



February 2010

The Story

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)

Paris Eley, Sexton (gym@druidhillsumc.org)

Alice Harris, Child Care Coordinator

Tricia Thomas, Librarian (library@druidhillsumc.org)

FROM THE PASTOR

To many people, especially Protestants, the name Saint John Cassian would have little meaning. Saint John Cassian lived from 360-433 CE, and he is credited with helping spread the monastic life to the West. He spent much of his life as an ascetic living in the Egyptian desert. For many of us, any kind of asceticism or cloistered life away from the world would not be very enticing. We would probably consider it self denial gone to extremes. Cassian, however, did not believe his life was in any way lacking from that which was most important. For him, the goal of the ascetic life was not for self denial, but for moving closer to God and to love.

In the Christian church, we are about to enter the season of Lent. Lent is the forty day period, not including Sundays, that precede Easter; and the scriptures of the season are focused on the commitment that led Jesus to sacrifice himself on the cross. Each year, the church encourages us to observe a "holy Lent" in order to become more intentional in our commitment to follow Christ wherever that leads us. For many people who seek to observe such a holy Lent, there is an attempt to sacrifice or give up something such as a favorite food or recreational activity, or money spent on discretionary items, so the time or money previously given to those activities can be given or used in prayer and service to others. Giving up these items or time also helps us reflect on the lack of devotion we have exhibited in our lives, and it offers us the opportunity for repentance. Therefore, the season of Lent is called a penitential season. That is, time to recognize the need to ask for and once again receive forgiveness for our sins.

Those of you who have been around folks who regularly observe Lent have probably heard the question, "What are you giving up for Lent this year?" But remember, the most important aspect of Lent is not the "giving up" of something, but what the giving up leads us to. Saint John Cassian's goal of the ascetic life is really the ultimate goal of Lent. That is, finding practices in our daily lives that move us closer to God and closer to love. That being the case, I hope we all have a wonderful holy Lent.

Rex

IS WAR EVER JUST?

FEBRUARY SUPPER AND PROGRAM

2010 begins with the war in Iraq still "winding" down, and a new commitment of troops headed to Afghanistan. Christians have always struggled with justifying war while following the Prince of Peace. In his address upon receiving the Nobel Peace prize, President Barack Obama, with some themes similar to the great theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, embraced a just war theory.

On Wed., February 10, Dr. James T. Laney, former Ambassador to Korea and President Emeritus of Emory University, will lead us in a discussion on this difficult subject of war and the Christian faith. He will utilize the President's speech, as the catalyst for beginning our conversation. The full text of the President's speech may be found at www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34360743/ns/politics-white_house/. Though not completely necessary, reading this speech before coming to the program will be helpful.

Our nation and the world are in difficult times and this subject is an important one, not just for Christians but for all people of faith. Please come and invite your friends for this important evening. We will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. (reservations can be made by calling or e-mailing the church by Tuesday, Feb. 9) and our program will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Thank you Druid Hills UMC family and friends for your donations to support Haiti. We have raised \$2,449 (as of 1/31/10) for relief efforts. We will continue to send any donations to UMCOR as received. Please keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Stewardship Corner:

THREE CHEERS FOR THE DRUID HILLS UMC FAMILY!



The Stewardship Campaign for pledge commitments to meet our 2010 budget is now over.** Although we still do not have enough pledges to completely underwrite our planned expenditures, we can be proud of our successes.

So—let's look at some of the numbers! Our present pledge commitments total \$225,676. (Last year's pledge commitments totaled \$217,928.) The total number of pledges is 60, and four of those are first time pledges. Twenty-six of those represented an increase from the previous pledge. All of this at a time when a survey done of clergy indicated that 55% felt giving would decrease both in 2009 and 2010.

At the same time we tried to look at stewardship in new ways. We looked at simplifying our lives through healthier at-home eating, through reusing, through downsizing our wardrobes and our material possessions and, in general, freeing ourselves from of our self-imposed "loads." I know that I was moved by the phenomenal stewardship moments during worship and I learned from the bulletin inserts and newsletter articles about simplifying.

An additional proud moment about simplifying and faith is our congregational commitment to "greening" our church and property. Our initial financial support for placing the solar panels on the educational building roof and the willingness to accept the loan from GA Interfaith Power is stewardship of our resources at its best. So, congratulations to us, Druid Hills UMC family!!

**Special note: A stewardship campaign is never officially over. Anyone who would still like to commit to our 2010 budget can pick up a pledge commitment card on the table outside the church office or in the Narthex.

Mary Lynn Merkle
Chair, Stewardship Team

DHUMC 100th Anniversary Celebration

Planning Meeting

On Sunday, February 7th, right after church, Laura and Jay Green will host a casual meeting to discuss plans for the celebration of DHUMC's 100th Anniversary. Everyone is invited. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Laura at lgreen404@comcast.net or 404-376-9583 to ensure we have enough food. We are just a few minutes from the church.

Gym Renovation Update

Have you noticed the activity around the DHUMC gymnasium? Once the lease was signed with the Atlanta School System, the Barton Marlow construction company has been hard at work making major renovations to our gym.

Two new HVAC units have been placed on the east side of the gym, and a new gym roof is being installed. It is anticipated that by April the gym will be ready for week-day use by the students at Springdale Park Elementary School. DHUMC will have use of the facility in the evenings and weekends.

In addition to installing air conditioning and new roofing, the gym floor will be refurbished. New insulation, skylights, windows and new lighting will also be provided.

Storm Windows to Provide Comfort and Energy Savings

The DHUMC Educational Building will soon be adding to its new green image with the installation of custom-made triple-track storm windows on all 107 windows in the building. With the help of a \$10,000 grant from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light and matching funds from a church member for use in creative green projects, we are able to proceed with this energy-saving and comfort-enhancing project.

Work has already begun – removing window air conditioners so that window sashes and frames can be repaired and cracked window panes replaced. After the windows are repaired and thoroughly cleaned, the contractor should begin the installation of the storm windows during the first weeks of March. An evaluation of all of the air conditioner units will be made before they are re-installed or replaced.

Join the excitement: DHUMC Solar Photovoltaic Energy Demonstration Project is becoming a reality

Thus far over 20 DHUMC members have contributed or pledged support for the installation of a 2.35 kW photo voltaic panel on our educational building roof. With this project we will be generating green electric power that will be sold directly to Georgia Power. We hope that the installation will begin in February. Once the system is operational, you will be able to go to our website (druidhillsumc.org) and see how much green energy is being generated each day.

The installation will cost \$19,550 – We have received \$4,273 in one-time pledges plus \$50 in monthly pledges (\$6000 over 10 years). We anticipate receiving \$600 per year (\$6000 over 10 years) from selling the power generated to Georgia Power. So, an additional \$3277 is needed to fully fund this green energy project.

Although the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light organization (GIPL) is loaning us funds needed to begin the project, with no interest charges, the loan must be repaid within 10 years. You can participate by making an initial contribution (which reduces the loan amount) or pledge and contribute to the monthly loan payments.

With this project, DHUMC joins other faith communities that wish to make a witness and demonstrate an efficient way to reduce our impact on our environment. The Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Decatur is on schedule to install a similar but larger system, also using our selected vendor: One World Sustainable.

For additional information or to participate in this project, please e-mail Tom Zuiderveld at tdzuiderveld@comcast.net, Jim Wynn at jrwynn@bellsouth.net, or Jean Hilyard at jean@druidhillsumc.org.

Teresa Circle

We will meet on February 16th at 7:00pm
Jean Ewing's home.
See you there!

Esther Circle

We will be doing a service related activity in February and in March. Ellen Patrick will lead a discussion of Anne Lamott's book, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*. It is available in paperback from Amazon for \$10.20. If you would like to order together (free shipping) let Camille Vaughan know. It looks like this book might be frequently requested at the DeKalb City libraries - so reserve early!

Staff Evaluations

Our senior pastor and the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be evaluating the performance of our church staff in the next month. Your input is essential for the committee to be able to fully evaluate the staff persons. Following is a list of the SPR committee members to contact with respect to specific staff persons:

- Jean Hilyard, Office Manager **Contact:** Bill Duncan, wbduncan@comcast.net
- Paris Eley, Sexton **Contact:** Sean Crosby, sean_ocasey@comcast.net
- Mark Lamback, Music Minister **Contact:** Jean Wynn, jeanwynn@gmail.com
- Mary Lou Rahn, Organist **Contact:** Lee Hansen, hansenvlee@aol.com
- Melinda Holloway, Children and Youth Minister **Contact:** Dan Browning, danielabrowning@gmail.com
- Alice Harris, Child Care Coordinator **Contact:** Lila Bradley, lila.newberry.Bradley@gmail.com

New Lenten Sunday School Class

Beginning Sunday, February 21 at 9:45am, DHUMC interns Jared Stine and Dana Rabon will be offering a Sunday School based on the book *Bread in the Wilderness: Spiritual Famine or Gospel Feast* by Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. The focus of this study is based on the reality that "we live in the wilderness -- a place of difficulty and even danger. Yet, there is bread in the wilderness." For more information, contact either Jared at j_stine@comcast.net or Dana at reonn_dana@comcast.net. The book may be purchased at Cokesbury Books on Lawrenceville Highway or ordered through the church office by contacting Jean Hilyard at jean@druidhillsumc.org.

Mission Trip to Haiti?

The last two international mission trips that included Druid Hills members were in 2001 and 2006, to Kenya. Most volunteers paid their own way, but scholarships were available also.

As a result of the earthquake ("the event") in Haiti, interest in a mission trip to this nearby country is developing. Volunteers in Mission, a United Methodist Agency, has been and will continue to be an important resource for us. However, if you have connections with another non-profit organization that operates in Haiti, or, like Johanna Alexander and Allie Ramsay, know someone in Atlanta who has current and reliable information on the situation there, please provide that information to Jean Wynn at jeanwynn@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

Beginning Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30pm, Dr. Rex Matthews will be leading a four-week exploration into the unique contributions of Wesleyan theology to the Christian faith. This is a great opportunity to discover more deeply why we understand ourselves to be "United Methodist Christians." Learn what we mean by things like regeneration, prevenient grace, entire sanctification, Christian perfection, and faith and works, and why all of these are important to our faith journey. Dr. Matthews, a member of our church, is a professor in Methodist studies at Candler School of Theology and deeply committed to practicing a Wesleyan understanding of our faith. His most recent publication is *Timetables of History for Students of Methodism*. Make plans now to be with us for four Wed. evenings beginning Feb. 24th.

Welcome New Church Members!

Peggy Johnson

Hye Jin (Kay) Kim

Eun Joo (Grace) Park

Prayer List *Psalm 17:1*

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

Virginia Austin

Billie Crenshaw

Richard Ezell, Dana Ezell Rabon's father

Wesley Fulton

Tom Giles, Josh Giles' father

Molly Griffin

Burt Hoffner

Amanda Hogg

David Jones

Betty Jones

April Meade

Jim Parrish, Joan Cain's nephew

Mildred Parrish, Joan Cain's mother

Frank Smith

Marie Sojous and family

Jennafer Thompson, Pam Kinnaird's sister

Eugenia Tucker

Wayne Williams

The needs in Haiti are overwhelming.

Imagine losing your home and all your worldly goods. Then think of someone giving you a fresh towel, soap, a toothbrush, and comb. These basic tools for grooming can help restore a sense of normalcy and self-worth.

Over the next several months, we hope to send hundreds of health/hygiene kits to Haiti through UMCOR. Our youth will assemble these kits, **but we need you to bring the following supplies, or multiple sets of each item:**

- 1 hand towel
- 1 washcloth
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 comb (large and sturdy)
- 1 fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste
- \$1.00 for shipping

Each kit is valued at approximately \$12. The youth will assemble these kits at their meeting the first Sunday of each month. **There will be a box in the Narthex and the office hallway to receive your donations.** Thank you for your support.

Church Council Notes 1/27/10

An Ad-Hoc committee has been appointed to prepare a long-term plan that will focus on growth, staff, programming, etc. If you have ideas for the committee, please contact one of the committee members: Katie Paden, Tom ZuiderVeld, Peter Kinnaird, Cliff Richards, Jean Wynn, Rex Kaney, and Dan Browning.

The total amount pledged for 2010 as of 1/27/10 was \$225,676. We still expect to get a few more pledge cards returned.

Haiti: A list of the supplies and sizes needed for Health Kits is posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board at Church (see article in this edition). You may also contribute money to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through Druid Hill by marking your check clearly for Haiti.

The New Orleans Mission trip in January had more participants that we have ever had. The 14 people were able to work on two houses. Thanks for giving your time and energy and for representing us. Rex announced this may be the last trip as the New Orleans office handling the housing project is being closed due to lack of funds.

DruidHillsUMC.org is our website. Check it out and send text and photos for the site to Reonn Rabon. Team leaders should be sure that their content is up-to-date!

Important Dates and Notices:

February 9: Team Chairs may submit a budget request to the Finance Chair, Dennis Rice before the next Finance meeting on February 9. The budget will be finalized at the February Church Council meeting.

February 28: Church Council will be held after the 4th Sunday Lunch instead of the usual Wednesday night.

April 24: Plant Sale/Blues & Barbeque

Create An Altar Focus

The Worship, Music, and the Arts Team is seeking persons to create an Altar Focus for one Sunday of the Lenten season beginning Sunday, February 21st. These visual displays should be designed based on the Lexionary scriptures for that particular Sunday. This would be an interesting project for an individual, Sunday School classes, families, UMW Circles, or any other combination of members and friends of our congregation. Please contact Millie Fuss at 770-469-5925 or milliefuss@comcast.net for the Lexionary scriptures and other parameters for the Altar Focus.



February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	MDO Kids Market set-up (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Trustee Meeting 6:30pm (L)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Discipling Team 6:30pm (MTS)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	MDO Sale 7 - 9pm (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	MDO Sale 10am - 1pm (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Worship Team 9:30am (MTS) UMW Exec. Board 12:30pm (MTS) MDO Sale 9am - 1pm - 1/2 price sale (FH)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS)	DHUMP Tour 9:45am (Q) Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Program 6:45pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Construction Progress Meeting 10am (Q) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm		Teresa Circle 7pm at Jean Ewing's	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	DHUMP Teacher Appreciation luncheon 9:30am (Q) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Preschool 10am (FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q) Lenten Series 6:30pm (FH) CHURCH COUNCIL MOVED TO 2/28 AFTER 4TH SUN. LUNCH	Construction Progress Meeting 10am (Q) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Esther Circle 10am
28						
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Church Council after lunch Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Lectonary Study 6:30pm						
B=Blue Room C=Chapel	FH = Fellowship Hall	G=Gym L=Library MTS=Room next to office	Q = Quilliam Room	S = Sanctuary	W = WORECO Room	Y = Youth Room