



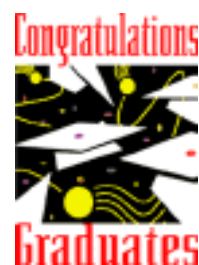
Surfs Up for Methodist Seniors!

What do you get when you mix a beautiful day, Beach boys music, and 55 Senior Adults? A summer fellowship event that rivals most beach parties! On Thursday, June 24th, Sandy Springs UMC played host to Senior Adult members of six, yes, SIX different United Methodist churches who came together to enjoy a time of fellowship, good eating (because who are Methodists if not eaters?), and hand-clapping, foot-tapping music and entertainment! Senior adults from Sandy Springs, Sardis and North Springs United Methodist congregations made up the majority of the revelers, but the crowd also included members of Sharon, St. John, and Oak Grove UMCs.

After a time of fellowship and introductions, the group feasted on an incredible lunch provided by Unforgedibles Catering of Marietta. For dessert, the crowd was entertained by the comedic musical stylings of The Swinging Saints, a down-home group of senior ladies from the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary. By performing pieces from "Meet Me In St. Louis", a medley of patriotic songs, and of course, "When the Saints Go Marching In", these ladies had 89-year-old men up dancing!

Every pastor hopes to begin their time with a new church family in a truly joyful way. I love that this is the way I got to spend my first day here with Sandy Springs! If you see me dancing down the hallways of the church, humming "Surfin' USA" to myself, blame the Seniors!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Blair Zant



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Best wishes to Phillip Sensenig and Erin Gates on their graduations! All the very best is wished for you both from your SSUMC family as you start your new paths in life! Good Luck!!



The Dipper

Be Still and Know... Sorry, I Can't Stop Now!

For all of its regrettable examples of teenage behavior, the iconic 80's movie, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* has a lot to teach us all about how to handle life in transition. A spiked-haired Ferris looks into the camera, and offers this piece of wisdom: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and take a look around once in awhile, you might miss it." So true, Ferris. So true. While summertime usually brings hot, lazy days of lemonade and the neighborhood pool, my Junes and Julys usually bear witness to a drastic increase in activity. Anyone else feel like your life has speed enough to rival Keanu Reeves' bus?

I enjoy being busy. I enjoy having projects to work on, and new spaces to explore. I enjoy arranging bookshelves, and learning names, scribbling plans on the calendar, and even working with my hands so as to break a sweat. When I began my ministry as the pastor of Sardis United Methodist Church in June of 2009, I got to enjoy all of these things. And now that I am officially the new Associate Pastor here at Sandy Springs UMC, I get to do them here as well! It might take me a while to figure out what all the light switches do, and who's related to who around here, but that for me is all part of the fast and furious fun that comes with starting a new chapter in one's life.

We live in a day in time when life tends to move pretty quickly. Everything has to be caffeinated, available as an app on our iphone, or have a synonym for "fast" in the title, or we just don't have time to fool with it. But how much are we missing, simply because we have forgotten how important it is to sit down and take it in? I think about this especially when I come before the Lord's table for communion. In a day in time when family dinners are usually eaten in the car, what a gift that we as a church family are invited to stop, to gather around the table, and to receive a sacred meal together. What other sacred moments like this one has God given you lately, moments to really savor the goodness and peacefulness of the Lord? In his great hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, Whittier offers us the following prayer, "Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace." Today, may we pray that God would be at work in setting our lives in such order that we may make the time to marvel at God's beauty and peace.

Grace and Peace,
Blair

Sandy Springs United Methodist Church
86 Mount Vernon Highway, NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



Sandy Springs United Methodist Church
86 Mt. Vernon Highway, Atlanta, Georgia 30328
Church Office 404-255-1181, Fax 404-255-0283, Web: www.ssumc.org
Dr. Ken Ray, Senior Minister, Ext. 222, Kray@ssumc.org
Rev. Blair Boyd Zant, Associate Pastor, Ext. 220, Bzant@ssumc.org
Sandra Dixon, Director of Children's Ministry, Ext. 219, sdixon@ssumc.org
Lisa Nagy, Director of Leisure Ministries, Ext. 211, lnagy@ssumc.org
Woodrow W. Talley, Director of Music, Ext. 217, web:www.musicianatlanta.com
Nancy Nadolski, Preschool Dir., 404-250-9455, nnadolski@ssumc.org
Kathleen Schoenblum, Financial Director, Ext. 223, kschoenblum@ssumc.org
Ann Hladilek, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 221, ahladilek@ssumc.org
James Clinkenbeard, Maintenance Supervisor, Ext. 216, jclinken@ssumc.org



**July Food Drive
Community Action Center**

The Community Action Center has been busier than ever over the last few months due to the current unemployment situation. July is the designated month for our annual food drive at SSUMC. I just toured the CAC's food bank and the shelves are getting pretty bare. The summer months are always difficult because school is not in session and the children are eating three meals a day at home instead of one.

Please be generous and let's see if we can keep the shelves full for at least the month of July. Every kind of food is appreciated but the CAC is especially low on canned meats, canned pasta dishes, mixed vegetables, peanut butter, cereals, toilet tissue and toothpaste. Please leave your donations in the designated bins by the outside doors downstairs and the side door that goes into the nursery area. Thank you so much for reaching out to those in our community who are less fortunate.

For questions contact Kathy Martin 770-973-7521.

MORE THAN MEAT AND POTATOES

More than anything else my mother hated to hear about people in the world who are hungry. She would have loved our "Feed and Seed" ministry where 50-100 people who might otherwise not have a meal on a Sunday are fed at SSUMC. But believe me, we are serving a lot more than meat and potatoes.

During my recent visit there were folks who were grieving, women who had been abused as children, ladies who were not allowed to see their own children until released from "the program," and men who needed a shower and a shave badly.

Some who come have limited clothing – we have the shepherd's closet with basic clothes. Some have lost significant parts of their lives – like the Hispanic man who had lost his brother that week and the Fountain of Love minister was there to comfort him in Christ's name. Some have relationship issues – like the ladies of the Mary Hall Freedom House, recovering from addiction and abuse, who have problems with family and with each other. They encourage and pray for one another in the Bible Lesson Time led by Nancy McCord. Some are struggling to communicate in a new language - Nancy Mayer and Jo Sheetz help with ESL.

And some are lonely and need some human interaction and compassion. Here is where the people of SSUMC can offer a smile, a pat on the back, and word of encouragement as Frank Specht and Sarah Cagle do every week. No special gifts needed, just a hospitable spirit which I know the people of SSUMC possess in abundance. Come, experience this unique ministry for yourself. You will be blessed (as I have been) and you will bless others in our community in a special way.
Virginia McCahan

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Preaching, fellowship, voting, education, celebration, appointments.

The Conference, held in Athens, was full of the work and ministry of the United Methodist Church in and through North Georgia. Attending from SSUMC were Ken Ray, Blair Zant, Virginia McCahan, Walt Rue (district rep), Jo (Elna) Sheetz (district rep.)

The most eye-opening information at the Conference is the breadth and depth of our work in North Georgia and the world – supporting missionaries, children, the poor and homeless, the elderly, higher education and campus ministries, new church development.

There are serious human needs in the world and the Methodist Church through its local and international organization is actively involved in addressing them.

Key items in the business of the church were voting for the 2011 budget (reduced 2% from 2010), appointments of ministers for all the churches, and hearing multiple task force reports on(1) the viability of the Simpsonwood Retreat Center, (2) church organization issues and (3) camp and retreat ministries.

There were more youth and young adults involved than in most Conferences and Blair Zant will chair the Conference Young Adult Task Force.

Ask those who attended from SSUMC for details about areas that interest you.



Attention All Vacation Bible School Volunteers!!!

There will be a training session in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 18, immediately after the morning worship service. Lunch will be served. Please plan to stay and help decorate all our rooms and the stage after lunch and the training session. You'll be receiving all your materials at this time. Thank you so very much for your willingness to serve! We'll be blasting off really soon now!!!

GIFTS OF LOVE

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

Donations to the Pipe Organ or Feed & Seed* Fund with no honoree designated:

Clara Johnson Mr & Mrs Scott McCord*
Mr & Mrs Don Potter* Claude Paquin*

Honoring the Memory of Carolyn Gregory with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Mr & Mrs Don Cook

Honoring the Memory of Boyd Cotton Hobbs with a donation to the Memorial, Feed & Seed* or Memorial Gardens** Fund:

Mr & Mrs Don Cook Mr & Mrs Michael Franklin Mrs Susan Isom

Mr & Mrs John Veasey Mr & Mrs James Wesley, Jr.

Mr & Mrs Hank Leland Mrs Mildred Smith

Mr & Mrs William Plott Mr & Mrs K.B. Hood

Mr & Mrs Joseph Pearson Mr & Mrs Roy Trueblood

Mr & Mrs Jim Owens Mrs Owen Pickett

Mr & Mrs P. W. Denton Mr & Mrs Jack Caldwell*

Mr & Mrs Will Kinard** Mr & Mrs Lewis Manderson, Jr.

Mr & Mrs J. Carlton Smith

Honoring the Memory of Cleo Carr (Glennie Hamrick's sister) with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Mr & Mrs Fearn LaBan Monday Banking Committee

Mr & Mrs Joel Schoenblum

Honoring Dr. Ed Tomlinson with a donation to the Aldersgate Fund:

Mr Maurice Richardson

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

Mr & Mrs J. Carlton Smith

Honoring the Memory of Fran Parr with a donation to the Memorial Fund:

Mr & Mrs J. Carlton Smith

This n' That.....

I would like to thank all of you for the cards, calls, food and caring during my husband's recent illness and passing. It was such an encouragement to me and our family to know that we had such a special and loving church family. You will be remembered always. Linda Hobbs & Family

From Glennie Hambrick:

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards and memorial gifts for my sister. Glennie H.

From Jackie and Roy Trueblood:

Though it's been years since we moved from North Atlanta, we still have many fond memories of our fellowship there. SSUMC will always hold a special part in our hearts. We send our love to all who touched our lives through good times and bad. In His Love, Jackie and Roy