

# The Methodist Message

A Newsletter from the First United Methodist Church ,  
Hawkinsville, Georgia  
January 24, 2012

**OUR STAFF:**

- John A. Walker, Pastor
- Barbara Lawson, Choir Director
- Grace Daniel, Organist
- Kara W. Turk, Youth Director
- Laurie Obert-Thorn, Office Manager
- Pearlie Mae West, Nursery Attendant
- Bobby Carter, Custodian

## A John Wesley Moment



Over the course of the next several weeks I will be sharing with you several John Wesley Moments. These stories tell the heritage of our faith as United Methodists. I look forward to sharing these moments with you.

In the year of his ordination as an Anglican Priest, John Wesley read Thomas A. Kempis and Jeremy Taylor and began to seek the religious truths which underlay the great revival of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The reading of William Law's *Christian Perfection and A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* gave Wesley what he called, "a sublimer view of the law of God"; he resolved to keep it, inwardly and outwardly, as sacredly as possible, believing that in obedience he would find salvation. Wesley pursued a rigidly methodical life, studied the Holy Scriptures, and performed his religious duties diligently, depriving himself so that he would be able to give aid to others. He began to seek after holiness of heart and life.

The year of his return to Oxford (1729) marks the beginning of the rise of Methodism. The Holy Club was formed by John's younger brother, Charles Wesley, and some fellow students including George Whitefield. The Holy Club met weekly and they systematically set about living a holy life. They were branded as "Methodists" by students at Oxford who derided the methodical way they ordered their lives.

These Holy Clubs were divided up into what Wesley called "Societies." When disorder arose among some members of the societies, Wesley adopted giving tickets to members with their names written by his own hand. These were renewed every three months. Those deemed unworthy did not receive new tickets and dropped out of the society with disturbance. The tickets were regarded as commendatory letters.

Out of this grew the Methodist class-meeting system in 1742. In order to keep the disorderly out of the societies, Wesley established a probationary system. He undertook to visit each society regularly in what became the quarterly visitation or conference. As the number of societies increased Wesley could not keep personal contact, so in 1743 he drew up a set of "General Rules" for the "United Societies." These were the nucleus of the Methodist Discipline.

**General Rules:** *It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,*

**First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind.....;**

**Second: By....doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as Possible, to all...;**

**Third: By attending upon all the ordinances of God.**

This has been a John Wesley Moment. (Works of Wesley, Baker)

See You on Sunday,

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

- Cathy Angel
- Debbie Boys
- Janice Buvalla
- 1st Lt. Joshua Campbell
- Nano Corona
- Andrew Etheridge
- Maye Gentry
- Robert Harper
- Ron Hoss
- Bobby Iannuzzi
- Roberta Morrison
- Angelia Ulrich
- Wayne Wetherington

Our church has once again shown its love and support of the mission arm of the church by paying 100% of our conference apportionments to the South Georgia Conference. Thanks so much to all of you for supporting this very important global ministry!

## UMW Executive Meeting

The UMW Executive Committee will meet at 12 Noon on Wednesday, January 25th in the Social Hall.

The Handbell choir will practice this Sunday, 1/29 at 5:00 pm



**5th Sunday  
Community Worship**

**Browndale Baptist Church  
Sunday, January 29th at 7:00  
Rev. John Rohrbeck, speaker**



## Children's News

Children's Sunday is set for February 26th. We want all our children to be a part of this great time. Our children's choirs have already begun working on music for this special Sunday and soon we will be assigning roles for the 11 a.m. worship hour. Please help us by letting us know if your child will be present on Sunday, February 26th. We need this information by Tuesday, February 7th. We will assign roles beginning on February 8th. We will also be hosting a breakfast for the children and their parents at 10:00 am on this day. Thank you for helping us to make this years Children's Sunday so very special.

**YOUTH NEWS:** Join us Wednesday and Sunday as we continue our study of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. If you would like to read ahead, Wednesday's text will be the 9th chapter of Isaiah and Sunday's text will be Isaiah, chapters 11 and 12. Hope to see each of you as we continue to learn more about our God and as we grow in our faith.



Flashback to the '50s and '60s to help support the Youth Summer Mission Trip to Lake Junaluska, NC. Join us on Wednesday, February 15th, beginning at 6:00 for the Valentine's Day Sock Hop.

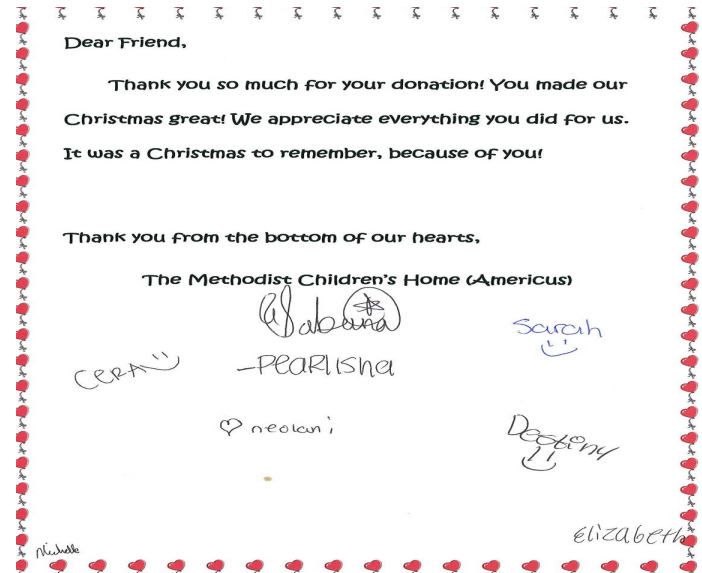
Come in your best sock hop

attire for dancing to the "oldies *Even if you don't "HOP"*, join us and return to those days of sitting in the diner with your friends and enjoying a cherry coke. We will be serving 1950's food in our very own ARNOLD'S DINER. Hamburgers and Hotdogs, French Fries and a Coke are included in the price of the ticket.

Get those tickets NOW. Tickets are only \$7.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children and are available now from any youth or in the church office.

The Youth Council is excited to sponsor this event.

Thanks to all of the people who helped us make the holidays special for the Methodist Home in Americus. Here is a thank you letter they sent:



We also received this letter:

Dear friend, Amazing, just amazing! I am once again speechless at the outpouring of love for our girls. I wish you could see their hearts as the gifts came rolling in for their Christmas. We pray that our girls have a piece of their childhoods restored and they find our home to be the place where they have found love in its best and truest form. You helped bring both of these things to pass and I am amazed. Again.

With Thanksgiving,

Tracy Hall, Regional Director, Americus Campus

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«City» «State» «Zip»



# **JULY 18—23, 2012 LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Open to all Youth 6th—12th grades  
Cost of the Trip: \$350**

Through our amazing group of summer staff, inspiring mission experiences, relevant speakers and dynamic worship, youth will learn how to live out their faith. Our theme this summer of Galatians 6:9-10 will help youth explore how serving others impacts their relationships with others. More information available on the web at <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/surge-into-missions/>

**Youth have an opportunity to earn partial payment (\$175) of this fee by attending and participating in Sunday School, Formal Worship (9 or 11 a.m.), mid-week Bible Study and Sunday Night Youth and ALL fundraisers. This means that you will be present at these times unless you are sick or have a pre-planned family event. No exceptions.**

(Price includes all meals, lodging, extra activities and programming.  
Does not cover snacks or souvenirs)

Chaperones: Kara Turk & Melinda Swick

Depart the morning of July 18th  
Return July 23rd late afternoon/early evening

**Money is due for this trip as follows:  
March 4—\$75; April 22—\$50;**

**Final payment on May 27— \$50 or \$250 if youth has not participated in activities and fundraisers.**

***It is the responsibility of the youth to sign the red attendance pad in the pew each Sunday and make sure they are marked present at Sunday School each Sunday. A sign in sheet will be available each Wednesday and Sunday night for the youth to sign. It is the responsibility of the youth to sign in. No one will sign in for you and friends may not sign in for friends.***

**All deposits paid are non-refundable.**

**Payment of the first deposit obligates the youth/parent for the remaining balance of the trip.**

**I have read the SURGE INTO MISSIONS sheet and agree to the terms listed above.**

**Youth's Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_**