

SOURCE

A Monthly Digest of Church Life



Sargent's Voice

LET'S TALK ABOUT SIN!

September 2010 Vol. XL No. 09	
Inside this Issue...	
Sargent's Voice	1
Our Church Family	2-3
Missions & Ministries	4-5
Church Life at EHUMC	6-9
Youth & Children	10-11
Final Thoughts	12-13
September Calendar	14-15

Well, I hope that headline grabbed your attention! After all, sin's been a favorite topic of Christian people from the beginning.

So, what do you think about it? For starters, what is it?

I happen to think, after pondering the topic for a long time, that "sin" is a word we Christians use to describe the often-sad result of damaging choices we make. Please note the word "choice." One of the earliest affirmations of Christian theology is that we are free—radically so. We humans are agents of choice. And, sometimes, oftentimes, we make choices that separate us from our true selves or from the God of Love, or from one another. I'm perfectly happy to use the word "sin" to describe such choices.

But, that is a far cry from considering sin as that which we humans cannot avoid. Rather than the result of damaging choice, some Christians have thought that we humans sin because we simply cannot stop ourselves. Why? Because, we are stained, bad, inherently flawed, "bent to sinning," Charles Wesley says in one of his famous hymns. I could not disagree more.

As many of you know, I have thought and preached and blogged

about the Church's need to claim a higher, more hopeful anthropology. Such a higher anthropology, one that is confident in the beauty of humanity rather than always despairing at humanity's blightedness, is actually an anthropology that is older, more ancient. It isn't until the early 5th century that our famous Christian notion of original sin gained unfortunate traction and became such a centerpiece of Christian thought.

We can thank Augustine of Hippo for this. While the idea of "original sin" did not originate with Augustine, his profound influence on the development of Christian theology is chiefly responsible for the notion that we humans are "fallen" by birth, hopelessly imprisoned by the sin of Adam and Eve, utterly unable to help ourselves, and destined for a terrible end without the cleansing effects of God's grace as made available in the Sacrament of Baptism.

I encourage you to do your own study on Augustine and the personal torment he experienced, from which some of his faulty notions about things emanated. Suffice it to say that he would not really consider a newborn child a bundle of joy and goodness. Augustine used the word "concupiscence" to describe his idea

that "sin" is sexually transmitted, handed down from one hopeless generation to the next. We are not really free agents of choice but "hard-wired to rebel" and "bearing the seeds of guilt and shame," as one person has put it.

So, since we are so desperately inclined to nastiness, we had better get those babies washed at an early age, so that they may be "saved" through Baptism. You might recall that our forbears even established a place called "Limbo" for unbaptized babies, apparently unable to forsake tiny children to hell but unwilling to entertain the thought that they could inherit paradise, sordid little creatures that they are.

I frankly cannot think of too many notions more repugnant than this, and it hurts my heart that this has been—and in many corners still is—one of the primary ways in which we think about what it means to be human. For some Christians still today, the beginning point of the Christian life is the recognition

("Voice", continued on page 8)

Memorials & Honorariums

- *In memory of Regina Maxfield's father, Tom Whalen:* Diane Roberts (Ministry & Missions)
- *In memory of Mary Jean Hockman, mother of Lee Hockman:* Diane Roberts, Jo Pittman, H. L. & Sue Ownbey (Ministry & Missions)
- *In memory of Bill Hinton, brother of Bob Hinton:* H.L. & Sue Ownbey, Harry & Connie Buchanan (Ministry & Missions)
- *In memory of Pat Carpenter, mother-in-law of Tracy Carpenter:* H.L. & Sue Ownbey, (Ministry & Missions)
- *In memory of Barbara Hinton:* H.L. & Sue Ownbey, (Ministry & Missions)
- *In memory of my sister - Peggy Weber Madison's 50th birthday on Saturday, August 14, 2010:* Paula Martin (Worship Arts Ministry)
- *In memory of Sophia:* Diane Roberts (AFLAC Cancer Center)
- *In memory of Irene Bogardus, mother of Cheryl Lyons:* Scott Tarr (Ministry & Missions)
- *In honor of Cecil & Huvian Ingram:* Scott Tarr (Ministry & Missions)



Homebound members celebrating birthdays in **September** are:

September 22

Frances Bennett
2079 Mountain Creek Court
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

These important members of our congregation appreciate hearing from their church family. Please reach out to them with cards, phone calls, and visits, and keep them in your prayers.

~ Marcille Metaxas

With Thanks

From Ruth Broome: *"I sincerely thank all of my Embry Hills family for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent illness and surgery. Your love and caring has helped me greatly during this time of recovery. I love you all and thank you for your continued support through prayer and calls."*

Prayer List

Please be in prayer for the following:

Chuck Bell	Mary Jo Garvin
Dee Moore	Bob Mell
Lilly Hoffman	Paul Swope
Kim Evans	Jim Lowry*
Helen Swope	Millie Taylor*
Bob Bevers	Grace Lowry*
Dodie Risse	Kaye Fason*
Suzanne Wilson	Madonna Holley*
Lee Hockman	Barbara Loar*
Dorothy Jones	
Jim Jones	
Ruth Broome	* Homebound Members

What: **UMM Annual Golf Tournament**

When: **September 22, 2010**

Where: **The Oaks Golf Course, Covington, GA**

*Best Ball from white tees (unless you are 75 or over).
Ladies play from gold tees.*

To participate, contact Earl Witcher ASAP at (770) 934-8835 or thewitchers@bellsouth.net.



Contributions due date for the **OCTOBER 2010** Newsletter:
Friday, September 17, 2010
Please send all content to
newsletter@embryhillsumc.org

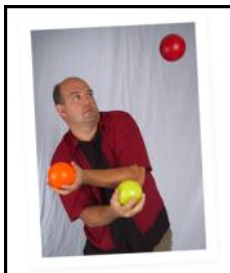
A Loving Tradition



Children's Choir Kickoff

Sunday, September 12th
4:00-5:00 pm
Family Life Center

Make your own sundae and enjoy great entertainment with **Juggler Ron Anglin**. (In his 11th year as a full-time performer, Ron juggles and entertains audiences with his act: "Quite a Catch!")



Ron Anglin, a former Army helicopter pilot who taught high school for 9 years, has taken his act all over the country delighting young and old with his juggling feats and comedy! His act includes ball juggling and bouncing, club juggling, box manipulation, plate-

s p i n n i n g , Chinese yo-yos, rhythm-sticks, dice stacking, Shaker cups, a balance board, a unicycle, and the Japanese kendama. Ron is a performing artist for Young Audiences at Woodruff Arts Center. He teaches circus arts for Cirque du Soleil's outreach program, Cirque du Monde. You can visit his website at www.quiteacatch.net.



For more information on the 2010—2011 Children's Choirs, please turn to page 13.

The annual Men's Spiritual Retreat at Rock Eagle will be September 24 -26, 2010. The key note speakers will be Bishop James R. King, Jr, Bishop of the South Georgia conference and the President of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Information about the retreat is available on line at www.rockeagleretreat.com or your UMM president, thewitchers@bellsouth.net

Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for September 22 at the Oaks Course. Please call or email the names of your group. Check the flyers in the church for details about the tournament.

We begin our fall season with a breakfast and meeting September 12 at 07:30 am in the family life center. This will be a busy meeting. We encourage all members to attend. See you then.

Volunteers Urgently Needed

Do you have a knack for reading children's stories? Playing trucks, dress-up and blocks? Organizing games of duck, duck, goose? Our church family needs YOU! Loving volunteers are needed on Sunday mornings to help care for the children in the infant and toddler nurseries and the Extended Session crew. Nursery volunteers work alongside a professional childcare provider. We are especially in need of those willing to serve during the 11 o'clock worship hour. Please contact Dana Buckelew (danabuckelew@live.com) if you would like to help in this important ministry to our visitors and church family.

Yoga with Penny Bolen

September: Tuesday 7, 21, 28 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday 1, 8, 22, 29 at 9:30
October: Tuesday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:30
November: Tuesday 2, 16, 23 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday 3, 17, 24 at 9:30

Classes meet in the Rehearsal Hall (choir room). Each class is 1 hour long and is \$8.00. Be sure to bring a mat.

Congratulations, you are qualified!!

Qualified for what you ask? The very fact that you have read this far demonstrates that you are qualified to assist in the Embry Hills UMC English as a Second Language Program. The dozens of volunteer teachers in the ESL program at Embry Hills have provided to assistance hundreds of our church's neighbors over the approximately eight years of this program. Our program is free to our students—an outreach of our church. We keep our classes small and use a nationally respected set of materials to guide our instruction.

Who are our students? Some students are young adults while others are older. Some hold university degrees from their home country while others have only a basic education. Often we work with individuals who have been in this country for a number of years and never found the opportunity to learning English until they've come to our church. Our student rosters resemble the United Nations with countries, as diverse as Hungary, Nepal, Haiti, Honduras, Angola, China, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Korea, Mexico, Iraq and Iran.

What might you do? We certainly have a need for teachers in our Monday night or Thursday morning classes. And, if you are new to ESL, we can arrange for you to assist a more experienced teacher until you feel more comfortable to work on your own. But we need more than teachers. We need some angels who would be willing to be substitute teachers to fill in occasionally and other angels to assist with administrative matters, such as welcoming students and getting them registered.

What are the details? We plan to begin the fall session with registration and first classes on Monday, September 13 and Thursday, September 16. The fall program will run weekly for an hour and a half on Monday nights (7 to 8:30) and Thursday mornings (9:30 to 11:00) until the week of December 13.

If you are willing to participate in this part of our church's ministry or want more information, please contact Harry Dangel (404-693-4495 or hldangel@mac.com).

ESL

Food for Thought

... more than a thought



From Mike Hardin, St. Martin Food Bank, Holy Cross Catholic Church: *"You will be pleased to know that all of the food EHUMC donated (in July) was on the shelves by 10am Tuesday. Ninety percent of it was packed in boxes and gone by 11:45am -- we had a lot of traffic. Tell everyone involved that they were a major component of feeding about 75 families. We supplemented some canned & packaged items plus the frozen/refrigerated meats, cheese and produce. Thank you Embry Hills UMC for helping people in crisis."*

What is Food for Thought? Food for Thought is a year-round food drive sponsored by the Heretics Sunday School Class. Every other month throughout the year on the first Sunday of the month, you'll be provided a bag to take home with a list of what's needed. You fill the bag with as much as you'd like of any or all of the items listed. Bring the bag back on the last Sunday of the month and it will be delivered to St. Martin's Food Bank at Holy Cross Catholic Church. The following are the dates for September:

September 5th: Pick up a bag during worship
September 26th: Return offering to the prayer rail.

If you have questions, please contact Tracy Carpenter (770) 823-3533 or Suzanne Segler (404) 271-0164.

Seniors are Special

*For the Young at Heart
50 & Older*

Medicare Awareness Program

Gail Stephens from Senior Education Seminars will present the program at the **September 28th** meeting of Seniors Are Special at Embry Hills United Methodist Church, on Henderson Mill Road. The discussion following lunch will cover Medicare In General....

The lunch meeting is at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Lunch is \$7 and the fellowship is free. Please call 770-938-0661 to make reservations before Friday, September 24th, with cancellations no later than Monday, September 27th.

Ministries



We have a new logo, a new cover for *response*, the magazine of women in mission, and a new online UMW, but our purpose remains the same, “to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.” The website (<http://new.gbmgm-umc.org/umw/>) offers a very informative explanation of what we are about. Check it out and check us out.



In the current issue of *response*, there is a story about Wesley Community Centers in the Atlanta area. They are one of the main areas of UMW mission giving in this conference. Project Extend, Bethlehem Centers, and Camp Wesley for children and youth are areas especially close to us here at Embry Hills UMW through service projects such as collecting items for Bethlehem Center, working at Project Extend and monetary donations for camperships at Camp Wesley. This new *response* will soon be in the church library for you to read.

September is upon us as we begin with our General Meeting on Tuesday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. Terry and/or Sue Raymond will be leading us in our Mission Study on “The Beauty and Courage of Sudan.” We invite you to come. Many of us have read the book but information and updates on Sudan are on the above mentioned website and can give you an insight as to what is happening in Sudan. We will begin the study about 10:30 a.m. (after General Meeting), have lunch, and then complete the study by approximately 2:00 p.m.

Our September Service Project:

School supplies for Pleasantdale Elementary and small shampoos and Kleenex packages for Christmas stockings.

Reminders:

- Cookbooks for sale \$15.00 (also correction sheets available)
- Campbell soup labels can be left in UMW mailbox (for Murphy Harpst School)

September Circle Meetings

Elaine Eisemann Circle – during General Meeting lunchtime on September 7

Ruth Broome Circle – Tuesday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. - Book review/discussion on "Same Kind of Different As Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore at Jane Griffin's home, 2964 Evans Oaks Ct.

The Shiners – Tuesday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. at Paige Moore's home, 2722 Regal Way, Tucker.

Square Pegs – Monday, August 30, at the church (FLC or 401) to put together the “tie blankets” (recipients to be decided). We will be ordering from Jason Deli (information can be obtained as to how to order online – slmessick@comcast.net) to eat at 6:30. Meeting and making of blankets to begin at 7. Come help us.

Any questions about UMW? Feel free to contact Sue Ownbey (shownbey@yahoo.com)



WHAT DO OTHER CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

The Joyful class will be exploring the beliefs of other Christians as compared to the United Methodist. They will use resources developed by the Reverend Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, one the fastest growing and most highly visible churches in the United States. They will compare the beliefs of the Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism and Methodism. Through a series of videos and written resources the study will engage these various faiths during the fall. They will begin the study September 12th and conclude the end of December. All persons are invited to attend on a regular basis or when every possible. Call or see Steve Rasor at 404/321-5068 or contact him at s13rasor@bellsouth.net for additional information.

The Book Shelf

Great Fall Reading

Welcome back ! The summer heat should abate sometime in the near future. . . hopefully ! As fall approaches, it is time to begin looking for some good reading materials.

Our Church Library, second floor above the Church Office Workroom, has received 14 new books from Jo Ann Hinton. As many of us know, Jo Ann is an avid reader with an eye for materials that are both valuable reading and interesting.

Three by Gloria Copeland - "Real People Real Needs Real Victories", "The Grace that makes us Holy" and "Healing Promises"; three volumes in poetic form - "The Treasure of Friendship", "Life's Little Instruction Book", and "Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living"; Four that offer guides for meeting life's issues: "Gratitude, A way of life", "You Bring the Confetti, God Brings the Joy", "A Search for God", and "Christ The Healer";

The final four include a Christmas story, "The Winter Seeking"; "The Four Agreements - wisdom book", Max Lucado's, "He Still Moves Stones" (which contains a number of stories focused on how everyone needs a miracle. Perhaps you can catalogue the final tome, "The Prayer of Jabez".

Come visit the church library and make use of this generous gift.

~Jim Johnson

DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR...

...Church members to change the message on the church marquee in front of the church.

The schedule varies and the process takes about 30-45 minutes. If you are interested in serving EHUMC in this capacity, please contact Jane in the Church Office at (770) 938-0661, ext. 121.

Karaoke Night: Singin' with Breakthru House!

On August 11, 2010, Embry Hills members and women from Breakthru House got together for a night of breaking bread and karaoke. The discovery of a gorgeous voice singing Melissa Etheridge or one of our own members needing only a rhinestone jumpsuit to be mistaken for The King of Rock 'n' Roll (Go, Patrick!) made for a terrific evening of fellowship and fun. Family groups, like the Cora kids, or groups of friends from Breakthru House sang from their hearts bringing laughter and smiles to the entire group.

EHUMC volunteers chauffeured the women of Breakthru House to our Family Life Center that night for the event. Throughout the span of three hours, voices rang out songs like Harrison Cora's version of Woolly Bully to a group of good friends singing and dancing to Mr. Roboto by Styx. But the best part of the evening was the camaraderie, the laughter, and friendships that were made in the room over fun and music.

Breakthru House is the first long-term residential recovery program that meets the unique needs of female alcohol and drug recovery. It was founded in 1969 with physical, emotional, and spiritual healing through individual treatment filled with care and understanding. Embry Hills is happy to be part of United Methodist Action Ministries that helps to fund Breakthru House. Breakthru House appreciates all forms of volunteerism for the women that live there that are rebuilding their lives in addiction recovery, but nights like this of simple joy and fellowship are the most rewarding for all involved.

Kate Boyer, MSW, the Executive Director at Breakthru House said that one of her newest clients said it was "the best night of her life" and other women "have not stopped raving" days later about the awesome time they had at Karaoke Night. Woodrow Wilson said, "Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together", and it is a blessing that we now have helped hold the world together with the new friendships that we cemented that Wednesday night.

~Madeline Griffin and Kim Openo

At Embry Hills



The Three L's!!!!!!!!!!!!

Live, Laugh, and Line Dance

LIVE your life to its fullest and exercise! Exercise should be a regular activity on your checklist of life! It helps reduce stress, reduces depression and can improve self-esteem.

LINE DANCE is a form of exercise that is healthy for the body and mind. It allows you to exercise your mind and body at the same time.

You say you have two left feet and two right feet?? Don't worry!! There are line dances choreographed just for that (left, left, right, right). If you can count to 8, and know how to have FUN, you can learn the basic steps of line dancing!! You will definitely have **FUN** and **LAUGH** a lot !!

Stop by one of the 5, 6, 7, 8 Beginner Line Dance Classes and check out the FUN going on!! The 5, 6, 7, 8 Beginner Line Dance Classes are offered on Mondays and Tuesdays in Room 312. A variety of music is used (i.e. jazz, country, rock n roll, classical, Irish, Latin).

Mondays: 4:45 pm-5:45 pm (Basic Beginner)
6:00 pm-7:00 pm (Beginner)

Tuesdays: 4:45 pm-5:45 pm (Basic Beginner)
6:00 pm-7:00 pm (High Beginner)

Additional information is available at embryhillsumc.org or call Jane in the Church Office at 770-938-0661, ext. 121.

LIVE + LAUGH + LINE DANCE = FUN!!

On the Financial Side...

July 2010 results reflect the summer reduced inflow of financial gifts. If you are behind in giving, please think about making up any missed weekly contributions. Our \$834,000 annual budget for 2010 calls for \$486,500 for seven months of 2010. We have only received \$451,364 July year-to-date, yielding a shortfall of (\$35,136).

July 2010 contributions were \$61,252 and expenses were \$65,342, resulting in a net loss of (\$4,090). The Line of Credit (LOC) balance for June 30, 2010 rose \$3,700 to \$121,500. On a Year-to-date basis, net contributions are \$451,364 and expenses are \$456,045, resulting in a net loss of (\$4,681).

*J. Rick McDaniel
Finance Chairman*

2 Corinthians 9:11—You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your **generosity** will result in thanksgiving to God.

"After enlightenment, the laundry." ZEN

NETWorks

It's been a busy summer for everyone, including NETWorks! Please read the following to find out who has been helped by NETWorks so far this summer. In June, 108 people were helped, the youngest client at 22 years of age and the oldest at 70. Fifty-six percent of those helped had children under the age of 18. Total monies spent in June was \$7,015.68. In July, 112 people were helped, the youngest at 20 years of age and the oldest at 68. Sixty-three percent of those helped had children under the age of 18. In both months, the majority of money was spent to help clients pay their rent or utilities, rent motel rooms for those without shelter and for Kroger cards so clients could buy groceries.

NETWorks is currently running very low on snack items to give to clients who are hungry. Any individually wrapped snack items are acceptable.

Please drop these items off in the outreach room or directly to NETWorks located in the basement of Tucker First Baptist on the corner of LaVista and Main St. in Tucker.

Your prayers, gift of volunteering or monetary donations are always needed by NETWorks to help those in need in the Northlake-Embry Hills-Tucker area. Please give any way you can.

In the mood for a good fish fry? Help out **NETWorks** and get a big plate of fish, hushpuppies, slaw, cheese grits and tea on Saturday, September 18th between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Plates will be served in outside dining or to-go at **Tucker Christian Church** (by the Tucker Post Office) and will sell for \$7. Please come buy some plates and help **NETWorks** raise money to be able to help more people in need!

("Voice" continued from page 1)

of oneself as a sinner. I find that to be not only sad, but sadly pejorative and downright harmful.

That's one reason that Amir and I composed the new service for Baptism, which we unveiled last month at the baptism of my grandson, Dylan. I am through with baptism as a necessary washing of a hopelessly stained person. With Paul, I think of baptism as an "immersion" into the life of Jesus and into his death as well. The Christian life can be a dangerous life, what with Jesus' call to stand for justice and to dismantle systems of injustice. For this reason, the Christian life is also a cruciform life, a life of taking up a cross, of assuming a burden for the sake of others. This is why Paul speaks of baptism as an initiation into both Jesus' life and Jesus' death. For Paul, baptism is the act of uniting ourselves with Jesus, taking on the dangers he faced and enjoying the joys he knew from doing the will of God. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a crackerjack theologian to realize that this is all the result of choice! We are free to join Jesus on the Way he is walking or not. Baptism, then, is the act whereby we place little people and big people on that Way. It is the act in which we lift up that Way as paramount, as more life-giving than other ways. And, it is the act by which we promise to encourage one another along that Narrow Way.

I'm thankful to be on the Way with you. Like you, I will err again, as I have in the past. I will sin. But, I won't do so because I'm just a hopeless leech. I will do so during times of forgetfulness, times during which I fail to recall who I am.

And, who are we? Well, the most ancient Scriptures tell us that we are children of God, printed not by sin but imprinted with the very image of God. That's an anthropology we can live with!

Mark Sargent is the senior pastor at Embry Hills UMC. Visit www.EmbryHillsUMC.org to read or hear some of Mark's past sermons.

Welcome New Members

The following recently joined Embry Hills UMC:

Julianne & Dave Botelho met in Gator country at the University of Florida and married shortly after graduation. They decided it was probably better to be Bulldogs than Gators, so they moved north to attend UGA for graduate school. They moved to Atlanta in 2007 where Julianne accepted a job with the CDC as a research chemist. Dave is a project manager with Assessment Plus. Their 2 children, Maya (2) and David (5 months old) are their greatest accomplishment thus far.



You might recognize the following trio: Price, Annie & Will Blissit are the pride and joy of members Beverly and Doug Blissit. When they are in town and not away at school, you will often see them sitting with their parents in church on Sunday morning. Price is presently a junior at Gardner-Webb College in North Carolina where he is majoring in sports management. He is an avid sports fan and is the Team Manager for the Men's Varsity Basketball Team at Gardner-Webb. Annie is a sophomore at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh (PA) where she is studying Environmental Engineering. When visiting home, Annie can often be found singing with the Chancel Choir in the choir loft. Will is a student at Woodward Academy (Atlanta) and is a raving sports fan as well as a participant in the Woodward theatre group.

Please be sure to welcome these new members to our church family.



At Embry Hills



METHODISM 101: Board of Trustees

This is the 5th in a series written by Associate Pastor, Elaine Puckett, that describes what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church.

The Board of Trustees is one of the four local church administrative committees required by the Book of Discipline. It is made up of 9 members elected to 3 year terms with one third of the membership rotating off each year. It is encouraged that at least one third of the membership be women and one third be men. Unlike other administrative committees, the trustees elect their own chairperson.

Trustees are accountable to the charge conference and may be directed to exercise specific legal responsibilities on behalf of the charge conference with regard to the land, buildings, furnishings and other ongoing investments of the church. These include:

- The authorization to incorporate a local church in accordance with the guidelines established by the Book of Discipline and subject to local laws.
- The oversight of the purchase or sale of property including securing a mortgage or otherwise encumbering said property.
- The oversight of repair, remodeling and maintenance of any and all property of the church.
- The acceptance and oversight of any grants, gifts, donations, legacies, or bequests for the use and benefit of the church and the administration of such trusts in accordance with the terms of the gift and local law.

They exercise supervision, oversight, and care of all property and equipment acquired by the church or any society, board, class, commission or organization connected to the church, provided they do not violate rights that are specifically granted to particular groups by the Book of Discipline. It is important to remember that our buildings are not owned by the local church. In the United Methodist tradition property is owned by the annual conference and held in trust by the local church. As a result, a congregational disagreement can never result in any group leaving with their share of the property in hand.

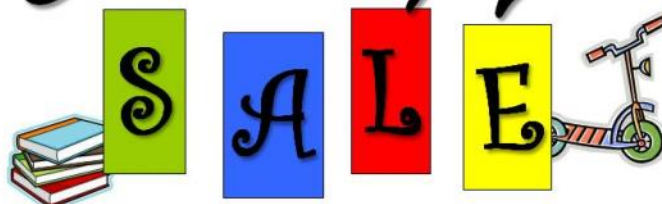
In the early days of Methodism one of the functions of the trustees was to insure that the message preached in a Methodist preaching house was in accord with the theological teachings of John Wesley. Today's

disciplinary language states that the trustees may not prevent or interfere with the pastor in the use of the property for religious services or meetings that are recognized by the laws and customs of the United Methodist Church. Nor may they permit others to use the building for religious purposes without the consent of the pastor or, in the absence of the pastor, the district superintendent. Any use of a United Methodist Church building by an outside group must be in accord with the Social Principles of the denomination as well as its larger ecumenical objectives.

Other responsibilities of the trustees include:

- An annual review of the church's insurance coverage
- Conduct and annual accessibility audit

Community Yard



Saturday, November 13
9:00-2:00

Embry Hills United Methodist Church
Near Henderson Mill and Chamblee Tucker Roads

Reserve a Table to Sell
or Shop 'til you Drop!

Holiday
gifts and
crafts too!

Call 678-451-5846 for information
www.embryhillsumc.org



What I Did This Summer ...

...was to hang out with some amazing middle and high schoolers! The greatest perk of my position as Director of Youth Ministries is to observe the EH Youth members in action—watching them adapt to different environments and interact in loving ways to those around them with great energy and joy. The summer theme was *Focusing on Faith & Fun* and that is exactly what we did, in between the camps, jobs and vacations of our members. Below are short descriptions of the extra ways we spent time together and gave our time to others:

- Wednesday *REEL Time Movie & Bible Studies* was a great time for some small group discussions and activities that related to *The Princess Bride* (best movie EVER), *Contact* and *Remember the Titans*.
- *Youth Week* is an annual tradition of weeklong activities that are a combination of outreach and fellowship. Our outreach for 2010 was to provide volunteers for Camp Hollywood, sponsored by FOCUS (Families of Children Under Stress). It was amazing to watch our participants interact with and love these “children with disabilities and/or medical needs and their siblings.” There was great feedback from Youth and Youth parents. Even better, we have already been invited back to participate in 2011! The fellowship activities for the week included Six Flags, a pool party, dinner and an outdoor movie at Atlantic Station, and a lock-in. Many thanks to volunteers and parents for help with chaperoning and driving. The best part about this week is the inclusion of the rising 7th graders as members of Youth Fellowship and Sunday School.
- Another long-standing tradition is volunteering for EHUMC Vacation Bible School. There were about 23 of us each day and, as expected, everyone did a great job with their assigned area and extra Friday clean-up. Youth really help to make this week-long ministry a success each year (and the kids LOVE all the attention, too!)

Our summer mission trip took us to Savannah, GA (July 26-30). Special thanks to Brian Jones, Al Coltrane and Leigh Anna Lang for their leadership on this trip. With 16 Youth and 4 adults, Embry Hills UMC was the largest of the 5 participating churches through the *YouthWorks!*-organized

mission trip. Clearly, your Youth were the leaders, which was bound to happen as we had the oldest group. However, it was some of our youngest who initiated reaching out to other church youth and began interacting and mingling on the first evening. Besides the great gifts of service they gave to individual home repairs, nursing homes, a children’s church day camp, an area Boys & Girls club, homeless shelters and a food bank, making a huge difference in the lives of many in Savannah, they learned a lot about themselves and their youth group, which I hope gave them a sense of pride in who they are and what they believe. Our final August Youth Fellowship program is a potluck dinner with our families and sharing a slide show and some stories about the trip.

In addition to all the planned activities, many EH Youth have begun adding their touch to the Embry Hills worship services on a more regular basis. Already in place is an amazing acolyte program with amazing adult volunteer leadership. That leadership now includes many senior high youth and youth alumni who are guiding the Sunday participants on a rotating schedule. Also, several Youth members have been trained on our sanctuary sound system and are regularly overseeing this important aspect of the Sunday worship services. Is there anything these 6th-12th graders can’t do?!? Umm, I’ll let you know if I figure that one out...

~Victoria

What’s up in September? So glad you asked!

- Our **Youth Sunday School Class** (Sundays, 9:45-10:30 a.m., Room 403) will be starting a new series: *School Dazed: Making the Grade, Living the Faith*.
- The **Confirmation Class of 2010** will be introduced at the 11 a.m. worship service on September 12. Last year’s “independent study” format with Embry Hills adult mentors will be repeated again this year. The Confirmation Experience, an on-site retreat, will take place on November 5 & 6 and participants will be confirmed during the 11 a.m. worship service on November 21.
- **Youth Fellowship** (5:15-7:30 pm., in the Family Life Center; bring \$3 for dinner) is a great time to re-charge for the week ahead. With dedicated adult and youth leadership, we eat, learn, worship, play and pray together most Sunday nights. Please note that there is no Youth Fellowship on Sunday, September 5, for the Labor Day weekend.
- All youth activities are open to current 6th-12th graders. To find out more about this ministry of EHUMC or to be added to the e-mail list, contact Victoria Lawson, Dir. of Youth Ministries, at victoria@embryhillsumc.org or 770-938-0661, ext. 113.

Children

MEMORIES: YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2010



KIDZTOWN FUN

Look how much fun Ashleigh, Madison, Madelyn and Sydney had during Sunday School recently. These girls spent time in the Movie Room class learning about creation. Believe it or not, they watched part of the movie Wall-E, talked about how God created the world, explored a globe and worked together to spell out CREATION.



If you have a kindergarten through third-grader come to KidzTown Sunday School and join in on the fun. We learn about God through Science, Computers, Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Movies and lot more. Join us Sundays at 9:45. We'd love to see you.

For more information contact Valerie Harvard, Pastor to Children and their Families. Her e-mail address is valerieh@embryhillsumc.org.

Wednesday Night Workshop Ends

I wanted to take a moment to thank the many, many people who helped with Wednesday Workshop over the last year. From making supplies (the huge majority of which were made by people who did not have children in the program), to volunteering time on Wednesday evenings, the support I received from my church family last fall was overwhelming. I can't say enough about what it has meant to me to see folks come together to support our kids. Despite all that help, it has become clear that we do not have enough families interested in the program to continue. If interest increases in the future, Wednesday Workshop will be ready to return. Thanks again to all.

~Karen Gimmig

The following was published in the op-ed section of the NY Times on August 7, 2010. Finding the subject interesting, I think the author offers an astute vision of the challenges the church faces now and in the future. What do you think?

~Editor

Congregations Gone Wild

By G. JEFFREY MacDONALD

Swampscott, Mass.

THE American clergy is suffering from burnout, several new studies show. And part of the problem, as researchers have observed, is that pastors work too much. Many of them need vacations, it's true. But there's a more fundamental problem that no amount of rest and relaxation can help solve: congregational pressure to forsake one's highest calling.

The pastoral vocation is to help people grow spiritually, resist their lowest impulses and adopt higher, more compassionate ways. But churchgoers increasingly want pastors to soothe and entertain them. It's apparent in the theater-style seating and giant projection screens in churches and in mission trips that involve more sightseeing than listening to the local people.

As a result, pastors are constantly forced to choose, as they work through congregants' daily wish lists in their e-mail and voice mail, between paths of personal integrity and those that portend greater job security. As religion becomes a consumer experience, the clergy become more unhappy and unhealthy.

The trend toward consumer-driven religion has been gaining momentum for half a century. Consider that in 1955 only 15 percent of Americans said they no longer adhered to the faith of their childhood, according to a Gallup poll. By 2008, 44 percent had switched their religious affiliation at least once, or dropped it altogether, the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found.

Americans now sample, dabble and move on when a religious leader fails to satisfy for any reason. In this transformation, clergy have seen their job descriptions rewritten. They're no longer expected to offer moral counsel in pastoral care sessions or to deliver sermons that make the comfortable uneasy. Church leaders who continue such ministerial traditions pay dearly. A few years ago, thousands of parishioners quit Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minn., and Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Ariz., when their respective preachers refused to bless the congregations' preferred

political agendas and consumerist lifestyles.

I have faced similar pressures myself. In the early 2000s, the advisory committee of my small congregation in Massachusetts told me to keep my sermons to 10 minutes, tell funny stories and leave people feeling great about themselves. The unspoken message in such instructions is clear: give us the comforting, amusing fare we want or we'll get our spiritual leadership from someone else.

Congregations that make such demands seem not to realize that most clergy don't sign up to be soothsayers or entertainers. Pastors believe they're called to shape lives for the better, and that involves helping people learn to do what's right in life, even when what's right is also difficult.

When they're being true to their calling, pastors urge Christians to do the hard work of reconciliation with one another before receiving communion. They lead people to share in the suffering of others, including people they would rather ignore, by experiencing tough circumstances — say, in a shelter, a prison or a nursing home — and seeking relief together with those in need. At their courageous best, clergy lead where people aren't asking to go, because that's how the range of issues that concern them expands, and how a holy community gets formed.

Ministry is a profession in which the greatest rewards include meaningfulness and integrity. When those fade under pressure from churchgoers who don't want to be challenged or edified, pastors become candidates for stress and depression.

Clergy need parishioners who understand that the church exists, as it always has, to save souls by elevating people's values and desires. They need churchgoers to ask for personal challenges, in areas like daily devotions and outreach ministries.

When such an ethic takes root, as it has in generations past, then pastors will cease to feel like the spiritual equivalents of concierges. They'll again know joy in ministering among people who share their sense of purpose. They might even be on fire again for their calling, rather than on a path to premature burnout.

G. Jeffrey MacDonald, a minister in the United Church of Christ, is the author of "Thieves in the Temple: The Christian Church and the Selling of the American Soul."

Thoughts

Children's Choir Kickoff

Sunday September 12th!!

'Get to know you' games, special snacks, and choir sign-up. Invite your friends and neighbors to be a part of our choirs this year.

Cherub Choir for our youngest singers: 3 years old-Kindergarten. 4:00-4:45 pm Room 312.

Junior Choir for beginner singers. 4:45 pm-5:45 pm Room 312.

Cantate Choir for our more advanced singers. 4:45 pm-5:45 pm Room 312.

This year, our children's worship arts ministry will focus on inviting and including singers from the Northlake Community. Children of all ages are invited to join us on Sunday afternoons whether they attend EHUMC or not. We hope to develop a community children's choir ministry based on the Spivey Hall Children's Chorus and Callanwolde Singers model of teaching and leading young singers. The **Junior** and **Cantate** choirs will lead in worship at EHUMC, as well as perform at community events like the Braves Games, tree lighting Christmas events and such.

Our choir ministry at EHUMC seeks to identify and develop the many gifts that children bring to our worship experience. Singing, playing a variety of instruments, creative movement/dance and art will be offered within the choir time to allow children to use their creativity as worship leaders.

EHUMC DIGITAL

TUNE IN WEEKLY TO HEAR THE WORDS, WISDOMS & SOUNDS OF WORSHIP FROM WEEKS PAST.

VISIT WWW.EMBRYHILLSUMC.ORG/PODCAST

ON YOUR COMPUTER & LISTEN TODAY!!!!

Wednesday Night Schedule



Café del SOUL
Serving up Spiritual
food since 2005

Starting Wednesday, September 8th at 6:00 pm

Make your reservations now by calling the church office at (770) 938-0661, ext. 121, or by sending an e-mail to EHUMC@yahoo.com

Wednesday Nights in Kidztown



Club 45 resumes its weekly activities starting Wednesday September 8th at 6:30 p.m. in room 211.

WORSHIP ARTS SCHEDULE

Beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2010, the Wednesday Worship Arts Schedule is as follows:

- 5:00 - 5:30 Young Ringers @ Sanctuary
- 5:30 - 6:00 Tinnabulum @ Sanctuary
- 6:30 - 7:00 Carillon Ringers @ Sanctuary
- 7:00 - 9:00 Chancel Choir @ RHall



Embry Hills UMC

For calendar updates, please refer
to the website calendar at
www.embryhillsumc.org

EHUMC		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>Sunday Worship Schedule</p> <p>8:45—Early Worship Service 9:45—Sunday School 11:00—Worship Service</p>		<p>Children/Youth Choir (Sunday)</p> <p>4:00 - 4:45 Cherub Choir @ Rm 312 4:30 - 5:15 Youth Choir @ Sanctuary 4:45 - 6:00 Cantate Choir @ RHall 4:45 - 6:00 Junior Choir @ RHall</p>
5	6	7
<p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>4:15pm - Kidztown Ministrv 4:30pm - Youth Tourina Choir @</p>	<p>LABOR DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p>10am - UMW General Meeting @ 11:30am - Staff Luncheon @ LCR 11:30am - UMW Luncheon @ FLC 4:45pm - 5678 Beginner Line 6pm - 5678 High Beginner Line 6pm - Line Dancing @ FLC 6pm - Yoga with Penny Bolen @</p>
12	13	14
<p>Children's/Youth Choir Schedule</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>7:30am - UMM @ FLC 9:45am - Confirmation Kickoff @ 11am - Children's Worship @ 4pm - Children's Choir Kickoff @ 5:15pm - Youth Fellowship @ 5:30pm - Finance Meeting @ RM-</p>	<p>4:45pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 6pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 312 6:30pm - Den 3 Tigers @ RM 401 7pm - Dekalb Choral Guild @ 7pm - ESL Registration @ Lobby. 7pm - Pack 7 - G7 Leader</p>	<p>1:35pm - Staff Meeting @ LCR 4:45pm - 5678 Beginner Line 6pm - 5678 High Beginner Line 6pm - Line Dancing @ FLC 7pm - Task Force Meeting @ RM</p>
19	20	21
<p>Children's/Youth Choir Schedule</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>12:15pm - Trustees @ lower 5:15pm - Youth Fellowship @ 7pm - MAT meeting @ 410/411</p>	<p>4:45pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 6pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 312 7pm - Dekalb Choral Guild @</p>	<p>1:35pm - Staff Meeting @ LCR 4:45pm - 5678 Beginner Line 6pm - 5678 High Beginner Line 6pm - Line Dancing @ FLC 6pm - Yoga with Penny Bolen @</p>
26	27	28
<p>Children's/Youth Choir Schedule</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>11am - Children's Worship @ 5:15pm - Youth Fellowship @</p>	<p>4:45pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 6pm - 5-6-7-8 Dance Class @ 312 6:30pm - Den 3 Tigers @ RM 401 7pm - Dekalb Choral Guild @ 7pm - Pack 7 Meeting @ FLC</p>	<p>11:30am - Seniors Are Special @ 1:35pm - Staff Meeting @ LCR 4:45pm - 5678 Beginner Line 6pm - 5678 High Beginner Line 6pm - Line Dancing @ FLC 6pm - Yoga with Penny Bolen @</p>

September 2010

Sep 2010 (Eastern Time)			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Yoqa with Pennv Bolen 10:30am - Bible Studv w/ Mark 7pm - Chancel Choir @ RH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - PDQ</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Craftsmen Thriftv Store @ 11am - AA @ RM-209</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Wednesday Night Worship Arts 9:30am - Yoqa with Pennv Bolen 10:30am - Bible Studv w/ Mark 6pm - Cafe del Soul @ FLC 6:30pm - Club 45 @ RM 211</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm - Learnina with Alisha @ RM 7pm - PDQ</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SNAX SAX</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Craftsmen Thriftv Store @ 10am - FOCUS @ 301, 303, 312. 11am - AA @ RM-209</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Wednesday Night Worship Arts 10:30am - Bible Studv w/ Mark 6pm - Cafe del Soul @ FLC 6:30pm - Club 45 @ RM 211 6:45pm - Committee Lav</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:30pm - Metro Transition 6pm - Learnina with Alisha @ RM 7pm - PDQ</p>	<p>17</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SNAX SAX</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Craftsmen Thriftv Store @ 11am - AA @ RM-209</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Wednesday Night Worship Arts 8:30am - UMM Golf 9:30am - Yoqa with Pennv Bolen 10:30am - Bible Studv w/ Mark 6pm - Cafe del Soul @ FLC 6:30pm - Club 45 @ RM 211</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6pm - Learnina with Alisha @ RM 7pm - PDQ</p>	<p>24</p> <p>SNAX SAX</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9am - Craftsmen Thriftv Store @ 11am - AA @ RM-209</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Wednesday Night Worship Arts 9:30am - Yoqa with Pennv Bolen 10:30am - Bible Studv w/ Mark 6pm - Cafe del Soul @ FLC 6:30pm - Club 45 @ RM 211</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6pm - Learnina with Alisha @ RM 7pm - PDQ</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Wednesday Worship Arts</p> <p>5:00 - 5:30 Young Ringers @ Sanctuary 5:30 - 6:00 Tintinnabulum @ Sanctuary 6:30 - 7:00 Carillon Ringers @ Sanctuary 7:00 - 9:00 Chancel Choir @ RHall</p> </div>	

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Tucker, GA
 Permit No. 77

Need to contact someone at the church? Here's a staff directory:

Staff Directory			
Name	Title	E-Mail*	Ext
Mark Sargent	Senior Pastor	marks	111
Elaine Puckett	Associate Pastor	elainep	112
Valerie Harvard	Pastor to Children	valerieh	114
Victoria Lawson	Director, Youth	victorial	113
Jane Carter	Office Administration	janec	121
Amir Zaheri	Director Music & Worship Arts	amirz	117
Lori Cora	Financial Secretary	loric	123
Sally Kramer Adele Harrison	Co-Directors of Kindergarten	ehumk@embryhillsumc.org	104
*follow e-mail addresses with @embryhillsumc.org			
Telephone: (770) 938-0661 Church E-Mail: info@embryhillsumc.org Newsletter E-Mail: newsletter@embryhillsumc.org Newsletter Editor: Larry Donroe-Wells			



embry hills
 united methodist church
 3304 Henderson Mill Road
 Atlanta, GA 30341
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED