

The Hill Topper



www.rhumc.com 912-756-2190

Volume 1, Issue 325

Richmond Hill United Methodist Church

Richmond Hill, Georgia

March 9, 2010

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

It is obvious that there are a lot of folks out there who want nothing to do with the church. There is no way to skew the statistics and make them tell us that on any given Sunday morning more people in the community are in worship than elsewhere. While some of this reflects the general sense of apathy so many have toward spiritual things, it is also true that there are some who are as opposed to being in church as some of us are about being in it. How many times have we heard it said, "The place is full of hypocrites!" Or, folks look from afar and witness some of the "holy frays" and decide to stay away.

The problem the non-churched have is not so different from those of us who are the churched. We tend to look at the church through a secular lens which defines it by using the same criteria, language, and images that we use to define any other organization or institution. Too many see it as a bricks and mortar thing, or a small business, or a civic club. We want to define it by using the physical terminology of a secular culture and it results in chaos as surely as chaos prevails when we try to impose square pegs in round holes.

Whatever we might say about the church, it must be affirmed that it is not a physical thing, but a spiritual community. It is a community initiated by the Holy Spirit long centuries ago. Before its birth on Pentecost, it was conceived as a part of the plan of God for humanity. It is a place where the intangibles prevail. Prayer, praise, confession, and submission are words which quickly come to mind. It exists in the world, yet, is more like a parallel universe which is present but unseen by physical eyes, needing the heart of the Spirit in order to really see. It was called forth from the chaos of Pentecost to be a macrocosm of the Kingdom of God on the earth. Such is surely what God is about in the world!

Bill

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

March 14, 2010

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:56 REJOICE

SERMON: "The Guy in the Shadows"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

Rev. Hank Perry

9:00 & 11:00 AM WORSHIP

SERMON: "The Human Story"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

Rev. Bill Strickland

Spiritual Growth Notes: Our journey begins with the decision to choose faith in Christ, and takes us to a place of nurture and then to a place of witness. The witness results in someone else choosing faith which begins the cycle once again.

Lectionary Readings

For This Week

Joshua 5:9-12...Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

“Environmental Engineers”

As a parent of a two year old, I am always anxious about the environment my son is in. We were very cautious about where my son went to day care. We have been known to be less than cordial to people who ring the door bell on Sunday afternoons while Mills is asleep. We think about the music we listen to more, the movies we watch, and even the things we say around Mills because we know he is hearing everything, and what he hears and sees and smells and experiences is forming him in ways we can't begin to imagine.

The same could be said for us as well. We don't really think about how our environment affects us until we go to the doctor and discover our blood pressure is too high due to stress, or until we use language that is out of character for us that just “slips out.” We don't think about how we are formed by our environment, but it does affect us and how we live – both physically as well as spiritually.

During Lent, while we think about how we are living and ways that we might be living a more righteous life, consider the environment you subject yourself to and how it affects your spiritual life. Think about ways you can change it so that your environment has a powerful and positive impact that reduces your stress, gives you a sense of peace, and helps center you on things that would please God. —Hank

A Prodigal Son and Father

We have heard about the story of a prodigal son many times since we were little. Whenever I read the story, I end up crying when the father runs to the son even forgetting to put shoes on, kissing him. As I shared a couple of years ago on a Sunday, I thought that I was the good son who stayed at home with the father all the time. I felt it was very unfair that the bad son got treated like a prince, but the good son was not. However, one day God strongly reminded me that I was the prodigal son. And after I had my two daughters, I have learned even more how the father would feel about the prodigal son. I now understand a little bit more how God sees us.

This week's lectionary reading is the story of the prodigal son and the Father. The chancel choir will praise the Lord with “And the Father will dance” as our anthem on Sunday. It is related to the story, describing our Father's heart when the prodigal son comes back. It is a dance song and our Father dances in indescribable joy to have us in His arms. What a wonderful moment!

Lent has been a special time for us to go nearer to Him, and it will be a wonderful time to think about having a good relationship with our Father who always overflows with joy when He sees us. I pray that we will all be deeply filled with His abundant love in this season especially, and that we will share His love with others.

In Christ,
Yoon

Christian comedian Chonda Pierce is coming to Calvary Baptist in Savannah! April 15 at 7:30 is the date/time of “Did I Say That Out Loud?”. Chonda will keep you laughing the entire show with her clean comedy. Interested in going? Contact Terri Jarrell @ 572-1452 or tjarrell@jarrellcpa.com or Jane Walden @ 727-2962. Tickets are \$15 each if 10 or more are purchased.

News from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is requesting that the funds designated as Family Life Center in our Designated Account be moved to the Property Maintenance category so that these monies can be utilized for some much needed repairs and maintenance to our church property. If you were a contributor to the Family Life Center and do not wish your contribution be moved, please let the church office know **before March 15th**. This motion will be brought up at our next Administration Board meeting on March 8th. But if anyone requests to leave their contribution in the Family Life Center category, that request will be honored. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Finance Committee. Thank you for your attention to this item.

Mary Ann Henderson
Finance Chair

Saturday, March 20, 2010~Please support our youth! We are currently accepting **Yard Sale item donations**. Bring your items to the Curry.

(Donation receipts are in the church office or see Betty.)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

for the car wash and the yard sale!!!

Call Betty Rosenthal 756-4392
or Sharon Cooper 756-6009.

**CAR WASH &
YARD SALE
YOUTH
FUNDRAISER**

On Sunday, March 21 after the 11:00 service we will be holding our annual Easter egg hunt. This event is open to all children from ages 3 yrs. to 5th grade. Please remember that all children under 6 yrs. old must bring a parent. Child care will be provided for younger children that might not want to participate in the activities.

We will be serving lunch and along with egg hunting there will be a craft to do and/or a game to participate in.

Please see the volunteer sign-up sheet as we will need help for this event. Some areas that you might think about helping out in are decorating the Gill/hiding eggs, preparing/serving lunch, supervising the egg hunts, leading a game, helping with the craft and we always need people to help clean-up afterwards.

This year I am asking that you donate pre-filled plastic eggs for us to hide. You can buy them already filled or you can buy the plastic eggs and fill them yourself. Please keep in mind the ages of the children when you are donating your eggs. We request that no chocolate that melts easily be used and also that if the item in the egg could be a choking hazard to our younger children, please inform us so that we do not hide them in their area.

Remember to BRING YOUR EASTER BASKETS and wear clothes that can get dirty. See you there!
~ Blessings, Dawn



The RHUMC Annual Picnic will be at the Wetlands Center on Sunday, April 18th.

If you are interested in leading a **Divorce Small Group/ Support Group**, please contact the church office 756-2190 or rhumc@coastalnow.net

Golf Tournament Fundraiser for the June 2010



Nicaragua Mission Trip

Mission trip Focusing on Children's Vision & Medical Needs in Protection Centers in Leon, Nicaragua

Sterling Links Golf Course

Friday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Shotgun Start 4 Man Best-Ball Scramble

Prizes for: *Closest to Pin*

Long Drive Longest Putt*

(1 round of Golf)

\$45 per Player

\$100 Hole Sponsorship

Please contact Tim Hendricks for more information at 312-1477 or TimDHendricks@gmail.com

Note: Start Time and Fee Changes!!

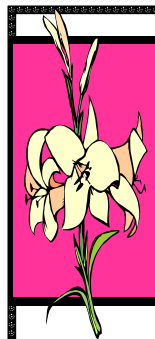


Easter Egg Hunt

Sun. Mar. 21, 2010

12:00 PM until 3:00 PM

Methodist Kids Fellowship (MKF) of the church would like to invite your children to our annual Easter egg hunt and fun day. All children from 3 yrs. to 5th grade are welcome to participate in the activities. Parents must accompany any child under 6 years old. We will have egg hunting, crafts/games also lunch will be provided.



Easter Lilies can now be ordered for Easter Sunday Service on April 4, 2010. Lilies can be "In Honor" or "In Memory" of someone. See bulletin insert on Sunday or contact the church office 756-2190 or rhumc@coastalnow.net. Deadline to order is March 29.

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Menu

Corned Beef/Cabbage
New Potatoes



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Richmond Hill United Methodist Church
PO Box 1480 (9050 Ford Ave)
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

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This Week at RHUMC

Sunday, March 14, 2010

8:56a.m.—8:56 Rejoice!, Fellowship Hall
 9:00a.m.—Early-Morning Worship Service, Sanctuary
 10:00a.m.—Sunday school, SS rooms
 11:00a.m.—Worship Service, Sanctuary
 3:50p.m.—Youth Choir, Sanctuary
 4:30p.m.—Instrumental Ensemble, Sanctuary
 5:00-7:00p.m.—Disciple III, Library
 5:00-7:00p.m.—Disciple I, Watchman’s SS room
 5:30-8:00p.m.—Youth Program

Monday, March 15, 2010

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

9:30-11:30 a.m.—Ladies Bible Study, Curry
 11:00 a.m.—Day School St. Patrick’s Day Parade
 2:00-3:00 p.m.—Circle of Hope, Curry
 6:00-7:00 p.m.—Circle of Berea, Parlor
 7:00-8:00 p.m.—UMM, Gill

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

~ Day School Closed ~ Holiday ~
 12:10-12:50—Lenten Lunch and Worship, Gill
 5:00p.m.— Youth Hand Bell, Curry
 5:00p.m.—Handchimes, Yellow door room
 5:45p.m.—Wed. Night Meal, Gill Fellowship Hall
 6:15-6:45p.m.— Children’s Choir, Sanctuary
 6:30-7:15p.m.— Youth Program, Youth Room
 6:30-7:15p.m.— Children’s Program, Classrooms
 6:30-7:15p.m.—(WOW) Worship on Wednesday, Chapel
 7:15p.m.—Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 18, 2010

11:00 a.m.—Prayer Meeting, Sanctuary
 1:00 p.m.—Soup Kitchen
 5:30 p.m.— Adult Hand Bell, Curry

Friday, March 19, 2010

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Youth Car Wash and Yard Sale Fundraiser

DON'T FORGET!
 Daylight Savings
 Time begins this
 Sun., March 14th



Our Helpers for March 14, 2010

Children’s Moment

11:00Patricia Starling

Children’s Church Leaders

9:00 3 yrs-K.....Leigh-Alyson Zingaro, Jeanne Arlow
 1st-2nd grade..... Kelly Brock, Kathy Formy-Duvall
 11:00 3 yrs-K.....Julie Custer

Attendance & Stewardship for March 7, 2010

Sunday School.....142
 Youth Program27
 WOW (Ash Wednesday)..... 25
 8:56 Rejoice33
 9:00 a.m. Worship 147
 11:00 a.m. Worship203
Sunday Worship Total.....383

Weekly budget needs \$ 12,492.28
 Received 03/07/2010.....\$ 14,313.51
 Year to date contributions.....\$126,003.76
 Year to date budget needs..... \$124,922.80
 Year to date disbursements..... \$ 108,599.87

Your Church Staff

Bill StricklandSenior Pastor
 Hank Perry Associate Pastor
 Yoon Nam..... Music Minister
 Dawn PapeChildren’s Coordinator
 Holland Morgan Organist
 Cyndi Scarboro Admin. Assistant
 Rusty Reynolds Custodian
 Gina StephensonDay School Director