



CALLING ALL PLEDGE CARDS

If you haven't **turned yours in** already,
drop it in the offering on Sunday, or mail
it to the church office.



The Rev. Susan Allen Grady,
 Pastor
 501 Grant Street, S. E
 Atlanta, GA 30312
 404-688-7501
www.stpaulgrantpark.org
stpaulgrantpark@earthlink.net



I recently read an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution about the demolition of an historic sanctuary in southwest Dekalb County that once housed the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. The building was 114 years old—a small, white clapboard building that sat adjacent to an old cemetery. I remember the building and seeing it many times at the very busy intersection of Wesley Chapel and Snapfinger roads. When it would come into view, I would always try to imagine what that area looked like in the hay-day of that church because it looked so out of place at that busy intersection now. It made me think of times that have long passed, traditions that are quickly disappearing, and the changing nature of the world around us. Reading that article makes me count our blessings to have an historic sanctuary in which we currently worship, in which the life of our community takes place, and in which many people come throughout the week to sit and pray and listen.

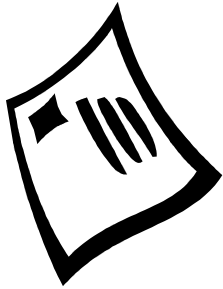
Rev. Jamie Jenkins, a member of the North Georgia conference who currently serves as the executive assistant to our Bishop, was quoted in the article. He was assuring the writer and the general public that the congregation did everything protocol required before having the building torn down. As you might imagine, there are many steps to take in the United Methodist Church before a building can be demolished. He made a statement that I imagine was a response to a question about why the church and the conference would decide to tear down an historic building: "It's like everything else," he said. "Folks are in favor of certain things as long as they don't have to spend money."

Have we come to that?

Our sanctuary is 110 years old, and our congregation is even older than that. We organized in 1871. We've been around a long time, and it is possible for organizations, as they age, to turn inward and concentrate only on what it takes to stay alive. Dreams of new ministries, missions, and priorities often become just that—dreams—when money is at stake and/or scarcely available. We have continued the luxury of being able to enjoy worshiping in our beautiful sanctuary because of the choices of people who have been there before us. We benefit today in the ministries of our church because of the actions taken to provide those ministries by the folks who were here before us. What kinds of choices and actions are we making for the ones who will come after us?

The Epistle

A Publication of
 St. Paul United Methodist Church
 A Good Neighbor



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Soon our Administrative Council will approve a budget for 2011. This is always a difficult task, and this year will be no different. Although many of you have turned in pledges for next year, and some of you may have stretched a little beyond what you believe to be possible for your own finances, we still struggle to meet even the fixed costs of our ministry, including the maintenance of our building and staffing. So ministry that we might intend to start or continue suffers financially because there just simply isn't enough money there to cover the costs. I hope that Rev. Jenkins' statement about the demolition of the old church in Dekalb County will not be true of us: "Folks are in favor of certain things as long as they don't have to spend money."

I say this: when it comes to our children and their spiritual formation, spend money! When it comes to organizing, training, and preparing to go out on local, domestic, and international mission opportunities, spend money! When it comes to collecting food, clothes, school supplies, and other things for our neighbors in need, spend money! When it comes to creating budget line items for confirmation classes and activities for our growing youth ministry, spend money! And when it comes to providing opportunities for the adult in our congregation to experience deep spiritual formation opportunities in small groups, Sunday school classes, or even retreats, spend money!

It's not a call to irresponsibility; it is a call to action on all of our parts to be the church and do the ministry that God has called us to do and be. Let's be in favor of expanding our ministries and even our budget beyond our operating costs into the cost of discipleship (to borrow from the title of the famous work by Dietrich Boenhoffer). Let's be in favor of growing in faith and in number. Let's be in favor of doing what it takes to be the church we know we are called and want to be.

I look forward to a beautiful holy-day season with you and to another year in ministry with you in this beautiful congregation. As you count your blessings, count St. Paul and all that it has done in your life to bring you closer to God and to each other. I am certainly grateful to be here, and I know you are, too. Thanks be to God!



Susan

Christmas 2010 at St. Paul



Saturday 18
Parents' Night Out
5:00-9:00 pm

Shop, wrap, or celebrate without the kids!
Childcare provided at St. Paul.
\$5 per child; maximum \$10 per family.
Contact jcasson09@gmail.com.



Sunday 19
Worship:
8:45 & 10:55
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

7:00 pm
Longest Night Service
Childcare Provided

Christmas Eve
24



Friday
Family Service, 5:30 pm
**Candlelight
and Holy Communion,**
11:00 pm



Saturday 25
Christmas Day
Church Closed
Sunday 26
Worship: 10:00am
No Sunday School Classes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30a GAC	3	4 10a-12p Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5p AGE (Huiet Hall) 8p AFB Holiday Concert (Sanctuary)
5 12:15p First Sunday Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	6 12p ADOX District Clergy Lunch	7 9:30a GAC 7p FA (Third Floor)	8 7p Men's Ministry (Adult Sunday School Room)	9 9:30a GAC 7-9:30p GPCP Board Meeting (Huiet Hall)	10	11 4-6p Winter Wonderland Childre's Activity (Huiet Hall) 5p Christmas Choir Concert (Sanctuary) 6-10p Candlelight Tour of Homes (Sanctuary)
12 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor) 10:55a Children's Christmas Program during Morning Worship (Sanctuary) 12:15p Administrative Council (Huiet Hall) 6-10p Candlelight Tour of Homes (Sanctuary)	13 	14 9:30a GAC 7p FA (Third Floor)	15 4-5:30p Staff Meeting (Office)	16 9:30a GAC 10a-12p GPCP Las Posadas (Rain Plan, Gymnasium)	17 10a-12p GPCP Las Posadas (Rain Plan, Gymnasium)	18 5-9p Parents' Night Out 
19 7p Longest Night Service (Sanctuary) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	20	21 9:30a GAC 7p FA (Third Floor)	22	23 9:30a GAC	24 5:30p Family Service (Sanctuary) 11p Candlelight Communion	25 10a FA Christmas Thank-A-Thon (Huiet Hall)
26 10am Combined Morning Worship Service (Sanctuary) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	27 10a-8p Basketball Gym Work Days and Basketball Practice (Gym)	28 7p FA (Third Floor)	29	30	31 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor)	1 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor) 10a FA New Years Thank-A-Thon 5p AGE (Huiet Hall)
OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS						
2 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor) 2-6p Basketball Coaches Meeting & Safe Sanctuaries Training/Team Draft (Huiet Hall) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	3 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor) 12p ADOX District Clergy Lunch 5-8p Basketball Practice (Gym)	4 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor) 9:30a GAC 5-8p Basketball Practice (Gym) 7p FA (Third Floor)	5 Hopps Group Overnight (Third Floor) 5-8p Basketball Practice (Gym) 	6 9:30a GAC 5-8p Basketball Practice (Gym) 	7 5-8p Basketball Practice (Gym) 	8 8a-6p Basketball Games and related activities (Gym, Huiet Hall, Classrooms) 2-4p 4 Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Chester Commons)

<p>Every Sunday:</p> <p>8:45am Worship First</p> <p>10:00a Sunday School Classes (Youth and Adult)</p> <p>10:00-10:45a Children's Sunday School (3rd Floor)</p> <p>10:55a-Noon Morning Worship</p>	<p>Every Wednesday:</p> <p>5:30-6Pm Children's Choirs</p> <p>6p Wednesday Night Supper</p> <p>6:30-7p St. Paul Voices</p> <p>6:30-8p St. Paul Youth Fellowship</p> <p>7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Sam Bangura (Sierra Leone missionary)
- mother of Greg Barron
- Shirley Booth (Ginny's friend, stage 4 lung cancer, recent stroke)
- Cathy Carlock's aunt Caroline (94)
- Family of Mary Carr (Sybil Davidson's grandmother, who died this week)**
- Beulah Cockrum (Terry's mother, age 93)
- Terry Cockrum's aunt Naida (86, congestive heart issues)
- Dottie Copeland (Lana Hardy's mother)
- Mabel Couch (Tim's mother)
- Mark Crenshaw's parents
- Charlie Davis (Charles' father, lymphoma)
- *Patrice and Langston Daniels
- Janeth Ellis (Tonya Skeen's mother, recovering from surgery, cancer)**
- Jo Ellis (Becky Boyette's friend, radiation treatments)
- Jess Gaines' uncle (congestive heart failure)
- father of Will Gaines
- Ramiro Garcia, Sr. (Ramiro's dad, cancer recurrence)
- Ralph Garner (Bryan's father, lung cancer)
- Karen Garrett (Gretchen's mom)
- *Tom Gazaway
- *Gracie Gazaway (recovering from stroke)
- Patsy Green (Melissa Mason's relative, pancreatic cancer)
- Ed Greene (Kelly's father, prostate cancer)
- Madison Greene and parents Ashley and Chip (Talley Well's niece, chemo)
- *Jimmy Hardy
- Stella Hardy
- Gene Hart (Shelly's dad, Hepatitis C)
- Sister of Jaime Hester (cancer)

- mother of Joan Hildebrand
- Carol Howard (Zxelema's mom)
- Ben Huiet, III (chronic health problems)
- Mariana Hurd (Ginny Pavey's friend, breast cancer)
- Irene Jackson (Vanessa's mom)
- *Vanessa Jackson
- Jack Johnson (Larry's brother)
- Michael Johnson (Terry Cockrum's friend, cancer)
- Allysa Kropp (Teresa Davis's cousin, deployed to Iraq)
- Nate, Jonathan Kidwell's friend (deployed to Iraq)
- Kristina Kirkby's dad (laid off)
- Lou Lindic (Louis' son, job search)
- Jack McCollough (Candace and Celeste's dad)
- Chris McQuaid (Annette's friend, brain tumor)
- Bill Meriam (Becky Boyette's friend, cancer)
- Marcus Merritt's sister-in-law Linda (cancer treatment)
- Jim Nelson (James Palmer's uncle, myopic muscular dystrophy)
- *David Pettis
- Pat Phillips (Mark's mother, cancer)
- Mary Nell Rue and family (Rachel Wayte's friend, inoperable brain tumor)
- *Se'Varius, Se'Vunayae and Se'Ven Raines (Vanessa J's nephews)
- Zxelema Reese (Zxelema Howard's aunt)
- *Bob Shapiro (Ginny's friend, colon cancer)
- Allsion Sitton (Tonya Skeen's friend, cancer recurrence)**
- Wayne Sons and family (Ginny's friend, 41 year old severely disabled by multiple strokes)
- *Anne Spealman
- James Stephens's friend Pat (breast cancer)
- Joan Stephens's mother



- Kim Temple (Kristina Kirleby's friend, lyme disease)
- Ron Thomas, Sr. (cancer)
- Frances Truman (Leslie's mom)
- *Leslie Truman
- Leslie's aunt Patricia (Alzheimer's) and father Don (unable to visit sister)
- Lana Turner (3 year old classmate of Billy Wallace, stage 4 neuroblastoma, chemo)
- Shannon and Britt Turner (Lana's parents, friends of Kristina Kirkeby, Little Five Points store owners)
- *Annette Wawerna (sciatica)
- Bill Wawerna (Mike's dad, multiple myeloma)
- *Su Watson and Bob Vermillion
- Jason Wallace (Justin Holcomb's friend, deployed to Afghanistan)
- *Becky Wellman
- Talley Wells's mother
- General Intercessions:
 - success of our Covenant Capital Campaign
 - world peace
 - our national leaders
 - our troops, especially those in harm's way
 - those struggling with addiction and depression
 - all those with cancer
 - those family and friends separated by physical distance or broken relationships, especially during the holiday season
 - those seeking work
 - those suffering the effects of natural disasters
 - the economy
 - all children!

Please call or email prayer requests to the office to make sure yours get on our list. Requests spoken aloud in worship sometimes fail to reach the office. Requests generally appear in the long list in the Epistle after having been circulated in one of our weekly emails. Although we want to continue to lift up those who need our prayers, requests will be taken off the long list the following month unless they are updated or resubmitted. Exceptions: our aging parents and those with cancer and other dread illnesses.

Our holiday mission project to provide a "wish list" Christmas for a teen age girl living at the UM Children's Home was an overwhelming success. We had donations for everything on her list and then some and we collected \$400.00 to buy gift cards for college students who are former residents who will be returning to the Children's Home for the holiday break. Your generosity means that these and others children at the home will have a Christmas celebration they might otherwise have missed. Thank you St. Paul!!!



Not surprisingly, the Children's Home has service opportunities throughout the year. In 2011 the Missions Committee will be offering other ways we can serve the Home and its residents.



**Love St. Paul.
Love our neighbors.**

In the spirit of loving and giving, consider a gift that will help St. Paul and our neighbors.

As Christmas approaches and you consider what gifts to give to your loved ones and friends, please consider making a contribution to the St. Paul Covenant Capital Campaign. Make a gift to memorialize or honor someone important in your life.

The Covenant Capital Campaign will fund urgent repairs to our sanctuary. Additionally, half of your contribution to the Covenant Capital Campaign will go to the Good Neighbor Fund. This fund will be used to help individuals and families in our community have a safe, habitable living space.

To make a donation to the Covenant Capital Campaign, make the check payable to **St. Paul United Methodist Church** and put in the memo section of the check the words **"Covenant Capital Campaign."**

Also, please spread the word to anyone who might want to help St. Paul and help our neighbors.

Donations to the Covenant Capital Campaign are tax-deductible. Your generosity is appreciated by all who claim our Christian faith. God bless you.

**St. Paul Covenant Capital Campaign.
Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.**



St. Paul United Methodist Church. A Good Neighbor.
501 Grant Street at Sydney. 404-688-7501. www.stpaulgrantpark.org

DECEMBER AND JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December

January

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Anna Joy Allen Grady | 2 James Chitika
Mike Woodworth |
| 2 Harold Putnam | 3 Sherri Scott |
| 4 Mandy Palmer
Gabriela Garcia | 6 Donna Ruggles
Jessica Boyette |
| 6 Quinn Russell
Sheryl Marshall | 12 Paige Seymour
Sam Johnson |
| 7 Matthew Smith | 13 Linda Smith |
| 12 Leo Palmer | 14 Paul Bowman |
| 14 Brenda Brown
Debbie Jones-Kelly | 15 Zander Scott
16 Sigrid Norris
Bill Dougherty
Cameron Wolfe |
| 17 Miranda Kate AiJun Merchant | 17 Rick Brooks |
| 21 Rachel Quartarone | 18 Ashley Miller |
| 22 Zxelema & Daniel Stafford | 19 Tom Sweeny
20 Betsy Riser
Stephanie Warner |
| 27 Beth Allgood-McKinnon | 21 Ethan Harrington |
| 28 Henry Gaines | 22 Se'Ven Raines
Bryan Russell
Peggy Mackenzie |
| 30 Lindsey Lee | 25 Nikki Toler
26 Lisa Roberson
27 Michelle Schroed |
| | 30 Michelle Belt
31 Corbin McKinnon
Gail Henry |



You are invited.....

Atlanta-Emory &
Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District
Annual Training Event

WHEN: Sunday, January 9th, 2011
WHERE: Snellville United Methodist Church
2428 Main Street East, Snellville
TIME: 2 pm – 5 pm
COST: A love offering will be taken to cover the expenses of the event
CHILDCARE: Childcare will be offered for children 5 years and younger.
RSVP IS REQUIRED BY January 3rd!

RSVP FOR CHILDCARE TO Moe Lawson at mlawson@snellvilleumc.org
or 678-430-6007

WORKSHOPS TO BE OFFERED:

- Hearing the Call to Serve Through Missions
- Lay Leader Training
- Videos! Graphics! And Worship! Oh, My!
- Glimpses of Methodism Across Three Centuries
- At First Glance (Self Care)
- Youth Round Table
- Parents: The Missing Link for Youth Ministry
- Study Resources for Christian Education/Spiritual Formation
- Study Resources for Children and Youth
- Finance
- Evangelism
- Children's Ministry
- Effective Websites
- SPP
- Trustees
- MissionInsite Workshop
- Through Hispanic Eyes
- Evangelism en el Barrio
- Developing Effective Prayer Ministries
- How to Start a Men's Ministry

*Questions? Please contact Terri Hoyer at thoyer@nfumc.org or 770-448-4142 x105

Email office@stpaulgrantpark.org to receive a paperless copy of the Epistle, or to unsubscribe.

St. Paul United Methodist Church-Grant Park, Inc.
501 Grant Street, S. E.
Atlanta, GA 30312

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