

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

What sustains you? Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121:1-2



I read an article this week that said depending on work, leisure, engagement on media, and occupation the average person sees 5,000 advertisements in one day. Someone is always selling something. Someone is always trying to get your attention. How many of those advertisements, images, billboard, or stories are promoting something of value? How many things are vying for our attention?

Before deciding to follow the call into full-time ministry, I wanted to work in advertising. While I still feel like I am selling something, I feel a little bit better about marketing faith, hope, and love of God than products for consumption. With a curiosity still lingering, I'm always paying attention to commercials that air during my favorite tv programs. For example, I was watching reruns of a TV show, *The Office*, when I noticed that the commercials were largely for cat food, very comfortable blankets, and multivitamins. I'm allergic to cats. We have enough warm blankets. I don't use multivitamins (maybe that's a New Year's resolution). My point is this: I was perhaps not the best target demographic for those ads and that show when it was being aired.

So where do we look for inspiration as people of God? Where do we look to for help? It is important that we seek the things of God in this world. Maybe you have a poem or a song that speaks to you. Maybe there is a hymn, a song, or some wise word of wisdom a family member has shared with you. Maybe it's something you've seen members of this congregation do that helped fuel you. Whatever it is, if it has been a help, we invite you to share it with us so that it might be a blessing to others. Email me at tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com or give me a call at 770-461-4313 extension 101.

I would like to invite you to share something that has brought you joy, comfort, hope, peace, or grace with me and we would like to share that with the congregation. It doesn't have to be good, but it has to be of God. As you look to God, the maker of heaven and earth for help, I'll leave you with these words from Paul, "*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.*" (Philippians 4:8-9).

The Season of the Nativity, Advent studies and reading groups, more ...



The Season of the Nativity begins the first Sunday of Advent, November 29

A gift has been prepared to lead our church family through the season. You are invited to pick up your gift at The Drive Thru, in the church office, or at in-person services. If you would like your gift delivered, please contact Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938 or leaagnew@bellsouth.net. You'll want to have it in hand before November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.



Advent Study begins November 30

Study "The Redemption of Scrooge" from Matt Rawle's The Pop Culture Series in a four-week in-person and online hybrid group with Rev. Allyson Lawrence. Mondays, Nov. 30 - Dec. 21, Noon to 1 p.m. [Click here to register](#). Then get your book from your preferred store, read chapter one and get ready to look at this story through the lens of faith.



The Seekers Reading Group Begins December 3

Join the kickoff of this new reading group and read the Advent sections of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Home by Another Way" with others seeking to understand how to be in community with each other while listening for God. The three-week study will meet Thursdays, Dec. 3 - 17, 10 a.m. to Noon as a hybrid in-person and online class. [Click here to register](#) or [contact leader Suzanne Carter for more information](#).



Opportunities from United Methodist Women

Make a donation to local ministries through the Christmas MarketPlace Fund. Write a check to "United Methodist Women" with "CMP Fund" in the memo. If you want to honor someone, a special notecard is available in the church office to send to your honoree.

UMW Unit meeting December 10 — The UMW will hold its annual Christmas Unit Meeting with no meal/drinks this year but plenty of Christmas cheer. Gathering in the gym (temp checks, social distancing, masks) on December 10 at 6 p.m., the UMW will feature recognitions and installation of officers plus a unique story-telling presentation on Mary by Carla Cloud of *A Gentle Witness*. Make reservations with Connie Hyder (770-310-6115 or [email](#)) by December 6.

inspired ...

Thanks, Season of Nativity Team

Many hours of preparing, writing, gathering, and printing came together this week as a big team of volunteers gathered to assemble The Season of the Nativity Gift Bags. These masked helpers are only a few of those servants. The gift guides us through Advent with hope and inspiration for all ages. We encourage you to pick yours up at these times or request that one be delivered.

The Drive-Thru: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10 AM - noon

Outdoor Service: The Field, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 PM

Church office: Mon.-Thurs, 9 AM - 3 PM, Friday 9 AM - 1PM

Special Drive-Thru: Mon.-Tues., Nov. 23-24, 10 AM to noon

Sunday Worship Services: 11 AM

Request Delivery: Contact Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938

