



The COMPASS

HICKORY FLAT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CANTON, GA

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 2008

Calendar Items

October 2008

4: Financial Peace Yard Sale 8:30am-2pm; Women's Self Defense Class 9am-1pm

7: Finance Budget Meeting 6pm

10-19: Mexico Mission Trip

11: Downtown Homeless Ministry

12: Clergy Appreciation Day

14: Sunshiner Trip to Ellijay 9am

17-18: Consignment Sale 8am-1pm

18: UM Men's Breakfast 7am

21: Leadership Council Meeting 7pm

22: Newsletter Deadline

26: Pumpkin Day noon-3pm; Upward Soccer Celebration 3pm

27: Preschool Board Meeting 7pm

28: UM Women Meeting 10am

November 2008

2: Daylight Saving Time Ends; All Saints Sunday; Prayer Event (Time to be announced)

YOU WERE CAUGHT!

That's right! You were caught being the CHURCH. You, the CHURCH as the body of Christ were caught using your hands to reach out and share the good news of Jesus Christ by sharing resources, time and talents. You were caught being the CHURCH by using your feet to take the message of hope, help and wholeness to people who were hurting, helpless and homeless.

Your generosity shown through your gifts has helped to make a difference in the lives of those who were the beneficiaries of your gifts. In the aftermath of storms and floods, the CHURCH proved that we have an emergency plan and know how to put it into action. Let the Church be the church and use our hands and feet to reach out to save, share and serve!

We could put up a sign and visibly proclaim that we are Christians... or we could let our lives be the sign that says with our every word, deed and action that we are following the example of our leader Jesus Christ who taught us by His words, deeds and actions. We could stand back and pontificate, plan and ponder or we could "go" into the world with the message of hope, help and healing that is only found in Jesus Christ.

You see, the CHURCH is not a building, or a time of gathering, it's not even one denomination or creed. The CHURCH is the people who are called by the name that is above all names. The CHURCH is God's Love made real and in the flesh by His Son Jesus. The CHURCH is the Body of Christ alive and well and in the world today. The CHURCH is you and me! The CHURCH is us and all who claim the name and whose lives are claimed by the saving grace available only through Jesus Christ.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19

Christian song *If We Are the Body* by the group Casting Crowns, "But if we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching? Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching? And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going? Why is His love not showing them there is a way? There is a way!"

The "them" the song speaks of are all those who have not yet heard or do not yet believe. "Them" are the ones who Christ came to save! "Them" are us, too!

You have been caught being the CHURCH, reaching out to a neighbor across the street when they had tragedy strike through the death of a child; reaching out to a neighbor in the next

Yes... You were caught being the CHURCH. But have you ever wondered, "Why does it take a disaster, either natural or man-made to awaken the CHURCH?"

To borrow the lyrics from a popular

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

(Continued on next page)

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

CHURCH STAFF

Offices: 770-345-5969

Fax: 770-345-6986

Rev. Robert Brown, Senior Pastor, ext. 206,
rbrown@hickoryflatumc.org

Rev. René Watson, Executive Pastor, ext. 204,
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javery@hickoryflatumc.org

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Nick Yother, Minister with Junior High Youth,
ext. 308, nyother@hickoryflatumc.org

Denise Anderson, Assistant Administrator, ext.
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Rachael Witherspoon, Membership Assistant,
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Becky Bulla, Ministry Assistant, ext. 207,
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770-345-2951

Melanie Williams, Minister of Worship Arts,
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At-home Offices

Rev. Claude Smithmier, Pastoral Care of
Senior Adults

Brian Hays, Minister of Media Arts,
bhays@hickoryflatumc.org

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vnorris@hickoryflatumc.org

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770-345-9354

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The next deadline is
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Please email articles to
vnorris@hickoryflatumc.org
by that morning.

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subdivision by gathering together and painting their house; helping when a neighbor is facing eviction or when a prescription needs to be filled for an ailing child or elderly parent; reaching out to help stock food in a pantry or clothes in a closet when a need arises; reaching out to neighbors across the country when floods and winds damaged or destroyed their homes; reaching out to neighbors across the globe when tsunamis and earthquakes destroyed and devastated... You are the Church at all times, not just in times of urgent need, but for the good and the bad, the happy and the sad. That's being the CHURCH! Let's be the CHURCH!

In closing, I'd like to share with you two hymns that are in the United Methodist hymnal that illustrate the idea of Christ's Body and the CHURCH. Hymn number 273, *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* reads:

"Jesus' hands were kind hands doing good to all, healing pain and sickness, blessing children small, washing tired feet and saving those who fall. Jesus' hands were kind hands doing good to all. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you; make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you."

Hymn number 558, *We Are the Church* reads:

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people!"

Yes, you were caught being the CHURCH! Let's be and do what we say we are—the CHURCH! I'll see you here in the place where together, we are the Church!

Shalom,
Robert

UPCOMING SERMONS

Would you like a chance to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's message? Here is a list of upcoming sermon titles and scriptures.

Oct. 5 "What Are You Afraid Of?" Luke 12:29-34

Oct. 12 "We Have Nothing to Fear But Fear Itself!" John 6:15-20

Oct. 19 "Fear Factor" Acts 18:7-11

Oct. 26 "Why Are You Afraid?" Matthew 8:23-27

Need Prayer?

Contact the Prayer Chain!

prayerchain@hickoryflatumc.org

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

NEW JOURNEYLAND SERIES IN OCTOBER

Children, saddle up your horses and grab your favorite pair of boots as we go on an old-fashioned cattle drive! on Oct. 5 we will start our next series, *On the Trail: A wild west cattle drive through the Exodus of Israel.*

Lesson goals include learning that God has a plan for our lives and He will give us the help we need to accomplish that plan. Therefore, we should trust God and obey Him. The children will learn that when problems arise we should focus on God rather than our problems because He is trustworthy, powerful and He loves us. All this and more as we join Cookie, Tex and a whole herd of cattle on a different kind of trail, the trail the Israelites left as they got out of Egypt!



PRESCHOOL/ KINDERGARTEN NEWS

EVERYTHING FOR KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALE

Closets stuffed with outgrown kids' clothing? Are the kids' bedrooms better stocked than

the local toy stores? Here's your chance to simplify and earn some cash! Everything for kids, infant through junior sizes: clothing, toys, nursery items, even furniture. Get rid of all that clutter (but only high quality goods accepted). Sellers keep 70% of sales.

The consignment sale will be Oct. 17-18, 8am-1pm. Set-up for the sale is Oct 15, 7pm-9pm, with drop-off on Oct. 16, 8am-1pm.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact the preschool office to volunteer your time or with any questions, preschooloffice@hickoryflatumc.org, 770-345-9354.

CUB SCOUT PACK OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS



Calling all boys in 1st through 5th grades! Cub Scout Pack 465 is now signing up new members to join its pack. If you like camping, shooting rockets, hands-on-learning and fun in general, then come sign up! Please contact Todd Ketcham.

ATTENDANCE TAKERS NEEDED!

Have you been looking for an opportunity to serve that doesn't require teaching,



cooking, cleaning, or yard work? Attendance takers needed for Sunday mornings and Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Walk around to each classroom (inside the church and in trailers), count the persons in attendance and complete an attendance sheet. Interested? Called? Guilted? We'll receive your service with open arms! To volunteer, call the church office at 770-345-5969.

PROMOTING YOUR MINISTRY

If you have a testimony about your group's ministry, Sunday school, class, etc., for presentation at worship services, contact Melanie Williams, Minister of Worship, well in advance. We will no longer have verbal announcements during worship other than planned testimonies. Your testimony can be taped by our video team or done live. Contact Melanie at mwilliams@hickoryflatumc.org.



PRAYER REQUESTS TO BECKY BULLA

If you have a prayer request or pastoral care update for our staff or for our emailed prayer requests, please contact Becky Bulla, Ministry Assistant, bbulla@hickoryflatumc.org or 770-345-5969. Her duties include handling prayer requests and coordinating pastoral care for the pastors.

PRAYER PAGERS

Prayer Pagers are distributed to those in our church family who are undergoing treatment and need to be surrounded by prayer. Each time you pray for one of these people, please also dial the number to their pager—they will receive a message letting them know that someone, somewhere just thought about and prayed for them. Please post the list below near your phone.

If you have questions about Prayer Pagers, please contact Becky Bulla, Ministry Assistant, bbulla@hickoryflatumc.org, or 770-345-5969.

CURRENT PRAYER PAGER LIST:

Gerri Brittingham 770-929-5131
Teresa Rodgers 770-929-5132

All are Invited to the Financial Peace Yard Sale

Saturday, Oct. 4, 8:30am-2pm (weather permitting)
Front yard of the church property

Seller Information

Current or former Financial Peace students, sell your clutter for cash as you work toward financial peace!

Please register at the Ministry Table in the welcome center or online at www.hickoryflatumc.org. A \$10 donation is required to reserve your space, and sellers are to maintain their own space.



Fall Family Day!

Sunday, Oct. 26

Noon-3pm

**Bring your own pumpkin and
come on out!**

**Pumpkin Carving and Painting
Pumpkin Seed Spitting Contest
Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest
Pumpkin Rolling Relays
Inflatable Bouncer**

**Hamburgers and hotdogs provided. You bring the rest.
If your last name starts with A-R, bring Side Dishes
If your last name starts with S-Z, bring Desserts**

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

NEW OFFICERS

Elections were held at the last meeting of the United Methodist Men, and we have a new slate of leaders in men's ministry. Mark McDougald was elected President, Mike McArthur Vice President, and Jacque Williams Treasurer. Here are some details about the new leaders:

PRESIDENT OF HFUMM

Mark McDougald is a life-long Christian and United Methodist from a family of four generations of ordained pastors, including his brother. Mark completed Disciple Bible Study (1-4) and Christian Believer classes. He has trained Disciple leaders and has taught many Disciple classes, currently teaching Disciple 2. He says "Disciple has made the largest impact on developing my faith through deep study of God's Word in the relationship of other believers."

Mark has been active in local church UMM ministries since 1995, and has attended Rock Eagle Men's Retreat for years. He has attended Promise Keepers events, participated in mission trips to Mexico, and is a Certified Lay Speaker in the North Georgia Conference. He and his wife Paige have three children; Lauren, Macey and Collin (two college students

and an 8th grader). Mark is a Software Product Manager with Byers Engineering Company.

VICE PRESIDENT OF HFUMM

Michael "Mike" McArthur will serve as Vice President of the UMM. Mike's calling is missions. His introduction to mission trips was as a bus driver on a 2005 youth mission trip to Florida for hurricane relief. Since then he has traveled to Mississippi 10 times, to



Camp O'Cumberlands, Kentucky twice on youth trips, and has no idea how many days he worked at the Haven for Two Brothers house in Canton.

Mike is a Disciple 1 graduate and is taking Disciple 2 now. He has attended Rock Eagle Men's Retreat and encourages all men to attend. He has volunteered in such groups as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts and in coaching sports teams. Mike's heart is also in service to HFUMC, as he serves on the Property Management Team.

He is a Manufacturing Engineer at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics,

where he's worked for 30 years. Born and raised in Woodstock and still living there, Mike is married to Teresa, and they have four children: sons Cory, Kevin and Casey, and daughter Kelly.

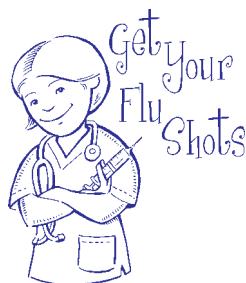
TREASURER OF HFUMM

The newly-elected Treasurer of the UMM group is Jacque "Jack" Williams. Jacque has attended several Methodist churches for the last 22 years in Sandy Springs, Gastonia NC, Roswell, and Hickory Flat, has been a youth counselor and gone on four youth mission trips. He has participated in and/or facilitated Disciple 1-4, Companions in Christ, Christian Believer, and Crown Ministry classes, is active in Sunday school including being President and Program Chair, and currently is a member of Kindred Spirits class. He, too, has attended Rock Eagle Men's Retreat, on three occasions, and has participated in a Mexico mission trip. Currently he tutors in the HFUMC GED preparation program.

Jacque was born in Atlanta and is employed as an Engineer for Kinder Morgan (petroleum and natural gas pipelines and petroleum storage facilities), where he has worked for 34 years. He is married to Dawn, and they have a son, Todd and a daughter, Kelly, both married.

FREE FLU SHOTS

The Cherokee County Health Department will give free flu shots to adults 18 and older at the Drive-by Flu Shot Clinic, Oct. 7-8, 8am-5:30pm at the Riverstone Plaza Shopping Center in Canton. For more information, contact the Health Dept. at 770-345-7371.



Flu shots will not be available at HFUMC this year.

Mike and Miriam Hale and family wish to thank the members of Hickory Flat UMC for their kind and uplifting support during the loss of my father, George Hammel Hale. Our Lord has prepared a dwelling place for Dad. He is in Our Father's house.



Thank you,
Mike Hale



PRAYER TEAM NEWS

RESPONDING TO THE ELECTION AS CHRISTIANS

As we are all well aware, a national election is on the horizon and it is a highly contested race. How do we respond as Christians? We pray (then vote, then pray some more). If you don't already pray for our country's leaders, begin doing so today. Pray for those currently in power and pray for those campaigning to be future leaders. Pray God's will—not your own!

PRAYER EVENT NOV. 2

An opportunity for focused prayer is being planned for Sunday, Nov. 2. Watch bulletins and e-mails for information on this event.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Two resources on the web to help focus your prayer time: www.presidentialprayerteam.org and www.prayerforceone.com.

ONGOING PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Prayer Team every Sunday morning from 8:30-9am as we pray for our pastors, leaders and all those God will lead to Hickory Flat each week.

Use the monthly Prayer Guide, in the bulletin the first Sunday of each month and posted on the website at www.hickoryflatumc.org/prayer_ministry, to guide your daily prayers for HFUMC.



Audio Files and Sermons To hear a sermon again, share with a friend, or subscribe to our podcast, all for free, visit www.hickoryflatumc.org/sermons. A CD of sermons can be ordered at the Info Desk for \$5.

Email List If you're not on the email list, you're missing out on updates, reminders, congregational care notes, and prayer requests. Contact Valerie at vnorris@hickoryflatumc.org to sign up! (Unsubscribe at any time.)



Beans for MUST Sunday On the third Sunday of the month we ask each member to bring two cans of beans (black beans, pinto beans or refried

beans) for MUST Ministries in Canton, a faith-based organization dedicated to providing services to persons in crisis. Drop off the beans in the collection boxes at the sanctuary doors.

All men are invited to the monthly men's breakfast on the third Saturday of the month, Sept. 20, 7am at Family Tradition restaurant on Highway 140. If you would like more info, contact Mark McDougald.

Men's Weekly Prayer Breakfast Men meet every Wednesday at Family Tradition restaurant on Highway 140, beginning at 6am, to pray, fellowship and share a meal. Contact Ronnie Holbert or just show up.

GED Preparatory Classes at HFUMC! HFUMC offers a preparatory course for the GED test free to anyone over 18. Duration depends on the individual's needs

and skills. Call the church office at 770-345-5969 for information about times and dates of classes.

UM Women's Meeting The United Methodist Women's group will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 10am in the fellowship hall. All women are invited.

Church Office Hours The church office is closed on Tuesdays from 10:45am–2pm, while the staff meets, worships, plans, prays and shares a meal together.

On Fridays the office closes at 1pm. If you need to pick up keys or see someone at the office, please do so prior to that.

Pastoral Care Emergencies Emergency situations can occur at any time. If you have a pastoral care emergency need when no one is answering the phones at the office, please call the church using the usual number, 770-345-5969, and when you get voice mail, dial 3 for further instructions.

"all for ONE" Praise Team CDs HFUMC Praise Team CDs can be ordered at the info desk and picked up the following week, \$10 each. To order online, visit our website at www.hickoryflatumc.org, click on Calendar, and then on Open Registrations.

Lost Treasures The Lost and Found treasure box is overflowing with items! Please claim your items today. Unclaimed items will be given to MUST Ministries. The box is next to the Nursery door in the welcome center.





Congregational Care

In Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy to Mike & Miriam Hale on the death of Mike's father, George Hammel Hale, Sept. 12.

Our sympathy to Jack & Angie Jeffers on the death of Jack's stepfather, Bill Gibbs of Indiana, Sept. 12, age 81.

Our sympathy to Mandy, Davis and Murphy Russell, children of Lamar & Lynn Nash, on the death of their grandmother, Jean Russell.

Our sympathy to Judi & Michael Haggerty on the death of Judi's grandmother, Ruby T. in Tennessee.

Our sympathy to Brian & Debbie James on the death of Brian's grandmother, Jean Sorenson, Sept. 16.

At Home or Known Ill

Ted & Emma Lou Atkins; Gerri Brittingham; Phyllis Clark; Jane Densmore; Ruth Payne; Christie Pieper; Angela Rigg; Jack Rigg; Gene Roberts; Teresa Rodgers; Donna Simons

In Extended Care

John Brown; Faye Forrester; Jake McGarity (James McGarity's father); Bea Mitchell; Eula Raines


The Sacrament of Baptism

Chase Bennett Dobra, born Dec. 31, 2007 to James & Candice Dobra, was baptized on Sept. 14.

Addyson Reese Estep, born Feb. 8, 2007 to Kenneth & Kerry Estep, was baptized on Sept. 21.

New Members

We welcome those who have joined our fellowship: Elliott & Beatrice Thal of Canton; Connie Cole of Woodstock; Cynthia Watts-Skinner and daughter Evangelina Skinner of Woodstock; Ora Pinson of Canton; Tawanna Hollingsworth of Kennesaw; and Bobby & Lillie (Casteel) Crutchfield of Canton.



Our Faithfulness

No. of members: **1,239**

Average attendance at 9am worship in August: **372**

Average attendance at 11am worship in August: **266**

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Specifically, Clergy Appreciation National Day of Honoring is October 12, 2008. Our mission is to uplift and encourage our pastors by providing physical, emotional and spiritual support.

During October we as a congregation will be honoring our pastors during each service. As a congregation member you can individually honor our pastors by showing special appreciation in a variety of ways—praying regularly for them, inviting them to dinner, sending cards or notes of appreciation and encouragement, meeting a need, giving restaurant cards and dedicating offerings.

Thank you Rev. Robert Brown, Rev. René Watson and Rev. Claude Smithmier.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Christmas Music



The Chancel Choir is beginning to work on music for the Christmas concert we will be presenting on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3pm. This year we will be performing a work by Joseph Martin entitled *Festival of Carols*. This is a piece written in the style of lessons

and carols, all of the carols being familiar, and including lots of congregational singing. We would love it if you would come and sing with us!

Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm. We will rehearse Christmas music first so you can sing and leave if you are not going to sing on Sunday. But we're so sure that you'll love us that you will not want to leave! We will also be having a Saturday rehearsal at Pastor Brown's house on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9:30am-2:pm.

Give yourself a gift this year. Sing some really great music and enjoy the season all the more.

If you have questions talk to any choir member or Melanie Williams.



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TO OUR GUESTS

One of the ways we get to know you is through the First Time Guest Card in the pews. Please fill it out and drop it in the offering plate! Also, stop by

the information booth (in the welcome center to the right of the sanctuary) to find out more about the missions and ministries of HFUMC.

When you fill out the First Time Guest Card or the attendance sheets in worship, we add you to our newsletter mailing list. To continue to receive our monthly newsletter in the mail, sign the attendance pad each time you visit. If you stop visiting (or signing the pad), we will remove you from the mailing list.

BABYSITTER DIRECTORY

The HFUMC Babysitter Directory is now updated. If you would like a copy, please email Connie at cklements@hickoryflatumc.org or stop by the Nursery!

ELLIJAY FALL TRIP

On Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 9am the senior adult group, the Sunshiners, will meet at the church to board the church bus for Ellijay's apple barn country, and will eat lunch at a restaurant. If you are interested in going on this trip, contact Phyllis Evans. Anyone 50+ is a Sunshiner—bring your friends!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

On Sunday, Nov. 2 Daylight Saving Time 2008 comes to an end. Be sure to move your clocks *back* one hour the night before, so you'll be on time for church.

Daylight Saving Time gives us afternoons with more daylight and mornings with less; extra afternoon daylight reduces traffic fatalities.

Remember, spring forward, fall back!