

## Faith Journey in Children's Ministries!

Faith doesn't begin when you enter high school, college, or even the workplace. It begins with infancy and progresses through every phrase of an individual's life. We are excited to embark on this journey with your children, readying them for the next phase of both their lives and their spirituality.

As we prepare to kickoff on October 2, we want to make you aware of some of the new lingo you will be seeing and hearing in the Children's Ministries area for our Sunday activities.



### *(Infants & Toddlers)*

Our little ones' first impression of God and our church family begins in the nursery. While getting a diaper changed, enjoying food, or playing, your little one will know that God loves him/her. This phase of the journey is crucial and our nursery is staffed with some of the most loving people you'll meet. Caravan is available from 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. in rooms 102 and 104.

### 9:30 a.m. Ministry Offerings for Kids



### *(2-4 year olds & K-5th graders)*

Your child's faith journey brings about new and exciting discoveries! Adventure is a large group-small group worship experience that will get your kids excited about their faith experiences. From storytelling, media, and music to art, games, and discussion, your child's vast experiences will equip him/her to begin thinking about how the Bible speaks into his/her life. Adventure meets during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday school hour. Two year olds will continue to meet in room 106 and will enjoy a Bible teaching time, music, and activities throughout the morning. Preschoolers will meet in their regularly assigned classrooms (3 year olds in room 109, 4 year olds in room 105) and will enjoy a large group worship experience in the children's library. K-3rd graders will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall and 4th-5th graders will meet in room 111 before enjoying a large group worship experience in the Fellowship Hall.

### 11:00 a.m. Ministry Offerings for Kids



### *(2-4 year olds)*

As young children grow they explore the world around them, discovering new things everyday. While your young ones interact with their peers, they will also learn three important truths, "God made me. God loves me. Jesus wants to be my friend forever." Through games, crafts, music, and storytelling, your child will come to know how much God loves him/her. Explorers meet during the 11:00 a.m. services. Two year olds will continue to meet in room 106. Three year olds will continue to meet in room 109. Four year olds will continue to meet in room 105. Three and four year olds will participate in a large group teaching time in the children's library. Our 4 year old Explorers will be invited to sit on the front, right pews in the Sanctuary until the end of the children's moment (at which time they will be escorted downstairs to join our 3 year old Explorers.)



### *(K-2nd graders)*

As kids continue along on their faith journey, they begin their expedition toward joining the larger church congregation in worship. Expedition prepares K-2nd graders for a meaningful worship experience with their parents. Through games, crafts, music, storytelling, and an exploration of various elements of corporate worship, your child will grow to appreciate the significance of Decatur First UMC worship practices. Expedition meets during the 11:00 a.m. traditional service after the children's moment. Our K-2nd graders will be invited to join their parents for worship in the Sanctuary until the end of the children's moment (at which time they will be escorted to the Fellowship Hall to participate in Expedition).

### Sunday Evening— JUMP

5th & 6th Grade (a.k.a. JUMP) Jonathan Brown & Kiera Stegall will announce JUMP updates next month. JUMP currently meets on Sunday evenings from 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. in G-3.

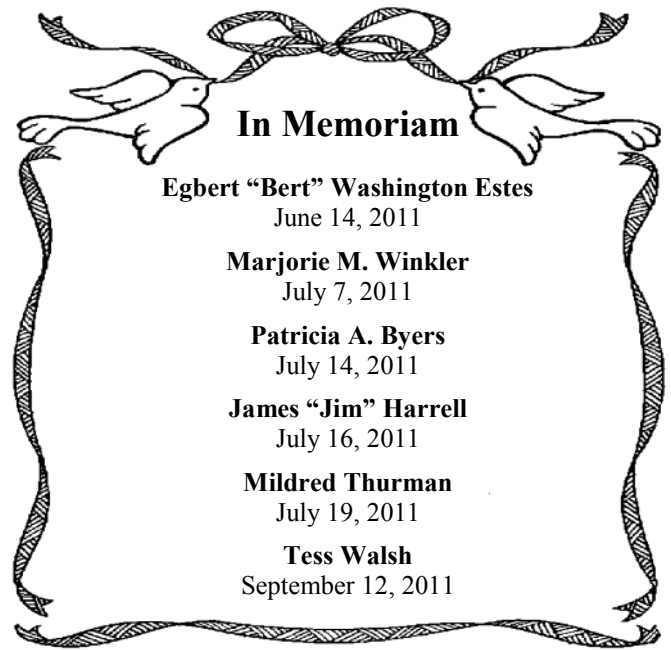
As we embark on this exciting faith journey with your children, we hope you will join us. If you have a gift or interest in teaching, shopping, music, etc., we would love to have you serve alongside us for a season. Your involvement will make all the difference in the life of your child and his/her peers. To learn more contact Kiera Stegall at [kstegall@decaturfirst.org](mailto:kstegall@decaturfirst.org) or 404-378-4541 ext. 110.

## IN TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

World Communion Celebration Psalm 17 "Let All the Earth..." Dr. David S. Naglee preaching	October 2
Philippians 4 : 4 - 9 "Recipe for Personal Peace" Dr. David S. Naglee preaching	October 9
Laity Sunday Stewardship of Abilities and Talents This service will be led and directed by members of the church.	October 16
Children's Sunday Matthew 22: 36 -40 "Two Big Rules" Dr. David S. Naglee preaching	October 23
Dr. Katy Hinman	October 30

## SAVE THE DATE

Blessing of the Pets	October 1
Decatur First 201	October 2 and 9
World Evangelism Series taught by Dr. Arun Jones	October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Ministry Leadership Council Meeting	October 3
An Evening at the Organ Music Ministry Concert	October 6
Lay Theology Institute	October 6 and 13
Skate Night	October 14
Laity Sunday	October 16
Drama Performance "The 39 Steps"	October 19, 21, 22, 23
Wesley Walk for Others	October 22
Children's Sunday	October 23
Fall Festival	October 28
Charge Conference	October 30
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



## Our Sympathy

**Jennifer and John Barnes**, Drennan and Duncan, on the death of John's mother, Janet Barnes, of Kingsport, TN, on July 18 in Elbert County, Georgia from a bicycle accident. John's father, Robert Barnes, was also critically injured and hospitalized following the accident.

To **Steve Suratt, Allie, Taylor, and Colleen**, on the death of Steve's father, Edgar Cecil Suratt, on July 21 in Wilmington, Delaware.

**Ruth Almand** on the death of her husband Harold "Hal" Almand on August 20 in Christian City.

**Jessie McCoy** on the death of her son Stephen McCoy on September 20, in Montclair, New Jersey.

## Congratulations

To **Erin and Doug Park** and Quinn on the birth of Logan Edward on March 16.

To **Bonnie and Bob Espy** on the birth of Robert Washington V on June 17. The grandparents are **Penny and Dale Bartlett** and **Jan and Bob Espy**. The great grandmother is **Jane Espy**. Extended family in this congregation celebrate the birth as well.

To **Courtney and Ricardo Moreno** on the birth of Ricardo Daniel Moreno on July 6. The grandparents are **Martha and Jeff Coursey**.



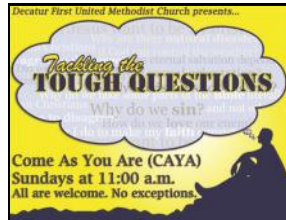
## Percolate!

Got questions? Wanna talk theology? Need a break during the week? Every Tuesday evening, you can join Rev. Katy Hinman and Rev. Nathan Hilkert, Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah, for *Percolate* – an informal gathering to discuss faith and theology and how they relate to our lives today. During October, our conversation will revolve around the “Tough Questions” that are being discussed in CAYA worship on Sunday morning. This is not a formal or long-term study and you do not have to attend CAYA to participate – everyone is welcome to drop in. Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Java Monkey at 425 Church St. Grab a cup of coffee, a snack, and come percolate with us!



## “Tackling the Tough Questions” continues...

We are continuing to tackle the tough questions in CAYA! Each Sunday, we are engaging challenging questions submitted by our congregation. The CAYA (Come As You Are) service meets on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome. No exceptions.



October 2 – Religious Diversity: Do only Christians go to heaven?  
October 9 – Religion and Reason: Can science and faith coexist?  
October 16 – Social Issues: Can Christians agree to disagree?  
October 23 – Living our Faith: Would Jesus want to be a Christian?

## Bike/Walk/Carpool to Church Sunday, October 16

The Creation Care team is pleased to sponsor another Bike / Walk / Carpool to church day on Sunday, October 16. All members who live close enough are encouraged to bike or walk (or skate!) to church on October 16. If you live too far to bike or walk, carpool with other church members and use it as a good opportunity to get to know your neighbors!

The Creation Care Action Team will be giving a prize to the Sunday School Class with the most participation, so get your tennis shoes ready, and make sure you are counted Sunday, October 16.

## Fall Apple Trip for Senior Adults Thursday, October 20

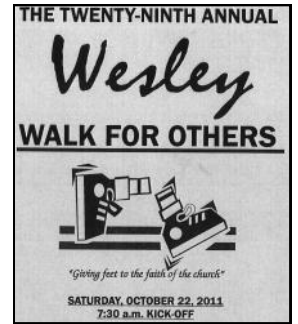
On Thursday, October 20 we will leave the church at 10:00 a.m. for a day full of fall foliage and fun times. We will head up to Blue Ridge Georgia and Merciers Apple Orchard. Everyone can load up on the many different apple varieties they have along with pies, breads, jellies, and juice. Merciers has it all! Your \$25 will reserve your place and includes your lunch (place to be determined) and transportation. Reserve your place today by paying in full. Call or e-mail Sally Winter at [swinter@decturfirst.org](mailto:swinter@decturfirst.org) or 404-378-4541 ext. 107 with questions.

## Wesley Walk for Others is Coming Saturday, October 22!

Dust off your walking shoes! The annual Wesley Walk for Others will be held on Saturday, October 22.

Kickoff for the six mile walk will be at 7:30 am at Stone Mountain UMC. This annual fundraiser for Wesley Community Centers helps to support the ministry programs of Bethlehem Senior Center and Project Extend. This event helps to raise funds to continue to provide services to low-income senior citizens in the South Atlanta Neighborhood and surrounding communities.

You can volunteer to pledge support for those who walk, or you can volunteer to walk yourself and get others to support you. For more information about making a donation or walking, contact Doug Joyner at 404-377-3057 or [decaturl35@yahoo.com](mailto:decaturl35@yahoo.com).



## Children's Sunday & 3rd Grade Bibles Sunday, October 23

Get ready to celebrate the children at Decatur First UMC as they join us for Children's Sunday on October 23. If your child is interested in leading an element of worship during the 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. traditional service contact Kiera Stegall at [kstegall@decaturfirfirst.org](mailto:kstegall@decaturfirfirst.org) or 404-378-4541 ext. 110.

We will also celebrate with our 3rd graders as they receive their Bibles. Our 3rd graders are listed below. (Contact Kiera Stegall if you have a 3rd grader or know a 3rd grader who is not on our list.)

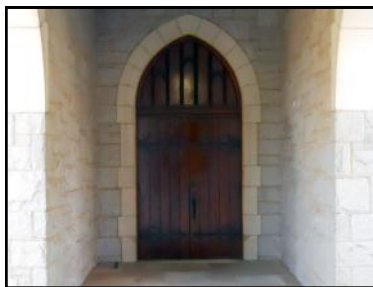
Josh Bennett	Henry Dunbar	Caleb Duval
Graham Foster	Lane Parker Estes	Owen Fucile
Noah Glasgow	Ethan Goebel	Abby Green
Amelie Horace	Audrey Nesbit	Maitland McGough
Molly Palumbo	Jack Patton	Ryan Russell
Aidan Scarano	Patrick Scott	William Scott
Alex Thompson	Matt Tinaglia	Ella Witz
	Ruby Wright	



## FROM WOMB TO WOW Decatur Cooperative Ministry History with Decatur First UMC

By Carolyn S. McDowell from the 70s

Nothing can erase the feel and flavor of the experiences from within the WOMB otherwise known as the Undercroft of Decatur First United Methodist Chapel, as it sheltered the newly conceived Decatur Cooperative Ministry (DCM) almost 40 years ago. Well, you can count on major lapses of memory for specifics... but I wanted to share this history of DCM through the eyes and fading memory of the first DCM secretary under the leadership of Dr. Norm Coffman.



The Womb is an appropriate title for that space since it seemed out-of-sight, dark and definitely on the damp side. There were times after Decatur deluges that fluid other than amniotic sloshed over the floor and made work impossible and furnishings logged with water. But what went on in that challenging space was on the side of the angels.

I had multiple clerical duties which are of little interest. It was the people and their stories that have formed my memories. People who desperately needed assistance—usually financial—and our lack of funds on hand to help. At that point Ma-Bell became the lifeline as Norm and/or I put in pleading calls to Decatur area churches—those who were members and many who have now become members—telling and retelling clients' stories and asking for any amount possible to meet the multiplying needs. We were the front line in a never ending battle.

At Decatur First UMC there was a food pantry complete with paper bags and limited supplies where we could send folks. Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry, originally a DCM program, grew out of this humble beginning, and became an independent 501c organization in 1977. There was a clothing room at Decatur First Baptist where clothes needs could be met. But eternally empty coffers. Most of the requests came over the phone and Norm would go to work with utilities and landlord with some brilliant successes and some heartbreaking failures.

But there was no way to authenticate needs. I remember most vividly the man who was desperate to get home for his mom's funeral. I've never heard a sadder story and met a more convincing and seemingly worthy client. We pulled every string we could and I remember that the funds came out of Norm's pocket. We were disciples—we could feel it. But it was all false. How did we feel? You can imagine. But we never doubted that what we were doing was ordained.

That commitment to help our neighbors-in-need continues for DCM to this day, but DCM has also developed methods for verifying client eligibility and for distributing aid more efficiently and fairly. DCM's faith in the goodness of basic human nature has not waned.

Over the years, Decatur First UMC has remained a strong partner for DCM. Our church donates to DCM monthly and hundreds of Decatur First members have volunteered to help with DCM's Hagar's House shelter for women and children and Project Take Charge. When DCM began providing transitional housing for homeless families, Decatur First was glad to provide use of the Bassett House. Today, DCM has nine homes in its "Family House" program, and 100% of residents have transitioned to their own housing in the past two years.

That early Chapel Womb has birthed the WOW that is the multiple layers of DCM. I'm proud to be a comma in that history.

## The United Methodist Children's Home Needs Your Help in Their Search for More Foster Families!

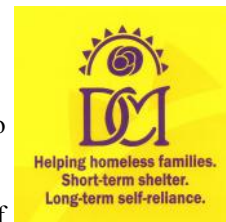
The **Foster Care Department of The United Methodist Children's Home** is in desperate need of foster families. The Children's Home has been offering family foster care and adoption since 1972. In 2010, they had to turn down almost 100 children who were in need of a foster family. The goal for 2011 is for the Children's Home to double their number of approved foster homes in order to serve more children.



The Foster Care Department of the Children's Home is licensed to provide care for children of all ages, including medically fragile children. The greatest need is for families willing and able to care for teenagers and siblings. The majority of referrals received by the Children's Home are for siblings and, often times, the agency does not have a home able to care for the number of siblings referred. The approval of additional homes will allow a greater opportunity for matching the children to the right family.

Once approved, a foster family becomes part of a team working toward permanency for the children served. The permanency plan may mean the children returning to live with their parents or other family member, sometimes in a few days or a number of months, or it may mean adoption. The UMCH, as a licensed adoption agency, is able to see the family through the adoption process as well. Over half of the current homes approved by UMCH have adopted in the past. There are currently three families moving toward the finalization of their adoptions of seven children!

If you or someone you know is being called to open your heart and home to these children in need, the Children's Home offers informational meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Denise Peacock, Foster Care Recruiter, at 404-327-5864 or at [peacock@umchildrenshome.org](mailto:peacock@umchildrenshome.org) if you are interested in attending a meeting. You need only be curious!



# DFUMC's Annual Fall Festival



Carnival Games  
Inflatables  
Crafts

Prizes  
Cotton Candy  
Popcorn  
Photos

Friday, October 28  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Admission: 2 Canned Goods or \$5  
for Decatur Emergency  
Assistance Ministry

**Charge Conference 2011**  
Sunday, October 30

The Charge Conference is the connecting link between the local church and the Methodist Church at Large. This annual gathering is presided over by the District Superintendent (Reverend Sharma Lewis) and reviews the total mission and ministry of our church. Members of the Administrative Board comprise the membership of the Charge Conference as voting members but all church members are invited to attend. This year's Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 p.m. in room 218

## Roy's Toys 2011

We need your help! For almost 30 years Decatur First has provided toys and clothing for hundreds of children in the Decatur area who would otherwise have very little for Christmas. We have had some wonderful leaders over the years for this ministry. We are in desperate need for someone (or a team) to step forward to lead Roy's Toys this year. It is a short term, but intense, commitment. Names and wish lists will begin being distributed in October and items will be collected in November to be delivered on November 30. Everything is done in these two months. Please prayerfully consider the faces of these 100 or so children on Christmas morning as they receive the gifts from our church. Without our help most of them will have little or nothing. Contact Sally Winter at 404-378-4541 ext.107 or [swinter@decaturfirst.org](mailto:swinter@decaturfirst.org) for more information or to volunteer. Check your bulletins for more information about how to adopt a child by providing toys and clothing this holiday season in October.



## Honduras Mission Trip

Decatur First has been sending mission teams to Honduras for over twenty years. With Honduras Outreach International, our volunteers work in a village in the Agalta valley in central Honduras by aiding with home repairs and construction projects, leading vacation bible school, teaching health/hygiene classes, and fellowshiping with the villagers. This is a wonderful trip to help those in need.

Our next trip will be February 4-11, 2012. The cost is \$720 in-country fee plus the cost of your airplane ticket. Your non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due November 1 in order to be eligible for group purchase of airline tickets. 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).

## United Methodist Children's Home Flea Market October 7 & 8

Bargains of all shapes and sizes, collectables, jewelry, clothing, toys, furniture, household goods, tools, and books from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The flea market will be at United Methodist Children's Home at 500 S. Columbia Dr. in Decatur.

## Two Opportunities for Safe Sanctuaries Training for Church Volunteers

At Decatur First UMC, all volunteers working with youth or children must attend Safe Sanctuaries Training every three years. We are offering two training sessions this fall:

- Sunday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m. in Room G-5 (There will be no nursery at this time.)
- Sunday, October 23 at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.)

Individuals serving in these volunteer positions in Youth or Children's Ministries are required to be trained: Sunday School teachers and volunteers for preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 11:00 a.m. children's ministry volunteers for preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, action team leaders, Sunday hall duty volunteers (1<sup>st</sup> floor), nursery volunteers and staff, JUMP counselors, and youth counselors. If you aren't sure if you need to be trained, please check with Jonathan Brown or Kiera Stegall. RSVP to Jonathan at [jbrown@decaturfirst.org](mailto:jbrown@decaturfirst.org) or Kiera at [kstegall@decaturfirst.org](mailto:kstegall@decaturfirst.org) or call 404-378-4541 if you plan to attend.

## HITCHCOCK MEETS HILARIOUS



Coming to the stage of Decatur First

**Play performances will be  
October 19 and 21 at 7:30 pm, 22 and 23 at 5:30 pm**

A simple meal will be served prior to October 19 show only.  
*Reservations will be required for the meal.*

Prices for all four shows \$15 for adults,  
\$10 for middle, high school and college students  
*Recommend show for children in middle school and older.*

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, most intriguing, most thrilling, most riotous, most unmissable comedy smash! The mind-blowing cast plays over 150 characters in this fast-paced tale of an ordinary man on an extraordinarily entertaining adventure. Hilarious fun for Theatre-Lovers!

# NOW

## DECATUR FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Vol. 40, No. 10

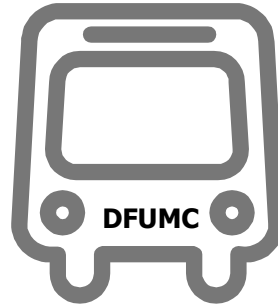
October 2011

**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:



- October 5**     **Café Decatur, Wednesday**  
Pickup time: 5:00 p.m.
- October 12**    **Café Decatur, Wednesday**  
Pickup time: 5:00 p.m.
- October 19**    **Café Decatur/The 39 Steps Play**  
Pickup time: 5:00 p.m.
- October 26**    **Café Decatur**  
Pickup time: 5:00 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.

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

## DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

dfumcyouth

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



## I feel the need—the need for speed!



Wow! I never knew that a month could go by so quickly. First and foremost I want to say thank you to all of you for the warm welcome. My short time in this church has been a blessing, and I am looking forward to the future.

For this article I thought it would be a great opportunity to share with you some of the Youth Activity of the past moment, and maybe hint at what's coming in the future. The first major activity we undertook was the Can Food Scavenger Hunt for DEAM. The event was organized by Patrick Littlefield and Sally Winter. It was a huge success. The Youth was split into teams and sent to various neighborhoods around the church to collect canned goods, but there was a twist. At every stop

where food was collected the teams could take pictures in various poses for points (see below). It was great to see the level of creativity our Youth have attached to a great cause. In the end we had a lot of fun, gave out cheesy prizes, and **FILLED** my truck bed with food for DEAM.

The next activity I wanted to share with you came on September 11. I can say to face the decade marker three weeks into this new job was intimidating. I had been meditating on the subject matter for a couple of days when inspiration on what to do came. It occurred to me that ten years ago the day had been marked by destruction and devastation all done in the name of God. Wouldn't it be great if ten years later we could build something for God, even if it was small. My attention was then drawn to room G-4 in the church. After speaking with several individuals we got the go ahead to set up a Youth Chapel in that room. When September 11, 2011 came the Youth began work on our new Worship Space. Greg Zimmerman blessed the youth with his know how and led the charge in this endeavor. While it is still a work in progress the foundation for this project has been laid (also see below).

As you can tell this has been a great time, and its only going to get better. I can't wait to see what God has in store for this ministry of the Church. Our upcoming events are listed below, but I also want to tell you to expect amazing things as we approach 2012. Our Midwinter Retreat is set for January 13-16, and we will be going to St. Simons Island. Then on the horizon we have the Decatur First UMC Whirly Ball Championship (more to come). I still continue to urge everyone to pray for our group as we move forward. Also look for us on Facebook and Twitter, and to remember, it only gets better!

**-Jonathan Brown**

### Upcoming Activities

Oct. 2 - Iron Chef

Oct. 9 - UMYF

Oct. 16 - UMYF

Oct. 30 - Costume Party

