



The COMPASS

HICKORY FLAT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CANTON, GA

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6 JUNE 2008

Calendar Items

June 2008

- 1:** VBS Leader Orientation 6pm
- 2-6:** VBS Prep Week; Youth Week
- 2-7:** Honduras Mission Trip
- 4-8:** Mississippi Mission Trip
- 9-13:** VBS Week
- 13-21:** Mexico Mission Trip
- 14:** Homeless Ministry 1pm
- 15:** Father's Day
- 17-20:** Annual Conference in Athens
- 18:** Newsletter Deadline
- 19:** Life Line Screening
- 22-28:** Camp O' Cumberland Youth Mission Trip
- 23-July 1:** Music Camp Mission Trip
- 24-25:** Women's Day Apart

June Preaching Schedule

- 15:** Rev. Herzen Andone's last Sunday at HFUMC
- 22:** Rev. John Merk's last Sunday at HFUMC
- 29:** Dr. Robert Brown's first Sunday at HFUMC

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

I'm old enough to remember Bob Hope. He was an entertainer's entertainer. He could sing, dance and act. Although he starred in many movies, what I remember most about him was his devotion to the men and women of the armed forces. Mr. Hope didn't give it a second thought when the soldiers and sailors and marines needed a break from the battlefield. They could count on Bob Hope and his Hollywood friends coming to see them in the midst of the inhumanities of war to remind them through song and humor that they were indeed human. His signature song was "Thanks for the Memories." It was a bittersweet song that captures the essence of what I feel as I write this, my last article. I want to thank you for giving me 11 years of wonderful memories. But not just any memories. Memories of pursuing God in ways that I could never have imagined 11 years ago!

"Memories of pursuing God in ways that I could never have imagined..."

- Thank you for the gift of worshipping with you in creative ways that honor God.
- Thank you for the gift of studying and sharing the word of God with you from the pulpit and in the classroom.
- Thank you for the many road trips and mission trips we took together to build God's kingdom wherever God sent us.
- Thank you for the sacred gift of baptizing your children as well as for the holy privilege of performing funeral services for the saints of our community who have gone on to glory.
- Thank for the privilege of counseling and performing the weddings of your sons and daughters.

Most of all, thank you for loving me, Jennie, Dakin and Dylan. When we came here, our boys were just babies. Today, they are young men with a growing and vibrant faith. Who they are is as much a product of your love and care for them over these last 11 years as it is because of ours. Thank you for teaching them the important lessons of how to love God and how to care for others as members of the body of Christ. Thank you for coaching them in sports, for praying with them and counseling them when they needed a pastor who was not their mom or their dad, for teaching them to love music and to pursue excellence in the worship of God. Thank you for laughing with us and crying with us as we have journeyed through this season of our lives with you.

In the end, we Christians never say "goodbye." Our common faith in Christ and the resurrection gives us the assurance that we'll see each other again "in the sweet by and by" as the old hymn goes. Until then, thanks for the memories of faith, hope and love.

Grace and Peace,

Our Mission: To help people *discover and develop* a living relationship with Jesus Christ!

CHURCH STAFF

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Need Prayer?

Contact the Prayer Chain!

prayerchain@hickoryflatumc.org

Your prayer request will be sent out
to our email subscribers.

**The Compass is
published monthly.
The next deadline is
June 18.**

Be sure to have your articles in by that
morning. Email articles to
vnorris@hickoryflatumc.org.

REV. HERZEN ANDONE'S FAREWELL LUNCHEON

After 11 years as the Senior Pastor of Hickory Flat UMC and the community, Herzen has been assigned to Peachtree City United Methodist Church by our Bishop. Herzen's last Sunday with us will be June 15, 2008. To honor Herzen, Jennie, Dakin and Dylan, we will have a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall immediately following the 11am worship time on June 15. Please bring a dish to share. If your last name begins with A-G, please bring a side dish or salad; H-M please bring dessert; O-Z please bring meat/main dish.

OPEN MICROPHONE

We'll have an opportunity to share stories and have some fun with Herzen, so be prepared for an open mic if you'd like to share!

LOVE OFFERING FOR HERZEN

If you would like to make a love offering for Herzen, please note "Herzen Love Offering" on the check and place in the offering plate or deliver to the church office by Wednesday, June 11.

REV. JOHN MERK'S FAREWELL LUNCHEON

After two years as our Teaching Pastor, John has been assigned to Dawnville UMC in Dalton by our Bishop. John's last Sunday with us will be June 22, 2008. He will be preaching at both services that morning. To honor John, Billi, Charli and Cameron we will have a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall immediately following the 11am worship time on June 22. Please bring a dish to share. If your last name begins with A-G, please bring dessert; H-O please bring meat/main dish; P-Z please bring a salad or side dish.

LOVE OFFERING FOR JOHN

If you would like to make a love offering for John, please note "John Love Offering" on the check and place in the offering plate or deliver to the church office by Wednesday, June 18.

FAMILY DAY EVENTS, JUNE 29

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, June 29 is a fifth Sunday. We will have no children's programs so that families may worship together. If you have a class during a worship service time that day, childcare will be provided. Bring your child to the nursery as usual, or older children to room E6 in the education wing.

COOKOUT AND GAMES TO WELCOME PASTOR BROWN & FAMILY

Sunday, June 29 please join us for a Family Day for all ages as we welcome Pastor Robert Brown, Denise, Christine & Caroline to HFUMC. We will have a cookout after church that day, 12-3pm. Hamburgers and hotdogs provided. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a side dish or salad, N-Z dessert.

Following lunch, we will have family activities—some that may involve getting wet, so please dress accordingly!

BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

This is a bittersweet time as I take my leave from HFUMC. The Merk family has gotten to know many of you, whether in worship, the nursery, Extreme Trek, Adventure Island, or Compass. I am very grateful for the way my family has been welcomed into the church and been able to serve alongside you from very early on. It is also an exciting time, as well, as we move to the Dalton area where I will be serving as the pastor of Dawnville UMC; a church of about 140 members out in "the country." Billi has been hired as a first grade teacher at Dawnville Elementary School, located directly across the street from the church. We will be living in a parsonage located on the church property, so our commutes just got incredibly shorter! Cameron will be entering Southeast Whitfield High School as a freshman, and I got a call yesterday from their football coach inviting us to come by for a visit. Charli who graduates from North Forsyth High School this weekend will be trying out her wings for the next year before starting college; we're very proud of her and know she will do fine. It is clear to all of us that God's hand is at work guiding us and providing for us in this new venture, still you will all be missed.

As I write this, it is the day after tornados, hail, and wind have damaged many areas of the community. Several folks from the church have stepped up and out to remove trees and debris from neighbors' yards, as well as at other homes in surrounding neighborhoods. While we never pray for the kind of destruction we experienced last night, we do pray that there will be people nearby to lend a hand when it comes. I am proud to say that God's people at Hickory Flat UMC do this and other acts of ministry in the community, and beyond, as a matter of course and Christian conviction.

It is very rare for a church of any stripe to be as outwardly focused as HFUMC, and I am very proud to have been a part of its ministries, of *your* ministries, for the past two years. You have set a standard that I will try to guide the churches I serve in the future toward. I have great confidence that God has wonderful things in store for HFUMC. May God richly bless you and yours, both now and in the days to come.

Prayerfully,



John Merk

SMALL GROUP SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 4, we celebrated Small Group Sunday and recognized those who completed certain "core study" classes. Disciple Bible Study is a 32- to 34-week intensive study of the Bible which requires daily Bible reading and study and weekly meetings. *Disciple 1* is an overview of most of the Bible, *Disciple 2* is a more in-depth study of certain books of the Bible. In *Christian Believer*, students discover the Church's answers to questions that grow out of human life and Christian experience, through a study of church history and doctrine. These are our 2007-2008 graduates:

Disciple 1

Pam Barker
Wanda Becotte
Beth Coon
Miriam Hale
Glenn Herreid
Linda Herreid
Elizabeth Johnson
Michael Johnson
Glenn Keen
Diane Keen
Joe Long
David Medford
Jennifer Medford
Lynn Nash
Lamar Nash
Wayne Painter
Karen Robinson
Steve Robinson
Bobbie Smith
Tim Toms
Anna Toms

Disciple 2

David Bowker
Cyndi Bowker
Bridget Davis
Pat Faircloth
Kathy Faircloth
Connie Klements
Scott Klements
Dana Muza
Karla Preston
Randy Saxon

Christian Believer

Mike Hale
Deborah James
Brian James
John Palermo
Kay Sherrill
Kendall Sherrill

AN EASY WAY TO SERVE

Do you have a few spare hours once a month? The newsletter is mailed monthly to members and to guests who have visited HFUMC recently, looking for a church home. Bring a friend and pass the time chatting. It's a simple way to help reach out to those who are on the same path or still searching. Easy evangelism! Contact Phyllis Evans, or Becky Bulla at 770-345-5969.

TESTS THAT CAN HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE

Life Line Screening is America's leading provider of quality health screenings that detect artery abnormalities which can cause disrupted blood flow. The screenings are fast, accurate and available at an affordable rate. A complete package—stroke/carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease screening—is \$129, and includes free osteoporosis screening for men and women. Take all four tests in less than one hour! Or you can get individual tests for \$35-45 each. Life Line Screening will be at Hickory Flat UMC on Thursday, June 19. *Pre-registration is required for all tests.* Call 1-800-324-1851 for more information, or to register.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PASTOR AND FAMILY

Over the last few weeks, our leaders and staff have had several wonderful opportunities to get to know our new pastor and his wife, Robert and Denise Brown. Though we are all grieving the loss of Herzen, Jennie, and the boys, we are comforted in the knowledge that God is sending a spiritual leader who brings not only wonderful gifts for ministry, but whose experience, life stage, and personal strengths will fit our congregation very well. Allow us to begin to introduce our new pastor and his family through the following biography.

Dan Houston, SPPR Chair

Dr. Robert Charles Brown is a fifth-generation native of Atlanta. He graduated from Brookhaven Elementary and Cross Keys High School, both in DeKalb County. He holds Bachelors degrees in Political Science and Biology with a minor in Broadcast Journalism. He holds the Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and the Doctor of Ministry Degree from the University of Chicago McCormick Theological Seminary. He is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, his last appointment at Ebenezer UMC in Conyers where he served for four years. Prior to that he served as Senior Pastor at Bethel UMC in Stockbridge, GA for five years, as Executive Vice President for Murphy Harpst Children's Homes in Cedartown, GA for seven years, Concord UMC in Hickory Level, GA for seven years and on staff as Minister of Church Growth at St. Mark UMC in midtown Atlanta for three years.



Denise Cheek Brown was born and raised in Temple, GA. She attended Temple Elementary, Middle and High Schools and attended Temple UMC. She holds a Bachelors degree in Vocal Performance from Wesleyan College in Macon. She is sought after as an accomplished soloist and vocal performer. She teaches piano and voice students at home in addition to being home school teacher and mother to two lovely daughters.

(Rachel) Christine Brown was born on Sept. 13, 1991 in Carrollton and is a rising junior. She has been a student at the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. She presented her sophomore research project to the 2007 meeting of the Georgia Association of Sciences and Humanities in Athens. She has served on the Ebenezer Youth Council Leadership team for the last two years and her favorite hobbies are reading, playing guitar, hanging out with her friends and traveling.

(Robin) Caroline Brown was born on Oct. 25, 1993 in Carrollton and is a rising freshman. She was a student at Edwards Middle School in Conyers and was accepted to attend the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. Her favorite hobbies include horseback riding, art in the forms of drawing, sculpture and painting, playing guitar, culinary practice in the kitchen, and hanging out with her friends.

We welcome the Brown family to Hickory Flat UMC, and look forward to years of shared ministry and growth with the Browns.

Vital Stats on the New Pastor and Family

Robert & Denise were married on July 22, 1989

Denise's birthday: Mar. 2

Robert's birthday: Oct. 16

Christine's birthday Sept. 13

Caroline's birthday Oct. 25



Our Faithfulness

No. of members: **1207**

Average attendance at 9am worship in April: **307**

Average attendance at 11am worship in April: **209**

Getting to Know Pastor Brown

My Personal Mission Statement:

I will glorify God in all I say and do.

I will follow Christ.

I will lead others to Christ.

My Priorities in Order are:

1. God. I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my mind and with all my being.

2. Family.

Wife: I will be a faithful and devoted husband to my loving and faithful wife.

Children: I will be a loving father and supportive, present parent active in our daughter's lives.

Parents: I will honor my mother and father and mother-in-law and father-in-law by helping them as they enter the twilight years of their lives.

Sisters: I will be a caring brother who is available for support and counsel.

3. Friends. I will be a faithful friend to those whom God has blessed my life's journey as fellow sojourners.

4. Church. I will be a Pastor, Preacher, Counselor, Comforter, Leader, Supporter, Encourager, Dreamer and Cheerleader for God's cause. I will faithfully journey with those whom God has called me to serve with in this place.

Please do not think you have been slighted by being placed after God, family, and friends. What kind of Pastor would I be if I weren't sold out completely to loving God and my family and friends?

My Values: L.O.V.E.

L

Love like Jesus.

Learn something new everyday.

Laser focus on our shared purpose.

Lean on Jesus at all times.

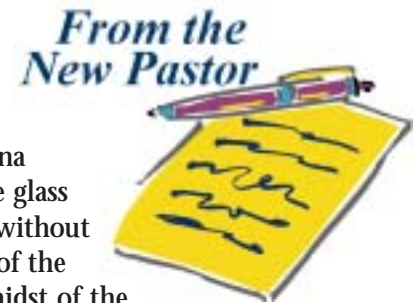
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A LETTER FROM PASTOR BROWN

"FOR SURELY I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS THE LORD, PLANS FOR YOUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR HARM, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE." —Jeremiah 29:11

Have you ever lost stuff while packing? We are preparing to move to the Hickory Flat community and in the midst of boxes and packing paper, tape and packing peanuts, we packed the keys that lock the antique china cabinets in our dining room. We realized the glass doors on the cabinets could not be secured without the antique skeleton keys that work in each of the cabinet doors. We also realized that in the midst of the packing of the contents of the drawers from the china cabinets that the keys were packed away in one of the dish crates now stacked in the growing stacks of packed boxes. We almost panicked and were just before putting out an "All Points Bulletin" on the missing keys. We knew the keys had to be in the house somewhere, but where?



Before we called in the whole family to turn the house upside down looking for the keys, we stopped, sat down, regrouped our thoughts, and talked about where the keys might be. Denise, my wife, looked up with a glimmer of hope in her eyes as she glanced over to the very tall stack of boxes, dish crates, and assorted moving containers and proclaimed, "I know where the keys are!" I looked at Denise and wondered out loud, "Oh boy. How many boxes are we going to have to look through to find the keys?" She said, "Don't worry! I remember how I labeled the box with the drawers from the china cabinet!" I began to "un-stack" the boxes and she began to look for a label that resembled what she remembered as the right box.

Two hours later, the keys were found and all was well. We also were able to re-pack the box and add some items that had been omitted from the box that were in a smaller box packed separately.

In life so many of the things we plan are set aside for something bigger and better. So the story of the lost keys had a happy ending, reminding me once again that God's plans are always better than anything we can devise, plan or even imagine. I know God's hand is in our move to Hickory Flat and God's presence will guide and comfort us as we make this transition.

In the midst of moving, our family has mixed emotions. We are sad to leave a familiar place, our home and friends...yet we are excited about a new place of ministry in the Hickory Flat community. We are excited about new opportunities to meet and make new friends. As we pack up and leave, we also

(Continued opposite)





(Letter from Pastor Brown, cont'd.)

are packing to arrive and begin anew with you! We know you have a big place in your heart for the Andones. They have been faithful servants among you for eleven years, and saying goodbye to them will be difficult. I know you join me in wishing them well as they say their farewells and prepare to say hello in Peachtree City.

In all of the goodbyes and hellos, God is here! God has plans for his people that are so wonderful, so amazing, and so big that only He can see the whole picture. Herzen as your Pastor has led you to this time and place in ministry and now we meet and begin praying, searching, preparing, studying and anything else God would have us to do in order that His will be done and His purpose fulfilled in this place and through his people.

The Brown family is looking with eager anticipation to arriving in the Hickory Flat community. I am excited to be appointed to serve among you. I have been privileged to meet with your dedicated and talented ministry staff, and many members of your committed and gifted leadership team. After those meetings and conversations, I am even more excited to be a part of God's plan and purpose at Hickory Flat. I have heard and read some of the many exciting things that are in the works and planned for the Christian community called Hickory Flat. No doubt, you have heard or read some things about our family.

As we begin our journey together, I look forward to getting to know you each and every one! I want to hear your faith story and your dreams for God's plan for your life. Please allow me to share a portion of my faith story with you here on these pages. *(Note: See sidebars.)*

There is so much more to share but too little space. In addition, if I share all this here, what will my first sermon be?

I am looking forward to our Journey of Faith together!

I will see you in worship, in small groups, and in serving others as we seek to continue to build the Christian community God is calling us to become.

Shalom,
Robert > < >

(Getting to Know Pastor Robert,
continued from opposite)

O

Obedient follower of God, seeking to please God above all else.

Open heart: I want to earn the privilege of being your Pastor to share the high moments and the dark valleys with you.

Open mind: I will be available to hear the concerns of your heart and be attentive to your hopes, dreams, ideas, concerns, needs and things that God has placed on your mind and in your heart.

Open Door: The door to my office is always open. You do not need an appointment to stop by and visit. I will also be active out in the community opening doors and seeking opportunities to invite folks to join with the Christian community at Hickory Flat.

V

Value you, as an individual with your unique God-given gifts, talents, skills and abilities.

Vision: Together we will seek God's vision for our shared journey and future, praying, seeking and working together to discern a clear and distinct path for God's will in our lives as individuals and as a Christian community.

Vital: Sort out the important from the urgent and the mission-critical options from the other things that occupy time, substance and energy.

E

Excellence: I will strive for excellence in all I do. In all things, I will always give my best to every endeavor.

Every moment counts: I will live my life as if every moment counts, because it does. God has done great things, God is doing great things, and God is going to do great things through those who follow His lead.

Expectations: I expect God to do great things. I expect God will use me when, where and how God chooses. I expect God will use you, when, where and how He chooses!

Robert >>>



PRAYER TEAM NEWS: PRAYER FOR MISSION TEAMS

Summer is a time of high mission-trip activity, and many of our members and friends are called into the mission field, near and far. Not feeling called, or unable to join in on a trip right now? You can assist the team and those they are going to minister with by praying. Denise Carson of our Prayer Team has written a prayer that you may want to incorporate into your prayer time. In the sidebar is a list of the summer mission trips.

"...AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES..." —John 13:34-35

Oh Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters who have come forth to be the missionaries of God's word and disciples of Jesus' love. Prepare their hearts, minds and souls for the task at hand. Remove all mountains and obstacles in their path, and let their travels be safe and bear much fruit.

Arm the faithful with the Holy Spirit as each leave to do your work. Let your Holy Spirit guide them in all they do, all they say, all they touch and in the legacy that is left behind. We pray that all good things are multiplied in your Holy name and that all evil hides in your light.

We ask that your love is reflected in their dedication to the task, that your words become their words, your heart becomes their heart. We pray that you open all hearts to your Word and we ask for your blessing on the lost, sick, discouraged, afraid, the young and the old.

Please be with our brothers and sisters as they work with Jesus' hands to bring living water to the land, build homes and churches, feed and comfort a small child, teach the joy of worship through music, song and prayer, to model a servant's heart to those in need, and to bring the salvation story of Jesus to all, and in so doing change those lives forever into the service of our Lord.

We ask that not only our brothers and sisters bring the Word of God, the touch of God, the hope of God to our neighbors but that they will be blessed richly in return with new friends, new understanding, renewed spirit, clear calling, and the ultimate satisfaction of seeing God's will working in all things.

We humbly pray that you return them safely to us when their time is done.

And as in all things, Lord, we give you the glory for the great things which will come from these missions. We give you the glory for the seeds of faith which are planted in your name. We give you the glory for the salvation which comes now and in future generations. Thank you, Lord, for your love and mercy endureth forever!

We ask all these things in Jesus the Christ's Holy name. Amen

"AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD." —John 17:18

"THE DISCIPLES, EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY, DECIDED TO PROVIDE HELP FOR THEIR BROTHER..." —Acts 11:29

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Here is a list of the upcoming mission trips which are sponsored by HFUMC or by SERV Ministries:

June 2-7: Honduras

June 4-8: Mississippi

June 13-21: Mexico

June 22-28: Camp O' Cumberland Youth mission trip (Kentucky)

June 23-July 1: Mexico Music Camp

July 4-12: Mexico (SERV)

July 11-19: Youth mission trip to Mexico

July 21-26: Mississippi

PRAYER WALK JUNE 8

The Prayer Team is leading a church-wide prayer walk on Sunday, June 8, between worship services. For those who have never prayer walked before, it's as simple as it

sounds—you walk and pray. Not sure what or how to pray? A guide will be provided for you.

We will walk around the church, lifting up prayers for the pastoral changes and for a smooth transition. We will also offer prayers for those traveling

during the summer, especially those serving in the mission field.

Everyone is invited to join us at 10:30am. We will meet on the sidewalk between the main building and D trailers (next to the big playground).



MISSIONS AT HICKORY FLAT UMC

5TH ANNUAL GIVE A KID A CHANCE SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We are gearing up for the biggest school supply drive this church has ever seen! Our annual participation in the GAKAC event, to be held on July 19 this year, reaches the poorest of children in Cherokee County. Though many churches participate, HFUMC has a reputation as the focal point of the school supply drive.

This event is so much more than the school supplies. GAKAC will offer the children free hearing, eye, dental, and chiropractic exams, used clothing, new socks and underwear, live music and food for the entire family and, most importantly, God's free grace!

Look for the collection box in the fellowship hall wing. We are looking for specific items so watch the collection box for lists. Regarding monetary donations, HFUMC will support this project through our missions budget, so by giving to our general budget, you'll be funding this vital project! Any questions, please call Mike or Miriam Hale.

BIBLES FOR TROOPS

Any donations left at the altar during communion on Sunday, June 1, will go to Campus Crusade for Christ to send Rapid Deployment Kits (RDKs) to soldiers. A waterproof bag includes a camouflage-covered New Testament (including Psalms, Proverbs and additional help for soldiers), a *How to Know God Personally* booklet, and a 90-day daily devotional specially designed for soldiers. Each kit costs \$3.25. For more information, visit <http://biblesfortroops.org/info>.

MISSION TRIPS TO MISSISSIPPI

There is a Pass Christian, MS mission trip scheduled for Monday, July 21 through Saturday, July 26. Adults, and youths 15 years and older accompanied by a parent, are welcome. The team is in need of folks with some experience at construction/rebuilding, as we repair homes damaged in the 2005 hurricanes, and a lot more folks with just open hearts and hands! The cost will be minimal. Contact Terry or Craig Sollenberger.

MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

HFUMC needs people to work on a building project at the Douglas Children's Home in Sabinas Hidalgo, Mexico. The team will leave on Friday, June 13 and return Saturday, June 21. If you are interested in attending, please contact Larry Delbridge.

MUST CHEROKEE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The MUST Summer Lunch Program begins June 2, delivering lunches to kids across Cherokee County who qualify for hot lunches during the school months. Last year 1,100 lunches were delivered per day, for a total of 46,298 lunches!

Our VBS children will be bringing donations of food and making sandwiches for the Summer Lunch Program in June, an annual mission outreach of VBS.

Individual volunteers and groups are needed to pack and deliver lunches this summer, and lunch donations for July are needed: ham, turkey, bologna, cheese, sandwich bread, and individually-wrapped snacks for kids. If you can help in any way, please contact Jordan Hoffman at MUST Cherokee, 770-479-5397 ext. 3107.

RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

Thank you to the HFUMC family for your support of the 2008 American Cancer Society Relay For Life. We had a great Relay this year and have raised over \$230,000 to date in Cherokee County.

I can't express how amazing it is to have been supported by so many at our church as I served in a leadership capacity for this year's event. There were church members on the steering committee who worked behind the scenes to plan the event, others who walked as team members, many who supported our team by attending a dinner or buying a t-shirt, and those who prayed. Still others came out to Relay to remember those lost to cancer and to honor our survivors. Several gave their time to drive our church vans and bus to shuttle visitors and participants to the Relay, and last-minute pleas for help with set-up were answered immediately. So many opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ with our community! Thank you for answering the call!

Blessings,
Jane Densmore

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Gifts made to Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering in honor or in memory of loved ones:

Gift by Shawn & Julie McCarty in honor of Dessie Lunsford, and in memory of W.A. Lunsford and Marion G. Davis, Sr.

Gift by Pat & Kathy Faircloth in honor of Jim Faircloth.

Gift by Nan Hudson in honor of Margaret Brothers.

Gift by Don & Cindy Ellett in honor of Thelma Rigvey and Diane Ellett.



M I S S I O N S



Congregational Care

In Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy to Jay & Holly Martin on the death of Jay's mother, Gladys, Apr. 15.

Our sympathy to Jeff, Debra and Nick Yother and family on the death of Jeff's father, Dallas Mark Yother, Apr. 22.

Our sympathy to Ruth Payne and family on the loss of her sister, Louise Wingo, age 85, of Naples, FL, May 20.

At Home or Known Ill

Ted & Emma Lou Atkins; Gerri Brittingham; Beth Coon; Laler DeCosta; Gary Jackson; Gamaliel & Elia Lopez (Aida Riebow's parents); Karen Moody (Frances Wellborn's daughter); Wayne Pollard; Ruth Payne at her daughter Jill's home; Christie Pieper; Peggy Powell; Eula Raines; Bill Sollenberger (Katie's grandfather); Katie Sollenberger; Wayne Woodall.

In Treatment

Beth Coon; Gerri Brittingham; Wayne Pollard

In Extended Care

John Brown, Faye Forrester and Jake McGarity (James McGarity's father) at Cameron Hall, Canton; Bea Mitchell at The Oaks, Canton; Jack Rigg at Woodstock Nursing & Rehab Center

The Sacrament of Baptism

Keegan Reed Flint, born Nov. 21, 2007 to Chris & Nicole Flint, was baptized on Apr. 27.

Hannah Margaret Becker, age six, daughter of Jeffrey & Connie Becker, was baptized on May 25.

The Rite of Confirmation

Stephen Elliott Robinson (Elliott) and Zackery Tyler Robinson, sons of Steve & Karen Robinson, were confirmed on May 11.

John Dylan Carson (Dylan), son of Kevin & Denise Carson, was confirmed on May 11.

New Members

We welcome those who have joined our fellowship: Greg & Elizabeth Koopman and their children Andrew, Amelia, & Shelby of Canton; Welcome new members Del & Carol Denny of Canton.

New Babies

Welcome new baby Gavin Pearce Rampley, born Apr. 28 to Gaetana & Kevin Rampley.

Welcome new baby Logan Cole Hays, born May 5 to Anna & Kyle Hays. Proud grandparents are Brian & Donna Hays.

Welcome new baby Joy Elisabeth Wallace, born May 18 to Susan (HFUMC pianist) & Stuart Wallace.

Welcome new grandbaby Leira Elizabeth Wilson, grandchild of Rick & Kay Cash. Leira was born May 4 to Melissa & Scott Wilson.

Adoption

On May 16, Brad & Paula Benton adopted a son in Russia, Stephen Konstantin Benton (Kostya), age 14. He joins brothers Allen & Zach, and his new grandfather Dave Muse.

YOUNG MARRIEDS CLASS

Christ, Couples, and Coffee Sunday school class is studying the series "Love and Respect," from the popular book by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. The class of mostly young married couples meets in Trailer B1 at 9:15am. Please come, fellowship, and study this series with them. Please contact Michael Johnson if you have any questions.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 17-20

The North Georgia Annual Conference, with the theme, "The Heart of the Matter," will take place June 17-20 in Athens, GA. Annual Conference is a time for the pastors and leaders of the North Georgia United Methodist churches to meet and plan, worship and pray, work as a



community, and for the "business" of the conference to take place. New pastors are ordained, retiring pastors are honored, those who have died are remembered, and new appointments are read and finalized. Attendees participate in missions through a golf tournament that this year will benefit an Athens soup kitchen, a Red Cross Blood Drive, and Great Day of Service, serving the surrounding city and community with hands-on ministry.

Please remember this gathering in your prayers as our pastors and several leaders from HFUMC travel to Athens to participate in this annual event.



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

VBS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

VBS Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for Sunday, June 1 at 6pm in the sanctuary. All volunteers, youth and adults, who are serving with the children during VBS are asked to attend. Nursery provided for those who registered online by May 29.

VBS PREP WEEK

VBS prep week is June 2-6, 10am-2pm. The youth will be helping with decorating and preparing for the week. Please join them in transforming the church building into *Power Lab*, a place for kids to discover Jesus' miraculous power! Contact Jessica Avery, javery@hickoryflatumc.org or 770-345-5969.

JOURNEYLAND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Please help us give our JourneyLand teachers a break for summer, June 1-Aug. 3! We will be showing the kids a

Bible movie each week and need at least five chaperones weekly to help with "crowd control" and to serve the kids a light snack. No experience necessary, no teaching required! Come join in the fun! Contact Jessica Avery, javery@hickoryflatumc.org or 770-345-5969.

WOMEN'S DAY APART RETREAT

Women's "Day Apart" Retreat is for any woman who feels the need to step away from the noise of everyday life into silent prayer and meditation, to reconnect with God and self. Each person has a private room in which to sleep, pray, reflect. The cost of the retreat is \$45, with scholarships available.

Register now for the June 24-25 retreat, held at Carmel Retreat Center, Hoschton. Visit www.hickoryflatumc.org, click on Calendar and then on Open Registrations.

If you have questions, contact Rev. René Watson, 770-345-5969 or rwatson@hickoryflatumc.org.