

the View from the Pew

Vol. 18, Issue 5
June 2009

For the people of Waleska United Methodist Church
A family of faith that worships God, grows in faith, and serves humanity

Round-to-it

About three months ago I began telling my two older children, ages 6 and 4, that I would take them fishing when the weather gets warmer. They had all kinds of questions about how we would catch the fish and what we would do with them once we caught them. I explained to them that we would need to get some fishing rods and tackle so we could go and catch the fish. They were very excited and looked forward to the day we could go fishing. Then, about two months ago I surprised them with their very own kid's fishing rods. Since the weather was still rainy and a little chilly I put off the trip and said that we could go when the weather gets nicer. For the next couple of weeks they would ask about going fishing and wondered if it was time to go. Each time I would tell them something like, "the weather is not nice enough yet," "it's still too cold," or "I don't have the time to go this week." Some of that was true and some of that was just plain making excuses. Shamefully, I confess as I write this article that I still have not made good on that fishing trip.

You know there are a lot of things in life that we intend to do and never get around to. In scouting circles I have often seen wooden disks given out with the phrase, "Round-to-it" painted on them. These are given as a reminder to all those things we intend to do that we haven't gotten around to doing yet. Maybe you can think about that loved one or friend that you have intended to call for months or years, but still haven't gotten around to it. Maybe you keep telling your family that you are going to make time for them and still haven't gotten around to it yet. Maybe you have been planning to go to church, join a Bible study, volunteer your time, or help out your neighbor and just haven't gotten around to it. Well, you're not alone.

Jesus ran into his share of round-to-its as well. In Matthew 8 we read about Jesus calling a disciple to follow him and the man said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus' reply to the man was, "You follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." In essence, Jesus was saying that there will always be an excuse to keep that man or us from following him.

The Pastor's Message

Time is a funny thing. There are always 24 hours in a day. There are never more and never less. However, it seems that when we do not set priorities we never have time for anything. Sometimes we set up the wrong priorities and we go about living an unfulfilled life. The Bible is clear throughout that God is our priority and our primary relationship to God is found in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. When our priorities

flow out of our relationship with Christ, we will notice that things start to fall in place and we begin to live a fulfilled life. Through my relationship with Christ I am convicted about my lack of follow-through on taking my kids fishing. It may seem like a small thing, but I am called to be a loving parent and Christ-like example to my kids. This week I am going to follow through and spend those moments with my kids they so desire. Be sure to hold me accountable and ask me if I kept that promise when you see me. Let's stop pledging to get around to it and start doing what we know needs to be done. With God's help all things are possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Sam

The High Five

So many times we feel totally inadequate in our prayers. We feel at a loss for words or the "right" words to express what is in our hearts. We feel guilty for not praying enough or forgetting to pray for someone when we had told them we would. I read in a book a long time ago one way to help in our daily prayer life. So I give you my version of it.

Look at your hand and regard each finger:

Thumb – Pray for those closest to you, your family, your friends, especially those who are facing a problem or concern in their lives. Call them by name and picture their faces as you pray for each one. Thank Him for their presence in your life and what they mean to you.

Pointer - Pray for those who give us direction in life, those who teach us, pastors, mentors, those we admire and watch.

Middle (longest finger) – Pray for our leaders, our president, politicians, leaders of other countries, celebrities, those who influence our society.

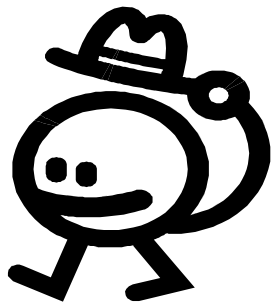
Ring (the weakest finger) – Pray for those who are in trouble, are ill in body or in spirit, the homeless and hungry in our world.

Pinkie - Pray for yourself. Imagine! One whole finger dedicated just for you! Pray about your life, your emotions, your concerns, your relationships, your work, your future, your time – there is no limit. God is interested in everything about you. Nothing is too inconsequential or insignificant to talk about with God.

So give a "High Five" to your prayer life each day.

—Carolyn Burkholder

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Our church family is constantly changing. Members move away and new members come along. The purpose of this feature of The View is to help members, old and new, elderly through young, picked at random, get to know each other better. So, let's meet.....

Roger and Barb Hague



It all started with a blind date by some friends in their hometown in Minneapolis. It didn't take Roger and Barb long to realize that they were in love and wanted to be together. That was 34 years ago.

Today, after an exciting life of one unbelievable experience after another, they are living in Lake Arrowhead and attending the Waleska UMC, and loving it. They are both people lovers and have made many friends wherever they have lived. You could say that Roger's abilities were rather varied. He started out as a funeral director, then became a lawyer and president of a bank in Minnesota. Not only that, but while living there they started an Arabian horse ranch which became the largest in a 3-state area, owning multi-million dollar horses and selling to many famous people, like Kenny Rogers, Wayne Newton and others.

Then another opportunity came upon the horizon and they joined a partner in Marietta in 1988 to start a consulting company to work with new banks. It grew to be the largest of its kind in the country. In conjunction with his work, they traveled extensively, including

every country in Europe, studying churches all over the world.

One 4th of July they didn't have anything to do and decided to check out this place called Lake Arrowhead. Well, that was it. They began renting and coming up on weekends until they found what they wanted and the rest is history. They bought a house on the lake because they love to boat as does the rest of their family who all live close by. This includes 1 daughter, 2 sons and 5 grandchildren who are the love of their lives and who visit often. Their daughter is a lawyer and helped form the Waleska UMC Corporation 4-5 years ago. Roger enjoys working and finished building and renovating their house here. He also likes to fish, hunt, and raise tropical fish and they both enjoy playing golf.

Barb has always been keenly de-

voted to her family, first her children and now the grandchildren who are 1 through 5. She has bought and sold antiques, loves to knit, shop and find a good bargain.

Roger couldn't stay idle long and now has started another business with a partner, dealing with regulations for bank officers who are planning for retirement. They both work out of their homes and stay connected to their clients electronically.

Barb and Roger are both active in the Waleska UMC as they have been in every church they have attended. They just "love the people and the feel of the church".

*Roger and Barb Hague
110 Red Cedar Court
Waleska, GA 30183
770-720-2945*

SUNDAY SERVANTS

USHERS

June 7

Rick & Patti Whiteside

June 14

Bobby & Diane Jordan

June 21

Bill Newsom & Steve McCay

June 28

Ed & Sylvia Robertson



LEMONADE on the LAWN

June 7

Carrie Budd

June 14

The Lamb Family

June 21

Paula Catoe & Kelly Newton

June 28

Toni & Rebecca Wettlaufer

United Methodist Women Reading Program

Are you aware that we have a reading library located in the church? It is in the hallway as you are coming from the preschool toward the fellowship room and it is there for YOU to use. You may borrow any of these books just by signing the library card and filing it in the box provided for that reason.

The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women and others to become knowledgeable and active in missions, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to encourage critical thinking about current issues, and to relate and apply scripture to Christian life today.

Each year the UMW receives a list of recommended books categorized into four areas: Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Persons who wish to participate in one of the Reading Program Plans may choose from any of four plans:

Plan 1 - Read 4 books this year, one from each category

Plan 2 - Read 10 books this year, at least two from each category

Plan 3 - Read 15 books this year, at least two from each category, plus 7 additional books from any category

Plan 4 - Read 20 books this year, at least two from each category, plus 12 additional books from any category

A selection of the 2009 suggested books has been purchased and will soon be on the shelves in the hall. Next month's article will include a list of the new books.

Please let Carolyn Burkholder know if you have completed any of the Plans so we can present you with a certificate. **HAPPY READING!**

Building Better Marriages
What Makes You Laugh?

What makes you laugh? Life without laughter would be dull and sad. Likewise, marriage should never be all work; marriage needs shared laughter. There is a big difference in laughing at someone and laughing with someone. The former joins two people; the latter can hurt. Our senses of humor are truly individual. It takes time and experience to appreciate each others' senses of humor as sources of richness in our marriages.

In that richness, we see that our shared laughter is triggered by a variety of situations. The antics of our kids or pets, comic strips that reflect our life at some stage, particularly crazy billboards, or some comedies seem like obvious sources. Less obvious is the laughter triggered by incongruity, things that are hilarious because they are true but don't seem to fit together at all, like the things our mothers said in dementia, or the things we said in anger, *after* we realized how ridiculous we sounded. In *Steel Magnolias*, Truvy says, "Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion. Laughter provides much needed release from stress as it exercises our muscles and pops our endomorphins. Laughing together grows our marriage muscles.

What do you appreciate about your spouse's sense of humor? ...about laughter in your marriage? What silly things do you remember from the early days of your relationship? When has laughter saved the day? Turn to your spouse and share *knee to knee*.

Eddie and Sylvia Robertson are a leader couple with the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment. (www.bettermarriages.org) and will celebrate 40 years of marriage on June 21.

MISSIONS UPDATE

WUMC is a satellite distribution center for the MUST summer lunch program for needy children. Lunches are delivered to our church Monday through Friday during June and July. Route delivery persons will pick up the lunches and deliver them to the recipients.

We will need someone at the church each day from 8:45am to about 1:00pm to coordinate packing, etc. for the deliveries pickup. This will require numerous volunteers, so we ask that you please consider taking a morning. You will be glad that you did.

This is a great opportunity for WUMC to *walk the walk* and give back to the community. If you can help, please contact Joe Love, Missions Chairman.

MUST continues to need numerous items of clothing and food. Please refer to the May issue of *The View from the Pew* for a lengthy list of such items.

"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. [2 Corinthians 9:7]"

BOOK NOTES

Have you read a good book lately? Please write a review and share with us.

Tea Time for the Traditionally Built

Alexander McCall Smith's *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* reminds me of a nice tea break in the middle of the day. Like the other books in the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series, it is cozy, warm and relaxing, and a refutation of the notion that you have to have a murder to have a mystery.

Mma Ramotswe, the "traditionally built" (i.e., not exactly sylph-like) proprietress of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency in Botswana, doesn't always get the kind of cases Sam Spade or Spenser take on. Even when the charges are blackmail or attempted murder, business is usually conducted without bloodshed. You don't pick up one of these novels expecting a gritty, stomach-churning thrill ride, but you do expect that Mma Ramotswe and her formidable assistant Mma Makutsi are going to straighten everything out in the end. This book, the tenth in the series, does not disappoint.

The plot, in which the wealthy owner of a football (soccer) team hires the ladies to find out which team member might be deliberately sabotaging their success, is resolved in its typical

tidy fashion. That's not much of a spoiler for Mma Ramotswe's fans. We savor the language in the books, letting its rhythms lull us into contemplation of Botswana, as if we too could come to know the country Mma Ramotswe is proud to call home. It is easy to slip into their manners and way of speaking.

That is not to say McCall Smith glosses over the trials Botswana's people have endured, but in the person of Mma Ramotswe we find a warm, loving spirit who transcends these challenges. She is one of those brilliantly-realized fictional characters who seems larger than the printed page (and not just because she is, as she says, traditionally built). It is a pleasure to spend time in her company, as uplifting as a fresh cup of bush tea.

—Amy McGee

2009 Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Journey came to a beautiful close on Sunday, May 17th. Three students, Sam Smith, Tiffany Johnson, and Nikki Calhoun completed their various challenges to actively and purposefully explore their faith. These new members of Waleska UMC began their journey on Sunday, February 8th. The students met each Sunday morning and enjoyed additional activities which included a Friday through Saturday retreat with other local churches, field trips, and other opportunities for service and worship. In addition, they interacted often with Pastor Sam, Miss Ashley, Mrs. DeDe, and their individual mentors.

Each student was paired with and met with a mentor at least three times throughout the process to share their faith. Sam's mentor was Rick Whiteside, Tiffany's mentor was Lee Kearney, and Nikki's mentor was Judy McKay. Each mentor also stood with their confirmand as they were prayed over at the Confirmation service.

Sam
Tiffany
CONGRATULATIONS
Nikki

BIRTHDAYS

6/3
 Gavin Cissa
 6/4
 Patti Whiteside
 6/6
 Bettye Jo Isherwood
 6/15
 Jon McGee
 Ethan Knight
 6/19
 Seth Grogan
 6/21
 Linda Stickler
 6/22
 Carrie Budd
 Carole Christian
 6/23
 Diane Jordan
 6/25
 Carol Smith
 6/26
 Helen Waldrep
 David Burgess

ANNIVERSARIES

6/8
 Ronald & Ruth Mehofer
 6/15
 Alan & Judy Allen
 6/21
 Eddie & Sylvia Robertson
 6/24
 Edward & Linda Stickler
 6/30
 6/30 David & Sandra Jarvis

Waleska United Methodist Church
 Hagan Chapel at Reinhardt College
 7340 Reinhardt College Parkway
 Waleska, GA 30183
 770/479-4428
 Web site: www.waleskaumc.com

The Rev. Sam Hamby

Pastor
 wum1@reinhardt.edu


•
Dennis Waldrep,
Director of Music

•
DeDe Reilly
Director of Family Ministries

•
Ashley Peterson
Director of Youth Ministry


•
Dan Burkholder, *Editor*
 danburk@windstream.net
 Church hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon
 Sunday School, 9:30 each Sunday
 Worship, 10:30 each Sunday
 Nursery provided


SPECIAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Sunday Worship Times in June


10am—Juice & Jesus
 10am—Chapel Time
 (this will be in place of Children's Sunday School)
 10:30am—Traditional Worship
 11:45am—Lemonade on the Lawn






Coffee Shoppe Time

7pm—10.30pm
 every Friday night in June & July, beginning June 12th
 FREE Wi-Fi
 For ages 17 and above and open to the community
 Please contact DeDe if you would like to sign up for an evening



Game Night

Board games and Card games on every Wednesday night in July from 7-8.30pm
 Refreshments available for purchase
 Bring your board games and teach a friend to play
 For all ages and the community



Vacation Bible School

June 7th - 11th 6pm - 8pm
 It's not too late to become involved - volunteers are still needed

Also, the following supplies/donations are needed:
 6 "old" twin sheets (they will be returned)
 4 squirt bottles of any kind for water
 5 old backpacks
 10-30 sponge balls
 Big, big boxes
 Silly/crazy shoes - BIG, for racing
 4 swimming pool noodles
 One inflatable life ring

The View from the Pew
 Waleska United Methodist Church
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