter, Lisa Weir and granddaughters, Peyton and Parker Peugh; "I love [CLCC]! I never have known a place so accepting! They are the most loving bunch of people I've ever been

Tom Ottinger



Born in San Diego, raised in Fairhope, AL; BA Math & Education, U of Southern Illinois; graduate school U. of Wisconsin; applied as teacher in 30 states and taught in Ellijay 32 years; earned PhD Math and Education, Georgia State; Rhinehart College 6 years; Exec. Dir. GA Math Teachers Assoc; 30 summers Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth; has 2 children and 4 grands

Currently pursuing hiking passion: Appalachian Trail (AT) Ridgerunner, 3 seasons so far, and met Beverly at one of his shelters; Leadership roles, Georgia AT Club Outreach Director; AT Trail Conservancy; Len Foote Hike Inn

CLCC: with Bev, tried all sorts of churches "and this is the one...friendliest, open to believe as God leads...openness", to name a few

Beverly Ottinger



Born Miami, raised in Tampa area; U of FL graduate in Physical Therapy; Masters in Physical therapy, NYU; practiced in New York 14 years then to Fort Lauderdale, eventually Miami to care and advocate for aging parents; one daughter resides in CA Earth Skills Community

Lured by the mountains and a best friend in Cherry Log, work opened in PT work in Murphy; in retrospect, the journey here was, "God ordained"; following retirement bought a camper and with friends caravanned on a fabulous journey (ask Beverly); hiking the Appalachian Trail, met Tom at one of the Trail shelters he was maintaining and married last February

CLCC: "We church - shopped for one in our community...tried several...CLCC is inclusive, full of joy, full of life...the Spirit is working here."

Mike Hriljac



Chicago born, raised and educated; DPM from U of Chicago, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery; founder Ridgeland Podiatry Center, Ltd, 20 years; earned LLM, Health Law and JD (night school); Sue's cancer diagnosis and to escape demands of medicine, sold practice and joined Robbins, Solomon & Patt law firm 11 years; resume includes Adjunct Prof. Law, John Marshall Law School; Adjunct Prof. Medicine, Rosalind Franklin U of Science and Medicine 4 years and Trustee 14 yrs.; served on numerous professional and non-profit boards – and more

Retirement? "actually going surprisingly well," photography classes, pottery, getting healthy with daily walking, better eating, reading, fly fishing...;

CLCC: a place of great potential, and "Adam is doing a great job!"

Sue Hriljac



An Omaha, NE Mid-western girl, U of NE nursing graduate; followed Mike to Louisville, KY; eventually became geriatric nursing as well as teaching new employees; geriatric work highlighted need for legal training; earned law degree in Chicago and worked in "elder law", a very fulfilling work. Effects of breast cancer chemo led to closing law practice; entered pastoral clinical care studies then began ministry to dying patients, "my highest privilege"; retired to mountains a year ago to be near family; 1 daughter, 2 "very fine grandsons

Chose CLCC from website – labyrinth, handbells, and found "positive energy, acceptance, a lovely [church]"

Enjoys daily walking, water color painting, flower gardening to share with others.

Kirk Cameron



Born Waterloo, NY in military family; lived in Germany 4 years, Augusta, then "grew up" in Atlanta. Graduate of GSU in Health Care Administration that became his life's work incorporating intel, teaching, award winning designs, management, all with McKesson Corp; retired 2018.

Home church, All Saints' Episcopal where he served on the Vestry, taught all levels of SS, was involved in stewardship and capital campaigns, developed Parish Profile; married Michael in 2015!

In the mountains they searched for an outreaching church and finally found CLCC (recommended by an agnostic coworker). "I have goose bumps when I enter...the Holy Spirit fills this place

John Mench

Born in NYC; Enjoyed 50-year career as engineer (mechanical and electrical); business man, construction, university lecturer, author (textbooks and novels); Navy Vietnam air veteran; recipient of several awards including: Outstanding Faculty, Southern Polytechnic University, Engineer of the Year from Georgia Engineer Alliance, Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) Fellow; degrees include BS engineering Southern Polytechnic U, MBA finance, Ohio U, PhD business, CA Coast U

CLCC: attended about 20 years as part time resident because of neighbor, Jim and Betty Willis, and "am always impressed by the



friendliness of the people"; a writer of 30 years, beginning with textbooks; currently writing 8th historically based novel about religious/Biblical characters – most recent, "PAUL, John the Baptist – Jesus"

Dan Thompson

Born and raised in Jackson, MS; graduated HS in Dunwoody; enjoyed 15 years in banking with National Bank of GA; flight attendant with Atlantic Southeast Airlines 15 years; primary work interspersed with numerous "mini careers": interpreter for deaf, Hapeville HS (AA degree in interpreting, DeKalb Junior College); NYC Academy of Dramatic Arts; traveled with band (keyboard); Starbucks manager 3 years –ask Dan for more.

As pianist. played in churches, Olympic parties, nightclubs; avid language lover and loves crocheting

Baptized a Methodist 10 years, Presbyterian several years; Catholic while in



New Orleans, back to Methodist, now a Disciple, " [in CLCC]...I feel totally embraced with love and acceptance for who I am. It's a warm loving church." Sings in Chancel choir

Joe Bazemore



Born in Moultrie, GA; spent most of childhood in Edison, GA as a PK (preachers' kid); graduated Shorter College with degrees in organ and voice.

Organist/director Audubon Methodist Church, Louisville 8 years; back to school for AA degree in IT "which correlates remarkable with music theory"; worked for Crawford and Company to develop software for 15 years; part time management of group homes for enAble of Georgia, a service for adults with developmental challenges; retired 4 years ago to "do what I want to"; an avid reader (mysteries, biographies, Flannery O'Conner); he and Dan Thompson partners 33 years;

CLCC: Sydney Goss pushed them here. "George Barrett crossed the parking load holding out his hand and we knew we were home." Immediately joined chancel choir.

Nate Mason

Born in Rome, grew up in Calhoun area; music degree from Berry College; lead singer in a band; certified in design at Savannah College of Arts and Design; 3 years designing for Springs Industries; married Kim; earned MBA at Campbell U; involved in marketing with Tarkett Sports flooring then Blue Ridge Carpets in El-lijay; now has his own marketing firm

Hobbies are guitar and parenting Luke and Kate (not really a hobby)

Searched extensively for a “church that fit; CLCC recommended by Hal Doster; “How we were welcomed defined the church (Judy Barrett first greeter)...impressed by the level of activity. It’s not a club that meets on Sunday.” working with communications and operates sound system



Kim Mason

Born in Dahlonega, raised in Milledgeville then Macon; Graduated Shorter College, religion and philosophy; MDiv, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer U; Ordained by First Baptist Church, Dalton; Children’s Minister Resident at First Baptist Church Lumberton, NC; married Nate moved to Jasper; became Mom to Luke 2011 then Kate 2016; served as Children’s Minister at First Baptist Church, Jasper

Talents include music, cooking and shopping for bargains (Nate verified this talent)!

CLCC: familiar with Dr. Craddock from his worldwide preaching reputation and books; searching for a church “fit” and from the first visit, “the church has embraced us as no other church we’ve known....I’ve been waiting for this...and I think the church is stronger because of its diversity;” works with children and does children’s “sermon”

