



APRIL 2009

# THE STORY

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## From the Pastor

### Moving Toward Easter

Chronologically, of course, we are moving toward the date which has been set aside for Easter observances. Most importantly, however, we are moving toward Easter because of the great revelation that, in Christ, God has set aside every blockage between us and God's presence. Ultimately, God will not allow any struggle, any fear, any doubt, or any brokenness to block his offering of his resurrected presence in our daily lives. Brother Roger of the Taize Community in France expresses this so beautifully in his little book, *A Life We Never Dared Hope For*.

"....you are never alone. Let yourself be plumbed to the depths, and you will realize that everyone is created for a presence. There, in your heart of hearts, in that place where no two people are alike, Christ is waiting for you. And there the unexpected happens. In a flash, the love of God, the Holy Spirit, streaks through each one of us like lightning in our night. The risen Christ takes hold of you, and he takes over. He takes upon himself everything that is unbearable. It is only later, sometimes much later that you realize: Christ came, he gave his overflowing life."

We are never alone. We are created for a presence. Therefore, with great hope and anticipation, we are able to spiritually as well as chronologically move toward Easter.

Peace,

Rex

### Remember Holy Week Observances

April 5th - Palm Sunday 10:45 a.m. gather on the lawn in front of the church

April 9th - Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m. foot washing and communion in chapel

April 12th - Easter Sunday 11:00 a.m. service

## Meet Our New Afghan Family

The latest 6 STAR Refugee family arrived March 11th straight from Kabul, Afghanistan. They were granted immigrant status through the Special



Visa Program for Translators/Interpreters serving with the U.S. Armed Forces. Ashna and his wife Shahera have four children: daughters Husna (7), Assma (6), Sanah (2 ½) and son Hamza (11 months). Ashna completed the VIP Protection course in 2003 and was given the title of Special Agent by the Office of Anti-terrorism Assistance. For a time he was part of President Hamid Karzai's security team, including doing advance work for travel and driving the President. Framed photographs of Ashna and President Karzai decorate their new home in Tucker.

Ashna also worked for the U.S. Combined Security Transition Command and then the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as interpreter and translator for the last three years. He was recognized with certificates of achievement on three different occasions and received the Operation Enduring Freedom Medal of Excellence according to U.S. Army documents. That service was rewarded by an expedited entry to the U.S. and by an almost instantaneous green card granting him permanent residence in the U.S.

Although Ashna goes by his surname, he also bears the name of Sayed that is given to males accepted as descendants of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. His family was prestigious and wealthy in Afghanistan where his grandfather was a senator. When Ashna was a baby, his family went on a trip from their home near Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, to visit relatives in Kabul. During their visit, small skirmishes escalated into major battles and the road home was permanently blocked by the Russian invasion. Fifteen years passed before the family was able to return from what had been planned as only a short vacation. All of the family's property had been taken over by others, and the family went from wealth to poverty.

Under our Six Star Refugee Program coordinated  
**(continued next page)**

### **(New Afghan Family, from page 1)**

by area churches, the family will live in the Tucker house and gradually pay escalating rent and utilities over a two year period. They are grateful for the donations they have received and do not have any unmet needs other than baby food (level 2/3), diapers for the 11-month old, and overnight diapers for the two-year old. Husna and Assma began first grade and kindergarten at Brockett Elementary School in Tucker last week. Husna has made friends in class and reports that school and English aren't hard for her. Shahera speaks no English and needs volunteers to teach her during the day. This is a friendly, outgoing family who would love to have visitors. Without a car and bus transportation, they are dependent on volunteers taking them to the grocery store and doctor appointments. They live in Tucker close to the Brockett exit of the Stone Mountain Freeway. For more information, please contact Jean at 770-634-5678.

### **Church Council**

All of the Leadership and Mission teams are encouraged to assume more responsibility for all decisions affecting their programs and fundraising, and updating both the church membership and the Church Council as dates for all upcoming events and specific needs. Anyone having concerns regarding a potential risk or other controversial issue relating to a proposed project, should e-mail your questions/concerns to Rex Kaney at [rexkaney@druidhillsumc.org](mailto:rexkaney@druidhillsumc.org), Cliff Richards at [richardscliff@yahoo.com](mailto:richardscliff@yahoo.com), and Dan Browning at [danielabrowning@gmail.com](mailto:danielabrowning@gmail.com). If it is determined that consent is necessary, the issue will be presented at the next Church Council meeting.

Our thanks to Tom Zuiderveld and Jim Wynn who drafted an application for a special grant and received a grant of \$10,000.00 to be used for environmental purposes, and the Trustees have agreed to provide an additional \$10,000.00 match.

We are looking for more volunteers with lots of energy and big ideas to help organize more special fundraising projects, draft applications for additional grants, etc.

Last year the Church received some fairly significant bequests from estates of former members, and we encourage other members to consider making special bequests to the church for your favorite projects or programs (i.e. Child Care, youth, a special "green" project, etc., etc.).

### **Stewardship Corner**

On a recent Sunday one of the scriptures used was John 21:15-17. Paraphrased, it is the charge that Jesus gives his followers and especially Peter: "If you love me, feed my lambs - take care of my sheep."

The questions then raised are: What does "feed" mean? And who or what exactly are the "lambs" and the "sheep?"

At this particular time many people are feeling the pinch of job losses, housing losses, economy cutbacks and the necessity to rethink and re-establish dreams and plans. If we don't know this personally, we know it because of the pleas that come from many sources that work to provide food and sustenance to those in dire need.

So - who are the lambs and the sheep that Christ was referring to? Perhaps we need to consider each person we come in contact with - family, friends, fellow church congregants, our refugee families and continuing circles moving outward from ourselves.

And - what does Christ mean by "feed?" Oh, definitely, sustenance is all-important. A hungry person is limited to little else but satisfying that hunger. Remember we "won" the ICA challenge for food donations.

However, there is another kind of "food." That is the food that nourishes us emotionally and spiritually. We know that we are all hungry for this food as well. This is the food that Druid Hills UMC, its staff, its supporters, and its members want to provide to that same large circle. Our dreams are big, and our efforts are continuous through our leadership teams and our special projects. This is the "food" that keeps us close to God and God's work not only as we receive it but also as we share it.

The economic pinch is being felt here too. The leadership has cut corners to save dollars. However, the commitment has not been cut.

I propose that we think of the importance of a single pebble dropped into a pool of water. The force of the small pebble begins in the center and then ripples wider and further even changing the pool's movement. If we each give the most we can, together we can cause magnificent ripples as we show our love for Christ through providing as much "food" for his lambs and sheep as energies allow.

## Memorial Gifts as of 3/26/09

In Memory Of:  
**Mildred Merritt**

Donor  
Kathleen Bishop  
Mary Bell  
W. Johnson and Judy Bibb  
Ellen Bonner  
Lucile Cherry  
Mike and Sandra O'Farrell  
Bill and Pat Graves  
Margaret Griffin  
Robert and Frances Hughey  
Howard Kearns  
Ed and Sara Merritt  
Helen McCain  
Bob and Betty McGowan  
Jody and Gary Sams  
Mary and James Van Buren  
Bob Webb  
John and Marlene Webb  
Mr. and Mrs. George Whiting

## Caring Corner Prayer List as of 3/26/09

*Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea;  
listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer.* Psalm 17:1  
Larry Ashmore  
Judy Brown, Betty McMahon's Sister  
David Jones  
Jennifer Jones  
Beth Luton  
Beth McDowell's Father  
Dana Rabon's Father  
Chris Spragg, Kathleen Neal's friend  
Jennifer Thompson and children, Pam Kinnaird's Sister  
Eugenia Tucker

## Questions and Answers List about the New Dinner Club

*Why are we starting a Dinner Club?*  
Our church is growing and many of us don't know each other. Unless you are in a small group such as Sunday School or choir, you may only see other people once a week during worship. Participating in the Dinner Club will help us get to know more of the interesting members at DHUMC.

*How often does the Dinner Club meet?*  
We will meet once a quarter. This year we suggest you get together in late April, July and October.

*How many people are in a group?*  
6 to 8 people will have dinner together in someone's home.

*Do you stay with the same people all year?*  
No, everyone rotates so all groups are different each quarter.

*Does everyone have to host a dinner?*  
No, only one person in the group is the host.

*What does the host do?*  
The host contacts the other members of the group

to inquire about allergies and suggests meeting dates, times, and dinner plans. The host coordinates the dinner trying to select a date and time that is convenient for most people. The group can divide the tasks and food however it wishes. A typical plan would be for the host to provide an entrée and beverage. The other members bring the rest of the meal which might include an appetizer, sides, and dessert.

*Is there an agenda? How much time will it take?*  
This is totally a social event to get to know other members of our church in an informal setting. There is no expectation other than dinner, and no prescribed time.

*When will we know who is in our group?*  
The group lists with contact information will be distributed in early April.

*How many people have signed up?*  
So far we have 9 groups established with 70 members, but we still have room for you to join us. Please sign up by calling or e-mailing [jean.ewing@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.ewing@yahoo.com).

## Easter Barbecue

All are invited to the Annual Easter Barbecue at the Duncan's Home, Sunday, April 12 after church. The Duncans will provide meat and drinks. Guests, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Last name starting with:  
A-I - side dish; J-T - salad; U-Z - dessert  
See Y'all There!

## Wish List - Things We Could Really Use

- Speakers mounted in Fellowship Hall
- Overhead projector for use with computer
- Volunteers for Lawn Maintenance (including organizer), we have several volunteers, but no organizer yet!

Please let Jean in the office know if you would like to help with any of these needs/projects at 404-377-6481 or [jean@druidhillsumc.org](mailto:jean@druidhillsumc.org). Thank you to all donors of wish list items so far!

## Friends in Faith

Are you interested in helping a new member of our church feel at home and welcomed? We are looking for volunteers who will be paired with new members to introduce them to other members and to all of our activities. The period of responsibility will be about 6 weeks, and we will provide a list of recommendations to help you. If you would like to be a Friend in Faith to a new member during the next year, please notify Pastor Rex Kaney in the office 404-377-6481 or Jean Ewing at 770-634-5678.

**April 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Sunday School Classes 9:45am Gather in front of Church 10:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Cello lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	<b>6</b> Preschool Spring Break Week MDO Sports Camp (G) Enrichment Camp (FH) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>7</b> Preschool Spring Break Week MDO Sports Camp (G) Enrichment Camp (FH) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>8</b> Preschool Spring Break Week MDO Sports Camp (G) Enrichment Camp (FH) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Program 6:45pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	<b>9</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b> MDO Sports Camp (G) Enrichment Camp (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Foot washing and communion 7pm (C)	<b>10</b> MDO Sports Camp (G) Enrichment Camp (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	<b>13</b> Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) ICM Board Meeting 6pm (W)	<b>14</b> UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) WAND meeting 7pm (FH)	<b>15</b> Preschool Meeting 1:30pm (Q) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS) Choir Rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm	<b>16</b> Preschool 9am-2pm (FH) Preschool Mug & Muffin 9:30am (Q) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>17</b> Preschool 9am-2pm (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	<b>18</b> Cello Rehearsal 11am (S)
<b>19</b> Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	<b>20</b> Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>21</b> Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) ICM Meeting 6:30pm (FH) Teresa Circle 7pm	<b>22</b> Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Council 6:45pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm	<b>23</b> Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>24</b> Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	<b>25</b> Violin Rehearsal 12:45pm (C)
<b>26</b> Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Violin Recital 1pm (C) Basketball 3pm Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Volleyball 5pm	<b>27</b> Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>28</b> Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	<b>29</b> Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7pm Womens AA 8pm (Q)	<b>30</b> Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)		
<b>B=Blue Room C=Chapel CS =Children's Suite</b>	<b>FH = Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>G=Gym L=Library MTS=Room next to office</b>	<b>Q = Quillian Room</b>	<b>S = Sanctuary</b>	<b>W = WORECO Room</b>	<b>Y = Youth Room</b>