

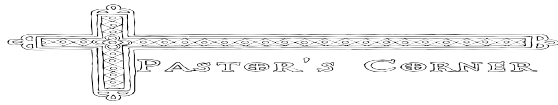


NorMeth

Norwood United
Methodist Church

Volume 8 Number 2

February 2008



Maybe So

FROM THE PASTOR....

Margaret Seagraves recently shared the following article with me and I believe it bears repeating.

Music Ministry in churches is dramatically expanding in scope and effectiveness. There are adult and senior adult choirs, youth choirs, children's choirs, handbell choirs, orchestras, and various vocal and instrumental ensembles. Whether a church has one or two music groups, and no matter how polished or professional sounding they may be, the most important music group in the church is the congregation. This music group has no restrictive membership requirements, such as the ability to read music or have a good singing voice. Everyone who attends a worship service is a viable contributing member of the church's most important music group. Everyone who can talk can sing. Obviously, singing abilities vary. Some may not sing on key, others may be monotone. Nevertheless, as receivers of God's goodness, each believer has a reason to sing. The passages of Scripture that address singing (Psalm 30:4 and 149: 1, Colossians 3:16 and James 5:13) do not tell us how well we are to sing. They simply tell us to sing. John Wesley gave some strong words of encouragement that may be applied to our congregation sing today. "See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder. If it (singing) is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing. Sing heartily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice or ashamed of being heard. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself or any other creature." Of all that happens today in Christian music, perhaps the most important and most spiritually valid is personal involvement - when each believer sings praises to God. When voices are raised in corporate singing, Christians are drawn together in common bonds of worship to God.

See you Sunday at the singing place.

--David

Dear Mister Editor,

Here at Utmost United Methodist Church, we have a member, Major Day, who is a real sparkler. He just beams with joy and warmth. He has a way with people that makes them just want to smile and enjoy life.

Last week, our pastor, Rev. Mostly Wright, who usually has excellent sermons, preached a sort of dry, rambling sermon. At the end of the service, Major was one of the first to speak to Rev. Wright. In a voice that could be heard three pews away, Major said, Brother Wright, I've been meaning for a long time to thank you for what you have done for our church. You have made worship come alive for me, and I think I speak for all the others. I just can't wait for Sunday Morning to get here. I praise God for you!" Well, that just set the tone, and almost everybody gave Rev. Wright a little perk.

Well, Major is that way. He just finds something good and real and makes a grand bouquet of it. He is a real asset to our church. I hope other churches have some members like Major Day.

Until next time....

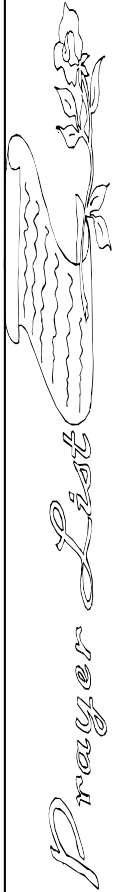
Homer Heardmore

Rhodes Crossing, GA

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The Library: Do you need a moment to contemplate? Are you interested in Bible Concordances or Encyclopedias? Do you want to sit quietly and pray? Then come to the church library! The library is a good place for Lenten contemplation or to study the Word of God in depth. Don't forget to utilize our library. It is always open and always full of information!

**Nursing Home Residents**

Earl Jones, NHC St. Mary's
 Janice Blair, Hillcrest North
 Robert Hobbs, Trinity Hills
 Room #313

Shut-Ins

David Lacy
 Virginia Smith
 Marie Spradlin
 Opal Bounds
 Evelyn Nolen
 Elizabeth Ferry

Sick and/or Recovering

Peggy Curtis
 Brian Stucky
 Joyce Rogers
 Don Roach
 Ed Crenshaw
 Walter Dossett
 Don Watkins
 Polly Rice
 Betty Roach
 Richard Walker

Our Seniors

Ralph Alexander
 Paul Dobbins
 Elizabeth Duncan

Members In The Military - Deployed

Kyle Mink

A Look At Our Faithfulness:**Tithing:**

02/03 \$3790.00
 02/10 \$1037.00
 02/17 \$3282.24
 02/24 \$2228.24

Attendance

01/27	Sunday School	43
	Worship Service	68
02/03	Sunday School	45
	Worship Service	69
02/10	Sunday School	41
	Worship Service	67
02/17	Sunday School	41
	Worship Service	59

Choir Fund Raiser: The Choir will be holding a **Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser** on Saturday, March 8 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at Appleby's on Central Avenue Pike. Choir members will have tickets available this morning: \$5.00 for individuals, and \$10.00 for families. Make plans now to join our choir for breakfast! All money raised will go to the new sound system that will cost approximately \$2700.00. Thanks for your support!

Norwood Senior News – A Slight Change of Pace: February 25, 2008

Today our seniors gathered to venture downtown to the Knoxville Visitor's Center to have lunch and see a live broadcast at the WDVX radio station. No one had heard of the groups who would be performing and I must say we were a little skeptical as to what to expect. We were welcomed at the studio and were given a tour of the library and the recording studio, being able to watch as they were broadcasting live. We enjoyed our box lunches and then came the performances. No, it wasn't the music of Swing and Sway, or Hank Williams or Benny Goodman. Was it? - "Let's Go To the Hop All Shook Up, Blue Suede Shoes, Shake, Rattle and Roll, or Great Balls of Fire"? Remember those songs? Yes, they were fast, wild, crazy and loud. I think most of us loved all of them. A know I could dance all night to them. Well, today we were treated to music to revive all those memories and stiff joints and bones we have acquired. When the band "Great Bear" from Philadelphia opened the show the music started out at an enjoyable medium tempo. Following this band was a group also from Philadelphia known as "Hoots and Hellmouth" who came on stage all fired up, full of enthusiasm and music abounding. I must say this tempo was not quite the tempo we are used to in our daily listening habits. As they played, sang and danced you could see they were putting their every effort into giving a great show for all. As we watched it wasn't difficult to observe how much time they must spend practicing and preparing, needless, to say the time they spend on the road and performing. Just seeing these young people enjoying what they were doing and enjoying life to the fullest was invigorating and could be a good hint to us seniors to loosen up and not let the rockin' chair get us. Enjoy. Times and music haven't changed that much! Let's just call it "A Change Of Pace". Seniors, let's give those young-uns a pat on the back for a good performance!

After the show we enjoyed browsing and shopping the "Mast General Store".

Thanks to all who baked cookies for the Ronald McDonald House. Our next meeting will be **Friday, March 14, 2008 in the Fellowship Hall**. We will host the Wesley House Seniors for lunch and Bingo. Please bring in gifts for Bingo. There is a box on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.



Education Moment:

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM:

Our next rotation begins March 2nd. We will be studying, "Jesus is Alive!" and looking at the Resurrection and all that means for us. No matter how many times you hear the Resurrection story it is fresh and exciting. Our memory verse is "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Luke 24:5) Come and study this exciting rotation with us.

MDO NEWS

Hello from MDO! We have been blessed with a wonderful program and very little illness this year. The children decorated cupcakes and partied away on Valentine's Day! We were visited by a local dentist (Dr. Dickey) who came and spoke to the children about proper care of their teeth and was very gracious in giving each child a colorful toothbrush. Thank you, Dr. Dickey! Next month we'll be very busy, so until then, God Bless You!

Till next time!

Tonja Kendrick

MDO Director

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

We had a wonderful time watching the "Ten Commandments" (Animated) movie! Everyone enjoyed the movie, snacks and fellowship with each other! The movie is now part of our Church Library movie collection and is available for anyone to check out and watch at home. Enjoy!

We had a great planning meeting in February and have a year filled with fun activities planned for the children. Next up is ice skating at the Ice Chalet on Sunday, March 9th at 2 PM...No skating experience necessary! Just come ready to have some fun! The following Saturday, March 15th at Noon, the Woodmen of the World will be sponsoring our community Easter Egg Hunt followed by a cook-out. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to join in the fun...All children are welcome! (Note: Rain date for the Easter Egg Hunt is March 22nd.) Please let Sharon know if you would like to donate candy to stuff eggs with or chips/finger foods/cookies for the Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome to attend any of our activities and spend some time with our wonderful group of children...They are truly a blessing from God!

PRE-SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Pre-School Sunday School class is still learning from the New Testament and is having fun reading stories, making crafts and doing other exciting activities together! They are planning a special mission project/fundraiser in April to benefit the Holston Home for Children. Be sure to look for more details about this exciting activity in upcoming announcements, bulletins and the next NorMeth!

UMW Notes

The UMW theme for 2008 is; "Lift Up Your Cup for Living Water". (John 4:13-) Do you know the UMW's Mission Statement? Here it is: "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose sole purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." Now you know why the UMW exists. Come join us at our next meeting: March 17th at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Enrichment at Lake Junaluska takes place this May. It will be held May 16-17 and May 17-18. If you are interested in attending please let Danielle know. More information will be available at our March 17th meeting.

Don't forget the UMW Reading Program. If you would like to participate please let Danielle know. Two books have already been placed in the library which you are welcome to read.

Uplifting Thought: "As the years pass, I am coming more and more to understand that it is the common, everyday blessings of our common everyday lives for which we should be particularly grateful." Laura Ingalls Wilder