



>> *connections*

Closing Doors and Opening Windows

Rev. John Barnes

Changes are afoot here at FFUMC. This is my last Connections article. In June, Rev. Michael Phillips will be reappointed, and you will meet your new pastor, Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, and his family. This month I want to remind you what is very evident: change is the only constant in our world. Usually we are grateful for change. When we are young we want to change—grow up. In school we want to be promoted to the next grade. We would not rejoice if one of our children said to us, “I really like 3rd grade. I’ll keep repeating it each year.” Teachers don’t want 13-year-olds in a 3rd grade class!

Change happens in churches too. There are a few of you who have been in our church for fifty or more years, but no one who joined 100 years ago is still a member. Our church—and every church—is

a parade of people coming, staying for a while and then passing on. As Methodists we also know that preachers come and go. You have learned this lesson repeatedly lately. I pray that you won’t have to learn it again for a long time.

A time of change is also a time of opportunity. In some ways God has closed a door on my ministry. It will change. I won’t be a full-time preacher/pastor. But when God closes a door, he usually opens a window, too! I don’t know where God will lead me and it may require that I crawl through a window to get there. God has closed a door on your ministry with me and has also opened a window for Fayetteville First UMC. This is a time of opportunity for you and for me. May we both be open and excited to discover the new things God has in store for us!

June/July 2019

June 2

Rev. Michael Phillips Reception

June 9

Rev. John Barnes Reception

June 23

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin Begins

June 24-28

Vacation Bible School

July 15-19

MAD Camp

July 21

Blood Drive



**Fayetteville
First**
united methodist church

175 East Lanier Avenue
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313
fayettevillefirst.com

Our Church Family

Caring for each other and our community



growing in
nurture
Peter 3:18



growing in
outreach
Matthew 5:16



growing in
worship
Psalm 100:2

In Memoriam: Cynthia Farrar Hall
April 20

Ruth O'Neal
May 8

Carol Holland
May 13

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Phillip and Angela Goodwin and family upon the death of Phillips's father and Alex, Kimberly, Jenny and Andrew's grandfather, Hugh William Goodwin, on April 29.

Arlyn, Susan and Brent Moulder upon the death of Arlyn's father and Brent's grandfather, Rev. Dr. Wilton A. Moulder, on April 30.

Red and Linda Benefield, Harold and Becca Benefield and Hardy, Seth and Laura Benefield and Jane and Dorsey upon the death of Red and Harold's mother, Seth and Hardy's grandmother, and Jane and Dorsey's great-grandmother, Melba Benefield, on May 1.

Charlotte, Lisa and Spencer Holland upon the death of Charlotte's sister and Lisa and Spencer's mother, Carol Holland, on May 13.

In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold
Carolyn Broady
Annelle Burch
Kassandra Dzenis
Daria Giebler

Margaret Grainger
Rebecca Greenberg
Martha Hale
David Hobson
Carole Hyder

Doris Kerlin
Robertine Mitchely
Marcia Morrow
Margaret Panter
Lurlene Perry

Mary Pierson
Evelyn Starling
Dorothy Swanson
Jack Wheeler
Brad Wilkinson

Notes of Thanks

"Thank you!" I wish that these two little words could encompass all the thoughts, feelings and gratitude I have for my FFUMC family. From the moment we arrived here we have felt an overwhelming amount of love from so many that make it so difficult to leave. There has never been a time that we have not felt your warmth and witnessed your open arms of love and my admiration for every one of you is well placed. You are a blessed and wonderful congregation and it is my prayer that God will continue to enrich your lives and that you continue to have a heart for God and all of God's children. As we each begin a new adventure in ministry, I also pray that God will continue to guide us and direct our paths and that somewhere along the way those paths that we take will intersect with one another. — Rev. Michael Phillips

Thank you for the many ways you are uplifting me, Randy, Becca and Mei Mei. Your expressions of love and concern given to us this Easter were wonderful and much appreciated. Thank you for being the hands, arms and feet of Jesus. — Janet Baileys

The family of Bill Holcomb would like to express our deepest appreciation for all of the many expressions of kindness shown to us during this difficult time. The outpouring of love from our church family has been overwhelming and very humbling. Thank you so much. — Sandy Holcomb and Angie McClanahan



New Members

These students have been confirmed as full members in our church:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Emma Allgood | Kaitlyn Lawrence |
| Dorsey Benefield | Michael Phillips |
| Ryder Blythe | Jacalyn Schartle |
| Noah Gregg | Kara Thaxton |
| Braeden Hale | Baine Thompson |
| Grace Hoekstra | |

Church Membership: 1785

Giving (as of May 21)

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$530,902.89

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$502,543.82

Surplus: \$28,359.07

Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$231,073.90

Needed to Complete Phase 2: \$68,926.10

Needed to reach \$350K goal: \$118,926.10

RECEPTIONS FOR MINISTERS

It's Hard to Say Goodbye

It can be hard to say goodbye... so let's have a party for our departing ministers! Please mark these dates:

Rev. Michael Phillips: You are invited to a reception for Rev. Michael Phillips on **Sunday, June 2**, at noon following the 11 am. service. Notes of appreciation for his ministry here are welcome as we wish him well in his upcoming ministry to two churches in a neighboring area.

Rev. John Barnes: You are invited to the Retirement Celebration for Rev. John Barnes on **Sunday, June 9**, at noon following the 11 a.m. service. Notes are much appreciated as Rev. Barnes retires after 31 years of ministry.

REACHING OUT FOR FAYETTEVILLE AND BEYOND

We continue to serve

Summer Lunch Program Throughout June and July

We pack lunches each Tuesday at 10 a.m. June 4 through July 23 for families who need lunch assistance through the summer. Please clearly mark cookie and chip donations as you leave them in the Fellowship Hall kitchen each Sunday prior to packing. Contact Valerie Mallon for more information at vmallon70@gmail.com or 770-310-7620.



Howard and Sally Dunham help at Summer Lunch Program.

Give Blood and Save Lives July 21

Mark your calendars now for FFUMC's next blood drive on Sunday, July 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym. To schedule a specific donation time, email the team at ffumc.blooddriveteam@gmail.com or sign up in the courtyard before the event.

Mission u Comes to FFUMC July 26 - 27

Mission u is a great opportunity to study current issues impacting society, grow spiritually and be in community with fellow United Methodists working to put faith, hope and love into action. FFUMC is hosting the United Methodist Women's North Georgia Conference area Mission u on July 26 and 27. This year's studies are *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*, and *What About Our Money?* Register at unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u. To volunteer as we host this event or ask questions, contact our UMW President Kathie Hansen at hansen.kathie@comcast.net.

UMW Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry

The United Methodist Women celebrate 150 years of ministry this summer. UMW small groups and circles are taking time off during the summer months, but women of all ages are encouraged to join a group in September. Watch for more information in August and begin investigating the different groups now at fayettevillefirst.com. There is a place for YOU! If you are interested in becoming a part of a UMW Virtual Group or have some ideas to share, contact UMW president, Kathie Hansen, hansen.kathie@comcast.net.



UMW members Gloria Householder, Judy Cash, Alicia Yates and Lois Chappell enjoy lunch together.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

For the **WHOLE** family | Rev. Carson Thaxton

We want this to be a summer that reflects the love of God. What if we found ways to allow God to work in us and through us? Maybe these themes designed for kids at **Vacation Bible School** are actually based on real truths that would draw us (as adults) closer to God as well. Sometimes I need to be reminded to go beyond myself—to see what God is doing all around me if only I would have eyes to see.

Ephesians 3 is reminding us that our God is able to do far beyond anything we could request or dream up or think would be a good idea. And how? “By God’s power at work within us.” Us?! Amazing! I thought this was just about God being God. God being amazing and doing incredible things that only God can do?! Us! This scripture seems to call us to something broader, something deeper, and more personally involved than letting God be God and letting us be us. This scripture messes with our nicely defined borders between our humanity and the Divine.

“Thank you, God, that you love us enough to mess with us and to be involved in and through us. Help us to remember you are already with us and to respond with joy because of all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do with and through us. Each day of VBS can be powerful for the kids as well as the adults. May we move with you in Boldness, Faith, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope. Amen!”

Our **VBS Missional Project** this year is all about relationships to two schools and helping to support them as they start a new year. We will be gathering supplies for Spring Hill and North Fayette Elementary. One of our church’s goals is to support and be FOR our community so we reached out to our new friend Bekah Kirk, a local guidance counselor in the school system, who is our main point of contact to build this bridge between our church and these schools. Pray for the students and teachers during this summer as they prepare for another year of educating our children. We love you, teachers!!



*“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.” Ephesians 3:20 or **EP3-20** if you will. You’ll meet this special robot at VBS this summer.*



Caroline Gary has enjoyed her years in the children’s program. This August she launches into FFUMC Youth!

Parents Night Out Friday: July 13, 5:30-9 p.m.

Parents, need a night out? Trust us; we understand. Drop the kiddos off for an evening of fun while you ... go do something else! Register to keep it free by Monday, July 8, at fayettevillefirst.com. Volunteers: You can sign up for a shift to help out and get to know these families.

M.A.D. Camp: July 15-19

Music, Art, and Drama camp for rising Kindergarten through rising 6th grade. Monday through Friday 9:00-12:00 everyday. Cost is \$75 before July 1st. \$90 after July 1st. (\$50 per child if multi-child family). Register now at fayettevillefirst.com.

Sunday, August 4: Blessing of Our Schools in Worship

Join in a time to pray for teachers and students.

Sunday, August 11: Promotion Sunday

All grade levels move up and begin their new Sunday School opportunities. Rising 3rd graders receive a Bible in worship.

YOUTH MINISTRY

New Creation summer focus | Kena Newkirk



Congratulations!

We celebrate with our church family as 15 high school and six college students graduated this year.

Front: Grace Mallon, Morgan Helmbold, Madison Helmbold

Middle: Sarah Higgins, Kate Flanagan, Scott Halbert, Matt Halbert, Bryant Hamilton*

Back: Joshua Adams, Chris Carley, Andrew Lowry, Quinn Clark, Spencer Kalafut

Not shown: Anna Agi, Cassidy Coupanger, Ansley Moore, Eric Carley, Lauren Fowler*, Katy Lewis*, Sarah Pace*, Jordan Watson**

** college graduate*

Getting Ready for the NEW

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation." Our youth are receiving what God is creating new in their lives as they graduate from high school and college and move into their next stage. Until our graduates move on, we have some exceptional opportunities to stay involved over this summer.

We break into our new youth space in a few days and will invite you all to an open house soon. Throughout this summer, our youth are invited to embrace "New Creation" in our Tuesday Bible Studies which meet after the Summer Lunch Program each week. This year, we will be working on creating murals based on our Bible studies to embellish the hallways of our church.

Premiering this year: Doughnuts and Devotion before VBS kick-off each morning. We are looking for sponsors to help with breakfast for our youth and better equip them to be leaders during VBS. Join us this summer as God creates something new here with our FFUMC Youth.

June 7-9: Renova2us Rafting Retreat
June 24-28: VBS Afternoons
July 10: Six Flags

July 14-18: Chicago High School Leadership Retreat
July 21: Atlanta Braves Game
August 2-3: LaGrange Lock-In



Adults
Youth
Students

Sign up NOW!

fayettevillefirst.com



GROWING FAITH, FRIENDSHIP AND MINISTRY

Connecting over coffee, creation and our future

HELLO. MY NAME IS ...

"Everyone knows me." "No one cares what my name is."

Don't let either of these be your reasons for not ordering (and then wearing!) your name badge. "But why a name badge?" you might ask. Quite simply it shows you recognize that other people matter and you want them to feel welcome and comfortable. When you wear your name badge, visitors know they can come to you for easy questions like, "Where's the restroom?" It also helps your friends who have been next to you in the pew for the last twenty years remember your name when their mind momentarily goes completely blank! So, be sure to order a name badge — it really is the nice thing to do! Go to fayettevillefirst.com by June 21. \$10 each.



Singles Trivia Night at Oz

Join in the fun and test your trivia knowledge at Oz Pizza with friends! June 19, 7 p.m. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, or Suzie Lusk, suzielusk49@gmail.com, with questions.

Men's Bible Study Begins on Wednesday Nights

A new men's Bible study is forming and will meet every other Wednesday night from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library, room C-200. Beginning June 5 with a study of the book of John, the group will be led by a rotating team of teachers. Other dates are June 19, July 3, 17 and 31. For more information, contact Chuck Grayson, grayson175@bellsouth.net.

Small Group Spotlight: Genesis to Revelation (A.K.A. G2R to their friends)



The focus of this small group is intentional chapter- by- chapter Bible study that digs deep into each book of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Class participants can read study materials in advance to more fully engage the scripture. With a rotational teachers schedule, participants receive a diverse breadth of knowledge and teaching styles. Genesis to Revelation meets each Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in room C-250.

Some participants in the Genesis to Revelation Sunday School Class

Table Groups Dig Deep

Table Groups are alive and strong here at FFUMC! These small groups meet throughout the week on our campus and off and offer relaxed conversation about our lives and faith. Each group has its own character and focus. Want to try it out? Just contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, and find a group that is right for you ... or start a new one! *Friday morning Creative Faith Table Group*



What's Happening @ Fayetteville First UMC

Get specific information on happenings and times at fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.

Regular Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice: 8 a.m.
Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Donuts: 9 a.m.
Sunday Small Groups: 9:45 a.m.
Worship in Chapel: 9:45 a.m.
Choir Practice: 10:30 a.m.*
Worship in Sanctuary: 11 a.m.
Kids Wonders of Worship: 11:30 a.m.
AA: 3 p.m.

Regular Monday Schedule

Move 4 Life: 10:30 a.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Tuesday Schedule

Card Ministry: 9:30 a.m.
Summer Lunch: 10 a.m.
Cocaine Anon.: 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

Regular Wednesday Schedule

Table Group: 9:30 a.m.
Move 4 Life: 10:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous: 12 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer: 12:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 6:15 p.m.**
Music Rehearsals: 7:30 p.m.*
AA: 8 p.m.

Regular Thursday Schedule

Table Group (Men): 10 a.m.
Yoga: 9 a.m.

Yoga: 5:45 p.m.
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

Regular Friday Schedule

Gremlin Growlers Table Group: 10 a.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Saturday Schedule

Narcotics Anon.: 7 p.m.
AA: 8 p.m.

**Chancel choir rehearses Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning 7/7*

***Study meets every other week: 6/5, 6/19, 7/3, 7/17, 7/31*

Other Meetings

Square Foot Ministry, 6/13, 7/11: 6:30 p.m.
Green Team, 8/8: 1 p.m.
Church office closed July 4.

Senior Programs in Fall

Our seniors enjoy a break from trips and luncheons this summer but will resume regular programs in September. Look for details in Connections and the Weekender.

Volunteer This Summer!

So many ways to stay involved:
Summer Lunch: Begins June 4
Sunshine VBS: June 17-21
Vacation Bible School: June 24-28
Parents Night Out: July 12
MAD Camp: July 15-19
Blood Drive: July 21
Mission u: July 26-27
Rise Against Hunger: August 18



August 18 Meal Packing Event

Only \$1,270 needed to reach goal to pack 30,000 meals

DINNERS TOGETHER THIS SUMMER

Let's get dinner together this summer! We'll support our local restaurants and help the FFUMC Trustees fund a new playground surface.

Mark your calendars for these Tuesday night fundraisers at OZ Pizza. On these special nights, simply let the cashier know you are with FFUMC when you order.

OZ gives us 15% of sales if we have a minimum of 20 guest receipts. 5 to 9:30 p.m.

Additional summer dinner locations and dates may be added. Watch the Weekender!



TUESDAYS:

June 4
July 2 & 30
August 13



SUMMER: A GREAT TIME TO SING!

The Chancel Choir summer rehearsal schedule begins July 7 at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This is a great time to try out the Chancel choir and be a part of this wonderful and fun group.



God's Kingdom NOW at FFUMC

Your church on the square

Pastoral & Program Staff

Senior Minister

Rev. John Barnes
JBarnes@fayettevillefirst.com

Associate Ministers

Rev. Allyson Lawrence
ALawrence@fayettevillefirst.com

Rev. Michael Phillips
MPhillips@fayettevillefirst.com

Director of Youth Ministry

Kena Newkirk
KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jordan Hart
JHart@fayettevillefirst.com

Director of Children & Family Ministry

Rev. Carson Thaxton
CThaxton@fayettevillefirst.com

Assistant Director of Children & Family Ministry

Allie Hansen
AHansen@fayettevillefirst.com

Music Director / Organist

Rick Massengale
Rick.Massengale@gmail.com

Nursery Coordinator

Connie Little

Pianist

Sonia Squires

Pre-School/ MMO

Kerry Bleil
KBleil@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative & Support Staff

Administrator

Joyce Mucha
JMucha@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative Assistants

Janet Gazaway
Dian Nelson
admin@fayettevillefirst.com

Church Hostess

Jane Davis

Communications

Joan Aycock
JAycock@fayettevillefirst.com

Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson

FFUMC
175 E. Lanier Ave
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #20

Return Service Requested

IT'S BETTER TOGETHER!

