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Coming Up In Worship

Our Lenten Theme:
 Floods, Deserts, Snakes and Other Reasons to Rejoice
 (Old Testament Stories with New Testament Connections)

March 1: "Of Floods and Rainbows"
 (Genesis 9:8-17)

March 8: "How Far Can a Promise Take You?"
 (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16)

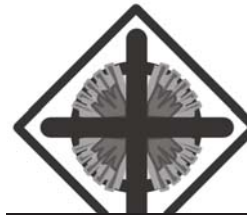
March 15: "When All Else Fails ..."
 (Exodus 20:1-17)

March 22: "Every Head Raised, Every Eye Open"
 (Numbers 21:4-9)

March 29: "Everything You Need, You Have"
 (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

FFUMC
 175 E. Lanier Ave
 Fayetteville, GA 30214

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Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XI #2
 March, 2009

Lent, One Step at a Time

Rev. Mark Westmoreland

The days of Lent stretch before us like so many steps leading toward the strange good news of the cross and the Easter joy beyond. I'll admit that when you consider the forty days that lie between here and there, it's tempting to try to leap straight on to Easter, but I strongly advise against it. First of all, you're liable to pull something. And, secondly, there isn't a step along the route that isn't holy and that doesn't hold something divine and wondrous.

So, what do you say we meet at the path and head out together? The holy awaits us. All we have to do is trust the path; it will get us where we need to go.

Lenten Lunches offer food for the journey

During the season of Lent we meet every Thursday at noon for lunch in our Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$2, and the lunch is light and yummy. You do not have to make reservations or be a member to attend. This is a great time to invite your neighbor or co-worker to lunch. We hope to see you there.

March 5
 Chris Mucha, speaker
 Host Circles: Bethany & Trinity

March 19
 Carson Thaxton, speaker
 Host Circle: Friendship

April 2
 Dr. Dave Lee, speaker
 Host Circles: Promise & Joy

March 12
 Marion McEachern, speaker
 Host Circle: Hope

March 26
 Florence Prine, speaker
 Host Circles: Mary Martha & Marie
 Lamb

April 9
 Ed Steil, speaker
 Host Circle: Ethel Taylor

Inside This Month's Connections

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Lenten devotionals point the way

Enrich your devotional life with Sanctuary for Lent, a collection of meditations for the season that include scripture readings and prayer. Large-print and regular-print booklets are available at the church office, Welcome Center, and kiosks around the church.

Calendars for adults, youth and children with daily devotionals are available during Lent. There is a list of our special worship services and Lenten lunches on a separate sheet that can serve as a great reminder for the fridge. All of these are also available at the church office, Welcome Center, and kiosks around the church.

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 Member!

Gabriel Dutra
1386 Tara Road, Jonesboro, GA 30238
Gabriel joins by transfer from McDonough Road Baptist Church.

Note of Thanks

Dearest Church Friends,

Thank you for the prayers, food, calls and cards. Your prayers continue to shepherd us. Matthew 21:21-22.

Love,
David & Gwyn Farley

Cooking Club meets March 12

The Cooking Club will meet March 12, 6 p.m., in the Family Life Center kitchen. Cleve and Joy Kiser will be sharing one of their favorite recipes. Do you like to cook and eat? Then this club is for you. They meet monthly, share recipes, cook, and enjoy the results.

VBS Volunteers

Our first leader training for all who are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, March 29, 1-2 p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, room A-40. If you are unable to attend but would like to help with VBS in any way, please contact Kristin (kscarboro@fayettevillefirst.com, 770-461-4313, ext. 17). Thanks so much!

Put me in, Coach: Time for Softball

Men or women interested in playing on the Fayetteville First United Methodist softball teams should contact Coach Jack Gilson as soon as possible. He can be reached at 770-460-9392 (home) or 770-845-6037 (cell). Players must be at least 18 years of age on or before August 31, 2009. The season will consist of 12 games, usually one game a week, beginning the week of April 13. Come out and show the league that Methodists really know how to play softball!

Attendance:

Feb 1:
Worship: 614
Sunday School: 297

Feb 8:
Worship: 668
Sunday School: 352

Feb 15:
Worship: 527
Sunday School: 292

Feb 22:
Worship: 550
Sunday School: 277

Church Membership: 1978

Our Giving for Feb:

Budget: \$106,610.85
Building Fund: \$3,492.50
2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00

YTD Shortfall: \$31,130.66

About Our Church Family

In Memorium: O.W. Shelnutt, February 15, 2009

In Sympathy:

Mrs. Martha Shelnutt and family upon the death of her husband, O.W. Shelnutt, on February 15.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Weinmeister upon the death of their sister-in-law, Hattie Lou Brewer.

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Bishop upon the death of their sister-in-law, Janie Smith on February 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wood and family upon the death of Gary's mother, Inez Wood, on January 31.

Keep Them In Your Prayers

Jimmy Watkins	Joe Kitchens
Frances Wilkes	Aubrey Varner
Edwin Bishop	Carolyn Croft
Sandra Phillips	Buddie Drew
Wallace Taylor	Helene Graves
Claude Perry	Terry Wallace
Joe Byers	Agnes Newby
Betty Dorsey	Gil Cook
Edd Simmons	Karen Davis

Youth News

Confirmation Retreat

What an amazing retreat we shared! We had 18 confirmands participate in our annual Confirmation retreat to Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. From the very beginning, the weekend was full of interruptions. We arrived at the church to a dead battery in our bus. Once we got the battery charged, we noticed a belt that was about to come off the engine. After spending a lot of time trying to find a belt to replace the bad one, we realized that the bus was not going to make this trip. So almost 3 hours after we intended to leave, we set off packed in the vans and 5 other vehicles.

Saturday we visited the Methodist Museum, Fort Frederica, and Wesley Oaks. We then treated the kids to ice cream. That night we had class and had a bonfire but no s'mores as we had misplaced them. The kids were a little disappointed but we also had a fire scheduled for the next night. On Sunday we had one of our girls fall and injure her mouth full of braces. That evening we had class, and as we were together it rained enough for our bonfire to be cancelled.

Sometimes I think God puts interruptions in our lives to open up opportunities for Him to work. We did not get to ride in the bus for the weekend, but we were packed together in the vans, which required more interaction among our students. When one of our girls got hurt, the other students immediately came to her aid and took care of her. Later the kids talked about the impact of seeing them look out for each other. Although we missed the scheduled bonfire on Sunday, we got to spend some extra time sharing powerfully together, and some great things came out. We also got to share in communion in Lovely Lane Chapel for the first time.

Finally, when we were done for the evening on Sunday, there was a fire a group had used near our cabins that was still going. Many of our kids and adults stayed at that fire and had s'mores. Then a raccoon approached the group and was eating from their hand—a pretty amazing experience for those who were there. So, yes, like this retreat, life is many times full of interruptions. The challenge for us is to look for God in the midst of the interruption to try to see what God is trying to do. Thank you to all of the teachers, chaperones, and kids that participated in this outstanding retreat! I look forward to Confirmation Sunday as we celebrate this outstanding group of students as they join the body of Christ that is our church.

30 Hour Famine March 20-21

We encourage all of our kids and adults to participate with us this year in what is possibly the most important thing we do all year. We will once again fast for 30 hours to raise funds and awareness for the two villages we sponsor in Zambia, Africa. Times are tough. This means that as the U.S. is the most generous nation in the world, when times are tough here, times get even harder around the world. Today 26,000 children die each day from preventable diseases. That number is down from 29,000 when I started being involved in the famine. This year, it is even more important than in the past to support this effort.

Our kids have been among the top fundraising groups in the country. They truly have a heart for making a difference and saving the lives of those who can't save themselves. This brings my heart joy as this was the business Jesus was in. Please support the famine by sponsoring one of our students or help raise funds for them. Details for Students - We will begin fasting Friday morning after we share a meal together at IHOP. We will then meet back at the church Friday evening. We will participate in Disciple Now for our programming for the weekend. We will go to a session Friday night, spend the night at the church, go to a session Saturday morning, break our fast for lunch, do some fun stuff in the afternoon, and go to the last Disciple Now session Saturday night.

Please sign up to participate now. Cost is \$40 to cover the Disciple Now part and your lunch. You must raise a minimum of \$90 to participate in the lock-in part of the Famine.

NEW CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: SIGN UP ONLINE

on the church website beginning March 15.



ministry to families with children
fayetteville first umc

Kristin's Kids Korner

For the past two months, the kids of Discovery Club have been learning about the Four Homes of Mercy in Jerusalem. A partner organization of the United Methodist Church, the four homes provide residential care for severely disabled people with both congenital and acquired neurological disorders. As part of our study, we have been talking about how God's love is extended to all people, including those children and adults with special needs. The words of Psalm 139:14 have been our focus: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

As we help our children learn to be inviting and welcoming to children with special needs, it is important that we talk openly and honestly with our own children. Here are some books that might help you begin those conversations:

- My Friend Isabelle by Eliza Woloson – This book about two young friends, one of which has Down syndrome encourages us to think about our friendships, what makes those friendships special, and how differences can be embraced.
- Susan Laughs by Jeanne Willis – Told in rhyme, this book chronicles the life of one little girl and her daily routine of fun and play. It is not until the end of the story that we learn Susan is in a wheelchair.
- Rolling Along by Jamee Riggio Heelan – Written for children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, this book looks at the life of a young boy with cerebral palsy. By taking the mystery out of the life of a child with special needs, the book encourages other children to see beyond the differences and interact just like with any other child.

Check out the newly organized Children's Library for more books for you and your children to share!

Children and Adults to partner for UMCOR

During this season of Lent, our church is joining with churches across the country to partner with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Our children will be learning about the ministry of UMCOR in Sunday School as they journey with Jesus during the 40 days of Lent. At the same time, you will receive information on UMCOR in the bulletin as well as through displays around the church. Then, on March 22, the church will participate in "One Great Hour of Sharing," a special offering that supports the vital relief work of the church. Please be in prayer for this mission and ministry as we seek to discover how best to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

Easter Egg Hunt: April 5

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 5 from 3-5 p.m. 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.

Attention High School Seniors

The church will be offering a \$2500 scholarship to a qualified high school senior who is a church member and plans to attend an accredited college, university or technical school in the fall. This award is made available by the Edward N. Travis Scholarship Fund. Applications and additional information can be obtained at the church office. Deadline for application is March 31st.

Growing Wonders of Worship needs adult leaders

As this program continues to grow, more leaders are needed to help with all the children we have participating! If you are interested in helping with this ministry once a month or once every other month at either the 8:30 or 11 a.m. service, please contact Kristin Scarboro (kscarboro@fayettevillefirst.com). Thanks so much!

Children In Worship

The children's choirs will all participate in worship in March. We'll also be back on our regular rehearsal schedule starting March 4.

March 8 — Sonshine Singers (9:45, 11) and Joyful Noise (9:45, 11)

March 15 — Children's Ensemble (9:45 and 11)

March 22 — Melody Choir (9:45 and 11)

Remember: You are welcome to try our choirs at any time! We meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Call Joan Aycock at 770-460-0053 with questions.

Egg Stuffers needed! No experience required

In preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt, we will need volunteers to help stuff eggs. We will meet on March 26 and April 2 beginning at 9 a.m. at the church office. If you are available at any time on those dates, we would love your help! Contact Kristin Scarboro for more details.

More Announcements and Special Events

Body Recall is exercise for every body

Body Recall can improve your strength, flexibility, and balance. This educational and exercise experience helps participants learn how their bodies work and the importance of daily movement. We have a great time and laugh with each other while we move. Come try it out any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Should you have any questions, contact Laura or Joyce in the church office.

Next Titus II gathering is March 3

On the first Tuesday of each month we meet for lunch and a short program. The cost of a hot lunch 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.

- March 3 program offered by Rick Massengale and Joan Aycock
- April 7 program offered by Carolyn Cary

Mission Café is open for business: March 29, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Each Fifth Sunday the Council on Missions holds a Mission Cafe to raise funds for local and global missions. We have homemade baked items for sale as well as donuts, coffee, and other drinks. We also have handmade items from Haiti and Africa. Items are unique and really good quality. All baked items need to be brought to the Family Life Center Gym by 8:30 that morning.

With love from me to you and missions, too

Want to send a greeting card to someone? Why not send a gift to missions at the same time? The United Methodist Women are offering greeting cards for a variety of occasions for just \$5, with the money raised supporting the mission work of the UMW. You can contact the UMW Treasurer, Maggie Clarke, at 678-817-0917 to purchase these cards.

announcements @ Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

page 4

Supper Clubs forming

We form supper clubs twice a year. You can go to lunch after church, meet in someone's home, go out to supper, meet for dessert, have a progressive meal or even meet for a Saturday brunch. The group decides. Groups will be made up of three family units and are encouraged to invite two more units to join them. A unit can be a single person or a family of five. If you are single and want to sign up with a friend, you and your friend will be considered a family unit as well. Groups are encouraged to meet once a month. You may not make them all, but that is OK. It is a great way to build new relationships in the church. You can express your interest by signing up at the Welcome Center or contacting Laura Cox @ 770-461-4313 x16 or lcox@fayettevillefirst.com.

Older Adult Council needs ideas

If you are over the age of 55 and want to get more involved in planning activities for your age group and older, come join us! We meet the third Tuesday of each month at noon in room A-40 (the section of the Fellowship Hall nearest the kitchen). We plan trips, discuss classes to offer and more. If you would like to join us, just call the church office or ask Laura for a code to get into the building.

Shawl Ministry offers warmth of love

Shawls and lap robes have been made for centuries as a universal and embracing symbol of an inclusive and unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort and cover, giving solace and beauty. Our Shawl Ministry volunteers pray as they knit, offering compassion to those who receive the shawls. Whether you always wanted to learn how or you have been knitting or crocheting for years, contact Alicia Yates to find out more about this unique ministry. 770-460-1870 or alicia.yates@comcast.net

Methodism Classes begin March 11

Join us for a four-part series on Methodism, Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:15 in room C26.
 March 11: John Wesley and the Methodist Revolution
 March 18: Our Methodist History and Beliefs
 March 25: Our Uniqueness as a Denomination
 April 1: Finding Your Home at Fayetteville First

Reservations are not required; however, we would love to know you are coming. For information or to let us know you will attend, contact Julie Harp: 770-461-4313 ext 14 or JHarp@fayettevillefirst.com.

Enriching Worship - By Julie Harp

One of the most visible ingredients of worship is the place. When we speak of the place of worship we include not only the physical environment but also the feel of the environment. The small details of our place of worship can lead us all into a more personal, welcoming and enriching experience of God's presence. As regular attendees, we notice some of the physical environment preparations, but our eyes become numb to the small details. However, for a new attendee the look and feel of the environment make an immediate and lasting impression.

Our worship committee, under the leadership of Charlotte McAdams, works to enhance our worship environment. Just as someone prepares for a guest in their home, this group of volunteers cares for the physical details of our worship spaces.

A new addition to preparing our worship spaces is the flower fund. There is now a dedicated fund where contributions can be made to the church, with flowers prepared and placed in the sanctuary and chapel on behalf of the contributing person. The fund allows more than one person to place flowers on the same given day, ensures that flowers are presented each Sunday and enables us to provide flowers to reflect our worship season.

In worship we extend the hand of Christian fellowship in simple ways. A smile, words of welcome, or the sharing of information help welcome and engage everyone. An awareness of those in worship with us, accompanied by an intentional conversation, is an offering to God as surely as anything else we do on Sunday morning. Our hospitality team is establishing pew greeters to offer God's love and grace to those around them in worship each Sunday.

As you sit in worship enjoying the small details offer a small detail of your own, and you will enrich worship for yourself and others.

What's for dinner?

March 4 Country Fried Steak Creamed Potatoes Green Beans Bread & Dessert	March 11 Fried Chicken Creamed Corn Choice of Vegetable Biscuit & Dessert
March 18 Lasagna, Salad Bread & Dessert	March 25 Chick Fa La French Fries, Salad Make Your Own Sundae

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

Gen. Youth Choir: 5
 Wed. Night Dinner: 5:15
 Joyful Noise Choir: 6
 Melody Choir: 6
 Sonshine Choir: 6
 1199 Mid. & HS: 6
 Discovery Club: 6:30
 Bells: 6:30
 Chimes: 6:30
 YOGA: 6:30
 Disciple 1: 6:30
 Solomon's Porch: 7
 FLIP: 7
 Chancel Choir: 7:30

March @ Fayetteville First UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																		
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22 (See left for normal schedule) Financial Peace Univ: 2 AA: 3	23 Kindermusik: 9:30 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 Alanon: 8	24 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30	25 Intercessory Prayer: 9 Kindermusik: 10:30, 1 8th Period: 4 See left for night schedule AA: 8	26 Faith Circle: 10 Mary Martha Circle: 10 Lenten Lunch: 12 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8	27 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7 Hawks Game: 7:30 AA: 8	28 Church Worship 8 to noon AA: 8																																																																																																																		
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