



Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XI #3
April, 2009

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Upcoming Sermons

April 5	April 19
Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-11	Confirmation Sunday John 20:19-31
April 12	April 26
Easter Sunday Mark 16:1-8	"Easter-Minded" Luke 24:36b-48

FFUMC
175 E. Lanier Ave
Fayetteville, GA 30214

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Special Worship Services

April 5 Palm Sunday Services

8:30, 9:45 and 11 am

April 9 Maundy Thursday Service

7 pm in the sanctuary

April 10 Good Friday Service

7 pm in the sanctuary

April 12 Easter Sunday

8:30, 9:45 and 11 am

All services in the sanctuary

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Celebrate Easter With Us

Palm Sunday Processional

We invite all children to join in the traditional Palm Sunday processional. If your child would like to participate during the 8:30 or 11:00 service, please have your child meet Joan Aycock in the courtyard 10 minutes prior to that service. Sunday school leaders will escort all Sunday school students to the chapel to participate in the chapel service processional before returning to their designated classroom.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 5th from 3-5 pm. We will be meeting at our usual location off of Hills Bridge Road. Directions will be available at the Welcome Center and the church kiosks as the event nears.

Donations of new, unopened candy and small toys to fill the eggs can be dropped off at the church office or in the labeled box outside the Family Life Center Gym.

Flowering of the Cross

You are invited to bring flowers Easter morning to place upon the Easter Cross. The cross will be located in the courtyard between the chapel and sanctuary. Volunteers will be present to assist you in arranging your flowers on the cross. The flowered cross is visible to all who pass our campus, allowing us to share with the community as we celebrate the risen Christ.

Lenten Lunch Series Continues

April 2	April 9
Dr. Dave Lee, speaker	Ed Steil, speaker
Host Circles: Promise & Joy	Host Circle: Ethel Taylor

Join us for lunch and a Lenten message at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$2.

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
175 East Lanier Avenue | Fayetteville, GA 30214-1655
p: 770-461-4313 f: 770-719-0125 w: www.fayettevillefirst.com

Around the Church

Welcome New Members!

Fred Ring
809 Timberidge Ct, Riverdale, GA 30274
We welcome Fred along with his daughters Skylar and Sierra.

Next Titus II Gathering Is April 7

On the first Tuesday of each month we meet for lunch and a short program. The cost is \$6, and you don't have to be a member to come. You can also invite friends and neighbors to join us!! All we ask is that you make your reservation by noon the Friday before with Sara James, 770-461-9703. Our program on April 7 is offered by Carolyn Cary.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive will take place on Sunday, April 19 in the Family Life Center from 8 am to 1 pm. Sign-ups will take place in the courtyard on Sundays between services. There are new guidelines for giving if you have

been treated for cancer. You CAN donate: If the treatment for your cancer was completed at least one year ago and you did not have leukemia or lymphoma. You CAN donate: If you have had skin cancer, if the skin cancer was diagnosed as non-melanoma skin cancer, and the cancer has been removed or fully treated. Youth 16 years and older can donate if their parent comes to the Blood Drive and signs approval forms. Identification is required. Donors may call 1-866-236-3276 for additional information.

Note of Thanks

My Church Family,
Thank you for each loving prayer and the beautiful encouraging cards. Our Heavenly Father has blessed me. I'm so grateful for each new day he bestows on each of us.

God Bless,
Agnes Newby

Attendance:

Feb 22:
Worship: 550
Sunday School: 227
March 1:
Worship: 508
Sunday School: 220
March 8:
Worship: 608
Sunday School: 295
March 15:
Worship: 577
Sunday School: 254
March 22:
Worship: 561
Sunday School: 326
Church Membership: 1978
Our Giving for March 1-22:
Budget: \$98,737.34
Building Fund: \$3,510.69
2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00
YTD Shortfall: \$41,872.98

About Our Church Family

In Memorium:

Joe C. Kitchens, Jr. March 2, 2009	Hill Redwine March 9, 2009	Sandra Phillips March 24, 2009
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In Sympathy:

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kitchens III and family upon the death of their father and grandfather, Joe C. Kitchens, Jr., on March 2.

Mr. Charles Berrong upon the death of his brother-in-law, Jack Jackson, on March 9.

Agnes Newby in the death of her sister, Betty Pierce, on March 20.

Keep Them In Your Prayers

Bob Pitner	Carolyn Croft
Jimmy Watkins	Edd Simmons
Frances Wilkes	Helene Graves
Edwin Bishop	Terry Wallace
Herman Miller	Buddie Drew
Joe Byers	Cliff Amos
Wallace Taylor	Millie Arnold
Claude Perry	Robert Stephenson
Aubrey Varner	Elouise Dunn
Agnes Newby	Don DeLoach
Bobbie Williams	

Youth News

Flying Pigs? Disciple Now Weekend

On March 13-14, our students participated in Disciple Now Weekend. They joined with a record 22 other church youth groups in Fayette County to worship God together. The weekend revolved around the theme "Redefining Normal," inviting youth to explore how Jesus redefines faith, hope, and grace for us as his followers. The messages spoke of Jesus' commandment to follow him, noting that this command appears 88 times while Jesus asks others to believe in him only three times. We are called to be followers. The kids had a great time together and look forward to this event every year. You can see pictures from the event on our Flickr account at www.flickr.com/ffumcyouth.

30-Hour Famine Box City

WELCOME TO BOX CITY! If you drove by the church on Friday or Saturday, March 20-21, you may have noticed something a little different in Parking Lot B. You would have seen Box City. We had 38 students who were fasting for the 30 Hour Famine, sleeping outside in boxes. We wanted to raise our own awareness to some of the difficulties that people experience who are homeless here and hungry around the world. Temperatures got down to 34 degrees during the night. This did not cramp the students energy or drive to continue to raise money and awareness for their cause. We split up into "tribes" for the event and took part in various "survival" activities. During breaks, the kids went out to the street with signs raising awareness for what they were doing. One woman pulled over and, after hearing what the kids were doing, wrote a check for \$100 for the famine! We were so proud of our students for their effort. The art the students produced on their boxes and signs was truly inspiring. Saturday we broke our fast with a big cookout for the kids in Box City. Huge thanks to Susie Keaton, Tim and Dawn Horner, and Tami Kemberling for staying the night with our students! Also big thanks to Mark Bellefeuil for leading the cookout effort as well as Chris Keaton, Fred Ring, and all the others that helped make this event possible. Special thanks to whatever angel fixed up my box while we were inside!

Our students were able to raise right at \$6,000 for their efforts! This far surpassed our goal of \$5,000! Thank you to all of you that supported this effort! Maybe next year, we will open an invitation to anyone that wants to join us in Box City! To see pictures, go to www.flickr.com/ffumcyouth.

Senior Pictures Needed

We need pictures from you! We are looking for pictures from church experiences or with other church members from the graduating class. These pictures will be used as part of our senior recognition luncheon on May 17th. Please turn them in to the church office.

Check out youth photos at www.flickr.com/ffumcyouth. You can also upload pictures to this account from recent events. Contact Chris if you want to know how!

New Pictorial Directory



Be sure to mark your calendar for upcoming directory pictures. We want to include you and your latest look in our church directory. Our goal is to get as many members in the directory as possible this year. If for some reason you are not able to get your picture made, you may submit a picture or we may send someone to you to take your picture. Pictures will be taken weekdays from 3 pm to 9:30 pm, Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm on the following days: Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21; Tuesday, May 26 and Wednesday, May 27; Thursday - Saturday, June 4 - 6; Thursday - Saturday, June 11 - 13.

Sign up online by going to our website

www.fayettevillefirst.com.



ministry to families with children
fayetteville first umc

Kristin's Kids Korner

This month we continue to look at faith storybooks for our children. In the Jewish heritage, there is a special practice of telling stories about other stories. This type of story is called midrash. In midrash, the author borrows a character or detail from a biblical story and creates a provocative tale to invite the reader to see the original story from a different perspective. Although the story does not explain the original biblical text, it seeks to help the reader understand the original meaning through increased imagination and playfulness with the text. The authors who write

midrash are called darshanim, and there are a number of darshanims that devote their gift to children's literature. Here are a few:

- Does God Have a Big Toe? By Marc Gellman – This collection of 21 stories by Rabbi Gellman begins with a story about the Tower of Babel in which a young child wonders about God's feet and inspires the people of Babel to build a tower so that God's feet can be observed.
- The Story of Naamah, Noah's Wife by Sandy Sasso – This book invites children into the world of Noah's wife as her family prepares to board the ark. While Noah is given the task of collecting all the animals, Naamah must collect seeds from all the plants so they may be replanted after the flood.
- And God Created Squash: How the World Began by Martha Hickman – This Christian writer uses the Jewish methods of midrash in this humorous story about the story of creation and God's reaction when God created the first squash. The story helps children connect the world God created with the world in which they live.

You can find these and other children's faith storybooks in the Children's Library at the church.

Ridin' the Ark Day Camp

Although Wednesday night programs are suspended in the summer, children still have a place for fellowship, learning, imagination and play! Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to join Noah on the ark every Thursday in July from 10 am – 1 pm. Look for more information coming soon!

Celebration of Christian Family Week

The week of May 4-10 is set aside by the church as a time to focus on and celebrate the role of families in the Christian life. As part of this recognition, we will have two special activities for the families of the church. On Friday, May 8th at 6 pm we will host a Family Fun Night at the church. We will have games and crafts for all members of the family as well as share dinner together. There is no cost for the event, but reservations will need to be made so that enough food will be ordered. Please call or email Kristin (770-461-4313, ex 17; kscarboro@fayettevillefirst.com) by Monday, May 4th.

On Sunday, May 10th we will host an intergenerational Sunday School in the Family Life Center Gym. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are encouraged to attend Sunday School with their children that morning as we discover the wonders of learning across all generations.

Vacation Bible School



Get ready to get your hands dirty as we dig into God's Good Green Earth! This year during VBS we will be learning about God's good creation and how we are called to take care of it. We hope you will join us for a week of Bible study, games, crafts, music, and excitement!

Registration begins May 1.

April Brings Fayette Samaritans Food Drive

Every April, our church sponsors the Fayette Samaritans food bank. With your help, we are able to fill the pantry for the entire month. Please pick up a grocery bag, fill it with the foods listed, and return it to the marked bin at the Welcome Center located behind the sanctuary. The following items are needed at this time: canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, beef stew, sloppy joe), canned veggies/fruit, canned tomatoes, stew and soup (large and small cans), canned pasta (spaghetti's, etc), ground beef, bottled or canned juices, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and coffee. Please place other items other than food in a separate bag: baby diapers sizes 4, 5, & 6, baby wipes, baby shampoo/lotion, dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Forget Me Not: Homebound Member Adoption

At this time, our church has 41 members that are homebound. As a congregation, we seek to extend care to them even though they are unable to be in our midst. With the help of Eleanor Wiley, we are able to sign cards on Wednesday night to send to them on special occasions. Sunday School classes also work to keep in touch with these members, offering their prayers and support on a regular basis. Some of the UMW circles have chosen to adopt members in the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in our area: Faith Circle with LaFayette and Dogwood Forest; Mary Martha Circle with Azalea Estates; Ethel Taylor Circle with Southland. We need your help to continue to support and nurture these members, especially those that have not been adopted. You can go by yourself, take a friend, or even take your children. If you are unable to make visits, we have several members who would love a visit over the phone. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to reach out to our congregation. Contact Eleanor Wiley with any questions at 770-487-4673.

Enriching Worship

If we were called upon to name the most useful item in worship, I would venture to guess that most of us would name the worship bulletin. If you have ever been in worship without a worship bulletin, you have gained a greater appreciation for its contents and recognized the knowledge you have at your fingertips. Most of us can speak from experience - without the worship bulletin we stand while everyone is sitting, we sing the wrong hymn, and we begin to recite The Apostles Creed as everyone else joins in the Psalter Reading printed before them. Our worship bulletin provides us with the Scripture lesson, the order of worship, congregational cares and concerns as well as specific announcements. The bulletin is equally valuable to both the regular attendee as well as the newcomer. We most often think of the bulletin as a simple guide to keep us on track and keep us from embarrassing ourselves as we follow along. Look a little closer and you will notice the bulletin is designed with a greater purpose than providing us with a security blanket. The bulletin guides us in worship: identifying the season of the church calendar, calling us to worship, affirming who we are and what we believe, and offering us the ability to participate in worship.

Our new children's bulletins provide the same guidance to our children. Adorned with an original piece of artwork each week, provided by the children in our midst, these bulletins outline the order of worship in child-friendly text and graphics. They also provide room for drawings, sermon notes, Bible lesson activities, and important announcements. The children's bulletins quickly have become a sought after item on Sunday mornings by children and parents alike.

A familiar item handed to each of us as we enter worship can become a simple guide, a security blanket, or an enriching tool. Look closer and spend time noticing the order of worship, how we are encouraged to participate in worship, and finding the small details often overlooked. Pick up a children's bulletin, and you will notice the similarities and wonder of being a child in worship.

When you receive your worship bulletins next Sunday, enjoy the details and experience worship in a new way. Feel free to share a children's bulletin with a child, and don't forget the crayons!

--Julie Harp

