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Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XII #1
January, 2010

Your Manger Wish List

Rev. Mark Westmoreland

While the date above says January, you should be receiving this on the brink of Christmas Eve. So, it's time to make your list (I know. You've probably gone through several by now, but make one more). Just over that next hill is the stable, and in the stable the manger. And for us in the church, of course, that manger is the heart of it all. We're almost there, but you still have time to finish the list. Are you working on it? Feel free to write down your heart's desires.

Make your list and check it twice or even more, as time allows. What are you seeking at the manger this year? Just remember, as some great sage has told us: "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime you just might find you get what you need."

Looking for **power**?

You will find only a helpless baby.

Looking for **success**?

You will find poverty, a stable and a feed-trough cradle.

Looking for **wisdom and knowledge**?

You will find only an uneducated young couple.

Looking for **status**?

You will find lowly shepherds, fresh from their herd and smelling like it.

But come to the manger seeking **harmony and sweet accord**,

And you will find one the prophet called Prince of Peace.

Come seeking **hope**,

And you will find the Alpha and Omega, who was and is and is to come.

Come seeking **meaning**,

And you will find the one who is the Way and the Truth and the Life.

Come seeking **mercy**,

And you will find the bearer of God's wondrous grace.

**Happy
2010!**

*May this year be full
of happiness for your
family.*

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And when you find that peace, hope, meaning and mercy, you can discover also God's true and wondrous **power** that can transform lives, communities and the world.

You can find a depth of **success** you never dreamed possible—success measured in moments, relationships, compassion.

You can find **wisdom and knowledge** grounded in nothing less than God's own grace and truth.

And when you find these gifts, you will come to know yourself as you were intended to be—a child of God. And that, my friend, is **status**.

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
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About Our Church Family

In Memoriam:

Abbie Starr
November 18, 2009

Elizabeth Creel
November 20, 2009

James Lewis "Jimmy" Watkins, Jr.
November 30, 2009

In Sympathy:

- Mr. Ronald Creel and family upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth Creel, on November 20.
- Mrs. Ilene Ayers and family upon the death of her daughter, Galene Ruth Ayers Wood, on November 26.
- The family of Jimmy Watkins – his children, Kimberly, Jason, Ashley and Matthew Mahathey, and his parents, James and Sib Watkins

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Millie Arnold	Carolyn Croft	Estelle Howard	Don Saunders
Ed Bishop	Mary Dettmering	Robert Kyzer	Dot Smith
Joe Byers	Annis Harrell	Angie McClanahan	Bill Weinmeister
Carolyn Clark	O.C. Hendrix	Mary Pierson	

Note of Thanks:

To everyone who has been nice enough to remember me since I've been at LaFayette by their visits and remembrances. I would like to say many thanks and God bless you all. -- Martha Harris

Donations:

A gift to the Building Fund has been made by the Fellowship/Discipleship Class in memory of Sara Warren, Abbie Starr, Elizabeth Creel and Jimmy Watkins and in honor of Estelle Howard and Ed Bishop.

New Members

We welcome the following new members into the life and work of Fayetteville First UMC

Doyle Ashbaugh
7500 Lester Road, Unit 34-3, Union City, GA 30291, 770-969-8950.
Doyle transfers his membership from Lilburn Christian Church in Lilburn, GA.

Matt & Leslie Terek
130 Rising Mist Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30215.
Matt & Leslie join by transfer from Peachtree City United Methodist Church. We welcome Matt & Leslie along with their children, Mattie (5) and William (2).

Attendance:

Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13
Worship: 565	Worship: 562	Worship: 548	Worship: 691
Sunday School: 272	Sunday School: 259	Sunday School: 291	Sunday School: 290

Church Membership: 2013

Our Giving, December 1-13:

Budget: \$ 89,664.07
Building Fund: \$ 2,935.00
2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00
Amount Needed to Meet Budget:
\$ 135,868.79

January @ Fayetteville First UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3	4 Kindermusik: 9:30-12:00 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Advent Study: 7 Alanon: 8	5 Bethany Circle: 1:30 Trus It: 12 Joy Circle: 6 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 Ethel Taylor Circle: 7 AA:8	6 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusik: 10:30-11:00 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) Esther: 6 AA:8	7 Intercessory Prayer: 11 Walking Group: 1 Marie Lamb Circle: 6:30 AA:8	8 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	9 AA:8
10 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3	11 Friebidship Circle: 9 Kindermusik: 9:30-12:00 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	12 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Joy Circle: 6 Timmy Circle: 7 AA:8	13 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusik: 10:30-11:00 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) Esther: 6 AA:8	14 Hope Circle: 10 Intercessory Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 AA:8	15 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	16 AA:8
17 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3	18 Alanon: 8 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	19 Shaw Ministry: 9:30 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 AA:8	20 Pennis Circle: 10 Kindermusik: 10:30-11:00 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) Esther: 6 AA:8	21 Intercessory Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 AA:8	22 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	23 AA:8
24/31 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3	25 Kindermusik: 9:30-12:00 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	26 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 AA:8	27 Kindermusik: 10:30-11:00 Body Recall: 10:30 (see left for night schedule) Esther: 6 AA:8	28 Faith Circle: 10 Mary Martha Circle: 10 Intercessory Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Variety Show: 7 AA:8	29 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Variety Show: 7 AA:8	30 AA:8

Normal Sunday Schedule

- Choir Practice: 7:50
- Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30
- Wonders of Worship: 8:30
- Sunday School: 9:40
- Worship in Chapel: 9:45
- Orchestra Practice: 10
- Choir Practice: 10:15
- Worship in Sanctuary: 11
- Wonders of Worship: 11
- Worship Team Rehearsal: 2
- Open Court Basketball: 2
- Journey Bible Study @ It's a Grind: 6

Normal Wednesday Schedule

- Genesis Youth Choir: 5
- Wed. Night Dinner: 5:15
- Joyful Noise Choir: 6
- Melody Choir: 6
- Sonshine Choir: 6
- 1/99 Mid. & HS: 6
- Discovery Club: 6:30
- Bells: 6:30
- Chimes: 6:30
- YOGA: 6:30
- Solomon's Porch: 7pm
- FLIP: 7
- Chancel Choir: 7:30

College Get Together

There will be a gathering/reunion of our college students on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. in section A-40 of the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a gift of canned goods for Fayette Samaritans.

A Christmas Story

Have you ever put together a puzzle? Maybe you love puzzles, or know someone who does. Have you ever tried to put together one of those really big puzzles with thousands of pieces? Think about how important the box cover is to a puzzle. Without the box cover, it would be impossible to put the pieces together. It represents the goal, the vision that drives every piece we put together. Our lives are kind of like that, aren't they? All of us have some vision, some picture, of what we want our life to be about. What does your box cover look like? Are the pieces fitting together? Are there pieces that just don't fit and are distracting you from the vision? Is the picture you are aiming for a worthy one? What happens if the vision shatters?

Our youth have been contemplating these questions through our Christmas series called "A Christmas Story". We have looked at the story of Christmas through the eyes of Herod, Simeon, and Mary. Herod has a box cover of power, of legacy, and of fame. Jesus was a piece that did not fit for Herod, and he was willing to do whatever it took to focus on his goals. He knew there would be a cost if he embraced the new baby. His whole box cover would have to change. Simeon had a vision of the consolation of Israel. He held to the prophecies that God would send a light to shine in the darkness of the world. He had faith in a promise that God made to him and, as God always does, He kept His promise. Mary's response to the angel's visit is one that begs the question, "Does our box cover have a picture of us on it?" Mary's response was not, "How blessed am I?", but "God, how can I bless you?"

It's a great thing to think about. There is a huge, thousand piece puzzle in The Studio Lounge that our students are working on. Feel free to stop by, put a few pieces together, and reflect on the puzzle of your life and what it's focused on.

Renovatus 2010

Sign up now for our retreat! This is the one event of the year that we strongly encourage all students and adults involved in our ministry to attend. The news is out.... We are NOT going to Glisson for this year's retreat. Our destination will remain a secret to our students but will be revealed to parents at an upcoming parent's meeting. Sign up now!!!!

Regular Youth Schedule starts back on January 6th! Have a great holiday!

What's for Supper?

January 6 Fried Chicken Rice & Gravy Broccoli & Cheese Green Beans Rolls/Dessert	January 13 Meat Loaf Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Rolls/Dessert	January 20 Chili Baked Potato Salad/Dessert	January 27 Beef Stew Creamed Corn, Okra Corn Bread/Dessert	Menu for Titus II - January 5 Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf, Peas Rolls & Dessert
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Believing God

Originating from a concept introduced in Isaiah 43:10, Believing God examines what it means to believe God rather than only believe in Him. Participants study the lives of Abraham and others from Hebrews 11 as examples of people who believed God. This study parallels a personal journey Beth Moore took in coming to understand what it means to believe God. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m., February 24 – May 5.

AARP Drivers Course – Saturday, February 6

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest course for drivers age 50 and older. The program has helped millions of drivers protect their safety on today's roads. AARP has offered its classroom course since 1979, and now offers the course conveniently online.

- Tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road
- Learn defensive driving techniques
- Discover ways to handle left turns, right-of-way, highway traffic and blind spots

Body Recall

We are ready to begin another session of Body Recall. Participants are reporting great results and having lots of fun, too. Join us for our next session beginning January 4. Make a New Year's resolution to become more physically fit. For more information or to register, call the church office, 770-461-4313.

Announcements and Special Events

JobSeekers

Do you find yourself in job transition, or do you feel that a voluntary job transition could be in your future? JobSeekers is a nondenominational ministry for unemployed professionals that has been serving our community for over ten years. JobSeekers meets every Friday morning from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Peachtree City. Each Friday, a professional presentation is presented by Dave O'Farrell focusing on obtaining jobs in the current environment. Dave is a career coach and a professional outplacement consultant. He has dedicated most of his adult life to helping people achieve their goals and putting their lives back together. Assistance provided is FREE. Visit <http://www.jobseekers-ptc.org/js/index.php> for more information, or contact Jack Wheeler at jackwheeler3966@comcast.net, or 770-712-8090.

Titus II

Our Senior Adults invite you to join them for lunch at noon on Tuesday, January 5 in the Family Life Center Gym. Cost is \$6 for the meal of baked chicken, rice pilaf, peas, rolls, beverage and dessert. Our Program will be Aging with Attitude led by Debbie Britt. Call Sara James, 770-461-9703, for reservations by Friday, January 1. Bring a friend or neighbor. You do not have to be a member to come and enjoy.

Great Day of Service

Be sure that Great Day of Service is on your calendar for March 27. Make plans to come and join us as we reach deep and wide into our community as the hands, feet and heart of Christ. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Lindsay Blythe (Lindsay_blythe@hotmail.com)

Kristin's Kids Korner

As we approach the beginning of a new year, it is time to reflect upon the past twelve months and to look towards the coming year. We remember the joys and challenges of the past year, vowing to celebrate more fully the joys and more deliberately tackle the challenges that will come. Many of us will begin to consider New Year's Resolutions. What will we change in the next year to make ourselves better? Get to the gym more often? Spend less time at the office and more time at home? Whatever our resolutions may be, it is crucial that they be accompanied by the support of our family and by our prayers.



Begin by inviting your children and/or grandchildren into these discussions. Discuss their highlights from the past year. What did they love the most? What do they wish they could have done differently? Then, help them to look to the future. Are there things they want to work on or change? Maybe they will promise to fight less with their siblings. Maybe they will try to read more books. They might even want to read the Bible more or have you read it with them! Whatever it is, lead them and support them in their efforts. We are all on a journey to be more like Christ, but we need one another to help lead us on that journey.

Wednesday Night Programs Resume January 6

Please join us following the Christmas break for regular programs on Wednesday evenings. Choirs meet from 6 – 6:30 p.m.; Bells, Chimes, and Discover Club meet from 6:30 – 7 p.m.; Kids FLIP meets from 7 – 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering your time with any of these groups, please contact Kristin Heiden.

Spring/Summer Program Book

Program books outlining all special dates and programs for Spring and Summer 2010 will be available the first week in January. Be sure to pick one up from the Welcome Center or the kiosks around the church.

Children's Commitment Cards

Early in December, your children should have received a commitment card inviting them to make a written promise to the church about how they will take care of the gifts that God has given them. If you did not receive one in the mail, cards and envelopes are available at the Welcome Center and kiosks. Children are invited to draw a picture of their favorite thing about church on the front of the envelope and then tell what the picture is on the back. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Heiden.

'Tis the Season

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Candlelight Concert, December 20, 6 p.m.

Sonia Squires, violin, and Rick Massengale, piano, present their annual Christmas concert featuring many other musicians and guest vocalists.

Christmas Eve Services, December 24 – 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 11 p.m.

Celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ through the Word and music.

Confirmation 2010

Twenty students, along with parents, gathered together Sunday, December 6, to begin a five month journey. Our adult leaders, students, and parents spent the morning learning more about each other as well as the meaning of confirmation. The confirmation class will meet each Sunday in room C-280 during the Sunday School hour. Any student who has not had an opportunity to experience confirmation is invited to join us. We will share Sunday mornings together, enjoy a small group retreat at Epworth by the Sea in February, and celebrate together on Confirmation Sunday, April 18, 2010. If you know someone who may be interested in joining us or have questions, please contact Julie Harp, 770-461-4313 ext 14; jharp@fayettevillefirst.com.

Stewardship 2009

This year's Stewardship Campaign is winding down. 283 pledge cards have been received and \$928,908.80 has been pledged toward the 2010 budget. Thanks to all those who turned in their cards. If you have not turned in your card, it is not too late. Mail or drop it by the church office or return it in the offering plate on Sunday. Take the time to renew your commitment to the church.

Year-End Giving

All contributions that are to be credited to 2009 MUST be in the church office before January 1, 2010. According to income tax regulations, if a check is dated December 31, 2009 but physically delivered in January 2010, it is deducted only on the donor's 2010 federal tax return. The only exception is if the check is dated and mailed (postmarked) in December 2009. PLEASE NOTE - the finance office will be open on Monday - Wednesday, December 28-30 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Thursday, December 31 from 8 a.m. - Noon.

Opportunities for Giving

Several items remain on the list of gifts that may be given in memory or honor of a loved one. The following are available:

- 2 sets of paraments (purple & green) - \$250 per set
- Advent Processional Banner - \$200
- Processional Banner Stand - \$575
- Bride's Room Sofa - \$2500
- 2 Martha Washington Chairs - \$750 each
- 2 Chippendale Arm Chairs - \$440 each
- End Tables, Pictures, Lamps

Thank you to those who have already made donations for items in the sanctuary and brides' room. A list of donors will be published when the project is complete.

Tour of Homes

The FFUMC Christmas Tour of Homes raised about \$12,460 for the Square Foot Ministries Legacy Build and the completion of the Fayette County Counseling Center on Bradley Drive in Fayetteville. A big "Thank You" goes to Sam and Susan Burch, Doug and Debbie Walker, Connie Thomas, Julie and Jeff Stubbs, Shelly and Rick Halbert, and Mike Hofrichter of the Travis House who generously gave of their time and energy to allow over 500 people to experience their warm and beautifully decorated homes. Additionally, Sunday School classes, Circle groups, and youth groups worked together to successfully execute the gourmet luncheon, gift auction, and home tour. Volunteer jobs ranged anywhere from planning, ticket sales, marketing, house hostesses, parking, musicians, lunch preparation and serving, transportation, and donating gift baskets. What a beautiful example of over 200 volunteers helping to bring to fruition a dream that will make life easier for people in Fayette County!

Pictorial Directory

The new pictorial directories have arrived and can be picked up from the church office, at the Welcome Center or from one of the kiosks around the church.