

The Epistle



A Monthly Newsletter of

Edgewood United Methodist Church

3969 Edgewood Circle • Columbus, GA 31907
706-561-4760 • September 2010

A "Big Day"

We are planning an evangelistic push or a "Big Day" called "Back to Church Sunday" on September 12, 2010. The plan for the Big Day includes special musical guest, David Ashley, who will share a few songs and a testimony; we will begin a sermon series entitled "Myths Busted" where we will debunk common myths regarding forgiveness, faith, God's will, etc., that we may embrace which may not be completely Biblical. Our fellowship lunch will be on the Big Day instead of the first Sunday, so please bring a little extra food in anticipation of extra guests on that day; "invite cards" will be provided to us to use as we extend an invitation to friends and co-workers regarding our Big Day. Lastly, we are spending \$1300 (*a step of faith*) on a mass mailing campaign. Five-thousand cards will go out to homes in selected areas within a 1½ mile radius of the church. All these things alone will not get anyone in the door but they are aids to help us "make the ask."

Here is what I want to encourage us to do. 1) begin praying for our Big Day; 2) ask God to make you aware of a person(s) to invite; 3) ask God for boldness with sensitivity as you "make the ask;" 4) offer to pick them up or to meet at a predetermined point on our campus and be with them as they come; and last but not least, 5) **plan to be here on September 12th** if at all possible. The promise that I make to you is - if you invite someone and he/she comes I will make personal contact with them as soon as possible after the Big Day.

Whenever we know of a great restaurant, drycleaners, or painter we refer them to folks. I hope you feel with some comfort that you can invite folks to Edgewood with the same confidence you can refer folks to your favorite drycleaners! If you can't I need to hear why. If you can - then there are those waiting for invitation . . . from you.

Blessings in Christ,
--- "PR"

What is a Seeker?

What is a seeker? Webster's says it is a person who tries to find or search for. We in the Seekers Sunday School Class are searching for a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are doing this through our Sunday school lessons and Bible studies. In the Seekers Class, we take turns teaching the Sunday school lessons. It gives us a diverse variety of teaching methods and perspectives. Our class is very loving and accepting and is made up of a unique group of people all drawn together by our love for our Lord and one another. We as a class go out on outings, touring sporting events, parties, movies and meals. Our group, the Seekers, has members from a wide area of vocations, from medical, education, engineering, clerical, military, maintenance, retail, retired and religious fields. Our Seekers Class still acts like it's a young adult's class but for the most part, we are a middle and late middle age class. Most any one will fit right in and everyone is invited to joins us - the SEEKERS.

Ron Barfield
Member of the Seekers

COMING SOON

Edgewood UMC Charge Conference—October 18 - 6:00 PM
Edgewood Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat—October 31, 2010
Bishop's Hour with Bishop James King at St. Mark UMC -
November 14, 2010

2010 Bishop's Hour November 14, 2010 – 4:00 PM - St. Mark United Methodist Church

Bishop James King will be at St. Mark UMC on November 14 for a time of singing, worship and teaching. This year's teaching session will flow out of the Annual Conference Theme of "Sowing the Word." All Columbus district churches are encouraged to gather a group and make plans to attend the Columbus District Bishop's Hour.

Back to Church Sunday

Why should we go back to church?

There are many, many reasons why folks stop going to church. If you've been away for a while and are thinking of coming back, here are some reasons to get you motivated:

- 1. Fellowship** - Regular church attendance allows a Christian to become part of a church family—a community of brothers and sisters in Christ who share true concern for one another. Paul described this kind of fellowship in his letter to the Corinthians: "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12:26). When we care for our fellow Christians in this way, not only do we enjoy the security of belonging to a spiritual family, but we glorify God by revealing His character to the world.
- 2. Corporate Worship** - When God rescued King David from his enemies, David couldn't keep his praise to himself. He cried out, "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!" (Psa. 34:3). Even Christ, in the darkest hours of His life, asked three of His closest friends to "watch and pray" with Him (Matt. 26:41). While private devotion pleases God, at times nothing will do except to join with fellow Christians in praise of our great God. Jesus promised: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matt. 18:20). God is glorified when Christians speak of His greatness with each other, and He is pleased to be in our midst.
- 3. Personal Growth** - Just as individual Bible study and prayer are vital to a Christian's spiritual growth, so is consistent contact with other Christians. God commands us to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together . . ." (Heb. 10:24-25). Meeting regularly with other Christians is an opportunity to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ, to receive godly advice in areas of difficulty in your life, and to be challenged by the example of more mature Christians.
- 4. Ministry** - Paul tells us that God gave "pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12). Attending church allows us to receive the instruction of trained pastors and teachers, helping us minister both to the world and within the Church. Along with communicating the gospel to the unsaved through actions and words, Christians have a responsibility to minister to other members of the body of Christ: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up . . ." (1 Thess. 5:11). Being in regular contact with other Christians in church gives you numerous opportunities to offer a word of encouragement, a listening ear, a helping hand, or to receive these things in your moment of need.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The September Unit meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 1st. at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall. This is World Thank Offering Service for 2010. Prayerfully consider your offering based on issues of "plenty" and "enough". We look forward to seeing everyone there. All circles will again be meeting in September. Please check the bulletin for times and dates.

Our Daily Bible Reading

The city of Jerusalem has fallen and the exile of the nation continues with greater magnitude. It will be another fifty years before the exile will end.

Ezekiel learns that a messenger is coming to tell him of Jerusalem's fall and he becomes mute until the messenger arrives. God has told Ezekiel that his mouth will be open when the messenger arrives and this comes true as he is again able to speak. With his predictions confirmed, Ezekiel sets out to take God's word to the people. He reminds them that the desolation has not ended but that soon the promised restoration will begin. The time for healing will come quickly so Ezekiel focuses on comforting the defeated people.

These healing prophecies introduce the people to the kingdom of the Good Shepherd and to the time when the forces of evil will be destroyed forever. They are predictive of future events and are hard to understand.

We will read of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and their experience in the fiery furnace.

Ezekiel will be given a vision of a new great temple. This will give hope to the people but there will be confusion at the many differences that this temple will have. These differences include worship rituals, celebrations, servants and priests, laws and the division of the land around it.

After forty years, Nebuchadnezzar becomes a true believer of Daniel's God and God uses this new belief to humble him and restore him to his throne. In the end, Nebuchadnezzar urges all people to turn to this very special King of heaven.

God's chosen people continue in exile and begin to question if a personal God would allow such suffering and despair. This is where we will encounter Job and learn of his steadfastness following more adversity than most people will ever face.

Several days will be spent reading Psalms of a people in exile. Confession will be a central theme with hope for deliverance their prayer.

Daniel will reappear in our reading and will have dreams that will correspond to things Ezekiel saw in his visions. We will read of the writing on the wall, the seventy "sevens" and Daniel in the lion's den.

At the end of the month, we will focus on the period of restoration. 42,000 people will return to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the temple foundation will begin. Of course, there will be opposition. That will end and then we will meet Haggai and Zechariah who encourage the building effort.

Finally, we will begin to read Psalms of a nation restored. The celebration over the completion of the temple is only symbolic of the greater joy that has been brought to the people of this restored nation. There are struggles ahead and more opposition to come, but the people are no longer in captivity and are no longer in a foreign land. With the house of God restored, the nation's new life has begun in earnest.

Flower Calendar Openings

Flower dates available to provide the church with flowers are October 10, and November 21 and 28. Call Debbie @ 706-861-4760. Cost is \$42.00. Flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 service.

Our Prayers

Kim Anderson; Carolyn Bearden; Lyle Blank; Ed Brown (Ron Brown's brother); Kathryn Bundy; Jackie Conley; Don & Sally Cook; Billy Daniels (friend of the Heard's); Anne Dearing; Nina Duderewicz; Ann & Jim Duff; Mary Farrington (Kay Frost's mother); Lisa Fort (Sellars's daughter); Keith Francis; Janet Froberg-pancreatic cancer (Dennis Jeter's co-worker); Byron Frost (Jack Frost's son); Ronald Frost; Josephine Givens; H.K. Harp; Bob Flick (Frances Smith's brother); Don Franklin (the Duff's son-in-law); Roger Grubbs (Simon Hobbs' nephew); Chris Hester (Linda Barfield's brother-in-law); Catherine Hicks; Jane Hubbard (Mary Jeter's Mother); Lee, Vina & Michael Huff; Myrtle Johnson; Melissa Lane (friend of Alison Bullock); Kathryn Lee; Lounez Lumpkin (Leron Sellars' sister); Jean Martin (Carolyn Bearden's mother); Doris McCullohs; Grant Melvin; Herbert Money; Linda & James Norris (friends of Teresa Francis); Our Troups & their families; Barbara Parrish; Ann Plaisted; Suzan Rivers (Datastini Relative); Hershel Roberson (Ron Barfield's uncle); Julia Stone (Mary Jeter's aunt); Mary, Arthur & George Veal (friends of the Heards); Jackie Watkins; Pat Wills; Elaine Williams (Jeanette Lumpkins sister); Jeff Williams (Don & Robbie Williams' son); Sarah Wilson

Our Presence

Avg. Attendance August	YTD
Sunday School..... 61 63
Worship 10:30 117 126

Our Gifts

Stewardship for August YTD (thru 8/22)

Budget month to date \$20,250.00
Received month to date	\$14,446.36
Budget year to date \$172,210.00
Received year to date \$138,334.31

Our Service

We need your focused prayer support for our church and our pastor. Join us in the parlor on Tuesdays at 12:15 as we pray for the ministry of Edgewood UMC. If you are unable to come to the church, please take this time to pray wherever you happen to be. Imagine the power of God hearing many prayers for Edgewood at one time.

Fellowship Meal – September 12th

Plan to join us for our monthly fellowship meal after worship on Sunday, September 12th. Since this is being held in conjunction with our Back to Church Sunday Big Event, we ask that you bring a little extra of your favorite side dish or dessert to share in hopes of our having a full house that Sunday. The Workers Sunday School Class will be providing fried chicken as our main dish.

September 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Regular Sunday Events 9:15 Fellowship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Bible Discussion			1 Regular Wed. Events 10:00 AM UMW Unit Meeting	2	3	4
5 Regular Sun. Events	6 4:00 Knitwitters	7 12:15 PM – Prayer for the Church	8 Regular Wed. Events	9	10	11
12 Regular Sun. Events - Big Event – Back to Church Sunday & Fellowship Meal	13 7:00 Admin. Council	14 12:15 PM – Prayer for the Church	15 Regular Wed. Events	16 2:30 Koinonia	17	18
19 Regular Sun. Events	20 4:00 Knitwitters	21 12:15 PM – Pray for Church 10:00 Joy Circle	22 Regular Wed. Events	23	24	25 6:00 AM Men's Bkfst
26 Regular Sun. Events	27	28 12:15 PM – Pray for Church 2:30 Semi-Circle	29 Regular Wed. Events	30	Regular Wed. Events 7:00 am – Prayer @ Parsonage 9:00 am – Prayer @ Choir room 5:30 pm – Supper 6:30 pm – Bible Study, Kids on the Edge, Choir	