



MAY 2009

THE STORY

Druid Hills United Methodist Church 1200 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306
404-377-6481
www.druidhillsumc.org

Dr. Rex Kaney, Pastor (rexkaney@druidhillsumc.org)
Rev. Melinda Holloway, Minister of Youth and Children (melinda@druidhillsumc.org)
Mark Lamback, Minister of Music (mark@druidhillsumc.org)
Mary Lou Rahn, Organist
Jean Hilyard, Office Manager (jean@druidhillsumc.org)
Jamie Heffelfinger, Sexton (gym@druidhillsumc.org)
Alice Harris, Child Care Coordinator
Tricia Thomas, Librarian (library@druidhillsumc.org)

From the Pastor

I was in the mountains of North Georgia for a few days the week of April 27th, and as I was sitting on the top of Big Buck Mountain looking out toward Carter's Lake, I saw a most gorgeous and majestic sight. About one hundred yards down the mountain, a huge bird began to rise from beneath the trees. Slowly it began to circle and as it stretched out its wing span, it appeared to be a red-tailed hawk. With such grace and seemingly without effort, it rose and circled above me.



I sat entranced for a few minutes, and then it slowly descended into the trees only to rise again, but this time accompanied by three companions, all about the same size. They circled in formation, going higher and higher up the mountain until they were almost directly over my head.

As I watched their silent, slow ascent into the heavens, I felt as if I had been given a gift. And, of course, I had. This magnificent creation which we all share is, indeed, gift. All of life is gift. As I watched those magnificent birds, the call to stewardship did not seem a burden, but a privilege.

Peace,
Rex



Second Wednesday Night Interfaith Series Continues May 13th, 6:00pm

This Month: A Conversation with Rabbi Salkin

We continue our series of conversations with people of different faith traditions in May with Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin. For the past twenty years, Rabbi Jeff Salkin has been a man with a mission: to make Judaism meaningful to Jews and to other spiritual searchers. He has done this through a combination of pastoral work, pulpit, teaching, and writing.

Rabbi Salkin's books on bar and bat mitzvah, especially his award-winning book *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim The Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah* (published by Jewish Lights), have influenced many Jews to think more deeply about this rite of passage.

His book on the spirituality of career -- *Being God's Partner: How To Find The Hidden Link Between Spirituality and Your Work* (also published by Jewish Lights) -- has helped Jews and others re-imagine the spirituality of everyday life. His book *Searching For My Brothers: Jewish Men In a Gentile World* is an extended meditation on the sources of Jewish masculinity.

His decades long interest in outreach resulted in his latest book, *Righteous Gentiles in the Hebrew Bible: Ancient Models for Sacred Relationships -- the stories of non-Jewish heroes of the Bible*, and the way that their lives can influence contemporary Jewish life. His eighth book is due to be released soon -- *The Modern Men's Torah Commentary*.

Rabbi Salkin is currently the rabbi and executive director of Kol Echad: Making Judaism Matter, a liberal adult Jewish learning community in Atlanta.

Please join us for dinner at 6:00pm and program at 6:45pm. Make reservations for dinner and/or childcare by May 11th through the Church Office (404-377-6481 or jean@druidhillsumc.org). Childcare will only be provided if requested.

DHUMC Trustee Officers

On March 25, 2009, the Board of Trustees elected new officers for 2009: Jim Wynn was elected Chair of Trustees, Joyce Catrett - Vice Chair (with special focus on the APS agreement), and Tom Zuiderveld - Secretary. Unanimous appreciation was expressed to Jim Addison for his many years of commitment and service as DHUMC Trustee Chair. Thank you to all newly elected officers.

We cannot thank Jim Addison enough for his outstanding long-term service to Druid Hills United Methodist Church. Jim's hard-work and dedication to the life of this church has made an enormous impact on its accomplishments.

Church Council Meeting April 22, 2009

Congratulations to Annie Duncan and Molly Reilly who have been accepted into Candler's YTI summer program for rising seniors with a focus on faith and faith development, special readings, study and service projects.

Since we at DHUMC are a unique, open and welcoming congregation, we unanimously approved a resolution requesting that Paragraph Four, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution be amended to include the following language "persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, economic conditions, marital status, mental or physical abilities to attend, join, and participate fully in the life of our congregation."

Also after an extensive discussion of issues relating to the "torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" the Council authorized execution of a resolution entitled "A Model Resolution for Religious Institutions for Endorsing U.S.-Sponsored Torture: A Call for a Commission of Inquiry" drafted by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. It is the Church Council's hope and goal that appointment of an impartial, nonpartisan and independent Commission of Inquiry would lead the Country to establish higher goals and not be punitive in nature.

We appreciate John Buehner, attorney with Troutman Sanders LLP (and former member of the Church) who is representing us pro bono in negotiating the terms of the Lease with the Atlanta Public Schools for Springdale Park Elementary School's renovation and lease of the gym and all related matters.

Hunger and the United Methodist Woman

United Methodist Women invite all women of our church to the Quarterly General Meeting scheduled for May 17th, starting directly after church in Fellowship Hall. Dorothy Arnold, our faithful caterer, will serve a full lunch for \$6.00 per person. This meeting's program is "Hunger and the United Methodist Woman". We only meet four times each year, and the presence of each of our members (and guests) is very important. Please try to attend. Reservations may be made through circle chairs, Jean Wynn or Judie Wing, or with our president, Jean Ewing.

May 10th is Mother's Day. It is also the day that UMW members will take responsibility for many parts of Sunday's Worship Service. Rev. Cindy Meyer, who all too soon will be leaving DHUMC, will give the sermon. Come and help us celebrate all the women in our church community.

A treasury report: May 31st marks the end of our second quarter and the date to remit our pledges to the Atlanta-Emory District and on to the North Georgia Conference, as well as several special mission projects we support. Treasurer, Mary Lynn Merkle, will be present at our Quarterly Meeting to receive the payment of pledges and offerings.

A special note: The UMW of Druid Hills will send an additional \$175.00 to Atlanta-Emory District at the end of May, which represents their Prayer and Self-Denial offerings. We will also be sending monetary gifts to honor the memory of several of our long-time members who have passed away in the last several months: Mrs. Irene Hobby, Mrs. Mildred Merritt, Miss Laura Phillips, Miss Rosalie Vinson, and Mrs. Betty Myers.

Special Offering on Mother's Day

Each year the North Georgia Conference designates Mother's Day for the support of charitable care for elderly services at Wesley Woods. Their services include geriatric health care and specialized care for conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease. As people outlive their financial resources, charitable gifts are more important than ever in helping the elderly. Please plan to make a gift to Wesley Woods on Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day.

Memorial Gifts as of 4/30/09

In Memory Of: Donor
Mildred Merritt Jim and Sandra Stanley

J. Carlisle Phillips, Jr. WORECO Class

Caring Corner Prayer List as of 4/30/09

*Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea;
listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer.* Psalm 17:1

Larry Ashmore

Evelyn Coleman

Devonties Hunter, friend of Janie Alexander

David Jones

Jennifer Jones

Beth Luton

Pledge: A Noun and A Verb

Just last fall the Stewardship Team, under the leadership of Cliff Richards, asked members and friends of DHUMC to pledge what they could to underwrite the programs and outreach of our church community. The economic downturn had already started. As the totaling took place it became apparent that the amount needed to continue serving our community within and outside our walls would not be available.

However, belt-tightening began at every level with staff foregoing raises, team leaders assuming responsibility for raising their own financial needs, and budget cuts everywhere possible. With a positive outlook for the future, a trust in God's plan for us, and a trust in the care and concern of our members and friends, our program year began.

At our Church Council meeting on April 22nd our Finance Team gave us the sad news. In spite of all that belt-tightening we are getting further behind. Some special gifts have allowed us to "pay the bills;" but the nation's economic troubles have undoubtedly made it difficult for those who, in good faith, were able to make pledges last November. Meanwhile, the outreach missions in our community grow ever more important.

A pledge is a promise made in good faith. A prayer is a faithful conversation with God that helps give us direction. DHUMC gratefully asks friends and members to consider any action they can to help our church meet its goals!

Rendering Unto Caesar and The Senior Optimists

Stimulus Package (S.O.S.) by Mary Lynn Merkle

In a recent sermon Rex referred to the Scripture where Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." Since this message is found in three Gospels, it seems that Jesus supports our paying our taxes whenever and to whatever extent they are due.

HOWEVER, a notice was recently sent out to all those who receive Social Security that "Caesar" is giving back! In fact, during the month of May many of us "seniors" will receive a one-time payment of \$250.00 as part of the Economic Recovery Bill.

What an opportunity for us seniors! "Caesar" has surprised many of us with this money, and we have already budgeted our income without depending on the extra \$250. There would be no better way to "stimulate" our economy than to forward all or any part of this windfall to support our str-r-retched church budget. Many times seniors are not in a position to physically pitch in to do God's work at Druid Hills. We all do what we can when we can. Here's one of those special opportunities!

Special envelopes will be provided to all seniors who would like to participate. Monies raised will go into the general budget - unless otherwise specified on the envelope. The envelopes will be marked:

SOS for Druid Hills UMC

The Senior Optimists Stimulus

Let's see what we can do!

Discovery Class - New Book Study

On April 19th, the Discovery Class began the third and final book in our year-long series of fresh perspectives on the person and teachings of Jesus. This book is *The Third Jesus: The Christ We Cannot Ignore* by Dr. Deepak Chopra, the well-known author and spiritual teacher. In this work, Chopra seeks to move believers beyond the "first Jesus", the historical person, and the "second Jesus", the one of institutional religion, to the "third Jesus", the cosmic Christ, the spiritual guide whose teaching embraces all humanity, not just the church built in his name. Pick up a copy of the book (widely available in bookstores, online, and in libraries) and join us at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings for what will be an interesting and challenging new look at some very familiar Gospel teachings.

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Heffelfinger Baby Shower 3pm (FH) Cello lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	4 Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) DHUMP Book Fair (CS) All day	5 DHUMP Book Fair (CS) All day UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	6 DHUMP Book Fair (CS) All day Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	7 DHUMP Book Fair (CS) All day Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	8 DHUMP Book Fair (CS) All day Atlanta Retired Educators 10am (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Cello Concert 7pm (S, Y, W rooms) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	9
10 Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	11 Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) ICM Board Mtg 6:30pm (Q)	12 Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	13 Preschool Mtg 1:30pm (Q) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Program 6:45pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	14 Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	15 Preschool 12pm (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Wedding rehearsal 5:30pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	16 Wedding 5pm (S)
17 Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am UMW lunch meeting 12pm (FH) Basketball 3pm Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	18 Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) DHUMP Board Mtg 7:30pm (L)	19 Cello Lessons 3pm (Q) Teresa Circle 7pm	20 Preschool last day of regular year Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS) Choir Rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm	21 Preschool 9am (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	22 Preschool 9am (FH) Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Wedding rehearsal 5pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q) Jamie Heffelfinger's last day	23 Wedding 5pm (S)
24 Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Basketball 3pm Youth Group 5pm (Y) Volleyball 5pm	25 Memorial Day Office Closed Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	26 Cello Lessons 3pm (Q)	27 Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Council brown bag supper 6pm (FH) Church Council 6:45pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Womens AA 8pm (Q)	28 Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	29 Violin Lessons 3pm (Q) Wedding rehearsal 5pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	30 Wedding 6pm (S)
31 Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Violin Recital 1pm (C) Basketball 3pm Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 4:30pm (Y)	B=Blue Room C=Chapel CS=Children's Suite FH = Fellowship Hall	G=Gym L=Library MTS=Room next to office	Q = Quillian Room	S = Sanctuary	W = WORECO Room	Y = Youth Room