

OUR MISSION: Our mission is to share the gift of Jesus Christ to move hearts
and employ hands for the kingdom of God.

Vol. 40 No. 9

Decatur, Georgia

September 2011

Café Decatur... Good Food, Good People

By John Cowden

It's Wednesday evening. Your children need to go to choir. You need to go to bells or choir or the knitting group or any other activity at the church. Or maybe you're just hungry and want to go have a bite of good food at a reasonable price. Or maybe you want to catch up with your church family. You want to go to Café Decatur.

Each Wednesday from September 7 to November 16, we will be serving dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sally Winter will be cooking up light fare, including soups, salads, and sandwiches, as well as alternative options for the kids. Most weeks there is no special programming, just an opportunity to come enjoy good food and the good people of Decatur First. No advance reservation is required. Just show up and put a few dollars in the basket to cover the cost. There is the occasional meal for which a reservation will be required. See below for more information on those special days.

I hope to see you at the Café sometime soon!

Decatur First Town Hall

By Sally Winter

Once per month we will hold a "Come one, Come all" Town Hall evening. On these nights a dinner reservation will be required and your dinner or dinner/program will be a set amount. Dinner will be very special on these nights. Our first Town Hall will be September 28 with our very own Bob Hope giving us a wonderful history of Atlanta. To enhance the evening we have catered with The Varsity (yes, the "What'll you have?" Varsity). Dinner on this evening will be \$7 per person which will include two entrees (hot dog, hamburger or both) and one side item from the Varsity. The church will provide fruit, coleslaw, tea, punch, water, and ice cream for dessert. Reservations will be accepted begin September 6 by registration online (see the home page), card in your pew, or by calling directly to Sally Winter at ext. 107. Deadline for dinner on September 28 will be Sunday, September 25.

On October 19 we will hold our second Town Hall which will be another wonderful dinner followed by our Fall Drama production *The 39 Steps*.... More details on this evening will be in the October NOW.

9/11 Interfaith Gathering

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., there will be an interfaith gathering on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. Open to all and free of charge, the event will be held in the ballroom of the Decatur Hotel and Conference Center, located at 130 Clairmont Avenue, in downtown Decatur. There is parking available at the hotel for a charge or free parking at Decatur First Baptist Church a short walk away from the Conference Center.

The 9/11/11 Interfaith Gathering planning committee includes Atlantans from a variety of faith expressions, including Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, and Muslims. The event will remember those who died on September 11, 2001, while seeking to shift our combined energies toward the building of relationships between faith communities and across lines that have divided us in the past.

To become an endorsing/supporting organization, contact the 9/11/11 Interfaith Planning Committee through Jan Swanson, Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta at worldpilgrims@bellsouth.net or 404-622-3399.



Fall Small Group Studies start right away.

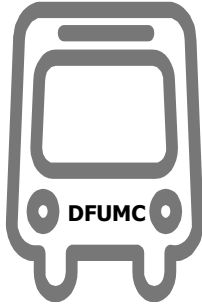
See a full course listing in this issue of the NOW.
It is not too late to register.



Bus Schedule

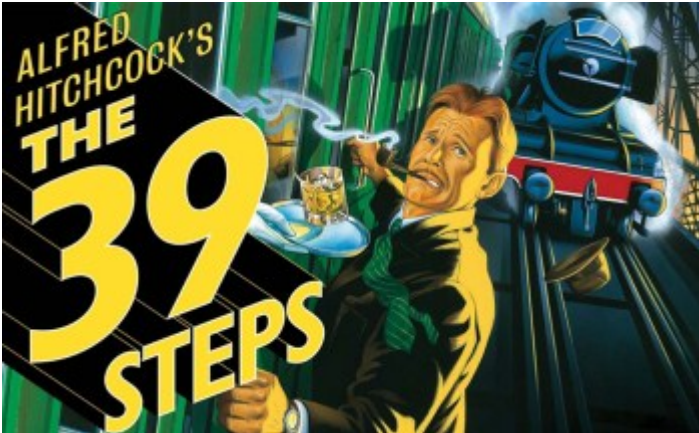
In addition to the regular Sunday worship schedule, the Church Bus will provide transportation for the following upcoming events:

- September 7** **Café Decatur**
Pick Up Time 5:15 p.m.
- September 14** **Café Decatur**
Pick Up Time 5:15 p.m.
- September 24** **Café Decatur**
Pick Up Time 5:15 p.m.
- September 28** **Café Decatur and
Town Hall Meeting**
Pick Up 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.

What are *The 39 Steps*?



Who is Richard Hannay and how did he get involved in this web of intrigue and espionage? What secret was so “top secret” it was worth dying for? Who was the mysterious woman in our hero’s apartment? Why do those four men appear and reappear? These questions and even more will be raised, and possibly even answered in..... (wait for it)dun, dun, dunnnnnnnn.....*THE 39 STEPS*.

The hilarious Tony® Award-winning comedy thriller that ran for years in London and New York will come to the stage of Decatur First next month! The play will be performed October 19 (as part of the Town Hall Meetings and include a simple dinner), 21, 22 & 23. Our own Sharon Brewer will direct. Please share this information with all you know and look for a reminder and ticket sales information starting in October.

Heavenly Harvest Garden

Hello from the garden!

We are a volunteer garden that is supported by the Decatur First UMC community. The garden gives access to any member of the community to partake in healthy and sustainable food cultivation. We do not use any type of chemical fertilizers or weed killers, and we harvested our own seeds from last year's crop to plant this year's garden. We are currently growing okra, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and jalapeno peppers. We planted lettuce, squash, potatoes, and strawberries in the spring as well. We have added a shed to the garden, and we are looking forward to setting up a volunteer rotation next year to give an opportunity for the Sunday School communities to volunteer together. Not only are we trying to educate our community on food cultivation, but the garden also serves those that do not typically have a lot of access to fresh, healthy foods. The harvest is given both to the volunteers and the United Methodist Children's Home in a 20/80 percent share. For every one share of vegetables we take as volunteers, we give away four times that to the community. We also used the basil, tomatoes, and cucumbers in the meal prepared for Hagar's House in our August rotation.

So far this year we have given away six large grocery bags of lettuce, 10 lbs of squash, 25 lbs of tomatoes, 10 lbs of cucumbers, and 10 lbs of potatoes. We have had an interesting year so far, and we are still growing strong. If you are interested in joining our Heavenly Harvest community, please email Jason and Karmon Clay at clay1157@att.net.



The InChoirer

NOW Edition

September 2011

NOW Edition

John Cowden, Director of Music

Mitch Weisiger, Associate Director of Music

Dinner. Again.

By now you've heard about dinners on Wednesday night. At least I hope you have. They have been mentioned in this newsletter at least twice already. There have been bulletin announcements. There has been word of mouth. I think later this week they're going to air drop several thousand brochures over the tri-state area from C-130 cargo planes.

It's a big deal. Since we dissolved Wednesday

Night Suppers, there has been a hole in our ministry. It's not so much the programming (although we did have some great programs!). It's not even the food (we'll be offering a reduced fare for our meals). It's about the people. It's about having a time to gather with your church family and catch up.

In the Cowden house, we make it a point to eat dinner together whenever

(Continued on page 4)

Christmas (?!)

What?! Christmas? My tree is still up from last year, and you want me to think about Christmas? This is over the top. It's off the chain. It's further proof (as if any was needed) that the

Director of Music is off his rocker.

Or is he? Maybe he just knows the great truth of the season (other than the

(Continued on page 4)

We Need You!

Yes, you. I know you have an oboe in your closet, or perhaps a clarinet. What? You own your very own set of Scottish Bagpipes? You never told me. Well, dust off those pipes.

Dig out that bassoon and get ready to make some music.

We are searching for folks to play in small ensembles and/or solo pieces,

(Continued on page 4)

Important Dates for the Fall

- August 3
Chancel Choir resumes
- August 7
Celebration Ringers resumes
- August 14
All other choirs resume
- September 7
Children's Choirs resume
- September 18
Music Sunday
- September 23-25
Chancel Choir Retreat
- October 5
Handbell Concert
- 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

(Continued from page 3)

possible. That's usually five days a week. It's a priority. We share about our days. We talk about what's going on. I think of our dinners just like that...a chance to talk about what's going on with my church family.

Think back to the last time we had a baptism in our church. David (or I

think it might have been Katy) took the newly baptized child up and down the aisle introducing the baby to a new family in Christ. At that time, we made a commitment that we would order our lives after the example of Christ, surrounding the child by steadfast love. Surrounding the child requires that we be present. It requires that we gather together. Café

Decatur offers a perfect opportunity to do just that.

So I hope to see you at the Café in the coming weeks, to break bread and enjoy your company. It's a time you will not regret.

(Continued from page 3)

birth of the Christ, that is). While we all wait until the very last minute to get everything done, we *plan* very early. Sunday School classes are already scheduling parties. Parents are already wondering how they're going to accomplish, well, all that needs to be accomplished. So let's just say that by writing an article about Christmas in *September*, I hope to get in on the ground floor. Specifically, there are a couple of dates I'd really like for you to be aware of as you begin working out the details like where to buy your egg nog and if you need to repair the stockings before you hang them by the chimney with care.

Childcare Fundraiser. On December 3 we'll once again offer our holiday childcare. Our regular nursery staff, supported by youth volunteers, will

provide childcare while parents take care of a bit of shopping. There is a small fee, and reservations are required.

Light Installation. Each December we add lighting to the Sanctuary to supplement the Celebration of Emmanuel and other services. Most of the installation is done in one day (this year, December 7). Any and all are invited (yea even requested) to come and spend a couple of hours. There is both heavy and light work to be done.

Celebration of Emmanuel. Carolyn McDowell has once again written a remarkable script for our Celebration on December 11. This year we feature Joseph and consider the Christmas story from his perspective.

Church Christmas Party. We're trying something new this year. The Ministry Leadership Council is sponsoring a Christmas Party for the whole church on December 18. We'll gather in the Fellowship hall at 4:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship, fun, and music. Bring your favorite seasonal dessert to share. We'll provide the cider and hot chocolate. The youth will leave at the end of the party to embark on their progressive dinner.

There are, of course, numerous other ways to be involved, and you will receive more information about those events as they approach. These are just a few I wanted to highlight as you begin to plan your Christmas season.

(Continued from page 3)

especially during the 8:45 a.m. worship service. All that is required is picking up a piece of music, practicing at home, and then having a rehearsal or two to put it together with any other players involved before playing together in church. All instruments are welcome (well, perhaps not kazoo, Bob Hope and Bill Floyd!).

Our hope is that by offering opportunities for you to get involved, we will over time build a stable of instrumentalists at the church that can accompany on anthems, join us for major works, and perhaps (in the long-term) form a small orchestra to accompany hymns.

But it all begins with you! If

you'd like more information, or if you'd just like to talk about what we have in mind and how your instrument fits in, call Mitch or John. We'll be happy to explore the liturgical capabilities of your accordion!

Children's Ministry



New Director of Children's Ministry

We are delighted to welcome to our Decatur First UMC staff Mrs. Kiera Stegall. Kiera has experience as a pre-school teacher and children's ministry coordinator in two United Methodist Churches prior to coming to Decatur First. She has a degree from the Candler School of Theology where her concentration was in Spiritual Formation. Her position at Decatur is fulltime and includes responsibilities for all our preschool and elementary children's programming including Sunday School, Kids' Rock!, Kinderchurch, Children's Church, and JUMP. Kiera is married to John Stegall and they have a young daughter,

We hope your summer brought rest and time together with the ones you love the most.

We are looking forward to a great year in the Children's Ministry department! Excitement and anticipation is growing as we wait to see what grand plans God has in store for the children this year!

Kids' Rock! is still searching for "props shoppers" and "bin-fillers." Both can be weekday jobs using your errand time to double as church service!! Please contact the church office to sign up to serve the children of the church.

Childrens Church (for 1st - 2nd Graders) will begin again soon! Keep your eyes on all publications for the kickoff in September. Until then, enjoy worship with your families.

Kinderchurch: Kindergarten children are welcome to stay after Kids' Rock! for Kinderchurch during the 11:00 church hour. Parents, please indicate on the Kids' Rock! sign in sheet if your child will stay for the second hour. If you are arriving at 11:00 a.m. for Kinderchurch, please sign in at the kindergarten roster, and drop your child with the designated Kinderchurch volunteer.

Preschool Sunday School Update

Sunday School on the preschool floor got off to a good start on August 14. All children have now been promoted up to the next age level class. Many thanks to our wonderful preschool Sunday School teachers and helpers who stepped forward to serve this year:

Karen & David Burns	Cindy Naglee,
Kristen & Greg Parker	Anna & Eli Williams
Marci Davis	Emily & Greg Harrell
Rebecca Grijalva	Bethel & Glenn Ziesenitz
Christa & Tim Sobon	Helen Byars
Jenn Dickinson	Usha Raghavan
Bethany Atkinson	Jill & Bill Ivey
Christy Sawyer	

A few more volunteer teachers are still needed to help with the 3 year-old class and 4 year-old class.

Also if you are interested in being a "substitute" teacher and helping occasionally with any of the preschool classes, please contact Robin Harp at harpbennett@bellsouth.net

September with "The Rock"

The Big God Story!

September 11 Creation and Forgiveness in God's World

September 18 Created to Worship

Sept 25 God is the Lord, Part 1

Bring a friend! Bring your Bible! Be there!

Thank you to all the children and Decatur First families for a lovely sendoff. You have blessed me beyond measure and I will always be thankful for the time I spent with you in Kids' Rock! Blessings to each of you as you continue to give of yourselves in service to God by "raising up these children in the way they should go, so that when they are old they will not depart" from His ways.

As always...from the Rock,
Love,
Beth Buchweitz

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN LIFE

SPONSORED BY THE MALLARD LAY THEOLOGY INSTITUTE OF CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**WHAT IS THE
21ST CENTURY
CHURCH?**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



Dr. Bob Winstead

Assistant Professor in the Practice of Church Leadership and Director of the Office of Lifelong Learning

**CAN THE
CHURCH RELATE
TO THE MODERN
WORLD?**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22



Bishop Woodie White

*Bishop-in-Residence
Candler School of Theology
Emory University*

**WILL OUR
YOUTH HAVE
FAITH?**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29



Dr. Beth Corrie

Assistant Professor in the Practice of Youth Education and Peacebuilding and Director of the Youth Theological Initiative

**HAS THE
METHODIST
DNA
CHANGED?**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6



Dr. Bill Daniel

Associate Professor in the Practice of History and Mission

**IS THE WORLD
STILL OUR
PARISH?**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13



Dr. Wesley de Souza

*Arthur J. Moore
Associate Professor in the Practice of Evangelism*

YOU'RE INVITED!

Decatur First United Methodist Church will host a series of lectures sponsored by the Mallard Lay Theology Institute of the Candler School of Theology. The Decatur community will have the wonderful opportunity this fall to learn from distinguished Candler faculty members.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
September 15 through October 13



LOCATION

Decatur First United Methodist Church Chapel is at the corner of Sycamore St. and Commerce Dr., one block south of main Sanctuary.



PARKING

Free parking will be behind the Decatur First United Methodist Church Sanctuary at the corner of East Ponce de Leon Ave. and Commerce Dr. A shuttle will run between the parking lot and the Chapel.

Free nursery provided by reservation only.

For childcare reservations or for other information about this series, contact the Decatur First United Methodist Church Office at 404-378-4541.

www.decaturfirfirst.org

COMING TO OUR CHAPEL THIS FALL!

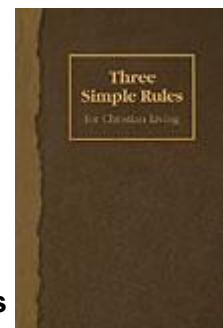
Register Now for Fall 2011 Small Group Studies

o Three Simple Rules for Christian Living

Facilitator: Katy Hinman
Time: Sundays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00
Dates: September 25 – November 6

This small-group study by Jeanne Torrence Finley is based on Rueben P. Job's book *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. Six sessions provide extended reflection for adults on the three "General Rules" that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, laid out as the basic principles of Christian life: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.



o Romans: The Depth of Christian Thought

Facilitator: David Naglee
Time (A) Tuesdays, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. (men's group)
Time (B) Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. (co-ed group)

Cost: Free
Dates: August 30 – November 29
Dates: August 30 – November 29

Dr. Naglee leads us in an examination of the book of Romans. The Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome is considered one of his most theologically important writings and has been influential throughout the history of the Christian church.



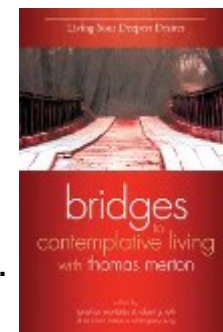
o Living Your Deepest Desires

(Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton)

Facilitator: Cindy Rust
Time: Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$6.00
Dates: September 7 – October 26

Merton believed that for all of us our deepest desire is for loving communion with God and so with all of creation. *Living Your Deepest Desires* helps participants to discover for themselves just what this means. The study offers an introduction to Merton and contemplative living, prayers, readings from Merton and other spiritual writers, and questions for dialogue.



o Here and Now ... There and Then (by Beth Moore)

Facilitator: Jean Eickhoff
Time: Wednesdays, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. (women's group)

Cost: \$20.00
Dates: September 7 - November 16

***Here and Now... There and Then* is an 11-session lecture series on the book of Revelation. Moore presents various points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. Each of the 11 lessons teaches that God is as specific about what he does reveal as He is about what he does not reveal.**



Complete this form, tear it off, and place it in the offering plate
or in the Small Group Study Registration Box in the Reception Area.
** You may also register online at www.decaturfirfirst.org **

I would like to register for:

- Three Simple Rules for Christian Living
- Romans, men's morning group
- Living Your Deepest Desires
- Here and Now ... There and Then (by Beth Moore)

Romans, co-ed evening group

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

COMING IN OCTOBER!

“Christianity in Other Cultures: The Church in Africa, Asia and Latin America”



Dr. Arun Jones, the Hankey Associate Professor of World Evangelism at the Candler School of Theology, will conduct a five-week series of presentations on world evangelism at Decatur First during the month of October. Dr. Jones is one of the leading authorities on the growth of Christianity in developing countries and implications of that growth for major industrialized societies like the United States.

Topics for Discussion

Christianity is growing in developing countries while losing numbers in the major industrialized societies. What does this mean for Christians in America? How does this affect our faith and connection with the rest of the world? Why is it important?

Schedule

Here is his schedule of presentations:

- Week 1 (October 2): Christian faith and enculturation
- Week 2 (October 9): The Church in China and India
- Week 3 (October 16): The Church in the Congo
- Week 4 (October 23): Roman Catholicism and Pentecostalism in Latin America
- Week 5 (October 30) This last session will deal with implications for discussions at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2012.

Dr. Jones, who has chosen to worship at Decatur First and is a member of the Chancel Choir, will speak during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Biographical Details

The son of Methodist missionaries in India, Dr. Jones was raised in India and has also lived and worked as a missionary in the Philippines. He is the author of *Christian Missions in the American Empire: Episcopalians in Northern Luzon, the Philippines, 1902-1946* (2003), and of several articles and book chapters on Christianity in Asia. Dr. Jones' current research includes the history of the church in North India in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is an ordained Elder in the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

If you have questions or to let us know if you plan to attend call: 404-374-7596, or email Quinn Hudson at qhudson@hudsongroupinc.com.



Chapel Corner Q & A

On a hot and humid August Sunday Mr. Q and Ms. A were overheard in a spirited conversation:

Mr. Q: Looks to me like the Chapel Fund Campaign is stuck at low tide.

Ms. A: Far from it. Once all the pledges come in we'll have close to \$190,000.00. Sounds like a pretty "tidy" sum.

Mr. Q: But our goal was \$700,000.00!

Ms. A: We're still hoping for many more enthusiastic contributions from those who believe our historic building has lots of ministry yet in her "bones" but

...

Mr. Q: I don't like "buts"!

Ms. A: BUT... now that we have shown that we're serious about fundraising and are willing to put member \$\$s behind our words, we can approach foundations who are interested in this type of preservation.

Mr. Q: I like the sound of that. When?

Ms. A: The architectural firm we hired is in the midst of preparing their inspection papers and estimates of cost. Any philanthropic foundation will require careful details. We're right on schedule with this.

Mr. Q: I didn't contribute to the Chapel fund to see my dollars go for a study.

Ms. A: And we know that. The trustees are covering that cost from their budget for our buildings. After all, we are Methodists – that means there's a method to our methodical movement.

Mr. Q: In other words don't replace the carpet before you check the floors and supports for soundness.

Ms. A: And don't paint the walls before checking for leaks in the pipes and roof.

Mr. Q: Oh ... I like that. So my April contribution can go for say ... fixing the roof, or maybe the foundation or maybe the windows?

Ms. A: Right! I'm envisioning my gifts going for repair and decoration of the parlor and brides' area.

Mr. Q: You said gifts ... with an "s". I figured I only needed to give once.

Ms. A: Oh, once is never enough! I'm contributing regularly ... in memory of - in honor of - just for the heck of it. I want to be permanent part of Decatur First continuing history. Communion of Saints and all that.

Mr. Q: Never actually thought of myself as a saint.

Ms. A: Well, we might begin to see you in an entirely new light!

President's corner

by Suzy Jennings



This column is about blessings and sharing. A very important birthday is coming up. It is the birthday of a baby who has been an absolute blessing to me. He came into my life almost by accident. I offered to help out when he was born almost a year ago. It was love at first sight, and it is a love that continues to blossom.

His name is Camron Roy Wolf. His mother is Valerie Peek, and his extraordinary Nana is Lynn Peek. Valerie moved back to Decatur from Florida last July, just before Camron was born. She also came with her eighteen month old beautiful Abby. This was a difficult choice, I am sure, but Valerie had the courage to do what was best for her children and herself. Lynn had retired only a few months earlier and moved to a smaller home! None of this was a problem for Valerie or Lynn. They took what they had - a family with tons of love and a place to call home - and made it work.

Where do I come into the picture? Camron is easy to love, and I do love him. From the beginning, he has had a captivating smile and a loving, easy-going, cuddly personality. As time went on, I became concerned that I was getting too attached and could be hurt. Would they continue to be so willing to share this adorable child? Soon my fears were put to rest. Lynn and Valerie opened their hearts to me and made me feel a special part of Camron's life. They told me early on that I would be Grandma since Lynn is Nana. It just amazes me that they are so willing to share this baby. I am Grandma, thanks be to God, and bless Lynn and

General Meeting & Study

*"For the Love of God:
John's Epistles"*

Session 3, led by Rev. Eric Powell

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

11:00 am—in Fellowship Hall

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

September Hostess: Circle 4



Rev. Eric Powell continues to lead and inspire us through our study of John's Epistles.

Monday, September 12, 2011

7:00 pm, Circle 12—Will meet at the home of Carole Jenkins, 417 Clairemont Ave., Unit 213,

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

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

UMW Executive Committee

UMW Executive Committee meets Tuesday, August 30, at 10 am in the Gathering Room. Please remember to bring written reports.

President's corner, continued

Valerie. An added blessing is that Lynn has become like a sister to me.

Thank you for opening up your hearts and sharing this precious baby, a blessing to so many, but none more than me. God bless you Camron, and happy birthday.

Peace be with you,

Suzy

Don't forget to bring your folders/handouts from July to session 3 of our study.

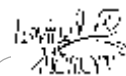
Contact Harriet Kersey if you did not get a set.

September Mission Opportunity:

Women's Resource Center

The Women's Resource Center provides emergency shelter and services to women suffering from abuse, and to their children.

How can you help? Key woman, Lucille Traylor tells us the center needs anything paper - paper towels, paper napkins, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc. In addition, they would appreciate any donations for the community Lunch Program.



Mildred Thurman

Circle 7

July 19, 2011



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 September

2	Penny Bartlett
2	Dorothy Bayne
3	Cindy Naglee
10	Barbara Greenig
13	Robbie Corbett
14	Jackie Macomber
17	Marion Ingalls
18	Patti Garrett
25	Becky Vinson
30	Joan Brand

CANCER SEWING

Tuesday, August 23
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, FH

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

School kits and answered prayer

The North Georgia Conference UMW has asked all units to assemble school kits for UMCOR and bring them to the Conference UMW Annual Meeting to be held at Dunwoody UMC Saturday, October 1. Filling the bags was no problem, but where to get school bags was a big concern. Now Cheryl Gutterres has graciously volunteered to make the bags. Here is what she proposes:

"I will make School Kit Bags for anyone who would like to fill one or more. Just call me or e-mail me and let me know how many you would like. I will bring them to the next UMW meeting. Cheryl Gutterres"

Action Ministries project

One of Action Ministries' goals is to build an active support group for each family in their program. The goal of the support group is to take a hands-on approach when working with the families. Some of the opportunities include helping families learn to prepare quick meals, helping with birthday celebrations for children, job coaching, tutoring, resume building, helping to prepare care packages that include basic toiletries, and helping to support families during the holidays. Our UMW unit has been asked to support a family and will be discussing what this entails at the Executive Committee meeting on August 30, and at the September General Meeting.

If you'd like more information, please contact Suzy Jennings at 404-377-9544.

Dates to Remember

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

12	Monday	UMW Circle 12, 7:00 pm, at the home of Sandy Kruger
13	Tuesday	UMW Circles 4 & 10, 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
17	Saturday	ADO UMW Fall Retreat, Glen Haven UMC
20	Tuesday	UMW Reading Group, 1:30 pm, L
26	Monday	UMCH Auxiliary meeting & lunch, 11:00 am, UMCH campus
26	Monday	Cancer Pad Sewing setup, 1:30-3:30 pm, FH
27	Tuesday	Cancer Pad Sewing, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, FH

More important dates

North GA Conference UMW	Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District UMW
UMW Annual Meeting	District Fall Retreat
9:30 am—Saturday, October 1	8:30 am—Saturday, September 17
Dunwoody UMC	Glen Haven UMC
1548 Mount Vernon Rd	4862 Glenwood Rd, Decatur
Dunwoody, GA	
Bring School Kits	District Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 22	3:00 pm—Sunday, October 23
29th Annual Wesley Walk for Others	Ousley UMC
7:30 am	3261 Panola Rd, Decatur
Stone Mountain UMC	

SPREAD THE WORD. SHINE THE LIGHT.

Decatur Cooperative Ministry (DCM) is launching a congregational outreach campaign to foster stronger and deeper connections with its member congregations. The theme of the 2011 campaign is "Spread the word. Shine the light." Our members Sandy Kruger and Lucy Henner are instrumental in this effort to strengthen Decatur First's relationship with DCM. If you are interested in how you can work with DCM, join us on September 11 in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service. Our representatives will be making a presentation to the Mission Action Team.

Save the Date

September 2 — Skate Night for Kindergarten -3rd Grade
September 5 — Labor Day – Church Office Closed
September 7 — Café Decatur Begins
September 9 — Skate Night for 4th Grade and Older
September 18 — Music Sunday
September 18 — Administrative Board Meeting
September 23-25 — Chancel Choir Retreat
September 28 — Early History of Atlanta with Bob Hope
October 1 — Blessing of the Pets
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — World Evangelism Series taught by
Dr. Arun Jones
October 3 — Ministry Leadership Council Meeting
October 5 — Music Ministry Concert
October 14 — Skate Night
October 16 — Laity Sunday
October 19, 21, 22, 23 — Drama Performance
October 22 — Wesley Walk for Others
October 23 — Children's Sunday
October 28 — Fall Festival
October 30 — Charge Conference
November 6 — All Saints Sunday
November 6 — Ministry Leadership Council Meeting
November 6 — Chancel Choir Masterworks Concert
November 9 — Follow the Dollar with Dr. David S. Naglee
November 11 — Skate Night
November 13 — Administrative Board Meeting
November 24-25 — Thanksgiving Holiday-Church Office Closed

***The Church office will be
closed on Labor Day.***

A worship service
celebrating the joy and
companionship of our pets!

Saturday, October 1
10:00 a.m.

Church lawn
(at N. Candler St.)

Presided by
Dr. Katy Hinman,
Associate Minister



Worship starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.
with refreshments afterwards.

Coffee & bagels for pet owners ~ dog & cat treats
for the critters!

Another Joining Jubilee

On Sunday, August 28 we celebrated our second Joining Jubilee. This ingathering of 17 new members was wonderful. The names of these new members will be published in the October issue of the NOW.

Decatur First 201 is coming in September!

Want to get a more in-depth look at Decatur First? This three-session class for visitors and new members will give you an introduction to United Methodism, the ministries of Decatur First, and a more in-depth look into the Sunday school classes, small groups, Ministry Action Teams, and mission opportunities where you can get involved. Classes will run September 25, October 2, and October 9 in the Music Suite, Room 301 in the main church building. For more information, please contact Dr. Katy Hinman at 404-378-4541 ext. 102.



NOW

DECATUR FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Vol. 40, No. 9

September 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 Youth.....Jonathan Brown
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 Youth Director.....Patrick Littlefield
Maintenance.....Paul Stone
Maintenance.....Demario Holman
Maintenance.....Oscar Cruz
Missionaries.....Ted & Carla Warnock
Ministers to Senior Adults.....Jim & Diana Roberts
Nursery Supervisor.....Lora Biccum
Office Manager.....Lexie Parker
Organist and Associate Director of Music.....Mitchell Weisiger
Weekend Pastor On Call404-863-1043

October 2011
NOW issue material
must be submitted by email to
mbrock@decaturfirsr.org
by noon **Monday, September 18.**

Breaking Free Empowering Women to Break the Cycle of Addiction



Empowerment Brunch Benefiting Breakthru House, Inc.
Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Northside United Methodist Church
Faith & Arts Center

For over forty years, Breakthru House has served women struggling with drug and alcohol addiction by providing a long-term residential program focused on recovery through physical, emotional and spiritual healing.

On October 1, 2011, Breaking Free, an Empowerment Brunch Benefiting Breakthru House, Inc., will be held at Northside United Methodist Church-Faith and Arts Center. Keynote Speaker Ashley Smith Robinson, author of *Unlikely Angel: The Atlanta Hostage Hero*, will share her inspiring story of strength, faith and redemption.

Hosted by Northside United Methodist Church, Breaking Free will be an amazing event to benefit Breakthru House's mission and break the cycle of addiction. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of eight. For more information or to register for the event, contact Kate Boyer at 404-284-4658 ext. 2 or kboyer@actionministries.net.

DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue
Decatur, Georgia 30030

dfumcyouth

http://www.decaturfirst.org/for_youth.html



Please allow myself to introduce... myself.



Greetings Church Family,

Through out my first week here in the church I have met many of you and look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks. Like those who came before me I wanted to use this space and time to let you know a little bit about the person to whom you are entrusting your youth. First off my name is the Jonathan Rikard Brown. I am a lifelong Methodist and the son of two United Methodist Ministers (Don't Panic). I graduated from Brevard College with a B.A. in Religion in 2007. In May 2011 I completed my Master of Arts at the University of Georgia in Religion with an emphasis on New Testament Studies, and a minor in Religion in Literature. I have

served as Youth Director for two United Methodist Churches. While I was at UGA I taught Introduction one of the Introduction to Religion Courses.

I am a huge comic book geek, and more specifically a DC kid. My favorite superhero is the Green Lantern. I have published articles on various topics in comics, including the role of Robin in *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. I am a DIEHARD Atlanta Falcons fan. My favorite TV shows are *King of the Hill*, *Doctor Who*, and *WWE Raw*. Some of my favorite pass times are long boarding and hammock camping. When it comes to food I am as southern as they come; country fried steak, mashed potatoes, and corn bread is the greatest meal ever conceived.

"I love to tell the story." I believe in the transforming power of story, and love the power of the Gospels. I think that inspiring one's imagination helps the cultivate the seeds of faith that blossom into great actions. I am looking forward to sharing many stories with the youth and the church as a whole. I can not wait to see the harvest that God has in store for us as we move forward in ministry together.

-Jonathan Brown

"Waving" Goodbye... and Hello!

Looking back on the past couple of weeks, and forward to the upcoming months, I am reminded of the waves of the ocean. I often felt like a wave during this fast paced, exciting summer as I was ushered into a new interim position which I knew was always quickly approaching its conclusion. Or maybe I felt like the beach with waves of new responsibility washing over me each day. Either way, I knew from the moment I made my introductory video that this would not only be a difficult gear to shift into so suddenly, but also a difficult one to shift out from equally suddenly. I am blessed by the welcome and support I have received throughout this summer and eagerly look forward to continuing to serve Decatur First as an intern this school year.

This brings me back to the wave imagery. Waves are constantly coming in and going out according to the tide, and although riding my wave in as interim youth director did not take long, the whole oceanic movement continues in a beautiful masterpiece. I am confident that the ocean of God's love will never stand still and I am thankful to get to stay in the Decatur First bay to continue to be a part of the life of this church.

Upcoming Activities

Sept. 4 - UMYF

Sept. 11 - Night of Peace and Reconciliation

Sept. 18 - UMYF

Sept. 25 - UMYF

-Patrick Littlefield

September 2011