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Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XI #9
 September, 2009

Sunday Afternoon in the Big City

Rev. Mark Westmoreland

She didn't fit in.

There in the shadow of our state capitol, as 400 people—men, women and families—gathered for their Sunday meal, the young girl didn't quite fit in with the crowd. Not that new faces are unusual in this place. Chris Mucha and Carson Thaxton meet new folks among the homeless every time they visit the Trinity Kitchen at Trinity UMC. But this girl was different. Young, pretty, pushing a bike beside her, she looked like she should be on her way home from school, not drifting along an empty Sunday street in downtown Atlanta.

Chris and Carson did what they have done with so many other homeless folks in that place. They talked with her. Mostly, they listened. She told them her name was Lu. She was 15, from Florida. There were problems at home—her parents were upset about a guy, and she was upset with them. So, she had taken the family car the day before and headed north.

Her plans were sketchy at best—something about leaving the car and taking a bus to North Carolina and some place she vaguely remembered there. Whether the guy was a part of those plans or not, we don't know, but, as it turned out, she didn't have enough money for the bus ticket anyway. Her plan pretty much stalled at step two. Her hope was to stay in a shelter for the night and try to come up with more money the next day. Chris and Carson convinced her to call her parents, then they consulted with Becky Davenport at the Youth Protection Home. Next, they arranged for Lu a place to stay in Fayetteville, spoke with the sheriff in her hometown and with our police here, and coordinated schedules with her family. I met the girl only briefly on Monday before her mom and some friends arrived to take her home. She seemed like any other kid who comes through this place, a little shy, a little uneasy in a 15-year-old sort of way. I had a hard time imagining her stealing the family car and heading to the big city. And I don't WANT to imagine what might have become of her had two youth ministers not struck up a conversation with her on that downtown street.

I'm not one to hang out at homeless shelters on Sunday afternoons, but because a couple of people I respect and love were doing just that, one kid found her way home and a family's anguish was eased. Carson and Chris didn't know they would meet Lu that day, but they knew they would meet someone, so they brought with them faith, hope, and a willingness to get to know whomever chance or providence brought their way. The result was a small explosion of grace just powerful enough to reveal God's love and change at least one life. Not bad for a Sunday afternoon.

Calling all acolytes, crucifers and wannabes

The acolyte leaders will be hosting three training opportunities for those students who currently serve or would like to begin serving on the acolyte/crucifer team. Students in 4th grade and above are eligible to serve as members of an acolyte/crucifer team. We are excited about the changes in the chancel area and the opportunities the renovated chancel will offer our acolyte/crucifer team. Stay informed and join us to learn the newest procedures.

Acolyte training will begin at 2 p.m. on the following Sundays and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Parents are asked to join us for the last 30 minutes of our gathering.

Acolyte training, Sunday, September 13, 2 p.m.

Acolytes in 7th grade and above

Acolyte training, Sunday, September 27, 2 p.m.

Acolytes in grades 4, 5 & 6

Crucifer training will take place on Sunday, September 20, 2 p.m. This is the same afternoon as our church family picnic. Parents of crucifers are asked to join us for the first 30 minutes of our training. After we complete our training we will travel as a group to the church picnic at Lake Horton.

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Book Sale

Please donate your used books for the Cancer Support Group Book Sale on October 11 through October 18 in Room C-210. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or in the Sunday School Building at the stairwell. Proceeds from the sale will go to the American Cancer Society.

Preparing for Advent: Chrismon Workshop

Advent is one of the most celebrated seasons in the church. We adorn our chapel and sanctuary with decorations that call us into the season. A well-known, yet not so well understood, decoration is the Chrismon tree. We are beginning Advent preparations by hosting three Chrismon workshops. If you are creative, have a gift for decorating or want to learn more about the symbolism and meaning of the Chrismon tree you are invited to join others who share your interest. We will gather on Tuesday, September 8 and 15, and Thursday, September 17, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, room A40. Join us for any one or all three dates. If you have questions or need more details please contact Charlotte McAdams, 770-460-5166.

Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members into the life and work of Fayetteville First UMC: Larry & Patti Davis, 250 Murphy Creek Lane, Fayetteville, GA 30215, 770-716-8876. Larry & Patti transfer their membership from Baldwinville First UMC, Baldwinville, NY. We welcome Larry & Patti along with their daughter, Audrey, an eighth grader at Whitewater Middle School and their son, Craig, a fourth grader at Sara Harp Minter Elementary.

Note of Thanks

The family of Pauline Butler thanks the church family for their prayers, visits, and cards.

When to Expect our New Pictorial Directory

All submissions have been made to Olan Mills and we are looking forward to having the new 2009 Pictorial Directory available mid October. We will let you know when they arrive!

Attendance:

Aug 2	Aug 16
Worship: 568	Worship: 633
Sunday School: 293	Sunday School: 326
Aug 9	Aug 23
Worship: 557	Worship: 666
Sunday School: 305	Sunday School: 358

Church Membership: 2012

Our Giving for August 1-23:

Budget: \$931,080.82
 Building Fund: \$2,772.50
 2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00

 Shortfall: \$76,469.82

About Our Church Family

In Memoriam:

Frank Hays
 August 11, 2009

In Sympathy:

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cole and family upon the death of Suzan's father, J.P. Wade, on August 24.

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Millie Arnold	Bill Smith
Joe Byers	Dot Smith
Carolyn Croft	William F. Smith
Dorothy Day	Jerry Walker
Annis Harrell	Connie Warren
Tim Horner	Jimmy Watkins
Mary Ellen Jones	Bill Weinmeister
Robert Kyzer	Eleanor Wiley
Herman Miller	Jim Wilkes
Mary Pierson	Lynne Wood
Jack Roberts	

Discovery Club:

Preschool through 1st grade children are invited to join Pastor Kristin in room C-160 as we discover together the amazing foundational stories of our faith. Each month we will focus on a different story, using storytelling, drama, and art to explore and discover the wonderful stories of the Bible.

Kids FLIP:

Children in Preschool and Elementary are welcome to join us for a time of Fellowship, Learning, Imagination, and Play! Each week we will have time for fun and games with a mix of craft activities that allow children the time and place to just be kids with one another. We meet in room C-280.

Contact Joan Aycock or Kristin Heiden for more information.

YOUTH NEWS

Do you like good music? We are taking orders right now for a compilation album of the It's A Grind Concert Series this summer! The album will have 17 tracks by artists including Carson Thaxton, Evan Trivett, Jason Gridley, Reuben Bidez, and The Museum. You can sign up for a copy in The Studio Lounge or email Carson at cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com. Cost of the album is \$5 to cover the cost of making them.

Check out our new website features! Go to the youth section of the church website and click on What's Happening for some funny video announcements. Then go and check out the new youth ministry blog. You never know who may be blogging!

Youth programming starts again on Sept. 2nd! We will be kicking off the Fall with a new series called Godview. How we view God shapes everything about who we are.

Make sure you are on our youth ministry email distribution list! If you would like to receive emails about our ministry and are not currently, email Chris at cmucha@fayettevillefirst.com.

Youth Weekly Schedule...

Sunday
 9:45-10:45 Sunday School (New Sunday School model begins September 13; all students will go to A-40 for Sunday school starting that day)
 2:30 Open Court Basketball in the Gym
 2:30 Worship Team rehearsal in The Studio
 *4:00 Student Leadership Meeting at It's A Grind
 *6:00-8:00 Journey Bible Study at It's A Grind (for 8th through 12th graders)
 * Begins September 13th

Wednesday
 3:30-4:45 8th Period
 4:45-5:00 Snacks in Studio Lounge
 5:00-5:20 Genesis Youth Choir Rehearsal
 5:20-5:55 Fellowship Dinner (students are not supervised by staff during this time)
 6:00-7:00 1|99 in The Studio
 7:00-7:30 Solomon's Porch for middle school
 7:00-8:00 Solomon's Porch for high school
 8:00-8:30 Orchestra rehearsal

Kristin's Kids Korner

In a recent North Georgia United Methodist Conference email, a minister passed along a story that I feel is worth sharing. The story is about Joshua Bell, a world famous violinist. Back in January 2007, Bell was in Boston playing a sold-out theatre where the seats averaged \$100. Two days later, he traveled to Washington, D.C. and set himself up in a Metro Station. With his case open to accept donations, Bell played. During that time, hundreds upon hundreds of people rushed passed this world-renowned musician, hurrying to catch their train to get to work or get to school. Only a few paused to listen and even fewer stopped to take in the beautiful sound. A three-year-old boy tried to stop and look but his mother tugged him along hurriedly.

After an hour of play, Bell collected \$32. But, this experiment was not about the money. What are we missing in our hurried, busy lives? With children's schedules crammed even more than their parents' at times, as we try to expose our families to everything we can, what beautiful music are we failing to hear? What beautiful wonders of God's creation are we failing to see?

Take some time this month to stop and look around. Appreciate the sights and sounds and smells of life around you. Invite your children to share these times with you. What do they see; what do they feel when they are able to stop, look, listen, and just be?

VBS T-Shirts, CDs, Water Bottles

We have a few leftover items from VBS. If you were unable to participate or if you did participate and would like more, please contact Kristin Heiden.

3rd Grade Bible Sunday

On Sunday, September 27, the church will present all current 3rd graders with new Bibles. This will take place only during the 11 a.m. worship service, so please make plans to be in attendance. Letters will be sent to each student to personally invite them, but please mark the date on your calendar. If you will be unable to be there, please contact Kristin (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com).

Wednesday Night Programs Begin September 2

You are invited on Wednesday nights to participate in a variety of activities for children in Preschool through 5th grade.

Wednesday Night Schedule:

- Choirs (ages 4 through 5th grade) – 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Discovery Club, Chimes, Handbells - 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Kid's FLIP and Ensemble – 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Children's Music Program: Strong Tower: Knowing My King

Join us on Wednesday nights for music, games, and fun as we learn about Jesus, our King. Our music this fall will broaden our understanding of God's role in our lives and how to connect to him. His many names will help us learn more about his relationship with us.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sunshine Singers | Joyful Noise Choir | Handbells |
| 4 Year Olds-Kindergarten, C-270 | 3rd-5th Grade, B-125 | 4th-5th Grade, B-140 |

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Melody Choir | Children's Chimes |
| 1st-2nd Grade, B-225 | 2nd-3rd Grade, B-320 |



Coming Up in Worship

She hears the word, does the word, is pretty much the last word ON the word.

He was voted our favorite person because he never shows favoritism, then gave up the award to the last-place finisher, thus, I guess, actually playing favorites, but in a very strange way.

She tracked down and tamed the infamous and poisonous rogue tongue.

He makes descriptions like "pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits" actually sound cool, and not in some strange, ironic sense.

She blends in with the crowd, thereby raising the overall quality of the crowd considerably.

We're talking about ...

the most interesting person in the world.

We're talking about that person who catches your eye, not because of flash or wealth or celebrity, but because she or he seems to move through this world with remarkable wisdom and grace. There is substance to such a person, a quality of care and integrity that stirs in the rest of us admiration and maybe even a little envy.

The Letter of James is a prescription for such a life. This classic work of Christian wisdom is all about living our days in the light of God's love and Christ's truth. Over the next five Sundays, we will look to this epistle for our sermons.

The five statements above actually apply to these texts:

- August 30: James 1:17-27
- September 6: James 2:1-10, 14-17
- September 13: James 3:1-12
- September 20: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- September 27: James 5:13-20

Announcements and Special Events

UMW Christmas Marketplace

Sign up now to reserve a booth at this year's Marketplace, Nov 7. If you know of others who may be interested in a booth, please pass along the information: Call Carol Key, 770-461-9773 or email her at carol@pearllady.com. Also, we are hoping to have the biggest Bric-A-Brac sale ever this year, so please start saving those treasures now!

Church Family Picnic

Bring a favorite dish and join us on Sunday, September 20, for a church family picnic at Lake Horton from 4 – 6 p.m. Directions will be available at the Welcome Center and church kiosks. Due to park rules, if you are not a Fayette County resident, please consider riding with a resident to avoid a parking fee. Contact Kristin Heiden or Laura Cox with any questions.

Honor Flight V set for September 19

Gail Sparrow, her wonderful team, and generous supporters from our community have made it possible for a fifth group of World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. They will again depart from OUR CHURCH, so let's show up to see them off. The group will gather at 6 a.m. in our Family Life Center and depart at 6:45 a.m. They are scheduled to return between 9:30 and 10 p.m.

Financial Peace University Offered

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church is offering Financial Peace University classes for the local community starting in September. Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches how to make the right decisions with money. You'll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace! This is a 13-week course, commencing Sunday, September 13. Classes will meet from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The normal cost for the class is \$150. The Church group rate is \$110 for the 13 week course. To sign up or obtain more information, please contact: Laura Cox at lcox@fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313, ext. 16.

Mission's Update

Sack Lunch Program

As many of you know, we have finally completed our 10-week Sack Lunch Program. We are happy to announce that we served over 1,600 lunches this summer! We also delivered nearly \$1,000 worth of school supplies to these same children to help them start the new school year off right! Some of the highlights of this summer's program include: delivering lunches in bags decorated by VBS students, serving BBQ sandwiches and watermelons to the kids for the 4th of July week, and serving bags and bags of fresh produce donated by the Master Gardeners Plant-a-Row project! Again, we could not have completed our busiest summer to date without the help of those packing, driving, and baking week after week. I believe your generous donations to this program really helped to reach out and share God's love with these children.

Coming Soon:

Mission Café

Please mark your calendars for the following Mission Cafés: August 30 and November 29. On August 30, we are donating all our monies collected to Gracie's Closet. We will also be taking a collection of shoes, clothes, baby supplies, and any other items Gracie's closet could use for the foster children that come through their doors. Our November 29 café will sponsor Heifer International. These donations will go towards our church goal of raising enough money to purchase an Ark of animals this year. Both dates will have an abundance of fresh baked

bread, muffins, and cakes donated by the generous women of the UMW. Please mark your calendars and don't miss these opportunities to support invaluable missions!

Great Day of Service

We are currently in the planning stages for our annual Great Day of Service 2010. We are going to need a wealth of excited volunteers to help run a multitude of committees. We will be looking for volunteers in the following areas as well as many others: t-shirts, registration, breakfast, childcare, projects, and supplies. If anyone is interested in being a captain of one of these committees (or even a worker bee), please contact Lindsay Blythe at 770-306-8648 or lindsay_blythe@hotmail.com. Our first Great Day of Service meeting will be in late September or early October.

Fayette Samaritans

Keep in mind that our congregation takes a collection for Fayette Samaritans two times a year. This October will be our second opportunity to stock the Fayette Samaritans' pantry. Please look for collection bins throughout the church during the entire month of October. Also, remember we are always accepting donations for this organization in the Welcome Center.

What's for Supper?

September 2	September 23
BBQ Chicken	Baked Chicken
Baked Beans	Creamed Corn
Salad	Fried Okra
Texas Toast	Bread
Dessert	Dessert

September 9	September 30
Country Fried Steak	Lasagna
Rice	Salad
Green Beans	Texas Toast
Bread	Dessert
Dessert	

September 16
Pizza
Salad
Dessert

September @ Fayetteville First UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 (See left for normal schedule) AA-3	14 Friendship Circle: 9 Kindermusik: 9:30 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	15 Shawl Ministries: 9:30 Walking Group: 1 Ssq. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 Ssq. Ft. Ministers: 6:30	16 Intercessory Prayer: 9 Kindermusik: 10:30 Methodist Membership Class: 6:15 (see left for night schedule)	17 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8	18 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	19 Honor Flight: 6 am AA: 8
6 (See left for normal schedule) AA-3	7 Labor Day Alanon: 8	8 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Joy Circle: 6:30 Emmanuel Board Meeting: 7:00 Ssq. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 Trinity Circle: 7	9 Intercessory Prayer: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusik: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Ssq. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 Methodist Membership Class: 6:15 (see left for night schedule)	10 UMW Unit Meeting: 11:30 Walking Group: 1 Ssq. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 AA: 8	11 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	12 AA: 8
20 (See left for normal schedule) Church Picnic AA-3	21 Kindermusik: 9:30, Noon Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	22 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30	23 Intercessory Prayer: 9 Kindermusik: 10:30 Methodist Membership Class: 6:15 (see left for night schedule)	24 Faith Circle: 10 Mary Martha Circle: 10 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8	25 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	26 AA: 8
27 (See left for normal schedule) AA-3	28 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusik: 9:30, Noon Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	29 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30	30 Intercessory Prayer: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusik: 10:30 Methodist Membership Class: 6:15 (see left for night schedule)			

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: 2:30
Open Court Basketball: 2:30
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