



A Monthly News Publication of Red Oak United Methodist Church | www.redoakumcstockbridge.org

"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" – Mark 16:15

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Pastor Fert Richardson

The last two months were very busy times for Red Oak. We celebrated the 143rd Church Anniversary which went well with the prayer time, charge conference, revival and picnic. We were blessed doing the Anniversary celebrations as a Congregation and community. Relationships were initiated and renewed doing the fellowship time at the picnic.

The fall festival brought a blessing to the church that most of the membership missed. The participation in the festival outnumbered our past festivals and other community events. The most rewarding blessing for me was the diverse participation. The

A Word from the Pastor

A Season of Preparation

participation represented the community in terms of all races, nationalities and religions. The Church that Christ calls us to be was illustrated at the Festival. The festival gave us a glimpse of what Red Oak can be in terms of a place for all people. Christ continues to allow us to model the church at different times, now our job is to be the church at all times. I pray we who witnessed the presence of Christ among us will strive more to be the church for all of God's creation. Those who did not witness the festival talk to those who were present to hear their testimony.

Peter discovered in Acts 10 that Christ has plans for all people to be the Church not just a chosen people called Jews. Let's pray we can

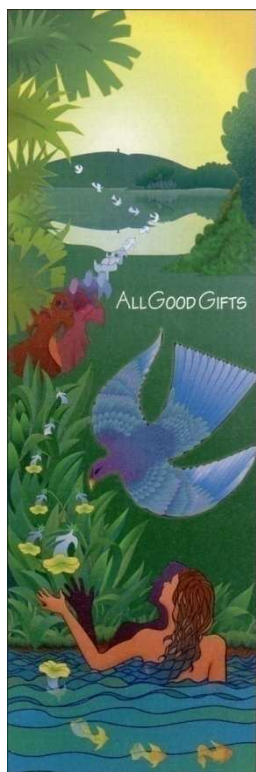
discover the same richness through inclusion of all God's creation.

This Advent season let us remember to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah in our lives. Self inventory is a great way to begin our preparation. An inventory can help us to realize we have to repent for the forgiveness of our sins. John in this week's text (Luke 3:1-6) calls us to repentance. May God bless and sustain you during this season of preparation.

God has blessed us to be blessings to others; let us release the blessing. I am looking forward to everyone's participation in the celebration.

"...prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah..."

Stewardship Corner



Prescription for Spiritual Maturity

Many people, especially people with significant financial means, have had difficulty understanding Jesus' statement to a rich man who came to him and asked how he could be spiritually perfect. "Go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, then come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21), Jesus told him.

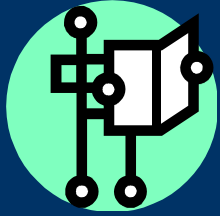
Part of our interpretation difficulty comes from trying to make Jesus' statement into a generalization for all Christians instead of a prescription for a particular person who was trying to climb the endless mountain toward the peak of spiritual maturity. Jesus knew that the thing that kept this big man little in his soul was the diversion of his concentration toward the little god of his own wealth. Thus, Jesus' radical suggestion that he tear himself away from that little god and join his traveling band of disciples. That commitment would lead this man to a life of wholeness and fullness and real wealth.

The great man went away sorrowful, not simply because he had found the price of discipleship too steep, but because he had learned something about himself that he would have preferred not to know. The wealth that he had been fortunate enough to lay his hands on had now laid its hands on him in such a way that he could not get loose from it without giving it all away. And it had such

control of him that he could not bear the thought of that.

What is Christian stewardship all about? A lot of things, because different people find themselves in idolatry to different kinds of small gods. But the discipleship of giving fits every Christian. It protects us from coming under the management of the little gods of money and materialism that continuously try to take charge of us and thus prevent the only true God from giving us that life which is life indeed. Stewardship is not just a matter of supporting the church or of helping the needy or of spreading God's word, as important as all of these are. Stewardship at its core is a matter of spiritual maturity. It is a means of striving for that. It is a means of achieving that. It is a means of sustaining that. No, Jesus does not ask every one of us to give away every dollar so that we can grow spiritually. His advice to that rich man was particular, not general. But Jesus does ask every one of us to set aside our preoccupation with building the stack of "stuff" that money can buy and come, follow him. We do that when we make financial sacrifices to His causes a central part of our life priority system.

Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world.

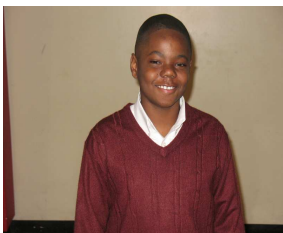


Youth Report



Red Oak Children who made the
A Honor Roll *(left)*

Red Oak Children who made the
A-B Honor Roll *(right)*



Middle-Linebacker **Myles Clark**

By Dane Clark

Myles Clark

The Cowboys of Clayton County claimed the United Youth Football League Championship. The undefeated Cowboys scored 306 points this season while allowing opponents only 43 points. This is the first year Clayton County, established a D-1 Squad. D-1 Football, is complemented with the elite players in the Atlanta Metro Area. Myles Clark

plays Middle Linebacker, was the defense captain and the anchor, of the number one rated defense.

Myles is an honor student at Dutchtown Middle School, where he boasts a 3.8 GPA. He aspires to attend The University of Florida and become a Civil Engineer.

Great Job Myles!

Monthly Bible Quiz

The correct answers will be provided at Bible Study on the 4th Wednesday of the month

December 2009

1. According to John 1:18, who has seen God?
 - a. The nation of Israel
 - b. The disciples
 - c. The Pharisees
 - d. No one
2. Simon Peter was given this name by Christ:
 - a. Philip
 - b. Andronicus
 - c. Cephas
 - d. Belshazzar
3. Jesus told Nicodemus that one would not see the kingdom of God, unless one:
 - a. Gave their belongings to the poor
 - b. Prayed without ceasing
 - c. Was born again
 - d. Followed the law
4. Jesus was tired and sat by a well, he then asked a woman for a drink. Why was this strange?
 - a. She was a harlot
 - b. She was a Samaritan
 - c. He didn't get it himself
 - d. He already had a drink
5. What pool did the blind man have to wash himself in to be healed?
 - a. The pool of Rehoboam
 - b. The pool of Bethesda
 - c. Hezekiah's aqueduct
 - d. The pool of Siloam
6. Jesus says in John that he is the true vine, and God is the:
 - a. Gardener
 - b. Grapes
 - c. Branch
 - d. Soil
7. Jesus says in John that he is the vine, and his disciples are the:
 - a. Husbandman
 - b. Grapes
 - c. Branches
 - d. Soil
8. According to Jesus, greater love has no one than this:
 - a. Giving freely to the poor
 - b. Forgiving his adversary any wrong
 - c. Laying down his life for his friend
 - d. Seeking the kingdom of God
9. Jesus prayed that his disciples might be one in what way?
 - a. In the same way as the trees and the forest
 - b. In the same way as the candles and the wax
 - c. In the same way as a tree and its roots
 - d. In the same way as Jesus and God are one
10. When Jesus was taken to be judged and crucified, how many disciples followed him?
 - a. 0
 - b. 2
 - c. 6
 - d. 11

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Guidelines for the Bible Quiz

- Completed quiz must be submitted in the box located next to the church office in the FLC before 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday before the start of Bible Study.
- All Leaders are excluded from any incentives; but, are welcome and encouraged to participate in taking the quiz.
- Only one family may qualify for an incentive every 60 days
- Those who have correctly answered all questions correctly will be announced during "Sharing" (before the start of Bible Study) and will be featured in the following monthly newsletter "The Epistle"

Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Proverbs 4:5 (NIV)

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.redoakumcstockbridge.org



Mark The Dates!

Red Oak Upward Basketball

Servants are still needed for our basketball and Cheerleading program.

December 24th at 7:00 pm

* Candlelight Service

Celebrate coming of our Lord and Savior

December 31st at 10:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service

Ring in 2010 with us

Weekly Service Schedule

Sunday

Worship Service ... 8:00 am
Breakfast9:30 am
Sunday School9:45 am
Worship Service...11:00 am
Open Gym 6:30 pm

Monday

Intercessory
Prayer 5:00 am

Tuesday

Open Gym 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Family Dinner Fellowship /
Bible Study 6:30 pm

Thursday

Noon Day Bible
Study 12:00 pm

Upcoming Lectionary Studies

December 20, 2009

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2009

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2009

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 27, 2009

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Communications Ministry

Happy Birthday Blessings!



<i>Wesley Slaughter</i>	<i>December 05</i>
<i>Sandra Anderson</i>	<i>December 06</i>
<i>Geoffrey Nicholas</i>	<i>December 10</i>
<i>Jazmyne Seals</i>	<i>December 10</i>
<i>Jeraldine Cale</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Michelle Simmons</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Carla Cheeks</i>	<i>December 12</i>
<i>Carrie Wright</i>	<i>December 12</i>
<i>Tracey Byars</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Lola Banks</i>	<i>December 14</i>
<i>Deonte Williams</i>	<i>December 15</i>
<i>Early Merritt</i>	<i>December 18</i>
<i>Jeraldine Teague</i>	<i>December 19</i>
<i>Aaliyah Lowe</i>	<i>December 19</i>
<i>Aqueelah Taylor</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>Steaven Misher</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>Claudia Nelson</i>	<i>December 25</i>
<i>Jordan Dinkins</i>	<i>December 29</i>
<i>Paula Brumfield</i>	<i>December 29</i>
<i>Demontre Shavers</i>	<i>December 31</i>
<i>Larissa Carson</i>	<i>December 31</i>

Community News

Looking for a job? The Census Bureau is in the process of hiring for 2010. Go to www.2010censusjobs.gov or call 1-866-861-2010. There are temporary or part-time positions. These are good paying jobs.

March 5th - 6th is the Dancing for Him Worship Conference. The ministry is a Spirit filled, biblical based organization whose primary purpose is to minister to the body of Christ through creative expression of worship, prophesy, and dance.

Would you like to submit an Article or Announcement to 'The Epistle'?

If so, please contact us or send an e-mail to our staff at: communications@redoakumcstockbridge.org, no later than the **4th Sunday of each month**, 400 words or less. No personal phone numbers are allowed. Include e-mail information or church phone extensions only.

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Thad Anderson

Ashley Kekula