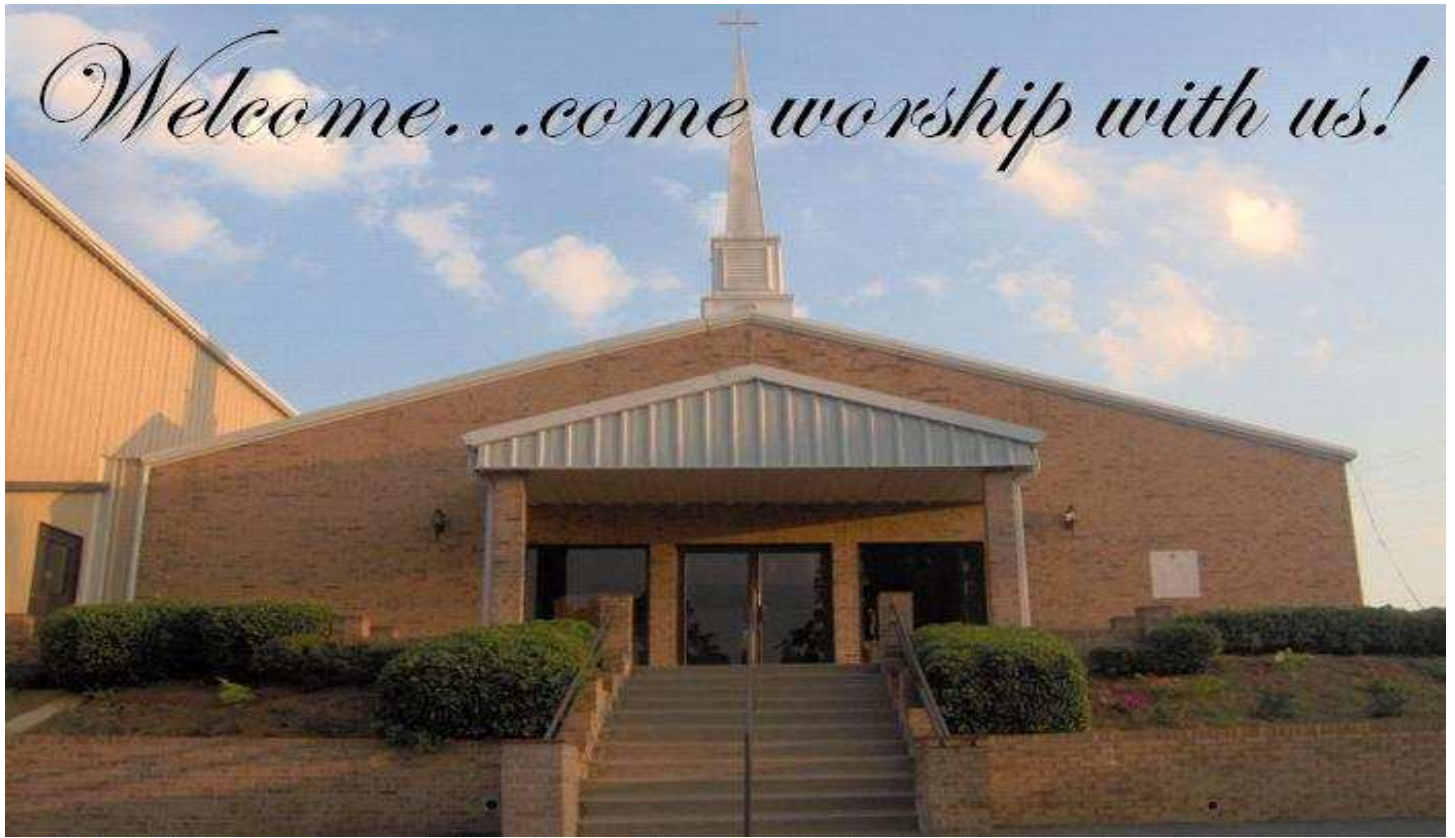


November 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 1

# The Epistle

A Monthly News Publication of Red Oak United Methodist Church | [www.redoakumcstockbridge.org](http://www.redoakumcstockbridge.org)

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



3894 Walt Stephens Rd. ♦ Stockbridge, Georgia ♦ Office: (770) 474-8863 ♦ Fax: (770) 474-3046



## **Sunday Morning Worship:**

Early Worship – 8:00 a.m.  
Breakfast Served – 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

## **Wednesday Night:**

Family Dinner & Fellowship – 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.

*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise, Give thanks to Him, bless His name." - Psalm 100:4*

# Ministry Highlights



**BASKETBALL  
CHEERLEADING**

## A Message on Upward

By Patricia Carreker



*Patricia Carreker  
Upward Basketball League  
Director*

Thank you to all who attended the Upward Basketball/Cheerleading *Support Meeting* on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are so excited about moving forward and making a Joyful Noise in our community as we lift up the ministry of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading at Red Oak UMC.

We have accepted the support of several individuals who have come willingly to give their time and energy. However, we are in need of more volunteers. Again, our success depends largely on pulling together a great support team. Feel free to contact me at [carreker64@gmail.com](mailto:carreker64@gmail.com) for additional information and to sign-up to support our Upward ministry: Prayer teams, Advertising team members, Devotion captains, Basketball coaches, Cheerleading coaches, Referees, Concession stand team, Clock/score keepers and registration team.

### What is Safe Sanctuary?

Safe Sanctuaries is more than guidelines, policies and procedures implemented to create an environment in which children, youth and the adults who work with them have boundaries of safe space. Safe Sanctuaries is an overt expression of making a congregation a safe place where children and youth may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.

As we move forward in faith – we look forward in continuing to receive the abundance of love and support we have received thus far. I encourage you to join us on **Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the **Family Life Center** as we move forward with our **Upward Basketball/Cheerleading marketing and planning meeting**.

**Please note:** In order to minister to our youth, all participants must attend our Safe Sanctuary Class. For your convenience, we have scheduled (2) two classes during the month of December.

#### Safe Sanctuary Classes:

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

#### Referee and Coach Training (Lunch Provided)

Saturday, December 5, 2009

10:30 am – 12 noon

#### Tentative League Schedule:

Practices Starting: Mid January 2010

Games starting: Saturday, February 6, 2010

# Ministry Highlights

## Missions

By Ruth Pinkney

### ***“We Must Go” Conference***

We are excited about all that God is doing. Ruth Pinkney attended the "WE MUST GO" Mission conference at Mt. Pisgah on 10/24/09. It was uplifting worship and teaching. There were worships in many areas including Revitalizing the church for Urban Ministries, Caring Ministries, Reaching beyond our churches, and many more. It was an all day conference and there was just not enough time to attend more than two sessions. The conference was designed to equip both laity and clergy to be more effective in having a positive effect at impacting the community around our churches. I must say, I was proud to say that Red Oak is reaching out beyond our walls. Our pastor, Fert Richardson has such a heart to serve the least and the lost and that has been contagious to us as a congregation. I left that conference even more fired up to do the mission of the church. We still have much to do and I say to all of us "let's meet God where he is all ready working and join HIM". There is a lot going on around Red Oak regards to mission work, please let me know what you may be doing individually and/or as a collective group so that resources can be pulled together to make more effective ministry for the up building of God's kingdom.

### ***Cleaning Bucket Campaign***

I want to thank all those persons who donated items toward the Cleaning Buckets campaign-you were and are blessings. For those of you who submitted items that were too large for the buckets-don't fret! We are able to box up items and get them to the places where they are needed as well in this community. Thank you so very much for your hearts of compassion.

### ***Securus House***

As you know we are approaching November/December where we put together the shoebox projects for teenage mothers and the mother and children of the Securus House. Start collecting your small items to fit into the boxes, small toiletries, small journals, CD, books, hair accessories, etc: tentative date for mass packing of items into the boxes and decorating them would be November 21<sup>st</sup> in FLC. Anyone can donate items and boxes and leave in the bucket next to the Mission table in the FLC or bring them with you on the 21<sup>st</sup> Let's get together as the body of Christ and be a blessing.

### ***Nigeria Missions Trip***

Remember, Katrina Ositelu is still raising money for her mission trip to Nigeria which she leaves on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Let us continue to donate and most importantly pray for her and the mission team.

***Continued on page 4 ...***

# Faith and Family

## What is Advent?

### A Time of Preparation, Anticipation, and Hope



*Many churches make use of [Advent wreaths](#) during this season, with one candle representing each of the four Sundays of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. During Christmas Day, four lit white candles are used.*

Advent, the beginning of the church year, starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is a time of preparation, anticipation, and hope.

The season of Advent began being observed around the fourth century of Christianity. In recent years, Protestant churches have begun to reclaim that part of their history by observing Advent.

Lots of people celebrate Advent by using an Advent wreath. It's often four candles on a circular wreath signifying the four weeks of Advent. A candle in the center is the Christ candle, lit on Christmas Day and Epiphany. Usually the four candles are purple or blue.

If you celebrate Gaudete Sunday on the third week, that candle is pink. (Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.) The Christ candle is white.

Advent's primary message is to wait, listen, get in touch with God, and prepare our lives and hearts for Jesus' coming. For speeded up, stressed out people (that would be most of us), this is an intriguing invitation. Observe Advent -- and get more in touch with God.

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***Missions – Continued from page 3...***

#### ***Red Oak United Methodist Women***

We are blessed to have our First Lady, Lutrician Richardson, continues as the Griffin District President of the United Methodist Woman as well as our other ladies who hold district and local office positions. To God be the Glory! As we prepare to embark on preparations for the upcoming year we continue to invite the woman of Red Oak to participate and what we are doing. The purpose of the United Methodist Woman (and you do not have to be a member of the church to join) is a mission organization ministering and meeting the needs of Woman, youth and children. We have a global ministry that is involved on the local church, district, conference and international levels to meet the needs of the world through missions. We are open to all ages. Our Theme for next year is "Faith, Hope, Love in Action". See anyone involved in our local unit or come join us as we meet the 1st Saturday of every month. Join us as we work with missions on the box project on November 21<sup>st</sup> at Red Oak-all are welcome. This year so far we have sent out flood buckets, raised money toward our local missionary, donated to Nothing but Nets, Haven House and continue to be actively involved in the United Methodist Women Reading program. Our local unit was celebrated at the last District meeting as being a Mission Today Unit-we celebrate what God is doing, join us!

# Stewardship Corner

## Will Our Children Be Stewards?

*Why does it matter?*



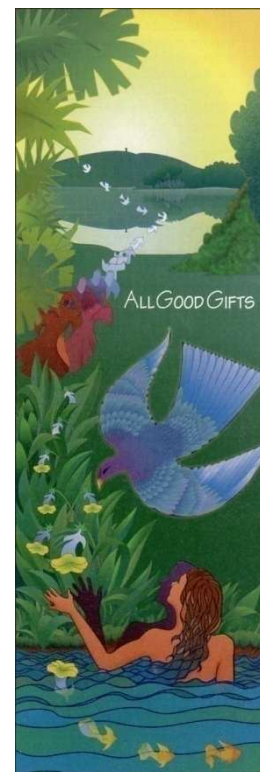
“What are we teaching our children about stewardship?” is becoming a critical question for our church. The fact is that we are teaching them very little. The baby boomers whose parents passed out nickels, dimes, and quarters for childish hands to place in offering places are not passing that instruction along.

Why does it matter? “My parents taught me to tithe” is a common beginning. How many of our children could say that? If we are not careful, we will soon have a generation of gospel consumers who have not been formed to contribute something of their own substance to the proclamation of that gospel to the world.

“You’re Never Too Young (to be a steward)” Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to do the work God has given us to do.

- Our giving is a thankful response to all that God has given us. Our lives and the manner in which we use our resources should reflect our belief that “All things come of Thee, oh God.”
- Part of the work God is calling each of us to do is to support the life and work of our congregation.

God calls us to give of our substance, not a portion of the leftovers. Our gifts to God come first, before we spend on ourselves. purpose, leadership, and giving.



## Want to Highlight a Story Involving our Gifted Youth?

Ashley and the Communications Ministry want to hear from you. Please tell us about achievements, recognitions, projects, programs, or opportunities involving our youth at Red OAK and we will publish the good news! As always, submit your information no later than the 4th Sunday of each month, 400 words or less. You can e-mail us at [communications@redoakumcstockbridge.org](mailto:communications@redoakumcstockbridge.org)



## November is American Diabetes Month

### *Managing Diabetes—It's not easy but it's worth it*

Every 24 hours more than 4,000 adults are diagnosed with diabetes and approximately 200 people die from diabetes. Diabetes is a major cause of heart disease and stroke and a leading cause of leg and foot amputations unrelated to injury, kidney failure, and new cases of blindness in adults. However, people with diabetes can lower their risk of complications by following important steps [1] to control the disease:

- Talk to your healthcare provider about how to manage your blood glucose (A1C), blood pressure, and cholesterol.
- Get both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines as soon as they are available. For those with diabetes, it is important to ask for the "shot" version of both vaccines. In addition, talk to your health care provider about a pneumonia (pneumococcal) shot. People with diabetes are more likely to die from pneumonia or influenza than people who do not have diabetes.
- Stay at a healthy weight and engage in moderate physical activity for 2 hours and 30 minutes each week or vigorous physical activity for 1 hour and 15 minutes each week. Be sure to add muscle strengthening activities on 2 or more days each week. Physical activity can help you control your weight, blood glucose, and blood pressure, as well as raise your "good" cholesterol and lower your "bad" cholesterol.

*Source: National Diabetes Education Program. Control Your Diabetes. For Life.*

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***Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure, blindness and amputations, and a major cause of heart disease and stroke. Nearly 24 million Americans have diabetes, and about 6 million of them are unaware of their disease. With obesity on the rise, millions more are at risk of developing diabetes.***

# Monthly Bible Quiz

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

November 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)**

## Red Oak United Methodist Church

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.redoakumcstockbridge.org](http://www.redoakumcstockbridge.org)



## Mark The Dates!

### Safe Sanctuary Classes:

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

### Referee and Coach Training -

### Upward Basketball

(Lunch Provided)

Saturday, December 5, 2009

10:30 am – 12 noon

### November 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

Cofer Grove Baptist Church  
Anniversary @ 3984 Grant Rd.,  
Ellenwood, GA

All are invited

### Weekly Service Schedule

#### Sunday

Worship Service ... 8:00 am

Breakfast .....9:30 am

Sunday School .....9:45 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

#### November 8, 2009

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127 or  
Psalm 42 (UMH 777)

Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

#### November 15, 2009

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10 or  
Psalm 113 (UMH 834)

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;  
Mark 13:1-8

#### November 22, 2009

Christ the King/Reign of Christ  
2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12  
(UMH 849)

John 18:33-37; Revelation 1:4b-8

#### November 26, 2009

Thanksgiving Day (USA)

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126 (UMH 847)

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

#### November 29, 2009

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10  
(UMH 756)

# Communications Ministry

**Happy Birthday Blessings!**



<i>Henry Sellers</i>	<i>November 1</i>
<i>Diane Nunn</i>	<i>November 3</i>
<i>Venescha Bryant</i>	<i>November 3</i>
<i>Lurleen Gourdine</i>	<i>November 5</i>
<i>George Butler</i>	<i>November 8</i>
<i>Alford Arnold, Jr.</i>	<i>November 9</i>
<i>Jazmine Turner</i>	<i>November 14</i>
<i>Walter Williams</i>	<i>November 15</i>
<i>Louis Joseph III</i>	<i>November 15</i>
<i>Deborah Powell</i>	<i>November 15</i>
<i>Maya Anderson</i>	<i>November 16</i>
<i>Janis Edmonson</i>	<i>November 16</i>
<i>Carmen Clemons</i>	<i>November 20</i>
<i>Jessica Matlock</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>Larry Brock</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>G. Beyan Kekula</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>Rowland Cheeks, Sr.</i>	<i>November 24</i>
<i>Leonard Mitchell</i>	<i>November 24</i>
<i>Destinne Merriel</i>	<i>November 26</i>
<i>Linda Hayes</i>	<i>November 30</i>

## Community News

**Shoe Box Project:** Missions and UM Women Ministries are again collecting items for local Christmas projects (shelters, teenage mothers, persons incarcerated). We're asking that you bring personal items for men and women to FLC and place them in the container next to the Missions table. Adults, youth and children are invited to participate in this church wide effort. We are blessed to be a blessing!

**Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup>:** Here are the names of some of the Active Military members from Red Oak:

Aaron Cale  
Jarrett Pinkney  
Larry Donald  
Georgia Beverly  
Lillie Stewart  
Larry Seals (new member)

## **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](mailto: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.

### Communications Ministry Staff:

*Aqueelah Taylor (Coordinator)*  
*Gina Misher*  
*Lillie Butler*  
*Thad Anderson*  
*Ashley Kekula*