



March 2012

# The Story

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## From the Pastor

Sacred spaces are important. They define places and events of spiritual significance to an individual or community.

Spaces become sacred for many reasons. I was stunned when I found out that Constantine was named Emperor in the place where York Minster Abbey now stands.

Likewise, to stroll along the shores of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked is a mesmerizing event.

One of the special places in my life is Cannon Chapel. Susan and I were married there. Joy was baptized there. Though that makes the place special, what makes it holy are the copper handrails. Bill Mallard once said that it was intentional not to seal the copper handrails. That way, anyone who came to pray in that space left something in that space as well as physically changed the space.

I was reminded of this recently when one of the people I follow on Facebook made an observation along these lines, "You can always tell on Ash Wednesday who the ministers are. They're the ones running around with black thumbs."

That person was right. Deeds in the name of Christ rarely leave us unchanged. Sometimes our hands might get a little dirty, but the call to follow Jesus calls us to be different. The deeds of ministry, lay or clergy, leave us decidedly different. We may not notice the change immediately. It might even take others to notice the change. We are not only

indelibly marked with the sign of the cross, but with the fingerprints of peoples' hands we've held along the way.

This Lent, I invite you to consider the fingerprints upon your life as well as who bears the fingerprints you have left.

Peace,  
Dave



Cannon Chapel at  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

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# Talking About Sin and Salvation:

## A Lenten Study led by Rex Matthews



*Sponsored by the Bill Mallard Lay Theology Institute  
Candler School of Theology,  
Emory University*

“Can we talk about sin?” In many churches today, an honest answer to that question would have to be “No, not really” or “Not very well.” Much of modern

Christianity seems to have lost the ability to talk about sin without reducing sin to a matter of morality or legalism on the one hand or to a question of sickness or psychology on the other. The problem is that if churches have effectively lost the ability to talk about sin in theologically meaningful ways, then they have also lost the ability to talk about salvation in theologically meaningful ways.

We will explore a range of Christian theological ways of understanding the nature and significance of sin and the corresponding nature of salvation, with emphasis on Biblical, historical, Wesleyan, and contemporary theological understandings.

The study will be taught by Dr. Rex D. Matthews, Associate Professor in the Practice of Historical Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. **It will meet on four successive Wednesday nights, 7:00-8:00 pm, in the fellowship hall** of Druid Hills United Methodist Church, 1200 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306.

Our guides for the study will be two books that are recommended to everyone taking part in the study: Barbara Brown Taylor, *Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation* (Cowley Pubs., 2000); and Derek R. Nelson, *Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed* (T&T Clark, 2011).

In *Speaking of Sin*, Barbara Brown Taylor asks why Christian folks should speak of sin anymore. Her answer is: “Abandoning the language of sin will not make sin go away. Human beings will continue to

experience alienation, deformation, damnation and death no matter what we call them. Abandoning the language will simply leave us speechless before them, and increase our denial of their presence in our lives. Ironically, it will also weaken the language of grace, since the full impact of forgiveness cannot be felt apart from the full impact of what has been forgiven.” Contrary to the prevailing view, Taylor calls sin “a helpful, hopeful word.” Naming our sins, she contends, enables us to move from guilt to grace. In recovering this “lost language of salvation” in our worship and in the fabric of our individual lives, we have an opportunity to “take part in the divine work of redemption.”

Taylor finds that the medical paradigm of sin as sickness and the legal paradigm of sin as lawlessness both lack the complexity and richness of the theological paradigm of sin as missing the mark, acting wrongly, and rebelling against God’s will. “Sin is our only hope,” Taylor says, “because the recognition that something is wrong is the first step toward setting it right again.” Derek Nelson makes much the same point in *Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed*, writing that “The good news about sin is—must it be said?—forgiveness . . . The stronger your sense of sin, the clearer your understanding of grace. . . .” Both Taylor and Nelson argue that reclaiming a robust sense of what is *sinful*, rather than *criminal* or *immoral*, will help Christians develop a richer appreciation of the goodness and mercy of the salvation that is available to them by and through God’s grace.

**Schedule – 7 – 8 p.m. on the following dates:**  
**\*\*\*CHILDCARE PROVIDED\*\*\***

**February 29: Can We Talk About Salvation without Talking About Sin?**

**March 7: Sin and Salvation in the Bible and the Early Church**

**March 14: Classic Historical Understandings of Sin and Salvation**

**March 21: Sin and Salvation in Modern Theology**

## General Conference

### Discussion Group

In February we enjoyed hearing from three United Methodist leaders (Mat Pinson, Bob Winstead, and Rex Matthews) about issues the church is facing. We've learned not only the facts, but also heard some fascinating inside stories on the forces and people that are exerting influence in our denomination. Come join us for the remaining three discussions listed below to hear more about the changes that could be on the horizon for us. Each of the topics is independent so you don't need to have attended the previous sessions to enjoy the remaining ones. We meet from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Quillian Room.

**March 4:** Ministry Study

**Speaker:** Jasmine Smothers

**March 11:** Prophetic Ministries/ Wedge Issues

**March 18:** Q & A with folk going to General Conference.

*Hospitality Volunteers - Thank you!*

*Many thanks to those who have helped with narthex in January and early February! They were Rob and Diana Gordick, Chris Dauer, Jim Wynn, Camille and Michael Vaughan, Jean Ewing and Cliff Richards.*

*Thanks to Rich Fuss, Cliff Richards, Dan Browning, Lila Bradley and the other helpers who organized setup, serving and cleanup at 4th Sunday luncheon...many hands made light work. We appreciate all of those who pitched in!*

### 4th Sunday Lunch Volunteers

We need volunteer leaders with the fourth Sunday lunch set-up and clean-up. We usually have a few people who jump in and help clean-up in addition to the leaders, and as we all know, more hands makes less work for all. Please click on this link - [Hospitality Volunteer Schedule](#) - to choose which task you want to do one Sunday in the next six months. This link can be found at the top of our weekly update page on our website as well. Please contact Janie if you want to sign up and do not use the internet. Thank you!

### Lenten Discipline - Carbon Fasting

Looking for a new approach to Lent, one that can help transform the world while also requiring personal discipline? Consider the idea of a "carbon fast" - not a total elimination, but a conscious reduction of your personal carbon footprint. Here are two great links for more information on how to reduce your own usage of climate-changing fossil fuels:

<http://gipl.org/Blog/BlogView.asp?BlogId=40968333>

<http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/2410>

Make this Lenten season a time of deepening your spiritual life with a deepened commitment to creation care!

*Druid Hills United Methodist Preschool*

*Bloomin' Bash Annual Fundraiser*

*Friday, March 23, 2012 at Le Fais Do-Do*

*A fun-filled evening with drinks, a delicious array of heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment.*

*6:30-10 auctions; 10-11 karaoke DJ*

*\$55 advance; \$65 at the door*

### Narthex Hospitality

Please help us provide hospitality by hosting a refreshment table after worship. You can sign up easily by clicking on this link [Hospitality Volunteer Schedule](#) and selecting a Sunday in April or May. The sign-up calendar link can always be found at the top of the Weekly Update page on our website ([www.DruidHillsumc.org](http://www.DruidHillsumc.org)). If you would like the link sent to you in an email, please contact [jean@druidhillsumc.org](mailto:jean@druidhillsumc.org). If you don't use the internet and want to sign-up for a date, contact Janie Alexander ([404-634-6426](tel:404-634-6426) or [janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com](mailto:janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com))

*Daniel Fullerton, member of our church, and son of Rev. Lee Fullerton (Embry Hills UMC) and Karen Fullerton (N. GA. Conference Benefits Office), is in need of a kidney donation. Information can be located at: [www.danielneedsakidney.org](http://www.danielneedsakidney.org)*

## Druid Hills Night Shelter



Please get in touch with Janie Alexander if you are able to help provide a meal for 28 people any of the 4th Mondays during the year. Meals have been provided by our

dedicated "shelter core group," plus some "all church" efforts, food gifts from individuals/families, and meals made by different groups in the church to fulfill our commitment for 12 meals per year.

Janie- 404-634-6426, [janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com](mailto:janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com)



There are more people enslaved today than at any other point in human history. We cannot stand by idly while tens of millions worldwide are forced into lives of captivity.

*The Strategy:* The campaign deploys innovative solutions on the front lines internationally to combat modern-day slavery, while developing tools that mobilize every individual to become a modern day Abolitionist.

*The Call to Action:* Not For Sale believes that every individual has a skill to contribute that can free an individual living in bondage, and together we can end slavery in our lifetime. Join the campaign to re-Abolish slavery at [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org).

## Important Food Pantry Changes

When the Intown Food Pantry opened two years ago, the vast majority of the guests were residents of Briarcliff Summit Apartments. As such, they had access to stoves and ovens within their own apartments and were able to cook their food. That fact guided the items collected by the sponsoring congregations of Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM), including the items that we at DHUMC have been collecting these past two years. Almost a year ago, ICM established two food coops at Briarcliff Summit, and many regular pantry guests became coop members. As a result, fewer Briarcliff Summit residents use the pantry and both the percentage and total number of guests who are homeless have increased significantly. In July, a third of the men and women who received food were homeless. By December, that percentage had risen to three-quarters. Within the next couple of months when a coop will be established at Booth Towers, the pantry expects an even higher percentage of homeless guests.

As a result of the increase of our homeless guests we have changed our concentration and are now the "canned meat church". Examples of canned meat products that best work for our homeless guests include: Spam, small cans of Beanie Weenies, store brand Beans and Franks and Luncheon Meat, small cans of Vienna Sausages, Armour potted meat, and some brands of chicken breasts that come in pull-tab cans. Bumble Bee Chicken Salad with Crackers comes in easy opening packaging. Pull-tab tops and easy opening packaging are the key with these items. As always, the generosity of this congregation is appreciated. This ministry could not survive without your help. Thank you.

*Daylight Saving Time will begin on  
March 11th.*

*Remember to set your clock  
ahead one hour the night of March 10th.*

### *Young Adult Soup Slop!*

*It's a soup--sampling throw down! And a great excuse to hang out and be together. Bring a pot of soup and we will share, sample, slop and socialize! Speaking of sharing food, this event takes place the weekend of the Hunger Walk, so in that vein we also ask that you bring \$5 toward eradicating hunger in our city. Funds will go to the ICM food pantry ministry at our church.*

*When and Where? March 9th at 7pm at the home of Katie Aikins. If you are unable to bring soup or money to share, don't let that deter you from joining us anyway. You are welcome with or without the extra goods! Families with children are welcome.*

### **Prayer List Psalm 17:1**

*Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea; listen to my cry.  
Give ear to my prayer.*

Jeanna Box

Gilda Brun

Ernie Burnett, Laura Cushing's father

Chance family

David Chapman, R. Rabon's stepfather

Doris Cushing

Owen Fox

Rosanne Green, Jay Green's mother

Brandon Halloran

Aki Hashiguchi

Sue Johnson

David Jones

Stan Jordan

Ollania Junerson

Howard Krauskopf

April Meade

Jim Parrish, Joan Cain's nephew

Mildred Parrish, Joan Cain's mother

Frances Power

John Robinson, Aly Palmer's cousin

Jim Smiles, Pat Ziebart's father

Arnold Stevenson

Linda Terry, C. Baer's mother

Eugenia Tucker

Bob Williams

Jimmy Wilson

Janice Yang



# ATLANTA FREEDOM BANDS present

## **“March Madness and April Fools” Saturday, March 31, 8 PM**

*This event will be held in our sanctuary at Druid Hills*

The beginning of Spring sets hearts and minds spinning as nature wakes up from its winter slumbers. Atlanta Freedom Bands celebrates the change of season with a concert of fun, fantasy and whimsy. Our special guest for the show is award-winning performance artist Scott Turner Schofield whose shows “Underground Transit” and “Becoming a Man in 127 Easy Steps” have received acclaim from audiences across the United States and Europe.

The concert program includes a wide range of intriguing and fun works such as:

- Frank Ticheli's “Wild Nights”, based on the “wild” imagery of Emily Dickinson's poem
- Robert Jager's “Third Suite”, which features a waltz in 5/4 time and a march in 7/4!
- Mark Williams' “Fantasy on ‘Yankee Doodle’”, taking this simple tune to unheard-of heights
- Samuel Hazo's “Voices of the Sky”, painting the ever-changing moods of the sky with music
- And more musical surprises for adults and children of all ages

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for students and seniors. You can find out more about the show and purchase your ticket in advance by visiting AFB's website:

[www.AtlantaFreedomBands.com](http://www.AtlantaFreedomBands.com). You can also visit the band's Facebook page for quizzes, trivia and other fun activities leading up to the show:  
[www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreedomBands](http://www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreedomBands).

### *Holy Week Activities - more information to follow in March bulletins*

*April 1 – Palm Sunday: Choir will perform special musical piece*

*April 5 – Maundy Thursday: Foot-washing service on the altar in the sanctuary*

*April 6 – Good Friday: Stations of the Cross walk in Highlands area, along with other church groups*

*April 8 – Easter Sunday: Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt at the Duncan's home following worship*

# YOUTH

## A Series on Growth, Part One

by Jean Wynn

There aren't any hard numbers just yet, but it seems that our congregation is getting younger. Think of the children who gather at the altar for their special time in worship - have you counted? Sometimes there are ten!

But also think about the Youth, who manage to stay under the radar on Sunday mornings. Did you know that the average attendance of the Youth Group, which meets on Sunday evenings, is also 10?

The program has doubled in size over the last year. Part of that, of course, is because of the parents (yay, parents!). But maybe part of it was "The Bible according to Harry Potter" study, or the stories from Genesis and Exodus. Right now what's occupying them is thinking of Jesus as a Jewish radical. Surely it doesn't hurt that there was a Messy Games night, a Christmas party at Cassie Noland's house, a Lock-in, and a bowling night!

The Youth Room is finally being spiffed up - new couches and a corner office for Cassie, outfitted with a computer - and soon there will be painting and more storage space.

Our youth are making a difference both in the church and in the community. To us this is most visible at the Christmas Eve service, but they also make sandwiches once a month for the Open Door community. And they take responsibility - every week! -- for carrying donations for the food pantry downstairs and organizing them. Last summer they participated in MAP (Metro Atlanta Project), which helped build playgrounds for under-funded childcare centers. They also have an annual fast to raise money for world hunger relief by participating in the 30-hour famine.

If you don't know these kids, just ask Cassie about them. She likes them a lot! She says she is very blessed to be a part of their lives. We also are blessed, just to have their witness.

And if the youth seem invisible? Just imagine that for every Children's Sermon, there is also a

carefully planned youth program. And that for every youngster present on Sunday morning there is also an adolescent on Sunday evening.



*Cassie Noland grew up in the midwest has been on the church staff since August 2010. She works full-time in the chaplaincy program at Grady Hospital. In 2009, while a student at Candler School of Theology, she received her Contextual Education credits by volunteering at DHUMC. Cassie's fiancé is Chris, whom she met at Candler. Her long-range plans include continuing on the Elder track in the UMC.*

*The District Superintendent has given permission for a called charge conference on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of the church council meeting. The sole purpose will be to consider and act upon the recommendation of Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPR) concerning the candidacy process for Dana Ezell Rabon and Cassie Noland. The regular church council meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.*

**What:** Hunger Walk/Run with Intown Community Ministries!

**Why:** Have fun and raise awareness and funds for Intown's food ministries

**When:** Sunday, March 11, 2012. Race is at 2:00 p.m., meet up is at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Turner Field Parking Lot

**How:** Sign up at <http://www.hungerwalkrun.org/>. Click the "Atlanta Community Food Bank" from the Partners list. When you sign up as a team or individual, just choose "Intown Collaborative Ministries" as your existing company.

**Goal:** Our goal is to raise \$3000 to go to Intown's food pantry and food co-ops.

**Questions?** Contact Brad Schweers, Executive Director, at [brad@intowncm.org](mailto:brad@intowncm.org).