



the View from the Pew

Vol. 18, Issue 8
September 2009

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

Pray for the Harvest

This spring Laura and I decided to plant a garden. We were so excited about the crops we would bring in and my mouth watered as I thought about eating garden fresh tomato sandwiches this summer. We planted our crops, applied a little fertilizer, watered regularly, and waited for the harvest. For a little while it seemed things were going well, but that all changed. The bugs attacked and we fought them off. Some of the plants began to rot and we tried to revive them. To make a long story short, aside from some beans, cucumbers, banana peppers, and Dr. Eddie Robertson's cherry tomatoes, the garden failed. I never got to taste that garden fresh tomato sandwich.

As I was reflecting on our failed attempt at a garden and the frustration that comes along with that, I began to think of Jesus' words in Luke 10:2 as he said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." I may not have been a very good gardener this summer, but Jesus is talking about a greater harvest. Jesus tells us that the harvest is ripe with many souls ready to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, Jesus describes the field as full of fruit that just needs some laborers to come along and bring in the harvest. The Holy Spirit has already been working in people's lives preparing them for the laborers that will come to bring in the harvest. Maybe a few of us called Christians could say "yes" and join the harvest team.

Have you ever felt led or called to lead a program or event? Maybe you decided to give your time to prepare a study and you were excited about the people that would be reached. Did you experience joy and excitement when the program or event was fully supported and you had laborers saying "yes" to bring in the harvest? Perhaps your joy

and excitement was lost when your program or event was not supported and there were no laborers in the field. It's tough to hang in there when that happens. The frustration builds just like it did for us this summer when our crops failed.

The Good News is that Jesus does not describe failing crops, he simply says there are laborers needed to bring in the great harvest. It is not a matter of waiting to see "if" there will be a harvest. The heart of the mat-

ter is whether or not we will say "yes" to bring in the harvest that is already ripe. I can get excited about this, but I also know all too well the frustration when the people of God say "no" to be laborers to bring in the harvest. I feel compelled to follow Jesus in praying for laborers for God's harvest field. Won't you say "yes" to bring in the harvest and join in prayer for more workers for the field?
Blessings,

Pastor Sam

The Pastor's Message

National Grandparents Day—September 9

As I stated in last month's article in the Lake arrowhead paper, I thought that Hallmark started Grandparents Day so they could sell more cards. However, it was started in 1970 by Marian McQuade of W. Va. to promote the importance of the grandparenting role in the life of the family. It is now officially the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Grandparenting is often a learned skill. Many of us have had wonderful, loving grandparents who were important in our upbringing and as role models. Paul realized the influence of grandparents in the life of young apostle, Timothy: "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure it is in you as well." (2 Timothy 1:5)

Being a grandparent is truly a blessing. We are most overwhelmed by the miracle of a new life, but almost as miraculous is watching our son or daughter becoming a parent. We watch with awe, pride and sometimes a little fearfulness as they do their best to raise this precious child.

Some people become grandparents by choice not by birth. If they don't have grandchildren of their own or theirs live far away, they "adopt" grandchildren who need someone else important in their lives. They become a surrogate grandparent to another child. They are as important as a biological grandparent.

Some of the best gifts we can give our grandchildren are *time, a listening ear, and our own faith*. Not only is it important in the life of the grandchild but fulfilling and rewarding to the grandparent as well. My 25-year-old grandson just paid me a complement today. He had been skydiving for the first time for his birthday and called me immediately afterward to share the incredible experience with me. If that were not enough, he said, "Grandma, you just have to go skydiving. You would love it." I appreciated the thought (but think I'll pass).

The Foundation for Grandparenting (www.grandparenting.org/info.htm) calls "Grandparent Power" the power to love, care for others and grow personally while doing so. It certainly is a powerful gift – to be able to part of this young person's life, watch him develop and grow and, hopefully, be a positive influence in that development.

A little story that I have treasured for years is about "Granny's Glasses":

A little boy said to his playmate, "When I get older I want to wear glasses just like Granny's because she can see so much more than most people. She can see good in a person when everyone else sees their bad. She can see what a fellow meant to do even if he didn't do it. I asked her one day how she could see so good, and she said it was the way she learned to look at things when she got older. When I get older, I want a pair of glasses just like Granny's so I can see good, too."

Maybe this year we can observe Grandparents Day both directions. Let's put on a pair of Granny Glasses and let *both* the grandparents and the grandchildren know how much we love them and appreciate them in our lives.

—Carolyn Burkholder

*Building Better Marriages
In Sickness and in Health*

When we took out wedding vows, we promised to take each other “to have and to hold ... in sickness and in health.” We surely didn’t dwell on the sickness phrase, yet if couples are fortunate enough to live together for a long time, we are called to live out that vow. Used well, our experiences become part of a history of trust and intimacy. When the time does come, however, sickness is difficult on both partners. Ed and I have been living it with Ed’s recent fall and surgery. Sickness breeds scary feelings like fragility, helplessness, inadequacy and fear of abandonment. Role definitions are scrambled. Tasks always done jointly must be done singly. Fear of loss of capability threatens both partners.

When the immediate crisis passes, there is a natural drop in the level of stress hormones that helped you to get through the pain and shock. In the let down, being patient with healing is its own new task. Finally, too, we can take some time to verbally and physically comfort each other, to share our individual experiences and fears, and to appreciate how love and faith have brought us through once more.

In your marriage, have there been difficult times of sickness? How have you handled them as a couple? What helped you to survive? Affirm your partner *knee to knee*.

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

Editors note: Sylvia reports that Eddie continues to improve and that they will be back in Waleska soon.

CPR and First Aid Certification will be held from 9am-noon on Saturday, September 12th. Cost is \$25 per student. The certification class is open to anyone, child care provided. Please call DeDe Reilly at 404-493-1683.



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The **Tweener Leadership Academy** begins Wednesday, September 16th at 6:45pm. If you are entering or attending 4th—6th grade, you are invited to check us out. Wednesday night dinners will begin at 5:45pm, and we will meet in “The Swamp” at 6:45pm and finish a 8pm. Bring your friends, a bible, a pen and no fear. For more information, call or text Mrs. DeDe at 404-493-1683, or email her at dbr@reinhardt.edu.

Influenza Vaccinations will be offered by Danna Pendleton on October 7th from 5 - 7:30pm at those who have it, otherwise law, all pneumonia vaccination from a doctor.

The CDC is advising all to take available at this time. Danna will keep us informed of its availability.



will be offered by Danna Pendleton on the church. Medicare will be billed for the cost is \$25. According to state this year will require a prescription

the flu vaccine this year. H1N1 is not available at this time. Danna will keep us informed of its availability.

The **47th Annual Men’s Eagle 4-H Center** will be Sep-speaker will be former NFL Bill Glass Ministries. There and various activities. Contact or go to the UMM website at www.ngcummm.org for more information.



Spiritual Retreat at Rock tember 25-27th. The keynote player Bill Glass, founder of will be music, workshops Steve McCoy, 770-714-6591

Please Put on Your Calendar



- 9/8 Elizabeth Bailey Day Circle-10am
- 9/9 First Wednesday night dinner — 5:45pm
- 9/10 Juliet’s meet at the church -- 11am
- 9/12 CPR/First Aid Certification Training — 9am-noon
- 9/14 MOPS — 9:30-11:30am
- 9/16 Romeo’s meet at the church--11am
- 9/16 Dinner — 5:45-6:45pm
Childcare/Early Elementary programming — 6:45-8:15pm
Fireproof (marriage/couple) study begins — 6:45-8:15pm
Teens/youth — 6:45-8pm
Tweener Leadership Academy — 6:45-8pm
Pastor Sam study of Who Stole My Church? by George McDonald — 6:45-8pm
Choir — 7:30-8:30pm
- 9/20 Administrative Council — 6pm
- 9/23 NO Wednesday night programs
- 9/25-27 Men’s Spiritual Retreat at Rock Eagle
- 9/26 UMW brunch — 9:30am
- 9/28 MOPS — 9:30-11:30am
- 9/30 Dinner — 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
Tweener Leadership Academy — 6:45-8pm
Pastor Sam study of Who Stole My Church? — 6:45-8pm
Choir — 7:30-8:30pm

Romeo’s and Juliet’s

Both of these groups are social get-together lunch events. While both are comprised of church members only, the discussions are more topical and about getting to know each other. *Romeo* stands for Retired Old Men Eat Out while *Juliet* stands for Joyous, Unique Ladies Into Eating Together,



The Juliet’s will meet on September 10th, 11am at the church.

The Romeo’s will meet on September 16th, 11am at the church.

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.....

Tom and Brandi Grogan



Brandi, Seth, Miranda, Tom and baby Charlie Sue. Mitchell was not available.

Tom and Brandi are the proud parents of a new (6 weeks old) baby girl, Charlie Sue. This is their fourth child. They also have three other adorable children- Miranda, Mitchell and Seth. They take their responsibilities as parents very seriously and model a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle for their children. They are a sports loving family, not only as spectators at the Braves games but participants as well. Tom coaches Miranda's basketball team and Mitchell's baseball team, the Canton Stingers who won 1st in the District, 2nd in State, and 2nd in the World Series. Miranda also does cheerleading.

The family does many things together such as exercising in the evenings, each having their own equipment, and camping on their property in Dahlonega, Ga. They love to hike and participate in the many activities at a nearby ranch in Dahlonega while camping there. Tom and Brandi love to work in their yard and do gardening.

Tom is the Area Director of the Atlanta Region for a management corporation. He manages three different hotels in the Atlanta area. He worked in

Auburn, Ala. prior to his transfer to Cartersville.

Brandi has been a Mary Kay distributor for seven years. She is basically a stay-at-home mom with her children. But this is a change for her. She and Tom, both from Ohio, met at Tiffin Univ. in Ohio where they were both majoring in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Tom took the hotel route and Brandi the restaurant segment. She began working at McDonald's when she was 15 years old. It didn't take them long to recognize her ability and at 16 she was made Training Manager. In her five years there she advanced to second in charge. She has been a manager at Subway, Hardy's, and Wendy's among others.

They were married for three years the first time, divorced for five years and then remarried again six years ago. They've lived in several different places and were members of the White UMC before they moved to Cherokee County.

The Grogan family have been involved in the Waleska UMC on many different levels. Mitchell was in the preschool, Seth is presently in the preschool and Miranda is in the Tween Leadership Academy. Tom and Brandi usher and host the Coffee In the Corner. Brandi was Vice President of the United Methodist Women for the past two years and is Creative Activities Director for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers).

What a great family and a wonderful addition to our church family.

*Tom and Brandi Grogan
422 White Cloud Trail
Canton, Ga. 30114
678-493-8540*

Sunday Servants



Ushers

Sept. 6 — Dan & Carolyn Burkholder
Sept. 13— Wendell & Kay Abernathy
Sept. 20— Carl & Janet Wellborn
Sept. 27— Chuck & Stacy Knight



Lemonade on the Lawn

Sept. 6 — Sam & Laura Hamby
Sept. 13— Roger & Barb Hauge
Sept. 20— Paula Catoe & Kelly Newton
Sept. 27— Jerry & Cheryl Sauls

Member's Special Moments



September Birthdays

3rd — Stacey Knight
4th — Tony Uliana
9th — Darby Hayes
11th— Lory Dunham
Steve Jordan
13th— Katie McGee
Bruce Robinson
Jeri Tzimenatos
14th— Betty Holland
17th— Keith Piero
Rich Rannow
19th— Lisa Bassett
Ken Wheeler
22nd -- Joe Phillips
23rd— Marcie Hottinger
29th— Andy Brooks
Ouida Wiggins
30th— Matthew Bassett



September Anniversaries

2nd — Ray & Sandra Anthony
7th — Steve & Judy McCay
10th— Vernon & Audrey Knoll
17th— Wayne & Lisa Bassett
21st — Chris & Heather Robinson
26th — Richard & Patti Whiteside
27th — Bob & Marian Wickwire
Terrell & Ouida Wiggins
30th — Kevin & Jessica Parlagreco

Something to Think About

If it weren't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't.

—*anonymous*

"Measure not men by Sundays, without regarding what they do all the week after."

— *Thomas Fuller*

Missions Update

MUST

In visiting at MUST this past week, they advised that the need continues to grow for all food items because of the current economy. They need donations of canned meats, pastas, breakfast cereals, canned vegetables, as well as peanut butter and jelly. Please put your donations in the basket in the Fellowship Hall for delivery.

Meals on Wheels

We have several men who deliver meals on wheels each month. Please be in prayer for their service and safety.

—Joe Love, Missions Chairman

Circle News

The Elizabeth Bailey day circle will meet at 10am on September 8th at the home of Margaret Jackson. We are very fortunate to have our good friend Dorothy Mutumbara, from Zimbabwe, as our special guest.

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

Patti Drago
Administrative Assistant
wum2@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

This will be our first meeting since June and we invite our new members, who may not yet be on call lists, to make plans to attend.

Please let Margaret know if you plan to go so that she will know how many to expect.

Margaret resides at 8951 Fincher Rd. in Waleska and her phone number is 770-479-4158.

—Joan Poole, Day Circle President

The joint UMW meeting will be a 9:30am brunch on Saturday, September 26th at the home of Brandi Grogan. Please bring a brunch item to share. Brandi's address is 422 White Cloud Trail, Canton, Ga. 30114. Phone 678-493-8540

Study the Book of Esther with DeDe

"It's tough being a woman". This is the premise of the book of Esther. Found in the Old Testament, it is the only book of the Bible where the name of God isn't mentioned, but His providence is very evident throughout.

DeDe Reilly says "the book of Esther has been one of my faith files for many years".

When DeDe found that Beth Moore, one of her favorite Bible teachers, wrote a Bible study entitled "Esther: It's Tough Being A Woman", she was so excited that she wanted to share it with others.

So plan to join DeDe each Monday beginning October 5th for an in depth study of the book of Esther. You can attend from 1-3pm or 7-9pm. Register by emailing DeDe at dbr@reinhardt.edu.



IS THIS THE "LOW-BID" OUR BUILDING COMMITTEE ACCEPTED?

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Waleska United Methodist Church
Post Office Box 8
Waleska, GA 30183

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