

The Orange Branch

Orange United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship



The Members of Orange UMC are its ministers. The staff who assist them in their work are:

- Graham Arp
Youth Director
- Anne Chandler
Administrative Assistant
- Jennifer Smithwick
Children's Director
- Dee Smithwick
Custodian
- Joy Turner
Music Director
- Max Vincent
Pastor



Inside this Issue:

Children	2
Youth	2
Music News	2
Outreach / Missions	3
Stewardship	3
Announcements	4
UMW (insert)	
UMM (insert)	
Calendar (insert)	
Birthdays (insert)	

“Christmas Carols”

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2:13-14)

Christmas begins and ends with singing. As the angel is telling the shepherds in the field about the birth of Jesus, suddenly this heavenly chorus of praise springs forth. After the shepherds go to Bethlehem and see the baby in the manger, they return to their fields “glorifying and praising God” (Luke 2.20). Christmas begins and ends with singing.

The signing we do around Christmas is so unique we even use a special word for it: carol. While the songs we sing together during worship on a weekly basis are known as hymns, we use this special word to denote our Christmas singing. Definitions of carol all include the concept of singing but add that it is singing that is espe-

cially joyous. We can see this joy springing forth in the story of the first Christmas, the angel’s message culminates in joyous praise and the response of the shepherds finishes with joyful praise.

Caroling, this joyous singing of praise will be the center of our time leading up to (Advent) and celebrating Christmas. Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, we will use different carols during our morning worship to tell the story and convey our joyous praise of God. Then on Sunday, December 7th, we will gather at 5 pm for a church meal together. Bring your family and a covered dish, we will provide meat and drinks. At 6:30 pm our children will present their Christmas program in the sanctuary. The following Sunday, December 14th, the Adult Choir will present their Cantata at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Finally, on Christmas Eve we will gather for worship, caroling and

communion at 5 pm and 11 pm.

I hope you will join in this joyous singing. I pray you will take some of this joy with you into our community, our homes, our world, for now is a time when people need a word of comfort and joy. There is so much around us that we fear and causes us to tremble at present. We are not unlike those shepherds that first Christmas night. Luke tells us that when they saw the angel appear, the shepherds were terrified. Then the angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2.10). The shepherds not only heard the angel’s song, they eventually found that joyous praise on their own lips. May it be the same with us. Christmas begins and ends with joyous singing.

Peace, Max

Sundays in December

December 7-2nd Sunday of Advent-Sermon: “The Gift of Preparation”-Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11; Responsive 806; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8

December 14-3rd Sunday of Advent-Sermon: “The Gift of Praise”-Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Responsive 847; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21-4th Sunday of Advent-Sermon: “The Gift of Acceptance”-Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Responsive 199; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 28-1st Sunday after Christmas-Guest Preacher

Orange United Methodist Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-2 pm

Children's Ministry

Jennifer Smithwick, Coordinator
 Phone: 770-735-1083
 E-mail: travnjenny@tds.net



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 7, is the Children's Christmas Program. We will have a covered-dish dinner starting at 5:00 pm followed by the program which will begin at 6:30 pm.



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday morning, December 14, at 9:00 am Santa will be here to have breakfast with us during Sunday School!

Everyone is welcome to come have breakfast with Santa. Please fill out a reservation form that will be in the bulletin beginning Sunday, November 23.

Youth News

Graham Arp, Director
 Phone: 770-894-1979
 E-mail: gram4jesus@yahoo.com



Cookie Grams - On Saturday, December 13, our Junior High will once again be delivering cookie grams. You may purchase these any of the Sundays prior for \$7.00 each. You may purchase one or more for yourself or for some other deserving person. Please try to keep delivery requests within 10 miles of the church. The youth will deliver the cookie grams on Saturday morning and early afternoon. For the youth, this will also include a lock-in on Friday night. We will decorate cookies starting at 7 pm at the youth building at Holbrook Campground the night before we deliver the cookie grams. For information, please go to OrangeYouth.org.

The Appreciation Dinner - Our annual youth appreciation dinner will take place on Saturday,

January 24 at 6 pm. The youth would like to show our appreciation for all that the church does to make our activities possible. We would like to thank all those people who prayed for us, cooked for us on a Sunday night, chaperoned an event, unloaded, worked, and purchased pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch, and everything that you do for us throughout the year. Please let us show our appreciation by serving you dinner. The menu will be posted soon on OrangeYouth.org. The signup sheet will be made available in December.

Camp Woodlands - Dates for Camp Woodlands are July 20-25, 2009. Spots have been reserved for our youth, but space is limited. Camp Woodlands is a wonderful summer camp that our youth have participated in for the past two years. See OrangeYouth.org for details.

Music News

Joy Turner, Music Director
 Phone: 770-889-1278
 E-mail: joychoirdirector@bellsouth.net



December is a very special month for the Music Ministry. Each Sunday the services will be filled with Christmas Carols.

On December 7th, the Children's Choir will sing at the 11:00 am service. Their Christmas Program will be that evening at 6:30 pm following our Christmas Dinner which is at 5:00 pm.

On December 14th and 21st, the Adult Choir will sing at the 11:00 am service. The Christmas Cantata will be the evening of the 14th at 7:00 pm.

Please come to as many performances as possible. It is a wonderful way to worship God through music during this Holiday Season.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Joy Turner

Outreach / Missions

Ed McDonald, Outreach Coordinator
 Phone: 770-720-6089
 E-mail: edmacmo@gmail.com



Alternative Christmas Gifts-If you missed the Alternative Christmas Gifts presentation/displays on November 30, we left a summary display of the various ministries in the Fellowship Hall. You can place your order for SERRV (formerly A Greater Gift) fair trade products at the church office by noon on December 3. Catalogs/order sheets are available in the church office. We have placed any leftover coffee, hot cocoa, and chocolate in the church office conference room for last-minute Christmas gift purchases.

Food Pantries are being overwhelmed with high demand due to an increasingly troubled economy. The Atlanta Community Food Bank reported 40-50% increases alone in November. Similarly in November, Mother's Cupboard had over 40 people in line before we

even opened! We distributed 55 boxes of food, and this was our largest distribution ever. Thank you so much for your money and food donations. Partnering with the Atlanta Community Food Bank has helped us considerably. We now purchase mostly canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, and spaghetti from Dollar General to supplement what is donated and what we receive from the food bank.

Cherokee MUST Ministries Christmas Toy store will be open from December 8 through December 19 and their Secret Santa Store will be open December 22 and 23. For more information regarding donations or volunteer opportunities, please contact Pat Whiting, Holiday Coordinator, at 770-479-5397, ext. 3107.

The MUST Ministries clothing pantry needs the following items:

- Boys, girls, men, women new socks and underwear
- Boys and girls winter coats and jackets
- Men and women coats
- Winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, all ages
- School-age boys and girls jeans and pants
- Blankets
- Towel sets
- Sheets sets
- Large crib sheets and blankets
- Men and women's jeans

Stewardship

Curt Escher, Finance Committee Chairman
 Phone: 770-887-8943
 E-mail: curt@southeasternsecurity.com



The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fish Fry this year.


As is customary, the food was delicious and we thank everyone for their hard work and support in making this one of our most successful fish fry's ever.

We are looking for some additional assistance in counting the offerings on Sundays. If you can volunteer to count the offering one Sunday a month, please contact Pastor Max.

Year-to-Date Summary of Giving (through October)

Beginning Balance	\$ 16,202.75
Total Receipts	189,212.22
Total Spent	204,543.60
Ending Balance	<u>871.37</u>

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Last Revision: 11/24/08	1	2 Choir 7-8:30pm(S/MR) Sr. High SGM 7-8pm (YR) BS-7-9pm(FH) [Crawford]	3 SPRC-7pm(CO) Trustees-7:30pm(MR)	4 GS-6-7pm(FH)[Price] GS-7-9pm(FH)[Burgin]	5	6 GS-9:30-11am(FH) [Guincy] BS-3-9pm(FH) [Abdallah]
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School- 10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth 5-7pm(FH) Christmas Dinner-5pm Children's Choir-Christmas Program-6:30pm	8 Fellowship Hall reserved all day for Meals on Wheels prep. GS-6-7:45pm(SS) [McPherson]	9 Meals on Wheels 8am-2pm(FH) Choir 7-8:30pm(S/MR) Sr. High SGM 7-8pm (YR) BS-7-9pm(FH) [Crawford]	10 Finance Meeting-7pm (CO) Church Council -7:30pm (FH)	11 GS-7-9pm(FH)[Burgin]	12	13 White Family 8am-10pm(FH /CP)
14 3rd Sun of Advent Worship8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth 5-7pm(FH) Adult's Choir—Christmas Cantata-7pm BS-4-5:30pm(SS) [Scott]	15	16 Choir 7-8:30pm(S/MR) Sr. High 7-8pm(YR) Boy Scouts 7-9pm(FH) [Crawford]	17	18 Charles Wesley b. 1707 GS-6-7pm(FH)[Price]	19	20 Reynolds Family Dinner-1-4pm(FH)
21 4th Sun of Advent Worship8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School- 10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth 5-7pm(FH)	22 School Holiday	23 School Holiday Choir 7-8:30pm(S/MR) Sr. High SGM 7-8pm (YR) Boy Scouts 7-9pm(FH) [Crawford]	24 Christmas Eve Ch. Office Closed 1/2 day Worship Service 5pm & 11pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 School Holiday	27
28 1st Sun after Christmas Worship8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School 10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth 5-7pm(FH)	29 School Holiday	30 School Holiday Choir 7-8pm(S/MR) Sr. High SGM 7-8pm (YR) Boy Scouts 7-9pm(FH) [Crawford]	31 New Year's Eve Ch. Office Closed 1/2 day No Senior's Bingo	CALENDAR KEY: S=Sanctuary; FH= Fellowship Hall; SS=Sunday school Rm.; YR= Youth Rm.; BCO=Basement Church Office; CO=Church Office; MR=Music Rm.; SH=Scout Hut; CP=Church Pavilion CG=Church Grounds; CPL=Church Parking Lot; OL= Outside Location ; WA=Wooded Area; LLCO= Lower Level of Church Office; BS=Boy Scouts; GS=Girl Scouts		



Happy December Birthdays!

Victor Puckett	6
Emily Jeffreys	8
Tyler Wright	8
Mary Gibbs	12
Savannah Brooks	15
Christy Roper	15
Kim Wheeling	15
Kayla Walton	17
Laura Walton	17
Tom Rice	23
Sharon Tyner	23
Brandon Sosebee	25
Bobby Bates	26
Ben Turner	27
Georgia Allen	28
Darrell Mitchell	28
Joseph Shelley	30
Bob Murphy	31

Please Note

If your birthday is not listed,
please notify the church office at:
770-886-9662.

United Methodist Women

Jamie Hogue, President
Phone: 770-877-9616
E-mail: jamiebug@gmail.com



Orange UMW is going on a trip to Bethlehem!

Join us on December 8 at 6 pm for a "Back to Bethlehem" evening at Hopewell Baptist Church, 75 Ridge Road, in Canton. We will meet at the church for a caravan to Hopewell Baptist; however, space in the church van will be reserved for those non-nighttime drivers. Please **dress warmly** as the re-created village of Bethlehem is outdoors. There is no admittance fee. Those who visited Bethlehem last year, all gave it high reviews. Hopewell Baptist has done an excellent job in their re-creation of Bethlehem, complete with people in period dress, shops, tax collectors, Roman soldiers, animals and of course at the end, the live nativity scene. It is comparable to a movie set! Please visit their website: www.hopewellbaptist.com for more information and more available dates for your visit. It is a wonderful way to help your family focus on the real meaning of Christmas.

As a reminder, there will be no regular meeting for UMW in December; however, we will resume our meetings in January and all ladies are invited!

United Methodist Men

Bob Koenig, President
Phone: 770-781-6651
E-mail: koenig2681@juno.com



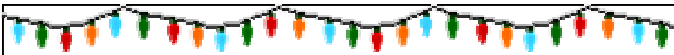
As we approach the Christmas season, please remember those who are less fortunate and in need as 2 Corinthians 8:7-8(NIV) reminds us:

"But just as you excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

Please think of Mother's Cupboard, MUST Ministries, My House and our neighbors.

UMM has had a good year with fine meals and speakers. We have contributed to Mother's Cupboard and UMCOR, cooked for the Earth Day Celebration and the Fish Fry, and have had a good time and great fellowship. I thank you and hope the Holiday Season is a blessing to the entire Orange family.

December Announcements

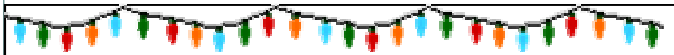


Please Join Us For the
Orange United Methodist Church
Children's Choir Christmas Program



"Christmas Around the World"

December 7 at 6:30 pm
Covered-dish Dinner - 5:00 pm



Please Join Us For the
Orange United Methodist Church
Adult Choir Christmas Cantata



"Tree of Light"

December 14 at 7:00 pm
Refreshments Will Follow

Prayer Request E-mail:
prayer@orangeumc.org

January newsletter deadline
is December 15. E-mail to:
orangeumc@orangeumc.org

Welcome New Member!
Orange United Methodist Church welcomes our newest
member Travis Waldrop. Travis's address is:
8414 Jensen Trail, Gainesville, Georgia 30506

Orange United Methodist Church
220 Orange Church Circle
Canton, GA 30115
(770) 886-9662 - (770) 886-9234 - Fax

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