



55 Plus on the Go

On Thursday, April 22, we will have a private tour of the Chick-fil-A Headquarters, the second largest fast food chain in the U.S. We'll visit Truett Cathy's office, see his collection of antique cars and have lunch (Chick-fil-A, of course)! After lunch, you may choose to visit either the Zoo or Cyclorama. That will depend on the weather. Please pick up a flyer and reservation form from the Narthex table or 55 Plus bulletin board. Deadline is April 15. Questions: Call Audray McCroskey at 770-319-1698..

### The Shepherd's Cloak

Thanks to the wonderful group of volunteers who regularly work in the Shepherd's Cloak, we are able to distribute more clothing to those in need. The women from Mary Hall Freedom House love to go "shopping" twice a month and every Sunday, someone is provided with much needed clothing. Without the help of our volunteers, we would not be able to be opened as much as we are now. So, thank you wonderful Wednesday volunteers!

Because we are serving more women, there is a need for jewelry and shoes. You can bring your donations on any Sunday that we are serving or on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM. We continue to need men's clothing but no suits. Please be sure that your donations are clean and in good repair. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Feed'n Seed ministry.

### Paying it Forward

We have heard some wonderful stories during Lent as we have all tried to "Pay it Forward" in Christian love. There was the story of the member who, while stopped at a red light, gave her umbrella to a man at the bus stop getting drenched by the rain. There was the group that gathered to do a few hours of yard work for a senior citizen neighbor, who was struggling to care for an even-more-senior parent. One member has been leaving a double tip whenever dining out and an SSUMC Pay it Forward card with the receipt.

We also heard about a member who noticed several soldiers on the same airline flight who declined to purchase meals because of the cost. Calling the stewardess over, our member told her to provide the soldiers meals and bring him the bill, without letting the soldiers know who paid. A short time later, the pilot came back and said, "I heard what you did, I'd like to help you pay for the meals." Our member handed the pilot one of our SSUMC cards and said, "Pay it Forward." We do believe that acts of Christian kindness can spread throughout the world and change it. What is your Pay it Forward story?

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# The Dipper

## New Beginnings

The Tomb is empty! Praise the Lord! The Easter season reminds us that we have new life in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." Without Christ, we are all lost, with no hope or future. With Christ, we have hope, peace, strength, and the promise of eternal life. Our past sins are washed away and we have new beginnings as followers of Jesus Christ and as part of the body of Christ.

We have served Christ together for the past five years. As I say goodbye to Sandy Springs UMC, we both close a chapter of our history and begin a new one. I thank you for the ways you have loved me and welcomed me into the church family. You will always be my first church and the pastors, staff, and congregation will hold a special place in my heart.

We have laughed together, grown together, and cried together. Thank you for inviting me into your lives and allowing me to be your pastor and friend. Your kindness and hospitality have been amazing. We have much to celebrate from our relatively brief time together.

In Missions, the church greatly increased the frequency of Feed n' Seed and added ESL and a Bible study to it. We sent a number of members to Ukraine with Miss Sandra and taught the Gospel to hundreds of children there.

Our young adult/family group, Friendship Unlimited, formed and is a vital part of our congregation. We made numerous improvements to our facilities and became a debt-free church. Bible studies and Sunday school classes remain vibrant sources of spiritual formation. There are many processes in the behind-the-scenes life of the church that are much improved. It has been a privilege to be one of your pastors during this time.

I am excited about what the future holds for Sandy Springs UMC. In January, the church leadership team began a visioning process. This team contains all the committee chairs, the pastors, and a few at-large members. One question posed was this, "if we were handed the keys to our campus and asked to start a church from scratch, what would we do?" As you can imagine, this stimulated a lot of dreaming and discussion. A vision is emerging and you will likely be hearing more about this in the months to come.

Will there be change? Probably. Yet, I can already see the Holy Spirit working in this process. As it unfolds, I hope you will remember one of God's eternal truths: **God loves us too much to leave us where we are.** We are called to grow as disciples, as individuals and collectively as a church. God invites us to a new beginning...a new season in our journey with Christ. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Chris



## Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet

Think PINK this year in preparing for our UMW Mother, Daughter, and Special Friends 2010 Banquet. Show your pink spirit by decorating a pink hat—prizes will be given for the most creative. The entertainment will be presented by Spalding Drive Charter School's Show Choir. This choir, made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, will perform a Motown Review/songs from the 70's. The talented chef, Sandra Bottoms, will cater the dinner. It will be an outstanding evening.

Date: Monday, May 10

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: SSUMC Fellowship Hall

Tickets: \$15 adults; \$10 children age 9 and under

Ticket Chairman: Katy Bailey (770-953-3034)

Tickets will be available at Wednesday Night Suppers beginning April 14 and in the narthex before and after Sunday Worship Services. The last day for ticket sales will be May 5.

### More UMW NEWS

There will NOT be an April Board Meeting, but please note the May Board Meeting is the FIRST Wednesday, May 5. Circles will meet at the regular time in April.

#### Calendar events:

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|------------------------|---|
| April 21, 7:00 p.m.-   | Dunwoody UMC. Mission Study:<br>Beauty and Courage of Sudan |
| April 27, 6:30 p.m.-   | Trilogy Circle, Conference Room                             |
| 7:00 p.m. –            | Circle 1, Asbury Room                                       |
| April 28, 10:00 a.m. – | Circle 2, Hitson Parlor                                     |
|                        | Circle 5, Member's Home                                     |
|                        | Circle 6, Conference room                                   |
| May 5, 10:00 a.m. –    | UMW Board Meeting, Conference Room                          |
| May 9, 11:00 a.m.-     | Worship Service, Baby Memberships                           |
| May 10, 6:00 p.m. –    | Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet,<br>Fellowship Hall          |

#### THANK YOU

Dear Friends: Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, visits and the beautiful flowers during my recovery from hip surgery. I look forward to being with my church family again. Carolyn Holbrook

To the members of SSUMC: Thank you for your prayers, visits, cards and the beautiful flowers. They were truly a blessing during a trying time after my surgery. I'm on the mend now and improving every day. Please continue to pray for me. Thank You. Jessie Winters



Lunch Bunch for adults in their 20's - 40's: Sunday, April 11th at Longhorn. We will meet immediately following the 11:00 service. The nursery will remain open until 2:00 PM. If your child is staying in the nursery, please send a bag lunch.

### Hitson Memorial Activity Center Zoning

In the coming months, you may see some large blue signs posted near the entry drives to the Hitson Memorial Activity Center. These are signs of progress for our Leisure Ministries here at Sandy Springs United Methodist Church. Lisa Nagy, our Leisure Ministries Director, is in the process of expanding the reach of SSUMC through various youth and adult oriented programs. One of the future possibilities is an After School Program for local youth. In order for SSUMC to apply to become a licensed and accredited After School Program, there were some Zoning Ordinance issues that had to be coordinated with the City of Sandy Springs. I have recently met with City Zoning and Planning officials to review the required documentation and steps for this process. Part of this procedure includes posting City required signs that inform the neighborhood of a re-zoning process, along with various zoning meetings and documentation. I welcome any questions that you may have regarding this process.

Sincerely, Jeff Connell – Trustee's Chair

Dear SSUMC Family,

It has been almost two years since I first walked through the doors of Sandy Springs UMC, and it has been a whirlwind ever since. When I think about how much has happened since the summer of 2008, I am amazed that time has passed so quickly. I never dreamed Chris and I would be where we are today (but I secretly prayed we would be SOMEWHERE together). We have embraced a lot of changes in our lives over the last two years, and I would like to think we are both the better for it. I have a husband and a new church family that I love dearly. From my very first Sunday there with Chris' dad and stepmom up until April 18th, all of you have so warmly embraced me as a part of your lives. I want to personally thank each of you for that. The support and love we have felt from every one of you has been humbling, touching and a true demonstration of the body of Christ's love. I know SSUMC will always hold a special place in Chris' heart as this church is his first church. It also holds a special place in my heart, as this church is my first church, too...as a pastor's wife. Thank you for sharing yourselves with us and allowing us to share ourselves with you.

In Christ's love,  
Jennifer Barbieri

*Philippians 1:3-6* - I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### GIFTS OF LOVE

Honoring the Memory of Audrey Scupine with a donation to the Memorial Fund: Claire Leslie  
Honoring the Memory of Betty McGehee with a donation to the Memorial Fund: Claire Leslie  
Honoring the Memory of Fran Parr (Jane LaBan's sister) with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Mr & Mrs Scott McCord Mr & Mrs Larry James

Honoring the Memory of Marion Cook with a donation to the Memorial Fund: Claire Leslie

Honoring the Memory of Edith Ihlanfeldt's sister with a donation to the Preschool Fund: Claire Leslie

Donation to the Missions Fund (Clarkston Ministry) with no honoree designated:

Claude C. Paquin Mrs Susan Isom

Honoring the Memory of Ella Mae Froman with a donation to the Missions Fund (Clarkston Ministry): Mr & Mrs Scott McCord

Honoring the Memory of Lowell Smith with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Dr Edwina Shealy Mr & Mrs Larry James

Honoring Walt Rue with a donation to the Feed & Seed Fund: Mr & Mrs Scott McCord

Donation to the Pipe Organ Fund with no honoree designated: Mrs Claire Johnson

Donation to the Feed & Seed Fund with no honoree designated: Mrs Thelma Potter

Honoring the Memory of Harriet Hughes with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Mr & Mrs Larry James

Honoring the Birthday of Sarah Cagle with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Dr Edwina Shealy

Honoring the Birthday of Virginia McCahan with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Dr Edwina Shealy

Honoring the Birthday of Mary Wesley with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Dr Edwina Shealy



### CALLING ALL PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF BABIES BORN SINCE LAST SPRING!!!

Honor that special someone with a Baby Gift to Missions. The babies will be recognized on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>, during the 11 AM Worship Service. Recognition is \$7.50 for each child. All funds go to United Methodist Women Missions. Order forms are available in the church office and from UMW Circle Leaders, and should be turned in by Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information please call Sherry Taylor at (770) 841-9153.



Spacebo, spacebo, spacebo!!!! In other words, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the twenty people who spent about three hours on Saturday, March 13, cutting out all the crafts for the Ukraine mission trip!!!! Thanks so very much for your sacrifice of time to accomplish this huge task. You have made it possible to set each activity in front of those wide-eyed children who are so eager to experience the joy

of creating their own "handicrafts," as they call them, as never before possible. I wish each of you could be there to see the joy on each child's face as they experience in every way—hearing, seeing, touching, tasting and feeling—the hope that comes from a personal relationship with our God and King. May God bless each of you richly for blessing little lives in such a loving way and making an investment in their eternity. Again, I thank you. Miss Sandra