

FOCUS

January 2011

Pastor Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007



Focus on New Families at Faith

As we focus on new families here at Faith, we take the opportunity to meet Sharon and Gerry Power. The Powers joined Faith on December 12th. Here is what Gerry has to say about his family.

Tell us about the Power family.

Sharon and I have four children—three boys and one girl. They are all grown up. The three boys all live here in the Atlanta area: one in Woodstock, one in Roswell, and one in Marietta. Our daughter lives in Indianapolis. She just got engaged a few months ago so we have a long distance wedding to plan. We also have been blessed with four grandchildren. Sharon and I like to say our sons and grandchildren are the perfect distance away: They're close enough that we get to see them often, but they're far enough away that they always call before they show up.



Let's go way back—are you and Sharon from this area?

No, Sharon and I are both from Amsterdam: Amsterdam, NY. It's a small town in upstate New York. Sharon is one of seven children, and I am one of six. We were born on the same day, January 4, one year apart. We've known each other since we were kids. We sang in the same children's choir at church and started dating as teenagers in Youth Group. Sharon worked with her mother as the church housekeeper and I was the church sexton. Actually, Sharon once got hit by a car right outside our church when she was 9 years old. My uncle rode with her to the hospital. I'm told that when my brothers and I heard the news, I was the only one who cried. We got married in 1973.

What brought you to Atlanta?

A job opportunity. I worked for Mohawk Carpet for 18 years. I started in upstate New York, but when the company moved to Atlanta, I came with it to head up its customer service functions. We first lived in Woodstock for seven years and in Dillon, SC for 3 years. Then I left Mohawk, and we moved to Greenville, SC where I owned a retail floor covering store. From there we moved back here to Marietta for seven more years, then it was on to Indianapolis. We moved to Peachtree City at the end of August. I am Director of Operations (whatever that is) at Floor Care For Life in Peachtree City, and Sharon started working as a billing clerk at Gentiva Health Care in Smyrna.

What hobbies do you have?

Sharon's hobby is our grandkids, and her dog Chewbacca, who looks like a miniature Chewbacca from Star Wars. She says her other hobby has been to put up with me for the last 37 years. My hobby has always been choir. I've directed church choirs for over 30 years at five different Lutheran churches. If you can believe it, I started directing a children's choir way back when I was 17. I just love to sing. I think it's interesting, though, that as much as I love to sing, I don't know how to play any musical instruments.

What has your experience at Faith been like?

Sharon and I have been a part of Lutheran churches our whole lives. So when we moved to Peachtree City, we wanted to stay in the Lutheran church. We were looking for a Lutheran church that was more biblically correct than politically correct. That is exactly what we found at Faith. Faithbuilders was absolutely fantastic. We were skeptical about it when Pastor first explained it to us. We didn't really think we needed it. But Pastor encouraged us to attend "just so that you know I'm not a quack." Those were his exact words. After attending our first class, we ended up looking forward to every other class! We always felt very comfortable and welcome here at Faith and knew from the initial visit with Pastor that he wasn't a duck!

Devotion Time

Out With the Old and In With the New

Do you like to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve? If you do, you're certainly not the only one. There's something attractive about waiting up for the New Year to begin. It's exciting to begin something new: new resolutions, new hopes, a fresh start. So on New Year's Eve we stay up late, watch the ball drop, and celebrate that it's out with the old and in with the new.

That's what it's like when we come to faith in Jesus. The Apostle Paul writes: *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (1 Corinthians 5:17). Just like entering into a new year marks a new chapter in our lives, so an important change takes place when a person becomes a Christian—you and I are "new creations."

When the Holy Spirit created faith in our hearts, he remade us sinners into what God had originally intended his people to be: new creations created to be like their God in thought, word, and actions. He restored to us the ability to love our God and his Word, to care for our neighbors as for ourselves, and to live lives that bring glory to God. *"The old has gone, the new has come!"*

But I bet you don't always feel like a new creation in Christ. After all the celebrations have ended, 2011 feels a lot like 2010. Maybe being a Christian hasn't seemed to have much impact on your life either. You still argue with your spouse. You still find that deep down you love yourself more than anyone else. You still struggle with lust for what you can't have. A "new creation?" When we look at ourselves, we wonder whether God knows what he's talking about!

But the fact that 2011 doesn't feel much different than 2010 doesn't mean a change hasn't taken place. And Paul explains how the "out with the old and in with the new" change of being a Christian happened. *"Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again* (2 Corinthians 5:15)."

Jesus' death on the cross changed you. His death changed you from a sinner into a saint in God's eyes. It changed you from God's enemy into God's child. It changed you from destined for death to destined for eternal life. Jesus cut away your sin, washed away your guilt, and molded you into the new creation he wants you to be. *"The old has gone, the new has come!"*

Jesus' work is done. You're saved. You're forgiven. And now what remains is for us to live for him who died for us. What's left is for us to live like God's new creations. It's not a New Year's resolution. It's a life resolution. Living like a new creation is going to be a constant struggle—temptations will never go away—but we've got powerful motivation in what Jesus has done for us, and we've got powerful help in the Holy Spirit working through God's Word.

So as you enter into a new year, live for him who died for you. Do everything for the glory of God. Love unconditionally. Pray regularly. Encourage constantly. Always care. Always listen. And always have time just when that other person needs it. Sure, you'll never do any of that perfectly until you step into heaven. But don't let that stop you. You are God's new creation.

January & February – Volunteer Schedules

Acolyte & Friendship Register

	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Friendship Register</u>
January 2	Andrew Bjornas	Versailles Weigel & Will Smathers
January 9	Tyler Buth	Emily Schroeder & Ava Johnson
January 16	Erin Ricker	Sam Pfliger & Garrett Madden
January 23	Caleb Christopher	Grant Bakke & Sidney Bakken
January 30	Jimmy Countryman	Elizabeth Bloy & Maddie Bonnette
February 6	Megan Buth	Daniel Buth & Daisy Collins
February 13	Lauren Curtis	Alyssa & Madison Countryman
February 20	Mike Eberle	Matthew Curtis & Emily Ford
February 27	Jeremy Countryman	Clayton Gibson & Elise Harris

Cleaning Schedule

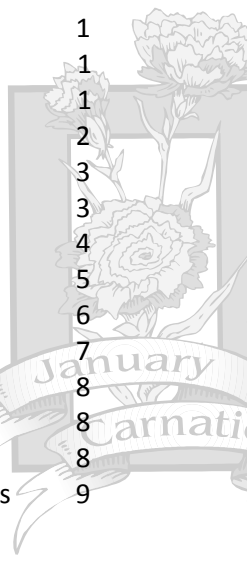
Date	Family 1	Family 2
Week of January 3	Hendricks	J & B Ford
Week of January 10	Gibson	Kvidt
Week of January 17	D & H Johnson	L & K Green
Week of January 24	J & C Pickett	Covey
Week of January 31	P & J Green	M & K Schroeder
Week of February 7	Hold	Christopher
Week of February 14	Springstroh	Wessinger
Week of February 21	Peterson	Bjornas
Week of February 28	Kangas	Koepke

Nursery Schedule

January 2	Joyner	February 6	Springatroh
January 9	Weigel	February 13	K Schroeder
January 16	Bloy	February 20	Bjornas
January 23	Eckhardt	February 27	P & J Green
January 30	Harrington		

January Birthdays

Pascal Chapman	1	Michael King	10
Kristine Meier	1	Erin Ricker	10
Farrah Poage	1	Emma Robertson	10
Jim Christopher	2	Andrew Bjornas	11
Abby Lesage	3	Katie Bendall	15
Rob Watkins	3	Letty Hiltzheimer	18
Vi Henkes	4	Blake Giles	19
Duane Peterson	5	Ed Lesage	20
Grant Harris	6	Jay Ford	22
Allison Pfeifer	7	Stephanie Korsenowski	23
Maggie Buckley	8	Emily Nass	23
Madison Green	8	Colin Duncan	29
Patrick Green	8	Matt Duncan	29
Lillian Pendergrass	9	Jeff Fiscus	29
		Amy Heitshusen	29



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Preschool: Greg Morgan 770-253-0380
 Outreach: Scott Buth 770-683-3999
 Prayer Chain: Dawn Hill..... 678-977-2946
 Connect Group: Judy Christopher . 770-599-6055
 Teen Group: Nathan Nass 770-253-4007
 Youth Group: Gary & Dawn Hill 678-817-6208
 Newsletter: Dawn Hill..... 678-977-2946
 Sherry Kangas 404-680-2175

**If you have information for the newsletter,
 please submit it to
 sherry.kangas@chick-fil-a.com
 by the 25th of each month. Thank you.**

Video Taping

January 2	Andrew Bjornas	February 6	Luke Hendricks
January 9	Katherine Curtis	February 13	Anna Curtis
January 16	Cole Johnson	February 20	Joshua Buth
January 23	Lauren Curtis	February 27	Keith Schroeder
January 30	Caleb Christopher		

January

Ushering Teams

February

Heinz

Buckley

Countryman

Deschamps

Foust

Higgs

Johnson

Kvidt

Lesage

Massmann

Oberhelman

Walrath

Travis

Dennis

Jimmy

Michael

Jeff

David

Cole

John

Ed

Mark

Jim

Dennis

Eckhardt

Bloy

Duncan

Duncan

Duncan

Freeman

Green

Johnston

Madden

Moro

Pfliger

Soletto

Sporleder

Gary

Aaron

Stuart

Colin

Matt

Todd

Patrick

Raymond

Bill

Mike

Michael

Joseph

Wayne