



the View from the Pew

For the people of Waleska United Methodist Church

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“We Are Blessed to Give”

We are such a blessed people and a blessed church. God has given us so much and has called us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In the midst of seeking to grow closer to God and deepen our church’s faith and dependence on Christ for all that he calls us to, I have had a number of conversations with concerned members of our congregation about the money struggles that this church and so many others seem to be experiencing in a tough economy. I firmly believe that our church’s leadership has chosen the right direction over these past few years and we are continuing to strengthen this church’s ministries to accomplish this mission to go and make disciples. Is there work yet to be done? Yes. Do we need to draw closer to Christ for help? Yes. Are we doing all we can? No.

A few months ago, our church’s Staff-Parish-Relations Chairperson, Judy McCay submitted an article called “Tithing” to this newsletter. Since it was not on the front page of the newsletter, I wonder how many of us read the article and really prayed about our response. Therefore, I would like to include Judy’s article here so

we seriously consider our role to support what God is doing through this church:

The Pastor’s Message

“Oooh, that dreaded word! Does it really mean 10%? Is that 10% before or after taxes? Does it apply to my bonus? What about the tax refund that I got back, do I have give 10% of that? Unfortunately, I can’t answer that question for you. Giving back to God what He has so freely given to you is a personal matter and only you can decide for yourself.

The Hebrew word, *ma’aser*, is translated as “tenth part” and “tithe”. The Greek word, *dekate*, is translated as “tenth” and “tithe.” Both words simply mean a tenth. “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord. (Lev.27:30) “You shall truly tithe all the increase of your seed that the field brings forth year by year. (Deut. 14:22) But, you say, this is Old Testament laws...this doesn’t apply to me today. Friends, you and I walk thru this world by the grace of God. All that we have is given to us by Him; we are just caretakers of His many blessings. God calls us to give from our “first fruits” not from our “leftovers”. We need to be the best stewards that we can be for God’s creation. Best stewards put God first in all things. We are to be the best

stewards of our time, our presence, our service in the church and our gifts to our church.

As a Methodist, I look to John Wesley for answers about giving. In his sermon “The Use of Money” came this rule for the use of money...Gain all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can! No percentages are involved. God offers us a different perspective on giving when we give all that we can. It no longer becomes a burden or a last resort effort filled with guilt, but a feeling filled with abundance, freedom and joy! You are achieving a God-honoring balance with your financial resources. You are placing a greater level of trust in God when you make giving your first decision. You are saying, “Thank you God for all the blessings that you have bestowed on me”. What peace of mind!

Still in doubt about how much to give...pray about it!”

Submitted by Judy McCay

I hope that right now your thoughts are turning to prayer as you ask God to help you do all you can to accomplish His will. Great blessings are waiting for those who seek God first and put their faith into action.

Be Blessed,

Sam

Pastor Sam



Carolyn's Corner

Be Careful What You Ask For

I didn't want to write this article—I wasn't going to write this article. After all, there was no time. We were using every spare minute in the process of getting Mother's apartment cleaned out and her ready to move into our home. We had to clear our furniture in two rooms, pack her things, get rid of what she didn't need, buy what she did.

Of course, I have been praying the "Prayer of Jabez" every morning for years. I feel like it gets me aligned for the day. "...Oh, Lord, that you would enlarge my territory (for You)..." the prayer goes and I repeat it every morning. And I don't just repeat it, I mean it. I want God to use me to do His purpose, further His kingdom, and do His will.

That is, unless it interferes with what I want to do! I mean, sometimes I'm just too busy to listen or respond to God's call. And sometimes He uses other people to get our attention. This time He spoke through my husband, the editor, who said, "Oh, but you have to write an article. There is a space designated for you and I need for you to do that."

Yes, we can find many ways to ignore God and get our priorities all mixed up. And many times, we *are* truly busy, involved or feel that we aren't equal to the task, that someone else would be better qualified for that job. There are legitimate reasons and there are just excuses—give us the wisdom, Lord, to know the difference.

There are many reluctant leaders and characters in the Bible, those who had all kinds of reasons or excuses why they couldn't do

what God wanted them to do. Some, like Jonah, even literally ran away trying to hide from God. We are so foolish. If God truly wants to use us, He will find a way to get our attention!

As you can read, I did write this article. After all, it was what I had asked God for all along—to enlarge my territory (for Him).

Carolyn Burkholder

Member Spotlight



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



Dan and Nancy Byrne

I would like to introduce you to Dan and Nancy Byrne. They are our newest members. Yes, they belong to that active group that lives in Soliel and they are busy with all kinds of activities that keep them young and on the go.

Dan has been retired from AT&T where he worked for 28 years and every day he is busy. Oh, there is no rest for the weary! He enjoys tennis, yoga and Tai Chi which is a form of martial arts. Nancy is usually out of the house on the days that he practices those movements! He is also active in the Soliel Men's Christian Fellowship which concentrates on doing good deeds, Bible study and prayer life.

Nancy is a retired teacher with 25 years of service. Her hobbies include watercolor, aerobics and her Garden Club.

They have been married for 46 years and have known each other since 2nd grade. It must have been love at first sight...can you imagine how they must have looked as 8 year olds! God does work in mysterious ways!

Dan and Nancy moved here from Navarre, Florida to be closer to their 2 children and 5 grandchildren and that includes a set of twin boys who are 4 years old. That keeps them on their toes!

They grew up in Indiana belonging to the Evangelical United Brethren Church and automatically became United Methodists in 1968. They are very excited to be here at Waleska UMC and we welcome them into our midst. The next time you see them introduce yourself to them and make a new friend in Christ.

*Dan and Nancy Byrne
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(Article and picture by Judy McCay)

October Sunday Servants



Ushers

- 3 Steve McCay & Bill Newsome
- 10 Donnie & Mary Helen Lamb
- 17 Chris & Carol Sumrell
- 24 Bruce & Martha Ayer
- 31 Tom & Brandi Grogan



Coffee in the Corner

- 3 open
- 10 open
- 17 Toni & Rebecca Wettlaufer
- 24 Lamb Family—in honor of Worship in Pink Sunday
- 31 open

