



the View from the Pew

For the people of Waleska United Methodist Church

Vol. 19, Issue 11
November, 2010

Thank You

I remember hearing a song in worship when I was growing up called, "Thank You." The chorus of the song says, "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am so glad you gave." So, with a thankful heart let me say "thank you" for giving to the Lord this year. You may not know the impact you have made this year, but the Lord has blessed your giving and lives have been changed and transformed through the ministries of this church. Sometimes you may think that the role you play is insignificant and the impact amounts to little or nothing. Don't buy into that lie. Every gift you have given this year and every generous contribution you have made has helped this family of faith accomplish Kingdom building ministry. I want to share a little about how your giving this year has blessed the life of this church and all those lives that have been changed and transformed.

Nearly three years ago, our church's leadership team began to address needs for ministry in the life of this church. We felt a heavy burden that God wanted us to grow in Christian education and discipleship because our church was not heavily involved in ministry that was reaching out beyond Sunday morning worship. The vision included providing opportunities to connect and grow in Christ during the week, help children, youth, and adults begin a relationship with

Christ, and provide discipleship opportunities for believers to grow in their faith and serve others. Through prayer, God's provisions, and your faithful support, our church's ministries began to grow specifically through what we have come to call "Family Ministry."

The Pastor's Message

We are now entering into our third year of "Family Ministry" in the life of this church and God has continued to be faithful as a foundation has been laid. I wish I could tell you that everyone in our congregation jumped on board and rolled up their sleeves to get busy doing Kingdom building ministry. However, some have moved into the life of this church while others have plugged into other congregations. We have learned that laying a foundation takes time and is not always easy. We have learned that you have to count spiritual growth before you can count numerical growth when you are laying a foundation because a solid foundation can hold the numbers better than a shaky foundation.

This year we celebrated that both men and women are engaging in Bible study and digging deeper in the Word of God. We celebrated that three people committed or recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ through confirmation classes. We were blessed to see four tweeners give their lives to Christ through Club 456 and Vacation Bible School. We have seen young moms make a connection with other moms and hear the Gospel through the MOPS ministry.

Many of them got plugged into a Bible study for the first time this fall. We have seen the preschool ministry grow and intentionally share the love of Christ with the families involved. We have also been blessed to have more and more college students plugging into worship and service through this congregation.

This is just a snapshot of what God has been doing in the life of this congregation. It is important for all of us to know that Kingdom building takes time and we need all of us working together to accomplish God's will for us. The role you have played this year through praying, plugging in, giving, serving, and sharing the love of Christ is significant as we continue in ministry together. We know God has blessed us with the evidence of souls being saved this year and no amount of money is too great for that. So, I must say to you again, "Thank you for giving to the Lord."

Blessings,
Sam
Pastor Sam



Bible study groups



Tweeners



Preschool

November Celebrations



Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

- 7 Dan & Carolyn Burkholder
- 14 Russ & Laynie Powell
- 21 Richard & Allison Evans

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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

Building Better Marriages **Maintenance—Making Time to Take Care of our Marriage**

Our home needs regular scheduled maintenance: Oops—the yard needs mowing; the privet is overgrowing the fence again; a heat pump is over 20 years old. Our car is a '97—Hoses? AC? Transmission? Our bodies fare a little better since our health crises a few years ago--See some doctor every three months, phone pacemaker checks, six month blood work. Family relationships need nurturing—children, siblings, parents. Jobs require continuing education, certifications and licensures—can't let those requirements lapse, can we?

Likewise, our marriages need regular scheduled maintenance. We say, "I do," and somehow expect our marriages to keep up with us as we fly through our two lives with all the demands that pull us away from each other and the joy we can experience as married partners in life. When we married, we made some promises to each other before God and in the presence of our community. As part of that community, we want to highlight a wonderful opportunity for some scheduled maintenance for your marriage that will be fun and meaningful.

In February, the world will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Some of our church couples will be going on a Marriage Getaway at Winshape Conference Center at Berry College. The Georgia Chapter of Better Marriages presents a weekend getaway each February. Registration will soon open and will be limited to fifty couples because of meeting room sizes. Check your calendars; mark February 11-13, 2011 in RED. Make time to take care of your marriage. Plan it—Do it—have fun—cherish. Join us.

Check details at www.bettermarriagesga.org. Explore making this commitment to your marriage with your spouse *knee to knee*. We ask the church to pray for the couples who will commit to cherish each other through this opportunity.

(Eddie and Sylvia Robertson are a Leader Couple with Better Marriages)

Did you know . . .

We are partnering with the youth of Fields Chapel UMC to collect Halloween treats for our troops around the world. You can participate by bringing your leftover candy, etc. to the preschool area. If you know of someone serving in our armed forces, provide us with their name and mailing address and we will send them a box of treats.

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