

Food for thought from J

March 20, 2022

For the last several weeks I've been talking from the pulpit and writing in the newsletter about our commitment to offering quality ministries and programming for children and young people. I have been pleased to report that, even as we faced the restrictions around COVID and searched to find a new Children's director during 2021, a dedicated team of volunteers was putting in the time and effort every week to ensure that the children God placed in our path as a church received the attention and faithful teaching of God's word they needed and deserved. Earlier this year, I was excited to welcome Meghan Gross as our new Children's director. Since joining our staff, she has been hard at work developing curriculum, future programming, and making sure our volunteers have the materials and support necessary to meet our Sunday morning children's ministry needs. Over the next few weeks, you will begin to notice more announcements and changes involving children's ministries.

One of the announcements I am most excited about is our upcoming confirmation class that will be held during the Sunday school hour each week, beginning March 20th, and will conclude with a Service of Confirmation on Easter Sunday during our 11:00 worship. While Confirmation is not a sacrament of the United Methodist Church, it is an important step in the life of the confirmand and our church. For those being confirmed, this is their opportunity to respond publicly to God's grace in their lives, profess their faith in Christ, and promise to live as his disciples. For the church, confirmation reminds us as members of the body of Christ of our own baptisms and of our obligation to support these new members, and each other, on the journey of sanctification.

As we begin this important ministry at Wynnton next week, I encourage all of us to be in prayer for our confirmands as they prepare to commit to the vows of the covenant of baptism. I also ask that you pray for those leading these classes, that they will be faithful guides and teachers throughout the process. May God bless our church as we strive to be good and faithful servants with our God-given gifts and blessings.

J

A Message from Meghan

The next few weeks will be an exciting time for Wynnton youth as we begin confirmation classes to ensure the participants understand the basic tenets of Christianity prior to publicly confirming their faith in Christ. Ultimately, this time will prepare these young disciples to say, "I'm not going to church because my parents make me. I'm not claiming to follow Christ because my parents do. This is my decision, this is my faith, and I want to make that officially known."

Confirmation is also often the confirmands first step in wrestling with theology. Before I was confirmed, I rarely considered denominational standpoints or doctrines. After confirmation, I developed the practice of checking out churches' and denominations' websites to learn where they stand on Biblical issues and to determine if they align with God's Word on essential doctrines. Confirmation pushed me to begin examining my own theological beliefs and to make decisions in my faith based on those beliefs. During our confirmation classes, the youth will be working through some of these same processes and considering the big concepts of our faith.

I'm excited to see what God is doing in the lives of Wynnton's young people, and I'm honored that God has entrusted me with the job of guiding them through those big questions and concepts. Please be in prayer for these confirmands, and for all of our children and youth, as they come to an understanding of the faith and hopefully come to saving faith in Christ Jesus.

Meghan

The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of Art and Susan Chriss's Wedding Anniversary by their children and grandchildren.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Elizabeth Stephens** for her birthday by Linda & Mike Stephens.

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Betty Woodruff** for her birthday by Susan and Tommy Hudson.

EASTER EGG HUNT, LUNCH, GAMES, AND MORE!

Easter Bash

Saturday, April 9th
12-2 PM

Wynnton UMC
2412 Wynnton Rd, Columbus, GA 31906

EMAIL MGROSS@WYNNTONUMC.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS

EASTER CANDY DONATIONS

Please bring **CANDY-FILLED PLASTIC EGGS** or **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY** (no chocolate please) for the children's egg hunt and place them in the bin in front of the library.

EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering will be divided between three missions. One third of the offering will go to the Annual Conference mission, a third to Wynnton Neighborhood Network and a third to Wynnton Neighborhood Housing. This offering is above and beyond your usual giving.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Plans are being made for our Packing Party this year! In October, we will fill our boxes for children around the world.

If you prefer to fill your own box, that is fine OR you can do both!

Different items will be requested each month to bring to the church. A bag will be in each SS class for these items. There will also be a bin in the hall for items. The goal is to pack 250 boxes this year!

In March, we are collecting toothbrushes (in their package with no toothpaste) and bars of soap. We will continue to collect hair brushes, plain ball caps, hair bands & large combs.

In a message from Samaritan's Purse: Praise God for shoebox gifts that were collected last year. Thank you and all Glory to God!!

Items Collected so far:

- 46 Bars of Soap
- 44 Hair Brushes
- 44 Toothbrushes
- 10 Ball caps

Keep up the good work! Each one bring one of each. Please. Would love to pack 250 boxes!!

EASTER LILIES



The cost of Easter Lilies will be \$15.00 each this year. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 3rd. See the attached form.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

The music of Joseph Martin can be heard from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. He is one of the most authoritative composers of sacred music today. Mr. Martin is the son of a minister and a church pianist. Music and faith have been a focus for him his whole life. As a prolific composer, Martin says that he cannot go a day without composing: "I'm always looking for that next song, the next way of telling the old, old story in a brand-new way." Sunday, the Chancel choir will sing an old story in a new way: Joseph Martin's original setting of *On a Hill Far Away*, based on the old favorite hymn *The Old Rugged Cross*. The minor tonality of this anthem, along with the flowing melodic accompaniment, draws us to a cross on a hill. As we stand before the Cross, the text reminds us that Grace has a price.

"On a Hill Far Away" by Joseph Martin
*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*Refrain:
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.
Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]
To that old rugged cross, I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
where His glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]*

1Peter 2:24

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
so that we might die to sins and live for
righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.*

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

The wife of our former pastor, David Blalock, is undergoing difficult medical treatments. Prayers, cards and letters are appreciated and may be sent to:

Patsy Blalock
5249 Windmill Pl
Evans, GA 30809

Flower Delivery

Neita Denny

Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School meets in the Basement from 9:45-10:45 AM Sunday mornings. Students in 6th through 12th grade are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts, and topical discussions of God's word. Eliza Daffin leads us in March. If you haven't been in a while, now is the perfect time to lean back in! For info or if you're interested in volunteering with the youth, contact Rob Harbison, r.harbison@mchsi.com, (706) 289-3082.

Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for K-5th Grade is on the 2nd floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday school is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

WYNNTON UMC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2022 College Scholarship. The scholarship is for members of Wynnton pursuing any field of study at an accredited school of higher learning. Applications along with guidelines for the scholarship are now available in the church office. All applications must be received in the church office no later than **May 1, 2022**. For further information, please call the church office at 706-324-2424.

WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY NEEDS

1. School supplies--teachers need glue sticks, pencils, markers, notebook paper
2. Cookie decorating supplies: sprinkles, small candies like M&Ms, or Skittles, small containers of icing, plastic spoons, small paper plates.
3. Bags of individually wrapped candy for the end-of-school-year celebration of positive behavior rewards.

Please deliver to the door of the school or leave in the blue bin at church for Shirley Wright to deliver.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Through Old Testament stories and mission projects, our children have been learning who God is, how He loves us and is always with us, and how we are to love God and love others. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on the second floor of the Grimes building.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of April. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Traditionally, March is Wynnton's month to collect food to fill the pantry at the Network. Grocery bags with a suggested list of items needed have been placed in the church. Among the suggested items are canned meat, vegetables, beans, tomato products, fruit, spaghetti noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and soup. Please take one of the bags and fill it with your donations and then return it to the church. Your continued generosity will fulfill the ministry of the Network to help those in our community who are in need. The tremendous response to "Souper Bowl" Sunday was greatly appreciated, with approximately 400 items donated to the Network. Thank you for your support

WYNNTON KIDS

I am so excited for where God is taking Wynnton's kids. They are working their way through stories in both the Old and New Testament with experiments, object lessons, games, crafts, and snacks to help them dive deeper into the Word of God. I've heard it said that kids don't just want to hear the story. They want to experience it by tasting it, getting their hands into it, and really using all five senses to engage with it. That has been a main focus of this ministry, that as we provide fun activities for them to immerse themselves in the stories, that they would not only grasp important concepts but that they would ultimately love God's Word and want to read it for themselves and develop personal relationships with Christ because of it. We try to create amazing memories for them to recall when they are older, which will help reinforce the stories beyond Sunday morning. This is no easy feat, but it is one worth striving towards!

I've received requests to serve with Wynnton Kids. If the idea of raising up kids to be passionate followers of Christ that inspire others to wholeheartedly pursue Him excites you, send me an email at mgross@wynntonumc.org. I would love to talk with you more about how we can utilize your gifts for God's purposes in these children's lives.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Glenn Killough	Kathy Draughon
Matthew Allen	Dorothy Robinson
Bobby Porch	Kerry Mess
Lillian Cox	Jennefer Spell
Lynn Christenson	Jim Accordino
Beverly Ragsdale	Gwen Bolin
Jean McGlamry	Joyce Hawkins
Aubrey Walker	Margie Spurlin
The Meacham Family	Denise Hill
Jimmy Kent	Patsy Blalock
Daro Miller	

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Rubye Screws
Family of Stella Jambon
Family of Marjorie Croft
Family of Sarah Crawford
Family of Jeanette Bunch
Family of Wanda Jones
Family of Carole Mitchell
Family of Brad Trim
Family of Lenore Ash
Family of Larry Googe
Family of Barbara Stevenson
Family of Charles Ward

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children
9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class - 2nd floor Grimes Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
11:00 a.m. Children's Church - Grimes Building

Monday, March 21

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study – Library

Tuesday, March 22

10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Bldg.

Wednesday, March 23

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Chapel & Book Study - Alpha Bldg.
6:30-7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
7:15-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 24

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

March 20: Matthew 19:1-15, Numbers 9-10, Ecclesiastes 7
March 21: Matthew 19:16-30, Numbers 11-12, Ecclesiastes 8
March 22: Matthew 20:1-16, Numbers 13-14, Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
March 23: Matthew 20:17-34, Numbers 15-16, Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
March 24: Matthew 21:1-27, Numbers 17-18, Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
March 25: Matthew 21:28-46, Numbers 19-20, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
March 26: Matthew 22:1-22, Numbers 21, Song of Solomon 1:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

20	Joan Colquitt, Sawyer Harrison, Chuck McDaniel
21	Linda Jones, Leslie Weierick, Betty Woodruff
22	Jo Byrd
23	Pam Gilstrap
24	Linell Pringle, Sharon White
26	Johnny Daffin, Elizabeth Harbison

OUR STEWARDSHIP

3-13-22

General Fund.....	15,198.75
Confirmation.....	100.00
Endowment.....	45.00
Missions.....	37.00
Other Contributions.....	102.00
Mission trip Tijuana.....	250.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Do We Want to Hear?
Luke 7:1-10
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies March 18-20
Rev. Greg Harrison 478-955-1577

WYNNTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Lilies



NAME OF DONOR: _____

Lilies given:

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 a.m. service on April 17.

Please fill out this form and return to the church office along with your payment of \$15.00 each.

Return No Later Than
Sunday, April 3, 2022
Thank you.
