



the View from the Pew

Vol. 18, Issue 10
November 2009

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

Thanks-Giving

The weather is getting cooler and the leaves are falling off the trees. This is the time of year when we make sure the heat is working at home and we start building fires in the fireplace. I love this time of year and I especially love to kick off the holiday season with the celebration of Thanksgiving. I love to be in a house filled with the aromas of Thanksgiving dinner. In fact, this time of the year brings back fond memories from my childhood and the Thanksgiving dinners we shared together. I can remember my mother and grandmother staying up late into the night preparing the oven roasted turkey and all the desserts we would enjoy on Thanksgiving Day. Then, on Thanksgiving morning I would wake up to the smells of turkey and cranberry sauce and the sound of a mixer whipping the mashed potatoes. Included in the desserts was always pumpkin pie and pecan pie. There were lots of great family memories made each Thanksgiving and now Laura and I try to make sure that our children experience Thanksgiving in such a way that they will have fond memories as they get older.

For so many years I looked at Thanksgiving as a time for me to give thanks for all the blessings I have. I have so much to be thankful for such as a loving wife, great family, and a great church family. It is not too hard for me to say “thank you” to God for all these blessings. I can take time before we eat that delicious Thanksgiving meal to offer thanks to God for His blessings. However, in recent years I have also understood that Thanksgiving should also remind us that we should be “giving” thankfully back to God. Rather than just being thankful for what we have received, we should be spurred on to “giving.” What if I gave as thankfully as I received?

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:7, “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” So many times we focus on making ourselves better in certain areas of our lives and forget about the “grace of giving.” There are many ways to give thankfully. We may volunteer our time to help others. We may give out of our resources to those that have needs. We have the opportunity to thankfully give our tithes and offerings to God. The list of opportunities to give goes on and on.

Yes, God has given us so much to be thankful for and this Thanksgiving we should take the time to say, “thank you.” However, I believe we are missing out on so much if that is the only way we celebrate Thanksgiving. You will be blessed beyond belief when you thankfully give because you are participating in helping to build the Kingdom of Heaven. Take the time to be thankful and to give thankfully.

Blessings,

Pastor Sam

The Pastor’s Message

The Light of the World

Every now and then we are allowed to step a little closer to heaven, to God’s Word – to the Son. I had one of those times last week as we visited loved ones in Maine. They asked if there was anything special I would like to do or see. I didn’t hesitate as I answered that I would like to see the sun come up over the ocean behind the lighthouse. Well, the next morning at 6:30 a.m. we were there, standing in the dark and waiting for the Sun (Son) to rise.

We could hear the sounds and smell the smells of the ocean but could only see the light on top of the lighthouse as it warned the boats of the shore with its dangerous rocks and boulders. We waited with anticipation. Slowly as the sun got closer to the horizon everything became a little lighter, the lighthouse, the trees, the rocks, the boats on the water as they began to take shape and become silhouettes against the light. The clouds became soft shades of blue, lavender and pink until finally everything, including us, was bathed in this beautiful blue light. We could gradually see the objects around us as they became clearer.

As the Sun approached the colors in the sky became more vivid and intense, brilliant yellow and gold colors stretching across the great expanse of the sky and reflecting in the water. They were almost cheering as the Sun finally, little by little, began appearing on the horizon, sending rays of light and color in all directions. Finally, the Sun was wholly visible in all its glory and we were given the gift of another day.

Isn’t it like that for us? Aren’t we too in darkness until we stand in the presence of the Son? Christ said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12) As we slowly get closer to the Son everything becomes more visible, we are bathed in His light until finally we stand in the presence of His brilliant light that brings us completely out of the darkness and lights our way.

—Carolyn Burkholder

Building Better Marriages
Remembering to Say “Thank You”

It is that time of year when colors change, fall wreaths appear beside doors, piles of pumpkins lean on fence posts, and people take a few days to concentrate on counting their blessings before the Christmas rush takes over. Putting mind and heart over matter is a challenge in the busyness of life; however, saying “Thank You” is essential to marriage. I am grateful for a life partner who knows my history and my dreams for the future. I am grateful for a husband who knows my inner thoughts most of the time, but takes time to listen to hear if I have changed my mind or come up with a new insight. I am grateful for a husband who loves the Lord and the church and is not afraid to act out of that love. I am grateful for a husband with whom to share children and grandchildren as we parent through a lifetime. I am grateful for a husband who takes new adventures with me even when he is not entirely comfortable with them. I am grateful for a husband who feels so familiar to me that I take comfort in his physical presence. Take time to say “Thank You” to your mate, *knee to knee*. It is important for the two of you as individuals and for your marriage.

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

Book Signing

Dick Dowis will be signing his new book, a mystery/adventure novel for young readers, at Yawn’s Books on Main Street in Canton on Saturday afternoon, November 21, beginning at 2 o’clock.

The book, *The River Lady Mystery*, is a rip-roaring yarn about two friends, Ricky and Steve, who stop to help a stranded motorist and end up prisoners aboard a luxurious houseboat.

The book has been praised by people who read it in advance of publication. Mark Sullivan, director of the U.S. Secret Service, wrote, “I read it last night and enjoyed it. I have a friend who is a grade school teacher and plan on giving it to her to read. Thank you for portraying the Secret Service in a positive way. There may be a future Secret Service agent out there reading your novel.”

Penny Jackson, media specialist at R. M. Moore Elementary School, called it “A wonderful, heart-warming story of a true friendship. Two boys embark on an adventure together to solve the mystery of a counterfeiting scandal. Many positive character traits such as honesty and devotion are exhibited throughout.”

The book is Dick’s seventh overall and his second children’s book. Yawn’s Books will also have his previous one, *The Motorbike Mystery*, available at the signing. If you haven’t been to Yawn’s Books, you’ll enjoy visiting the attractive, well-stocked store.

Please Put on Your Calendar



November

- 1 Methodist Men’s breakfast-8am
- 2 *Esther: It’s Tough Being a Woman* Bible Study-1-3pm and 7-9pm
- 3 Election day
Day Circle-10:00am
- 4 Family supper-5:45-6:45pm
Childcare/Early Elementary programming-6:45-8:15pm
Fireproof (marriage/couple) study 6:45-8:15pm
Teens/youth-6:45-8pm
Tween Leadership Academy 6:45-8pm
Pastor Sam study of *Who Stole My Church*-6:45-8pm
Choir-7:30-8:30pm
- 5 Book Club meets at the Gordy Center-7pm
- 9 MOPS-9:30am
Esther Bible Study-1-3 & 7-9pm
- 10 Night Circle-7pm
- 11 Supper & all activities-5:45pm
- 12 Juliet’s meet (see back page)
- 15 Administrative Council-6pm
Acolyte Leadership Training-9:30
- 16 *Esther* Bible Study-1-3 & 7-9pm
Scout Pack (in Sanctuary)-7pm
- 18 Romeo’s meet (see back page)
Final Wednesday Supper activities
- 19 Preschool family picnic-11am
- 23 *Esther* Bible Study-7-9pm group only

Missions Update

MUST is again planning to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to over 700 families. This annual undertaking is a huge event for MUST and will require about 200 turkeys, 1400 cans of sweet potatoes, 1300 cans of corn, 1400 cans of green beans, 600 cans of cranberry sauce, 700 boxes of mashed potatoes, 1200 boxes of cornbread mix, 1400 cans or pouches of turkey gravy, 600 boxes of macaroni and cheese, stuffing and frozen pies.

Can Waleska UMC challenge ourselves to provide at least 10 turkeys and 50 cans of vegetables? In lieu of supplying these items you can make a cash contribution with a check payable to the church and we will buy a gift card so that needed items can be purchased. We

need to deliver the canned items by November 18th and, because of freezer space, any frozen pies and turkeys on November 23rd and 24th.

Last year we delivered two overflowing baskets of canned goods and donated over \$1100 in gift cards. Be prayerful about your effort and let’s help those less fortunate.

The Christmas Angel Tree will go up by the first Sunday in December, You draw names from the tree and provide the gift indicated for a needy child in our area. Watch and listen for further announcements on this wonderful way to share the joy of Christmas.

Waleska UMC contributed \$605.00 to the request from the North Georgia

Conference for a special offering for flood victims. Thanks to all who contributed to assist our fellow citizens in need. Your Methodist Church as at work.

A special offering for Action Ministries will be taken on Sunday, November 1st. Action Ministries is sponsored by the North Georgia Conference and assists many in great need (the hungry, homeless, addicted, etc.).

—Joe Love, Missions Chairman

MUST
Thanksgiving

Angel
Tree



Member Spotlight



The purpose of this feature of The View is to help members get to know each other better. So, let's meet



Steve and Judy McCay

The National Guard Armory in Crawfordsville, Indiana would seem to be a strange place for two young people to get a first glimpse of each other. But anything can happen in the "Hoosier" state.

Steve and Judy were both home on Christmas break from college, Steve from Indiana University and Judy from the University of Arkansas, when they each decided to attend the \$1 Friday night dance at the Armory. A friend told Steve that a young lady wanted to meet him and then introduced them. Judy says "I actually picked him up at the dance and he took me home afterwards."

Steve was a microbiologist with the Food and Drug Administration for 26 years. He started in the Cincinnati office and ultimately applied for, and received, a supervisory microbiologist position in Atlanta. Since his retirement from the FDA, Steve has worked with a consulting company for the past 13 years. His job has required him to travel all over the U.S. and the world, lately spending considerable time in India. Judy rarely joins him on the longer trips but sometimes goes on the "fun" trips. Judy has worked in the Cobb County elementary schools for 23 years and will graduate to retirement at the end of this school year.

As if his work-related travels aren't enough, the McCay's have made three trips to Israel, during which they have visited biblical locations in Galilee and Jerusalem. They have brought us water

from the Jordan River (for the baptismal font) and the beautiful nativity scene that we enjoy each Christmas season.

Two rather unusual hobbies encompass much of their free time. One such hobby is wine making. They produce several types of wine out of various fruits and grow some of their own grapes. Another hobby is collecting American art pottery, of which they have approximately 400 pieces. A special room in their home is used as a show place for some of the collection (see the background of the accompanying picture).

Steve and Judy have two sons and three grandchildren living within commuting distance. Neil and his wife live in Douglasville and Jon and his wife live in LaGrange. Jon is a graphic designer for Milliken and Company. Neil is in law enforcement.

In 2004 the McCay's moved to this area from Marietta, since, as Judy says "we wanted out of the rat race." They joined the Waleska UMC in March 2005. Judy sings in our wonderful choir and they are active in many other church functions. We are blessed to have them as members.

Steve and Judy McCay
207 Plowline Ridge
Canton, Ga. 30114
678-493-7422

Meals on Wheels Alert!

Lamar Elliott has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for the past 17 years. For much of this time he was the coordinator between the program and our church. Lamar believes that it is now time for him to retire from this endeavor. Thanks, Lamar, for your faithful service to Meals on Wheels.

Now there will be only two volunteers from our church working with Meals on Wheels. We really need at least two more.



If you are willing to deliver meals no more than once a month on Mondays, please talk to Alan Allen for details.

"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."
— Hudson Taylor

Sunday Servants



Ushers

Nov. 1 — Chris & Heather Robinson
Nov. 8 — Wallace & Kathy Howard
Nov. 15—Dan & Carolyn Burkholder
Nov. 22—Open
Nov. 29—Bruce & Martha Ayer



Coffee in the Corner

Nov. 1 — Roger & Barb Hauge
Nov. 8 — Tom & Brandi Grogan
Nov. 15—Joan Poole & Ann Cagle
Nov. 22—Ernie & Susan Jarvis
Nov. 29—Dick & Pat Summers

Members Special Moments



November Birthdays

1st — Mitchell Robinson
7th — Mark Vance
8th — Lamar Elliot
Jennifer Jackson
11th — Sandra Anthony
14th — Karen Beattie
Ruth Meihofner
20th — John Christian
21st — Harold Brown
Don Hottinger
25th — Elizabeth Thomas
Alex Wiggins
27th — Doris Warwick
29th — Adam Budd



November Anniversaries

7th — Dan & Carolyn Burkholder
14th — Russ & Laynie Powell
21st — Rick & Allison Evans



Baptism

We celebrated the baptism of Charlie Sue Grogan on Sunday, October 25, 2009. She is the infant daughter of Tom and Brandi Grogan and the sister of Miranda, Mitchell and Seth.

Did You Know?

"Did You Know?" has become a regular fixture in the church bulletin. It's informative trivia at the least. "Did You Know?" is also an opportunity to inform our church family about how much the facility is used now and also future possibilities for increased use.

Our existing Fellowship hall is used every day except Friday. The large playroom is used by Amy McGee's Brownie troop on Friday evenings, and small groups use the Swamp. The rest of the rooms are used by Reinhardt College. Friday may be an *off* day upstairs but certainly not downstairs.

Sunday in the Fellowship Hall is a different story starting at 8:00am with the Men's Breakfast followed by Family Fellowship coupled with Family Sunday School. Most folks look forward to Coffee in the Corner after Services. On a regularly scheduled basis we have MOPS, Scouts, Wolves, Lunch Bunch, Webelos, Reinhardt Freshly, and Wesley Fellowship dinners. You can imagine all the additional meetings, socials, receptions, birthdays, etc.

The Groom's Room and the Bride's Room are the two least utilized rooms in the church. Occasional small meetings, the Friendship Sunday School class, and the bi-monthly prayer group meet here. Both rooms have size restrictions negating use. There is an additional adult Sunday School class meeting downstairs in the college classroom.

We only have one true adult gathering place. The Seekers Room is used not only as a Sunday School room but also as the only other meeting room except the Sanctuary. I can assure you that holding a meeting or study group in the Fellowship Hall when other activities are scheduled is less than desirable.

If you have ever questioned whether our church home is being used, be here at 8:00 am some Wednesday and stay until about 9:00 pm that evening. It's a full day during which you will also enjoy a great meal with the Wednesday night supper. It's well worth the wait.

There have been multiple requests and suggestions to use our facilities that have been denied. In some cases it has been a scheduling conflict, or we just didn't have space available. There have been requests or suggestions to host Weight Watchers, grief seminars, a multi-church Bible study, as well as AA and other addictive support groups plus a place for their families to meet separately. We even had a request from a national school prayer group to meet here because they could not use a school.

—Don Hottinger

The Elizabeth Bailey Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 3 at 10:00am. The program will be the World Thank Offering.

The meeting will be at the home of Carolyn Burkholder, 313 Cherokee Drive in Lake Arrowhead. If you need directions please contact Carolyn at 770-479-8336.

The Agape Circle of Friends Night Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00pm at the home of Ruth Burgess. Call 770-720-1912 for directions.

The Juliet's will meet on November 12th. Call Martha Ayer at 770-479-6303 for details.

The Romeo's will meet on November 18th. Call Bruce Ayer at 770-479-6303 for details

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Church hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon
Sunday School, 9:30 each Sunday
Worship, 10:30 each Sunday
Nursery provided

The View from the Pew
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