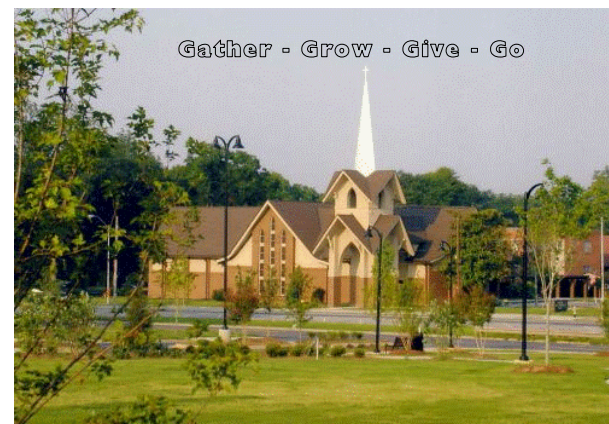


Jonesboro

First United Methodist Church
142 South Main Street
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236



Phone: 770-478-6444
Email: jumc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.jonesboroumc.com



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NEWS and VIEWS

Jonesboro First United Methodist Church



Good News ... by George!

Jesus invests in friendships. His capacity for intimacy is immense. He has a communal spirituality. He grows spiritually in his awareness of the divine through relationships, and draws strength from his encounters with people. He even calls us to be, not his servants, not his disciples, not even his blood relatives, but friends. Now "I call you friends" (John 15:15 GNB).

The word *friend* comes from an Old English word *freond*, which means one who is loved or free. Jesus came to show us how much we are loved, and to set us free. God did not redeem us intellectually but relationally. God comes to us through relationships, and Jesus' sayings and doings instruct us in the sacredness of relationships. Jesus walks into our lives not as a system of doctrine or as an answer to life's questions, but as a friend and companion who sticks closer to us than any sister or brother.

As Nicholas Peter Harvey writes in *Morals and the Meaning of Jesus: Reflections on the Hard Sayings*, **Jesus is in a love relationship with God.** When the apostle John says "God is love" (1 John 4:8), he is communicating the ways in which God is a relationship, even a friendship. The gospel is not about living a moral life. The gospel is not about living the "good life." The gospel is about living life "with the living God." Obedience is living relationally, even "indivisibly" with the Holy One so that one honors, upholds, receives, and follows all that

Connecting with Friends!

God is and all that God is calling us to become. Jesus gathers around him a group of friends, what became a type of "**Connect Group.**" It seemed to work for Him... especially when he needed a friend.

That is why I am so excited about our new **Barnabas** emphasis. A few weeks ago we were trained on how to start this new ministry. Already we have a group started, meeting on Sunday afternoons. Others will be forming. The potential is tremendous for Jonesboro First to become a place where people "connect" with God and with each other in powerful ways.

Several members and staff have been trained on how to facilitate "Connect Groups." All we need now are people who want to be part of something potentially life-changing and certainly worthy of a 90-minute-per-week investment.

Should you have questions about "Connect Groups," please contact Pastor Candy or Pastor George. We are "sold" on the value of this for our church.

I know that from my perspective, it has always been important for me to be part of such a group.

Peggy and I have been fortunate to be part of a variety of special groups over the years. We have benefited from the fun, fellowship, study and connectedness of a gathering of friends.

The good news is... this same opportunity is now available to you, through these small groups. Remember, our Mission Statement is repeated most Sundays in church: **We believe we are called into a loving fellowship as we GROW in small groups for nurture, support and accountability.**

George



Valentine's Banquet

All are welcome to attend our annual Valentine's Banquet, on **Saturday, February 18th.** Dinner will start at **6:00pm** in the Christian Activities Building. The theme is "**The Golden Age of TV.**" Sign-up sheets will be in the Sunday School Classes.

To RSVP contact Tommy Roberts at www.trkk@bellsouth.net

We are a Christian community of faith put together by God from people of various backgrounds, experiences and Spiritual Gifts.

- † We believe we are called into an attitude of worship as we **GATHER** on the first day of each week to glorify and enjoy God.
- † We believe we are called into a loving fellowship as we **GROW** in small groups for nurture, support and accountability.
- † We believe we are called to trust God to resource us as we **GIVE** to support God's work and do God's will in our generation.
- † We believe we are called to a life of witness and welcome as we **GO** to share the Good News and make disciples of Christ.

*Some of the
Eighty-one
Prayer Shawls
Dedicated
on
Sunday, Jan. 22
Thanks, Ladies!*



Ministers:

Each Member of Jonesboro First United Methodist Church

2012 Lay Leaders:

- David Deitze, Church Lay Leader
- Bob Keller, Church Council Chair
- Karen Isaacson, Council Secretary
- John Carbo, Finance Committee Chair
- Bob Keller, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
- Rich Kincaid, Board of Trustees Chair
- Carl Presley, Lay Member of Annual Conference
- Julie Brown, Gather Chairperson
- Janet Scarborough, Grow Chairperson
- Terri Williams, Go Chairperson
- Marilyn Robinson, United Methodist Women President

Ordained Clergy and Staff:

- The Rev. Dr. Mike Watson, Bishop, North Georgia Conference
- The Rev. Dr. Mike Cash, Superintendent, Griffin District
- The Rev. Dr. George Freeman, Senior Pastor
George@jonesboroumc.com
- The Rev. Dr. Candy Thacker, Associate Pastor
Candy@jonesboroumc.com
- The Rev. Ray and Lidia Zirkel, Missionaries to Costa Rica
- Carrie Stanley, Children's Ministry Director
carrie@jonesboroumc.com
- Alice Myers, Youth Ministry Director
youth@jonesboroumc.com
- April Salter, PreSchool Director
jumpstaff@att.net
- Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Chancel Choir Director
Kurt@jonesboroumc.com
- Deborah Jones, Chancel Choir Assistant Director
deborah@dnkent.com
- Ann Manuel, Organist/Accompanist
jmanuel@bellsouth.net
- Ed Davis, Orchestra Director
edencore@bellsouth.net
- Alice Myers, Youth Choir Director
- Melissa Reece, Children's Choirs Director
- Joan Youmans, Church Administrator
770-478-6444, x-10
- Celia Stanley, Financial Secretary
770-478-6444, x-11
- Wendy Powner, Treasurer
- Tripp Sheffield, Custodian

*Walk with Wholeness
Walk with Wholeness*

RETREAT: Calvin Center Geneva Lodge
13550 Woolsey Road, Hampton, GA 30228
Saturday, February 4, 2012
9:00am - 5:00pm

Mission Study on Haiti
at the church
Saturday, February 25
9:00am - 1:00pm

Geography, History & Current Events. Speakers who have been to Haiti. Effects of the earthquake and rebuilding plans.
Teachers: Marilyn Robinson & Virginia Stephens

Update on...
Elmcroft

The vesper service was held on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2011 at the Elmcroft Assisted Living Center. . JUMC participants were Charlie and Carol VanOver. Carol gave this month's devotional based on scripture Luke 2, vs. 1-7.. There were a total of 12 residents in attendance. This was truly a very meaningful Christmas service to all the residents. Gifts were given to each resident attending. The service is always held on the 4th Sunday of the month. We need additional individuals to help with the devotional during the upcoming months. If you are willing to assist with this service please contact Carol VanOver at (770-478-9526). You will be blessed! This is a wonderful ministry of our laity.



**JFUMC and
BSA Troup 136
Cookbook Project**

Share your favorite recipe. Perhaps it is one passed down from your grandmother. Maybe you have a recipe that you call a "real man dish." Possibly, you have a dish that is ideal for romantic dinners. Share the details of the recipe, note why this dish is special to you, and share a scripture that will bless others. The recipes collected will go into the **Jonesboro FUMC 2012 Cookbook**. Also included in the cookbook will be an advertising section. This cookbook project is a venture sponsored by our **Boy Scout Troop #136** and the church trustees. The funds raised from this project will go towards **repairs to the Boy Scout Hut**. There are forms for recipes and advertisements in the church office as well as the Gathering area outside the Sanctuary. The cookbook will be a fantastic keepsake. The Boy Scout Hut will be an eye pleasing attraction to the church property.

Congratulations to
Jason and Maritza Denny
(new members)
on the birth of daughter,
Izabella,
born on January 28.

Prayer List

Help us keep this list current.

Kenneth Abels, Alexander Abrams, Lou Astriab, Mae Bell, Pearl Binion (*Valerie Baldowski's mother*), Valorie Bourne, Brandon Brown, Greg Byers, Lovell Camp, Katrina Cater, Teresa Coleman, Nancy Cranfill, Pablo Criado, Saïdy Criado (*Lidia Forkel's sister*), Delores Crumbley, Constance Cunningham, Belinda Daley, Kacey Ann Dallas, Doug Daniels, Celia Deleone, Donald DesGranges, Albert Dixon, Peggy Dunn, Harry Erholm, Herb Erholm (*Barbara Rice's father*), Linda Eubanks, Esther Fadjei, Angela Frazee, Ross Freeman, Tiffany Gardner, Patricia Geraci, Monir Haftlang, Phyllis Hampton, Jacee Ann Hand, Elizabeth Harrah, Marie Smith Hewitt, Marian Hinkley, Eric Hinton, Debbie Hitchcock (*Carol VanOver's Sister*), Caden Hooper, Alfred James, Jr. (*Janet Tyree's nephew*), Malisha Johnson, Crystal Jones, Dylan Jordan, Tec Keller, Elijah Kimaru, Bryan Lauzon, Gene & Mildred Lawson, Joe Liana, Margie Little, Lucas Manuel, Cal McBroom, Monetta Metzker, Maria Miller, Delany Morgan, Ronnie Morris, Bob Myers, Rebecca Newman (*Bernice Brown's sister*), James Norwood, Gerry Perkins (*Virginia Marcus' mother*), Dorothy Pfeifle, Dee Phillips, Maybelle Porter, Hoke Propes, JoAnn Quiggins, Pete Rayfield, Angela Renzi, Nancy Rice, Cynthia Rigsby, Jack Roberts, Phyllis Robinson, Jerry Russell, Ann Ryan, Meko Sasaki, Ray Shafer, Bob Shatterly, Ray Shelton, Deborah Simmons, Bil Slife, Kenn Smith, Robin Smith, Tim Snipes, Marjorie Deitze Spencer, Carol Tanner, Hayden Taylor, Rita Thomson (*Doug's Mother*), Anna Wagner, Kitty Walters, Pat Wilchester, Margie Wilmont, Charles Wilson, Rita Wiseman, Martha Wood, Robert Woodall, Marley Young, and Jay Zellner

Persons in the Military

Please let us know if there are names we may add to or remove from this list.

Lt. Col. Michael Bachmann, Dameon Boffardia, Carl Brostrand V, Joshua Burns, Joseph Connell, Patrick Conroy, Josh Darnell, Tonette Davis, Zack Davis, Darin Eades, Brandon Faulkner, Mathew Ferguson, Robert Gordon, Steve Goto, James Herring, Jamie Heyliger, Ruben Heyliger, B.J. Howell, Sergeant Major Gary Ivey, Brian Jagiel, Nick Jagiel, Jared Jones, Tiffany Knight, Clay Konas, Jason Land, Chris Law, Ron Lundquist, Julia McAllister, Justin Myers, 1st Lt. Kyle Neundorfer, 2nd Lt. Beau Parmer, 1st Sergeant Jim Parmer, Justin Rodgers, Joshua Teske, Kyle Trottier, and Michael Williams.

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is expressed to Barbara Pirkle and her family on the death of her mother, **Martha Pittman**; and to Helen Steel and her family on the death of her brother, **Carl Parker**; and to Margaret Cozad on the death of her Mother, **Frances Hardman**.



Handicap-Access Seating

There are now three (3) spaces in the Sanctuary for wheel-chair accessibility. Please ask an Usher to direct you. We appreciate the Trustees (and Bob Matteson!) making this happen. We are now fully accessible to all worshippers. Thanks.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

From Carrie...

Calling all acolytes! Sunday, February 26 after the 11o'clock service all acolytes are invited to the CAB for pizza and then for some fun training which will last until 2p.m. Both newer and veteran acolytes are encouraged to stay for the training. I know that after the training our acolytes will have added confidence in their roles as worship leaders. If there are any transportation needs, please let me know and we will gladly make arrangements.

I know it's only February, but Easter will be here before we know it. At this year's Easter egg hunt, we would like to send our church and community children home with something more than candy and prizes. This year, all the children who come to the hunt will receive a set of Resurrection Eggs. For the project, we will need lots and lots of clean, empty, one dozen egg cartons. Please begin saving your cartons and bring them to church with you. I will have drop-off locations in the gathering area of the sanctuary and in the CAB. More details about Resurrection Eggs and the Easter Egg Hunt will follow in the next News and Views.

Calling all talented children for our **Kids Cabaret Lunch!** Sunday, March 11th after the 11o'clock service, all children are invited to sing, play an instrument, dance or recite. Ms. Melissa and I will begin building the playbill in the coming weeks. The congregation is invited to come over to the CAB after service and enjoy lunch and a show! Please mark your calendars and plan to support and encourage the children of our church on this wonderful Sunday.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

From April...

We are so thankful for the year past and all that God has done through our preschool and church. Now we are excited as we start this New Year with you and we look forward to the adventures and blessings God has prepared for us. This month the children will be learning the bible verse "Love our Friends" as we learn how God wants us to love others. On Wednesday, February 8th, the 4 year olds will visit the post office to mail their first letter. This month is dental awareness month so on Thursday, February 23rd. Dentistry 4 Children will visit us. It will be quiet Feb. 16th - 20th as we are out of school for winter break.

Last month we said goodbye to one family who left us and hello to a new family. This serves as a reminder that God places certain people in our path for a season and a reason. It is our job to love and minister to them while they are here and to receive the blessings that they have for us. Thank you all for sharing and receiving us!

YOUTH MINISTRY

From Alice...

Through The Looking Glass....

"As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?"

This is one of several questions we answer in the affirmative as we become members of a local Methodist church. It's also one that our new class of confirmands will explore and answer as they confirm the decision made on their behalf by their family at the time of their baptism. Where are you in fulfilling your commitment as a member of the JFUMC congregation? Speaking of confirmands and their previous baptism....

"Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include *these persons* now before you in your care?"

Here's a question we also answered in the affirmative at the time of their baptism...whether we were members of JFUMC or another church...the commitment was made to all entering the faith through baptism. Where are you in answering *this* call?

Let it be known that the youth ministry NEEDS faithful participants in all its areas - Wednesday night Bible studies, Sunday School, Youth Choir, Sunday evening UMY and snack supper! We have youth eager to learn and participate in the church who simply NEED YOU to be present, to share your gift of friendship, to serve with them and to witness together and spread the love of Christ.

Please prayerfully consider becoming an active member of the youth ministry - you will be blessed beyond measure!

Blessings,
Alice



Barnabas Ministry Group



Connect Group Ministry Information

A GOD PRAISE!!!

The first "Connect Group" met on Sunday, January 22 at 2:30 p.m. in Stockbridge. The word about town is that it was a GREAT first meeting with 11 people in attendance. They have agreed to meet every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. for the next several weeks. There is something amazing that occurs when Christians gather together, sharing their hearts... God promises to be there with them.

What are Connect Groups?

They are groups of not more than twelve people, which are designed to intentionally connect people to each other in friendship and to connect them more closely to God.

Sunday Prayer Warriors

There are five people who have volunteered to pray on Sunday mornings for the clergy and worship services. Praise God! Prayer is a powerful tool that God has given to us. Expect that God will be speaking, directing, forgiving, healing and so much more because the worship services will be covered in prayer. Thank you to the warriors who have agreed to stand in the gap at each worship service. Anyone interested in joining this vital ministry may contact Marilyn Robinson (770) 389-4309

mostvaluableperson@hotmail.com.

Ministry Opportunities

Prayer Coordinator/Champion - a person who will creatively involve our church in prayer using our 12 strategies

Prayer Administrator - a person who will distribute prayer concerns to the various prayer ministries of the church.



The next weekend for our Barnabas Training is
March 16-18, 2012

LRE 1:
"Outreach to Community and Worship Visitors"

Jodeco Road UMC
will be the host church

February 2012 * Indicates that this activity happens every week.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY. <small>EXODUS 20:8</small>			1 6:30 Trustees Meeting	2 Calvary Meal-Adult Fellowship	3	4 9:00 UMW Retreat Calvin Center
5 Communion 5:00 Super Bowl Party/CAB	6 7:00 LAG *7:00 Scout Den Meeting	7 7:00 ACT 7:00 TNT 7:00 Open Discussion 7:00 20-30's	8	9 12:00 39er's/CAB	10 Scout Blue & Gold Banquet Set-up/CAB	11 7:00am 3:00 Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet/CAB
12 Orchestra 	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 11:00 Food Co-Op - CAB	15	16 6:00 CPR Class/Gathering Area	17 Valentine Banquet Set-up/CAB	18 1:00 CPR class 6:00 Valentine Banquet/CAB
19 	20 Office Closed 	21 11:00 Retired Teachers/CAB 7:00 JUMP Board Meeting	22 ASH Wednesday	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 Confirmation Retreat/Camp Glisson	25 8:00 UMW Mission Study/Haiti
26 1st Sunday in Lent 1:00 Acolytes 1:00 CPR Trn	27	28 11:00 Food Co-Op 11:00 TLC	29 6:30 Bible Study w/Candy			

PASTOR GEORGE'S WEDNESDAY WONDERINGS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:05 - 6:20pm
(Following Dinner)
CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES BUILDING

Sermon Series coming during...

Lent

***WEDNESDAY**

- *5:30pm Dinner
- 6:05pm Wednesday Wonderings
- 6:00pm Youth Activities
- 6:00pm Children's Choirs
- 6:30pm Orchestra
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

***SUNDAY**

- 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Services
- 9:40am Sunday School
- 4:00 pm Praise Team
- 5:00 pm Youth Choir
- 5:30pm Youth Supper
- 6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (Youth House)

Lenten Bible Study w/PASTOR CANDY

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Who? What? When? Do you have questions? Good! We all do. Come and explore with us the teachings found in **the Gospel of John**. During a six-week Bible study, we will seek to know more about Jesus, God who came to dwell among us, and reflect on our purpose in Him. The study begins **February 29 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Adult Fellowship Classroom located in the Administration Building.

7:00am Saturday, February 11

Thank You from Main Street!

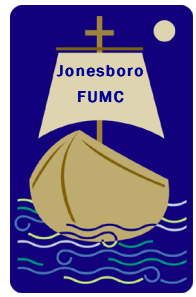
Main Street class would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Crock Pot Cook-Off, whether you brought a dish to share, ate lunch with us and/or made a donation to our mission projects.

Are you ready for some SUPER BOWL football????

The youth ministry is hoping that you are... Join us for a great time of family fellowship in the CAB on February 5 at 5:00pm. Bring your favorite lawn chair, your favorite party dish to share and a toiletry item to donate to Calvary Refuge Center. Together we can make a difference in the community and grow closer as a church family as we gather for fun, fellowship, football-watch'n... and a great cause!

Thank You from Sandy Matteson..
"Thank you for your prayers, cards and food during my recent surgery and recovery."

This is Heart Month...CPR/AED Classes are scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, February 18, 9 a.m.-noon; Sunday, February 26, 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$24.00 or \$20.00 if your certification is current but you just want a refresher course. (Pay at time of class.) Classes will be held in the Gathering Area of the sanctuary.



Get on Board and volunteer at your church

OUR SERVANTS IN CHRIST FOR FEBRUARY

Greeters: 8:30 Worship - Rich Kincaid	11:00 Worship - Carol McCullough
Ushers: 8:30 Worship - Susan Wilson, Shirley Brown	11:00 Worship - Tommy Roberts
AV/Sound: 8:30 Worship - Debbie Bonnell/Richard Patterson	11:00 Worship - Doug Thomson/Ken Jones
Liturgist: David Deitze	Altar Guild: Betty Little, Louise Bunn;
Paraments: H&H Jones	

11:00 Worship:	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26
Child.Church:	Communion	Marci Thomson Ayla Thomson	Fiana Swain Carolyn Marcus	Lidia Forkel Carl Rieke
Acolytes:	Belle Rabideau Shawna Clevenger	Boy Scout Sunday (Troop 136)	Sarah McMillian Shae Dixon	Emily Forkel Megan Turner
Bread Bakers:	Cathy Roark	Phyllis Hampton	Fran Priest	Marcia Davis
Bread Delivery:	Curtis Burrell	Rich Kincaid	The Thompsons	Carl Presley

Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22
Chili	Poppy Seed Chicken	Spaghetti	Bar-B-Q Pork
Baked Potato	Green Beans	Apple Sauce	Baked Beans
Grilled Cheese	Au Gratin Potatoes	Salad Bar	Cole Slaw