



May 2010

# The Story

[www.druidhillsumc.org](http://www.druidhillsumc.org)

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## From the Pastor

Do you ever discover yourself singing or humming a song or hymn that just seemed to come out of nowhere? You wake up and in the middle of brushing your teeth you start humming some tune that you first heard 15 years before. Or, you are in the middle of some extremely difficult and painful experience and a song you thought you had long forgotten comes to mind. Some of you may remember the movie starring Paul Newman entitled *Cool Hand Luke*. While serving a prison sentence Luke received word that his Mother had died. Sitting in his cell, disconnected from family, and seemingly without much “religious” background, Luke began to sing an old country tune which begins with the words, “I don’t care if it rains or freezes. ‘Long as I’ve got my plastic Jesus. Riding on the dashboard of my car.” What? Just reading the words makes the song seem sacrilegious at worst or satire at best. They certainly don’t seem like words to honor one’s Mother. Yet, in the context of the movie, this becomes a high holy moment. The scene makes it impossible for one to be judgmental of the shallowness of the song or of Luke’s faith. It is a gift given from his past that helps sustain him in his isolation and helps him honor his Mother.

Faith is like that. It is not just an action we take, but a gift that comes to us often in surprising ways. And, it comes to those who consider themselves well versed in the faith and to those who are not. That is what makes it a gift. It comes to us sometimes while reading the Bible or reading a novel, sometimes while sitting in church and sometimes while sitting in the movies, sometimes while listening to a sermon and sometimes while listening to Prairie Home Companion, sometimes while singing the great hymns of the church, and sometimes while listening to “terrible” country music.

I am thankful for the gift of God’s presence, and I am thankful for the opportunities I have with you to create a wonderful storehouse of memories that will continue “to come out of nowhere” (but not really nowhere) to embrace, sustain, and fill me with joy.

Peace,  
Rex

## Second Wednesday Supper and Program

Wednesday, May 12, 6:30pm (Gather for dinner at 6:00pm - remember to make your reservation!)

By giving 10 minutes of your time, you can make a big difference to a family living in poverty. How? Participate in Bread for the World’s (BFW) 2010 Offering of Letters. This offering doesn’t involve a gift from your checkbook; it asks for you to use your gift of citizenship to write your elected representatives in advocacy for sisters and brothers in need. When constituents write, legislators pay attention!

Every year BFW targets a key piece of legislation that will help the hungry. This year’s offering seeks to “protect and strengthen key tax credits—the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit—that help low-income working families make ends meet.” These tax credits have been a godsend for parents whose monthly paychecks don’t cover family needs, including the one in four U.S. families struggling to put enough food on the table. But these tax credits for the neediest Americans will expire this year unless Congress acts to renew them.

Come hear stories of real families helped by the tax credits and learn more about the economic realities of the working poor. If you’ve never written to a representative before, we’ll coach you through the process and even provide writing materials. If you are a long-time legislative advocate, take this opportunity to share your experience in a community of caring.



Congratulations to Aly and Joe Palmer on the birth of their son, Charles Francis Palmer. Charles was born on April 12, 2010, weighing 7lbs, 4oz.

## **Stewardship Corner** by Mary Lynn Merkle

I recently heard the statement, "It's a juggle out there." It immediately made me think of stewardship and of Druid Hills UMC. There are so many pulls for the stewardship of our resources, our energies and our talents.

Many of us looked at our financial resources last fall as we were thinking about our 2010 pledges. Because we love God and because we love Druid Hills UMC, we committed to give as much as we were able and perhaps even a little more. And it was good!

Then we heard about the solar panels on the roof of the educational unit and the load from the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. What a wonderful step of faith in conserving our environmental resources. How proud we felt that DHUMC was leading the way! The invitation went out to help support this, and many of us wanted to be a part of that. So a little "juggling" took place, and pledges and gifts were made.

Then the announcement was made that our church would be an integral part of the newly formed Intown Collaborative Ministries. Druid Hills would be housing the Food Pantry for this ministry. A place had to be found, some organizing had to take place, and groceries were needed. More juggling!! Preparations were made, food and supplies poured in, and a food pantry was born.

The "Blooms Blues and Barbeque" festival on April 24<sup>th</sup> was phenomenal. The weather couldn't have been worse. The fellowship couldn't have been better! It was all possible because many people—the planters, the chefs, the musicians, the shoppers—"juggled" their time, talents and resources to make it happen.

And the list does not stop here. We give and we give—sometimes when we are asked, and sometimes even when we're not. So why does all this juggling of energy and resources feel so good? It may be that we--as lacking in talent as we may think we are, as short of time as we sometimes find ourselves—have been enfolded in the arms of God and encircled by the fellowship of the Druid Hills family. It is all the reason in the world to keep on "juggling."

## **Night Shelter News**

Many thanks to the Monday night shelter dinner crew - Peter Drake, David Miller, John and Eve Slaughter, Mary Lynn Merkle and the Blooms/Blues and BBQ cooking crew. We were able to serve Dan and Peter's ribs, Wendell's chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, bread, stewed okra/tomatoes, juices/tea and cookies to the group of 30 men. We were glad to hear that during this shelter season at least ten men have moved on into apartments with stable work to support themselves! (They receive some grant money for their first month expenses.) We are partners with 22 other organizations who bring dinner and provide resources to the shelter. The shelter director, manager and associated professionals and board members are doing a fantastic job of providing support for men to get back to using their skills. The new budget includes enough money for the shelter to make the transition to year round as of next September. Stay tuned for more news about this great effort to take remove people from living on the streets!

## **ICM Emergency Needs Food Pantry**

The numbers of people served by the Food Pantry continues to grow. On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 new families who had not come to the Pantry before were welcomed. Over eight weeks, the Pantry has provided 156 individuals with food assistance.

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is the official "grand opening." The community is invited to come and have coffee with us and our guests between 10:30am and 12:30pm. This will provide an opportunity to meet some of the guests and better know the work we do.

The food pantry has received extremely generous response from local churches. See the list of items that are most needed at: <http://dhfoodpantry.wordpress.com/needs-list>. Please bookmark or add the website to your favorites so you can check it each week. We collect donations in the bins found in the office hallway and the Narthex.

## **A WOW! Summer at Church: Meet Emily McNeil**

by Jean Wynn

Next month, DHUMC will proudly welcome a student of New York's Union Theological Seminary, Emily McNeill, as its first intern from the Beatitudes Society. For two months, Emily will model how one can engage with contemporary society on all the thorniest issues. Quite simply, she is committed to societal transformation, and her resume is packed with references to peace marches, congressional campaigns, progressive media, interfaith dialogue, poverty initiatives, and LGBT issues.

In 2008, Emily spent time in occupied Hebron. Of that experience, she writes, "I was confronted by humanity's limitations and the injustice, violence and hatred of which we are capable. In that context, my faith became more than a source of principles about love and justice. Prayer and worship sustained my conviction to be loving, gave me courage to go into dangerous situations, helped me to empathize when I felt burned out, and let me find beauty and grace in what is in many ways a hopeless place."

Rex Kaney, Lila Bradley, chair of Staff-Parish Relations, and Dan Browning, Lay Leader, have laid out plans with Emily which will make for a lively summer at DHUMC. She will provide leadership in Sunday worship, will work with our youth, both actively and reflectively on the annual Metropolitan Atlanta Service Project, and in July, she'll teach a series of combined adult Sunday School classes on Faith Seeking Peace. Emily will also organize community conversations on issues of justice, compassion and peace via both the internet and at a 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday dinner, she will work with the communications team as it overhauls our website, highlighting hospitality, justice, and mission foci, and she will spend a day at the North Georgia Annual Conference observing the theological/cultural context of United Methodism in North Georgia. Finally, she will write a summary paper in order to improve our ministry with interns, and help us think about our ministries with young adults.

Rex Kaney is thrilled, of course. Here's what he says. "I am extremely grateful that the Christian witness of DHUMC in the areas of justice, compassion and peace has helped us begin a relationship with the Beatitudes Society. Emily McNeill was our first choice as we interviewed potential summer interns, and I'm confident that her tremendous love of the gospel and her passion for living it will help move our justice and peace efforts to another level."

The Beatitudes Society is an organization that seeks to strengthen the progressive Christian network for justice, compassion and peace. It provides grants to selected fellows so that they may gain experience in encouraging social change.

### **Blues, Blooms, and Barbeque**



DHUMC thanks everyone who helped make the April 24<sup>th</sup> Blues, Blooms, and BBQ event a success.

Even though the weather was terrible, spirits were high and fun was had by all who attended.

Over 100 plates of BBQ and a ton of plants were sold to help raise over \$2,000 in support of Methodist missions. Special thanks to Laura Green, Pam Kinnaird, Jean Wynn, and so many others for their incredibly hard work. Thank you to Lynn Watson-Powers for the historical exhibits. Thank you to everyone who cooked, grew plants, and supported this event. Thanks to God for all of you and all you do for DHUMC.

### **Stewardship Corner**

#### **Prayer List Psalm 17:1**

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

Virginia Austin

John DeLuca

Richard Ezell, Dana Ezell Rabon's father

Wesley Fulton

Molly Griffin

Jim Henry, Carolyn Rader's father

Amanda Hogg

David Jones

April Meade

Betty McMahon

Jim Parrish, Joan Cain's nephew

Mildred Parrish, Joan Cain's mother

Leroy Sitton

Darryl Smith

Frank Smith

Emmett, Wendy, and Quinn Stalling

Jennafer Thompson, Pam Kinnaird's sister

Wayne Williams

See you at the Fourth Sunday Lunch on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
The gas will be turned off then, so please bring dishes that are cold or can be warmed in the microwave. Thank you!

**May 2010**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
						<b>1</b> Food Pantry 11am (FH)
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Violin Recital 2pm (C) Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm	DHUMP Book Fair All Week (Room 7) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Trustees Mtg 6:30pm (MTS)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Food Pantry 11am (FH) Cello Rehearsal 10am (S)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y) Lectionary Study 6:30pm	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Staff Meeting 11:15am (B) UMW Agape Circle 11am (Q) UMW Agape Lunch 12pm (FH) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Finance Team 6:30pm (MTS)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Church Program 6:30pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	Atlanta Retired Educators 10am (FH) Communication Team 10am (MTS) DHUMP Teacher Appreciation Lunch 12pm (in case of rain in FH) Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Food Pantry 11am (FH) Make-a-wish Foundation using parking lot for benefit
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am UMW Quarterly Luncheon and Meeting 12:15pm (FH) Cello Recital 2pm (S) Youth Group 5pm (Y)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Teresa Circle 7pm (in home)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Waldorf School Spring Concert 7pm (S, FH, W) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Esther Circle 10am (in home) Food Pantry 11am (FH) Parking lot in use 7pm - 11pm
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Fourth Sun. Lunch 12pm (FH) Youth Group 5pm (Y)	Cello Lessons 2pm (Q)	Staff Meeting 11:15am (B) Cello Lessons 2pm (Q) Discipling Team 6:30pm (MTS)	Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Brown Bag Supper 6pm (FH) Church Council 6:30pm (FH) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Women's AA 8pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 3pm (Q)	Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)	Food Pantry 11am (FH)
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					
Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 4:30pm (Y)	<b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>					
<b>B=Blue Room</b>	<b>FH = Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>L=Library</b>	<b>MTS=Room next to office</b>	<b>Q = Quillian Rm</b>	<b>W = WORECO Rm</b>	<b>Y = Youth Room</b>