

Christ Notes January 7, 2010

Keith's Corner

This Sunday our text is Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus. This event inaugurates Jesus ministry and introduces the breaking in of His new kingdom on earth. What becomes clear almost immediately, however, is that people are expecting the Messiah to look quite different so they have a hard time recognizing Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist makes it clear that he is not the Messiah but rather points to the Messiah. Jesus' baptism then becomes a sign to us and for us to help us recognize his presence in our lives.

Our finance chair, Blair Blinkhorn has an important message in this newsletter about how we ended 2009 and the outlook for 2010. Please read this carefully.

This Sunday afternoon the Atlanta Roswell District is sponsoring workshops to help church leaders be more effective. Workshops include sessions for trustees, finance chairs, lay leaders, cancer support ministries, issues around aging, pastor staff parish relations, communications, Christian education, and servant leadership. These will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Sunday afternoon 1/10/2010 at St. James, Atlanta UMC. Directions are included elsewhere in this newsletter and if there is enough interest we can take the church van. I plan on going and have invited many of our church leaders to attend sessions. It is open to all and I hope we will be well represented. There

will be a choir concert at 2:30 as an added bonus. As we embark on a new year with a new organizational structure, and high hopes for Christ Church, I believe these workshops will open our minds to new possibilities and new ways of being the church I know we are called to be.

I want to say to each of you thank you for all your support, love, and caring. As we begin this New Year I feel your encouragement. Your gift in my honor to Giving 101 touched me deeply. Teaching people the joy of giving is a great ministry. Your gift will enable and encourage the Giving 101 team to expand and explore new ways of sharing the joy of giving. I am truly grateful for this wonderful gift and most especially grateful for the privilege of being your pastor.

Blessings,

Keith

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| Jan 9 | Men's Breakfast 8: 30am |
| | Nimble Fingers 10:30pm |
| Jan 10 | District training event St James Atlanta 3:30pm |
| Jan 17 | Luncheon and Administrative Council Meeting 1:15pm |
| | Children's Education Meeting following worship |
| Jan 20 | Young at Heart Luncheon 11:45am Marietta Fish Market |
| Jan 23 | Nimble Fingers 10:30am |
| | Youth sponsored talent show and dinner. Get your talents dusted off now |
| Jan 31 | Outreach meeting after worship |

Youth

Please be aware payment for the summer mission trip is due. All of the youth who would like to attend MUST make a \$150 payment by Jan 15.

Talent Show and Dinner will be Jan 23 at 7:00pm. Please contact Jake with your reservation and/or talent to be put on the agenda. The more who contribute their “talents” the more fun will be had by all who attend.

Missions

The mission trip to Costa Rica is Feb 17 – 24. There is need for scholarship help for a potential missionary. If you can contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. Be prayerful in considering this request.

F Y I Friday Bible Study will not happen if there is unsafe traveling conditions.

Young at Heart

Young At Heart Luncheon will be held at the Marietta Fish Market Jan 20 at 11:45 am. The van will be leaving from the church at 11:00am. If you would like a ride, contact Evelyn Yarbrough.

District Training Event Jan 10 – District Superintendent Ed Tomlinson comments and directions to St James

We are excited about our concert and training event this Sunday at St. James Atlanta. Beth Shugart has done a fantastic job in putting

together this Sunday's concert with the help of other music directors in our district. It begins at 2:30 p.m. and will last about half an hour. There will be approximately 30 minutes to transition to the workshops (including refreshments in multiple locations). Then, the workshops will begin at 3:30 p.m. The workshops will touch most areas relating to the mission and ministry of our local churches.

I am pleased to tell you that Keith Cox, our Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, will lead a workshop on **Finance** to train persons who have financial responsibilities in your church. (Room 305) He will provide a packet of valuable information.

Tom Cook, our Conference Chancellor, will assist the **Trustees** of our local churches in knowing how to carry out their responsibilities. (Room 302) Again, valuable materials will be available.

Woody Spackman, Director of Pastoral Services for the Emory Hospitals, has vast experience in working with ministries with older adults. (Room 306) Any work your church is doing in this area or any desire to initiate ministry that will assist our older members will benefit from the workshop on **The Church and Issues around Aging**.

We are pleased to welcome Glenn Hannigan, new editor of the Wesleyan Christian Advocate and former editor of The Atlanta Journal/Constitution, to do our workshop on **Communications – ReThink Church**. (Room 301) Those who work on church newsletters, websites, and other publicity should hear Glenn. Also, the new program, ReThink Church, will be utilized.

Mary Lawder, our District Parish Nurse, will present a workshop on **Cancer Support Ministries** (Conference Room on the main level). Several of our churches have started Cancer Support Ministries and others have indicated an interest. Now is an excellent time to learn

how we can touch the lives of persons who have cancer and families who assist them.

Gary Fuller, our District Lay Leader, will train the local church **Lay Leaders** in our district in a workshop (in Room 304).

Chuck Savage, Sr. Pastor at Kingswood Church , is leading a workshop on “**Servant Leadership – What it Means**”. (Room 311) This workshop will be particularly good for Administrative Board/Council, Officers, and Pastors.

David Melton, long-time Minister of Program at Dunwoody Church and gifted Christian Educator, will offer a workshop on **Emerging Trends in Christian Education**. (Room 309) Church School officers, age-level coordinators, and teachers will find this workshop informative.

Finally, I will be leading a workshop to train **Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee** members. (Fellowship Hall) This workshop will offer information that will enable the committee to accomplish work effectively.

Please invite persons in your church who will benefit from each of these workshops. The intent is to enable our leaders to have knowledge and resources to do a better job. Don't forget to be in prayer this weekend for the beginning of North Forsyth United Methodist Church and the Pastor, Dave Coombs.

Looking forward to seeing you Sunday, I am

Sincerely,

Ed

Important! – Bridge Out

Since the bridge on Peachtree Dunwoody north of the church is out, it is best to access the church from Loridans Drive . It is the intersecting street at Peachtree Dunwoody where St. James is located.

From GA 400 North: Take the Lenox exit. Turn left toward Phipps Plaza . Then left at the 1st traffic light (which takes you behind Phipps). At the second light turn left on Weiuca. Follow Weiuca to Loridans Drive . Turn right on Loridans. The church is on the left at Peachtree Dunwoody.

From Roswell Road North : Turn left on Weiuca and Loridans is approximately half mile on the left. Follow Loridans to the church.

From Peachtree Road : Turn onto Peachtree Dunwoody going north and the church is at 4400.

While childcare will be provided, please call St. James Atlanta church and let them know the number of children you will be bringing. The number is 404-261-3121. This day promises to be both enjoyable and informative. Encourage your folk to come.

We anticipate the concert will be over by 3:00 to 3:10. On the way to the workshops at 3:30 p.m., refreshments will be available.

Message from Finance Chairman Blair Blinkhorn

I just wanted to give you a quick update on how we ended the year from a financial standpoint. As you have seen from the weekly bulletins, our collections have been steady in December, but we did not receive the end of the year surge we have experienced in the past. As a

result, we have been able to pay our apportionments in full but we do not have the cash cushion this month we have experienced in some other years to begin 2010.

This means if collections fall short of budget this year we will have to act quickly to reduce our expenses. The only large expense item we can realistically impact is payroll. Finance made numerous small, “surgical” budget cuts in 2009 to keep expenses in line with income, but given where we ended the year larger cuts in 2010 are a possibility.

On a very positive note our visitor traffic was very good during December. To the extent we invite and receive more members, we not only fulfill our mission, but we reduce the stress on our budget. I hope as you read this you are wondering what we can do to help stay in the black this year. Here are three things I’ve discussed with Rev. Keith:

- 1) **Come to worship every Sunday.** Our attendance encourages others in addition to feeding our spiritual hunger.
- 2) **Make every effort to contribute our tithes and offerings even when we cannot attend.** Things are tight, for everyone. We will again need to have a pledge campaign once more in order to project revenues and plan expenses.
- 3) **Invite and bring guests.** Our evangelism team is hard at work, but each of us must take every opportunity God gives us to invite and encourage visitors.

Thank you for your faithfulness in 2009. We have made some great strides in a very difficult environment. You have done a wonderful job! Yet there is still much to be done and we must all work together to provide the resources to accomplish our mission.

Blessings,
Blair

Open Altar for Prayers

Our altar rail will be open for prayers following every worship service. “Prayer Warriors” will be available to pray for and with you. A growing and caring church is a praying church.

Pledge Campaign and Budget

We received \$ 4595.00 against a weekly need for \$4650.00.

Need Pastoral Help?

Pastor Keith is available for short term counseling. He is generally in the office Monday through Thursday, but is subject to meetings and often makes visits outside the church. It's best to call and set an appointment through the church office. In an emergency, please call his cell phone 404-906-1425.

Member Services Directory

In these hard economic times, we can help our brothers and sisters in the Church by utilizing their businesses for necessary services. Many of our members are self employed. I would like to include a list of services offered by our members on our website and in this e-newsletter. If you would like to be listed, please email the church office a brief (no more than two lines) description of services offered and contact information.

- ▶ **Joanne Rooks** has a company called Moms Table.
www.momstableonline.com or 1207 Canton St. in Roswell.
- ▶ **Susan Smith** is a licensed Christian Counselor. She can be reached at 404-861-2077.
- ▶ **Mary Jane Warren Stone Fine Art and Illustration** Realist portraits of people, animals and places, and exhibits and illustration in support of educational and environmental concerns. 770-578-8881
- ▶ **Jeanette Storey** works for a Home Care company located in Roswell called Golden Home Services. If you need a carefully screened, trained, bonded, and insured home services provider for a loved one, please call Jeanette at 678-242-0084
- ▶ **Chrissie Thead** is Christina's Interior Finishes. Her company offers color consultations, decorative painting and faux finishes for walls, ceilings, cabinets, mantles and furniture.
www.christinasinteriorfinishes.com or 404-317-2090
- ▶ **John Clark** provides private music instruction for piano, voice, and composition. He teaches classical, rock, and jazz styles and trains students to read music as well as play by ear. For more information visit www.JohnClarkStudio.com or call 404-218-9150.