

## ADVENT SEASON 2011

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:30 a.m.

#### Children's Advent Celebration

The fourth through sixth graders will present the nativity story through the eyes of **the Herdmans**. This year **"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"** will be performed during the Sunday school hour in the fellowship hall. Four-year-old through fifth graders are encouraged to attend. Christmas crafts, cake, and caroling will be included in this time of celebration and anticipation. There will be no Expedition for during the 11:00 a.m. service on this day.

2:00 p.m.

#### Callanwolde Concert Band

Come enjoy seasonal favorites as the Callanwolde Concert Band offers its annual Christmas concert in our sanctuary.

7:00 p.m.

#### Taizé Service of Preparation

Held in the chapel, this is a contemplative service in the Taizé style including prayer, reading, music, and silence – a break in the midst of hectic coming and going. Childcare is available.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:00 a.m.

#### Children's Choirs Program

The children's choirs will present the story of Christmas in word and song during the traditional worship service.

6:00 p.m.

#### Celebration of Emmanuel

Featuring another original script by Carolyn McDowell, this telling of the Christmas story focuses on the perspective of Joseph, the father of Jesus. This presentation of the music ministry is held in the sanctuary and features many of the choirs and ensembles of the church as well as brass ensemble, dramatic lighting, and staging. Childcare is available.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

4:00 p.m.

#### Church-wide Christmas Party

All are invited to come to the fellowship hall to enjoy hot apple cider. Bring your favorite Christmas goody to share! We will celebrate the seasons with a time of fellowship and perhaps some seasonal song.

6:00 p.m.

#### Progressive Dinner

Cider, hot cocoa and good cheer abound as the youth journey to different homes over the course of one meal. The group will meet in the fellowship hall and then be on their merry way. The youth will also take part in a white elephant (\$5 limit) gift exchange.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 p.m.

#### Y'all Come Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal

Members, guests, returning students, and everyone else is invited to come to a **single rehearsal on "Christmas Eve Eve"** to prepare to sing in the 4:30 p.m. service, the 6:30 p.m. service, or both.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Located in the sanctuary a service of readings, carols, drama, and sermon that concludes with the lighting of candles while singing **"Silent Night."** Childcare is available.

11:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Located in the chapel, this is a service of readings, carols, sermon, and communion that concludes with the lighting of candles while singing **"Silent Night"**.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

11:00 a.m.

#### Christmas Day

We celebrate Christmas Day with a single unified service of worship in the chapel as we celebrate the coming of the Lord. The service will feature both traditional and contemporary music. Following the service, we will enjoy fellowship and snacks in the chapel parlor.

### ADVENT IN CAYA WORDS TO THE WISE

We invite you to join us in the CAYA (Come As You Are) worship service for our Advent Series, **"Words to the Wise."** Each week in Advent, we hear voices of those in the Bible who proclaim the coming of Christ, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Word. See inside for more details.

### TAIZÉ SERVICE DECEMBER 4

Our yearly Taizé Service of Preparation will be held in the chapel on December 4 at 7:00 p.m. This is a contemplative service including scripture, singing, prayer, and silence—a welcome break in the midst of the busy-ness of the season, and a way to center and prepare ourselves for Advent and Christmas. The church bus and childcare will be available for this service.

### JOINING JUBILEE JANUARY 8

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, Decatur First will celebrate another Joining Jubilee! As a great start to the new year, we will provide an opportunity for any and all who would like to join our congregation to do so collectively as a group. This is a perfect opportunity for those who have been visiting for a while or are nervous about standing up in front of the congregation to join the church. A luncheon will be held after 11:00 a.m. worship services for all new members who have joined the church since January 2011. If you are interested in joining Decatur First, please contact Katy Hinman at [khinman@decaturfirst.org](mailto:khinman@decaturfirst.org) or 404-378-4541 ext. 102.

## SAVE THE DATE

Tour of Homes	December 2 and 3
Holiday Shopping Childcare	December 3
Children's Advent Celebration	December 4
Taizé Service of Preparation	December 4
Ministry Leadership Council Meeting	December 5
Fellowship Hall Closed for Re-carpeting	December 6-8
HoneyBaked Ham Ordering Deadline #2	December 11
Celebration of Emmanuel Concert	December 11
Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party	December 18
Church wide Christmas Party and Sing-along	December 18
Longest Night Service	December 21
Church Office Closed	December 23
Y'all Come Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal	December 23
Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.	December 24
One Combined Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.	December 25
Church Office Closed	December 26
Church Office Closed	January 2
Epiphany Party	January 4
Joining Jubilee and New Member Luncheon	January 8
Leadership Workshop	January 8
Staff Retreat	January 9
Youth Retreat	January 13-15
Adult Appalachia Service Project Trip	January 15-21
Church Office Closed	January 16
Administrative Board Meeting	January 22
Decatur First Has Talent Show	January 25
Unity Chili Roundup	January 29

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed for Christmas on December 23 and 26, 2011 and New Year's on January 2, 2012.



## OUR SYMPATHY

### *In Memoriam*

Penny Bolen  
October 26, 2011

To John Bolen, Melissa, Jim, and Adelyn Heffner, and Alexis and Mike Schaaf, on death of Penny Bolen on October 26.

To John, Trish, Dana and Sara Haugaard on the death of John's mother, Alda Haugaard, on October 24, in Fremont, Nebraska.

To Kristen and Greg Parker, Anabelle and Sam on the death of Kristen's grandfather, Charles Carlton "Carl" Rutherford, on October 26 in Blue Field, West Virginia.

To Bernice Kirkpatrick on the death of her sister, Dorothy Gayles, on November 14, in Conyers.

## WILL YOU GROW?

We've been challenged this fall to grow in our stewardship of our time, our talents and our financial resources. Almost 50,000 additional hours of service annually were committed. On the Sunday we placed our estimate of giving cards on the altar for 2012, the total amounted to \$945,342.00 for the ministry of Decatur First. That is almost **\$36,000.00 more than last year's Commitment Sunday!** If you haven't turned in an estimate of giving card yet, please prayerfully do so. Cards are available in the sanctuary on Sunday morning and may be filled out online at [www.decaturfirst.org](http://www.decaturfirst.org). Let's continue to grow in grace and joy in the Lord!

## DECATUR FIRST UMC CHAPEL ON DECATUR HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES DECEMBER 2 AND 3

This year the Decatur First UMC Chapel is included as a place of interest on the Decatur Holiday Tour of Homes. The tour is Friday and Saturday evening, December 2 and 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Proceeds from the tour go to support the Decatur Youth Fund, DeKalb Historic Society, Decatur Education Foundation, and Oakhurst Community Garden Project. Tickets can be purchased online or at several retailers. Thanks to Julie Childs for being our House Captain and the wonderful members of our congregation who have volunteered to serve as docents in the chapel during the tour!

## DECATUR FIRST 101 DECEMBER 18

Have you been visiting Decatur First UMC? Do you want to know more about the church and its ministries? Are you interested in finding out how to get more involved or to join the church? Come to Decatur First 101, a one session introduction to the church on Sunday December 18, 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room (Room 301). Questions? Contact Katy Hinman, [khinman@decaturfirst.org](mailto:khinman@decaturfirst.org), 404-378-4541.

## GIFTS GIVEN

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Music Ministry  
In Memory of Penny Bolen  
Anne W. Allen  
Jeanne & Bob Allen  
Anonymous  
Carolyn P. Armistead  
Betsy & David Baker and family  
Julie & Tom Barefoot  
Dr. H.L. & Mary A. Beach  
Beth & John Beal  
Berman, Hopkins, Wright, & Laham  
Zack, Peter, & Sarah Bolen  
Janel & Dennis Byerly  
Julie Childs  
Sue and Jim Church  
Linder & Harry Clark  
Karmon & Jason Clay  
Amy & Matt Curtis  
Fletcher Daley  
Marci & Jon Davis  
Decatur First UMC Children's Ministry  
Quill & Steve Duncan  
Ronnie R. Eichstaedt  
Mary & Jim Farmer  
Sydney & Bill Floyd  
Anne & Edgar Fowlkes  
Tracy & Jud Frost  
Dr. Julia T. Gary  
Brenda S. Goebel  
Georgina & Garrett Goebel  
Susanna & Chad Greer  
Jennifer & Jason Gregory  
Deana & Nathan Griffin  
Cheryl Gutterres  
Shirley & Phil Guy  
Joanne & Bill Hauserman  
Healthspring Holistic Center PC  
Karen Hearn  
Sandy & Hal Henderson  
Kim Hepler  
George Hickman  
Robert H. Hill  
Angie Holcombe & Rebecca Culbreath  
Julie B. Holly  
Susan & Bob Hope  
Renee & Denny Hopf  
Heather & Cliff Howard  
Sarah Marie & John Huban  
Lucille S. Huggins  
Suzy Jennings  
Rhoda & Doug Joyner  
Sandy & Walter Kruger  
Fran & Les Lewis  
Lynne & Jerry Lock  
Cheryl & Lewis Mann  
Doris P. Mann  
Betty Martin  
Betty & Dale Mastley  
Barbara McCullough  
Frank McGinn  
Mary Kate McGinn  
Betty B. McKemie  
Kitty & Bob Mozley  
Linda H. Nalley  
Lisa & Brian Nemeroff  
Marie M. Nitschke  
Rebecca & David Parhalo  
Roberta & Joe Patrick  
Lynn Peek  
Cindy & Paul Petersen  
Janet Piecara & Marvin Harden  
Robert L. Pitman  
Joanna & Frank Putman  
Sara M. Putzell  
Laura & Carl Rappold  
Frances & Larry Ray  
William H. Rice  
John E. Robinson  
Nell Rodgers  
Elise H. Schaaf  
Mary Pat Schaaf  
Tracie & David Scott  
Meisha & Vance Shofner  
Christa & Tim Sobon  
Jeanne Marie & J. Raymond Steed  
Katherine Thompson  
Robin & Sam Thompson  
Jennifer J. Tippet  
Sylvia & Bob Vosburgh  
Marilyn A. White  
Sally Winter  
Ruthie & Jim Wood  
Susan & Bob Woodall  
Margaret Woods  
Camille & Stuart Yahm  
General Maintenance  
In Memory of Jim Harrell  
Rebecca Barnwell  
Kerr-Friendship-Paty Class  
Stillwell Maintenance Trust Fund  
In Memory of Penny Bolen  
Harry E. Stillwell  
Virginia Grimaud St. John  
Music Fund  
In Memory of Penny Bolen  
William A. St. John  
Appalachia Service Project  
In Memory of Penny Bolen  
Rhoda and Doug Joyner  
Endowment Trust Fund  
In Memory of Mary and Bill Fox  
Elizabeth A. Fox  
Honduras Outreach, Inc.  
In Memory of Hugh Spruell  
Janel and Dennis Byerly  
Lee Hale Brown Scholarship Fund  
In Memory of Lee Childs  
Janel and Dennis Byerly

## SHARE THE WARMTH DECEMBER 4, 11, AND 18

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Share the Warmth is a Decatur First tradition of donating new or gently used blankets and coats to the homeless. This year we will share the warmth as our offering during the Advent Season.

On December 4, 11, and 18 you will have an opportunity to bring your blankets, coats, scarves and gloves forward and place them around our tree. On December 19, the blankets will be taken to The Open Door Community.

On December 4 children are also encouraged to bring to Decatur First clothing donation for babies born at Grady Hospital. Items should be NEW and in sizes premature, newborn or 3 months.

Items Needed:

- onesies & t-shirts
- cotton tops & pants
- baby blankets
- burp cloths and bibs



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS DEADLINE DECEMBER 11

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Christmas poinsettias given in memory or honor of a loved one are now available. The flowers will be in the sanctuary in our poinsettia tree on December 18. Please contact Sally Winter at 404-378-4541 ext. 107 or [swinter@decaturfirst.org](mailto:swinter@decaturfirst.org) or check your bulletin on December 4 or December 11 for more information. Each plant costs \$18. The deadline to order is December 11.



## ATTENTION 2012 CHURCH LEADERS JANUARY 8

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On Sunday, January 8, all the leaders of the church will be recognized and consecrated during the morning worship services. All members of the 2012 Administrative Board, Ministry Leadership Council, Trustees, and Staff Parish Relations Committee are invited to a Leadership Workshop and Training Event on Sunday, January 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Each individual group will have an **opportunity to meet during the day to begin the year's work.**

# WE ARE METHODISTS

by Quinn Hudson  
Chair, Administrative Board

As my third and final year as the chair of the Administrative Board at DFUMC winds down, I have been reminded what makes us, **the People called Methodists, unique.** As Bishop Jones is fond to say, **“Whose we are.”** Working with the lay leaders at Decatur First has given me a greater understanding of what Methodism is and why I continue to be inspired, motivated and dedicated to our church and denomination.

## **PRACTICAL DIVINITY.**

Methodism did not arise out of a great theological debate or conflict. Martin Luther, John Calvin and Jacobus Arminius were the ones who broke with the Christian traditions of the day. Not, John Wesley, our founder, along with his brother, Charles. They never left the Church of England and continued to be priests following the Articles of Religion and the Book of Common Prayer. The Wesleyan movement was based on putting the Christian faith and love into practice.

## **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

John Wesley struggled for thirty-five years living in fear of dying and not being acceptable to God. After his heart was “strangely warmed” on May 24, 1738, for the first time he trusted in Christ alone for salvation and had been saved from the law of sin and death. Among the means of grace, Wesley believed that prayer was the most important to be practiced at the start and end of each day.

## **SOCIAL HOLINESS.**

One of Wesley's profound sayings was that there is no holiness without social holiness. The metaphor he used was comparing our relationship with God to a house. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have only reached the front porch. If you want to know God, you have to go inside the house where the people live. The manifold mission programs at Decatur First such as DEAM, Honduras, ASP, The United Methodist Children's Home, refugee support and others are a direct outgrowth of being Methodist. The importance of social holiness is why Methodists have had a formal Social Creed since 1908. Check it out: <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?mid=1836>

## **LAY LEADERSHIP.**

Methodism is a lay driven denomination, if we choose to do so. The laity decides and will continue to decide the type of church we will be. The clergy, staff, and conference leadership will not. You and I will.

The focal point of what Decatur First will be is the Ministry Leadership Council acting through the Administrative Board. MLC, as it is known, decides on programs, missions and activities of the church. The other leadership groups such as finance, Staff Parish Relations Committee, trustees, and endowment trust are channels of resources for what the MLC decides.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF GOD'S WORD.**

One of Wesley's great contributions to our understanding God's Word for our lives is the four step process known as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. Based on an Episcopalian concept, the Quadrilateral says God's Word is grounded in *Scripture*, informed by Christian *Tradition*, enlivened in *Experience*, and tested by *Reason*. In other words, we begin with the written word as contained in the Old and New Testaments but we don't stop there. We use our minds and hearts to understand what the words mean. Context, nuance, history, metaphors, and science are brought to bear. Remember the Great Commandment that we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

## **CONNECTEDNESS.**

Taking Jesus' directive to “feed my sheep” seriously, all Methodists work together around the world. As Methodists, we share a connection with other Methodists. This is manifested in our monthly payments to the North Georgia Conference; support of churches in communities that can't fully support a local church; and, our many missions overseas under the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

## **DISCIPLINED.**

Our Methodist heritage encourages us to be in control of our lives through prayer, Scripture reading, moderation, thrift, honest work, and devotion to church and family.

## **PEOPLE OF THE BOOK(S).**

All true Methodists should have at least three books in their library – The Bible, The Book of Discipline and The United Methodist Hymnal. Our understanding of God begins with Scripture. The Book of Discipline tells you about the theology, doctrine and decision making structure of the Methodist Church. The Hymnal is our theology and doctrine set to music.

As Methodists, we have a distinct point-of-view, a rich heritage, and, I think, a message for the modern world. Thanks for allowing me the honor of sharing this with you.

## President's corner

by Suzy Jennings



As Christmas approaches, I am thinking about angels. Angels are God's messengers, and they also protect us. The Bible mentions angels over a hundred times. God is in command of His angels always. They can help us in our struggle with Satan and evil. What another wonderful gift from God!

My favorite story is of the angel Gabriel as told in Luke 1:28-33. God sent Gabriel to Mary and Gabriel said to her: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you... Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." The angel also promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon her.

God not only gives us the Holy Spirit, but also He gives us angels to watch over us. Gabriel must be God's most favored angel to announce the birth of Christ. What a gift we are given on Christmas Day and for all time.

I am also reminded of a grieving husband who recently stood in our pulpit and called his wife of forty-three years an "angel." I think Penny Bolen was an "earthly angel" if we have angels on earth, and I think we do. Penny was an angel to her family, friends, and all who knew her. She taught her children about God's angels and sang to them each night at bedtime the folk song "All day, all night, angels watching over me, my Lord. All day, all night, angels watching over me." What a wonderful prayer to sing each night and to instill in your children that God has given us angels to look after us.

To God's angels and the angels we have known here on earth, thank you for your blessings and . . .



Merry Christmas to you all,

Suzy

## General Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

11:00 am—in Fellowship Hall

### "Three Stories of Bethlehem"

(Readers' Theater)

Featuring "Ruth" (Helen Byars), "Mary" (Karen Edmunds) and "Kara of Bethlehem, PA" (Kristin Edmunds)

Coordinated by Carolyn McDowell

- Circles meet at 10:30 am, in their rooms
- Lunch at 12:15 pm, in Fellowship Hall

**December Hostess: Executive Committee**

### Monday, December 12, 2011

7:00 pm Circle 12—Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House

### Tuesday, December 13, 2011

10:30 am Circles 4, 5, 7 (11)—Will meet in their rooms

### Christmas Love Offering

#### Clark Atlanta University & Paine College

**Clark Atlanta University** is a comprehensive, private, urban, coeducational institution of higher education with a predominantly African-American heritage. It offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees as well as certificate programs to students of diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It was formed by the consolidation of Atlanta University, which offered only graduate degrees, and Clark College, a four-year undergraduate institution oriented to the liberal arts.

**Paine College** is a historically black, private, church-related, four-year, co-educational college which, through its residential, commuter, and off-site units, strives to develop self-sufficient and productive citizens, committed to intellectual pursuits and aesthetic appreciation in a global society. Since its founding in 1882 as the result of an unusual collaboration between black and white Methodists who believed in church-related education as a means of advancement for a newly freed and underserved people, Paine College has continued to prepare students for leadership in the local, national, and international communities.



The Purpose of United Methodist Women: The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

News of our members

**Welcome these new members. . .**

**Circle 4**

**Velma Covington** ..... 404-977-5549  
 239 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
 Decatur, GA 30030

**Circle 5**

**Mary Ann Matthews** .... 404-254-1302  
 3429-K N. Druid Hills Rd  
 Decatur, GA 30033  
 Email: maryann340@gmail.com

President Suzy Jennings announced at the November general meeting, that Circle 11 would be merging with Circle 7. On behalf of Circle 7, Del Podsiadlo welcomes Circle 11 members.

**Changes of Address. . .**

Below are temporary changes of address for two of our members who are staying, for the time, with their daughters:

**Circle 5**

**Freida Forkner** .....678-475-6637  
 c/o Peggy Sikes (daughter)  
 610 Grove Field Ct  
 Suwanee, GA 30024

**Circle 7 (formerly 11)**

**Ruth Wheeler** .....770-396-0847  
 335 Spalding Lake Ct.  
 Atlanta, GA 30350



UMW Birthdays  
 in December

- 3 Carole Jenkins
- 5 Aneta Phelps
- 8 Phyllis Conard
- 11 Jean Bond
- 11 Ruthie Wood
- 14 Dixie Lonsway
- 16 Lynn Davis
- 22 Margaree Gambill
- 22 Barbara McCullough
- 26 Linda Nalley
- 28 Estelle de Jarnette
- 28 Kitty Mozley

CANCER SEWING

Will resume Tuesday

January 24, 2012

10:00 am - 12:00 pm, FH

Special Mission Recognition awards made

Special Mission Recognition is one of the five channels of undesignated giving. In November our circles awarded Special Mission Recognition pins to several individuals, in recognition of their work for United Methodist Women.

Betty Williams of Circle 4 presented a pin to **Jean Bond**; Sharon Hulette, representing Circle 5, presented a pin to **Margaret Souza**; and Del Podsiadlo of Circle 7 presented a pin to **Katy Hinman**. We thank these women for all their good works!



ADO UMW leadership event at  
 Decatur First a success

Decatur First UMW hosted the ADO UMW Leadership Training and Mini-Mission event last month, on Saturday, November 19.

This annual event highlights next year's mission studies, and provides training for local officers from across the district, and was well attended this year. Suzy Jennings gave a warm welcome to our sisters from across the district, and Pat Post gave the devotional.

Thanks go to Sally Winter, who provided refreshments, and to our members who helped decorate the tables, and serve as greeters and hostesses: Jeanne Allen, Penny Bartlett, Patsy Belcher, Robbie Corbett, Cheryl Gutterres, Valda Hammersley, Sharon Hulette, Harriet Kersey, Marie Nitschke, Lynn Peek, Del Posiadlo, and Lucille Traylor.

**Dates to Remember**

**December 2011**

- 12 Monday** UMW Circle 12, 7:00 pm, at Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House.
- 13 Tuesday** UMW Circles 4, 5, 7 (11), 10:30 am, in their rooms.
- 13 Tuesday** UMW General Meeting, 11:00 am-12:15 pm, FH.
- 13 Tuesday** UMW Luncheon, 12:15 pm, FH.
- 20 Tuesday** NO UMW Reading Group-we will resume January 2012.
- 26 Monday** NO Cancer Pad Sewing setup. Will resume in January.
- 27 Tuesday** NO Cancer Pad Sewing. Will resume in January.

**January 2012**

- 9 Monday** UMW Circle 12, 7:00 pm, place to be announced.
- 10 Tuesday** UMW Circles 4, 5, 7 (11), 10:30 am, in their rooms.
- 10 Tuesday** UMW General Meeting, 11:00 am-12:15 pm, FH.
- 10 Tuesday** UMW Luncheon, 12:15 pm, FH.
- 17 Tuesday** UMW Reading Group, 1:30 pm, L.
- 23 Monday** UMCH Auxiliary meeting & lunch, 11:00 am, UMCH campus.
- 23 Monday** Cancer Pad Sewing setup, 1:30-3:30 pm, FH.
- 24 Tuesday** Cancer Pad Sewing, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, FH.
- 31 Tuesday** UMW Executive Committee, 10:00 am, GR. Please bring written reports.

# The InChoirer

NOW Edition

December 2011

NOW Edition

*John Cowden, Director of Music*

*Mitch Weisiger, Associate Director of Music*

## Y'all Come!

For the last two years, the music ministry has revived a time-honored tradition. We have invited any and all to come and sing with us in the Christmas Eve choir.

We do this for several reasons. First, it offers an opportunity for those who have sung with us in the past and are in town visiting family to sing with us again. Some of these folks are away at college. Others have moved away but still have family in the church.

The Y'all Come Choir also allows someone to enjoy singing in the choir without making the long-term commitment required by membership in Chancel Choir. There is only one rehearsal and one or two **worship services!** It's manageable for even the most demanding of schedules.

In addition, several of our singers travel to be with their

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Second Verse...Same as the First!

Thanks so much for your continued and steadfast support of Music in Mission through your purchase of HoneyBaked Ham gift certificates! Through your generosity, we sold more

than \$3,500 in certificates, yielding more than \$750 in profit for the ministry!

Many of you have remarked that this fundraiser

*(Continued on page 8)*

## ASP Needs You!

Do you have a talent? (that's rhetorical—of course you do!) Here's your chance to show it off! The music ministry will offer its second annual talent show on January 25.

Proceeds will benefit the Appalachian Service Project. If you would like to participate, please call John Cowden at 404.378.4541, ext. 112. There will be prizes. Wonderful prizes!

## Important Dates for the Fall

- August 3  
*Chancel Choir resumes*
- August 7  
*Celebration Ringers resumes*
- August 14  
*All other choirs resume*
- September 7  
*Angel Choir resumes*
- September 18  
*Music Sunday*
- September 23-25  
*Chancel Choir Retreat*
- October 5  
*An Evening at the Organ*
- October 19, 21-23  
*39 Steps Drama Production*
- November 6  
*MasterWorks Concert*
- November 13  
*HoneyBaked Ham Ordering Deadline 1*
- December 3  
*Holiday Childcare Music in Mission fundraiser*
- December 4  
*Callanwolde Concert Band Concert*
- December 4  
*Taizé Service of Preparation*
- December 7  
*CoE Light Load-in*
- December 11  
*Celebration of Emmanuel*
- December 11  
*HoneyBaked Ham Ordering Deadline 2*
- December 14  
*Winter Break for all choirs except Chancel Choir*
- December 18  
*Church-wide Christmas Party*
- December 23  
*"Y'all Come" Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal*
- December 24  
*Christmas Eve Services*
- December 25  
*Single Worship Service*
- December 26  
*CoE Light Load-out*
- January 4  
*Chancel Choir resumes*
- January 8  
*All other choirs resume*

# The InChoirer, page 2

## Y'all Come

extended families around the holidays, and inviting others to join with us ensures we have a full loft for each service.

I hope you'll consider (yes, I'm talking to you!) joining us this Christmas, or at least talk with your friend or family member who will be in town for the holidays and ask him/her to sing with us.

All you have to do is come to rehearsal on December 23 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Then come sing either 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., or both on December 24. For those who decide to sing both (or for anyone who wants to visit and catch up with long-lost friends), we have potluck snacks available in the choir room in between the services. Free food? Fellowship? Making music together on one of the holiest days of the year? How could you *not*

participate. I'll see you on the 23rd. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email John Cowden.

PS. Did I mention if you sing in the choir you have the privilege of seeing the whole congregation sing "Silent Night" by candle light? It's amazing!

## HAM

works well for you. Some of you use the cards as gifts for friends and family. Others use them to contribute to the family meal (Thanksgiving or Christmas). Still others use them as gifts for clients and customers. And of course some of you purchase cards you intend to use yourself (thereby contributing to the ministry). I've even had a few people purchase cards and indicate that I should donate them to another good cause like DEAM.

If you missed our November deadline, fear not! There is another opportunity to order before Christmas. You can use the form below, the form printed in the bulletin on December 4 or December 11, or you can go online to order ([www.decaturfirst.org](http://www.decaturfirst.org)). I'll have certificates available for mailing or pickup on Wednesday, 12/15—in plenty of time for Christmas Eve yummys!

Your purchases provide concrete support for our music mission work.

They defray the cost of transportation, meals, lodging, and other expenses for our children, youth, adults, and senior adults. Please consider HoneyBaked Ham certificates when you consider your gift-giving this year.

NOW Edition

### HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser 2011-2012 (Deadlines: 12/11, 3/25)

Please fill out the form below and drop in the offering plate or return to the church office.

#### Personal Information

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Delivery Method\*: (Select One)

US Mail

Pick Up at Church

\*All certificates will be mailed or available for pickup by the Wednesday following the deadline.

#### Certificate Order Information

Denomination	Quantity	Price
\$10	x _____	= \$ _____
\$25	x _____	= \$ _____
\$35	x _____	= \$ _____
\$50	x _____	= \$ _____
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Payment:

Check Attached\*  Bill Me

\*Please make check payable to DFUMC and mark for "Music Missions Ham Fundraiser."

# Children's Ministry

## Advent Conspiracy

This Advent season consider being part of the conspiracy. As children anxiously wait to open their gifts on Christmas day, get them excited about giving back. Consider serving in a soup kitchen, volunteering at a local shelter, donating money toward building a well or purchasing livestock for a village in Africa, singing Christmas carols at an assisted living facility, or sponsoring a child. Take time to share out of your abundance as you remember the excitement of Jesus' birth.



## Advent Highlights for Children & Families

### Holiday Shopping Childcare

**Saturday, December 3 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Drop your kids off at church and go shop 'til you drop! Holiday crafts, games and recreation for the kids make this a fun day for both kids and parent shoppers! Children are grouped by age and cared for by both church nursery staff and youth helpers. Childcare reservations are required by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 30 to Lora Biccum, Nursery Supervisor, at: [loraustin@gmail.com](mailto:loraustin@gmail.com) or 404-931-1635. Bring a sack lunch for your child. This is a fund-raiser for our Youth Music Mission trip held in the summer! Cost is \$25 for one child and \$35 for two or more children.

**Location: Third Floor.**



### Advent Celebration for Children

**Sunday, December 4 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

Bring your children to church on December 4 to experience the nativity story through the eyes of the Herdmans. Our 4th-6th graders will be performing their version of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." The play begins at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Cake and Advent crafts will complete our celebration. All four year olds through 5th graders are welcomed to join us for this experience. Parents are welcome too! **Location: Fellowship Hall.**

### 4th-6th Grade Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 4 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

The fourth through sixth graders will celebrate this Christmas season with a gift exchange, food, and fun. Cost is \$5 per person for dinner. Also bring a \$5 gift for our gift exchange. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall. RSVP to Kiera Stegall at [kstegall@decatfirst.org](mailto:kstegall@decatfirst.org) by Thursday, December 1.



### Adventure K-5th & Adventure Preschool

Light the advent candles now  
Think of Love and blessings how  
Jesus is upon His way  
It's time to think of Christmas Day.

Advent is upon us once again. A time of waiting.  
-Oh- to wait like a child, filled with excitement and anticipation.

Elementary kids, join us in Adventure K-5th to learn more about "Generosity" and God's greatest gift.

Preschoolers, join us in Adventure Preschool to learn how "God gave us Jesus."

**On December 25 there will be NO nursery, preschool, or elementary worship offerings. All children are welcome to join their families in the combined worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel.**



### Grady Hospital Babies ~ our Advent charity

Children are encouraged to bring to Decatur First on Sunday, December 4 a clothing donation for babies born at Grady Hospital. Items should be NEW and in sizes premature, newborn or 3 months.

#### Items Needed:

onesies & t-shirts  
cotton tops & pants  
baby blankets  
burp cloths and bibs



*Items will be presented by Sunday School groups before the nativity play on Sunday, December 4.*



# CAYVA ADVENT 2011

*Decatur First United Methodist Church presents...*

## *Advent 2011* **Words To The Wise**

We invite you to join us in the CAYVA (Come As You Are) worship service for our Advent Series, "Words to the Wise." Each week in Advent, we hear voices of those in the Bible who proclaim the coming of Christ, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Word.

### **Christmas Day**

We celebrate Christmas Day with a single unified service of worship in the chapel as we celebrate the coming of the Lord. The service will feature both traditional and contemporary music. Following the service, we will enjoy fellowship and snacks in the chapel parlor.

### **New Year's Day**

On New Year's Day, we will not have an 8:45 a.m. worship service. However, Sunday school and both the traditional and CAYVA services at 11:00 a.m. will meet as regularly scheduled.

<b>November 27</b>	<b>December 4</b>	<b>December 11</b>	<b>December 18</b>	<b>December 25</b>
"Be on watch!" A word from Jesus	"Be comforted!" A word from Isaiah	"Be prepared!" A word from John	"Be amazed!" A word from Mary	The Word becomes Flesh

## NEW MEMBERS

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Tommy Ball 5637 Bay Island Cay NW Acworth, GA 30303	Mary Ann Matthews 3429 N. Druid Hills Road, Apt K Decatur, GA 30033
Krista & Jamie Blackburn Davis, Hayes 1210 Stoneybrook Drive Atlanta, GA 30316	Jennifer & Jeffrey Mayo Ethan, Sabrina 12 Lakeshore Dr Avondale Estates, GA 30002
Mary Nell Camp 1800 Clairmont Lake, Apt. 314 Decatur, GA 30033	Libby & Forrest McMahan 2371 Leafmore Drive Decatur, GA 30033
Amanda Carter 1505 N. Crossing Way Decatur, GA 30033	Colleen Odom 441 Clairemont Ave. #708 Decatur, GA 30030
Debra Furtado Brittney 123 Hibernia Ave Decatur, GA 30030	Julia & Jack Phelps 3038 Hudson Woods Court Decatur, GA 30033
Amy & Andrew Garbade 1197 Mclendon Drive Decatur, GA 30033	Michael Richardson & Stephanie Young 2874 Royal Bluff Decatur, GA 30030
Margaret Gleason 2148 E. Lake Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30307	Harold Smallwood 1800 Clairmont Lake, #503 Decatur, GA 30033
Misty Guard 11203 Jefferson Square Court Decatur, GA 30030	Wendy & Christopher Snell Zoe, Phoebe 5908 Pattillo Way Lithonia, GA 30058
Debye Harvey 221 Lockwood Terrace Decatur, GA 30030	Katie Stringer 3011 Saint Clair Drive Atlanta, GA 30329
Bettie Hoffman 441 Clairmont Avenue, #1104 Decatur, GA 30030	Leigh & Bradley Tanner 1565 Braeburn Drive Atlanta, GA 30316
Renee & Krista Kazanecki Benjamin, James 183 Rockyford Road Atlanta, GA 30317	Catherine & Chase Van Valkenburg 1315 McConnell Drive, #408 Decatur, GA 30033
Robert Kelso	D.Jallah Williams 3360 Mountain Drive, #Q203 Decatur, GA 30032
Helen Koenders 441 Clairemont Ave, #816 Decatur, GA 30030	Anna & Eli Williams Jack, Noelle 265 Forkner Drive Decatur, GA 30030
Judith & Robert Koski 479 Wilfawn Way Avondale Estates, GA 30002	
Jennie Leatherbery 76 Hampton Court Avondale Estates, GA 30002	

## DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2012-2013

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Decatur First United Methodist's Weekday Children's Ministries includes a Preschool and Kindergarten program located at 312 Sycamore Street. Children ages two-and-half (three by December 31) to age six may attend our half day program which runs 9:00 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday, mid August through May.

Our classes offer many opportunities to play and learn while developing readiness for learning academic skill. Special features of the program are:

- A loving Christian environment
- Small child-teacher ratio
- Large classrooms
- A terrific new outdoor playground
- A rainy day indoor playroom
- Option of extended day from noon until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
- A weekly chapel service for the four and five-year-olds led by the ministers of our church
- Teachers who attend at least four preschool workshop classes each year and are CPR/ First Aid trained
- Special programs: storytellers, musicians, Science To Go, Atlanta Gymnastics
- Field trips to the fire station, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Symphony Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia Aquarium and others
- Handwriting Without Tears curriculum
- Spanish classes taught by Theresa Taube
- Art classes taught by Myrna Hardjono
- Storytelling Theater classes taught by Christy Foelsch
- An active Parent Group with volunteer activities
- Summer Smiles weekly summer camps

Please join us for an Open House on either Thursday, January 19 or Monday, January 30 from 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Church members who wish to register their child for the 2012-2013 school year may turn in their registration form beginning January 30. Visitors, by appointment, are always welcome to visit our classes prior to the Open House. Call Joanne Hauserman at 404-377-5784, e-mail [dfumpreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:dfumpreschool@yahoo.com) or visit the website at [www.decaturfirfirst.org](http://www.decaturfirfirst.org).

## Christmas Alternative Giving Program

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Once again the Decatur First UMC New Beginnings Class is providing an opportunity for you to honor the special people in your life by giving money to help local charities that provide needed services to people in our community. This year it is especially important to be good stewards of our resources and make gifts that are meaningful and make an impact. Please **prayerfully consider an "alternative" gift this year so that support is available** to those in our world who need it most. Alternative Giving booklets are currently available in a pew near you.

## ONLINE GIVING

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A new way to give?...Online?!

If you have visited the Decatur First Website recently you may have noticed a new button in the lower right hand corner - DONATE NOW. Yes, you can now donate online!

When you click on this button you go to a web page which allows you to donate by charging your bank account or credit card. You can give to church operations (your general weekly, monthly or quarterly giving) or special gifts; for example, for the chapel or Roy's Toys. Once you have entered the donation amount and frequency, you continue on to set up a secure profile with your name and account number or credit card number. Here you can also tell us if you are giving in honor or memory of someone. If you give using your credit card, you will be asked if you would like to donate some extra money to cover the cost of credit card processing.

Why did we set up online giving? To give us all another way to support **God's work through our church. We appreciate your faithfulness in giving and we are trying to make it easier when you are away or when you forget your checkbook or if you don't have a checkbook** anymore. It will also help us get you registered for special programs and events. Next year you will see a REGISTER NOW button which will allow you to register for classes and Vacation Bible School and purchase drama tickets using this same service.

Can we still give through the offering plate or mailing checks in? Of course! This is just another way to offer God our financial gifts. It is secure and easy. If you have any questions or comments please contact Lexie Parker in the business office and thank you!

## PURCHASE DEAM CHRISTMAS CARDS

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Participate in alternative giving for your friends and loved ones this year by purchasing Christmas cards to benefit DEAM. Cards are available in the Reception Area just inside the Candler Street entrance. Make your check payable to DFUMC and mark it for DEAM on the memo line. You can make a donation in any amount in honor of family and loved ones. You can send your family and friends the beautiful card to let them know you have contributed to DEAM in their name.

## A NEW YEAR... A NEW LOOK!

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The new year is approaching and we want to start the year off fresh and new. Starting in January 2012, Decatur First UMC will launch an updated version our website and newsletter.

The NOW newsletter is named after our old church structure which was named "Nurture, Outreach and Witness." Since we no longer use that structure, the Ministry Leadership Council is working on a new name for our newsletter. We will also be redesigning the layout of the newsletter for an easier read, navigation, and visual feel. We want our church newsletter to continue to serve as a great liaison for our church community to communicate with our congregation, with a great new look.

The website must continually evolve and be refined to meet the increasing demands and needs of our congregation. We are adding automated forms, online payments, redesigning the layout, and updating content for a better way to organize information and to improve the usability of our site. Be on watch for our new newsletter and website.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
from  
Decatur First  
United Methodist Church*



# NOW

## DECATUR FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Vol. 40, No. 12

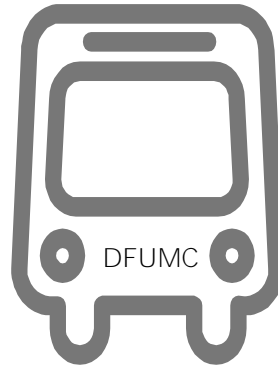
December 2011

**Church Staff 404-378-4541**

Bishop In Residence.....L. Bevel Jones  
Minister Emeritus.....James Styles  
Senior Minister .....David S. Naglee  
Associate Minister .....Katy Hinman  
Accounting Manager.....Julia Hsu  
Administrative Assistant and Receptionist ..... Bethany Eyrich  
Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor.....Merrilee Brock  
Communications Specialist .....Toya Simmons  
Director of Care and Records .....Sally Winter  
Director of Children's Ministry.....Kiera Stegall  
Director of Children's Morning Out.....Eloise Ragsdale  
Director of Children's Music.....Michele Wright  
Director of Music.....John Cowden  
Director of Weekday Kindergarten.....Joanne Hauserman  
Facilities Manager.....Randy Beebe  
Interim Office Manager.....Lexie Parker  
Maintenance.....Paul Stone  
Maintenance.....Demario Holman  
Maintenance.....Oscar Cruz  
Minister to Youth.....Jonathan Brown  
Missionaries.....Ted & Carla Warnock  
Ministers to Senior Adults.....Jim & Diana Roberts  
Nursery Supervisor .....Lora Biccum  
Organist and Associate Director of Music ..... Mitchell Weisiger  
**Weekend Pastor On Call .....404-863-1043**

## BUS SCHEDULE

In addition to the regular Sunday worship schedule, the Church Bus will provide transportation for the following upcoming events:



- December 4 Taizé Service of Preparation**  
Pickup time: 6:15 p.m.
- December 11 Celebration of Emmanuel**  
Pickup time: 5:15 p.m.
- December 18 Church-wide Christmas Party**  
Pickup time: 3:15 p.m.
- December 24 Christmas Eve**  
Pickup time: 5:45 p.m.
- December 25 Christmas Day**  
Pickup time: 10:00 a.m.
- January 1 New Year's Day**  
Pickup time: 8:45 a.m.

The special event bus route will stop at Clairmont Oaks and Philips Tower. Please be available at the above times — but note that the actual pickup time at your stop may vary according to the route and number of trips required.

January 2012 *NOW* issue material must be submitted by email to [mbrock@decaturfirfirst.org](mailto:mbrock@decaturfirfirst.org) by noon **Monday, December 19, 2011.**

## DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**300 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Decatur, Georgia 30030**

# SOUL FOOD

YOUTH MINISTRIES

[http://www.decaturfirfirst.org/for\\_youth.html](http://www.decaturfirfirst.org/for_youth.html)



## Up all night rocking!!!!!!

Greetings Church Family,

As many of you know Soul Food Youth Ministries just recently presented a twelve hour rock-a-thon for Decatur Cooperative Ministries. As of this publication I am still waiting for final totals. So, I can not report if I have gotten to keep my hair or not (look for news December 11). However, I can report that the event was a success. While we worked to raise money for a good cause we also had a good time. We invented games like slamball, learned to play Wii sports sitting down, had a five hour Doctor Who marathon, and other crazy activities (some people even did homework). At the end of the event we gathered and celebrated our accomplishment with a big breakfast. I could go on and on about the event, but I will simply let the pictures do the talking.



## Upcoming Activities

Dec. 4 - FEAST

Dec. 11 - FEAST

Dec. 18 - Progressive  
Dinner and Gift  
Exchange

Dec. 25 - Christmas  
(NO FEAST)

Thank you for your support. I also would like to thank Greg Zimmerman, Corrye Mobley, Patrick Littlefield, Lucy Fowler, and Marc and Cherry Morgan for their efforts that made this event a huge success.

*December 2011*