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Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XI #11
November, 2009

This Year, It's About the Card

Rev. Mark Westmoreland

Have you been wondering? When exactly will we receive our commitment cards for 2010? When will we talk about stewardship? When will we receive our commitment cards, and when will we be asked to return them. The suspense is probably killing you.

Well, wonder no more. It's time. But things will be a little different this year.

First of all, if you are involved in a small group in the church, you will receive your card there. You will be asked to return your card to the group as well (sealed in an envelope, of course). If you are not active in a small group, you will be able to return the card in worship or by mail.

And, secondly, the card itself will be different this year. There will be a place for your estimate of giving, of course, but just as importantly, you also will be invited to renew your vows to uphold the church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. You will have an opportunity to include a one-time special gift to the church. And if you are not comfortable offering an estimate of giving at this time, you will be able to say "I am not making a pledge at this time, but I will support the church and its ministries in the year ahead." In other words, the card is about more than financial support; it is a chance for us to reaffirm our faith and our commitment to the life we share in Christ.

In fact, I guess you could say that the whole campaign is about the card, but the card is about our response to God's grace, our faith in Christ, our love for the kingdom of God, our call to serve, our life together. The card is a sign of your part in our shared commitment to Christ and his mission in the world. The card is just a card, of course. And this Sunday as we share Holy Communion, the wafers and juice are just wafers and juice. No, I'm not saying the card is a sacrament, but it IS sacramental; it points to something beyond itself; it speaks of holy things.

There is much uncertainty in this world, as we have experienced very powerfully over the past

year of economic quakes, but there are other things we can always count on. The gospel is the gospel. Love is love. And we are not alone. Christ is with us in the midst of life's joys and struggles. And Christ's grace and call never falter, good times or bad. The card this year is a sign of a simple truth, that even though there is much we cannot control in this world, there are decisions that are ours alone. You and I can decide to follow Christ. The card this year is a sign of that decision.

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Parenting with Love and Logic

Whether you have taken a class or not, we have Audio CDs and DVDs that you may check out from the church office. The titles include:

- CD -- Avoiding Power Struggles with Kids
- CD -- Helicopters, Drill Sergeants and Consultants
- CD -- Love & Logic Magic: When Kids Drain Your Energy
- CD -- Parenting Remedies for When Kids Cook Up the Unexpected
- CD -- Shaping Self-Concept / Encouraging Kids to Take Risks and Learn
- CD -- Sibling Rivalry
- CD -- Trouble Free Teens
- DVD -- Painless Parenting: for the Preschool Years
- DVD -- Parenting Doesn't Have to Be Rocket Science: Teach Kids Good Choices
- DVD -- Parenting with Love & Logic
- DVD -- Real World Parenting Solutions: That Prepare Kids for the Real World
- DVD -- Simple Parenting Strategies: For Raising Great Kids in Complicated Times

You can also download podcasts from <http://www.loveandlogic.com>. Just visit the site and click on podcasts and radio show downloads.

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
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About Our Church Family

In Memoriam:

Dorothy Day
October 19, 2009

In Sympathy:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Parker and family upon the death of his father, George Parker, on October 4.

Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Padgett and family upon the death of Toni's father, Albert Tempesta, on October 13.

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Millie Arnold	O.C. Hendrix	Angie McClanahan	Mildred Swygert
Joe Byers	Estelle Howard	Inez Perry	Jimmy Watkins
Carolyn Clark	Mary Ellen Jones	Mary Pierson	Bill Weinmeister
Carolyn Croft	Robert Kyzer	Brenda Smith	
Annis Harrell	Ashtyn Lally	Dot Smith	

Note of Thanks:

Dear church family, we would like to say thank you so much to our wonderful church family. Four years ago you circled around our dad, Bill Smith, and welcomed him into this family of faith and love. So many of you were angels who helped a blind man live an active life in this church and in this community. You can never know how much we appreciate all of your Christian love. Blessings, Dave, Cheryl, Lauren, Jennifer and Taylor Lee.

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for all the prayers, cards and calls. Your kindness and caring mean so much to me.
Mary Ellen Jones

I sincerely thank everyone for the many acts of kindness given to Herman, me, and our family this year.
Thomasina Miller

Donations:

A donation to the Building Fund was given by the Fellowship/Discipleship Class in memory of Bill Holbrook and Dorothy Day and in honor of Inez Perry.

A donation to the Building Fund was given by Louise Pearce in memory of Herman Miller and Roy Moore.

Ahead in Worship

November 1 John 11:32-44 All Saints Sunday	November 22 Matthew 6:25-33 Thanksgiving Sunday
November 8 1 Kings 17:8-16 "Food Enough"	November 29 First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Service
November 15 Mark 13:1-8 "Birth Pangs"	

Attendance:

Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
Worship: 504	Worship: 541	Worship: 616	Worship: 610
Sunday School: 285	Sunday School: 287	Sunday School: 283	Sunday School: 319

Church Membership: 2012

Our Giving, October:

Budget: \$104,327.48
Building Fund: \$3,907.00
2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00

Shortfall: \$101,223.39

YOUTH NEWS

We have had a wonderful fall so far in youth! We went to see a Braves game, and saw our own Bennett's Mill Middle School chorus sing the national anthem. We spent the night at Zoo Atlanta and learned about biodiversity and how the zoo operates behind the scenes. We had great response from our students for the Fall Festival and they did a great job volunteering! We are now gearing up for our corn maze trip on Nov. 7 and our Fantasy in Lights family trip in December.

Rhythm

We just completed a series in 1|99 called "Rhythm." This series explored the idea that we were created by God to be in rhythm with Him, with ourselves, and with each other. There was a lot of great truth in this series, and we had a lot of fun with it as well. You can go to our blog at www.ffumcyouthblog.com and see the videos that went along with this theme (Carson forms a band, The Rhythm of Fayetteville, and How to Dance). There is one in particular you will not want to miss!

Journey

Our Sunday evening Bible studies have been very engaging this fall. We are tackling different topics that the students have picked, then we pull the scripture and history based on that topic and interpret what the bible is saying about it. Come join us on Sunday evenings at It's A Grind from 6-8 p.m. to be a part of this study! It is for 8th graders through college students.

Genesis Youth Choir

Our youth choir did a great job serving in worship a couple of weeks ago as they brought a little gospel flavor to our worship. They will sing again on Sunday, November 8th.

New Members

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

Leo & Linda Carter

150 Cannon Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214, 770-716-1559.
Leo & Linda join by transfer from Fayetteville Christian Church.

Larry & Jackie Dingler

145 Paula Drive, Tyrone, GA 30290, 770-631-9510.
We welcome Larry & Jackie by transfer from Heritage Christian Church.

Minor & Connie Gouge

140 Sheffield Court, Fayetteville GA 30215, 770-460-9471.
Minor & Connie join by transfer from New Horizons Baptist Church.

Greg & Deborah Horning

355 Carriage Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30215, 770-461-3325.
We welcome Greg & Deborah as they join by transfer from North Fayette UMC.

Andy Stephens

150 Tanglewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214.
Andy joins by transfer from New Hope Baptist Church.
Andy & his wife, Kathryn, have two daughters, Taylor (5th grade, Fayette Intermediate) & Autumn (2nd grade, Hood Ave).

Kristin's Kids Korner

This year, as you know, we decided to change some things at the Fall Festival. As the children played the carnival games, they received school supplies instead of candy or small Halloween trinkets. The school supplies could then be traded in for a more significant prize. I am so thankful for the great response we had to this change. As we continue to grow and develop our Ministry to Families with Children, it is important to maintain continuity in our practices and learn to live out our faith in every opportunity. This change to a more missional focus was an attempt at just that. While it is great to come together for times of fun and fellowship, we can still be the hands and feet of Christ as we gather. The school kits we collected will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to be distributed to children who have been victims of a variety of emergency situations. Another note of continuity comes in the connection with our VBS theme, "God's Good Green Earth." We can continue to be stewards of God's creation by reducing our waste. Instead of distributing spider rings, bouncing eyeballs, and other small amusements, we can reward with items that are either consumable (candy) or more likely to be used frequently (jump ropes, coloring books, etc.).

As we enter into this holiday season, take care to remember that God has called us to be his children at all times and in all situations. Talk with your children about ways your family can continue to help others and serve God in the midst of all the parties, celebrations, and festivals.

Kids Flip Pajama Party

Thank you to everyone who brought pajamas for Gracie's Closet! We received 20 pairs to be donated. We look forward to our next Pajama Party after the first of the year!

Shoebox Mission Project

This holiday season, we will again be putting together shoeboxes for the children of Fayette County DFCS. Instead of accepting donations of individual items, this year we will ask each family or individual to pick up a shoebox and fill it with the items requested. The shoeboxes will be available for pickup from the Welcome Center located behind the sanctuary. Inside the box will be a label with the child's age and gender. Using that information, fill the box with simple toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.) as well as cold weather accessories (mittens, hat, scarf, etc.) Feel free to wrap the box as you see fit, allowing the lid to still be removed. Completed boxes can be returned to the Welcome Center. We had wonderful success with our Shoebox Project last year and hope to continue to provide care for children in transition. Please contact Kristin Heiden with any questions (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com; 770-461-4313, ex 17).

Preschool Happenings

It has been a terribly busy month for our preschoolers, and with the holidays on our heels, there may not be time to slow down. We have turned one of the classrooms on the preschool hallway that was not being used into a four year old reading room. Our four year olds work daily in a small group or a one-on-one setting with a teacher to enforce reading and writing skills, preparing them for kindergarten. October 5th-9th was fire prevention week. We had a fire truck and several firemen come and visit our school. Each class toured the fire truck and spoke with the firemen as they explained some of the things they do and ways we can keep ourselves safe. On October 29th, our parents group will put on a trick-or-treating hallway for all of our classes to participate in. Parents choose an upstairs room in the education building and decorate the doorways. The children come through one class at a time and get to knock on the doors and trick-or-treat. We wrap up the festive day with Halloween parties in our classroom. Once we are past the month of October, Thanksgiving will be fast approaching. On November 17th our preschool will celebrate the holiday by having a feast. The children dress as Native Americans and Pilgrims. They sing festive songs together, learn the meaning of Thanksgiving, and share a meal together. Preschool is always a time for learning by play, but around the holidays it is truly a special time.



CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES 2009

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 1 – 5 p.m.

WHAT: Six beautiful homes within Fayette County including restored historic dwellings, an ecologically friendly home, and the home of an interior designer.

WHO & WHAT FOR: Sponsored by Fayetteville First United Methodist Church, proceeds will go to Square Foot Ministry to assist in the completion of the Fayette Counseling Center.

TICKETS: Tickets can be purchased for a \$15 donation from the church office. Contact: Connie at 770-461-4313. (Tickets include map. Parking attendants are available at each home. Church and civic groups are welcome!)

*Please no children under 12, no cameras, no cell phones, and no smoking.

SPECIAL TREAT: Lunch at Church Family Life Center on Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. FREE admission (donations accepted). Beautiful theme baskets will be available for purchase for Christmas gifts on the tour.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Volunteers to serve as hosts and hostesses in the homes are needed both days of the tour. Please contact Phyllis Williamson (Email address: phylwill5@yahoo.com); Pat Dunn (Phone: 770-461-3225); or Kim Lashley (Phone: 770-474-0205) with the date(s) you can serve. This is a major community project for FFUMC. Your participation will make it both successful and memorable. Thank you in advance for your selfless service.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group thanks everyone who donated and purchased books during our book sale. We raised \$334 and donated our leftover books to the UMW's Bric-a-brac sale in November. Thank you for your continued efforts in our battle against cancer.

Announcements and Special Events

Bric-a-brac: "(noun) miscellaneous small articles collected for their antiquarian, sentimental, decorative, or other interest"
And the United Methodist Women will take yours! Start collecting items now for the Bric-a-Brac sale on November 7. We can use items such as dishes, linens, decorations, computer accessories and even furniture (but no clothing, please). Items may be dropped off in Room A45 beginning, Sunday, November 1, after 12:00 p.m. (not before, please).

Annual Charge Conference
Charge Conference will be held here at FFUMC on Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Refreshments will follow the conference. Please come and give the district superintendent and our fellow Methodists a warm FFUMC welcome.

Christmas Marketplace
The UMW's 20th annual Christmas Marketplace will be on Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Over 50 vendors will have jewelry, pet items, Christmas gifts, and crafts. There will also be a Children's Consignment shop. Lunch, doughnuts, and drinks will be served and, of course, don't miss the Homemade Goods and Bake Sale and the BIG Bric-A-Brac sale! Please spread the word, and bring friends and family.

