



North Fayette
 United Methodist Church
 847 New Hope Road
 Fayetteville GA 30214
 770.461-2409 www.nfumc.com

*A Welcoming Community of Faith where
 People Connect with God and Each Other*

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The Grapevine

December
 2011

I am the vine; you are the branches. John 15:5

making connections.

Christmas Events &
 Celebrations Planned
 Throughout
 December!



Christmas Poinsettias Delivered
 Wednesday 7 December



Breakfast With Santa
 Saturday 10 December
 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM



Fayette Christmas Festival
 Friday 16 December - 7 PM
 Saturday 17 December - 7 PM
 Sunday 18 December - 3 PM



Christmas Eve Service
 Saturday 24 December
 11:00 PM



Christmas Day Service
 Sunday 25 December
 10:30 AM



"I am bringing
 you good news
 of great joy
 for all the
 people."
 Luke 2:10, NRSV



Special Dates

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2011
 Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2011
 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2011
 First day of winter, December 22, 2011
 Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011
 Christmas Day, December 25, 2011
 New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2011

Keep up to date while on the go at our new
 mobile device enabled website at
m.nfumc.com

North Fayette United Methodist Church

Contact Information:

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 Phone: 770 461-2409
 Address: 847 New Hope Road,
 Fayetteville, GA 30214
 Web Site: www.nfumc.com

*Please inform us if your address changes. If you
 are receiving this publication in error or do not want to
 receive the Grapevine by mail, please contact us and
 we will remove you from our mailing list.*

Our Church Staff North Fayette United Methodist Church

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Joe Harrington | Pastor |
| Bill Koetje | Assistant Pastor Emeritus |
| Mike Daniell | Music Director |
| Becky Douville | Director of Hand Bells |
| Walt Keiser | Lay Leader |
| Marsha Elzey | Administrative Assistant |
| Lynne Keiser | Treasurer |
| LuAnn Latzanich | Organist |
| Danielle Raslan | Nursery |
| Anthony Blood | Building Manager |



The Pastor's Message

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

We are now well into the season of Advent, the opening of the liturgical year. Often we wonder why does the church not celebrate Christmas until so late in the season. Stores began their Christmas season weeks ago, many even before Halloween was finished. Radio stations have been playing Christmas music non-stop since Thanksgiving. We are stuck in Advent.

The festivals of Christmas/Epiphany are the most important times in the Christian year after Easter. The cross and empty tomb are the central heart of Christianity, but without the birth of Jesus Easter would never have happened. It is important that we understand the birth and life of Christ, not just the sacrifice he made.

But Christian celebration requires a spiritual preparation. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation-preparing our hearts spiritually to understand the significance of the Christmas/Incarnation event. Jesus' birth did not just happen, it was all part of God's overall plan for salvation. As Paul told the Galatians, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman."

The first Sunday of Advent is the expectation of Christ's return. We read in the book of Hebrews, "so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." Our scripture readings reflect this expectation by describing the signs of his return.

On the second Sunday, we examine the prophecies that tell of a Messiah who is to come bringing salvation to God's people. The following Sunday we anticipate the nearness of his coming through the proclamation of John the Baptist. Then on the final Sunday of Advent we look at how God brought this miracle into fruition through the lives of Mary and Joseph.

Then finally Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we celebrate the birth. We celebrate with the shepherds who heard the angels sing. We visit in our minds the manger where the Christ child rests peacefully. A scene that is repeated with every new born babe we see. Our scriptures embrace both the physical and spiritual aspect of the Christmas event. Typically we will read the traditional narration of the nativity from Luke and the mystical description of the Incarnation from John.

At Epiphany we close the season, although in our culture we rarely recognize the twelve days of Christmas as a special extended celebration. We celebrate the fact that the sweet little Christ child is actually the manifestation of God's Word in human flesh. The Word that caused all things to be created, became human like us. Our scripture emphasizes the gifts of the magi, which represent the whole world joining together to honor Christ.

So there is an orderliness to the season. We love Christmas and the magic of the manger. Yes we do begin singing some Christmas carols as we near the day. But let us not ignore the significance of the order. It helps us to appreciate the fact that Christmas is much more than the birth of a baby. It is the beginning of the final phases of God's plan of salvation. This is the plan that was established before the foundation of the world.

Come Lord Jesus, Amen.



NFUMC December 2011 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Church Office Closed | 3 UMW Christmas Coffee Day |
| 4 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship 5:00pm Agape Ringers Rehearsal 5:00pm UM Youth (Futures) 5:00pm Pioneer Club | 5 6:30pm UMM Mtg. 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 6 | 7 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 8 Poinsettias to be delivered | 9 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Open Door Party | 10 9:00-11:00 Am Breakfast With Santa |
| 11 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship 12:00pm Cookie Fest 5:00pm Agape Ringers Rehearsal 5:00pm UM Youth (Futures) 5:00pm Pioneer Club | 12 6:30pm Church Council 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 13 10:30am Joy Circle Meeting 7:00pm Fayette Samaritans Board Mtg. | 14 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Faith, Hope, Charity Cir. Mtg. 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 15 | 16 Church Office Closed 7:00pm Christmas Festival | 17 7:00pm Christmas Festival |
| 18 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship 2:30pm Christmas Festival 3:00pm Christmas Festival 4:00pm Grace Circle 5:00pm Agape Ringers Rehearsal 5:00pm UM Youth (Futures) 5:00pm Pioneer Club | 19 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 20 | 21 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 22 | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship |
| 25 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship 5:00pm Agape Ringers Rehearsal 5:00pm UM Youth (Futures) 5:00pm Pioneer Club | 26 Office Closed-Christmas 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 27 | 28 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 29 | 30 Church Office Closed | 31 |

In Service this Month:

Greeters
 12/4 10:30 Sarah Stone, Steve Justice
 12/11 10:30 Julie Ulmer, Yul Fogler, Faye Harrington
 12/18 10:30 Debbi Carroll, Kathy Kirby
 12/25 10:30 Jim Trimble, Carol McGahee

Ushers
 12/4 10:30 Richard & Pasty Coleman, Ken Holewinski, Rudy Herren
 12/11 10:30 Sammy Andrews, Lewis Gregg, Daniell Latzanich, Raymond Conn
 12/18 10:30 John Sugg, Mike Shackelford, Larry Boak, Rick Warr
 12/25 10:30 Eddie and Annette Poindexter, Sara Stone

Liturgists
 12/4 10:30 Barbara Justice / Steve Justice
 12/11 10:30 Pam Ashman / Mike Shackelford
 12/18 10:30 Karen Andross / Jim Schultz
 12/25 10:30 Jane Stilwell, Ardy Warr

Acolytes
 12/4 Rachel Holewinski & Jordan Framm
 12/11 Grace & Rachel Holewinsk
 12/18 Rachel Holewinski & Jordan Framm
 12/25 Grace & Rachel Holewinsk

Children's Church Leaders
 12/4 Ardy Warr
 12/11 Alicia Alvarez
 12/18 Lynne Keiser
 12/25 Susan Read

Donut Sunday:
 12/18 Karen Smith

Teller Teams
 12/4 Lin Johns
 12/11 Alvarez, Rice
 12/18 Coleman
 12/25 Schultz

December Birthdays

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 02 Emily Tyler Jordan Bridges | 15 Bill Bryan Aramis Alvarez Amy Tennihan | 24 Karen Andross Lauren Escalante Lindsey Fogler |
| 04 Kathy Kirby | 17 Brennan Ryfa Dani Slaton | 27 JJ Martino Ricky Moore |
| 05 Don Flockhart Jan Hall | Dylan Slaton | Ty'ana Bridges |
| 06 John Davis | Miranda Sugg | 28 Christopher Chennault |
| 08 Bobby Watson Dennis Simon | Beth Killebrew | Kayleigh Pointek Scott Barksdale |
| 09 Tom Sauls Kasidy Warr | 18 Barbara Justice 19 Jennifer Hager | 30 Mary Ann Wakefield |
| 12 Cee Crowe Faye Harrington | 20 Carson King | 31 Allan Landis |
| 12/18 Stan Bursky | 21 Rick Rice | Robert Walter |
| 13 Bill Evans | Lila Roberts | Douville |
| | 23 Sharon Couillou | |

December Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 02 Rick & Ardy Warr | 22 John & Elaine Sugg |
| 07 Chris & Leah King | 28 Doug & Susan Anderson John & Pam Davis |
| 12 Hugh & Ellen Morton | 30 Dwight & Julie Ulmer |
| 14 Joseph & Nancy Edens | 31 Bob & Linda Keener |
| 17 Timothy & Catherine Ehlers | Libby & Anthony Bazydlo |
| 18 Ed & Karen Andross | |



**Thanks for
Worshiping With Us**

Fayette Christmas Festival

Featuring:
 The Peachtree Wind Ensemble
 The North Fayette United Methodist Church Choir
 The Fayette Presbyterian Church Choir
 The Agape Ringers Handbell Choir from North Fayette UMC

Sponsored by:
 The Peachtree Wind Ensemble and
 The North Fayette United Methodist Church

Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm
 Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 pm
 Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 pm

WANTED:
 Choir members — whereabouts unknown

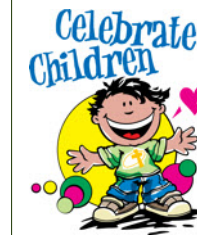
LAST SEEN:
 Hiding out in the congregation

DESCRIPTION:
 Male and female, young and old, musical and cheerful, may be armed and desperate for a robe

REWARD:
 "Give and you shall receive."

SURRENDER TO:
 Your friendly choir director

Children & Youth Ministry



Pioneer Club: Sunday 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Sunday School for Kids: Sunday at 9:45 AM
Children's Worship: During 11 AM Worship

Youth Stuff

We welcome all youth from 6th - 12th grade to get involved in any of our youth activities and outings. We meet each Sunday afternoon from 5-7 PM at the church in building B. For more information contact Rick Warr 770-632-9398.

Bed Babies & Toddlers

A nursery for both Bed Babies & Toddlers (through 3 years) is available during Sunday School and the 11 AM Worship each week. We follow the "Safe Sanctuary" guidelines in caring for all children who come to North Fayette. For more information contact the church office.



Merry Christmas

UMW Fall Calendar

December 3 - Christmas Coffee - All Day
 December 10 - Breakfast w/ Santa & Santa's Elf Shelf - 9:00 - 1:00 PM
 December 11 - Cookie Fest - 9:45 AM until Noon



The True Meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun, but they hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

Heidi Mann



Submit your articles, pictures, and information for the next newsletter by the 15th of each month to Steve Justice at stevejustice@bellsouth.net.



PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$ strength
 $9+1$ shepherd
 $30-3$ the
 $7+5$ birds
 $30-22$ live
 $21-10$ will
 $27-24$ reach
 $10+7$ flock
 $40-20$ stand
 $15+4$ security
 $8+8$ his
 $35-3$ low
 $17-5$ greatness
 $10-5$ earth
 $10+5$ will
 $5+1$ will

"He _____ and _____ his _____

in the _____ of the _____. And they _____

_____, for then _____

_____ to the _____ of _____."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

Born in a Barn

While growing up, if my sisters and I behaved rudely at the table, my mom would ask, "Were you born in a barn?"

Too often, rude behavior isn't restricted to meals. Even adults behave badly toward others, intentionally or unintentionally. Our lack of consideration, good manners and kindness might be likened to the behavior of animals, not guided by concepts of right and wrong.

Jesus was literally born in a barn because we sometimes act like we were born in a barn, failing to put others ahead of ourselves. Through Jesus, God willingly entered the mess and stink of human existence. We know that Jesus can relate to the lowest of human experience because he was laid into a feed trough for animals, surrounded by their sounds and smells. Born alongside us in the "barn" of earthly life, Jesus taught us not only politeness but love.

One day, when I dine with Jesus at the heavenly banquet, I trust Mom will be pleased with my table manners.

Dare to Hope

If you've ever given up on a dream, then you have something in common with Zechariah. When an angel brought news that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would soon have a son, Zechariah had trouble believing it (Luke 1:13-18).

How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? More to the point, how long had it been since he'd given up praying for a son? With the couple's childbearing years long past, Zechariah likely felt compelled to emphasize the impossibility of the angel's proclamation.

Perhaps you know what it's like to lose hope. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.



The crew had a great time at Breakfast With Santa 2010! Join us on December 10th for this year's event.

The young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14, NRSV



While They Were Sleeping

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were "keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God's work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he's there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we're sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.