



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 13, 2005

Volume XXVIII, No. 7

LAWSUIT AGAINST OUR CHURCH IS DISMISSED! THANKS BE TO GOD!

Creede Hinshaw, Senior Pastor

At long last we received the news we have been praying about for the past 3 years. On February 1st our church received word that the Georgia Court of Appeals dismissed the lawsuit against our church. Praise God!

When we began our renovation plans in 2000, we proposed to relocate Macon Outreach at Mulberry to 770 Walnut Street, a 2-story office building we had recently purchased. The church had other plans for the chapel level space. We would build a new kitchen, clothes closet, food pantry and office space on Walnut Street.

The Bibb County Planning and Zoning Commission approved our plans in November 2000. We met with our neighbors to explain our project, but a few of them were unhappy.

On June 7, 2001, these neighbors sued both Planning and Zoning and the Mulberry Street Church. They charged Zoning with improperly following the approval process. They charged the church with creating a nuisance, implying that Macon Outreach at Mulberry was causing or contributing to the problems of vagrancy and dereliction in downtown Macon. They asked the court to overturn the decision of Planning and Zoning and to stop our plans.

For the last three and one half years we have been answering these charges, attempting to do so in a Christ-like spirit. We entered into mediation, hoping to find a solution by modifying our building design. All efforts failed.

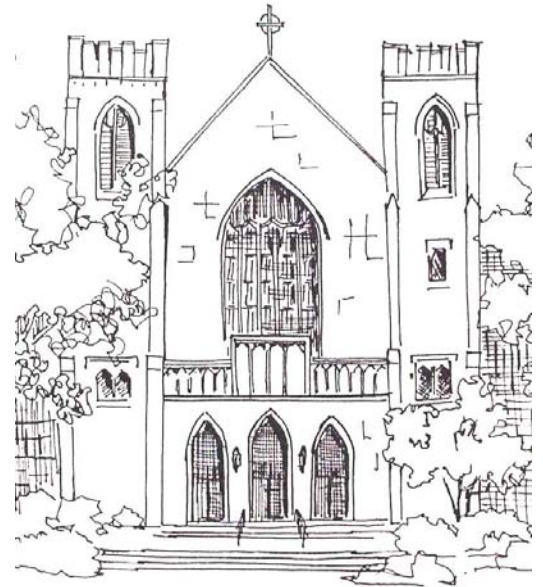
At every step the courts ruled in favor of our congregation. But the three plaintiffs appealed at every opportunity. The case eventually wound up in the Georgia Supreme Court, which finally referred it back to the Georgia Court of Appeals, which then dismissed all charges against the church.

The 3 ½ year delay presents us with some new challenges. We were unable to proceed with fundraising while under the cloud of a lawsuit. We had to revise our original renovation vision, in part due to the lawsuit.

Now we will address the new realities facing us. The church is on the verge of appointing a committee to seek God's will for Macon Outreach in light of this favorable decision. Please begin praying for vision as we proceed.

We rejoice that the lawsuit is settled in our favor, but we do not wish ill for those who sued us. They are still our neighbors, and I want us to reach out to them in a spirit of love and reconciliation. This is the Christian way.

Finally, I am extremely proud of our church leaders who elected to defend our rights to be in mission to the poor in our neighborhood through this lengthy struggle. A special thanks is due church member and attorney Bob Lovett, who defended us faithfully and tirelessly throughout.



Creede

WORSHIP SERVICES

February 13, 2005

Nine O'clock - Chapel
Eleven O'clock - Sanctuary

Creede Hinshaw, preaching

"The Perils of Unrestricted Diet"

Genesis 2: 15-17;
Romans 5: 12-19

Assisting With Worship

Ushers for Nine O'clock

Denny Julius and Greg Williams

Ushers for Eleven O'clock

Jeff Amerson, Terry Bass, Chad Bevill, Christina Bevill, Bruce Bryant, Harold Downs, J.B. Easterlin, Eric Hefner, Bill Jarrard, Jim Lawton, Robert McCormick, Russ Pruitt, Randy Sams, Rader Sellers, Russ Vaughn

Sunday School Greeters – Berg-Brenner Class

Lay Visitor: Terry Bass

Attendance Last Sunday

Nine O'clock Worship	76
Eleven O'clock Worship	284
Total Worship Attendance	360



Susan Middlebrooks, Altar Guild

The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God and in honor of Sam & Barbara Henley by Tim and Melissa Anderson.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Frances and Shellie Inzer by their daughter, Amy Spillers, and granddaughters, Whitney and Hayley.



Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Tuesday, February 15th

12:00 noon - Fellowship Hall

Join us for UMW's annual "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." Lunch will be free, but please bring a love offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Bettye Hall will lead us in a program on prayer, so please make plans to attend! All Mulberry women are invited to attend regardless of whether you belong to a circle within UMW; guests are welcome, too! Nursery available upon prior request. Please call Julia Magda (757-4768) for more details.



Scamper Reunion

Fish Fry

Saturday, February 19th

Kersey Lake

Bring: Chair & Side Dish

RSVP: Please call Hazel Couch (745-4984) or Pam Barron (405-6456) before February 12th to allow time to purchase fish. We will pass the hat to cover the cost of fish & oil.

Historical Room . . .

Mulberry's Altar Guild, organized in January, 1955, is featured in the historical room display window for February with pictures, etc. Please stop by to see.



Get out those sewing needles and thread. We'd like to bring back our Macon Outreach Doll Ministry. Contact Debbie Towson if you'd like to join our "Doll Circle."

Subscribe to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate

Be an informed United Methodist!
For the print edition drop this form and a check (made payable to Mulberry Street UMC) for \$18 in the offering plate

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone

Church

For the e-edition, subscribe online at www.wadvocate.org.

Upcoming Events



→ Palm Sunday
March 20

→ Holy Week
March 21-25

→ Easter Sunday – March 27

→ Older Adult Retreat - Epworth By the Sea
April 4-7

→ Annual Conference
June 5-8 - Macon Centreplex

Gazelles!

All gazelle's and those who would like to become gazelles will meet for a short "lunch and learn" at noon, on Tuesday, February 22nd. We'll have lunch and learn about your homebound partner – all in less than an hour! Please RSVP to the church office, 745-8601, Ruth Jennings, 474-4504 or Carolyn Barber, 745-8063.

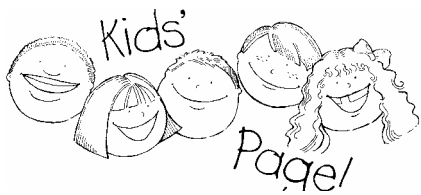
Leftovers

Eating at your favorite restaurant? Ask them if they'd like to donate their "leftovers" to Macon Outreach. They can drop leftovers off or we'll pickup.

Welcome New Members

Mr. Bill Ham
5300 Zebulon Rd. #2119
Macon, GA 31210
476-5587

Mrs. Isabel Wright
5300 Zebulon Rd., #2012
Macon, GA 31210
477-8213



Jessica Tripp
Director of Children & Family Ministries



Confirmation Retreat - Lake Junaluska
February 11-13

Class Sessions at Mulberry

- Session 3 February 20
- Session 4 February 27
- Session 5 March 6 (Macon Outreach)
- Session 6 March 13
- Session 7 March 20
- Session 8 April 3
- Session 9 April 10
- Session 10 April 17
- Session 11 April 24
- Session 12 May 1
- Session 13 May 8

Class Picnic & Rehearsal

Saturday, May 14th - 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation Sunday

May 15th - 11:00 a.m.

Classes will meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.
with the Youth.

**Please Pray for our Confirmands
and their Mentors**

- Jenna Allen - Tip Barfield
- AJ Banks - Randy Sams
- Annie Blanks - Katie Griffiss
- Rosemary Dann - Jackie Harper
- Adam Hendley - Jack Head
- Anna Mae Kersey - Kay Leaphart
- Mary Katherine Kersey - Betsy Abbott
- Lindsay Knott - Lee Triesenberg
- Evan Place - Gordon Johnston
- Clare Powell - Heidi Ream
- Alex Prather - PM Watson
- William Reynolds - Taylor Phillips
- Emily Sparks - Marianne Lokey
- Colby Watson - Carol Head

**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**



Saturday, March 26th
Coleman Hill
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate
Easter with fun and
fellowship. You will enjoy

an Easter egg hunt, pony rides, petting zoo,
inflatable games and lots more. Bring a picnic
lunch and stay for some church family
fellowship. Bring your friends and neighbors
for a wonderful Easter event.

**Youth
Schedule**

Jimmy Towson,
Director of Youth



Senior High Bible Study
Monday Nights - 7:00 p.m.
at The Nazarene Bean

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UMYF - Sundays
6:00-8:00 P.M.

February Theme: "BAD"

February 13 - "Bad Listening"

February 20 - "Bad Thinking"

February 27 - "Bad Idea"

Youth Bible Study
Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m.

BRICK FUND RAISER

Thank you for your incredible support
of the Brick Fund Raiser. The response
has been overwhelming. We have a few
spots left if you are interested in
purchasing a brick in memory or in
honor of someone you love for only
\$5.00.

UMYF
Snack
Supper



February 13
Bob & Carol Lovett

February 20
Chris & Melinda
McLendon

February 27
James & Jodi Palmer

Youth



Sunday, February 20th at UMYF
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite covered dish
and join us in the Upper Room.



February 16 - 5:45 p.m.

Menu

- Baked Chicken
- Wild Rice
- Mixed Vegetables
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls
- Cherry Cobbler
- Tea Coffee

Also available for children:
peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Program

"Macon: Black and White" Part II
Dr. Andrew Manis, Assistant Professor of
History at Macon State University

Macon Outreach
What Do We Need Now?



Food
Pantry
Needs

- green peas
- canned salmon
- canned mackerel
- small canned meat
- small canned fruit
- baby diapers

February Food of the Month:
oatmeal and grits



new underwear and socks

Taizé Worship Service

February 14th
7:00 p.m.

St. Francis Episcopal Church
(432 Forest Hill Drive)

New Leaf on the
E. L. Brooking Tree of Life

In Memory of
Chester Owens

Dedicated Teacher

Given By
Elizabeth Owens
2004

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
 719 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201
 P.O. Box 149, Macon, GA 31202
 Office (478) 745-8601
www.mulberrymethodist.org

Our 11 a.m. service is broadcast live
 over Radio Station AM 940 WMAC

Pastor on Call

Weekend: February 12-13

Creede Hinshaw

Custodian on Duty

Sunday, February 13

Arnold Freeman

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 13

- 9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth attend "Higher Dimensions" in the Children's Assembly Room
- 9:30 a.m. Communion/Prayer Room
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 5:00 p.m. Young Spirit Singers
- 6:00 p.m. Elementary Handbells
- 6:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels Sty/2nd Floor, Children's Assembly Rm
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple II/Conf Rm
- 6:00 p.m. UMYF
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells

Monday, February 14

- 7:00 p.m. Senior High Bible Study

Tuesday, February 15

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Sermon Starter Group
- 8:00 a.m. Executive Committee Mtg/Conf Rm
- 8:30 a.m. Prayers of the People
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. UMW Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle

Wednesday, February 16

- 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Choirs
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. Ainsworth Choir

Thursday, February 17

- 10:00 a.m. Day of Cards & Table Games/Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Trinity Circle

Mulberry Street UMC Staff

M. Creede Hinshaw, Senior Pastor
 Jimmy Towson, Associate Pastor
 Bishop C. W. Hancock, Bishop in Residence
 Dr. William H. Hurdle, Senior Pastor Emeritus
 Bruce Bishop, Church Administrator
 Camille Bishop, Music Director/Organist
 Jessica Tripp, Director of Children's & Family Ministry
 Beth Smith, Church Hostess
 Debbie Towson, Director, Macon Outreach
 Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary
 Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary
 Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian
 Arnold Freeman, Custodian
 John Matthews, Custodian

Bus Fund

We need: \$60,000
 So far we have: \$42,541



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Gifts received through February 2, 2005

Macon Outreach 37¢ Club

In honor of Upper School Faculty of Stratford Academy by Margaret Ledbetter

Macon Outreach

In honor of

*Jerry & Carol Tift Bruce & Cam Bishop Creede & Bonnie Hinshaw Jack & Carol Head
 by Margaret Ledbetter*

In memory of Fred Couch by Mrs. Wilton E. Foster

In memory of Garland C. Rowell by Miss Charlotte M. Barker

Playground Fund

In memory of Emma Richardson by Mr. C. M. Stout

In honor of Mrs. Carolyn Kennedy by

Mrs. Nancy Kennedy-Jones Mrs. Karen Fordham

In memory of Dorothy Grace Martin by

Mr. & Mrs. David Wynn GuideOne Home Office – Friends of Melissa & Hank Martin

In honor of Margaret and Eric Hefner and Family by The Mustard Seed Class

In honor of Grey Brown by The Mustard Seed Class

Memorial Fund

In memory of Alice Donovan by

Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Haynie Mrs. Elsie L. Hambright

In memory of Marie Leverette Gordon by

Mrs. Wynelle B. Flynn Mr. Guy M. Harrington Mrs. Frances Kite Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Wood, Jr.

In memory of Kathryn Lee Brown by

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Donner Mr. & Mrs. Alva S. Phillips Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Wilson

In memory of Charles Richardson by Mr. & Mrs. Alva S. Phillips

In memory of Hollis T. Hendricks by Mr. & Mrs. George E. Youmans

Building Fund

In memory of Emma Richardson by Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Inzer, Jr.

Bus Fund

In memory of Marie Leverette Gordon by

Mrs. Janet K. Collins Mr. & Mrs. John Boyajian Mrs. Marie F. Williams

In memory of Alice Donovan by Mr. & Mrs. Curtis S. Barnes

The Mission Statement of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

We believe that God calls us to worship, prayer, love and fellowship so that we may share God's grace with others.