

SOURCE

A Monthly Digest of Church Life



Sargent's Voice

GIMME FIVE!

These are important times at Embry Hills United Methodist Church. Truth be known, every time is important when followers of Jesus seek to faithfully carry out his mission and ministry in the world. And, perhaps more than ever before, the world needs the healing and hope and help that Jesus brings.

Over the next several Sundays in worship, we will each and all be invited once more to prayerfully consider the ways in which we support and undergird Jesus' mission and ministry at Embry Hills. Each of us who is a member of Embry Hills has already promised to uphold it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. I hope that you are already praying about the ways that you will offer such loving support in 2009.

This year, our fall giving campaign will be focused around the theme, "Bearing Fruit That Will Last." This theme is taken from John 15:16, in which verse Jesus reminds his disciples that we have been chosen by him to

bear fruit that will last, so that the world may know of his love. Elsewhere in the Bible, we hear of lasting fruit; in his letter to the Galatians, for example, Paul lists nine "fruits of the Spirit." Our campaign this year will focus on five lasting fruits, and we will be giving thanks for the ways in which Embry Hills United Methodist Church bears these lasting fruits for others.

In a recent publication that has swept our denomination, Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference shares his vision of the five practices of what he calls fruitful congregations. And, throughout the next several weeks, we will highlight one of these practices, asking God to continue guiding our efforts to bear this fruit at Embry Hills. Please allow me to share something of what Bishop Schnase has to say about each fruitful practice.

Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission & Service
- Extravagant Generosity

("Sargent," continued on page 13)

October, 2008
Vol. XXXVIII No. 10

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Tithing: Law of God or Gift of God (Part II)

In last month's offering, "Tithing: Law of God or Gift of God (Part I), author David S. Bell discusses how the concept of tithing has changed and that in today's Christian world, it is seen as a benchmark for generous giving.

In postmodern culture, financial giving is usually not the first monetary decision people make; rather, it is one of the last decisions. We might rationalize these priorities by considering our primary financial decisions to be those of basic needs, similar to Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs. We make choices about housing, food, relationships, transportation, employment, and recreation -- to name a few -- before we make choices about

("Tithing," continued on page 14)

Gifts Given as of September 19, 2008

- **In memory of Kitty Collier:** Jerry & Suzanne Wilson, Diane Roberts, Anna Collier (*Ministry & Missions*), Harry & Linder Clark (*Music Dept.*)
- **In memory of Mary Taylor:** Jim & Pat Barlow, Marcille Metaxas (*Ministry & Missions*), Harding Class (*Methodist Children's Home*)
- **In honor of Barbara Harrison:** Marcille Metaxas (*Children's Ministry*)
- **In memory of Ralph-Stuart Jones:** Jack Nichols Class, Nancy Wolff (*Help Fund*), Cecil & Huvian Ingram, Anne Hopkins, Shirley Burdine, Diane Roberts, H.L. & Sue Ownbey, Ruth Lamar & Family, Jerry & Suzanne Wilson, Estelle R. Wynn & Family (*Ministry & Missions*)
- **In memory of Mildred McClain:** Anne Hopkins, Shirley Burdine, H.L. & Sue Ownbey, Cecil & Huvian Ingram, Jerry & Suzanne Wilson (*Ministry & Missions*), Jack Nichols Class (*Help Fund*)
- **In memory of mom:** Marcille Metaxas (*Apportionments*)
- **In memory of Florence Needham:** Miriam Needham (*Ministry & Missions*)
- **In loving memory of our mother, Virginia Johnston:** The Johnston Children (*Children's Ministry*)
- **In honor of Cecil & Huvian Ingram:** Scott & Marion Tarr (*Ministry & Missions*)



Our Homebound Members who will be celebrating birthdays through early November 2008 are:

November 2:

Mrs. Jean Hockman
3000 Lenora Church Rd. #B1
Snellville, GA 30078

November 6:

Mrs. Kaye Fason
Southern Plantation Ret. Home
580 Tom Lee Fuller Drive
Loganville, GA 30052

November 7:

Mrs. Margaret Broadrick
209 King's Bridge NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Please remember these important and valuable members of our congregation. Cards, telephone calls or personal visits mean so much to them.

—Marcille Metaxas

Prayers

Please continue prayers for the following:

Helen Swope Madonna Holley
Earl Witcher Ken Story*
Fern Williams Dee Moore*
Mary Jo Garvin Gladys McDaniel*
Brenda Meredith & Frances Lawson*
Children Lillian Stacy*
Barbara Kitchens Jim Lowry*
Charles Pannell Millie Taylor*
Dave Berry * Homebound Member
Alisha Waller

Transitions

- **Kitty Collier**, Val Bligh's mother and associate member at Embry Hills, passed away Sept. 9th. Services were held at the church Sept. 14th and burial was in Macon on Sept. 15th.
- **Mildred McClain** passed away August 26th; services were held August 29th.
- **Ralph Jones** passed away August 24th; services were held August 27th.
- Myrtle Hunts' brother, **Ray Jones**, passed away Sept. 12th in California.
- Sharon Kendall's mother passed away September 2nd.

A Loving Tradition

Welcome New Members



Welcome to our newest members, **Daniel and Brooke Peck**, pledged their membership on August 31.

We were also honored to celebrate Daniel's baptism the same morning. "Peck", as Daniel is better known, grew up in Warner Robins. He was a computer science major at Georgia Tech, where he now serves as Alumni Board President. He works for Digital Bond as a computer security researcher. Brooke grew up in Augusta. She majored in Family and Consumer Sciences Education at the University of Georgia. She is currently working as a real estate agent. So far, the couple has made it through three college football seasons with rival team loyalties! Newlyweds, Peck and Brooke married in May on the banks of the Savannah River.

Please take the time to welcome the Pecks to the Embry Hills UMC family.

Veterans to be Honored at Nov. 12, 2008 Wednesday Night Supper- Memorabilia Needed.

The second annual *Salute to Veterans* Night will again take place in the FLC on the second Wednesday in November. We would like to invite all veterans (men and women) who have served in the Armed Forces of our great country to come to supper and join others who share your love of country. Once again we will have a few tables set aside to show decorations, pictures, uniforms, whatever you want to share with your friends. Please join us for a patriotic night of fellowship. Amir Zaheri, Director of Worship Arts will be on hand to help with the celebration! The cost of the dinner will be \$7.00, and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, or if you would like to help set up, take down or decorate, please call **Pat Lansdell** (770-934-8279).

Seniors Are Special:

For the young at heart 50 & older

The monthly meetings of Seniors are Special are held in the Family Life Center of Embry Hills UMC, located at 3304 Henderson Mill Road. The lunches are \$7 and the fellowship is free. Programs vary by the month.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28th, from 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Our program will be "THE WAY I HEARD IT!!!!" We'll go back to Lum and Abner.... Glen Miller ... Pepsi Hits the Spot...The Lone Ranger and enjoy all these wonderful sounds of yester year. A program of Ole Radio brought to you by Jim Johnson...A certified ole time radio nut!!! Yep he's an expert...'cause he lived through it! We won't listen to anything younger than 1930 and 1940!

Please call 770-938-0661 to make reservations by Friday, October 24th. Cancellations should be made by Monday, October 27th.

Fall Inquirer's Class for new and prospective members

A four-week informational class on Embry Hills UMC and the United Methodist Church as a whole will be held on the four Sundays of October. ***This is the perfect chance for new worshipers and newer members to get to know some of the staff more personally and to get the answers to their questions about life at EHUMC.*** The class will begin meeting on Sunday, October 5, at 9:45 a.m., in Room 204. If you are interested in participating, please contact Victoria Lawson, Dir. of Witness & Outreach (victorial@embryhillsumc.org or 770-938-0661, ext. 116).

A heartfelt thanks to all my Embry Hills family for the love, cards, emails, hugs and prayers. You have held me up and sustained me over these last sad days. I have truly experienced Christ's love through you. Mom loved the time she spent at Embry Hills. Each of you made her feel so special. With gratitude and love, ***Val Bligh***

Trinity Community Ministries presents **Courage to Care & a free lunch!**

On Tuesday, October 28, there will be a free lunch n' learn at the Georgia World Congress Center, sponsored by Trinity Community Ministries. The event, from 11:30a.m.-1 p.m., is called *Courage to Care: Atlanta Unites with Compassion to Help the Homeless*. Featured guests are Ron Hall and Denver Moore, authors of the book, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, about a modern-day slave, an international art dealer and the unlikely woman who bound them together.

Embry Hills UMC is a long-time supporter of Trinity Community Ministries through Trinity Table, formerly know as Trinity Soup Kitchen, and most recently through Trinity TEAM Dinners.

To participate, make a reservation by October 14th to Jim Deichert (jdeichert@aol.com) or Victoria Lawson, Dir. of Witness & Outreach

(victorial@embryhillsumc.org or 770-938-0661, ext. 116). Please mention if you'd like to take part in a carpool. We will do our best to arrange for all EHUMC participants to sit together for the event.



Jim Deichert patiently awaiting your reservation!

UMCs and Hurricane relief response

Disaster response is done in two phases; early response and long term recovery. Early response is the very intensive time directly after a disaster where dangerous situations are managed, rescues made, power restored, to name a few things. Nearly all aspects of early response is coordinated and managed by the Red Cross. When the disaster area is stabilized, the early response teams depart to make room for those ready to do the other part of disaster work, long term recovery. It is the critical second phase where the United Methodist Church comes in to do the hard and long work of putting peoples lives back together, repairing and building homes, reuniting families, leading victims back to some semblance of physical and spiritual wholeness.

UMCOR is on the ground in the first moments of early response, but not to coordinate or do early response work. Rather UMCOR is present from the earliest moments to begin laying the groundwork for the long term recovery process. UMCOR contacts the pastors of affected churches and the community relief agencies, letting them know we're ready and as soon as order and direction has

been established. UMCs work according to the plans and needs of the very communities that have experienced the devastation, funding and working shoulder to shoulder for the long haul of full recovery. *We're the "long-term recovery" denomination*, and it takes more money, helping hands, and faithful commitment than any other aspect of this type of Christian service. Let's keep up the good work and let others see the light of Christ in the ways we serve from the beginning of a disaster until the last faded blue tarp is folded up and put away!

Look for the most current information on North Georgia Disaster Response on our Conference web site: www.ngumc.org. Find the words, "Disaster Response" on the home page and click! To aid hurricane recovery work, make checks payable to EHUMC, marked Hurricane relief. Thank for considering such a gift, which is generosity over and above any 2008 pledges.



Wednesday's at 6:00. Make your reservations now! (770) 938-0661

EHUGS Wesley Walk for Others for the Wesley Community Centers

It's almost October which means it's time for the *Wesley Walk for Others!* So go ahead and mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25th for a great time of fellowship and fun at Stone Mountain Park. Last year for the Walk's 25th anniversary our church goal was to have 25 walkers and raise \$2,500. Because of the wonderful volunteers and participants, and the generous donations of money and time, we met that goal with 25 walkers and \$2,526 in collections. For this year our goal is **"Let's Do More!"**



The *Wesley Walk for Others* is the major fund raiser for the Wesley Community Centers for their three mission areas:

Camp Wesley - a residential summer camp for at risk children and youth who would otherwise not have the chance to enjoy camping.

Bethlehem Senior Center - a weekday center for seniors with fellowship, exercise, craft classes, Bible study, a hot meal and field trip outings.

Project Extend - does home repairs for low income seniors to help them remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible.

If you are unable to walk, there are many other ways to serve, such as:

- Collecting donations for the Team.
- Volunteering your time the day before and the day of the Walk. They are always in need of people to hand out refreshments, help with t-shirt distribution, help sign people in, drive shuttle vans, and many other duties.
- Donating items for the walk (soft drinks, sports drinks, juices, wrapped candy, snack foods, and 6 ounce paper cups).

Help spread the word of the Walk to your neighbors, friends and family. Anyone can walk!

We hope you will consider being a part of Team Embry Hills, and for all those who do participate they will receive an E-HUGS t-shirt. Those who

(*Wesley Walk,* continued on page 7)

Who's Your Buddy??

Do you have a buddy? Let's see, we have fishing buddies, shopping buddies, bowling buddies, or my personal favorite, an eating buddy! These kinds of relationships are focused on an activity, yet the relationship itself is caring, supportive and fun! And there is always room in our lives for another buddy.

So please let me introduce you to one of the best buddy relationships you will ever enjoy. You can have a Reading or Math buddy from Pleasantdale! These elementary school children are chosen by their teachers for their determination to learn as well as their need to advance to grade level work. Your buddy and you will focus on their reading or math progress. Guided by your buddy's teacher, you will read or play math games together in the library for just 1/2 hour each week. Your buddy will benefit so much from your encouragement and focused attention. And you? You will look into the smiling face of a child who loves knowing that you come to Pleasantdale just to see her. That smile will stay with you all week, every week!

Alisha Waller is coordinating the Reading and Math Buddies program at Pleasantdale Elementary School again this year. We have 26 volunteers, but there are at least 26 more volunteers needed. Just call Alisha and give her your day, time and subject (math or reading) preferences and she will pair you with your buddy! There will be a short orientation meeting in October for our newest volunteers to visit the school and pick up your name tags.

Call Alisha today at (770) 493-4546 with your questions, concerns and to volunteer. Later in the school year, stop me and let me know ***who's your buddy!***

*—Beth Starling
Outreach Co-Chair*

November 2008 Newsletter Deadline:
***Please submit all content by Friday,
October 17th to
newsletter@embryhillsumc.org.***

THE UMW
OCTOBER 2008



United Methodist Women
Women's Division

How is the *cookbook*? We are asked over and over about it. We are still seeking to get your best recipes turned in. These recipes can be left in the UMW box close to the Church Office, mailed to the UMW, c/o EHUMC, 3304 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30341 or emailed to us. Look through your recipes and pick several out for us. We send a big thanks for your help.

On October 10, we will be taking baked goods to the UM Children's Home for their Flea Market Sale. Sue Ownbey will be collecting baked goods in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 10 to take to the Children's Home. Jean Newman, a long time member of the Children's Home Auxiliary, serves as a volunteer at the Flea Market. Our baked goods will serve as a good means of raising funds for this project and *yours* will be appreciated.

The October Service Project is the Foster Care Support Foundation. Donations will be collected at the church to be taken to Foster Care. Children's clothing, baby items and monetary gifts are accepted.

Who can be a United Methodist Woman? Contact Sue Ownbey at 770-493-7642 or by email at shownbey@yahoo.com and you can find out how.

The UMW Circles will meet in October as follows:

- Millie Bailey Circle on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:00 a.m. at Greta Kenney's, 2651 Winview Ct., Tucker, GA 30084. Co-hostess is JoAnn Hinton.
- Sylvia Pannell Circle will be leaving the church parking lot at 9:15 a.m., Tuesday, October 21 to go to the Foster Care in Roswell (our October Service Project).
- Pat McElroy Circle will meet at the Church on Tuesday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

September 28th marks the beginning of the 2009 financial campaign. This year the stewardship committee will be linking their work to a larger congregational planning initiative based on Bishop Robert Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. This step is in line with a recommendation that grew out of the recently completed feasibility study which gathered information from a substantial number of Embry Hills' members.

Grounded in the belief that people are searching for churches that are shaped and sustained by practices of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity, this material invites us to grow in our ability to fulfill our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. On the surface the content and values embedded in these practices may seem simple. However, experience has shown that when they are intentionally defined, deepened and strengthened, they lead to increased congregational health, vitality and fruitfulness.

Over the next several months this planning focus will allow all of our work areas, as well as our Administrative Council and Ministries Action Team to focus energy into efforts that extend these practices. Because they are so basic to the church's mission they are easily integrated with our existing priorities. And, because they transcend age-based planning, there is a place for everyone to be involved. As we move forward I hope that each of you will pray about which of the 5 practices the Spirit is calling you engage. And I hope you will participate in one of the task groups that will be meeting to address the specific ways in which Embry Hills might become a more fruitful congregation.

—Rev. Elaine Puckett
Associate Pastor

("Wesley Walk," continued from page 5)

collect at least \$25 will also receive a Wesley Walk t-shirt. And those who collect at least \$100 will receive both t-shirts and a hat!

Those interested in participating in any capacity, can contact either Charli Whitfield at 404-386-0985 (scottcharli@comcast.net) or Kim McDaniel at 770-492-1967 (kimwmcDaniel@aol.com). There will be information packets available at Wednesday Night Suppers and in the church office.

If you are unable to walk or volunteer, we ask that you pray for those who can, and to prayerfully consider your contribution to this awesome ministry. Donations for the Walk can be made through the Sunday offering or to a participant. Please just make your check out to EHUMC and indicate Wesley Walk on the notes line.

—Charli Whitfield & Kim McDaniel
2008 Walk Coordinators



The annual Wesley Walk for Others, scheduled for Saturday, October 25th, circles around Stone Mountain during the beauty of a fall morning. Each year the Wesley Walk draws hundreds of friends and supporters from throughout North Georgia who are eager to "give feet to the faith of the church." They collect pledges for each of the 6.2 miles they walk. It is a delightful morning of fellowship and fun for churches, scout troops and other groups.

Special Offerings for October

On Sunday, October 5, Christian faiths around the world, will participate in World Communion Sunday. The people of the United Methodist Church will take up a special offering to provide scholarships to nurture students to lead—today and in the future.

Later in the month, the North Georgia Conference UMs will show their support for Aldersgate Homes with a special offering—going to the "Heart of the Matter" for persons with Special Needs. EHUMC has a special relationship with Aldergates Homes and the affiliated Collinswood retreat facility. Jean Williamson and her late husband, Rev. Randall Williamson (former EHUMC senior pastor) were our first connection. Jean is still heavily involved with this ministry. Our very own Craftsmen got involved by offering their time and handiwork to Collinswood and on October 4 are honored to participate in the dedication of the Collinswood multi-purpose building, which they helped build! The special offering takes place on Sunday, October 26.

In both cases, thank you for your generosity above and beyond your 2008 pledge. Checks may be made payable to EHUMC and marked "World Communion" or "Aldersgate." Special envelopes will be in that week's worship bulletin as well.

News: Breakthru House




Breakthru House is the first and oldest addictive diseases treatment center for women in metro Atlanta. Many of you came to the joint Sunday School class last spring and heard a wonderful talk from one of their graduates. In April, 2009, BH will be having a big celebration for their 40th anniversary. They are already starting to collect silent auction items for this event. Please help them out. Do you own a business that could donate something? Do you frequent a restaurant, boutique, or art gallery that might donate an item give a gift certificate? Do you have connections to get free tickets to the Braves, Falcons, Hawks, etc.? How about re-gifting a beautiful item in you own collection that you no longer need? Be creative. I have given Jane a copy of BH's solicitation letter that you can hand out to businesses/vendors who might donate something. I also gave her a copy of BH's 501©3, in case the business wants to see a copy of it. Please call me at 404-229-1915 (my cell phone) if you have something to donate for the auction. Thank you!

—Madeline Griffin
EHUMC Liaison to Breakthru House.

5:00	Movers, Shakers, ... Carol Choir Young Ringers Cherub Choir Junior Choir	5:30	Tinnabulum Youth Arts Choir Praise Band Carillon Ringers Chancel Choir
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Worship Arts Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
8:45	Early Worship Service
9:45	Sunday School
11:00	Worship Service

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
<p>5 See Worship Schedule 9:45 Inquirer's Class 9:30 Safe Sanctuary Training 12:00 Meet n' Greet 12:15 Children's Council 5:00 YF 5:00 SPRC</p>	<p>6 10:30 Sister Series 9:30 Yoga 7:00 ESL 7:00 Disciple for Youth 7:00 Divorce Recovery 7:00 Dekalb Choral Guild</p>	<p>7 10:00 UMW-McElroy Circle 1:35 Staff Meeting 6:00 Line Dancing 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Webelos 7:00 Yoga</p>
<p>12 See Worship Schedule 7:30 UMM 8:15 Outreach 9:45 Inquirer's Class 12:15 Safe Sanctuary Train. 5:00 YF 6:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 MAT</p>	<p>13 10:30 Sister Series 9:30 Yoga 7:00 ESL 7:00 Disciple for Youth 7:00 Divorce Recovery 7:00 Dekalb Choral Guild</p>	<p>14 1:35 Staff Meeting 6:00 Line Dancing 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Yoga</p>
<p>19 See Worship Schedule 9:45 Inquirer's Class 12:00 Meet n' Greet 12:15 Trustees 4:00 Blessing of the Animals 5:00 YF 7:00 Admin. Council</p>	<p>20 10:30 Sister Series 9:30 Yoga 7:00 ESL 7:00 Disciple for Youth 7:00 Divorce Recovery 7:00 Dekalb Choral Guild</p>	<p>21 10:00 UMW Bailey & Pannell 1:35 Staff Meeting 6:00 Line Dancing 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Webelos 7:00 Yoga</p>
<p>26 See Worship Schedule 9:45 Inquirer's Class 12:00 Potato Bar Luncheon 2:00 GS 22422 5:00 Vision Class 5:00 YF</p>	<p>27 10:30 Sister Series 9:30 Yoga 7:00 ESL 7:00 Disciple for Youth 7:00 Divorce Recovery 7:00 Dekalb Choral Guild</p>	<p>28 11:30 Seniors are Special 11:30 Trinity Ministries Lunch 12:00 Youth Min. Lead. Mtg 1:35 Staff Meeting 6:00 Line Dancing 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Yoga</p>

October 2008

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 11:00 Bible Study 5:30 EHUMK Book Fair 6:00 Café del Soul 6:30 Zowie Hour</p> <p>See Worship Arts Schedule</p>	<p>2 9:00 EHUMK photos 10:00 ESL 7:00 Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>3 9:00 EHUMK photos</p>	<p>4 Dedication, Collinswood 9:00 Craftsmen Store 11:00 AA 4:00 FOCUS</p> <p>Happy B'day, Jane C.!</p>
<p>8 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Café del Soul 6:30 Zowie Hour 6:30 Sister Series 6:45 3 Leaves Service Unit</p> <p>See Worship Arts Schedule</p>	<p>9 10:00 ESL</p>	<p>10 No Scheduled Events</p>	<p>11 9:00 Craftsmen Store 11:00 AA</p>
<p>15 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Café del Soul 6:30 Zowie Hour 6:30 Sister Series</p> <p>See Worship Arts Schedule</p>	<p>16 10:00 ESL 7:00 Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>17 **November Newsletter Deadline**</p> <p>No Scheduled Events</p>	<p>18 9:00 Craftsmen Store 11:00 AA</p>
<p>22 11:00 Bible Study 1:15 EHUMK Faculty Mtg 6:00 Café del Soul 6:30 Zowie Hour 6:30 Sister Series</p> <p>See Worship Arts Schedule</p>	<p>23 10:00 ESL</p>	<p>24 No Scheduled Events</p> <p>EHUMK Christmas Wreath Orders are Due</p>	<p>25 Wesley Walk for Others</p> <p>9:00 Craftsmen Store 11:00 AA</p>
<p>29 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Café del Soul 6:30 Zowie Hour 6:30 Sister Series</p> <p>See Worship Arts Schedule</p>	<p>30 10:00 ESL</p>	<p>31 No Scheduled Events</p> <p>**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**</p> 	

At Embry Hills United Methodist Church

*We are an Inclusive
Community Of Faith*

HELP WANTED!

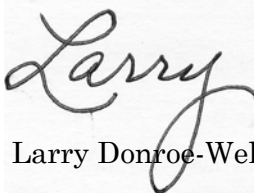
**(Are you the next Ben Bradlee???)
"Who???!!" you ask)**

It would seem natural that, as editor of this monthly publication, I would have first choice of where I wanted to include a few words of my own. After all, as the son of a former newspaper editor, literary license to say whatever it is I want to say is part of the job. Right?

Fortunately for you, you have been spared from my rants and raves and sometimes one-sided opinions. You have been spared because, for over the past year, you have helped me fill these pages with all the wonderful things Embry Hills is doing in our church, for our members and in our community. Most months find me struggling to fit all the contributed content so that as many areas of the church are represented in the newsletter as possible. I can seldom find space in these pages to even share some of my own thoughts and insights.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to help improve church communications. However, as all good things must, my tenure is ending and I plan to step down as newsletter editor following the publication of the December issue.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming the next newsletter editor, please contact Jane Carter at the church office (770-938-0661, ext. 121, or jane@embryhillsumc.org) or me at newsletter@embryhillsumc.org. We will be happy to share with you what the job entails. Peace & Happiness,



Larry Donroe-Wells

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

**Make-up Sessions: Sunday, October 12th at
12:15 in the Family Life Center**
(A light lunch and childcare will be provided)

If you were unable to attend the Safe Sanctuaries Training sessions in September, we are offering a make-up session on Sunday, October 12th right after church. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be available. If you work with children or youth in our church or think you might in the future, you need to go through the new Safe Sanctuaries training.

Please make reservations by calling Valerie Harvard in the church office – 770-938-0661 ext. 114 or by email at valerieh@embryhillsumc.org.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR KIDS

Wednesday night is a wonderful time when families come together for our church supper. And it's a good time for the children to gather together afterwards for fun and fellowship. We need your help! The children's program is scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30pm and help is needed in the following areas:

- Infants and toddlers through age 2
- 3 years old through Pre-K
- Kindergarten through 3rd grade

If you think you'd like to join the fun with us, call Valerie Harvard in the church office – 770-938-0661 ext. 114 or by email at valerieh@embryhillsumc.org.

Ministries



Club 45



*The preteen years are transitional between being a child and being a teenager. In his book, *Youth: Change and Challenge*, Erik Erikson wrote, "In no other stage of the life cycle are the promises of finding oneself and the threat of losing oneself so closely allied."*

The purpose and goal of KidzTown at Embry Hills is focused on the growth of the whole child...not just their spiritual journey. We focus, not only on the spiritual growth of the child, but on their physical growth, their social growth and their emotional growth. With this in mind, we have created **Club 45** to bridge the gap between children's ministry and youth ministry by offering a specifically designed ministry to meet the distinctive needs of preteens. As they begin to desire independence and begin to form their own opinions and thoughts on life issues, we want Embry Hills to be a place where they feel safe, and where they feel like they belong. We want to give our preteens the tools and knowledge to help them through this age of transition, to help them make wise choices, and to help them move from concrete thinking to more abstract thinking. We will use exciting teaching curriculum, energetic small group discussions, games, service projects and hangout time to connect with our preteens. Check out the new Club 45 programs already in place and soon to begin.

—Rev. Val Harvard
Pastor to Children & their Families

CrossRoads

Sundays

9:45-10:45am

Meet for discussion based lessons - using the web-based Grapple curriculum and other resources.

W.H.A.L.E.S.

Wednesdays

6:30-7:30pm

Time of relaxation after supper. Time for games and other student led (under the guidance of an adult) projects, such as gifts to make for nursing home visits. Relationship building and leadership building.

The Connector

2nd Friday of the Month

6:00-8:30pm

A time of connecting to others through service and learning about the needs of the community and the world.

The ON RAMP

4th Friday of the Month

6:00-8:30pm

Fun and fellowship time with activities such as, bowling, swimming, movies, pizza outings, lock-ins, Holiday parties, ice skating and more...

VBXtreme

June ~ in the summer Daytime

Alternative Vacation Bible School where the kids will be learning the same Bible lessons, participating in recreation, and working on some cool crafts (different from the little kids). However, *VBXtreme* will have designated space for crafts, class time, fellowship time and snacks. Each summer they will participate in two off-site mission /service projects.



Kidztown Happenings

Youth Happenings

Do you have the Nerve to Serve?

Join us this month at Youth Fellowship as we explore *The Nerve to Serve*.

John 13:14-16 :

“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.”

Date	What	Time	Theme
Sunday October 5th	Youth Fellowship	5—7:30	Service with a Smile
Sunday October 12th	No Youth Fellowship due to Fall Retreat		
Sunday October 19th	Youth Fellowship	5—7:30	Seeing the Need
Sunday October 26th	Youth Fellowship	5—7:30	Trick-or-Canning Halloween Party



Join us for the
Embry Hills Youth Fellowship
 Fall Retreat.
“One In The Spirit”

Where: **Camp Glisson**
 When: **10—12 October 2008**
 Who: **All Youth, Grades 6—12**
 Why: To grow our friendships together, to fellowship together, to eat together, to play together and to **Retreat Together!**

Contact Rev. Shannon McGee for details.

TRICK-OR-CANNING*
 HALLOWEEN PARTY
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008
 5:00—7:30
 BE THERE...OR ELSE!

**Our annual canned food drive around the neighborhoods surrounding EHUMC. We collect canned goods for a local food pantry and then come back to EHUMC for a Costume Party!*



("Sargent," continued from page 1)

Radical Hospitality. In this context, radical means "drastically different from the ordinary practice." Churches that bear this fruit consist of people offering the absolute utmost of themselves, their creativity, their abilities, and their energies to offer the gracious invitation and reception of Jesus to others. As we have said before, this means that all are welcome at Embry Hills, with no exceptions. The word on the street is that you do this well!

Passionate Worship. The man who taught me to preach, a gentleman by the name of Fred Craddock, commented memorably one time that there is no hour more important to the life of the Christian than worship. Nothing else in which we engage has the power and sweep of this time. As the Good Book says, we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Worship, as Bishop Schnase says, transforms lives, heals wounded souls, renews hope, shapes decisions, provokes change, inspires compassion, and binds us to one another. At Embry Hills, we seek to worship in a way that accomplishes all of this.

Intentional Faith Development. This refers to "purposeful learning in community" through which we mature in faith. Such communities of learning and growth include Sunday School classes, support groups, short-term topical studies, Bible study groups, and other groups in which brothers and sisters gather for the purpose of study and encouragement and growth. Just look at the landscape of our church and see all of the groups designed to foster such growth!

Risk-Taking Mission and Service. This re-

fers to the projects and efforts in which we engage to make a positive difference in the lives of others, *regardless of whether or not they ever become part of our church family!* This is risky business, because it stretches us "out of our comfort zone and has us engaging people and offering ourselves to ministries that we would never have done if not for our desire to follow Christ." Risk-taking steps into great uncertainty and involves a higher possibility of discomfort, resistance, and sacrifice. It also pushes us beyond the normal circle of relationships that routinely defines our church life. I wish you could have been with us at the September meeting of the Administrative Council to hear Beth Starling's inspiring report on all that is happening at Embry Hills!

Extravagant Generosity. This describes our willingness to give in ways that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It involves our willingness to practice the tithe. It involves our recognition that we need to give, to share, to offer because God's nature is giving, sharing, and offering. There is so much vitality and love at Embry Hills, and each of us has a wonderful opportunity to help make vital and loving things happen more abundantly, as we offer ourselves and our resources.

I hope you'll be in worship each Sunday over the next several weeks. Thank you for all that you do to help us practice fruitfully!

Gimme Five,



Mark

The following prayer was given by Peter Marshall in his capacity as Chaplain of the United States Senate:

"Let us not be frightened by the problems that confront us, but rather give thee thanks that thou hast matched us with this hour. May we resolve, God helping us, to be part of the answer and not part of the problem."

—Contributed by Marcille Metaxas



("Tithing," continued from page 1)

monetary gifts. Our lifestyle and all of its financial requirements take precedence over our obligation to share financial resources. However, Maslow began with primitive needs. For many of us, these primitive needs for things such as food and shelter have been replaced with a super-sized, extravagant version. Thus, we minimize any substantial possibility to give. Further, when we do share, we often do so with a sense of obligation, guilt, or shame.

The decision of defining how much is enough for our lifestyle is a difficult one. Few of us living in developed countries live with anything primitive, yet millions of people each day live without even the most basic resources. As Christians, we are called constantly to balance between our desired wants and our perceived needs.

In contrast to the postmodern model of giving, God offers us a different perspective on giving. It is not one of last resort and compounded with guilt, but one filled with abundance, freedom, and joy. It is the ancient

model of tithing. Tithing can help us take a step toward achieving a God-honoring balance with our financial resources. One of the best tithing stories is that of Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22.)

The ways in which we choose to earn, give, save, and spend money are really spiritual decisions. When our first decision is one of giving, we place a greater level of trust in God. We begin by saying, "Thank you God! All that we have received is a blessing from you." We acknowledge that we worship God and not money! Giving frees us from the bondage that money can have over our lives. Tithing encourages us to focus on God as the source of our strength, rather than our own achievements or financial assets. Tithing leads to spiritual growth.

Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, taught that one who earned and saved money, but failed to give money was not living as a Christian. Tithing introduces spiritual discipline to our financial choices. The bipolar contrast between the pull and push of the hyperconsumer culture versus the biblical

principle of tithing is so clear. Tithing dissuades us from absorption into the competitive posture of hyperconsumer-driven communities. Tithing challenges the common assumptions of economics and debt. It offers possibilities of economic justice, moderate consumption, and self-control.

Finally, tithing provides the financial assets for congregations to launch and expand a wide continuum of ministries. Together, we are able to accomplish far more than most of us can achieve individually. We might consider giving money through the church, rather than to the church. When people give to the church, they are giving to sustain the institution. However, when people give through the church, they are empowering ministry. The spiritual discipline of tithing is one of giving through the church. Tithing congregations are beacons of spiritual vitality and health. They are communities grounded in spiritual relationships, beginning with a relationship to God as the primary source of strength, hope, and life.

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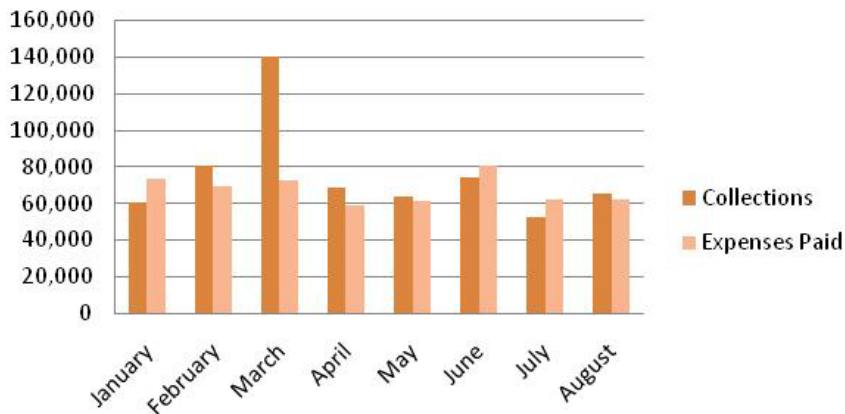


Upcoming Flea Market & Bake Sale

The *United Methodist Children's Home Auxiliary* will be holding a *Flea Market and Bake Sale* on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11 at the Children's Home, 500 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA. Our UMW will be taking baked goods for their sale on Friday, October 10. Sue Ownbey will be in our church parking lot on Friday at 8:00 a.m. to collect the delicious items. Baked goods may also be brought to the church kitchen on Thursday. It is a great way to help their sale.

Financial Report

2008 Collections vs. Expenses Paid



August 2008 collections were \$64,806; expenses were \$61,626. The August 31st balance of the line of credit was \$135,000 and unpaid apportionments through the end of August totaled \$55,990. Total unpaid obligations as of 31 August 2008 were \$190,990.

Collections, Expenses & Unpaid Obligations



Financial Summary

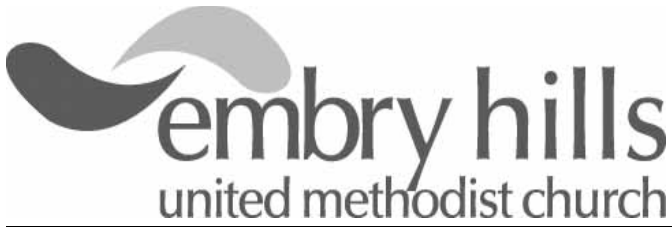
Income for the year is \$603,353 and operating expenses + Apportionment payments through August total \$537,020. While this may seem to indicate EHUMC has a year-to-date surplus, this amount covers \$20,633 in Apportionments paid through August against an annual obligation of \$114,934 (\$9578/month if paid in 12 equal installments) In other words, our gifts to date cover operating expenses but do not currently cover our YTD accumulated apportionment obligations to the district.

In summary, as we move into the fall when historically we experience steadier attendance and giving, EHUMC's year-to-date "unpaid obligations" are \$190,990 as shown in the table below right. This total consists of (a) the actual LOC amount owed to date of \$135,000.00 plus (b) the unpaid Apportionments "obligation to date" of \$55,990. Fall gifts, tithes and offerings in excess of operating expenses will move us toward reducing both of these components.

You can now make online gifts to EHUMC.

We have recently joined forces with PayPal, the #1 internet solution for safe and secure transactions. What this means for you is that you can go to the church website, www.embryhillsumc.org, and make online gifts to the church. Just look for the Donate button on the home page, click it, and you will be connected with our secure transaction page at PayPal. You can then fill in the blanks with how much you wish to give and if it is to be given to a designated area. Within seconds, you have made your gift available to the church without ever having to leave your house. If you have any questions about our new PayPal account, please contact Lori Cora at the church, 770-938-0661, ext. 122.





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Newsletter Editor: Larry Donroe-Wells

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Elaine Puckett	Associate Pastor	elainep	112
Shannon McGee	Pastor, Youth & Student Ministries	shannonm	113
Valerie Harvard	Pastor to Children & their families	valerieh	114
Victoria Lawson	Director, Witness & Outreach	victorial	116
Jane Carter	Administrative Assistant	janec	121
Amir Zaheri	Organist & Director of Music	amirz	117
Lori Cora	Financial Secretary	loric	123
Sally Kramer, Adele Harrison	Pre-school & Kindergarten Co-Directors	n/a	104
*follow e-mail addresses with @embryhillsumc.org, i.e. janec@embryhillsumc.org			
<i>If you unlock a door at the Church and turn on any lights, please remember to lock the door behind you and remember to turn out any lights you may have turned on.</i>			



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