



*A Heart for God and
A Heart for Others*

Jefferson First

Caring ♦ Christ-Centered ♦ United Methodist

January 2010 Volume 19, Number 1

Being A Real Church

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Luke 6:37-38

As I write this article this morning my mind naturally turns to the events of the past year. One experience that quickly came to mind actually occurred at the District Christmas Dinner in December at the Homer 1st United Methodist Church. Lynn and I were seated with several others pastors eating dinner and involved in typical dinner conversation when the pastor on my right turned to me and asked: "So what has your church done this year?" I began to answer him with just a quick scenario of our involvement just in missions the past year. I talked about our monthly visits to feed the homeless at the Oconee Street UMC and our involvement with the local food bank and Ark ministries. I described our book bag ministry and all the clothes as well as book bags and school supplies that were given as part of that effort. I spoke about the Angel Tree children whose only Christmas would come as a result of your generosity. I then told how my heart was always touched by the number of volunteers that came to provide meals for others on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day before beginning their own celebrations. I spoke about the way we had gotten involved in helping others from filling gas tanks in automobiles to filling large LP tanks or helping with electric bills to keep homes warm in the winter. I spoke about our job search fellowship and our Beary Christmas. I described our mission trip to Kentucky. I spoke of the involvement of our youth in GAP and GAME this summer. At this point the person I was speaking to simply waved their hand to stop me, looked me square in the eye and said: "I see, you are a real church, you are not just playing church." His words have stayed with me over the past few weeks, and as I have reflected on them I have been encouraged with the words "you are a real church, you are not just playing church."

I hope that those words encourage you as well. While I think that it is great to be a part of a congregation that sees the needs of others, more importantly it is great to be part of a congregation that is truly willing to do something about those needs by giving of itself to others. I deeply appreciate your generosity and many acts of kindness. Unfortunately far too many people never see this side of the church. I hope that 2010 will see a continuation of your generosity and Christian heart. Those who experienced the blessings of these events understand the true meaning of giving and the words "it is more blessed to give than to receive." If you were part of all this then my hat is off to you and I simply say thank you! If you were not part of these efforts in 2009, let me encourage you to make 2010 your year of involvement. I know that the heart of God is in loving acts of kindness and generosity. If you get a chance this week, take a moment to reread the last few verses of the 25th chapter of Matthew. Know that my prayer is that "it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, that will be poured into your lap." Happy New Year and may God bless you richly in 2010.



Announcements

Family Night Supper

Our Family Suppers resume this week and start at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. See the menu below and we ask that you bring a dessert to share with others. There is no cost for the meal but a free will donation will be accepted to help offset the cost of paper goods, drinks, and purchased foods. We invite you to join us!!

- Jan. 6: Potluck –please bring your favorite entrée, side dish, salad or dessert to share.
- Jan. 13: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls
- Jan. 20: Creamy Italian Chicken, Rice, Vegetable Medley, Rolls
- Jan. 27: Chili and all the sides!

Words of Thanks

Timm and Cindy would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and cards during our recent trials and tribulations. We found a wonderful church family in Jefferson and have been truly blessed by knowing you. We have missed worshiping and fellowshiping with you in the last few months, but do enjoy the time we get to spend with you during our visits back to Georgia. May God continue to bless and strengthen the JFUMC family. *Timm & Cindy Soldwish*

GOT GAS? (or mowers, blowers, pruners, etc.)

Volunteers needed for lawn maintenance

JFUMC has decided to take over the lawn care service as a mission opportunity for individuals and groups within the congregation. We need individuals and groups to help maintain the church grounds. Please contact Richard Wilson for further information at 404-867-9046 or 706-367-1729. An organizational meeting will be announced soon.

Words of Thanks

Thank you all for your love, prayers, monetary support, and thoughts during the time David was so ill. He is home after a total of 64 days in the hospital and rehab. He is doing well, and will have therapy with Home Health Care. His left leg is weak, and two fingers on his right hand are numb. They say that this will go away as he continues to recover. It will probably take 4 to 6 months to fully recover. God Bless you All. His grace is sufficient. May you all have a very Happy New Year. Love, Martha Crisler

Altar Giving

During our Communion Sundays many members leave donations at the Altar. Any monies that are contributed this day are collected and donated to The Ark Ministry of Jackson County. The Ark helps those in our area in emergency situations with utilities, prescriptions, etc. and meets weekly at Jefferson Presbyterian Church. Our contribution is greatly appreciated as their funds constantly run low helping many in need.

Tina Corbin	03	Samantha Loggins	19
Maree Cote'	04	Bell Blankenship	19
Larry Welch	05	Denton Alexander	19
Melanie Stoudenmire	05	Jason Perkins	21
Jacque Wilkes	06	Haley Arnold	23
Tim Cornelison	06	Steven Herring	24
Georgiana Powers	08	Carol Sandrock	26
Danelle Fowler	08	Wendy Mahaffey	27
Dean Hoch	10	Ellie Dorough	28
Mike Buffington	10	Tricia Bartoletta	29
Lea Franco	11	Grace Warner	30
Rebecca Soldwish	11	Gail Thompson	31
Brent Greenwood	14	Vickie Tribble	31
Tan Tonge	14	David Bohanan	31
Rebecca Stoudenmire	15	Taylor Bost	31
Rena Bryan	17	Zach Bost	31
Leanne Hoffman	17		

Quilters Group

The quilters meet weekly on Monday from 9 am to 3 pm in the fellowship hall. Anyone who wants to learn the fine art of quilting is invited to join us on Mondays.



Prime Timers

**January 14, 2010
12:30 p.m.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Prime Timers meets once a month on the 2nd Thursday for fellowship and a pot-luck luncheon. All retirees are invited to join us for lots of great food, fun and fellowship!

January Volunteers

Acolytes

1/03-9a-Kate Quinn/11a-A.J. Pittman, Crucifer-Kelly Pittman
1/10-9a-Shelby Fowler/11a-Matthew Nilsen, Crucifer-Lindsey Nilsen
1/17-9a-Sarah Savage/11a-Ellen Underwood, Crucifer-Will Underwood
1/24-9a-McEver Dugan/11a-Charlie Jarrett, Crucifer-Hal Jarrett
1/31-9a-Taylor Bridges/11a-Jacob Powers, Crucifer-Jill Pratt

Children's Church

1/03-9a & 11a-Communion Sunday, no CC
1/10-9a-E. Soldwish, TBA/11a-L. Davis, C. Perschall
1/17-9a-A. Siler, P. Sailors/11a-L. & D. Scott
1/24-9a-B. Dugan, W. Mahaffey/11a-T. & K. Bartoletta
1/31-9a-TBA/11a-TBA

Greeters

1/03-9a-Fonda Feliks/11a-Frank Moore
1/10-9a-Becky Savage/11a-Shirley & Johnnie Harrold
1/17-9a-Alisa Bridges/11a-Helen Buffington
1/24-9a-Renee Bryan/11a-Don Weaver
1/31-9a-Sandi Rakow/11a-Ed & Sue Swinson

Meals on Wheels

1/07-Harry & Jayne Bryan
1/14-Dan & Anita Barron
1/21-Virginia Moore, Imogene Kelly
1/28-Dot Hunt, Demetria White

Ushers- 11 a.m.

1/03-Bob Bates, Ray Bauerband, Harry Bryan Sr., Buck Buchanan
1/10-Blair Buffington, Ben Clark, Doug Cleveland, Russ Cook
1/17-Adam Davis, Harmon Dearman, Kay Essendorf, Harold Jarrett
1/24-Ron King, James Lamb, David Lyle, James Pinion
1/31-Todd Powers, Mike Rector, Dave Scott, Jim Shaw

Our Daily Bread - 1/18-Ron & Sara Bond

Our Vision

Jefferson First United Methodist Church is to be an authentic and transforming community where Christian, non-Christian, and nominally Christian people, become deeply committed disciples of Christ who embody Christ's love, joy, peace, gentleness, spiritual depth, and servant's heart in all we do.

Our Mission

Our three-fold mission: To be a church that invites, equips and empowers, and sends forth in ministry.

Our Contact Info

Office Phone: 706-367-8667 Fax: 706-367-5843

Pre-School/Fellowship Hall: 706-367-2935

Church address: 188 Martin Street, Jefferson, 30549

Office/Shipping address: 57 Cooley Ave., Jefferson, 30549

Website: www.jeffersonfirstumc.com

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m., 1:30 - 5 p.m.

Monday thru Friday (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Carey Gibson cell 770.827.1986
Pastorcarey@windstream.net

Youth Pastor: Spencer Arnold cell 770.356.7425
shineon21415@gmail.com

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Bob Reynolds, ret. 706.367.1489

Secretary: Danelle Fowler cell 706.248.3564
jeffumc@windstream.net

Minister of Music: Mickey Kirkindoll
mkirkindoll@jackson.k12.ga.us

Pre-School Director: Lori Chaffin office 706.367.2935
Lorichaffin@windstream.net

Accompanists: Beth Rector, Donna Kirkindoll,
Lisa Whitmire

Nursery Workers: Becky Kyle, Nicole Nash, Peggy Hoyles



Jefferson First United Methodist Church

188 Martin Street

Jefferson, GA 30549

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Our Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following persons in your prayers today and all month long.

Our Military overseas	Chris Collins (<i>Alzheimer's</i>)	Ruth Arnold (<i>health</i>)	Pansy Alexander (<i>health</i>)
Joe Davis (<i>health</i>)	William Gibson (<i>health</i>)	Jane Segars (<i>health</i>)	Gwen Johnson (<i>health</i>)
Carolyn Keasler (<i>health</i>)	EmmaNell Spratlin (<i>health</i>)	James Pinion (<i>health</i>)	Garnett Pittman (<i>health</i>)
Ronnie Waters (<i>health</i>)	Ray Bauerband (<i>health</i>)	Brad Cornelius (<i>healing</i>)	Tim Wilkes (<i>health</i>)
Bill Legg (<i>health</i>)	Sue Hutchinson-Clary (<i>health</i>)	Norine Hoch (<i>health</i>)	Chris Dollar (<i>healing</i>)
Jan Reynolds (<i>health</i>)	Chuck & Carolyn Ford (<i>health</i>)	David Crisler (<i>healing</i>)	Charlie Whitmire (<i>health</i>)
Kay Essendorf (<i>health</i>)	Cathy Baughman (<i>healing</i>)	Lynn Meredith (<i>healing</i>)	Carol Whitmire (<i>healing</i>)
Ruth Fowler (<i>healing</i>)	John Whitmire (<i>health</i>)	Jay Myers (<i>health, care</i>)	Bill Horne (<i>health</i>)
Virginia Waters (<i>healing</i>)	Martena Williams (<i>health</i>)	Jackie Bryant (<i>healing</i>)	Bobbi Heenan (<i>health</i>)
	Michael Waters (<i>Afghanistan</i>)	Wylene McNeil (<i>health</i>)	Melissa Kelly (<i>health</i>)

Please call the church office if you have any persons you'd like to be placed on our prayer list in the bulletin or newsletter.

Ladies Bible Study

The Bible study "Me, Myself & Lies...A Thought Closet Makeover" by Jennifer Rothschild has been a great study. Many who were unable to attend asked to repeat, so we will start this study again on January 12th at 7 pm. All Ladies are invited to attend and we meet in the conference room. Workbooks are available from the church office for \$25, which also helps cover the cost of the DVD's and leaders guide. The focus is looking at our negative inner dialogue and changing that to God's truths, with Psalm 19:14 as the key Scripture verse. Contact Danelle in the church office with any questions at 706-367-8667, or to pick up a workbook. Childcare will be offered during the Bible study.

***Do you have any interest in a morning Bible study during the week? If so, please call or email Danelle in the church office, or LeAnne Scott at 706-708-6090, loscpa@windstream.net**

Bookbag Ministry

Our collection focus for January is socks for toddlers to adult sizes and underwear from children's size small to Adult XL. (These should be new and in the package) As you are in stores, also please keep your eyes open for clearance school supplies and especially bookbags. All donations/items may be brought to the church office. By collecting items year round we will avoid the last minute rush for supplies. Thanks for your help with this ministry. Contact Tracy Pratt with any questions.

Job Search Fellowship

The Job Search Fellowship will meet next on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010, at 9:00 am in the conference room. The group meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. and is open to anyone in the community. Please share this with anyone you know who may be experiencing job loss and invite them to attend. Thanks for referring people to us. Their attendance helps us all. Contact Con Underwood, or Pastor Carey Gibson, 706-367-8667 with any questions.

Altar Flowers

The Flower calendar for 2010 is posted on the bulletin board in the back hall of the church building for anyone wishing to sponsor the altar flowers on Sundays. They may be placed in honor of, in memory of, or to signify a special day such as a birthday, anniversary, etc. Cost is \$50 and the flowers may be taken home after the 11 a.m. worship service for you to enjoy at home. When taking the flowers home, please remove the plastic vase inserts from the brass holders, and return the plastic inserts to the church as soon as possible after transferring the flowers to your own vases.



Jefferson First Youth

Living the “Good Life”

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

~Matthew 6:19-21

“The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.”

~ Psalm 97:6

I believe one of the greatest tragedies in all of the sports world has occurred recently and if you are a Sportscenter junkie like myself then you know exactly where I am going with this. Recently Tiger Woods, who I believe to be the number one athlete in the world, fell from the seat of glory and prestige to a place of despair, brokenness, and embarrassment. Tiger’s once very private personal life was made very public as the number of alleged mistresses reached double digits. As I watched one of my idols, a man I have always respected for his professionalism and integrity, I couldn’t help but wonder how a man with everything the world could offer would allow himself to make such big mistakes and ruin a reputation that was once spotless.

We all desire a good life. It is a natural desire to want health and wealth. It is natural to want to have the resources to care for our friends and family. It is a natural desire to feel want to be secure and unexposed to liability. I think that is what is so fascinating for most of us about celebrity’s lives. We can’t understand how they can have everything we desire and still not guard it with ferocity and responsibility. I look at all the endorsements Tiger has (at least for now), all the tournaments he has won, the family he is blessed with, and I wonder how could he risk that and not be satisfied. I think from our perspective most of us feel like we would be satisfied with half the things Tiger owns. However, the Bible gives us a little different picture.

In the story about the rich young man found in Mark 10, a man with great wealth who followed all the commandments of the law was still looking for more. Did you catch that? A man with all the world had to offer was still not fulfilled and still looking for satisfaction and he came to the right place in Jesus. However, what the man received was a commandment to leave all the he owned and valued for something of greater value; Jesus. It was as if Jesus was saying what you seek you will not find in this world you will find in me. The eternal satisfaction cannot be found in the world and what it has to offer but can only be found in Jesus. The rich young man couldn’t understand Jesus and left sad because for him, Jesus wasn’t enough. He wanted Jesus and his life the way he lead it.

Tiger’s life seems so great from the outside looking in but what we see now is that he wasn’t satisfied. He had to look to other things, in this case extra-marital affairs, for satisfaction and with each one he was left still unsatisfied and looking for another woman. The problem with Tiger and with many of us today is that we look to the world and to possessions and to instant pleasure for satisfaction and our heart never looks to the eternal source for satisfaction in Christ. I feel like this is particularly true in this United States where we are measured by the size of our houses, the cost of our car, and the security of our bank account. The problem with this mentality is that it will never satisfy. Christ tells us in Matthew 6 to set our hearts on the ting that will not fade away and to treasure Christ. There is where our satisfaction lies and in Christ we find fulfillment not in a world full of fading, dead possessions and worldly desires.

Conquered <><
Spencer

January 2010

Jefferson First Youth

*“But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.”
~ Psalm 3:3*

January Birthdays

1/11- Rebecca Soldwish

1/15- Rebecca Stoudenmire

1/19- Bell Blankenship

1/31- Taylor Bost

1/31- Zach Bost

December Focus

This January we will be getting back in the swing of things as we begin the New Year. Beginning the 24th we will begin a sermon series on 1 and 2 Peter and be following that as well in Trajectory Bible Study on Wednesday nights. This series will continue indefinitely as we cover all of both books.

Future News and Events

Mark your calendars for these dates:

- ◆ January 3rd: Impact worship begins again
- ◆ January 24th: Sermon series on 1 and 2 Peter begins

United Methodist Women

Esther Circle— 1/4, 3 pm, Conference room

Ruth Circle—1/18, 7 pm, location TBA

Sarah Circle—1/18, 7 pm, location TBA

Rachel Circle—1/14, 10am, Northminister Clubhouse

Elizabeth Circle— TBA

“Beary” Christmas Update

Thank you to everyone who participated by bringing a stuffed animal for “Beary” Christmas. Our total was 135 and all will be donated to local Emergency Services, CASA, Law officers, Domestic Violence workers and other agencies throughout Jackson county. Children in our community who are experiencing a traumatic situation in their lives will receive one of our “friends” as a means of comfort and to share God’s love with them.

Sarah Circle

The Sarah Circle supports the Gainesville Methodist Children's Home. They are in need of diapers sizes 1,2, 3, and 4. If church members would care to contribute please leave them in the old kitchen in the back hall of the church.



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