



July 2010

The Story

From The Pastor

During the month of June, the annual session of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Athens, GA. We had three representatives from Druid Hills at the conference this year. Each church always has a lay member for each full time clergy appointed to the church. This year Beth Corrie and I were your representatives from the church, but we were also fortunate to have Janie Alexander serve as an at large member for the Atlanta-Emory District. The conference had a wonderful mix of great worship, Holy Communion, ordination of candidates for ministry, and reports on the ministry of the conference and the church at large. For me, there is always one highlight of conference that takes place outside of the official sessions. It is visiting the Cokesbury book display. Display isn't really the accurate word because Cokesbury Books brings almost its entire store to the conference. I usually visit the store three or four times during the week often buying something every time. This year was no exception. I discovered a new resource from Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*. His new book *Practice Resurrection* is about the church and what we as church are called to do. Although we are often not very good at it, we are still called to practice resurrection. Here is a brief excerpt from his powerful and hopeful description of who we are as the church of Jesus Christ.

“Church is an appointed gathering of named people in particular places who practice a life of resurrection in a world in which death gets the biggest headlines: death of nations, death of civilization, death of marriage, death of careers, obituaries without end. Death by war, death by murder, death by accident, death by starvation.

Death by electric chair, lethal injection, and hanging. The practice of resurrection is an intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection *life*, life out of death, life that trumps death, life that is the last word, Jesus life. This practice is not a vague wish upwards but comprises a number of discrete but interlocking acts that maintain a credible and faithful way of life, Real Life, in a world preoccupied with death and the devil.

These practices include the worship of God in all the operations of the Trinity; the acceptance of resurrection, born-from-above identity (in baptism); the embrace of resurrection formation by eating and drinking Christ's resurrection body and blood (at the Lord's Table); attentive reading of and obedience to the revelation of God in the scriptures; prayer that cultivates an intimacy with realities that are inaccessible to our senses; confession and forgiveness of sins; welcoming the stranger and the outcast; working and speaking for peace and justice, healing and truth, sanctity and beauty; care for all the stuff of creation. The practice of resurrection encourages improvisation on the basic resurrection story as given in our Scriptures and revealed in Jesus. Thousands of derivative unanticipated resurrection details proliferate across the landscape. The company of people who practice resurrection replicates the way of Jesus on the highways and byways named and numbered on all the maps of the world. This is the church.”

This is Druid Hills UMC. Let's continue together the task of faithfully improvising the practice of the resurrection story.

Peace,
Rex

Gifts From Our "Undocumented" Friends

by Mary Lynn Merkle

The costs of undocumented immigrants (illegal immigrants) have been much in the news recently. A huge cry has gone up to tighten our borders and to remove those "who don't belong here." Recently these voices have gotten louder and more demanding.

But please consider these points.

Many undocumented workers, if they want formal employment, will give false security numbers. Therefore, from each of their (often paltry) paychecks, social security payments are taken. If such an account does happen to exist with that number, the deduction is placed into that account. If there is no actual Social Security account the money goes into the Social Security Administration's "earnings suspense file." As of 2005 about \$7 billion dollars per year goes into that account because of false social security numbers. In fact, the actual amount received in payroll taxes is about equal to the difference of what is paid out in benefits. As a recipient of social security benefits for almost 10 years, I should thank those "undocumented workers" who are keeping social security solvent.

Studies show that both documented and undocumented workers who have real or bogus social security numbers pay taxes but are reluctant to use our public services. After all, undocumented workers are in no position to demand fair pay, medical benefits or even job safety/security. They and their families avoid hospital emergency rooms and health clinics. Their futures are in constant jeopardy.

Much of the agriculture industry would not be interested in seeing such a new law tightening the borders and removing their workers. Undocumented workers can be hired at a very cheap rate without benefits. They can work hard

during their strong healthy days and then can go back to their homelands when they can no longer work. This is why lawn maintenance can often be so affordable; this is why we can buy grapes at 99¢ a pound—our second gift from the undocumented.

Our US immigration laws are confusing and not always just. A US Senate bill introduced in 2006 by John McCain and Edward Kennedy provided a path to citizenship for the undocumented—

some of whom (like the young woman student at Kennesaw State University) have been in this country for many years. However, its passage is unlikely. We are, at this time, definitely not reaching out a hand to "the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Our United Methodist Church's stand is much clearer. Using Scriptural references such as Leviticus 19:33-34 and 1st Corinthians 12:26 our Discipline says about the Rights of Immigrants—"We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God."

In regard to Foreign Workers our Discipline states in part, "We call upon governments and all employers to ensure for foreign workers the same economic, educational, and social benefits enjoyed by other citizens. Foreign workers also need a religious fellowship, and we call for the churches to include these in their care and fellowships and to support them in their efforts for better conditions."

This is definitely a time when I am very proud to be a part of the United Methodist Church, a time when the words "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" mean exactly that. *Factual information is from They Take Our Jobs by Aviva Chomsky.*



Emily McNeill, our summer Beatitudes Society Fellow, with member Lila Bradley. Emily's focus is on Peace and Justice issues. Join her adult Sunday School class during July on Faith Seeking Peace. Contact Emily for more information and materials (emilymcneill@gmail.com). Visit the blog she created for our community, *Beyond Belief*, at druidhillsjustice.blogspot.com.

Welcome Ministry

You are invited to participate in the narthex hospitality table by bringing snacks/drinks and serving/greeting after the service on a Sunday. You may also donate snacks/drinks by dropping them off in the green cabinet in the Quillian Room near the office. Please label them for narthex and put them on bottom shelf. We also need people to set up and clean up the 4th Sunday Luncheon each month. Please email janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com or call Janie 404-634-6426.

Presbyterian Night Shelter Notes

DHUMC is one of the 23 partner organizations who support the work of the men's shelter at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church on Ponce de Leon Ave. This shelter helps 30 men at a time transition into more stable work/living situations. If they qualify to live there, they receive counseling, access to a computer, and support from the manager, counselor and social worker who direct the services. They also form a community and support one another. For the first time the shelter will move to "year round" starting in September 2010. We will be organizing meals for the 4th Monday evening each month. Please e-mail janiejoyneralex@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor one of the meals for this fall. Also, please indicate if you want to be on the ongoing shelter dinner team list. This is a group of about a dozen folks who are active all year long. Some of our meals are organized by specific groups in the church and some of them are planned by the shelter dinner group. (The dinners are always great!) All are invited to participate in this vital and rewarding ministry. Many of the men staying at the shelter this past year moved on to stable situations! Questions/comments contact Janie Alexander 404-634-6426.

Summer Reading - Courtesy of the UMW!

Come check out some of the current titles available through the UMW reading program! You will find many "good reads." It might be *Enrique's Journey* by journalist Sonia Nazario - the story of a Honduran immigrant boy trying to find his Mom in the U.S. or *Acts of Faith* - Eboo Patel's story of how he founded his interfaith youth movement or *Walking in a Relaxed Manner* - Joyce Rupp's account of her travels along the pilgrimage trail in Spain. Whether the book concerns spiritual growth, social action, nurturing community or education for mission, you will learn and grow. The cabinet holding these books is in the Quillian classroom. It is opened early on Sunday mornings so come in before or after Sunday School. Please sign the books out on the notebook in the cabinet. Questions/Comments - please see Betty McMahon (or Janie Alexander in Discovery Class/Quillian Room on Sunday mornings).



Laura Cushing places canned food on the somewhat bare food pantry shelves. We have designated the fourth Sunday (or any time you are able) as the day to bring food for the pantry. To volunteer to help on a Saturday, visit the food pantry website at: dhfoodpantry.wordpress.com/volunteers-needed (link can be found through our website as well).



Church Council Meeting Notes June 23, 2010

1. Preschool scholarships—Rex Kaney previously discussed a request from Margaret, preschool director, for scholarship help. Recently, Rex learned from Margaret that in the past the preschool received scholarship assistance from the church and individuals. They hope that this “Moses Scholarship Fund” might be reactivated. Current need is \$1,600. Suggestions were: (1) Ask Outreach Team to re-direct part of their fundraising profits and (2) take a special offering. Consensus is to follow both suggestions. Include some of the need “stories” in our newsletter.

2. Church to buy Mary Logan’s beautiful artwork at the price of \$3,500. We will ask for individual gifts to cover the cost. We will then ask the Memorial Committee to consider paying the rest.

3. 100th Celebration—Retired Bishop Woodie White has agreed (with enthusiasm) to be our “preacher” on Sept. 26th as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

4. Trustees—Jim Wynn

A. Special thanks are due Tom ZuiderVeld and Joyce Catrett as the gym renovation is almost complete. We may have a celebration IN the gym by the end of July.

B. The Trustees are considering moving the old pews now in Fellowship Hall to the gym.

C. There may be a slight change in the monthly gym income over the next 10 years due to some unanticipated expenses.

D. Solar panels—We have already received ~\$100 from GA Power in power generation over the last two months.

E. Some items removed from the gym are in the tinker room. Trustees want to clear this out.

F. Storm windows have been installed and air conditioners replaced in the Education Building.

G. Tom ZuiderVeld is working with the school system to develop a plan to put in a sidewalk from Briarcliff to the school.

H. Jean Hilyard negotiated a new contract with the elevator maintenance company that will save ~\$2,000 per year. The elevator will be fitted with a security code which will limit access to the second floor during preschool hours for their security.

5. Annual Conference Report

A. Janie Alexander, Beth Corrie, and Rex Kaney

A. The theme was From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Wake Up and See Where God Is Moving. There was a fine mix of music, worship and business with 2,000 delegates.

B. Mayor Kasim Reed spoke at the laity luncheon.

C. Beth Corrie gave a great morning address with many positive comments following it.

D. Three Passed Resolutions: 1. From N. GA COSROW - The Discipline directs that 1/3 of trustees be lay women. 2. From Church and Society and David Allen Grady - They recommend that a program coordinator be named for creation care. 3. There will be an Annual Day for Men the 4th Sunday in October to encourage men to be more involved in church activities.

E. Standing rules were changed for Committees, boards, etc. (including Board of Ordained Ministry) at the Conference level. There will now be term limits - eight consecutive years and 16 years during lifetime.

F. Simpsonwood Retreat Center is in financial crisis. They need \$750,000 from N. GA Conference each year to stay afloat. When built it was supposed to be self-sustaining, but that didn’t happen. A task force was named to find legal options in changing the will from the original intent of Mrs. Simpson.

Joys and Concerns

A. The Corrie family’s trial in Israel against the Israeli government is now on hiatus. The State of Israel will present their case in the fall.

B. Emily McNeill will teach a Sunday School class on faith seeking peace, and will preach on a Sunday morning in July.

C. Frank Smith will soon be leaving Rhodes. The Salvation Army will be preparing a new apartment for him.

D. The 6-Star Afghan family will soon have to move from the house on the Baptist property.

E. Roberta Moore is a recent graduate.

F. Brad Schweers received accolades for his Peace with Justice Sermon on June 13th.

G. Jim Wynn was welcomed back from his trip to India where he had an audience with the Dali Lama. Six Tibetan monks will be taking classes at Emory next year.

H. Cliff Richard’s parents are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

I. Prayers for those whose lives have been changed because of the oil spill in the Gulf.

J. No Church Council in July—by consensus.

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED - 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Outreach Team 6:30pm (CR) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Food Pantry 11am (FH)</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Trustee Meeting 6:30pm (CR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>UMW Agape Circle out until September Finance Team 6:30pm (CR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Supper 6pm (FH) Church Program 6:30pm (FH) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Food Pantry 11am (FH)</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Youth Group 5pm (Y)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Teresa Circle 7pm (in home)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Violin lessons 2pm (W) Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Wedding dress rehearsal 3:30pm (S) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Esther Circle 10am (in home) Food Pantry 11am (FH) Wedding 4pm (S)</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:45am Worship 11am Fourth Sun. Lunch 12pm (FH) Youth Group 4:30pm (Y)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Discipling Team 6:30pm (CR)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Weight Watchers 6pm (Q) Church Council 6:30pm (FH) Women's AA 8pm (Q)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Violin Lessons 2pm (Q) Alanon 7:30pm (Q)</p>	<p>Y = Youth Room</p>
CR=Conference Room	FH = Fellowship Hall	L=Library	Q = Quillian Room	S = Sanctuary	W = WORECO Room	Y = Youth Room