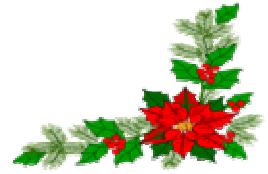


The Orange Branch

Orange United Methodist Church

December 2009



Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri - 9am-2pm

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
- Dee Smithwick
Custodian
- Jennifer Smithwick
Children's Director
- Joy Turner
Music Director
- Max Vincent
Pastor

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January newsletter deadline is
December 15

Email:
orangeumc@orangeumc.org

Making Room

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2.7

I guess I first heard the slogan in a George Beverly Shea song. Almost every time someone sends me an email asking me to do it or a facebook invitation to join the cause, I hear George's voice ringing in my ears: "Don't wish me Merry X-Mas or Happy Holidays. Put Christ back into Christmas, on this blessed holy day." I've passed on the emails to others. I have joined the Facebook cause. Still I think there is a lot more to this notion of putting Christ back into Christmas than slogans and the choice of one or two words we use in greeting.

Rick McKinley, Chris Seay and Greg Houlder are three pastors who share my concern. They have written a book entitled, *Advent Conspiracy*. Their book begins by pointing out that most of the people who were at that first Christmas missed it. Then they go on to say, "Missing out should feel familiar; most of us habitually miss it every year at Christmas. Our story is consumption and consumerism, and we're obsessed with the climax. We worship less. We spend more. We give less. We struggle more." (page 9) Let me point out, that they are not simply talking about Americans in general; they are talking specifically about those of us who claim to be Christians, members of churches.

These pastors offer an alternative to the way we often celebrate Christmas. Their book is an invitation to use the season of Advent to really prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ by: Worshipping Fully, Spending Less, Giving More and Loving All (especially the poor, the marginalized, the sick). They look at one key issue in our world, clean water, that could be solved by a portion of what we in America usually spend on Christmas (estimated at an average of \$450 billion dollars yearly). Go to their website: adventconspiracy.org for more information.






Around the world, an average of 3,900 children die per day because of illnesses that are linked to contaminated or lack of water. It's estimated that around \$10 billion dollars would supply enough wells to provide clean water to the communities most at risk. That is less than a tithe of what we average spending on Christmas in this country alone (it's just over 2% of the 450 billion).

There are plenty of good causes you can contribute to this Christmas that will make a difference in somebody's life. Nothing But Nets can provide mosquito netting to families in Africa for \$10. Living Water (a ministry which digs wells for communities in need of clean water supported by the writers of *Advent Conspiracy*) estimates that \$10 is what it costs them to save the life of a child who needs clean drinking water. Mother's Cupboard, MUST Ministries, Project SERRV, Habitat for Humanity; the list goes on. For the past few years one of my favorite gifts has been a card sent to me from the Methodist Children's Home in Decatur, telling me that someone has made a donation in honor of our family to their ministry.

My challenge to you is to put Christ back into your giving this year as well as into your greeting. Many of us struggle to give at the biblical level of the tithe (ten per cent of our income), what if we did it just for a season, this season most of all. Not even ten percent of our income, what if we tithe ten percent of what we spend this Christmas to go to benevolence or some life-changing ministry?

Then I think we can share most bountifully the true gift of Christ's peace,

Max

<p>Youth News Graham Arp, Director Email: gram4jesus@yahoo.com Phone: 770-894-1979</p>	
<p>On Sunday, December 6, the Youth will meet from 5-6 pm for our regular program. We will then attend the Children’s Christmas program together.</p>	<p>Everything should be completed by 7 pm, our normal ending time. Let’s show the children how much we appreciate their work.</p>
<p>Outreach / Missions Ed McDonald, Outreach Coordinator Email: edmacmo@gmail.com Phone: 770-720-6089</p>	
<p>Advent Devotionals and Offering-Be sure to pickup the advent devotionals and/or the offering cards from the narthex if you would like daily reminders during this Advent season. All advent offerings will be donated to support Kim and Damon Bland, the UMVIM volunteer missionaries working in the Dominican Republic. See their newsletters posted in the narthex or visit their website: www.dominicanrepublicmissions.com</p> <p>Meals on Wheels-Everyone is invited to a Christmas luncheon! It will be held Tuesday, December 8 at noon. Please bring a covered dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship and great food!</p> <p>Mother’s Cupboard-I saw a few of you at the Bluegrass Festival and hope you enjoyed your day. We had a lighter turnout than expected and although we did not raise all that much money, we did appreciate everyone’s support. Your canned goods donations in the narthex and your financial support continue to be greatly appre-</p>	<p>ciated. Several of you have asked what canned goods are most needed. We typically still have to purchase from Dollar General canned meats (stew, chili, salmon, chicken and dumplings, tuna), canned fruits (peaches, pears, pineapple, juices), and peanut butter and jelly.</p> <p>Fair Trade Products Christmas Gifts-Just a couple of days left to place your orders to purchase fair trade products from SERRV and Equal Exchange! Orders are due in the church office by noon on December 2. You can also order via email. Send me an email and I will email you order sheets and links to their sites and online catalog: edmacmo@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ministry Spotlight-Contact Ed McDonald if you have some ministry photos you would like to display as a slide show on a large digital photo frame in the narthex during Sunday mornings.</p>
<p>Music News Joy Turner, Music Director Email: joychoirdirector@bellsouth.net Phone: 770-889-1278</p>	
 <p>The music ministry is buzzing with excitement and busy with preparation for the Christmas Holidays!</p> <p>Throughout the Christmas season, each service will be filled with carols and special music.</p> <p>On December 6, the Kids Choir will perform their Christmas program at 6 pm. The first half of the program will be the Christmas musical “One Starry Night”, performed by the entire Kids Choir. The second half of the program will be a time for the children to do some of their favorite songs as solos, duets, trios and other small groups. This is sure to be a real treat!</p> <p>On the next Sunday, December 13, the Adult Choir will perform their Christmas special “Festival of Lessons and Carols” at 7 pm. This will include scripture readings by different people throughout the congregation</p>	<p>and a wonderful collection of Christmas music performed by the choir. This will truly be an inspirational program with the Christmas story told through scripture and song!</p> <p>Everyone is invited to attend all these special Christmas services. Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior!</p> 

Stewardship

Paula Smith, Chair
 Email: paulajsmith@bellsouth.net
 Phone: 770-889-8964

As we enter this very special time of year, we give thanks to God for His many wonderful gifts and blessings to us and especially for His most precious Gift of all.

As the year draws to a close, we sincerely and lovingly thank you for all of your service, support and giving during this challenging year. We also appreciate the support and assistance you gave to this year's

special projects including the Fellowship Dinners, the Yard Sale, the "13th-Month" Campaign, the Fish Fry and, most recently, the Golf Tournament which provided a fun outing for all who participated and generated over \$600 to be added to the General Fund. A special thanks goes to all those who worked to plan, coordinate and implement the many facets of each of these projects.

The update on year-to-date giving is provided below.

May you and your family have a precious and blessed time together this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Peace,
 Paula

2009 MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE

2009 Budget:	\$238,484.00
Needed Monthly:	19,874.00

January Giving	\$15,384.50	July Giving	\$13,600.06
February Giving	\$16,522.79	August Giving	\$18,096.22
March Giving	\$19,232.00	Sept. Giving	\$12,735.45
April Giving	\$14,314.58	October Giving	\$17,274.25
May Giving	\$20,333.61	November Giving	\$22,863.59
June Giving	\$12,891.88		


*For
 God so
 loved the
 world, that
 He gave His
 only begotten Son*

December Birthdays

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

God bless you on your special day! If your birthday isn't listed and you would like it to be, please call the office at 770-886-9662.

Sundays in December

December 6-Sermon: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Scripture: Luke 1:67-80. Second Sunday of Advent.

December 13-Sermon: "Joy to the World" Scripture: Luke 1:39-45. Third Sunday of Advent.

December 20-Sermon: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" Scripture: Luke 1:46-55.

December 27-Sermon: "The Christmas Scandal" Scripture: John 1:1-14.

United Methodist Women

Jamie Hogue, President
Phone: 770-887-9616
Email: jamiebug@gmail.com



Children's Chairs for Christmas! Solid oak, durable and historic. These little chairs (circa 1950) were a part of the Orange United Methodist Church Christian Education Program. Your donation of \$30.00/chair will go to the fund for a new roof for the church office. Please make check payable to OUMC "roof fund." You may see the chairs in the church office. For more details, call Mary Cissell at 770-886-5153.

Christmas gift idea: Copies of the UMW book, *Living, Laughing, Loving in Old Lathemtown*, are available in the church office for \$20.00. This book is a collection of oral histories and historical photos from senior residents of Lathemtown and Free Home. It is a walk back in time to the days of cotton farming and the mule barns of Lathemtown. This book becomes more valuable over time as some of our precious storytellers have already left us to join our Heavenly Father in Heaven. All proceeds go toward the missions work of Orange United Methodist Women.

We will not meet for the month of December, however, we are planning a trip to the "Walk thru Bethlehem" at Hopewell Baptist Church in Canton, date and time to be announced.

Children's News

Jennifer Smithwick
Phone: 770-735-1083
Email: travnjenny@tds.net

The Children's Christmas program, "One Starry Night", is scheduled for December 6 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. The children will perform their favorite songs as solos, duets, and trios. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Santa will be joining the children for Breakfast on Sunday, December 20, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall! You can find Reservation Forms during December in the church bulletin and in the narthex. Please call the church office at 770-886-9662 for additional information.




Have a Joyous Christmas Everyone!

December 2009

Orange United Methodist Church
 220 Orange Church Circle
 Canton, GA 30115
 Phone: 770-886-9662 Fax: 770-886-9234
 E-mail: orangeumc@orangeumc.org
 Youth Events: orangeyouth.org
 Prayer Request: prayer@orangeumc.org

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Choir Practice-7-8:30 pm (MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	2 SPRC-7pm (CO)	3	4 GS-4-5:15 pm (FH)	5 BS-5-9 pm (FH)
6 2nd Sunday of Advent - Worship 8:45 & 11am(S) - Sunday School-10am - Children's Music-10am(MR) - Adult Readers Rehearsal-noon - Kids Choir Final Rehearsal-3pm - BS-5-6 pm (SS) - Kids Christmas Program-6 pm (S) -	7 MOW—FH reserved-all day BOT-7pm (CO)	8 - MOW Christmas Luncheon-Noon (FH) - Choir Practice-7-8:30pm (MR)	9	10 BS-6-7:30 pm (FH) Adult Choir Rehearsal-(Readers & Choir)-7 pm	11	12 All day reserved (FH)-(White)
13 3rd Sunday of Advent - Worship 8:45 & 11am(S) - Sunday School-10am - Children's Music-10am(MR) - Adult Choir Final Rehearsal-2pm - 12-5pm (FH)-reserved (White) - Adult Christmas Program-7 pm(S)	14 GS-6-8pm (FH)	15 Choir Practice-7-8:30 pm (MR) BS-7-9pm (FH) Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18 GS-4-5:15 pm (FH)	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent Breakfast w/ Santa 9:30 am (FH) Worship 8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth-5-7pm(FH)	21	22 Choir Practice-7-8:30 pm (MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 5 & 11 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 First Sunday after Christmas Worship 8:45 & 11am(S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am(MR) Youth-5-7pm(FH)	28	29 Choir Practice-7-8pm(MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	30 No Senior's Bingo-11:30am (FH)	31		

December Announcements

Special Offering for New Church in North Forsyth

On Sunday, November 15, David Coombs shared with us about the new congregation being started in North Forsyth County. This church is being started without any funds from the annual conference. They are hoping to begin worship services on January 10, 2010. Throughout the season of Advent, you are invited to make a donation to help support this church. Simply mark your gift "new church." After Christmas, we will send a check to the District Office to be shared with the congregation on their first Sunday.

Welcome New Members!

Ashley, Erin, Hannah, Alexis, and Rylee Starr
126 Hawkins Farm Lane
Ball Ground, GA 30107

Alex and Jeanie Dean
1016 Smithwyck Drive
Canton, GA 30115

Dennis and Leanne Derr
235 Paddington Place
Canton, GA 30115

Vince, Danielle and Reese Gradwell
305 Blue Bird Trail
Jasper, GA 30143

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

December 24, 2009

at

5 pm & 11 pm



Christmas Card Exchange

It's that time again...time for special Christmas greetings. For new members not familiar with the long-time tradition at Orange, we offer a Christmas card exchange for members. If you wish to send cards to fellow church members, simply write the recipients name on the envelope, be sure to alphabetize your cards by last name and leave them in a rubber band stack in the special Christmas mailbox in the church foyer.

Beginning on Sunday, December 13 and then again on December 20, your Christmas greeting cards will be "delivered" to church members. Enjoy this fun and joyful greeting and save postage too!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

Visit Us on the Web:
www.orangeumc.org