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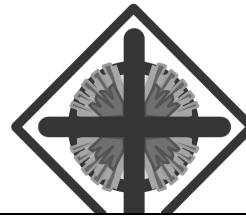
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Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XIII #1
January 2011

Merry Epiphany! (Ho Ho Hum)

Mark Westmoreland

From Christmas to Epiphany we go, but let's face it, for most of us the weeks after Christmas and New Year are more of a decompression chamber than a holy season. I mean, once you've seen Christmas, what can Epiphany possibly offer? Santa is nowhere to be seen; the trees are coming down (with needles and those little ornament hooks permanently embedded now in carpet); you'll be hard-pressed to find an Epiphany card at Hallmark; and I've yet to find a choir itching to perform an Epiphany cantata. Admittedly, I know a few people who throw Epiphany parties, but let's face it, there's something just not quite right about them (the parties and/or people).

I know Christmas. Christmas is a friend of mine. And you, Epiphany, are no Christmas.

But that's the point, of course. The question asked and answered by the season of Epiphany is simple: Where can we possibly go from Christmas?

Well, like the magi, we study this strange and wonderful birth, make our pilgrimage, offer our gifts, and head out to discuss and ponder it all some more.

Like the shepherds, we head away from the stable, "glorifying and praising God" for all we have heard and seen.

Like Mary and Joseph, we go home to nurture the Christ child, to care for him, enjoy him, be with him, and discover day by day the wonders he will reveal.

And truth be told, like Herod, we might just feel a little threatened by it all.

Christmas, after all, shakes the foundations of the world. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it:

The judgment of the world and its redemption—THAT is taking place here. And the Christ child in the manger is himself the one who pronounces the judgment and the redemption of the world. He repels the great and the powerful. He puts down the mighty from their thrones, he humbles the arrogant, his arm overpowers all the proud and the strong, he raises what is lowly and makes it great and splendid in his compassion.

Something startling, wondrous, serious and strangely humorous has happened. God has chosen to judge us, save us, shake us, claim us, love us—all through this lowly birth, through the one born in poverty, through Jesus, Mary and Joseph's kid, the Messiah, Emmanuel.

The season of Epiphany (which means "manifestation") is our time to consider just what has been revealed in Jesus Christ ... and what is being revealed even now. Who is this child? Who is the man he becomes? What has

he to do with us and the world? And what now do we do with him?

There's not an ornament to be hung now. There's not an elf to be found. There's just a Savior to be shared, a call to be heeded, a love to be passed along. Merry Epiphany.

Confirmation begins January 2, 2011

Confirmation: the act of confirming or strengthening.

All students in sixth grade and above are invited to take part in the 2011 confirmation class. Together we will explore what it means to be fully engaged in the life of the church, prepare ourselves for a life of Christian discipleship and discover how our United Methodist history continues to shape who we are today.

Orientation for students and parents will be held on Sunday, January 2, in room C280 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Julie J. Harp with questions at: JHarp@fayettevillefirst.com or call 770-461-4313 ext 14

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Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

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About Our Church Family

New Members:

- Joan Alexander - 1024 Pinehurst Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269, 770-487-0307. Joan transfers her membership from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, GA. We welcome Joan not only to our church, but also to our community. When you meet Joan she may look familiar to you; she is the mother and mother-in-law to Beth and Mack Alexander and proud grandmother of John, Sam and Elisabeth Alexander.

In Memoriam:

Linnie Widney
November 18, 2010

Henrietta Dettmering Jerol
November 23, 2010

Frances Wilkes
December 5, 2010

In Sympathy:

- Mrs. Betty Widney upon the death of her husband, Linnie Widney, on November 18.
- Mr. and Mrs. Don Dixson upon the death of Don's brother-in-law, Herb Tauscher of Illinois, on November 19.
- Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hanson upon the death of Roy's mother, Virginia Hanson, on November 22.
- Mr. Jim Wilkes and family upon the death of his wife, Frances Wilkes, on December 5.
- Mr. and Mrs. Billy Arnold upon the death of Millie's sister, Eva Murphy of Jasper, on December 11.

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Jean Aument	George Copeland	Jim Friday	O.C. Hendrix	Connie Walton
Nell Babb	Carolyn Croft	Lloyd Groover	Phoebe Hornbuckle	Brad Wilkinson
Betty Jo Bowen	Evelyn Durgin	Lowell Hale	Hazel Mitchell	Josh Williams
Annelle Burch	Annette Evans	Annis Harrell	Dot Smith	

Donations

Church Membership: 2030

Our Giving Through December 14:

Budget: \$78,734.92
Building Fund: \$1,490.00

**Amount Needed to Meet Budget:
\$133,832.65**

A donation to the building fund has been given in honor of Evelyn Durgin and in memory of Frances Wilkes and Millie Arnold's sister, Eva Murphy, by the Fellowship/Discipleship Class.

A donation in honor of Beth Jones' birthday on December 26 has been made by her mother, Eva Brown.

Hiefer International is the recipient of a gift made jointly by the Faith Circle and Upper Room Sunday School Class. A llama was purchased in honor of the ladies who participated in the Shawl Ministry. A Gardener's Basket was purchased in honor of David Hobson, master gardener and lead teacher for the Upper Room class. The balance of the money went to purchase a flock of chickens and a flock of ducks.

Note of Thanks!

Dear Church Family,
Thanks so very much for all the prayers, visits and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. Carol Ann and I are so blessed to be a part of such a caring and loving congregation. We also are grateful to Mark Westmoreland and our church staff for their loving support during this time. May God richly bless each of you.
Love to all,
Bob Partridge

The family of Roy Hanson wishes to thank the church family for the calls, prayers, flowers and memoriams that were given at the death of his mother, Virginia.

Missions & Outreach

"Open your hand to your neighbor who is poor and needy"



Mission Theme for 2011

Our theme for missions this year is taken from Deuteronomy 15:11:

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

How will you open your hand to your poor and needy neighbor this year? Take some time to reflect on who your neighbor is in light of Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37.

Pray for Our New Missionaries: Elliott and Katherine Stotlers

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that FFUMC has partnered with a new missionary family for 2011. Elliott and Katherine Stotler are longtime Fayette County residents who have responded to God's call to become missionaries in South Africa. In association with the Mission Society and Life Connection Ministries, the Stotlers will be ministering in the areas of early childhood education, skills training, agricultural development, youth discipleship, and pastor support. Please be in prayer for the Stotlers' transition as they and their ten-year-old son Cason leave on January 12 to begin their ministry in South Africa. Also, please continue to lift up in prayer our other missionaries in the field:

- June Hanks in Haiti where recent rains, cholera outbreak and political unrest have impacted the people with whom she ministers.
- The Gober family in Costa Rica.
- The Kent family who face new challenges as they transition to a new assignment in an undisclosed location.

Stephen Ministry is YOUR ministry

One important way we at Fayetteville First care for one another is through our Stephen Ministry. If you are going through a difficult time, consider calling a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is facing difficulties, suggest they request a Stephen Minister. Contact Tammy Cook, 770-599-1781. Stephen Ministry: It belongs to you!

Angel Tree Update

Thank you to everyone who was an "angel" to our Fayette County foster children. Because of your generosity, 28 foster children had a very merry Christmas. Thank you also to those who gave a general donation to help foster children because the children sponsored by the Angel Tree were so quickly assigned.

DFACS Christmas Party

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas party on December 12 for the children under the care of the Fayette County Department of Families and Children's Services. The children and their foster families had a wonderful time and each received a special gift. Thanks to everyone who volunteered or made a donation. A special thank you goes to the Cornerstone Sunday School Class, who led the fundraising effort and hosted the party, and to the Genesis, Upper Room, and Family classes who served as co-hosts for the party.

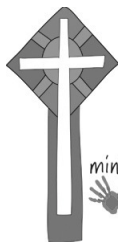
Save the Date for a Great Day of Service

FFUMC's 9th annual Great Day of Service will be April 16, 2011! This event is a way for our church family to give back to the community through participating in a variety of service projects and unique opportunities for ministry. Excitement is already building for this eagerly anticipated event and we need everyone's help to get ready. If you are interested in participating on the Steering Committee, as a Team Captain or have a wonderful project opportunity you would like to share, please contact Lindsay Blythe at 770-306-8648 or by email at lindsay_blythe@hotmail.com.

Kristin's Kids Korner

Although we celebrate Christmas as just one day on December 25, the Christmas season lasts until the day of Epiphany or January 6. Epiphany is our celebration of the revelation of God's light and power as we remember the light from the star that led the wise men to Jesus. This year, help your children transition from Christmas to Epiphany, reminding them that we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth and the light that he brings into the world. There are many ways to celebrate Epiphany as a family:

- Make star melts to deliver to neighbors, nursing homes or children's homes. Directions: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Cover a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Coat metal star-shaped cookie cutters with spray cooking oil. Place several peppermint candies inside the cookie cutters on the baking sheet. Bake 6-7 minutes. Let the cookie cutters cool, and then pop out your star melts.
- Make a donation to a local organization that works with babies. Get your children to help pick out some items to give to the organization and remind them how the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus.
- Share an epiphany cake together. Make a simple cake and then decorate it extravagantly (colorful gumdrops or candy-coated chocolates can become beautiful jewels on the top of the cake). Inside the cake, include beans or large nuts – enough for each child or family member. Every person who finds a bean or nut is declared royal for the day, a Magi, and can put on regal vestments for the rest of the day (colorful old curtains, silky scarves, costume jewelry, paper crowns, etc.).



ministry to families with children
fayetteville first umc

All Children's Activities Will Resume on Wednesday, January 5

Children's Music Schedule

On January 23, the children's chimes and handbells will play in the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. The Sunshine Singers will sing the same day in the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services. The Joyful Noise and Melody Choir will sing in worship on February 13 in the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Kids FLIP Pajama Party

Pull out those warm p.j.'s and join us for another Kids FLIP Pajama Party on Wednesday, January 26. We will watch a movie and eat popcorn during FLIP. Children are invited to bring an extra set of pajamas, new or barely used, to be donated to Gracie's Closet.

Do You Know How to Train a Dragon?

Come learn how at our Family Movie Night on Friday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. We will have dinner together and then watch the animated movie, "How to Train Your Dragon." There is no cost for the event, but reservations are required by Wednesday, February 9. Contact Kristin Heiden to reserve your place (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com).

YOUTH NEWS Renovatus 2011

Join us for this amazing annual retreat. We'll get away to the hallowed ground of Epworth by the Sea (www.epworthbythesea.org) on St. Simons Island. We'll explore who we are as followers of Jesus and who we are as the United Methodist Church. This is the one event throughout the year that we highly encourage everyone who is a part of the youth ministry to attend. The dates are January 14-17, cost is \$180 which includes transportation, lodging, most food, a ropes course, and a T-shirt. Please contact Chris at cmucha@fayettevillefirst.com if you have any questions!

New Program Guide

Be on the lookout for the new youth program guide. It has a calendar and is full of lots of good information about our youth ministry through the summer of 2011. You can pick one up in the Welcome Center or at any of the kiosks located around the church.

Senior Adult Ministries Senior Adult Ministries

Titus II

"Set an example by doing what is good"—Titus 2:7

Titus II is a luncheon program that provides Christian fellowship and encouragement for adults age 55+. Held the first Tuesday of each month in the Family Life Center, Titus II is open to everyone regardless of church affiliation. Invite a friend to join you and make your reservation by calling Evelyn Starling, 770-716-3744, by Friday, December 31.

Date: Tuesday, January 4, 12:00 noon
 Program: Sweet Inspirations Trio
 Menu: Vegetable Soup, Baked Sweet Potato, Cornbread, Dessert
 Cost: \$6.00

A big thank you to our Titus II officers who served last year and those who have accepted leadership positions for 2011:

	2011 Officers	2010 Officers
President:	John Warren	Betty Lindsey
Vice President:	Sadie McCarthy	Eleanor Wiley
Secretary:	Evelyn Starling	Sara James
Treasurer:	Sara James	Annelle Burch
Program Coordinator:	Jeffrey Ray	Margaret Grainger

S.A.G.E (Senior Adults Going Everywhere)

This month we will be traveling to Warner Robins to tour the Museum of Aviation and their new World War II exhibit. Located on 51 acres adjacent to Robins AFB, the museum houses over 90 historic aircraft that proudly rest as a tribute to the thousands of miles flown by American aircrews in defense of our freedom. Since opening in 1984, more than seven million people have visited the museum to learn about great aircraft, significant moments in history and the Georgians who blazed trails in the sky.

Where: Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins
 Date: Thursday, January 27
 Depart: 9:30 a.m.
 Return: 5:00 p.m.
 Cost: \$10 plus lunch at the Aviation Museum Café

Reservations and payment are due no later than January 12 in the church office. Trip is dependent on a 15 person minimum.

Seasoned Singers

Led by Tom Robinson, this group of senior adults glorifies God and ministers to others through their singing. Join this group for fun, fellowship, and ministry through music.

Who: Anyone age 55+ who enjoys singing
 When: Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.
 Where: Room B225 (Choir Room)
 More Info: Tom Robinson - 770-461-7795, robi4131@bellsouth.net

Senior Adult Chime Choir

Late last year Janie Raines began a chime choir for senior adults. Their mission is to glorify God by entertaining and ministering to other senior adults in the community. Contact Janie if you are interested in joining.

Who: Anyone age 55+ who can read music or would enjoy learning
 When: Tuesdays after Seasoned Singers rehearsal
 Where: Room B140 (Handbell Room)
 More Info: Janie Raines - 770-486-5573

Come Bust a Move!

A new session of Hip Hop Hustle begins on Tuesday, January 25 from 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. in the FLC Gym. No dance experience is required and all ages are invited to learn a few moves, burn a few calories and have a great time together. Cost of the 10-week session is \$20 payable to FFUMC. To register, contact Kristin Heiden (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com). Feel free to come check out the class before you commit – the current session meets each Tuesday up to January 4.

Next Body Recall Session

The next 10-week session of Body Recall begins Wednesday, January 5. Classes meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Body Recall is an educational and exercise experience for every body. Registration forms can be found in the Welcome Center, at the kiosks or the church office. Give it a try.

Give the Gift of Life

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is Sunday, January 9, from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Sign up in the courtyard on Sundays or by emailing Tommy Webb at webbs4@bellsouth.net.

Bring Financial Peace to Your Life in 2011

FFUMC is offering multiple 13-week courses of Financial Peace University (FPU) in the Winter - Spring 2011. The course benefits couples and individuals of all ages - those with or without debt! FPU is a life-changing program that teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future and giving like never before.

First course: Sundays, January 30 - May 1. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Facilitators are Charlie and Pete Neal.

Second course: Wednesdays, February 2 - May 4, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. The facilitator is Mickey Seigle.

Third course: Thursdays February 3 - May 5, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The facilitator is Jack Wheeler.

The cost for the course is \$100. The first 12 people from the church to register for FPU will receive a free copy of Dave Ramsey's *Total Money Makeover*. To register, contact Kristin Heiden: kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com or call 770-461-4313. Once signed up, couples/individuals can retake the course without additional costs. Sign up now and bring financial peace to yourself and your family. For more information regarding the course, visit: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/

New Study Opportunities in the New Year

As we look to the beginning of the New Year, fulfill one

of your New Year's Resolutions by joining one of the new studies beginning in the New Year. Whether you have resolved to spend more time in devotion, to challenge your mind or just to meet new people, this is the perfect way to accomplish those goals.

A Study of Romans

Rev. Mark Westmoreland will lead an 8-week study on the book of Romans. Join him on Wednesday nights at 6:15 p.m. beginning January 5, as he explores Paul's letter to the church in Rome. There is no cost for this class.

Ruth: A Story of Friendship, Love, and Devotion

Rev. Kristin Heiden will lead a 4-week study on the Old Testament book of Ruth. Although easy to miss, it is a powerful story of one woman's devotion to her mother-in-law and the powerful way the Lord uses their lives. Join Kristin on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning January 20. There is no cost for this class. (Note: This is the Bible study Kristin will use as part of her ordination examination.)

A Mile in Her Shoes: A Women's Bible Study

Life in ancient times was a struggle for survival, many times removed from the relaxed, comfortable existence most of us enjoy today. For women especially, simply living often meant enduring a harsh society that viewed women as voiceless entities more like property than persons. Still, faith blossomed and thrived. Come and join Mickey Seigle as we explore the bold, yet inspirational lives of Old Testament women such as Hannah, Hagar, Abigail and others. This study is open to women of all ages and will meet on Thursday mornings, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. beginning January 13. Childcare is available upon request. Cost of this class is \$10 for the participant book. To register for these classes, please contact Kristin Heiden (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com).

Continue to keep an eye on the website and upcoming newsletters for information about more classes offered in February as well as options for Lenten study.

What's for Supper?

January 5
Chili/Baked Potato/Salad/
Bread/Dessert

January 12
Fried Chicken/Rice/
Gravy/Green Beans/
Bread/Dessert

January 19
Chicken & Dumplings/
Green Beans/Salad/Rolls/
Dessert

January 26
Beef Stroganoff over Rice
or Noodles/Salad/Bread/
Dessert

January @ Fayetteville First UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 (See left for normal schedule) Disciple I Class: 6:30	3 OFFICE CLOSED Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 8:00 Alanon: 8:00	4 Bibary Circle: 11:30 Trinity: 1:00 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 8:00 Hip Hop Hustle: 6:00 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 Ebel/Taylor Circle: 7:00	5 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermask: 1:15 (See left for night schedule) Disciple IV: 6:15 AA: 8:00	6 Intercessory Prayer: 12:00 Walking Group: 1:00 Marie Lamb Circle: 6:30 AA: 8:00	7 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 7:00	8 AA: 8:00 p.m.
9 (See left for normal schedule) Blood Drive: 8:00 AA: 3:00 Disciple I Class: 6:30	10 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 Kindermask: 1:15 AA: 8:00 Alanon: 8:00	11 Walking Group: 1:00 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Trinity Circle: 7:00	12 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermask: 1:15 (See left for night schedule) Disciple IV: 6:15 AA: 8:00	13 Hope Circle: 10:00 Women's Bible Study: 12:00 Intercessory Prayer: 12:00 Walking Group: 1:00 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 AA: 8:00	14 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 7:00	15 AA: 8:00 p.m.
16 (See left for normal schedule) AA: 3:00 Disciple I Class: 6:30	17 OFFICE CLOSED Prayer/Lenten Ring AA: 8:00 Alanon: 8:00	18 Steel Ministry: 5:00 Waltz Circle: 5:00 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30	19 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermask: 1:15 (See left for night schedule) Disciple IV: 6:15 Cancer Support Group: AA: 8:00	20 Women's Bible Study: 12:00 Intercessory Prayer: 12:00 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 8:00	21 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 7:00	22 AA: 8:00 p.m.
23 (See left for normal schedule) District Training Event: 3:00 AA: 3:00 Disciple I Class: 6:30	24 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 Kindermask: 1:15 Alanon: 8:00	25 Walking Group: 1:00 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Hip Hop Hustle: 6:00 Financial Peace: 4:30 Admin. Council: 7:30	26 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermask: 1:15 (See left for night schedule) Disciple IV: 6:15 AA: 8:00	27 Faith Circle: 10:00 Mary Marie Circle: 10:00 Women's Bible Study: 12:00 Intercessory Prayer: 12:00 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 8:00	28 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 AA: 7:00	29 AA: 8:00 p.m.
30 (See left for normal schedule) Mission Circle: 6:00 AA: 3:00 Financial Peace: 4:30 Disciple I Class: 6:30	31 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1:00 Kindermask: 1:15 AA: 8:00 Alanon: 8:00					

Normal Sunday Schedule

- Choir Practice: 7:50
- Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30
- Wonders of Worship: 8:30
- Sunday School: 9:40
- Confirmation Class: 9:40 (begins Jan. 9)
- Worship in Chapel: 9:45
- Orchestra Practice: 10:00
- Choir Practice: 10:15
- Worship in Sanctuary: 11:00
- Wonders of Worship: 11:00
- Open Court Basketball: 2:00

Normal Wednesday Schedule

- Genesis Youth Choir: 5:00
- Wed. Night Dinner: 5:15
- Joyful Noise Choir: 6:00
- Melody Choir: 6:00
- Sonshine Choir: 6:00
- 1/99 Mid. & HS: 6:00
- YOGA: 6:00
- Discovery Club: 6:30
- Bells: 6:30
- Chimes: 6:30
- Solomon's Porch: 7:00
- FLIP: 7:00
- Chancel Choir: 7:30