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First United Methodist Church of Greensboro

November Newsletter

2011

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A Month to Show Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving has its own set of symbols -- turkeys, pilgrims, pumpkins and Indian corn. But the symbol that best expresses the abundance that Thanksgiving celebrates is the cornucopia. The cornucopia is an ancient symbol used in both Greek and Roman mythology. In some myths, the goat Amalthea, whose milk fed the infant Zeus, was said to have a horn that was always filled with whatever anyone wanted to eat or drink. In other tales the Roman goddess of plenty, named "Copia," always wore or carried a horn filled with fruits and drinks. The magical horn of plenty was always full; its abundance could never be exhausted.

One remarkable thing about Thanksgiving is that it has been less commercialized than many other holidays on our calendar, especially Christmas or Easter. There are still many families who would never dream of saying grace before meals that suddenly feel compelled to offer up some form of thanks before carving up the

FUMC Greensboro on Facebook!

Join our Facebook fan page. This group is for members, visitors, and those who are curious about the church.

On Facebook - search: First United Methodist Church of Greensboro. Or click on the image below:



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North Georgia Conference
of the United Methodist
Church

The United Methodist
Church Online

fatted bird and diving into the dressing.

Yet our grateful acknowledgment of abundance often has the tendency to drift into an orgy of sheer gluttony. Somehow, Thanksgiving has become diet-conscious America's sacred day of overindulgence. Instead of being "commercialized," Thanksgiving has been "internalized" and "narcissusized," focusing wholly on satisfying the self.

Consider some of our recent traditions. We buy Butterball turkeys the size of not-so-small children and spend more time trying to stuff them into our ovens than filling them with stuffing. This enormous bird is then fed to family gatherings that keep getting smaller and smaller every year. Eating at least two desserts is practically mandatory.

We've even carried this spirit of "too much of a good thing is ... wonderful" into our Thanksgiving Day entertainment -- the day of relentless rounds of unending football games. In many ways, Thanksgiving has come to embody our national tendency to "live beyond our means." We surround ourselves with more food and drink and amusements than we can possibly enjoy in one day -- but we refuse to give up any of it. Thanksgiving is a holiday that all too easily can symbolize our socially approved and nationally sanctioned addiction to consumerism and materialism.

But, if we seem determined to live well above our means in our physical existence, we seem all too content to live well beneath our means spiritually.

The cornucopia, the horn of plenty that symbolizes Thanksgiving so well, should sound the joyful noise of God's bountiful blessings, of the abundant, overflowing graciousness that God makes available in our lives. Don't live beneath your means.

But this horn of plenty also sounds a warning: a note of judgment to shake us out of our self-preoccupied complacencies and selfish accumulations, a note to remind us that we must use our blessings to bless others.

I look forward to giving Thanks to God with YOU this month, Joe

Praises of Thanksgiving

To God's people at Greensboro First United Methodist Church,

Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you did for me." I, Shirley Pate, a member of Wesley Chapel and employee of Greensboro Cleaners, want to thank you. As Christ's believers and followers, between Wesley and your church family, we planted Christ's seed with love in a lost soul. I thank your family and the Holy

Spirit for helping us to help Cheryl Williams. Thank you for the refrigerator, stove, and delivery to her home.

Also, thank you for the "Youth Worship Night" invitation at your Carey Station House of God. That was an awesome time in a beautiful House of God. I pray we can do more praise and worship with the teens in the coming days.

May God Bless you all and Happy Holidays. Thank you with love.

Your sister in Christ, Shirley Pate

* * * * *

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your donation of the wonderful stroller to First Call Pregnancy Center.

It is our desire to reach those in crisis pregnancy situations by sharing the love of Christ. Through your generous donation, we can meet immediate needs and minister as Christ has ministered to us.

Sincerely,

First Call Pregnancy Center

FUMC November 16 Wednesday Night Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner @ 5:30

Carey Station Road

Sponsored by FUMC Youth

****Be sure to RSVP in by Monday, November 14!**

RSVP: Peggy Hall (peggy@fumcgreensboro.org) or use the bulletin insert.

Cost: \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children, \$15 cap per family.

Chandler Circle News

The ladies of the Chandler Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 15th at 5:30 pm in the downstairs fellowship hall at the Carey Station location. We will start with a delicious snack followed by a study of Chapter 10 and 11 in Debbie Macomber's book, "One Simple Act" led by Mariflyn Faircloth.

If you were unable to make it to the October meeting, don't worry, join us now! We welcome all women of our church and any friends you would like to invite. Please note that child care will be provided. We hope to see you on November 15th for fun, fellowship, and learning more about God generosity!

Nelson Circle News

The Nelson Circle meeting will be Monday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Carey Station Road Campus (South). The meeting is being held on the second Monday of the month rather than the third Monday due to Thanksgiving. We will have a speaker from the Boys and Girls Club in Greensboro. Please join us for fun, fellowship and to learn more about this very important local charity.



United Methodist Men News

The United Methodist Men (UMM) of the First United Methodist Church of Greensboro provided dinner to the Greene County High School football team after practice on Thursday, Sept 29, 2011. Over 50 players and coaches were served at the high school cafeteria, and the meal was followed by an inspirational message from one of the Methodist men. The Thursday dinners are served each week prior to Friday's game. The idea of the dinner was generated by Bo Fowler, director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and head coach, Charlie Winslette. The purpose of the dinner is to have a local business or church provide the meal to demonstrate community and spiritual support for the team. This local FCA initiative has grown from many years of service by Vicki and Bruce Lovin with the dinners coordinated through the efforts of local businessman, Robert Bradley. The United Methodist Men are comprised of those men attending the FUMC of Greensboro who seek to know Jesus Christ and to grow spiritually while engaging in events and activities that impact the total mission of our Church and community.

First United Methodist Church Preschool News

November is going to be a busy month for FUMC Preschool! We have a lot planned including a visit from a recycling company and Nature Nick. Our theme for the month is Native Americans, so we are learning some interesting facts about Indians. We're going to have a Pow Wow and share what we have learned with each other. Thanksgiving is a special holiday in November. Our children are going to put on a program for their parents on November 22nd. We have been learning songs and finger plays to perform for our parents on that day. Come see us learn, share, and sing with each other.

Special Dates

- November 2 Green Works Recycling visits our Preschool to show us how we can help the environment.
- November 3 Nature Nick will bring some animals for the two year olds to observe.
- November 10 The three's will have a field trip to the Nature and Heritage Center at Reynolds Plantation to observe animals getting ready for winter.
- November 15 Indian Pow Wow Day. All classes will meet for a Pow Wow and share what they have learned. We have special guests coming to show us arrow heads and tell Indian legends.
- November 22 We will have a Thanksgiving program with singing and giving thanks to God.
- November 23 Thanksgiving Holidays

Jo Ann Bradley, Director



IMPACT

Sunday's from 5:30-7:00 :: Carey Station Road
For youth 6th-12th grades

Upcoming Dates

13: FCA FUSION

16: Wednesday Night Supper

10: Service: Greene County Food Distribution

20: No Youth - Happy Thanksgiving

27: Youth Decorating Party - after church

Sunday School: South Campus (Carey Station Rd.): 10:45

Amanda Garvin: Associate Pastor

706.453.7064//amanda@fumcgreensboro.org

Seekers - Young Adult Ministry

Bible Study and fellowship for young adults without children.

Current Study: Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

6:30 -7:45 Tuesdays

Carey Station Road Campus

Beginning November 15: When Christians Get it Wrong

For more information e-mail amanda@fumcgreensboro.org or 706.453.7064



Search: Seekers - Greensboro, Georgia

JOY CLUB
(JUST OLDER YOUTH)

Anyone over 50 is welcomed!

**TRIP TO DAHLONEGA FOR BEAUTIFUL LEAF WATCHING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 // 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
BY CHARTERED BUS
LUNCH @ SMITH HOUSE
PANNING FOR GOLD (IF DESIRED \$10.00 more)**

**COST OF TRIP - \$28.00
For More Info Contact: Bonnie Black (706.467.2038)
RSVP BY 11/06 to
peggy@fumcgreensboro.org
or call 706-454-7064**

Mission News

Thanks to everyone who supported our Wednesday Night Supper last month. We collected \$435.00 for the Boys & Girls Club of Greensboro.

Work on the Transitional House is moving along, the home is sponsored by Action Ministries, a Methodist outreach organization. We can always use more workers, so please call Paul Guillette, 706-453-0955 if you are able to help.

Food Bank Needs for November

GREEN BEANS, CREAM SOUPS, STUFFING MIX

The Thanksgiving Holiday season is upon us. This places unusually difficult demands on the FOOD BANK for our GreeneCounty fellow citizens. Please take a minute when you are at Ingles, Publix or Walmart and help contribute to this so worthy mission. Holiday times are always the most trying food-wise.

It's hard to believe that we are beginning our second year of collecting food for the Greene County Food Pantry. Your continued support has been so appreciated as you have shown your generosity month after month. Thank you again as we continue this mission.

There are shopping carts at both campuses for your food donations.

Music Notes

Bell Choir is off to a roaring start, with new songs and several new members. The Spirit Singers have also added new members to its rank. The Chancel Choir is busy preparing the Cantata each Wednesday evening and work has begun on our closing piece, The Hallelujah Chorus. The deadline to join in singing with the Cantata is November 2.

Our 8:45 service has been blessed with special music under the direction of Kathy Cawthon. We appreciate Kathy's help in this

important ministry.

Save the date: December 11, Sunday, at 6:00 pm will be our Choir Cantata, *Candles and Carols*. It will be a Christmas offering that will focus all of us on the Reason for the Season.

Here are Opportunities for you to get involved in the Music Ministry:

Wednesday 5:00-6:00: Bell Choir
 Wednesday 5:45-6:30: Spirit Singers
 Wednesday 6:30-8:00: Chancel Choir
 Sunday 2:00: Instrumental Ensemble
 Sunday 2:00: King's Men
 Sunday 3:00: Praise Singers

Blessings,
 Mark and Dawn Ruppelt
 706-990-9634 706-201-1660
 druppelt@gmail.com
 ruppeltmark@hotmail.com



Volunteer to Light the Advent Wreath

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 27 through Christmas Eve
 At all services (8:45; 9:15; 11:15) and Christmas Eve (5:00 and 7:00)
 Readings provided
 Open to anyone
 Contact Amanda: amanda@fumcgreensboro.org

FUMC Altar Flowers Needed

Dates // Locations Below

Carey Station: Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25

Broad St.: Nov. 6, 13

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25



ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 14, 6:30 p.m., 202 West Broad St.

Rev. Gary Dean, District Superintendent, presiding



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Join our Facebook fan page. This group is for members, visitors,
and those who are curious about the church. On Facebook -
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