



April 21, 2023

## The Weekender

### People don't get saved at committee meetings

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I remember someone once said (and I can't remember the context) "People don't get saved in committee meetings."

Whoever said it was probably right. But I really wish I remembered the context of the comment. Did that person mean that committee meetings were pointless, fruitless exercises of people's time and talents? Did that person mean that committees aren't important? Did that person maybe mean that they had seen more committee meetings than they cared for? Maybe they really believed that no one gets saved at committee meetings. Maybe.

I really, really wish I would have remembered the context of that comment. But because I can't, I've decided to write my own context into that line.

I have never seen anyone saved at a committee meeting at church. That much I agree with. However, I have seen saints of the church have discussions over \$600 because it mattered. I have seen people stop meeting and start praying when it seems that a potential disagreement has reached a standstill. I have seen people lay hands on one another asking for healing and wholeness and forgiveness in committee meetings. I have seen discussions on carpet color, stain removal,\* best practices, whether the word "for" or "with" is more important in relationships, empowering, equipping, and serving others so that all may come to know Christ through this church.

No. I have never witnessed anyone get saved at a committee meeting—whether that be Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Legacy, Church Council, Missions, Preschool Advisory Board, etc.—I have seen the saints of God work for the collective good of God's church, this church, Fayetteville First UMC. Often times, because of attitudes that are misguided, we may think that the work or business of the church is unimportant. Because it is not where people are saved we may devalue it. I am here to say thank you to anyone who has ever served on a committee or currently serves on a committee or anyone who has wondered, "Is anyone really getting saved here tonight?"

The answer is no. We will probably not witness anyone saved at a committee meeting. But we know that when the people of God gather together, it opens the door for salvation to others and gives people the chance to know Christ our Lord through the ministries of this place. Thank God for committee meetings where no one gets saved!

*\*I recently learned at a Trustee meeting that the best formula for removing old stains is this:*

*Mix two parts hydrogen peroxide with one part blue Dawn Ultra (must be blue Dawn Ultra, not an imitation) in a spray bottle. Spray stain, leave for 24 hours, then machine wash. Solution will change from blue to clear.*



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 23, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS

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**Earth Day**  
April 22  
City Center Park  
Fayetteville

Saturday  
April 22  
12:30 - 4:30 PM  
City Center Park

For all ages!

### Earth Day: A GREAT day for all ages ... this Saturday

Join FFUMC children, youth and Green Team at Fayetteville's Earth Day celebration at City Center Park. Learn how you can live the Five R's to steward God's good creation. Saturday, April 22, 12:30-4:30 PM

**Children:** FFUMC KiDS will host a booth and offer a child-led activity with soil compostable pots and wildflower seeds. Kids will be able to create their own wildflower growing kit to take home.

**Youth:** Our youth will be fundraising for their summer mission trip as they sell popcorn and cotton candy and tell others about their plans.

**Adults:** The FFUMC Green Team will share Green Stewardship info and celebrate with drawings for eco-friendly items. It's all to help us stay up to date and be advocates for our earth.

**Put one of the 5 R's to use right away: REUSE!** Let's share jeans for children through teens with others (nearly new, please). Bring some to our Earth Day booth and the Green Team will get them to Bloom to help children in foster care. *(You may also place jeans in a collection bin near the ramp to the elevator or the church office through May 5.)*



### Next Green Team Meeting:

Want to participate actively in a greener community? Come to the next Green Team meeting on Thursday, April 27, at 5:30 PM. Check with Tami Kemberling for more information, 678-641-9604.



*Tami Kemberling delivered a truckload of recyclables to CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) last week. Thank you for your donations!*



### Jail Ministry Training offered April 27

Teams from our church have visited the men's and women's wings of the Fayette County Jail for Bible study, conversation, and prayer, making a difference in the lives of inmates. Ready to explore this ministry? Come to a Jail Ministry Orientation session (required before entering the jail) on Thursday, April 27, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Finger printing, forms, etc. can all be completed after this orientation session if you want to participate. Questions? Contact Danny Beck, [danny.beck2019@gmail.com](mailto:danny.beck2019@gmail.com).



## Wednesday Night Supper: April 26

Gather with friends for food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6 PM with a meal from a local restaurant.

[April 26: Speedi Pig: BBQ](#)

[Make your reservation here](#) or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) by Mondays at 10 AM.

*Upcoming May 3: Piccadilly*



Without you, the directory won't be complete.

**Schedule NOW!**

We want to include YOU!

**SMILE! We're almost ready for photo day!**  
Only a few slots remain for May 4-8. Schedule today!  
[Schedule your photo session now: follow this link.](#)

### Why YOU should get a NEW photo:

- Support the entire directory effort.
- Keep our directory fresh and updated.
- Get a FREE 8 x 10 photograph.
- Get a FREE printed directory.
- Get access to an online directory prepared by The Portrait Cafe.

### If you do NOT get a NEW photo taken:

- You may submit a photo for the "submitted" section due by May 15. *These will be printed as a separate section from the photos prepared by The Portrait Cafe.*
- You may pre-order a printed directory at \$15 each. *Contact the church office to place your order and pay \$15 per directory by May 15 marking "2023 Directory Copy" on your payment.*

[Follow this link for complete information at FayettevilleFirst.com.](#)

See what to wear and **why we should avoid green**, how to change an appointment and more. If you still have questions, contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), or Karen Powell or Michelle Burch at the church office for assistance, 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Family Field Trip to Arabia Mountain on May 13

Join the FFUMC Family trip to Arabia Mountain and to the AWARE Center (Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort) on May 13. We'll gather at the church at 9:45 AM, ride the church vans together and have a fun educational program presented by an animal handler at AWARE. The handler will present us with four rescued ambassador wild animals. The exact lineup will vary but it may include an owl, an opossum, a turtle, and a hawk. The handler will tell us the animals' stories, share tips on peaceful coexistence, and take questions from our group. After our presentation we will hike up and picnic on Arabia Mountain. The Arabia Mountain trail is considered beginner friendly. So bring your hiking shoes, a brown bag lunch, and your love for the great outdoors.

[Let us know you are coming by clicking here.](#)





That we all may be

*one*

John 17:11

## Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Three sessions remain: April 30, May 21, and June 11

Join with others in getting to know our neighbors and engage together in racial reconciliation. Through interactive workshops, participants will explore topics such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, business, and church. Open to all in the community, this effort is led by the UMC Southwest District under the leadership of Elaine Beattie. Hear experts and engage in projects and group experiences designed for adults of all ages.

Held at Fayette Friendship Community Church, 847 New Hope Road, Sundays 3 PM to 5 PM: April 30, May 21, and June 11.

For more information, contact Denise Wilson at 770-227-1074, southwest@ngumc.net.

[Follow this link to register once for all sessions.](#)  
[Doing the Work Together flyer](#) to read and share.



*Fayette Samaritans*

## Let's share through Fayette Samaritans

We can help others in our community through Fayette Samaritans. How?

Make a **regular tax-deductible financial donation.**

Give **food.** Donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

**Most Needed List:** *Canned Beef Stew, Hamburger Helper, Canned Chicken, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Bottled Fruit Juice, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pancake Mix, Jelly, Laundry Detergent, Feminine Products*

Donate **clothing.** **Critical needs:** *Little girl clothes, size 4 and larger (new or gently used); Ladies underwear (new only)*

**Volunteer.** The average number of weekly volunteers is 41.

**Titus II**  
LUNCH & LEARN

## Titus II meets May 2: It's GAME day!

Come to Titus II on May 2 at noon for food and fellowship...and GAMES! Make your reservation by noon on Thursday, April 27, by calling Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.

*Menu: Main course choice: Crunchy Chicken Salad, Porkchop, Baked Chicken; Vegetable; Roll; Dessert choices: Pick 1, 2, AND 3!*



*Holy Hootenanny ...*  
see more photos  
on the last page!



## FFUMC KiDS NEWS

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### Get ready for summer learning and fun!

The adventure begins soon! Save your place now.



### Create Camp: June 12-16 [Register here!](#)

At Create Camp, children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, and participate in traditional camp crafts and games. June 12-16, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM (Monday-Thursday), 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Friday), \$50/camper



### VBS HERO Hotline: June 26-30 [Register here!](#)

This year's VBS is Hero Hotline, where a team of young superheroes (rising PK3-Rising 6th) with the assistance of the Professor, Super Meer, and Hero Support will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook — the Bible—to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world. June 26-30, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM. Free if registered before June 10.

## FFUMC Youth NEWS

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SENIOR

Information due

April 30

### Graduation Sunday is just around the corner!

We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 21, at the 11:00 AM service in the sanctuary, followed by a Graduate Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to attend the service, the luncheon, or both, [please fill out this form so we can plan and prepare.](#)

Graduates will be featured in the May 21 Order of Worship. Even if you cannot attend the service or the luncheon, we want to recognize your graduate in the bulletin. For everyone wishing to be recognized:

- Click on the form link above and be sure to answer the question about bulletin recognition.
- Send a senior photo to [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) AND [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com) by April 30.

**Congregation: You're invited!** All congregation members are invited to attend and support our seniors at the Graduate Celebration Luncheon immediately following the 11AM service in the Fellowship Hall on May 21. If you plan to attend, [please let us know \(click here\).](#)

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2023!



## Youth Get Ready for Summer Missions

FFUMC Youth are excited and preparing for our youth summer mission trips - Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and YouthWorks! There are several opportunities to support the youth prayerfully and financially coming up:

**Bond Certificates** (DUE MAY 1 to church office) - You can purchase a "bond certificate" supporting a youth(s) for \$25, \$50, or \$100. If you have questions about specific youth financial needs before purchasing a bond certificate(s), contact [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com). See below for names of youth trip participants. [Link to certificates online.](#)

Come out and support at the city **Earth Day Festival** (April 22), where we'll be selling popcorn and cotton candy as part of the Fayetteville First UMC booth!

We also appreciate your **prayers** over the youth trip participants:

**Jasmine Akeman, Austin Anderson, Emma Autrey, Logan Ayers, Glenda Harrah, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer, Andrew Starkey**

Ways you can be praying:

Read 1 Peter 1:13 and pray that God would prepare our hearts and minds to encounter and experience God's presence.

That God would open our eyes to see and our ears to listen as we are taking part in God's kingdom work.

Pray and read Matthew 5:13-16 as we are participating in God's action this summer, that we would be salt and light in the communities we'll be partnering with and walking alongside.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10 and pray that we would be open to encountering, discerning, and exploring our calling, mission, and purpose from God.



Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about our youth summer mission trips. We're looking forward to going out, representing Fayetteville First UMC and being the body of Christ in the world together. Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director.](#)

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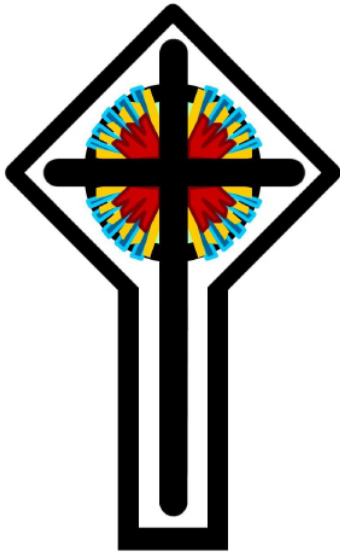
## Called Charge Conference Tuesday, April 25 ... All are invited

Tuesday is a Church Council meeting. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend. The main agenda item will be to vote on the sale of lots gifted to the church in 2000.

Henry County property history: Over 20 years ago, two lots were given to the church in Henry County. They are located in an undeveloped area with no infrastructure access to the property. We have been paying taxes on the property and our tax expenses to date are greater than the value of the land according to the tax assessor.

The Trustees have voted to sell the land and we currently have a bid on the properties deemed more than fair. This process has also gone through the District Committee on Strategic Growth and they approved the sale. The last step is to vote on this formally in a called Charge Conference which will be Tuesday night, April 25, at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Rev. Martin or if you would like to see the documentation, please stop by the office before Tuesday.



## April 19, 2023 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$386,588.53
Year to Date expenses	\$346,105.13
Difference	\$40,483.40

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,283.00

45 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$13,099.35

### You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

### Regular Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214

770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

*Upcoming*

**April 25:** Called Charge Conference (see article)

**May 7:** Baby Recognition Sunday

**May 10:** Last Wednesday Night Dinner of season and regular programs

**May 13:** AWARE Family Field Trip (see article)

**May 14:** Mother's Day - flower recognition information will be in next week's Weekender

**May 17:** Fayetteville First Preschool Graduation

**May 21:** Graduation Sunday



# inspired ...

## Holy Hootenanny ... what a party!

You can see ... we had so much fun this past Sunday at the Holy Hootenanny! We enjoyed music from Peachtree Road Revival (a.k.a. Thomas' band buddies), great food, games, dancing and a booth where J.W. came as J.R. and our church family donned western gear to create memory photos. What a boot-scootin' good time together!

