



Fall Bible Studies

We are gearing up for our Fall Bible Studies starting the week after Labor Day. There will be a Monday Morning Bible Study, “Experiencing God”, Tuesday Morning Bible Study, “Confronting the Controversies”, as well as Thursday evening, “Life and Ministry of the Messiah” (starts September 30) and our regular Wednesday night study after supper. Sign up sheets with details and schedules will be up in the narthex in early August. Watch for updates!



Finance Committee Report

At the half way point (June 30) the Church income statement reflects the following:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income from all sources	\$419,252	\$384,928	(\$34,324)
Expenses	<u>419,416</u>	<u>351,156</u>	<u>68,260</u>
Net	(\$ 164)	\$ 33,772	\$33,936

In summary, we are under budget on income (bad) and we are under budget on expenses (good).

As we are further ahead on the expense side than we are behind on the income side, we are ahead of budget by \$33,936!

A thank you for the contributions and pledges made through June 30 and the committee encourages members to continue with timely payment of pledges and contributions. An additional thank you to the staff and various committees for keeping watchful eyes on expenses. Let’s maintain the momentum!

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The Dipper

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Excitement Abounds

Very exciting things are happening around Sandy Springs UMC! If you were here a couple of weeks ago, you probably encountered large numbers of children in Vacation Bible School, Summer Camp attendees having a great time, a youth group from First UMC in Gulfport, Mississippi sleeping in our Activities Center, area folks voting in the parlor for our primary elections, and our USUAL groups meeting and utilizing our wonderful facilities. We are really enjoying our role as a hub of activity in our community. Many folks are being introduced to our hospitable church members who volunteer in so many areas of ministry. Great things are happening as our doors swing wide to welcome whoever might come by in search of love and acceptance.

The events of the past few weeks serve as just a small example of how our church is continuing to believe that we are a viable resource for ministry throughout the community and indeed the entire world. On Sunday mornings we currently are in the process of volunteering for any or all of the three brand new task forces focusing on Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Experience. Through radical hospitality, passionate worship, and intentional faith development we are seeking to help Christ transform the experience of any person who comes by our house on Sunday morning. I am personally excited about hearing the many suggestions you will share that you have felt in the past, whether here or somewhere else, truly have impacted your life and have made a difference in your Christian growth and spirituality. You will want to be a part of at least one of the task forces, as we catch the excitement we experience as we gather each Sunday Morning.

Along with these wonderful task force opportunities, we look forward to our Fall Bible studies resuming in September. There are groups already forming for Sunday nights, Monday mornings, Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday nights. Sign-ups will be posted in the Narthex during the entire month of August. Also, mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 12 and our gigantic Back-to-School bash. Special worship will begin at 11:00, with lunch following in the Hitson Center, with “jumpies” for the kids. We look forward to being a family of faith on that day.

Exciting things are happening, our facilities are filling up more and more during the week for wonderful programs, and Sunday mornings are dynamic. Join us each and every week at Sandy Springs UMC! You’ll be glad you are here!

Ken



Well, almost. We'll be on the road again on September 16th with a tour of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, lunch at the Blue Willow in Social Circle and a very special surprise! You've been asking for another apple trip, so on October 28th we'll travel in a first class coach to Mercier Orchards. We'll also enjoy a family style lunch again at Pat's Kountry Kitchen. Hopefully the fall leaves will cooperate this year. And on November 14, we'll enjoy the hilarious "Tuna Christmas" at Theatre in the Square in Marietta. Pick up a flyer early from the Narthex table or 55 Plus bulletin board. They'll be available in August.

Questions? Call Audray McCroskey at 770-319-1698



Thank you so much for your generosity during our July CAC Food Drive. I have been able to deliver a full trunk load of food to the CAC each Monday in July. This has helped tremendously with keeping the food pantry shelves stocked. The summer is a crucial time to serve those with children needing additional assistance while school is not in session. You have blessed many families and children with your caring. Kathy Martin



The UMW Board will meet in the Conference Room on Wednesday, August 18, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon to plan for the upcoming year.



This year's VBS, "Galactic Blast," was a BLAST!!! Everyone enjoyed a week of action-packed games, tasty snacks, thought-provoking experiments, exciting Bible stories and Bible verse activities, energizing music and, well, just an awesome time praising the LORD! Attending this year were 115 children, 6 youth workers, 39 teachers and many behind-the-scene volunteers donating snacks for both the children and volunteers. THANK YOU EVERYONE who contributed to make this week such a huge success! Thank you, also, to our dedicated custodial staff who kept us cool and ready-to-go each and every day! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU everyone!! May God bless you richly for your sacrifice of time this week. Hey, by the way, next year's VBS is "Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe." Get your aprons and chef hats ready!

AN INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER WITH NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Did you know that people who volunteer tend to live longer and happier lives than those that do not volunteer?

The Northside Hospital-Atlanta Auxiliary has numerous positions immediately available for those interested in volunteering at the hospital. Why not get involved or encourage someone you know to do the same? The Auxiliary provides compassionate support and quality service to patients, families, and visitors. Volunteers carry on the Northside Hospital tradition of community service and are an important extension of the health care team.

Various placements are always available. Currently, in addition, however, there is a special need for outgoing, friendly individuals who can commit to one four hour shift each week, to serve as receptionists for ICU and as sales assistants for the gift shops. Daytime, evening and weekend shifts are available.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at Northside Hospital, please visit our website at www.northside.com – Volunteer, or call 404-851-8707 for more information. We look forward to having you join the Northside team!

GIFTS OF LOVE

(Please advise Henry Armour (404) 255-8945 of corrections/omissions)

Honoring the Memory of Boyd Cotton Hobbs with a donation to the **Memorial Fund:**
Mr & Mrs Robert Betzer Mr Walter Ballew, Jr. Mrs Kay Robinson

Donation to the Memorial Fund with no Honoree designated:
Ms Elna Sheetz

Donation to the Pipe Organ or Feed & Seed* Fund with no Honoree designated:
Clara Johnson Mrs Thelma Potter*

Honoring the Memory of Dr. Ray's father with a donation to the **Memorial, Trustees*, or Feed & Seed** Fund:**
Ms Virginia McCahan Dr Edwina Shealy* Mr & Mrs Gerald Kennett**

Honoring the Memory of Bill Perreault with a donation to the **Feed & Seed Fund:**
Mrs Barbara Perreault

Honoring the Memory of Shirley McCormick (Kathleen Mathena's mother) with a donation to the **Preschool Scholarship Fund:**
Anonymous Mr & Mrs Fearn LaBan

Honoring Carrol (Goose) Bailey with a donation to the **Memorial Fund:**
Dr & Mrs Charles Upshaw, Jr.

Honoring Will & Sara Kinard with a donation to the **Memorial Garden Fund:**
Mrs Claire Leslie

Honoring the Memory of Harold N. Hill with a donation to the **Feed & Seed Fund:**
Mr & Mrs W.A. McSwain

Honoring the Memory of Martha Donnelly's mother with a donation to the **Feed & Seed Fund:**
Mr & Mrs Scott McCord

Honoring Elaine Turner's birthday with a donation to the **Feed & Seed Fund:**
Dr Edwina Shealy



From Jessie and Bob Winters:

My sincere thanks to all for the condolences sent to me and Bob in the death of W. G. (Jerry) Winters and to all who were beside me at the service June 1st. Your comforting presence meant so much to us. We are deeply grateful to all.