



November 2009

The Story

www.druidhillsumc.org

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From the Pastor

BLESSINGS ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

This title, "Blessings on Life's Journey," is from a poem written by Lydia O'Nan, one of our members. As everyone is acutely aware, life is filled with all kinds of unexpected twists and turns throughout the limited number of years we are able to experience. Some of those twists and turns are exhilarating and tremendously joyful. Others are tremendously painful, and some bring us periods of extreme anxiety and uncertainty. All of us have known all of these kinds of experiences, and especially in the latter, we sometimes wonder where God is to be found. Lydia's poem is an affirmation that God can be found in unexpected places and that we can trust every moment of our lives to God's care.

After decades of living in her own home, Lydia moved this past year (joining several of our other members) to the King's Bridge Retirement Center. Reflecting on that move, Lydia said, "My apartment is located on the back side of the building resulting in a view of air conditioning pipes, dumpsters and other utility structures located against a steep background of stone. I was disappointed but decided to find beauty where I could. It was there all the time."

Blessings on Life's Journey

Today I sat in the sunshine
Across from a bank of stone –

Exposed by the work of man and machines
The gradual growth of the years is revealed.

Though jagged and rough a beauty there is
In the sparse soil and myriad shapes.

A wisdom, too, imparted by the sureness
That only God's hand could form such a gift.

As we cope with inevitable changes in life,
There is much to be learned from that face of
stone

Which speaks with such eloquent silence to affirm
That God blesses with wisdom and beauty each
stage of our lives.

Praise Him and thank Him for this gift of life.

Shopper? Gumbo-Lover? Come to Celebration of Talents, Nov. 21 from 11 am - 3pm

A few weeks ago, we heard the parable of the talents, in which the master entrusted his talents to his servants.- he was greatly pleased with those who multiplied the talents in his absence. On that same Sunday, we as a community were entrusted with "talents", and we responded by committing to make a return on the congregation's investment. Our returns will help the church do God's kingdom work.

On Saturday, November 21st, bring your friends as we celebrate our talents! Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a marketplace for those who are creating goods with those talents. You will have the chance to sample the gumbo of at least three different DHUMC chefs , plus there will be many other goodies!

Excitement is building, but the event will not be a success without you! If you would like to sell something, help in planning or working at the event, or just have questions, please contact Dana Ezell Rabon at 404-549-9199 or reonn_dana@comcast.net.

Stewardship

by David Ahearn

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 19-20)

In the summer after I graduated from college, I bought a sailboat. It was a small single-handed craft and used, but it took every penny I had managed to save from my first real job. I had just moved to the Texas coast, and a friend taught me to sail. I still can remember the great feelings of freedom and adventure I felt the day I bought that boat. I imagined myself slipping silently out into the ocean, the sunset ahead of me and the salty wind in my hair. But I felt some anxiety too. I had lived my life thus far in the Great Plains and had never been out on anything bigger than a small lake. The boat was an opportunity to prove to myself that I could conquer my fears, that I could meet any challenge. I spent weekends that summer on the boat, mostly by myself. (To my younger readers, let me add that sailing a boat alone is really foolish! I am lucky that I didn't kill myself!)

I would slip out into the Gulf, point the boat due south, and sail straight out as far as I would dare. I would skim along past the jet skis and fishing boats, out past the docked navy destroyers and oil tankers. And then, perhaps a mile or two out to sea, I'd find a zone that felt elemental, preternaturally quiet, wholly natural, and not a little frightening.

I loved that boat. No, not the boat exactly. I didn't love the boat itself: the fiberglass, wood, and nylon. I loved what that boat *meant*, what it symbolized. I loved the deep emotions that it allowed me to experience. I loved the idea of me sailing the boat. I loved the aura of glamour that (in my dreams at least) attached itself to me when I was on deck. And, on the days that I invited a friend along, I loved the feeling of sharing an adventure together, the feeling of comradeship in a common adventure.

Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth. Every time I've read this passage over the years, I've had this image of a miser in a room piled high of loot, running gold coins between his fingers. This image allowed me a sense of smugness because I have none of those temptations myself. I don't have a chest of loot hidden in my basement. ...But I do have a closet full of clothes I never wear. My family

has a much bigger house than we need to keep us warm and dry. We have a pantry stocked with more food than we'll ever eat. We look with anxiety at our 401K reports every quarter, trying to recalculate our rapidly increasing retirement ages. All of my family's possessions have meanings we attach to them: freedom, security, satiation, status, style.

As I read this Bible passage again to prepare for this column, it suddenly struck me that I have been letting myself off the hook too easily. Perhaps Jesus is challenging us to think what our possessions *mean* to us. What feelings do they engender in us? What other ends do they allow us to achieve? And are these ends, these feelings, these achievements the kinds of things that would be treasures also in heaven? Or do they reach for too little? Are they selfish or limited? Do they enable others to experience happiness too? As John Wesley put it, do my possessions allow me to really do "all the good I can?"

And whatever happened to my old sailboat? The funny thing was that the boat never quite fulfilled all of my dreams for it. I had so much invested in that boat that I felt an obligation to sail every sunny day, whether I wanted to or not. On rainy weekends I did maintenance, cleaning off salt and replacing rigging. As time passed, I noticed with irony that the object that had symbolized freedom and adventure for me had ensnared me. I no longer owned the boat; it owned me. When I finally sold the boat (for a lot less than I paid for it, of course) I felt regret, but also a profound sense of liberation.

I wish I could end this column telling you that I learned a valuable lesson from my sailboat adventure. As I think about it, though, I have to confess that I still own a lot of sailboats, at least figuratively. An awful lot of what I own actually owns me. So much of my treasures are stored up here "on earth." It doesn't enable me to love others more, to aim for important things, or to help others on their journeys. What would it mean to live with my "treasures in heaven?" I'm still working on that. Maybe you feel the same way. Perhaps that's a worthy adventure for us to experience together, as a church.

Save Stamps and Labels

You can help United Methodist Women provide school supplies by saving labels or UPC codes from the following foods: Campbell's soups, Pepperidge Farm (including Goldfish crackers), Swanson broths, V-8 juice, Prego Pasta Sauce, and SpaghettiO's. Please deposit labels in the UMW box on the hallway table before the double doors.

Meeting the Lambacks

Our not-so-new music minister, Mark Lamback, came with some bonuses attached. Besides being an extraordinary musician himself, his wife Elizabeth plays the violin beautifully. And then there's daughter Katherine, age 3, whose warm brown eyes and bright smile enhance the



Children's Sermon each Sunday. Samuel, age 1½ may well be the next Lamback maestro. We hear that when he went to a recent

football game, he was already practicing director skills during halftime.

Mark spent his "growing up" years living in many different places. His dad, a United Methodist minister, served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. Mark graduated from Emory University with a BA in Music and Piano Performance. He then went to University of Georgia and earned a Master's of Music in Conducting and Music Education. Then it was off to the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts to teach.

Elizabeth, who grew up in Macon, attended Furman University where she received a Bachelor's in Music Education. At Florida State University she earned a Master's of Music Education majoring in string pedagogy. For the last 8 years she has been the Middle and Upper School orchestra director at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Sandy Springs where she is also Music Department Chair/Associate Director of Fine Arts. She has also squeezed in time to play with the Macon Symphony,

But let's go back a few years. Elizabeth and her family were part of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon. And when she was visiting back home, she had a "conversation" with Mark's Aunt Louise, also a long time member of that church. "I have a nephew that I want you to meet." Mark moved to Atlanta to marry Elizabeth and is now the choral director at Rockdale High School in Conyers. And the rest is history.

Both Mark and Elizabeth are passionate about DHUMC. In the short time they have been part of our church family, they have truly been a gift to us. Besides all the special musical talents they have shared with us, Elizabeth is also teaching Godly Play.

Their lives are centered on their music, their church and especially on Katherine and Samuel. That doesn't leave much time for hobbies, but Mark has continued singing baritone in the State Line Grocery quartet. This barbershop group has placed as high as third in international competition, and currently holds the 4th place bronze medal. The quartet recently returned from Tasmania where it was featured as the headline quartet at the Australian Association of Male Barbershop Singers competition.

Mark enjoys cooking (preparing most of the meals at home), and Elizabeth enjoys reading novels and historical fiction. If the opportunity ever arises, I'm sure we will all want to thank Aunt Louise for introducing her nephew to Elizabeth.

All women are invited to attend the UMW quarterly luncheon following church on November 15 in the fellowship hall. Please make your lunch and childcare reservations with Camille Vaughan, Jean Wynn, or Judie Wing by Tuesday, November 10.

**Christmas Shopping and Faithful Stewardship:
December 2, 2009**

Looking for ways to make your Christmas gift-giving an expression of your Christian stewardship? Join us for our annual Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages!

On December 2, from 6:00-8:00pm, Druid Hills UMC will once again partner with Ten Thousand Villages. Ten percent of all your purchases made during this time will go back to our church, and the goods you buy support fair trade and local communities all over the world. Toys, tablecloths, jewelry, food, stationary, artwork, cards, and many more items are available. Shop early and then join Kimberly Broerman for Centering Prayer at the church at 7pm!

Ten Thousand Villages is located near Ponce and Highland at 1056 St. Charles Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306; (404) 892-5307.

November Wednesday Night Program

"Not Your Ordinary Summer Experience: The Youth Theological Initiative"

November 11, 2009

Dinner: 6:00pm; Program: 6:45pm

Every summer, youth from around the country gather at Emory University for a three-week program in justice seeking theological education. Youth and adult mentors live together on campus, studying theology and ethics, serving in the Atlanta community, worshiping together, learning about other religious traditions, and exploring the questions of our faith and how it relates to a world in need of healing.

This past summer, two DHUMC youth, Annie Duncan and Molly Reilly, participated in this program, and will be sharing their reflections on their experience. Beth Corrie, director of the program, will present the background and mission of the program. All are welcome to attend and to support our young leaders. Parents of children and youth, as well as youth themselves, are invited to come and hear more about participation in the program for summer 2010.

Make dinner reservations by Tues. 11/10/09 at 11am – 404-377-6481 or secretary@druidhillsumc.org, adults \$8, students \$6. Childcare will be available *but only* if requested by November 6th. For childcare, call 404-377-6481. For more information, contact Beth Corrie at ecorrie@emory.edu.

**Offerings from Kimberly Broerman
Spiritual Director, Deep Waters Center for
Prayer and Exploration**

If you would like more information about these offerings, or would like to attend, contact Kimberly at 404-275-3328 or kbroerman@yahoo.com

***Letting Go: Centering Prayer and a
Spirituality of Surrender***
First and Third Wednesdays

This month: November 4 and 18; 7-8:30 pm;
Deep Waters Space at DHUMC
No charge but donations welcome

In our often busy and noisy lives, it is difficult to be still and quiet, to center ourselves, and to seek God's presence and action within. ***That's why we have to practice!*** Come join with other folks seeking silence, seeking truth, seeking God. We'll learn about and practice Centering Prayer together, then listen and discuss Richard Rohr's teaching, *Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction*.

***Advent Quiet Day Learning to Wait: Praying
with Mary's Let It Be***

Saturday, December 5; 10 am – 2 pm (lunch included); Deep Waters Space at DHUMC;
Investment: \$30

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. But waiting is so hard! I dare say, not many of us are too good at it. And yet the Bible is full of stories of waiting people, Mary perhaps being our best model. What can we learn from her about waiting and surrender? Come for this quiet time of prayer and reflection. We'll read some scripture and other sacred texts together and listen for the ways that God might be speaking to us this Advent season.

Congratulations to Myka Kennedy Stephens who was commissioned as a United Methodist Deaconess on October, 13, 2009!

Church Council Minutes, 10/28/2009

DHUMC is now on Twitter as well as Facebook. The User Name is Druid Hills UMC if you would like to get up-to-date information about our church.

The budget is \$1,150 in the black. However, that does not include paying any apportionments other than gifts designated for that purpose. Any funds received this year over the operating reserve will go toward paying the apportionment balance of \$29,328, our portion of the connectional system budget.

The Council approved the request by the Outreach Team to house the new Food Pantry for the Intown Connectional Mission (ICM). The Food Pantry will be open only on Saturday mornings and volunteers will be needed to help serve the guests. Food will be donated by all of the churches and will be stored in the DHUMC pantry.

UMW Finances

Our fiscal year ends on November 30th. With just a little over \$80.00 remaining in our treasury we may, with your help, be able to complete payment on our budget items. If you have made a 2009 pledge, you should have received a reminder of that pledge and whether you have fulfilled it. If you have not received such a notice and would like to have the reminder, please contact me at merkle1651@comcast.net or 404-633-7183.

At our UMW quarterly meeting on November 15th we will all have an opportunity to pledge our support for 2010. As you will discover at the quarterly meeting, we are able to give almost all of our pledge money received to missions—both locally and across the world through the Women's Division. Your consideration in pledging in 2010 will allow us to continue doing this.

Mary Lynn Merkle, Treasurer

Caring Corner Prayer List as of 11/1/09

Psalm 17:1

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

Larry Ashmore

Richard Ezell, Dana Ezell Rabon's father

Molly Griffin

Burt Hoffner

David Jones

April Meade

Chuck Morrow, Katy Stigers' grandfather

Jean Rhodes, Laura Green's mother

Frank Smith

Jennafer Thompson, Pam Kinnaird's sister

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11:00am Call Charge Conference 12pm Basketball 3:00pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Trustee Meeting 6:30pm (L)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Leadership 7pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (W) Outreach Team 6pm (Y) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8:00pm (Q)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Preschool Fall Fling 10am-2pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11:00am Basketball 3:00pm Cello lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) ICM Mtg 6:30pm (W)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Preschool Thanksgiving lunch (Pre-K) 10am (FH) Violin lessons 2pm (W) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Program 6:45pm (FH) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Retired Educators 10am (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Wedding Rehearsal 5pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Cello Rehearsal 10am (S) Wedding 5pm (S)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11:00am UMW Luncheon 12pm (FH) Basketball 3:00pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Teresa Circle 7pm Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) ICM Mtg 5:30pm (FH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Preschool Thanksgiving lunch 10am (2 yr-olds) (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Esther Circle 10am Celebrating Our Talents (FH) 11am – 3pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11:00am 4th Sunday Lunch 12pm (FH) Basketball 3:00pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11:00am Basketball 3:00pm Cello Lessons 3:30pm (Q) Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Volleyball 5:00pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>B=Blue Room FH = Fellowship Hall G=Gym L=Library Q = Quillian Room S = Sanctuary W = WORECO Room Y = Youth Room</p>				