



September 2009

The Story

From the Pastor

“A Way to Begin Each and Every Day”

May I be so bold as to tell you that I know how you should live each and every day? I know that sounds a bit arrogant and presumptuous. Who am I to think that I could tell you how to live your life? Well, of course, each of us has to make our own decisions on how to live our lives. The ultimate responsibility for the decisions each of us makes lies within our own hearts. I certainly do not know what goes on inside your skin to presume I could make the best decisions for you, and I have enough going on in my own life to fill up every minute of every day. So, what do I mean when I say I know how you should live each and every day? I mean that I know a framework out of which each of us can begin and go through every day of our lives. I honestly believe there is no substitute for living each day this way. If you have never tried it, give it a go for a few weeks and see if your days will become transformed. By the way, I did not invent this. It comes straight from the book of Psalms, the Eugene Peterson translation. I hope you will give it a try.

Hallelujah

Thank God! Pray to him by name!

Tell everyone you meet what he has done!

Sing him songs, belt out hymns,

Translate his wonders into music!

Honor his holy name with Hallelujah,

You who seek God. Live a happy life!

Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his
works;

Be alert for signs of his presence.

Remember the world of wonders he has made.

Have a good day,
Rex

Stewardship Corner: God's Gift

by Mary Lynn Merkle

God lives at Druid Hills United Methodist Church. That's what Melinda told the children (and all of us) in her Children's Sermon recently. Each of us, I'm sure, feels God's presence in the moments of our communal worship. And, Melinda added, when we all leave our beautiful sanctuary, God is also within us. What assurance God gives us as we head out to our weekly routines—and challenges.

Because God is with us we feel empowered to go forth and try to make a difference—whether that be in a school, an office, a courtroom, a home—wherever that may be. These efforts are our gift to God—to be the best that we can be at whatever we do.

Perhaps, however, you've noted that there is always more to do. Certainly as we hear about all the programming that is being done at DHUMC and all the leadership it takes to fulfill the needs, we become aware that it takes time and effort from all of us.

Stewardship is about money (and debts, and bills and budgets that need to be taken care of). However, stewardship is about more than that. It's about helping Druid Hills serve all of our church community and beyond our walls as well. It's about helping everyone in our church family realize what his/her talents are. It's about using those talents in ways that will allow everyone we meet to know that God lives (and loves) within us.

Thank you, God, for living at Druid Hills United Methodist Church and for living within each one of us. It is a wonderful gift!

Mindful Eating: Exploring the Spirituality and Ethics of Our Food Choices

We may *want* to eat food that is better for our health, our neighbors and our planet, but putting that into practice in our real everyday lives can be daunting. Facilitated by Kimberly Broerman (member and spiritual director with office space at DHUMC) and Tamie Cook (a local chef), Mindful Eating is a six-session course which aims to provide conversation space, resources, and community support for transforming the way we think about, acquire, prepare and eat our food. Participants meet every other week for dialogue and a shared meal focused around the night's theme. The next Mindful Eating group will meet every other Tuesday, 7-9 pm, September 15 - November 24 in Decatur. The investment is \$300 for the course, each session including dinner and beverages along with course materials and facilitation. To sign up or for more information, contact Kimberly Broerman at 404-275-3328 or kjbroerman@yahoo.com.

Letting Go: Centering Prayer and a Spirituality of Surrender

Facilitated by Kimberly Broerman

In a culture that often demands we take control, speed up, and do more, the way of Jesus issues a different invitation: Let go. Be Still. Abide in me. Centering prayer is a practice in letting go - letting go of the external demands and noise that pervade our days, letting go of our mental chatter, letting go of our emotional holds, letting go of our need to be in control, letting go of our own will and way. Letting go into the loving, gracious presence of God.

Come explore a more contemplative perspective and practice on the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning September 2, 7-8:30 pm at Druid Hills UMC. Each gathering will include a brief introduction to centering prayer and a twenty-minute period of prayer, followed by listening to and discussing the teachings of Franciscan priest Richard Rohr on *Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction*. No sign up or charge, just come when you can. Contact Kimberly Broerman at 404-275-3328 or kjbroerman@yahoo.com for more information.

Emory Names Graduate School for the Rev. James Laney

Emory University Board of Trustees has approved naming the graduate school in honor of President Emeritus James T. Laney, who led the university from 1977 until 1993. "The naming of the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies honors the vision and leadership of Jim Laney, whose ambitious plan for Emory revolved around graduate education," Emory President James W. Wagner said. Laney, a United Methodist pastor, was dean of Emory's Candler School of Theology from 1969 to 1977. He also was U.S. ambassador to South Korea from 1993 to 1997. ***Congratulations Reverend Laney from all of us at DHUMC!***

Wish List

TV Cart – A large television was donated to the Youth so a large TV cart is needed for the television. A strong cart with wheels that lock would be best. If you have one or can get one donated, the youth would greatly appreciate it! The youth have donated their old television to the Preschool. Contact Melinda for more information about this need: Melinda@druidhillsumc.org.
Carpet cleaner – we are looking for a vacuum sized carpet cleaner for those small stains that develop around the church between carpet cleanings.

Office Manager on Maternity Leave

by Jean Hilyard

As most of you know, I will be on maternity leave later this month. I want to thank everyone here at the church for your support during my absence. It is wonderful and amazing that so many people have offered to perform my job duties during my six week absence. Amy Murphy will be performing the financial parts of the job. Jean Ewing will do *The Story* and Katy Stigers will create the weekly bulletin. Mary Reilly will spend some time in the office and organize the volunteer schedule. I hear Rich Fuss has offered some time as well! Betty Addison, Gene Gibson, and Betty McMahon will continue with their regular volunteer activities, which they all have been doing for quite some time. Thank you to Rex, Lila Bradley, and the SPR committee for your help and understanding through this process. I feel very lucky to be working here during this important time in my life.

Eds. Note: Scott Francis Hilyard surprised his Mom by being born on Sunday, August 30. Both are fine!

Habitat for Humanity

From Rev. DeDe Leetch, District Superintendent
The Atlanta Emory District of North Georgia will come together early next year to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Gwinnett County. Please help us in this worthwhile effort.

In this economy, why in the world would we want to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Gwinnett County? After all, the economy is tough. People have lost jobs. Budgets are tight and collections are down. Exactly! Some would say we are a gifted district. We have 51 churches all working within their walls to further the cause for Christ. Here are three reasons for engaging the district in building homes with Gwinnett Habitat.

- **BRING** us together as a district – clergy and laity – in mission and ministry.
- **BUILD** Christian friendships through hard work and service (just like the first disciples)
- **BRIDGE** the myriad differences that separate us through a common goal

Please join me as we reach beyond the walls of our individual churches to work as United Methodists alongside deserving families who need our help. Join me – I'll be the one wearing my tool belt proudly displaying the thumbnail I bruised when I missed the nail with my trusty hammer!

- Construction begins in early February and will continue for 10 Saturdays
- On site volunteer needs are 20 volunteers per work day (40 if split into 2 shifts)

Volunteer signups will be done online and coordinated by the Atlanta Emory District Office. *Our aim is to have members of various congregations working side by side each weekend as United Methodists rather than as members of specific congregations.*

For more information contact: Paul Norris - Atlanta Emory District Lay Leader, pnaught@bellsouth.net, phone: (770) 822-1439; OR Dr. Dave Davis - Senior Pastor, Hamilton Mill UMC, lee_davis_d@yahoo.com, (770) 271-8855.

Letter from Bishop

We received a letter from our new Bishop, B. Michael Watson, regarding a teaching event for missions this fall. If you receive this newsletter electronically, the Bishop's letter is being sent as a separate attachment. Please take a moment to read this letter if you have an interest in attending an event focused around missions.

Opportunities for Growing as Disciples of Jesus Christ - Don't Forget to Sign-up for Classes Beginning Sunday, September 13

- **A new Bible study class** will focus initially on the Gospel of Mark.
- **The Woreco Class** will continue to explore faith utilizing the United Methodist Adult Bible Study resources which coincides with the ecumenical international study series.
- **The Discovery Class** will continue to offer challenging discussions about our individual and collective faith journeys.
- **An evening group "Living the Questions"** will be led by Dana Ezell Rabon. *Please let the office know what day and time of the week would be best for you, still TBD.*
- **A Sunday evening lectionary study** will be taught by Rex Kaney. *Please let Rex or the office know what time on Sun. evening would be best for you.*

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Conference

Come discover how your church can experience congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness by practicing Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. A congregational conference will be held on Oct. 11 – 13 with Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase. His book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, will be explored. Oct. 11 activities will take place at Gainesville First UMC, and Oct. 12 and 13 events will take place at Candler School of Theology. For more information visit www.candler.emory.edu.

The Church Conference has been set for Sunday, October 4th at 12:30p.m.

Caring Corner Prayer List as of 8/29/09

Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea;
listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer. Psalm 17:1
Jim Addison's brother died (Jack Addison)
Larry Ashmore
Eula Catrett, Joyce Catrett's mother
Billie Crenshaw
David Jones
Jennifer Jones
Stan Jordan
Darryl Smith
Frank Smith
Stigers Family
Jennafer Thompson, Pam Kinnaird's sister

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5		1	2	3	4	5
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Cello lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm NO YOUTH	Labor Day - Office Closed	DHUMP CPR Training 9:30am - 1:30pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Outreach Team 6pm (Y) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) DHUMP Parent Orientation 7pm (S)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Wedding Rehearsal 5pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Wedding 3pm (S)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Cello lessons 3:30pm (Q) Volleyball 5pm NO YOUTH	Labor Day - Office Closed	Preschool meeting 9:30 - 10:30 (Q) UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Preschool meeting 9-10:30 (Q) Violin lessons 2pm (W) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Program 6:45pm (FH) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Retired Educators 10am (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Adopt-a-Highway 9:45am (MTS)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Basketball 3pm Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y)	Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Teresa Circle 7pm	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS) Choir rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Wedding rehearsal 6pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am, 'Work Day' Offering for UM Children's Home Esther Circle lunch (meet after church) Basketball 3pm Volleyball 5pm Youth Group 5pm (Y) Wedding 6pm (S)	Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Story submission deadline	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Council brown bag supper 6pm (FH) Church Council 6:45pm (FH) Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Wedding rehearsal 5pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Yard Sale 9am - 2pm Wedding 6pm (S)
27	28	29	30			
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Basketball 3pm Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Volleyball 5pm	Staff Meeting 10am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir rehearsal 7pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)			
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