

## Stewardship 2011

November 13

In September, we made commitments to be better stewards of our time. Of the 141 cards placed on the altar, 34,400 hours of time per year were claimed as already being given and an additional 49,469 hours per year were committed.

In October we celebrated the use of our talents and abilities and were encouraged to be good stewards of the God given gifts that we all have.

This month, we focus our attention on being good stewards of our resources, in particular, our money. Each of us is challenged to grow in our giving as a faithful response to God's love and blessings upon us. Please make every effort to be in worship on Sunday, November 13.



## Advent Season brochure

November 27

A Decatur First Advent Season brochure is coming your way with all the things you need to know to prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of our Savior. These full color brochures will be available for you to take home from your hymnal in the pew rack on Sunday, November 27. Please take one for yourself and your neighbor. Use it as a guide to plan your December.



Decatur First United Methodist Church  
*Advent 2011*

### In this Issue...

This issue of the NOW is chock full of information and programming that will make your November and December wonderful. To help you not miss a thing, here is a list of what you will find between the pages of the Decatur First newsletter this month.

- ◆ Chancel Choir Master Works Concert
- ◆ Chik-fil-A Night for the Preschool
- ◆ 2011 Honduras Mission Trip Deadlines
- ◆ Time Change/Church Office Holidays
- ◆ Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast
- ◆ Holiday Shopping Childcare
- ◆ Decatur Tour of Homes
- ◆ Callanwolde Concert Band
- ◆ Upcoming Concert
- ◆ Taize` Service of Preparation

### During the Christmas Season of Giving, There Are Many Opportunities to Give:

- ◆ Honeybaked Ham Certificates
- ◆ Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry
- ◆ Share the Warmth
- ◆ Angel Tree
- ◆ Roy's Toys
- ◆ Poinsettias for Our Sanctuary
- ◆ Alternative Giving Program
- ◆ Grady Hospital Babies
- ◆ Decatur First Nursery Worker Love Offering

## SAVE THE DATE

All Saints Sunday	November 6
Ministry Leadership Council Meeting	November 6
Chancel Choir Masterworks Concert	November 6
Follow the Dollar with Dr. David S. Naglee	November 9
Skate Night	November 11
UMYF Rock-a-thon	November 11 and 12
Commitment Sunday	November 13
Honey Baked Ham Ordering Deadline #1	November 13
Administrative Board Meeting	November 13
Thanksgiving Holiday – Church Office Closed	November 24 and 25
Fellowship Hall Closed for Re-carpeting	November 28 and 30
Tour of Homes	December 2
Holiday Shopping Childcare	December 3
Taize Service of Preparation	December 4
Children's Advent Celebration	December 4
Ministry Leadership Council Meeting	December 5
Honey Baked 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
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

## Our Sympathy

To **Ivy and Leo Bull and Anna Reid** on the death of Ivy's father, Frederick Reid Long, on September 23 in Alabaster, Alabama.

To **Shelly and Michael Head and Angelina** on the death of Shelly's mother, Ida Minor, on September 25 in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

To **Julie Childs** on the death of her brother, Otis Lee Childs, III, on October 10 in Thomasville, Georgia.



## Congratulations

To **Sarah Marie and John Huban** on the birth of Emma Ruby on September 23.

To **Merry and Ben Pope** on the birth of Lucas David and Caroline Eve on September 23.

## Church Office Closed

The business office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, November 24 and 25, 2011.



## Fall Back on November 6!

Don't forget to fall back before you go to sleep on Saturday, November 5, so you won't miss church or Sunday School on November 6.

## Decatur First UMC Chapel on Decatur Holiday Candlelight Tour of Homes December 2 and 3

Decatur's Holiday Candlelight Tour of Homes will be held on December 2 and 3 from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 pm and will include our historic chapel. This year's tour has been named a Top 20 Event for 2010 by the Southeastern Tourism Association. We need volunteers from our church to serve as docents of our chapel for two hour shifts on Friday and Saturday evening. It is a lovely way to spend a couple of hours: the chapel will be decorated for Advent, candles everywhere and you can talk with folks about Decatur First UMC and it's history in Decatur! To volunteer please contact Lexie Parker in the business office or online at [lparker@decaturfirst.org](mailto:lparker@decaturfirst.org) or Julie Childs at [jchilds@mclain-merritt.com](mailto:jchilds@mclain-merritt.com). If you need more information on the tour go to the City of Decatur website.

## Gifts Given

In this month of Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the gifts given to Decatur First in memory or honor in the months of August, September, and October.

### Endowment Trust Fund

In Memory of Marvin Bates  
Johny Maret

In Memory of Donna Brown  
Marie M. Nitschke

In Memory of Mary and Bill Fox  
Elizabeth M. Fox

In Memory of Jim Harrell  
Helen and Joel Byars  
Nita and Paul Crowder  
Sara G. McKee

In Memory of Mildred Thurman  
Johny Maret

In Memory of Marjorie Winkler  
Judith and L. Manzer  
Trudy and Ramon Perdue  
Jim Platt  
Crystal R. Schwindt  
John R. Taff

In Memory of Jane Adams Ray Pitman and Fred Pitman  
Janet Ray Edwards and Carl Norris Edwards

### General Maintenance Fund

In Memory of Jim Harrell  
Ruby and Guy Daves

### Kitchen Fund

In Memory of Mildred Heffelfinger  
Julia T. Gary

### Virginia Grimaud St. John Music Fund

In Memory of L. F. Pete Owens  
William A. St. John

In Memory of Virginia Grimaud St. John  
William A. St. John

In Memory of Jack Anderson Skelton  
William A. St. John

### Stillwell Maintenance Fund

In Memory of Jim Harrell  
Carolyn Armistead

### Building Fund

In Memory of Mildred Heffelfinger  
Roger Heffelfinger

### Music Ministry

In Memory of Bert Estes  
Jean and Lawrence Brice



## Coming Up at CAYA!

We had a wonderful September and October in CAYA (our Come As You Are worship service)! Our "Tackling the Tough Questions" series challenged and inspired us. Join us in November, as we celebrate the end of the (church) year:

November 6 – All Saints Sunday  
"A Living Heritage"  
Psalm 78:1-7

November 13 – Stewardship Sunday  
"Faithful Over a Little"  
Matthew 25:14-30

November 20 – Christ the King Sunday  
"Make a Joyful Noise!"  
Psalm 100

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent  
"The Fig's Lesson"  
Mark 13:28-37  
Dr. David Naglee preaching

And whether you make it to CAYA or not, you are always welcome to join the conversation at Percolate on Tuesday evenings from 6:30p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Java Monkey with Dr. Katy Hinman and Rev. Nathan Hilkert (Lutheran Church of the Messiah).

CAYA worships every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel (at the corner of Sycamore and Commerce). All are welcome – no exceptions.

## Roy's Toys 2011

We need your help! For over 25 years Decatur First has provided toys and clothing for children in the Decatur area who would otherwise have very little for Christmas. Your support is needed again this year. You may adopt a child through your Sunday School class or by contacting Cindy Naglee at 404-320-7412 or [cnaglee@comcast.net](mailto:cnaglee@comcast.net). You will receive your child's name, age, gender and "wish list." The unwrapped gifts may be brought to the church and placed in the toy soldier boxes beginning on November 7. If you are unable to assist in this way monetary donations are necessary and just as appreciated. Make your check to the church and mark it "Roy's Toys." **The last day to bring toys or money donations is November 27.**



## The Memory Garden



In 2005 the Memory Garden was completed and dedicated. A fulfilled dream through the planning and contributions of Dan and Ann Pattillo, it stands today as a place of quiet repose and memory for the ashes of our deceased church family. Embraced by two of our church walls, just beyond the covered walkway, the Garden is a reminder of our faith through the cross shape of its interment field and the Celtic cross of Eternal Life on the north wall. Seasonal flowers and foliage, soft evening lighting make this a place of deep spiritual significance.

This space is provided for members and their families. The deceased are memorialized on a bronze plaque as a permanent testimony to their presence among us. For Carol Quade Enright, her sister's name – the first placed on the plaque - is a constant reminder of their connection. If you are interested in purchasing space, call the church business office for more detailed information.

*"Your Church, O Lord, has been my refuge and strength ...  
And now, I lay down my mortal being  
in the shadow of its arms ...  
And relinquish the dust of my living  
Into the Promise of Your Salvation."*

## Chick-fil-A Night for the Preschool November 8

Tuesday, November 8 is Spirit Night for Decatur First United Methodist Preschool and Kindergarten at the downtown Decatur Chick-fil-A. The preschool will receive 10% of all purchases made at the downtown Decatur location between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Please come have dinner and help support the preschool.

## Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry DEAM News

### What is happening at DEAM?

After a tough summer, DEAM is back on track helping folks with rent, utilities and food. We had some funding issues like many other charities in Georgia and had to suspend rent assistance for several months. Thanks to the generosity of the 23 Decatur churches and friends who support DEAM, we are able to fully help our clients again.

### What can you do for DEAM?

You can volunteer! We serve our clients in two ways through the food pantry and the administrative office. Our volunteers can work in either area and are thoroughly trained. You always work with a partner and it is busy but very rewarding.

### Volunteers work one weekday morning a month.

DEAM has only one paid part time employee. All other positions are volunteer and we have over 100 volunteers and we can always welcome more. Please call Quill Duncan at 770-414-4766 or email her at [quillduncan@msn.com](mailto:quillduncan@msn.com) to learn more.

### What else can you do for DEAM?

Please bring the following non-perishable items to the church library.

pasta and sauce	toothpaste	soap
tuna	powdered milk	cereal
grits	canned meats	soup
powdered laundry detergent	\$\$\$ money!	

Many thanks for all the help and support you give to DEAM!

## Transitional House Open House November 13

There will be an open house of the Transitional House that Decatur First UMC supports on Sunday, November 13 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet the family that we support and meet staff of Action Ministries to answer questions about this specific ministry and other Action Ministries programs. The open house will be at 1593 Eastland Road, Atlanta, GA 30316.

# The InChoirer

NOW Edition

November 2011

NOW Edition

John Cowden, Director of Music

Mitch Weisiger, Associate Director of Music

## November 6: Spicy?

Variety is the spice of life. I'm not sure who said that first, but I live by it. Not because I like trying new things (the opposite is actually true). Rather, I find that committing to variety leads me to commit to viewing life from a variety of perspectives and through a variety of lenses.

Our MasterWorks programs at Decatur First reflect my commitment to variety. We've sung Mozart masses. We've sung music from Bernstein's *West Side*

*Story*. We've sung folk music. Each concert is an invitation to enjoy music from a different vantage point. In my experience, each style from Baroque to Contemporary speaks a language all its own. Experiencing those languages—learning them—is thrilling.

That said, it isn't enough to commit to variety. We must also commit to excellence. The language of music can become garbled if it is poorly executed.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## HoneyBaked Ham!

A few years ago, HoneyBaked Ham halted its gift card fundraiser. That year, I learned how much our church loves that particular fundraiser! Many, many people called or stopped me

in the hall to ask when I would be selling Ham Certificates.

Fortunately the company offered the fundraiser the very next year (no doubt

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Decatur First Has Talent

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

## Spice

*(Continued from page 5)*

Fortunately the music ministry of our church also has a history of and reputation for excellence.

It is in this context that the music ministry presents the Chancel Choir in a concert of Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and *Gloria* on November 6, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the

Sanctuary. They will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Admission is free, and donations at the door will support Music in Mission, the outreach arm of the music ministry.

Someone once told me that wisdom is recognizing opportunity. I'm not sure I agree completely, but I agree that it is wise to recognize opportunity. On November 6, you have an opportunity to experience

outstanding music by an outstanding ensemble at an outstanding price. I hope you'll take advantage of it.

## Ham

*(Continued from page 5)*

because people like me called and gently but firmly suggested they get with the program.

The time has arrived. The music ministry is offering HoneyBaked Ham gift cards for sale. There are three ordering deadlines. The first, before Thanksgiving, is November 3. The second, before Christmas, is December 11. The third, before Easter, is March 25. The order form is below. It will also be available in

the bulletin and online. A full 20% of your purchase will directly support Music in Mission!

The cards make wonderful gifts (much better than a candle or a small bag of potpourri!). They are especially good to use as gifts if you own a business and need employee gifts. But they're also good to use if you purchase from HoneyBaked every year. Just buy a gift card from us before you go shopping and then use it for your purchase! You'll get that ham you love and support our mission all

at the same time.

Remember, you'll be purchasing gift cards that you (or your giftee) can redeem at any store, online, or on the phone. Also, the cards never expire! Don't wait. Fill out the form and send it in today!

NOW Edition

### HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser 2011-2012 (Deadlines: 11/13, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:

Check Attached\*  Bill Me

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

# Children's Ministries

## Giving Opportunities in Children's Ministries:

### Grady Hospital Babies:



### Our Children's Annual Advent Mission Project

On Sunday, December 4, all children are encouraged to bring a baby layette item 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 and pants, baby blankets, burp cloths

*Children will present their donation gifts at the Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 4.*

### Christmas Love Offering for Nursery Staff



Once a year, our church says "thanks" to our church nursery staff for the love and care they give our church's children by giving them a love offering at Christmas. Checks, made payable to DFUMC, can be placed in the offering plate at the church or in the marked box on the first floor. All checks or cash donations should be identified as "nursery love offering." Checks can also be mailed to DFUMC, Attn: Jill Ivey, Co-Chair, Young Children's Action Team.

**Donations will only be taken from Nov. 13—Dec. 4.**

## Holiday Programs - Mark Your Calendars!

### JUMP & 4th Graders are Shopping for Toys

**Sunday, Nov. 13 5:00-7:00 pm**

JUMP & the 4th graders are getting into the Christmas spirit early this year, learning to give generously. Join us on Sunday, November 13, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for an evening of fun and fellowship. JUMP and the 4th graders will shop for a few of the United Methodist Children's Home kids before enjoying dinner. The cost for this event is \$20 (\$15 for shopping and \$5 for dinner). For more information or to RSVP contact Kiera Stegall at [kstegall@decaturfirfirst.org](mailto:kstegall@decaturfirfirst.org) or 404-378-4541. Reservations are required by noon on Friday, November 11. Parent volunteers are needed for this event. If you would like to chaperone this event, let Kiera know when you RSVP.

### JUMP & 4th Graders Advent Play Practice

**Sunday, Nov. 6, 20, 27 5:00-6:00 pm**

JUMP & the 4th graders, join us for the *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Play practice will be held in November and our performance will be in Adventure on Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m.

### Holiday Shopping Childcare **Saturday, Dec. 3 9:30 am—2:30 pm**

Drop your kids off on the third floor at Decatur First UMC and shop „til you drop! Reservations are required by noon Wednesday, November 30, to Lora Biccum, Nursery Supervisor, at [loraustin@gmail.com](mailto:loraustin@gmail.com) or 404-378-4541.

*This is a fundraiser for our Youth Music Mission during the summer!*  
Cost: \$25- 1 child; \$35- 2+ children. Bring a sack lunch for your child.

### Advent Celebration for Children **Sunday, Dec. 4 9:30-10:45 am**

Preschool and elementary age children are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for an Advent Celebration. JUMP will present a drama that will get us all in the mood to celebrate. Then we will keep the festivities going with cake and activities. No reservation is necessary.



### Christmas Eve Worship **Saturday, Dec. 24 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm**

Childcare will be available on Christmas Eve for both worship services. Children preschool age and older should attend worship with their families - they love the music and drama! Nursery will open 30 minutes prior to each service. No RSVP required.  
Infant Nursery - #104 Toddler Nursery - #102

### Thanksgiving and Advent are coming our way...

### Join us in Adventure -Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.!

Preschoolers will celebrate a season of thanksgiving as they come to realize that "God made people who help them." Then they will embrace the Advent season, focusing on God's love for them through recognizing that "God gave us Jesus."

K-5th grade will exemplify a spirit of "Gratitude" this thanksgiving season. Then they will learn to embody a heart filled with "Generosity" as they celebrate the Advent season.

## President's corner

by Suzy Jennings



For the past four months we have been privileged to have as our speaker the Rev. Eric Powell. He has led us and inspired us in our study of the Epistles of John. The purpose of this study was to challenge us to love one another as God has loved us. This isn't as easy as it sounds!

From the lessons Rev. Powell taught, these are the confirmations and challenges that stood out for me:

- In Rev. Powell's words: The fundamental truth of the Christian faith is that Jesus is the Christ, the chosen one of God upon whom God's own spirit rests, bringing forth love and justice in the world.
- 1 John 1:5—"God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all."
- God is real. God wants our hearts not our actions. He already knows our hearts. Each night we must look back at the day and ask if we took advantage of each opportunity to show love.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit.  
1 John 4:13—As Rev. Powell put it: The Holy Spirit is the source of assurance and the connector of all to God and the advocate who guides us to live according to God's will.
- The promise of Life Eternal.  
1 John 5:13—"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."
- 1 John 4:7—"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love is from God."

Loving is a commandment, it is not an option. The challenge is the unlovable folks. Many years ago (49), a college professor of education said loving the lovely child is easy, but as teachers, we must strive to love the unlovable child. I didn't realize it then, but he was taking his lecture from Christ's teachings. I found it easier to do with children. However, my personal challenge—to love the adult who is obnoxious, inappropriate, greedy, presumptuous, and lazy—is more difficult. I am judged by the love I show to others. There are a few people I need to pray about and work on loving!

Peace be with you,  
**Suzy**

## General Meeting

**World Thank Offering, Pledge Service  
& Mission Recognition Service**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

11:00 am—in Fellowship Hall

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

**November Hostess: Circle 7**

**Monday, November 7, 2011**

7:00 pm Circle 12—Will meet at the home of Dixie Lonsway,  
135 Coventry Rd, Decatur

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

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

## November Mission Opportunity:

### Mountain View Personal Care Home

Mountain View Home was established before 1900 by a local family as a home for the poor. Later donated to DeKalb County, the home is presently available to elderly persons with limited income and no family to help. Resident capacity is 30. Suggestions from **Gwen Blanz**, Key woman for Mountain View:

- Personal care items - shampoo, soap, lotion, etc.; coffee, tea, sugar, salt;
- Paper Products - Kleenex, toilet tissue, paper towels;
- Bath towels, hand towels, face cloths
- If you have received calendars for 2012 or greeting cards, you might consider donating them to the residents, as well as stamps for postage.

## Church Women United

**2011 World Community Day**

**Peachtree Christian Church  
1580 Peachtree St. NW Atlanta, Ga.**

**10:00 am - Friday, November 4**

Registration is at 9:30 am. A complimentary lunch will follow the celebration. Please make reservations for lunch with Patsy Belcher, Key Woman.



**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.



## UMW Birthdays in November

- 3 Frances Leftwich
- 3 Daire Miller
- 7 Shelley Head
- 9 Rena Burgess
- 13 Eileen Boone
- 13 Julie Martinez
- 15 Helen Thrasher
- 28 Betty B. Davis

### CANCER SEWING

Tuesday - November 22

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Fellowship hall

**November 6**

**Retired Educators Day**

*Proclaimed by Governor Nathan Deal*

#### Decatur First UMW

##### Local Mission Projects

- Aldersgate
- Atlanta Hospital
- Hospitality House
- Breakthru House
- Cancer Sewing
- Church Women United
- Decatur–Area Emergency
- Assistance Ministry  
(D.E.A.M.)
- Food Pantry (D.E.A.M.)
- Global Health Action
- Lost Boys Foundation
- Marta Cards (DCM)
- Mountain View Home
- Murphy-Harpst
- Northside Shepherd Center
- Our House
- United Methodist
- Children's Home
- Villa International
- Wesley Community Centers
- Women's Resource Center

## News of our members

### Sympathy . . .

to **Julie Childs**, Circle 11, on the death of her brother, Lee Childs, of Thomasville, October 19.

To **Carol Jones**, Circle 5, on the death of her niece, Darlene Leys, of Helena, AL, September 29.

### Welcome this new member. . .

#### Circle 4

Jennie Leatherberry 404-284-6826  
76 Hampshire Ct.  
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

## We host ADO UMW event in November

Our unit will host the **ADO UMW Leadership Training and Mini-Mission event** to be held Saturday morning, November 19. Circles are asked to help decorate tables, using a fall theme, and board members will serve as greeters and hostesses starting at 8:00 am. Sally Winter will provide the food.

This event highlights next year's mission studies, and provides training for local officers from across the district.

## The "Granny" Team

Decatur First United Methodist Women have taken on a fun mission—working with Action Ministries. We are the "Grannies" to a family of three children. The mother, Brandie, is a single mom who is working part time as she goes to school to gain skills for employment. Her five year old, Breanna, is in kindergarten. The twin boys, Bryce and Breyon, are three years old.

The UMW Granny Team helps with clothes and other necessities. We are also taking an active part in their lives by inviting them to our Fall Festival and taking them trick-or-treating. We are inviting the twins to our November meeting to get to know them.

Closer to Thanksgiving the children are visiting Mountain View Home to hand out cards they made for the residents. They are being taught to reach out to people too. If you are interested in getting involved with the family please contact Suzy Jennings.

## Interested in expanding beyond UMW and Sunday School literature?

You are invited to visit and join the Women's Book Group where the discussion of current and older books is democratic and interesting. The Group meets monthly at noon on second and fourth Mondays for 60-90 minutes in the Knox Peabody classroom.

Questions? Contact Carol Jones, 404-296-3925; Sharon Hulette, 404 370-0644; or Katha Morgan, 770 736-7514.

## Dates to Remember

FH = Fellowship Hall L = Adult Library GR = Gathering Room

### November 2011

- 7 **Monday** UMW Circle 12, 7:00 pm, at home of Dixie Lonsway
- 8 **Tuesday** UMW Circles 4 & 10, 5, 7, 11, 10:30 am, in their rooms
- 8 **Tuesday** UMW General Meeting, 11:00 am-12:15 pm, FH
- 8 **Tuesday** UMW Luncheon, 12:15 pm, FH
- 15 **Tuesday** UMW Reading Group, 1:30 pm, L
- 19 **Saturday** ADO UMW Leadership Training & Mini-Mission Study, 9:00 am—12:00 noon, DFUMC
- 21 **Monday** Cancer Pad Sewing setup, 1:30-3:30 pm, FH
- 22 **Tuesday** Cancer Pad Sewing, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, FH
- 28 **Monday** UMCH Auxiliary meeting & lunch, 11:00 am, UMCH campus
- 29 **Tuesday** UMW Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 am, GR. Please bring written reports



## The Thanksgiving Breakfast Continues with Special Importance

Dear DFUMC Family,

As you know, for years each Thanksgiving morning the Administrative Board of the church provides a free breakfast as a gift of love and service from the church leadership to the church members and community. The Thanksgiving Breakfast which will be held on November 24 in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m. is made possible by the donations of money and time from the Administrative Board. This is a beloved tradition at DFUMC. A member of the board has come forward and donated the balance of the funds needed for the Breakfast to take place. This gives DFUMC an opportunity this year to direct donations typically dedicated to the Thanksgiving breakfast in a meaningful way. We want to open this opportunity to the entire DFUMC Family!

DEAM, the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry provides emergency help for local residents to prevent homelessness and hunger. Supported by more than 20 Decatur and Avondale area churches of many denominations, DEAM provides emergency food, financial aid for rent, utilities and prescriptions, clothing and volunteer support to qualifying residents in the Decatur and Avondale area. This fall, DEAM is in dire need of support. Requests for help from DEAM have increased substantially during the economic downturn, averaging 260 families each month, including 550 individuals, 170 children, and 70 seniors. Every day we have people coming to our doors asking for assistance to pay for food, utilities, healthcare etc.

The leadership of the church calls upon each of you to make a donation to DEAM, providing some relief to help those in real need. So many others don't have any meals to look forward to on this holiday and this seems a most appropriate way to demonstrate our commitment to Christ. Think what we could do if everybody at Sunday school and church would give a dollar to DEAM! Most of us will have more than enough food on Thanksgiving and throughout the holidays. Please come to the Thanksgiving Breakfast with a donation to place in the available baskets, or send your donation to DEAM to the website below or to their mailing address.

What a wonderful way to "be the church" and "feed God's sheep". Thank you, Decatur First!

If you would like to volunteer your time for serving and cleaning up on Thanksgiving morning, please call the church office at 404-378-4541.

Sharon Brewer  
Lay Leader

Quinn Hudson, Chair  
Administrative Board

Melissa Heffner, Chair  
Ministry Leadership Council

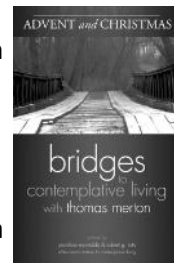
## Christmas Poinsettias



Christmas poinsettias given in memory of a loved one will be available soon. The flowers will be in the sanctuary on December 18 in our new glorious poinsettia tree. 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 and 11 for more information. Each plant cost \$18. The deadline to order is December 11.

## Small group study for Advent November 16

Advent and Christmas: Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton. In this accessible introduction to the writings of Thomas Merton, small-group participants are led on a path of spiritual growth from the first week of Advent through Christmas. Each of the book's five sessions focuses on a distinct theme: hope, salvation, compassion, tenderness, or incarnation. The structure of each session includes prayers, a brief thematic introduction, probing dialogue questions, and a reading from Merton paired with a reading from one of five other spiritual masters. The contemplative approach provides a welcoming haven during the midst of a hectic season. Facilitator: Harriet Kersey; dates and time: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m., November 16 (intro and get books) and November 30; December. 7, 14, 21, 28; cost: \$6.00. Register online at [www.decaturfirst.org](http://www.decaturfirst.org) or call Harriet Kersey at 404-634-6832.



## Taize Service of Preparation

December 4

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On December 4 at 7:00 p.m. we will offer a special service in the Chapel. It is a contemplative service in the Taizé style including prayer, readings, music, and silence—a break in the midst of hectic coming and going. Childcare is available.

## Callanwolde Concert Band Concert

December 4

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You may know that the Callanwolde Concert Band began rehearsing at our church in the spring. In addition to rehearsing here, they will offer two concerts annually in our Sanctuary. Their first concert with us will be Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. Nothing says "Christmas Season" like a band playing seasonal favorites! We hope you'll plan to join us.

## 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.

## Follow the Dollar

November 9

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It was a simple honest question, "where does the money go after it goes into the offering plate on Sunday morning?" I was happy to share with the questioner the process and the various avenues of giving in the life of the church. They appreciated the response and then suggested that I make that the topic of a Wednesday night program so that more people could understand how we handle money at the church, the various ways people can give to the church and how it is all accounted for.

Agreeing with them, on Wednesday night, November 9, I will follow the dollar through the church and the many ways that ministry is made possible through the generosity of our congregation.

-David Naglee

## "Christmas Is Coming and We Are Getting Fat 'Cause We're Eating Too Much of This and That!"

December 11

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I just discovered this fun holiday song last year when I was browsing through the myriad selections of Christmas music for children. It's got a catchy tune, silly words, and speaks to the joys of the season. It's one of those melodies that stay with you much like the beloved Christmas carols we sing every year, many of them learned in our childhood.

The songs we learned to sing as children about Christ's birth, the Gospel stories and Christ's love for us are the songs we carry with us throughout our lives, and those songs also helped to build our faith and understanding of our Christian heritage. Where's the best place to learn to sing these wonderful songs? Children's Choir, of course!

The Children's Music Ministry will be presenting the Christmas story on Sunday, December 11 at the 11:00 Traditional Worship Service. All children at Decatur First are invited to join a choir to sing with us in this special Christmas program that will give children the opportunity to share the wonderful news of Christ's birth with the Decatur First family.

The children's choirs rehearse on Wednesday and Sunday. Just decide which day works best and come join in the song with us. There are no auditions or tuition payments. You can join at any time. There are choirs for grades PreK-K, 1-3, and 4-6. To join a choir or learn more contact Michele Wright at [mwright@decaturfirst.org](mailto:mwright@decaturfirst.org) or 770-339-4566.

## Loving our "Neighbors" in Honduras

February 4-11

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Jesus reminds us that loving our neighbors doesn't just mean those that live next door to us. For over twenty years, Decatur First has loved our neighbors in the Agalta Valley of Honduras by sending mission teams to aid with home repair and construction projects, lead vacation bible school, teach health/hygiene classes, and be in relationship with our brothers and sisters. It is not too late to sign up, and we would love for you to join us! People of all gifts and skills are needed and welcome on this trip. Our next trip will be February 4-11, 2012. The cost is \$720 in-country fee plus the cost of your airplane ticket, but some scholarship money and fund-raising assistance is available. If you are interested in finding out more about this mission opportunity, please contact Becky Vinson at 404-218-7152 or [robbecky@bellsouth.net](mailto:robbecky@bellsouth.net).

## Exploring Foster Care

November 16

Often people rule out foster parenting because they see themselves as unable to navigate this unknown terrain. They are completely right! They have not yet prepared for that moment when they would be able to accept their first placement. It's much like a hiker imagining whether he should climb Mt. Everest barefoot. Of course not! But, after steady training, careful consideration, and a decent pair of shoes to wear, maybe he'd be ready. Or maybe not. One thing we know for sure is that the barefoot hiker is not ready now.

The question, of course, is whether our hiker would be ready after preparing for the adventure. There's no way to know the answer to this question until the training is complete. If, in the end, he does not feel equipped for the challenge, no one would suggest that he embark on the journey.

On November 16, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., you'll have a chance to learn more during an Informational Foster Care Meeting at our very own Decatur First! (No mountain climbing required; it's just a matter of crossing through a nearby stream.)

Other opportunities to get your feet wet (in a stream not far from ours) include Informational Foster Care Meetings on November 7 and December 5, 7:00 p.m., at The United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur.

Please contact Denise at [dpeacock@umchildrenshome.org](mailto:dpeacock@umchildrenshome.org) or 404-327-5864 or Wendy at [snell.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:snell.wendy@gmail.com) or 678-663-9743 to RSVP or get more information.

## Christmas Alternative Giving Program

November 27

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 will be available in the pews beginning Sunday, November 27 through Advent.

## Angel Tree

November 20

Angel Tree Christmas is a program of Prison Fellowship Ministries that works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. Each child will receive two gifts, one clothing item and one toy (valued between \$15 and \$20 each).



The child's caregiver provides ideas and sizes for clothing while the prisoner-parent selects a toy from a gift guide that chaplains distribute during the sign up process.

Beginning November 20, paper angels with names, ages, and gift suggestions will be displayed on the bulletin board outside the Adult Library (behind the Sanctuary). Each child will have two angels (one for each gift). Instructions will be posted.

Ways you can participate in Angel Tree:

1. Volunteer to shop:

- ◆ Take one or more paper Angel tags
- ◆ Sign your name on the shopper sheet
- ◆ Buy the gift(s)
- ◆ Wrap the gift(s)
- ◆ Use the Angel Tag as a name tag
- ◆ Return the gift(s) by Sunday, December 11

2. Volunteer to deliver:

Delivery teams are needed! Taking the gifts to the Decatur families can be arranged at any time before Christmas.

3. Make a donation:

Money donated to Angel Tree is used for purchasing gifts and fruit baskets for the caregiver.

Thank you for all your help with the angels. For more information, contact Katy Hinman at [khinman@decaturfirst.org](mailto:khinman@decaturfirst.org) or 404-378-4541.



# NOW

## DECATUR FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Vol. 40, No. 11

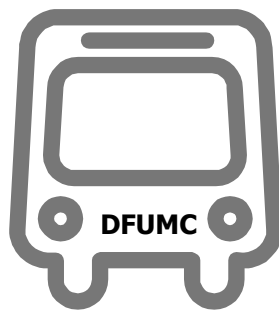
November 2011

**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:



- November 2 Café Decatur, Wednesday**  
Pickup time: 5:15 p.m.
- November 6 Masterworks Concert**  
Pickup time: 4:15 p.m.
- November 9 Café Decatur, Wednesday**  
Pickup time: 5:15 p.m.
- November 16 Café Decatur, Wednesday**  
Pickup time: 5:15 p.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.

December 2011 *NOW* issue material must  
 be submitted by email to  
[mbrock@decaturfirst.org](mailto:mbrock@decaturfirst.org)  
 by noon **Friday, November 18, 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)



As you can see from the top of this article some things are changing in the Youth Group. The first of these changes is our name. Decatur First United Methodist's Youth Ministry will now be called Soul Food. This is being done for a variety of reasons. The first is to give the program its own identity. The more important reason for the name change is that it represents the goals of the program. We want our program to be a place where youth can come relax and receive spiritual sustenances in various forms. A place where our youth can be themselves and share about who they are, just like a family shares parts of their day over a meal. The program will support our tagline Soul food, come feed your faith." We will also have a central Bible Passage for the program, Mark 2:16-17: *When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to him, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'* This means all are invited to these programs, and no one has to be perfect.



Soul Food will be the overarching name for the program, and each activity will also take on a new name as well. A good analogy is that Soul Food is the meal, and each program is a dish. To start out our Sunday night program will now become FEAST. This stands for Fellowship, Eating and Sunday Talk. This name lays out what our Sunday night youth program offers. The is the cornerstone of our program. It will remain in the same time as UMYF.



Our Wednesday Night High School program was the first program to adopt a new name under this change. On Wednesday nights we have gathered and just read the Bible and focused on the story the *Gospel of John* tells us. With this and our future goals in mind we have taken on the name Biblical Literature Team, or BLT. (Are you seeing the theme yet?)



It is now my pleasure to introduce TEA, or Teamwork & Exercise in Action. This is the brain child of Donald Horace. On Thursday Evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the Youth will meet in the gym to play Basketball, horse, and other? Parents are invited to come as well. This opportunity to strengthen our bodies (God's Temple) and build friendships through healthy competition.

### Upcoming Activities

- Nov. 6 - FEAST
- Nov. 11 - Rock-a-thon
- Nov. 20 - FEAST
- Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Special

These are the changes for now. I urge everyone to pray for our Youth, and the program as we move forward. There are more new offerings in the works. I look forward to talking with you in the future as our church develops it's Youth Program.