



the View from the Pew

Vol. 18, Issue 6
July 2009

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

Summer Vacation

All spring I asked the question, “When is it ever going to warm up?” I have also heard it said, “Be careful what you wish for.” Now, we have entered July and it is “hot.” This is also the time of year when many of us take a summer vacation. My family and I have grown very fond of spending our summer vacations on Anna Maria Island, Florida. The island is located in the Tampa Bay area. We love to sit on the beach all week, let the kids play in the sand all day, and spend our evenings grilling out or going to the City Pier for dinner. Sometimes I think the thoughts and memories of our beach trips are more relaxing than the actual trips. There is a lot of driving involved and the trip seems to go by so fast that you don’t feel you have had a vacation at all. Even if it does go by fast, I couldn’t imagine the summer coming and going without our trip to the beach.

As I think about the subject of vacation, I wonder if very many of us really understand what that means. We often plan trips, work hard to accomplish the trip, and come back home more tired and worn out than before. If we work and stay busy all year, then put our heart and soul into a vacation that wears us out, what have we accomplished? It is true that we need rest and relaxation from time to time. We need this time for our physical, mental, and spiritual health. Jesus is our greatest example of one who took time to withdraw and rest so his life and ministry could be whole. After the death of John the Baptist, Matthew 14:13 says, “When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.” In Luke 5:16, we also read, “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

Surrounding these passages that describes Jesus going away by himself to rest and pray, crowds of people were

constantly trying to see him. There was no shortage of opportunities for Jesus to stay busy. He retreated to quiet places often because he knew that he needed strength and he needed to stay in touch with his Heavenly Father. We need these same things in our lives. We need strength to live a healthy and whole life. We also need to stay connected to God through a daily relationship with Christ. Taking time to rest and regain our strength and purpose in life is not only a good idea, it is

essential if we are to be growing Christians.

This week my family will leave for that long awaited summer vacation with

high hopes of having a wonderful time and getting the rest we need. If we spend our time working and getting stressed out, we will not fulfill the purpose of “vacation.” I hope that each of us will draw from Jesus’ example of taking the time to rest so that we can better live out God’s purposes for us. If you take a vacation this summer, really take a vacation. If you need time to withdraw to a quiet place where you can pray, take the time to do so. You will be a better servant of Christ if you do.

Be Blessed,

Pastor Sam

The Pastor’s Message

Let Freedom Ring

This month we celebrate the birth of our nation and the privilege of being born here – free to work, to worship, to vote, to have our day in court, to own property, and to speak our mind (as long we don’t infringe on others’ rights). I have always been fiercely patriotic; the sight of the flag flying, the patriotic songs, men in uniform defending our county bring tears to my eyes. I am very much aware of how privileged we are here in this county compared to most of the rest of the world and am reminded of this regularly by my two sons who travel extensively. What if we had been born to parents in Africa or Iran?

When I was in high school I wrote a speech for the American Legion Oratory Contest entitled “One Nation Under God”. The phrase had recently been added to the Pledge of Allegiance. In it I said,

“We shall be undertaking a large order if we understand that every time we pledge allegiance to our national emblem, we shall be striving to make God Himself the sovereign of our nation. We are saying we will uphold this in every political campaign, every debate in Congress, every executive directive, and even in our investigations.”

The Pledge just rephrases the words of Thomas Jefferson: “The God who gave us life gave us liberty.” When President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the act adding “under God,” he said, “From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our Nation and our people to the Almighty.” How well have we, as a nation, adhered to this intent? How well have we, as individuals, seriously taken our responsibility to ensure our nation’s allegiance to God?

We can celebrate the birthday of our nation’s freedom by praying for our country, our leaders, our courts and our political parties. We can become knowledgeable about those who represent us in our government and we can take the time and the privilege to vote for those who best do that. We need to do those things to ensure that we remain:

“ONE NATION UNDER GOD”

—Carolyn Burkholder

Building Better Marriages

What are the Sounds of Your Love?

Listening to the “oldies” station in the car together, we burst out with words from long term memory: “You ‘re the one that I long to kiss. Baby, you’re the one that I really miss. You’re the one that I’m dreaming of. Baby, you’re the one that I love.” Relationships are multi-sensory. People may like different brands of music, but there is music surrounding almost everything we do. Lyrics stick with us when they touch something we are experiencing. We can think of songs from childhood that predate each other, but the ones we share are part of our bond with each other. We courted to some, spending time in the car together and dancing most college nights in the student center. We honeymooned to some and were introduced to others by friends, like “Don’t forget I’m a Man.” Music captures life. Sharing the memories evoked grows our marital bond.

Other sounds may be part of the experiences of a marriage. Backyard laughter, babies “crashing” in the grocery store line, someone’s accent, even the sound of footsteps on the porch and the door opening that says, “He’s home.”

What are the sounds of your love? What makes you smile together? Talk it over with your spouse *knee to knee*.

Eddie and Sylvia Robertson are a leader couple with the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment. (www.bettermarriages.org)..

Missions Update

We are entering the home stretch of being a distribution center for the MUST summer lunch program. I would like to thank all who have volunteered your time to make and pack lunches. We still need volunteers to fill out the calendar for July. Please call Joe Love at 770-479-8187 if you can help. A special thanks to Geoff Smith for unlocking the doors most every day and also for delivering one of the routes one or two days a week.

As part of this program, MUST is in dire need of the following items:

brown lunch bags and sandwich bags
sandwich meat and cheese

bread, chips, cookies and juice boxes

Gift cards from Wal-Mart, Kroger, Publix and Ingles are also a great help.

If you would like to donate to buy gift cards, please make your check out to the Waleska UMC and write on it “MUST summer lunch program. This is a tax deductible expense.

Also, please be watching for announcements about the “back to school” back pack and school supply gift opportunities.

—Joe Love, Missions Chairman

“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]”

Vacation Bible School Rocks

“Fear not,” was the phrase of the day at this year’s Vacation Bible School which was held during the second week in June. Each night, close to 40 students learned about the God who loves, saves, provides, heals and cares for each one of us. Donnie and Mary Helen’s kitchen crew provided meals, Miss Ashley provided the entertainment, Dr. Summers stood as the Bible teacher, and Mrs. Kim and Mrs. Sue took on the preschoolers in the “swamp”. Mrs. Jennifer took on the craft area, the Smiths played through the games, and Mrs. Heather joined Mrs. Toni for online and onsite registration. And a huge “thanks” goes to the tween girls for helping with the “thankful notes” and the tweener guys for handing them out to the volunteers each night.

I LOVE VBS! It is one of the highlights of my summer. So much so that even Mrs. Toni joined me at a nighttime VBS in Woodstock as a marketplace-shopkeeper selling rat on a stick to tweeners for one denairii.

Thank you to all those who provided a week filled with honor to the Lord and loving care to the children of our community. I can’t wait to see what Mrs. Toni pulls out next year. “FEAR NOT!”

Thank You

—DeDe Reilly

MEMBER’S SPECIAL MOMENTS

July Birthdays

4th— Ron Meihof

6th—Kylee Parlagreco

Harold Bagley

Bobby Jordan

7th—Judy McCay

9th—Chris Dunham

13th—Jim Roberson

Ali Wiggins

17th—Devon Tzimenatos

19th—Pat Summers

Sylvia Robertson

21st—Loy Warwick

22nd—Heather Smyth

26th—Larry Cissa

27th—Donna Masters

28th—Michael Sutton

29th—Donnie Lamb

Geoff Smith

31st—Stacy Miles

Margaret Jackson

July Anniversaries

9th—Wendell and Kay Abernathy

Jay and Katie Huller

13th—Terrell and Ouida Wiggins

14th—Harold and Lois Brown

22nd—Bobby and Diane Jordan

27th—Eddie and Elizabeth Smith

Recent Baptisms

Claire Ruby Allen, infant daughter of Brent and Suzy Allen, was baptized on April 19, 2009.

Camden Michael Fowler, infant son of Brad and Jennifer Fowler, was baptized on May 31, 2009.



Many people have stated an interest in learning about special activities and events of members of our congregation (promotions, graduations, family honors, special things in our lives). Please let us know of these rightfully interesting and exciting affairs so that we can share with all.

The Editor

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....



The Lamb Boys

Marc and Lee Lamb have the distinction of being the only people in our church who have attended since they were born, were baptized here, became members and are still attending – all of their lives. They are the sons of Donnie and Mary Helen Lamb and grandsons of Marcus and Helen Wallace, whom have all been long-time, vital members of the Waleska UMC. Helen passed away several years ago and Marcus (their papa) died the end of 2008.

Marcus was an important part of their growing up and helped to mold Marc and Lee into the fine young men they are today. He, Mary Helen and Donnie have been excellent role models in leading Christian lives, working in the church and community and just “helping their neighbors”.

And Marc and Lee continue in that tradition, having already held many official positions in the church and community at their young age. They are always ready to lend a helping hand wherever they are needed. They also assist their mother in her catering business and preparing for the annual Christmas Open House, a tradition continued from Helen and Marcus.

Marc

When Marc was born, Mary Helen and Donnie were living in the same house where Marc and Lee are living now (their papa's house). Mary Helen said she remembers watching them put the steeple on our church across the road just before Marc was born. He was baptized in the “new church”- The Hagan Chapel.



Marc graduated from Cherokee High School in 2006 where he was active in band and 4-H and, of course, Cub and Boy Scouts. He became very interested in the scouting program, was one of the first Cub Scouts sponsored by our church and continued advancing until he became an Eagle Scout in 2006. He was well trained and gained much knowledge by attending the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico two times, the canoe base in Canada, and the sea base in the Bahamas. His Eagle project was to landscape around the R. M. Moore school in Waleska and place two benches along their hiking trail.

Marc attended Reinhardt College for one year and is now attending Chattahoochee Tech in the Criminal Justice program. He works for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and says he loves his work there. He remains active in our church and has been on the Finance, Missions and Nominations Committees and is on the Planning &

Zoning Board in the City of Waleska.

Marc likes having grown up in a small town and church because “you know everyone and they keep you out of trouble”. His fond memories of our church include Vacation Bible School, the hayrides, the Countryman Q, and working with his papa for the Christmas baskets program.

Lee

Lee also likes living in Waleska and attending the UMC where everyone knows everyone, and “having people who have known you since you were born. It helps you get through the hard times, like a second family”. He likes the traditions and looks forward to them each year.



Lee graduated from Cherokee High School and was also active in band, 4-H and scouting programs during the time. He was in the first Cub Scout Troop sponsored by our church and led by his mother. Also bringing honors to his family, he attended the canoe base in Canada and the sea base in the Bahamas, becoming an Eagle Scout in 2008. He did his Eagle projects at our church, landscaping the bank by the lower level of the church with terraces and shrubs. He graduated in 2008 and attended Reinhardt College for one year and just this spring was accepted in the Mercer

2-year Pre-Pharmacy program in Macon. Lee has worked at the Northside Pharmacy in Waleska for several years.

Lee, along with his family, has traveled along the entire eastern U.S. seaboard. He remains active in our church having been on the Finance and Missions Committees, helping with Bible School and any other way he can be of service.

Mary Helen says the recent Bible School program brought back memories of when DeDE Leetch was here as pastor and leading the children's program for the church. The children were to get down on the floor and do something. Well, all of the children did except Lee and he just stood there straight and tall and refused to get down, much to the embarrassment and amusement of his family.

We are all proud of Marc and Lee and glad they remain a part of our church family.

Marc and Lee Lamb
7299 Reinhardt College Parkway
Waleska, Ga. 30183

While Pastor Sam is Away, Two Recent Seminary Graduates Will Pray

On Sunday, July 5, we will be blessed by the presence of Mrs. Erin Hall, wife of Rev. Jake Hall of Heritage Baptist Fellowship and recent graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University.



On Sunday, July 12, we will be blessed by the presence of Mrs. Kelley Falany Brumbeloe, recent graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary.

Welcome Erin and Kelley

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Please add to your church directory)

Al and Sandi Smith
P.O. Box 101
Rydal, GA 30183
(770) 382-1361

Ken and Sarah Laird
517 Bonneset Ct.
Canton, GA 30114
(678) 880-0226

Ed and Linda Stickler
448 Larkspur Dr.
Canton, GA 30114
(770) 542-9747

Paula Catoe
504 Young Loop
Fairmont, GA 30139
(770) 241-0730

Kelly Newton
230 Angel Road
Fairmont, GA 30139
(706) 337-5007

Sam Smith
801 Cowart Mountain Trail
Waleska, GA 30183
(770) 793-3722

Carl and Janet Wellborn
234 Balsam Dr.
Canton, GA 30114
(770) 345-8793

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 July
10am—Juice & Jesus
(a family Sunday School class for all ages)
10:30am—Camp meeting style worship
11:45am—Lemonade on the Lawn







Coffee Shoppe Time
7pm—10.30pm
every Friday night in July
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 from 7- 8:30pm
Refreshments available for purchase
Bring your board games and teach a friend to play
For all ages and the community



Community Bible Study

Join Ashley Peterson as she leads a community bible study and activity time every Monday during July from 7 to 9pm at Cline Park. If you are, or know of, a youth or tweener, this is a good time to hang out and hang onto the Word this summer.



The View from the Pew
Waleska United Methodist Church
Post Office Box 8
Waleska, GA 30183

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 12
Waleska, GA