

FAIRBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Non-Profit
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Label Here

The Fairburn Flame—April 23, 2008

~Pastor's Corner~

Logging In

For years I've subscribed to *The Christian Century*, a print journal full of news, editorials and essays of interest to folks concerned with faith, religion and the church. Like everyone else these days, they've added an online component that includes a public (nonsubscription) internet 'blog' (short for *web log*, a kind of internet journal or diary) where writers post their thoughts about a variety of topics. Folks who read the material can then post comments about it. One recent blog entry caught my attention because it touches on a variety of issues in our own congregation. I hope you'll read it and log your comment(s). You can send email to (fairburnumc@aol.com) or a handwritten note to the church office. Maybe we'll start a 'letters to the editor' section in this newsletter and publish them. At the very least we can share them with the leaders of relevant committees. What do you think?

Vicki

Rummaging

By Bromleigh McCleneghan

posted 04/07/2008 at *Theolog* - <http://www.theolog.org/blog/2008/04/rummaging.html#more>

With the coming of spring, as we throw open church doors and windows to allow fresh air into our buildings and lives, we arrive once more in the season most likely to create distress and conflict: Rummage Sale Season. Our church basement is full of junk, rummage that began accumulating several years ago (before my arrival, thank you) in closets and back hallways, but has now taken on one of a scientific property of a liquid: filling any space not already filled with something else.

We have a few folks, I call them the Rummage Bearers, who are perpetually concerned that our small congregation will not be able to produce sufficient amounts of rummage. They take responsibility for bringing in stuff they've acquired at flea markets and other second-hand venues throughout the year. Complicating matters is the fact that real treasures are buried in the midst of this stuff: some antique furniture and glass, collectibles and vintage clothing: gems for the discerning shopper.

On the other side are the Junk Removers, who are mortified that our church building ("God's house!") should be so

cluttered. They take a garbage bag and start pitching, or call and personally pay for junk removal people to come. Clutter is a sign of neglect and disorder. Our church—our home, they say, ought to be neat and clean and orderly, or people in the community will not want to be a part of our life here.

I do my best to arbitrate, to insist on the rules of fair play and understanding, to help outline some guidelines for future sales. But my effectiveness is limited by my own deep ambivalence about the whole mess. I was raised with the understanding that the church building was a dwelling place for God—and that part of its holiness was its ability to welcome all people. Part of what makes us holy as a people of God is our ability to see things in others that the world tends to miss, to see the value that is hidden.

The Rummage Bearers' love of hidden treasures is love of the diamond in the rough, a hope in the promise that things of value will emerge from unexpected places. On top of that, those who gather our rummage proclaim the gospel of environmental stewardship: are we not called to cast off the sins of our culture of conspicuous consumption and waste production? To embrace the mantra of reduce, reuse, recycle?

(continued on page 2)

OUR FAITHFULNESS

I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and support it with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, and my service.

PRAYERS

(Thank you for providing updated information for these whenever possible, but at least every two weeks.)

In the Hospital/Rehab

SCOTT THOMPSON, friend of Billie Sue Yates, Piedmont Buckhead

At Home

PAM AVERSO, cousin of Jackie Bingham

BESSIE BOYD, sister of Jean Vogt

JO ANN CHAPMAN

PAT GUY, friend of Lloy Henggeller

DARREN HATTON, friend of the Newtons

GLENDA KUNZ, friend of Marka Merrick

ROBBIE MARTIN

CHARLIE MASSEY

GRAY OGLESBY, grandson of Jane Storey

KAREN HODGES STANFIELD, former

With Sympathy

...to Teri & John Taylor and family upon the death of Paul Reehling, Teri's brother-in-law. His wife, Kim, and daughter, Katherine, live in Ft. Valley.

PRESENCE

4/20 Sunday School 69 , Worship *no # rec'd*

GIFTS

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$5,969.08	\$95,505.28
Receipts 4/20	4,004.00	76,200.48
Expenses		83,610.63

SERVICE

Sunday

Nursery
4/27-Lynda Wiggins

5/4—

Greeter & Visitor Ministry

4/27--Duane & Ann Oswald

5/4—Jackie Bingham, Janet

DiPlacido, Sue Godwin

Children's Church

B. Broome / Bethany Biggs

Altar Guild

Apr- B. Bridges & D. Williamson

May-B. Hannah, J. Chapman

Trustee Door Duty

April—Myrna Fleeman

May—Bob Dummer

Sound Technicians

Mark Watson / Ron Cochran

Wednesday—Church Family Supper Helpers

4/30—Jackie Bingham, Ron Cochran, Lynda Wiggins

5/7—Evelyn Etris, Jackie Bingham, Ron Cochran

THANK YOU!

Frances Bates and Charlie & Bernice Massey

.....want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and other kind acts during their recent times of need.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Through your efforts, some 15 groups meet on a regular basis to carry out the work of the church. **THANK YOU!**

(Pastor's Corner — continued from page 1)

Junk Removers counter with words reminiscent of John the Baptist: Must our church basement atone for the sins of all Americans by housing our collective castoffs? Any tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cast off and thrown into the flame, right? New life in Christ requires that we foster growth of the fruits of the Spirit—not mold. Yes, we are called to be a sanctuary to the least of these, but must we welcome mice into the fold? Their enthusiasm in clearing away the dead wood indicates a hope for a future open to God's transforming work.

Both groups are prophetic in a sense—but both tend toward extremism. As we move forward into rummage season, then, I think I'll be preaching the best gospel I have on hand: that our lives are full of tension—between old and new, tradition and transformation.

Bromleigh McCleneghan is pastor of Riverside United Methodist Church in Riverside, Illinois. April 7, 2008

Comments

I suppose a second-hand shop (in a donated space) could be a revenue source for the Church... It would bring money to the church from outside the church - which could beat looking around during a service and guessing who (if not us) is going to come up with the money for the programs...

It certainly seems there are a lot of passions on either side of the rummage pile - perhaps there is a way to direct the passions to a mutual benefit...

Posted by: Douglasah | [Apr 8, 2008 11:09:52 PM](#)

A major issue I have with outside sources of income for any church: Why should outsiders support a church if/when its own members prove unwilling or unable to? Rummage sales, building rentals, carnivals, chicken or chili or pancake suppers--they all say, "We don't pay enough to operate this church's ministries. Come on in and help us pay."

Harsh? A church in Wichita, KS which is doing marvelous ministry got its major boost when the leadership decided, "No more chicken dinners! Our members will tithe (or move toward tithing)." And they have stuck with it.

Rick Warren at Saddleback Church promotes "Faith Raising, Not Fund Raising". I think that's the right way to go.

Posted by: RevJeanne | [Apr 14, 2008 11:24:14 AM](#)

GENERAL CONFERENCE THIS WEEK

Find out what's going on!

**Sign Up for the
General Conference Daily E-Mail**

Stay up-to-date with the latest on General Conference through a free daily e-mail offered to you by the North Georgia Communications Office. The e-mail will offer you breaking news relevant to North Georgia United Methodists, the ability to track the progress of proposed legislation, photos, news of the day, and interviews with members of North Georgia's delegation.

To receive this e-mail in your inbox each day during General Conference (April 23-May 2), sign up at www.ngumc.org.

MAY DAY LUNCH CELEBRATION

with

FAIRBURN'S TALLEST MAYPOLE

Presented by

THE YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



The Young Adults SS Class will present an Old Fashioned May Day Celebration Lunch immediately after the 11:00 am worship service on **May 4th**. Lunch will be served in the Pavilion. All you have to do is get from the Sanctuary to the Pavilion and the rest will be taken care of. (*An offering to defray food expenses will be accepted, but not required.*) The menu will be hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips, lemonade, and strawberry shortcake.

Please bring Children, Grandchildren, and friends with Children! We'll have games galore!!

Online Game Offers New Opportunity to Send Nets, Save Lives

World Malaria Day is April 25. Now and throughout April, there's an easy new way to help eliminate malaria deaths in Africa and raise more money for nets through the **Nothing But Nets** malaria prevention campaign. Malaria is a serious and often fatal disease transmitted by mosquitoes. The World Health Organization estimates that 300-500 million cases of malaria occur each year.

Nothing But Nets has just launched a new online interactive game called "**Deliver The Net**" that makes it possible to send a net and save a life right from your keyboard. The game teaches users about bed net

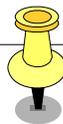
distribution and challenges individuals to deliver as many virtual nets as possible before the sun goes down and malaria-carrying mosquitoes come out to bite. From now until the end of the month, each time someone plays the game and signs up at www.NothingButNets.net, generous sponsors will donate \$10 for a lifesaving insecticide-treated net.

"This is a fun and easy way to help save lives. We hope that all United Methodists will play the game and tell others about it. We want to blanket Africa with bed nets." says Bishop Bickerton, Nothing But Nets spokesperson.

Every \$10 raised pays for the purchase and distribution of a long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito net to a child under the age of five in Africa—one of whom dies every 30 seconds from malaria.

To play the game and deliver a net, go to www.NothingButNets.net.

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Created by the United Nations Foundation in 2006, partners include the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, the People of the United Methodist Church and *Sports Illustrated*.



YOUTH NEWS!!

6th through 12th Grades

Sunday evenings, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

Snack, Activity and Program

We're very proud of the **2008 Confirmation Class**. Congratulations from the Youth Department!!!

Thanks to Ashleigh, Austin, Bradley, Caycee, Jordan, Madison, and Ms. Lynda for working at the "**One Great Day of Sharing**". Great job with the painting, road sign, weeding, and other jobs you did at Campbellton UMC.

Upcoming: Game Night: April 27th 6:00 pm-8

We'll provide board games and snacks. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship and short devotion.

Looking Ahead: Youth Sunday...June 1, 2008. Mark your calendars now!! We'll have lots to do in the service and will go out to eat afterwards. I'm counting on you!



It's a Girl!!!

The Ladies of Fairburn UMC are invited to a

**Luncheon-Baby Shower
Honoring Joy Mayeske Phillips**

**Sunday, April 27, 2008
12:30 pm, Church Fellowship Hall**

Given by: Pat Bates, Barbara Biggs, Carol Dorris, Linda White

WANTED: The Young Adults need colored sheets to make LONG streamers for the "World's Tallest Maypole". If you have any donations, please bring them to the office or see any Young Adult Class member. Thanks.

Regular Weekly Events

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 11:00 am
UMYF—FH & L 6:00-7:30 pm

MONDAY

Walking at Fairburn Senior Center 9:00 am
Knit Wits—L 10:00 am
AA/AI-Anon—FH & L 8:00 pm

TUESDAY

Newsletter Deadline 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Disciple II Bible Study—L 9:30 am
First Place—L 12:30 pm
Walking at Fairburn Senior Center 1:30 pm
Church Family Supper—FH 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

Walking at Fairburn Senior Center 9:00 am
Knit Wits—L 10:00 am
AA/AI-Anon—FH & L 8:00 pm

FRIDAY

Bulletin Printed

Major Committee Meetings

Held on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

- 1st Tuesday—SPRC (June & August)
- 2nd Tuesday—Finance
- 3rd Tuesday—Church Council
- 4th Tuesday—Trustees



Lectionary Scriptures

6th Sunday of Easter, April 27

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Now Available through the Church Office—

- CD's of Worship Services—No Charge
- Notary Service—No Charge
- Copies—\$.05 each
- Faxes sent or received—\$.50



Church Staff

Rev. Vicki Smith, Pastor
Rev. Phil McPherson, Dir. of Music
Marian Johnson, Organist
Sandy Wetter, Financial Clerk
Mary Ware, Custodian
Lilli Seymour & Lynda Wiggins,
Church Secretaries

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, Apr. 24

10:00 am BOW Trip

Sunday, Apr. 27

12:30 pm Luncheon-Shower for Joy Mayeske Phillips

Tuesday, Apr. 29

7:00 pm Program Group Meeting—L
7:00 pm Trustees—TBD (re-scheduled from 4/22)

Saturday, May 3

8:00 am UMM Breakfast—FH

Sunday, May 4

Noon May Day Lunch at the Pavilion
Sponsored by Young Adult Class

Tuesday, May 6

11:00 am Lively Bunch
SPRC—No Meeting this Month

Tuesday, May 13

7:00 pm Finance Committee-L

Sunday, May 18

Peace with Justice Sunday
2:00 pm Missions Committee-L
3:00 pm Pre-Conference Briefing—1st Atlanta UMC

Monday, May 19

2:00 pm UMW Day Circle—L
7:00 pm UMW Night Circle—TBD

Tuesday, May 20

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Organizational Mtg.-FH
7:00 pm Church Council—

Thursday, May 22

7:00 pm Intercessory Prayer Organizational Mtg.-LF

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day Observance—Office Closed

Tuesday, May 27

7:00 pm Trustees—L

Church Family Suppers

Wednesday Evenings, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Dinner, fellowship, program.

Call church office for reservations (770-964-3393)

Cost of Meal: \$6.00 per person (or maximum of \$15 per family)

Upcoming Meals & Programs

April 30—Baked Chicken

Program: The Dandy Lions present their annual spring concert. You will not want to miss our very own choir from the Fairburn United Methodist Men.

May 7—Spaghetti

Program: Pam Matson. Mother's Day songs and thoughts will be shared by this special mother. Pam is a former Program Director at FUMC and has shared her extraordinary musical talent with us on several occasions.