



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 8, 2009

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

## **“You Are Welcome Here!” (A Tale of Many Houses)**

*Flo and I were driving around Macon last week looking at houses and checking out neighborhoods. There are a lot of houses for sale right now – it’s a buyers market. We are shopping around; we of course want to get one that is right for us.*

*In one particular neighborhood, (Beall’s Hill), we saw a couple of houses that looked interesting. We got out of our car, and began to explore a couple of vacant houses, poking our heads in the windows, inspecting them as best we could from the outside. We noticed a young couple walking down the street with their little girl. They noticed us and waved. They crossed the street, came up and greeted us, introducing themselves by name. I asked a couple of questions about the houses in that neighborhood, and about the neighborhood itself.*

*This young couple, with quiet but very genuine enthusiasm, shared about their history there, their own home, the great people in the neighborhood, and even some of the regular neighborhood activities and community events. They painted a visual image of a caring, supportive community. I found myself engaged in the thought and enthusiastic about the prospect of living in that community, **and I had not yet seen the inside of one single house.** Our conversation was genuine, friendly, and inviting. And we are going back to take a second look; we already know we are welcomed there. And it began when that couple intentionally crossed the street!*

May I suggest a little exercise? In the narrative above, substitute “**churches**” in the place of “**houses**”. And put yourself and our church in the picture. Are you the visitor or the greeter? What does the narrative sound like to you? What do you know about Mulberry? What is your connection, your history, your story? What would you want to hear?

We have been talking in our Town Hall Meetings about sharing our faith, about being an inviting church, about reaching out to others with the love of Christ. What do we say? If the above encounter is a fair model, maybe it is not as difficult as we think.

One of the first of several “Pathways” initiatives your Church Council is taking is to develop a core of greeters who will practice the gift of hospitality – to be engaged with people each Sunday morning as they come to SS and worship. To say hello, open doors, answer questions, help people find their way. People who will “paint a picture” for people about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ in this place. Sometimes that involves words; often it is simply the smile and warmth of a people who know **who** and **whose** they are! In truth, we are all greeters, we are all ministers, we all have a story to tell, a gift to share, and savior to glorify.

We will be calling on a lot of people to be involved in this ministry. There will be “training”. We are going to set up a Welcome Center in the Atrium. We are going to be visible. You will not be filling a job; you will be making a difference.

**There is more to come.** Through our Pathways dialogue, we are also creating strategies for reaching young adults, offering church-wide studies on Christian beliefs and faith-sharing, activating more members in ministry, nurturing inactive members, stronger visitor care, expanding our communication within the church and publicity in the community, and exploring what kind of alternative worship would be meaningful to seekers in our community. It is an exciting time for Mulberry. It is a challenging time. We are all a part of the possibilities. We are moving into a glorious future.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday. I will be preaching on **God’s Grace For Living: Finding Your Space – Knowing Your Time.** The Scripture: Mark 1: 29 – 34. Bring a friend with you. They may be looking for a “house”.

Blessings,

# Sunday Worship

February 8, 2009

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

Grace for Living:  
"Finding Your Space -  
Knowing Your Time"  
Mark 1: 29-34

Rev. Tommy Martin

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**Assisting with Worship**

**Ushers for Nine O'clock**  
Sam Henley & David Ivey

**Ushers for Eleven O'clock**  
Jeff Amerson, Chad Bevill,  
Bruce Bryant, J. B. Easterlin,  
Alan Frank, Eric Hefner,  
Bill Jarrard, James Lawton, Bob  
Lovett, Bob McCormick,  
Wesley Rauls, Rader Sellers,  
Russ Vaughn

**Children's Church**  
Austin & Karen Carter

**Mulberry's Muggers**  
Waverly & Beth Golson  
Alana Folsom

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## Altar Flowers



The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, Lillie Sheppard by Joy and Danny Humphrey.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clay McKemie by Shelby and Gene Cramer and Kristy, Kendall, and John Robert McKemie.

### Attendance Last Sunday

Nine O'clock Worship	61
Eleven O'clock Worship	270
<hr/> Total Worship Attendance	<hr/> 331
Sunday School	280



Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist

## Coming Up in Children's Choirs

Wesley Choir  
Sings in 11:00 Worship Sunday, February 8

Cherub Choir  
Parent Visitation Wednesday, February 11

### 'Elijah' Rehearsals

Sunday, February 8  
6:00-6:45 pm in Wesley Choir Room  
Grades 1-5

### Young Spirit Singers

Rehearsal this Sunday at 4:45  
No rehearsal next week.  
Have fun on your retreat at Epworth!

### Ainsworth Choir

No rehearsal Wednesday, February 11.  
We'll leave for Athens to hear the  
St. Olaf Choir at 4:30.

### Music for Threes

We will not meet Wednesday, February 11  
or Wednesday, February 25



Cameron Bishop,  
Director of Youth Ministry

[www.mulberryyouth.com](http://www.mulberryyouth.com)

## Winter Retreat

15 students will be leaving this Friday, Feb. 13 at 12:00 for a weekend retreat at Epworth by the Sea. Please be in prayer for these students as they seek to grow closer to God.

## Confirmation

The Confirmation class will be attending a weekend retreat at Epworth by the Sea with students from across the South GA Conference Feb. 27 - March 1.

Sign-up for our weekly email newsletter on our website  
[mulberryyouth.com](http://mulberryyouth.com)



February 25, 2009  
6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary  
Rev. Cile Mitchell, preaching

**Mark your  
calendar!**

**UMW Sunday  
March 15, 2009**  
*Flo Martin will be the  
speaker at the 9:00  
and 11:00 a.m.  
services.*

## **Wednesday Night Supper**

***This Wednesday, February 11, 2009***



Menu  
Doris' Breakfast

Mission Jars  
Gideons

## Circle Meeting

The Paula Motes Circle will meet Wednesday, February 11, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Please bring items for Macon Outreach and the Children's Home.

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## Young at Heart Luncheon

Thursday, February 12, 2009

12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall - Cost: \$5

All adults 55 or older are most welcome. You do not have to be a member of Young at Heart to attend.

Program: Rev. Tommy Martin – Motivational Presentation. Call the church office (745-8601) for reservations by Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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## MULBERRY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CALL TO PRAYER

FEBRUARY 16, 2009

“OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE”

NOON LUNCHEON - Fellowship Hall

(\$3.00, NO RESERVATIONS)



*Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

### KIDSPRAISE

Sundays - 9:30-10:00 a.m. - Children's Assembly Room

### S.M.A.K.

Sundays - 5:30-7:30

### Hoops from the Heart

*Come shoot baskets for your Valentine  
and raise money for Macon Outreach!*

On Saturday, Feb 7, from 10 am to 12 noon, we will host a basketball shoot-a-thon in the Mulberry parking lot. There will be a \$10 registration fee, plus you can get a pledge sheet from church so your friends and family can contribute as well. Wear a red shirt, bring your ball, and get ready to win prizes--we have Mercer basketball tickets, balls and much more. Kids of ALL ages are invited.

### Saturday, March 14

### Day Trip to Indian Springs

Mulberry kids are invited to take the church bus to Indian Springs for an afternoon of games, fun and a cookout. We'll join the Scampers and have a blast, so mark your calendars now. More details soon.

### Vacation Bible School

June 14-19



**Vera Kelly McElrath**  
January 28, 2009



To Baldwin and Joyce Martin upon the death of Baldwin's sister, Rose Martin Manning Ayres of New Smyrna Beach, FL on January 13, 2009.



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of personal introspection and fasting leading us to Holy Week. Tradition has Lent as a time of abstinence from meat, fat, eggs and dairy product. Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday (in French, Mardi Gras) because it is said on that day a thrifty homemaker uses up the fats that have been kept for cooking, but that will not be used during Lent. Since pancakes are a standard way of using up the fats in the house, the day is also called Pancake Tuesday!

Join us on **Tuesday, February 24 at 5:45 p.m.** for our celebration of Fat Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. Let's help Doris use up a lot of fats and enjoy a pancake supper.

Then come back for our weekly **Church Family Supper on Wednesday, February 25th**, as we begin our journey into the season of Lent. Our dinner will be a contrast from the evening before as we enjoy a simple dinner of soup and cornbread. Afterwards we will have our service of the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary.

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## Older Adult Retreat

“Joy for Today – Hope for Tomorrow”

April 13-15, 2009

Epworth By The Sea

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Older Adult Retreat. This year's retreat promises to be a wonderful experience in fellowship, worship, and outreach and will explore the mystery of God's design to use us at every stage in life, including right now. The retreat speaker will be the Bishop Marion Edwards and the Bible study leader will be Dr. Evelyn Laycock. Registration forms are available in the church office. For more information please contact Adam Ricker at the Connectional Ministries Office (888) 266-7642 or by email at [adam@sgaumc.com](mailto:adam@sgaumc.com).

**Mulberry Street United Methodist Church**  
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MACON, GA

**NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

### **Pastor on Call**

February 6-8  
Cile Mitchell

Home: 745-9657 Cell: 986-7107

E-mail: [cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org)

## ***THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY***

### **Sunday, February 8**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel  
9:30 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. Children's Ministry Council/Children's Assembly Rm  
4:00 p.m. Faith Questions Bible Study/Rosser II  
4:45 p.m. Young Spirit Singers  
5:00 p.m. Way of Discernment Study/Forum  
5:30 p.m. S.M.A.K.  
5:30 p.m. Esther Study/Parlor  
6:00 p.m. UMYF  
6:00 p.m. Musical Rehearsal (Grades 1-5)

### **Monday, February 9**

10:00 a.m. Women's Club Mtg/Parlor

### **Tuesday, February 10**

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Conf Rm  
7:00 a.m. Men's Sermon Starter Group/Panera Bread  
8:30 a.m. Prayer Group/Conf Rm  
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting/Conf Rm  
12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Club Luncheon/Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, February 11**

4:00 p.m. Paula Motes Circle Mtg/Conf Rm  
4:30 Ainsworth Choir Athens Trip  
5:00 p.m. Children's Handbells  
5:30 p.m. Brad Brady Mtg/Conf Rm  
5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper  
6:30 p.m. Adults/Sr. High Handbells  
6:30 p.m. Children's Choirs  
(music for threes will not meet)

### **Thursday, February 12**

9:30 a.m. Psalms Bible Study/Forum Class  
10:00 a.m. Chapel for Daycare/Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Young at Heart/Fellowship Hall  
12:00 p.m. Cherry Blossom Luncheon/Parlor  
5:30 p.m. Devotional Group/Panera Bread

### **Friday-Sunday, February 13-15**

Youth Winter Retreat/Epworth

### **Sunday, February 15**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm  
11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Faith Questions Bible Study/Rosser II  
4:45 p.m. Young Spirit Singers  
5:00 p.m. Way of Discernment Study/Forum  
5:30 p.m. S.M.A.K.  
5:30 p.m. Esther Study/Parlor  
6:00 p.m. UMYF  
6:00 p.m. Musical Rehearsal (Grades 1-5)

## **Macon Outreach Thanks YOU!**

The love of Christ and an abundance of groceries are shared each week with families in need throughout the middle GA area. We are especially grateful to the Sunday School classes who have pledged their weekly support of the Food Pantry in 2009:

- \* Daughtery Class (flour)
- \* Joy Cass (cornmeal)
- \* Mustard Seed Class (powdered milk & rice)
- \* Rosser II Class (pork & beans)
- \* Solomon Class (dried black-eyed peas)

Thank you for your continued prayers and provisions!

## ***MULBERRY STREET UMC STAFF***

*Tommy Martin, Senior Pastor*

*Cile Mitchell, 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*  
*Cameron Bishop, Director of Youth Ministries*  
*Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries*  
*Erin Roberson, Director, Children's Center*

*Betsy Abbott, Director of Hospitality*  
*Johnny Hathcock, Director, Macon Outreach*  
*Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary*  
*Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary*  
*Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian*  
*Clifton Carswell & Arnold Freeman, Custodians*