



The First United Methodist Church of

Pine Mountain

The Wesleyan Communicator

Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors

March
2011

A Note from the Pastor:

I saw a sign in front of a pharmacy in LaGrange the other day that told me it was not too late to get my flu shot. I don't know— call me the perpetual optimist here, but I figure if I haven't gotten flu yet, I'm not going to get it! The jonquils are pushing up the pine straw! It's no time to be contagious now!!!!

Or maybe it is. Our small groups will begin meeting in a week or two. Don't worry—you'll get the information soon! And what I've been praying for is that God will make us catch something from one another as we rethink church and all it can be. Worship that is more **passionate**. Giving that is more **extravagant**. Mission that is **riskier**. Faith that is **intentionally** worked out. Hospitality that is **absolutely radical**.

As we begin to meet together at church and in one another's homes, and talk about the possibilities these adjectives offer for us, I believe God's nudging is going to be so contagious that something will happen! WE will catch something! Something good! We will learn more and more about what it means to be a Christ-follower.

Isn't that what we are seeking? To know Christ better? To know how to pray? To know how to read and interpret the Bible? To know how to talk about our faith and what our church believes? To stop looking at the church as some place we come **in to**, and instead see it as something we go **out into the world and be**? That's a strand of flu I'd be happy for us all to catch!

I do hope you have found a small group to be a part of. If not, please call the church office this week and let us help you plug in. You will find a list below. Small groups are nothing new. They have been a central part of Christian spiritual formation since the church was formed. Growing churches realize how important they are in offering hospitality to new people and intimacy to all. Had your flu shot? We may not get sick. But let's pray that God's great reviving spirit will infect us all!

Grace and Peace,

Martha

Locations of 1st Small Group Meetings for "Five Characteristics of Fruitful Congregations"

Home of: Michael & Tracy Willey; John & Pat Hagler; Jack & Ann Story; Dena & Howard Schaeffer; Steve & Pam Davis; Sandra & Doug Barge; Harold & Bobbie Tarpley

There will be a meeting at the church on Thursdays and a Young Adult Group on Wednesdays.

You are very cordially invited to a Lenten Study led by the pastor

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 (March 16—April 27) Call the office to sign up.

24 Hours That Changed the World

Walk with Jesus on his final day. Sit beside him at the Last Supper. Pray with him in Gethsemane.

Follow him to the cross. Desert him. Deny him. Experience the Resurrection!



Staying Connected

UNITED METHODIST MEN Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, March 5
6:00pm in the Family Life
Center



Start experimenting with your favorite recipe now. Great prizes will be given to the winners! Keep your eye on the church bulletin and the Church News section of the Harris County Journal for contest rules and entry requirements. This "fun and tasty" event is open to all of the members of our community.

The United Methodist Men are conducting a Silent Auction as part of the upcoming Chili Cook-Off. If you have an item that is really special that has perhaps turned into a "dust catcher," please consider donating it to the men's ministry for our "Silent Auction." 50% of the proceeds will

SILENT AUCTION



be given to the church for debt reduction, that remaining will be used for men's ministry projects. Call John Christian for additional instruction: 706-663-2012.

CONFIRMATION

2011 Confirmation will begin February 27 at 10:00 AM with a youth/parent orientation meeting in the 4th/5th grade Sunday School room. If you are a youth grade 6-12 who has not been through confirmation, you are invited to ***Claim the Name*** as we study together all that it means to claim Jesus Christ as our Savior. Confirmation Sunday will be on Palm Sunday, April 17. Please contact Pastor Martha if you would like to be a part of the class.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Souper Bowl - Our UMW ladies hosted their annual Souper Bowl on January 30th with great success. As usual our church family supported the UMW, along with several members from Hopewell UMC to give us a profit of \$682.00. All proceeds will be spent on local and global mission support. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Souper Bowl.

March News: Louise Miller Circle will present a Prayer and Self-Denial service on March 7th in our FLC. Martha Dye will give a short devotional based on the Bible study, 24 Hours that Changed the World. We will be collecting a donation of food items to give to the FOCUS Center in Hamilton. Our meeting will begin at 12:00; hostesses, Malinda Brooks and Jane Claire Culverhouse will provide drinks, chips and dessert.

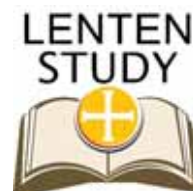
LENTEN STUDY

24 Hours That Changed the World.

Wednesday evenings
March 16—April 27
6:30 PM in the CLC
Led by the Pastor

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this heartbreaking, inspiring book & study, Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Filmed in the Holy Land on the very spot where Jesus lived.

Sign up today by calling or stopping by the church office. Books may be picked up from the office next week.





MISSIONS—2011

We will be working closely with UMW and Congregational Care on projects as well as supporting those going to El Salvador and Henderson Settlement.

March 1-15: FOCUS Food Drive
1 Lb. Rice, Dry Pastas, Jelly & Cereal

March 26: Visit from 3 Vibrant ladies from Henderson Settlement. You will not want to miss them!

Something Old: Open Door

Several of the ladies are still going to Open Door Community House in Columbus twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Monday morning. We usually leave the church around 7:15 a.m. We stop by McDonald's and purchase 40 sausage biscuits for the homeless men and women who visit the Showering Program. They are used up very quickly. The men and women look forward to our visits. We purchase underwear, briefs and boxers (usually sizes medium and large). We also purchase socks and white t-shirts (sizes medium and large). They are used up very quickly. We took candy to the men and women on Valentines' Day.

If the Holy Spirit urges you to donate money for sausage and biscuits, please give a check to Mary Ellen and indicate that it is for Open Door Community House. If you wish to purchase socks, underwear, or t-shirts, place your purchase in the Library of the Church Office sometime during the week. Our next visit to Columbus will be February 28th. If you wish to go with Malinda Brooks, Carol Hamric, Charlotte Zuerner, and Irene Mapes, simply tell Malinda your wishes. May God bless you for your generosity.

Something New: Emmaus Women's Shelter

The mission team and the UMW are working together to support the **Emmaus Women's Shelter** in La-Grange. It is a little over a year old now and supports homeless women and children. There are an estimated 600-700 adults in Troup and Harris Co. who do not have safe, stable housing. The organization has a day center where women and their children are welcome to participate in job skills training, use a computer or participate in life-skills classes. The shelter also has two other houses - one that provides emergency shelter for women and their children for up to 18 months while they participate in life - recovery programs. The



shelter provides three meals a day for as many as 20 people. They are located at 321-B Greenville St. Recently, the UMW donated paper towels, paper plates, and toilet paper. Our church plans to continue our support this year by donating needed supplies.

Something Else: Emergency Food Shelf in workroom closet. Small gift bags of non-perishable foods and water are being prepared by members. Office will give out as needed.

Hands on mission projects change lives of volunteers;

You give!

You go!

And You Get!

So don't miss out. Come join us.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Team met last Wednesday afternoon to collect gifts for our college freshman, Mandy Douthit. We also discussed who needed a visit or two from one of our team members. The visits include trips to see the hospitalized, the sick, and the elderly shut ins. If you would like to be a part of our ministry, please call Carol Hamric to indicate your wishes. We especially need church members to visit the shut ins and the hospitalized. Greeting cards are sent to the shut ins, the sick, and the hospitalized every month. Betty Parrish sends at least 25 cards every month. If you know of someone who is sick and needs a visit or a greeting card, please call Carol Hamric at 706-663-9299. May God guide you in your ministry. Love in Christ, Carol Hamric, Congregational Care Chairperson

MEDIA DRIVE

We are collecting books, DVDs, CDs, and VHS Tapes for the Friends of the Harris County Library sale in April. There will be a box located in the church office to collect these items.





Children's Ministries

Children Programs

Sunday Evenings

3H Club-4:30-5:30

Wednesday Evenings

Kingdom Seekers-6:15-6:45

Children's Choir-6:45-7:30

Upcoming Events:

Need a Babysitter?

Several individuals from our church will be going on a mission trip to El Salvador this summer and they are looking to raise money towards the trip. A babysitting service will be provided at the church on March 5th from 4:00 to 8:00 and March 26th from 1:00 to 5:00. An adult will be on premises for supervision. Reservations must be made through the church office. Donations accepted.

Ash Wednesday Service- March 9

The children will attend the Ash Wednesday service instead of Children's Choir on March 9. Parents are welcome to sit with their children during the service or pick them up in the sanctuary at 7:30.

Children's Offering-

The children are encouraged to bring a monetary offering to both Sunday School and church services. This is an important part of our faith that we need to model and instill in our children. All offering goes towards spreading the love of Jesus Christ.

First Sunday Communion-

Beginning in March the children attending Children's Church will take Communion during the worship service. The children will attend Children's Church as usual and return to the sanctuary for communion at the end of the service. The children will remain as a group and can be picked up from the back of the sanctuary following the service.

Read to Feed Program-

Over the next couple of months the children will begin working towards a new mission project, The Read to Feed Program. This program is supported by Heifer

International. The children will be encouraged to get sponsors to support them financially as they read to help stop world hunger. Please keep your eyes open about future details regarding this exciting opportunity!

Easter Egg Hunt- April 17, at the parsonage from 3:00-4:00

Nursery Needs- The nursery is in need of the following supplies: baby wipes, size 3 and 4 diapers, Clorox wipes, Lysol, Cheerios, Goldfish crackers, Animal Crackers. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Photos: Children cleaning the outside doors of the FLC





Youth Ministry

Weekly Youth Activities

Sunday:

4:30-5:30pm Choir

5:30-7:30pm UMYF

Wednesday:

6:00-6:30pm Choir

6:30-7:30pm UMYF



Babysitting Fundraiser: Chelsey Edgar is excited to be going on a mission trip to El Salvador this summer with our District Mission Team! On the mission trip the team will work in construction and will give a VBS for the kids in the area. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,200 and Chelsey will be doing two babysitting fundraisers to help her cover the costs.

On these Saturdays, feel free to drop your kids off at the nursery in the CEC for a date night or relaxing afternoon! We will have snacks, games, and crafts for the kids!

When: March 5th 4 PM- 8 PM

March 26th 1 PM- 5 PM

Chelsey also welcomes any odd jobs that you may need done; all money raised will go towards the mission trip!

If you would like to drop your kids off for one of these babysitting dates, please email Chelsey at: chelsey_amanda@bellsouth.net. Snack donations for these dates would be greatly appreciated as well!



Babysitting Available

More beautiful children from Noah's Ark!



Proud Ava just mailed her Valentine Card



Right: Sweetie John loves to play outside and find leaves



Noah's Ark Child Enrichment Center



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

Psalms 23

February is over and we have learned so much thanks to all our visitors and trips around town. Community Helpers month is such a wonderful and educational time for the children. A **"Big Thank You"** goes to all of you that have made this month so special for us! We look forward to more visitors joining us in the following months to come.

It is hard to believe March is here and so is the time to register your child for next year at Noah's Ark. As church members, you will have the opportunity to register March 8th, before it is open to the public on March 15th. You can pick up registration forms from Mary Ellen or from my box outside my office door. (Registration begins March 1st for our Noah's Ark families.) Please call me at 663-9521, if you have any questions.

On Saturday, April 2nd, we will have our annual **Yard Sale** to raise money for Noah's Ark! We will be taking items the last week in March since we don't have anywhere to store them. Please call me if you have any large items to donate and we work something out. We appreciate any donations you may have.

In Christ Love, Karen



Smiling Joel loves the games we play



"Cutie Pie" Gabby enjoys her Valentine cookie!



Funny Boy Christopher

Left: Princess Isabella looking cute for our Special Dress Up day



In Our Prayers

Our Church Family

Doug Barge	Emma Mabry
Angie Barker	Lexie Paulk
Louise Burlton	Betty Roberts
Terry Chandler	Irene & John Sale
Becky Chrzanowski	Roy Westbrook
Bill Darley	Fran White
Peggy Davis	Katie Williamson
Terry Holmes	John Y. Willis
Ann Kozee	Our Church
Dathan Mabry	

Extended Church Family

Jane Askew, Former Resident
 Lloyd & Loretta Darby, Parents of Pam Davis
 Dennis Ertle, Relative of Jack Story
 Katie Hess, Niece of Louis Hazouri
 Heather Kelley, Niece of Winky Parker
 Nelson Jones, Retired Attorney
 Neal McCullohs, Former member
 Robert Smith, Father of April Loftin
 LaVerne Thompson, Mother of Dawn Swanson
 Our Country & All Nations
 The Men & Women of our Military

If you have a request for someone to be on our prayer list, please complete the purple card on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate.

March Birthdays

4 Zack Webb	15 Keith Haralson
5 Terry Douthit	15 Abby Davis
5 Ed Douthit	16 Mary Ellen Roberts
6 Thomas Johnson	16 Michele Hazouri
7 Isabella Mabry	19 Leslie Ann Flynn
8 Gus Lind	22 Charles Kozee
8 Amanda Miller	23 Cory Flynn
10 Kate Emerson	25 Addie Drew Zuerner
10 Peggy Davis	26 Christeen Taylor
11 Sarah Crye	28 Jim Chambers
12 Elliott Moon	31 Kathryn Snider
12 James Eddy	

March Anniversaries

9 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Lovern
 17 Dr. & Mrs. Mark Smith
 24 Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Reddick

If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or not listed, please contact the church office so we can correct our records. Your dates are important to us!

Financial Information as of February 20

General Budget

Budgeted:	\$63,000.00
Received:	\$53,831.93

Exercising the Faith

In order to reach our Vision 2020 Goal to be debt free by 2020 we need to average \$48,000 per year **above and beyond** our General Budget [Campaign year from May through April each year]



Received 2011:	\$5,140.00
Received to date:	\$113,234.25





March Calendar

5	UM Men	8:00am	FLC
5	Chili Cook Off	6:00pm	FLC
5	Baby Sitting	4-8pm	CEC
7	Louise Miller Circle	12:00pm	FLC
8	Staff Meeting	6:30pm	A
9	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00pm	S
10	Sew Blessed Quilters	9:30am	FLC
11-13	SLR Camp Glisson		
13	Finance Committee	6:00pm	CEC
13	Church Council	7:00pm	CEC
14	Open Door Ministry	7:00am	
15	Worship Committee	5:30pm	A
16	Lenten Study	7:00pm	CEC
17	Newsletter Deadline		
22	Staff Meeting	6:30pm	A
24	Sew Blessed Quilters	9:30am	FLC
25	Emmaus Reunion	6:30pm	FLC
28	Open Door Ministry	7:00am	
29	Amazing Greys Lunch	12:30pm	FLC

Every Sunday

8:30am Worship
 9:30am Coffee/Fellowship
 9:45am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship
 4:30pm Children's 3H
 4:30pm Youth Choir
 5:30pm UMYF

Every Wednesday

5:45pm Wednesday Night Supper
 6:00pm Youth Choir
 6:15pm Kingdom Seekers
 6:30pm Chancel Choir
 6:30pm Youth UMYF
 6:45pm Children's Choir

Every Monday

6:30pm Christian Believer

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