



March 2010

The Story

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From the Pastor

Lent is a great time to begin or begin again on a prayer journey. To suggest that is discomfiting for many people because the subject of prayer often brings with it feelings of uneasiness. The uneasiness, which all of us has or has had, comes from many places within us. Some of it may be our uncertainty about what prayer is and does. Some of the uneasiness may come from feelings of inadequacy or unworthiness as we consider the awe and mystery of God. Some of it may be our reluctance to let God have much room in our lives. Then again, we may be uneasy about prayer simply because we don't think we know how to do it very well. Fortunately, there is no pass/fail in the experience of praying. One way to approach prayer is simply to approach it as becoming in touch with the deepest desires of our hearts. Some folks are aware of those desires very easily and some of us have to take time to let ourselves listen more intentionally to our hearts. So, prayer is first of all listening before it is ever words. Words come either internally or maybe even audibly, but they do not have to come in any kind of prescribed formula. The cry of any one's heart is never formulaic.

Even so, the experience of those who have come before us helps us learn how to listen and how to express to ourselves and to God the desires of our hearts. I believe the Psalms are one of our greatest gifts in developing our own journey with prayer. They are filled with expressions of loving and intimate devotion to God, and they are filled with honest and often raw expressions of great tension with God. The Psalms' honesty and openness before God is really what makes them of such value to us. The "pray-ers" of the Psalms, as ancient as they are, have been through what we all go through in our lives. I highly suggest them to you as a way to begin or begin again your prayer journey.

In worship on March 7, we will pray together a portion of Psalm 63. May it become not an historical reading, but a prayer of our own.

"O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name." (NRSV)

Rex

INTOWN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES:

Birth of a New Ministry

by Anne Townsley of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church (DHPC), with modifications for relevance to DHUMC.

When the Intown Community Assistance Center (ICA) closed, a new ministry was born: Intown Collaborative Ministries. Many churches along the Ponce corridor will now be involved in providing goods and services for our less fortunate neighbors.

It is important for us to know that there is a BIG PICTURE emerging, but for now, emergency services are available once again. Mercy Community Church at DHPC has been providing clothing and some food to the underserved in our neighborhood for many months, but this is about to change, and YOU can help.

DHUMC will be the home of the new food Pantry, opening on Saturday, March 6, 2010. The hope is that the 17 or so churches in the area will all provide volunteers to staff the pantry and help in the distribution of food to families and individuals who are suffering during this difficult economic time. You can help welcome guests, fill orders, coordinate volunteers and, yes, deliver food to those without transportation.

We have baskets in the education building hallway and Narthex for collection of food and have already started receiving donations. Rich Fuss has organized the kitchen pantry to keep the food in order. To see a list of the food items that are most needed, visit: www.druidhillsumc.org/intown-collaborative-ministries. Thank you for your support of this program.

Congratulations to the Glass Family and Welcome to Anneliese!

Blair and Jason Glass welcome their daughter, Anneliese Joy, who was born on Saturday, February 13th at 11:47am. She weighed 8 lbs 11 oz and 20.75 inches long.



Update from Blair

We are all doing well and adjusting to life as a family of four, Nora loves her sister and keeps saying, "She's so cute!" Anneliese is so far a very sweet and easygoing baby. We sincerely appreciate all the kindness, happiness, and prayers that have been extended our way. By the way, Anneliese's middle name was inspired by a DHUMC member, who recently told Jason that Nora was a joy to have in our church community. We were so flattered and touched to hear that we decided to give Anneliese the middle name "Joy" to celebrate our joy at having another daughter.

Create An Altar Focus

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

The Gifts of Stewardship

Stewardship is more than dollars and cents. It is the gift of US - our time, our energy and our talents. We recently celebrated our fall Stewardship Campaign which helped us close the gap between our expected income and a balanced budget while still fulfilling our obligations and maintaining our mission and outreach objectives.

Now it's time to celebrate our stewardship of time, energy and talent. As a faithful community each of us contributes in our own way to the well being of that community and beyond. There's that group who heads out to do trash pick-up duties along Moreland Avenue regularly. Like the mail service, it's done in heat, in cold, in all kinds of conditions. And, in return, the participants get to lunch in good company—each other. Then there's the monthly dinner at the homeless shelter provided by the DHUMC community. The food comes in, the cash is donated for those extras, and the volunteer servers are the face of DHUMC to the hungry persons who come to share the meal. The Sunday School teachers, the youth advisors, the bulletin board preparers and updaters, the narthex refreshment providers, the office volunteers—and the list goes on!

What about our creative and meaningful worship centers each Sunday! The design talents of people like Millie Fuss and Eugenia Tucker and the other worship committee members certainly enhance the worship experience for all who are there. And then there's Judie Wing who, as UMW circle chair, has assumed the responsibility of maintaining communications with our shut-ins.

The gift of music is given by so many but especially by Lee Hansen both through performance and through the maintenance of our sound system. I think of the stewardship of Jay and Laura Green as they see a need (a fundraiser) and then make it happen. Their most recent mission was the gathering of folks who want to help plan our 100th anniversary celebrations.

And our staff?? Although each of them is "paid" for sharing talents, they each give way beyond the minimums expected as part of their respective positions.

Druid Hills UMC is a thriving community. It's impossible to name all those people and activities that help make "Radical Love Happens Here" a true statement. But happen it does in large amounts with great frequency—all because of our stewardship of time, talents, and energy.

Mary Lynn Merkle
Team Leader, Stewardship

January and February Church Council Notes

Dates to Remember: **April 2**, Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open for meditation and reflection, especially centering around viewing and interpretation of the Stations of Faith art installation of Mary Logan

April 24 is the date of the Blooms, Blues, and Barbecue Event. Jim Addison, Jay Green and Pam Kinnaird are among the leaders, and Laura Green has agreed to help coordinate volunteer efforts.

Laura is also leading the planning for our Centennial Celebration and Homecoming, which will be held on **September 26**. Please say YES to requests for help!

The following people have been appointed to an ad hoc **Long-range Planning Team**: Katie Paden, Tom ZuiderVeld, Peter Kinnaird, Cliff Richards, Jean Wynn, Rex Kaney, and Dan Browning. Peter Kinnaird will coordinate the committee.

The stewardship campaign as of January 24 saw pledges of \$225,676 contributing to the 2010 budget. **Those who have not pledged are still encouraged to do so.** Our financial situation looks more promising this year than last: program teams have been allotted some funds to help them accomplish their goals and non-appointed staff members received a 3% increase in salary; also, funds to mow the lawn have been restored. A **budget totaling \$411,282, with a deficit of \$30,161**, was adopted on February 28, but salary expenditures may decrease from that.

Two building projects will be completed the week of March 1: solar panel installation, and installation of storm windows in the educational building. The gym renovation is expected to be complete in April.

Baby Shower for Aly Palmer on March 7

All the women of the church are invited to celebrate the upcoming arrival of Aly and Joe Palmer's baby boy. We'll shower Aly with gifts and advice after church on March 7th in the Quillian Room (lunch provided). Please contact Camille Vaughan (camille.vaughan@emory.edu or 678.362.5826) if you can attend.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

Continuing on Wednesdays through March 17th at 6:30 p.m., Dr. Rex Matthews will be leading the 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." 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*. If you care to eat together, bring a brown bag meal at 6pm and we will provide drinks.

Adopt-a-Highway

Help beautify Briarcliff/Moreland Avenue from the DHUMC back drive to Edgewood Shopping Center on Saturday, March 6. Meet at 9:45am in the church office area for coffee and a snack. We will finish at 11:30am and gather for lunch on the porch at Front Page News. Come join us!

Census Bureau and DHUMC

If you are looking for work, the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to fill full or part-time positions paying between \$14.25 to \$20.25 per hour. Call 404-239-2185/2186; reference code 020200, for more information. After you call the number above, they will ask you to take a test to work for them (we are a hosting test site).

DHUMC will assist the U.S. Census Bureau by providing space for the following:

-Census Testing Site on Tuesdays: March 2, and March 16 in the Fellowship Hall from 10:30am – 1:00pm.

-Census Bureau Question Center from March 21 - April 19 on Sundays from 12 - 5pm and Mondays from 9am - 2pm in the Quillian Room. The question center exists to help people with any questions they might have about their census questionnaire. The center will be staffed and have information in 57 languages for those who don't understand English.

UMW Quarterly Meeting

Have you been noticing all of the news and television reports on Child Trafficking? Many of us are not aware that Atlanta is a haven for this crime with Ponce de Leon Avenue being a prime area. The international community has agreed upon a 3-pronged approach (termed the 3 Ps) to combat human trafficking: Punishment, Protection, and Prevention. Most effort has focused on Punishment of perpetrators while Protection of victims and Prevention have had less attention. What can we do?

To become better informed, mark your calendar for the next UMW Quarterly meeting on **May 16**. Pamela Perkins from Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM) will speak about Human Trafficking and its effects on women, children, and their families in Atlanta and efforts that are needed.

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

Amanda Hogg

David Jones

April Meade

Jim Parrish, Joan Cain's nephew

Mildred Parrish, Joan Cain's mother

Audra McHaney Perrodin and family

Frank Smith

Emmett, Wendy, and Quinn Stalling

Jennafer Thompson, Pam Kinnaird's sister

Eugenia Tucker

Wayne Williams



United Methodist Women welcomed Meryl Vaughan at her first UMW quarterly luncheon in February 2010.



Children gather for the children's sermon during Natalia Shulgina and Mark Kunze's wedding in August 2009.

Important Upcoming Events:

Maundy Thursday: April 1; service at 7pm in the Chapel

Good Friday: April 2; Stations of Faith; Sanctuary open for meditation

Easter Sunday: April 4; service at 11am

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Aly Palmer Baby Shower 12:15 (Q) Violin Wksp 12:30am - 6pm (C) (Rms. 4 & 5) (W) Cello Recital 2pm (S) NO YOUTH Lectionary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Trustee Meeting 6:30pm (L)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Staff Meeting 11am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Census Testing 10:30am (FH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Lenten Series 6:30pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Cello Wksp all day (W) (FH) Cello Wksp 10am-2pm (Q) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q) Youth Lock-In 8pm (Y)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Adopt-A-Hwy 9am (MTS) Violin Wksp 9:30am - 5pm (C) (Rms. 4 & 5) (Y) Cello Wksp 10am -5pm (W)(Q)(FH) Food Pantry 11am (Hall & Pantry)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Construction Progress Meeting 10am (Q) Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Lenten Series 6:30pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Retired Educators 10am (FH) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Food Pantry 11am (Hall & Pantry)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Census Question Center 12-5pm (Q) Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bloomin' Bash Art Preview in Quillian Room through Friday at 2pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Census Testing 10:30am (FH) Staff Meeting 11am (B) Discipling Team 6:30pm (MTS) Teresa Circle 7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (W) Lenten Series 6:30pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (W)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Violin Lessons 3pm (W)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (W) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Food Pantry 11am (Hall & Pantry)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am - Palm Sunday Census Q Center 12-5pm (Q) 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Census Question Center 9am - 2pm (Q) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Construction Progress Meeting 10am (Q) Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Brown Bag Supper 6pm (FH) Church Council 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Food Pantry 11am (Hall & Pantry) Esther Circle 10am (TBD)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am - Palm Sunday Census Q Center 12-5pm (Q) 4th Sunday Lunch 12:15pm (FH) Youth Group 4:30pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Census Question Center 9am - 2pm (Q) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Staff Meeting 11am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm</p>	<p>April 1 – Maundy Thursday April 2 – Good Friday April 4 - Easter</p>	<p>B=Blue Room C=Chapel FH = Fellowship Hall G=Gym L=Library MTS=Room next to office</p>	<p>Q = Quillian Room S= Sanctuary W = WORECO Room Y = Youth Room</p>