



June 6, 2025

The Weekender

An Early Father's Day Recollection

Rev. Charles Robinson

William Akin Robinson was born in Atlanta on June 24, 1925, the youngest of five children. He married Betty Caroline Slate on January 15th, 1947, and became a father on June 2, 1953. My Dad was 27 when I was born, the same age I was when my firstborn arrived. Prior to becoming a husband and father, Bill Robinson served in the armed forces of our country. Dropping out of school in 1942 he stretched the truth about his age and joined the Navy where he remained until "hostilities ceased" in 1945.

For 30 years my father served as an Atlanta firefighter, most of that time spent at Station #7 in the West End section of the city. When that station closed there were pictures of the building in the Atlanta newspaper. Those pictures brought a flood of memories. I was in that building countless times, always in the company of my father...always so proud of his "calling."

As a child I worried about my dad. I knew that sometimes firefighters died while doing their thing. And then there was the time many on the Atlanta Fire Department went out on "strike." My dad continued to work, to serve. Some mornings there would be tacks and nails under his car tires. It was the only period of time I knew my dad to carry a gun. Why didn't he strike? It had something to do with duty and honor. He never knew how much he taught us about integrity.

Captain W.A. (Robbie) Robinson retired in November of 1977. My mother had two old fireboxes made into lamps for the occasion. I have one of these lamps and it is one of my most treasured possessions. There are times when Mickey and I still read by the light of that lamp.

Because of his occupation and because my mother worked 8 – 5, Monday through Friday, my dad was often home with us young'uns. He could cook and clean and do whatever was needed around the house, blurring the distinctions between men's work and women's work. The cooking was what he enjoyed most and he practiced his craft at the firehouse and at our house. My dad showed disdain for the critters that my mother was always rescuing and bringing home. But in his later years he would walk around the house with a cat perched on his shoulder resembling some kind of pirate's parrot. My father died on Mother's Day in 2001. I'm not sure that my mother ever forgave him for that.

He had his share of favorite expressions. Ask him how he was doing, and, likely as not, he'd say, "Better than snuff and not near as dusty." One of his trademark expressions grew out of his faith. And he was a man of strong faith, a leader and a servant in the church. I learned to love the church through his words and actions. Anytime my dad heard someone say, "O my God!" he would respond, "You'd better be calling on someone you know."

I wish that you could have known my father. I'm grateful that he knew our Heavenly Father.



PENTECOST SUNDAY
JUNE 6, 2025
8:45 AM (Chapel)
11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)
Online link active at 11 AM and after
Romans 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-21
"Happy Birthday"
The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Celebrate Road Trip this Sunday and throughout June

VBS Celebration Sunday, June 8

Be sure to join us Sunday, June 8, as we celebrate and share some of the things our VBS Road Trip travelers have learned at the 11:00 AM service.

VBS mission focus continues through June

The **VBS Mission Focus** is to help one of our local Fayette county elementary schools. And you are invited to join in the effort! Purchase some or all of the following and bring your donations to the church office for the month of June.

Items needed:

Composition notebook	Spiral notebook
Pencils	Erasers
Glue sticks	16-count Crayola crayons
Wide-rule notebook paper	



You're Invited: Farewell Reception for Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Please join us as we celebrate and send off Rev. Allyson Lawrence with love and gratitude! As she prepares to begin her new appointment as Senior Minister at Watkinsville UMC, we will gather to share parting blessings and well wishes.

A reception in her honor will be held on her final Sunday with us:

Sunday, June 22 at 1:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Come help us thank Rev. Lawrence for her faithful ministry among us and surround her with encouragement for the journey ahead.



A Concert of Hymns and Gospel Songs

Sunday, June 22, at 7 PM

Featuring the combined choirs of Fayetteville First UMC and Central Baptist Church, Newnan

Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Conductor | Charles Higgs, Organist

Henry Lee, Accompanist | Nicholas Bowden, Conductor and Host



Summer Lunch program continues through June and July

Our yearly Summer Lunch program has begun. It's our chance to serve more than 300 families, including over 450 sandwiches, who receive free or reduced lunch during the school year. Lunches will be prepared and picked up in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays. Volunteers are needed. We have a faithful group of drivers, but we need a few more to be available to substitute. We also have an additional route this year. For questions, more information, or to sign up, please contact Faye Livingston.

Donations of homemade cookies and apples are deeply appreciated. Please package cookies 2 to a bag and leave all donations in the Fellowship Hall kitchen clearly marked for Summer Lunch.



Celebrations! Then and Now with Judge Arlene McGruder, Ret.

Join the United Women in Faith for dinner on Thursday, June 19, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall as they welcome Judge Arlene McGruder, Ret., as the guest speaker. Dinner by Chicken Salad Chick – \$10 per person (payable at the event). Nursery available upon request. Donations of gently used women's clothing, toiletries, or kitchen utensils are gratefully accepted to benefit Arlene's Domestic Survivors. All are welcome! Please contact Deb Cole for reservations by Monday, June 16.



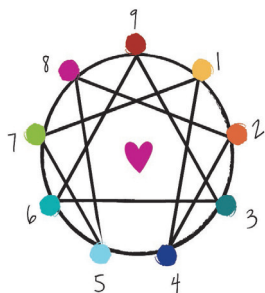
Basic Lay Servant Class: June 18 and 25

Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering people who want to serve more deeply in mission and ministry. If you would like to know more and better prepare yourself for ministries in the church and community, please join us for the Basic Lay Servant Ministries course on June 18 and 25 in the FFUMC Fellowship Hall from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. [Sign up online at this link](#) and choose "Basic, 6/18, 6/25; 4-9 pm; Fayetteville First UMC." The registration cost is \$40. You will also need to purchase your book: *Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course*, by Sandy and Brian Jackson. Upon completion of the two-day, 10-hour course you will receive your certification through The UMC Discipleship Ministry. Through this process you will increase your knowledge and effectiveness in ministries of care, leading, and teaching. [Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with questions.



Flag Team volunteer sign up

The season of patriotic holidays is approaching, and you are invited to decorate the church campus with flags. Individuals and group volunteers (UWF Circles, Men's groups, families ... all helpers appreciated) may choose a single holiday or may sign up for the whole season. It's easy and takes 2-4 people about an hour to place and take down flags. The designated holidays are Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4, September 11 Patriots Day, and Veterans Day. Contact the church office for more information including sign up sheets and handouts with specific information and suggestions.



A Path to God: The Enneagram as Spiritual Practice

The Enneagram is growing in popularity as a personality typing tool, but it is so much more! In fact, the Enneagram is a wonderful tool for spiritual formation. Learning our Enneagram type can help us identify specific ways in which we are invited to share God with the world, the patterns that get in the way of our doing that, and the spiritual practices that return our focus to God and our true calling. Join us as we explore this fascinating tool. Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com.

Saturday, August 23 10 AM to 4 PM FFUMC Fellowship Hall

FREE — Reservations required

This course will be taught by Kristen Vincent. [Learn more and register here.](#)



June pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those in our community with food insecurity and other needs. Food and clothing donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office. **Volunteers** are also needed in the food pantry, clothes closet, receptionist area, and as interviewers with a 3 hour commitment each week.

Most Needed List: Canned Chicken, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Corn, Dried Pasta (not spaghetti), Chicken and Beef Broth, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Syrup, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Tea Bags, Feminine Products

Clothes Closet Needs: Girl's Socks, Men's White Crew Socks



Let's Do Lunch: Saturday, August 9

It's time to make reservations for our 4th Annual Let's Do Lunch! And remember to bring friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! You have until July 26 to reserve your seat.

This year, we are delighted to have Diana Cowan as our special guest to share her incredible story about "The Lost Sheep", which has motivated women all over the country. Come prepared to be entertained, encouraged and inspired.

Guests will enjoy a tri-salad plate for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated dining tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Event: August 9

Reservations due July 26

There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 3 easy ways to make your reservation:

Online: [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & hit Submit.

Email: Send an email to Lauren Davis or admin@fayettevillefirst.com with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of any guests coming with you.

Phone: Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

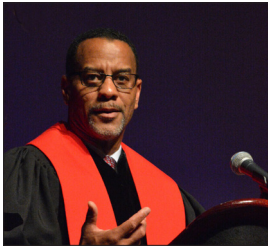
You may make reservations for you and your friends at the same time. If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Lauren to cancel.



SAGE visits Commemorative Air Force Airbase June 17

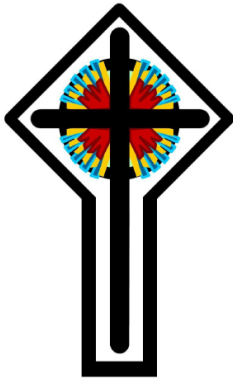
Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) will be going to the Commemorative Air Force Airbase at Falcon Field in Peachtree City on Tuesday, June 17. This museum features vintage aircraft and aviation artifacts. There is no cost for the tour, only \$2 for transportation. Gather at the church office at 9:15 AM for a 9:30 AM departure. Our tour begins at 10 AM and we will enjoy lunch at Palmers Restaurant in PTC around 11:30 AM. Contact the church office to place your name on the list.

Upcoming trips: July 10 - Peach Trip! August 21 - Details soon



Farewell reception for Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas is Sunday, June 8

The Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas will be leaving as Superintendent of the South West District at the end of June to return to full-time ministry as Senior Minister at Glenn Memorial UMC, as the Rev. Mark Westmoreland retires. You are invited to join us for a farewell reception for Dr. Thomas and his wife Duwanna in our Fellowship Hall from 3 to 5 PM on Sunday, June 8, with a presentation at 4 PM.



June 2, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$476,551.26
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$500,494.50
Difference	- \$23,943.24

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,106.00

82 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$19,077.11

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)

Closed Fridays

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7:30 PM

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inspired ...

VBS was a Road Trip adventure!

Our VBS Road Trip took us on a grand adventure as we learned that God is with us wherever we go! Assembly, crafts, science, story time, recreation and music (along with afternoon adventures for our amazing youth helpers) made this a wonderful week of learning and summer fun!

