



Reminders....

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion Service
5pm- CPFUMC sanctuary

Christmas Day

Sunday Worship
11am - Hapeville First UMC
3510 Atlanta Ave, Hapeville 30354

COMING UP IN JANUARY...

The beginning of the new year is a great time to look forward. We'll be kicking off 2017 right as we begin our new series on Rethinking Church.

How do we as individuals and as a church live out our call "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"?

Loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself are a great place to start, but what does that actually look like in College Park in 2017?

Join us as we explore what the new year has in store for us!

College Park First United Methodist Church

The Mini-Messenger

Volume XIX, Issue 12

December 2016

CHRISTMAS IS COMING... WATCH OUT!

Our Advent theme this year is "Life, Interrupted." When you think about the Christmas story, it's a powerful reminder of how God can break into our lives at any time in any place. Not just Mary, but Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, maybe even the angels, had their lives interrupted by the unexpected birth of the baby Jesus. It's part of a long tradition of God interrupting us – through the prophets, through Jesus' ministry, through the work of the church, through people we would never see anywhere near the church.

God doesn't wait to be invited in, but calls us when we're busy with other things, when we're set in our ways, when we think we know which way we're headed. This season, I hope you will be on the lookout for the ways that God is interrupting you!

Katy

P.S. Speaking of interruptions, we have experienced some technical interruptions at the church as we transition to our new database, which is why this Messenger is late and "mini". We hope to be back to our regularly-scheduled newsletter soon!



Celebrate Advent & Christmas with College Park First UMC!

December 11 - Christmas Cantata - "A Noel Celebration" - 3rd Sunday of Advent - 11am
Join us during 11am worship as our choir presents the sounds and stories of Christmas.

December 11 - Christmas Cookie Party at the Parsonage! - 3pm

Come celebrate the season with delicious snacks, cookie decorating, Christmas music, and fellowship. Bring cookies to share or just bring yourself!
The parsonage is at 2260 Rugby Ave – street parking is available on Rugby Terrace.

December 18 - "Dream a Little Dream" - 4th Sunday of Advent - 11am

We hear the story of Joseph, whose life was turned upside down by God's interruption.

December 18 - Cocoa and Caroling at MARTA - 12:30pm

The youth group invites you to join them in spreading Christmas cheer as we carol and give out hot cocoa to MARTA riders at the College Park station.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - "Life, Interrupted" - 5pm

As we get ready to welcome the Christ Child, come celebrate with us in a service of carols, candlelight, and communion.

December 25 - Christmas Day Worship at Hapeville UMC - 11am

For Christmas Day, we celebrate a combined worship service with Hapeville United Methodist Church in their sanctuary. Join us for "The Gift that Keeps on Giving!"

January 1 - New Year's Day Worship - "When Did We See You?" - 11am

We ring in the New Year with a combined worship service with Hapeville UMC in our sanctuary at College Park First UMC.

**NEW CHURCH
COUNCIL ELECTED!**

We had a wonderful Charge Conference on November 30th. Rev. Dr. Bernice Kirkland, our District Superintendent, presided at our meeting. Among other business, we officially decided to move to the one-board model of church leadership and elected a new Church Council. Please welcome your new church leadership for 2017!

CHAIR – Meredith Hodges

LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL
CONFERENCE – Garland Watkins

LAY LEADER – West Gary

SPR SUB-GROUP
Kathleen Gulley – Chair
West Gary, Raymond Cornelius

FINANCE SUB-GROUP
Mollie Mayfield – Chair
Leslie Haskins – Financial Secretary
Charlotte Ivey – Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUB-GROUP
Penny Hannah – Chair
Garland Watkins, Bob Van Orden

MINISTRY SUB-GROUP
Alene Lang, Julie Couch,
Karen Tello, Meredith Hodges

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDER

Gifts made to the church up to
December 31st may be counted toward
your 2016 giving and pledge.

The last day the church office will be open
is December 29th until 4:30.



**COLLEGE PARK UMC
IS DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME OUR NEW
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
AND CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES,
ANTAVIUS FRANKLIN!**

My name is Antavius Franklin. I was born and raised in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia. I am currently a first year student at Candler School of Theology, and I am very passionate about youth ministry. My experience as a teenager in youth program impacted who I am today.

I wish to expose youth to not only engaged pedagogies and fun ways of learning about themselves, God, the world and others, but also to service unto others. I look forward to my time here at CPFUMC.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the members who participated in last month's *Blessed to be a Blessing* stewardship campaign. We experienced impressive results, with over \$150,000 in commitments toward our \$220,000 goal.

If you have not yet made known your financial commitment for the church's ministries in 2017, please send an email to the church office (info@cpfirfirstumc.org) so that we might have a thorough accounting for our operating budget.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/03 Heath Willis	12/12 Harris Harper	12/21 Aileen Godfrey
12/04 Emily Campbell	12/12 Tripp Haskins	12/25 James Reeves
12/04 Jonathan Van Orden	12/13 Jason Hodges	12/27 Hugh Austin
12/05 Carolyn Spainhour	12/14 Bob Van Orden	12/27 Todd Whitehurst
12/06 Kimberly Gary	12/14 Kevin Spainhour	12/27 Marcus Lin
12/07 Kathy Gallagher	12/15 Kim Mulkey	12/28 Mark O'Shaughnessy
12/07 Bobbie Longino	12/16 James Hill	12/28 Laura Calloway
12/11 Bart Baker	12/18 Jewell Moore	12/29 Sophie Gallagher
12/11 Mollie Mayfield	12/18 Nadira Powell	12/31 Miriam Pope
12/12 Jan Vogle	12/20 Gail Hill	12/31 William Aduayom

DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

CHURCH MEMBERS:

Julie Askew, Emily Campbell, Tina Donaldson, Meredith Hodges, Dennis Matchett, Mollie Mayfield, Jewell Moore, Tosca Oxford, Dot Powell, Paulette Rouse

SHUT-INS:

Jerry & Juanita Aldredge, Jean Cowden, Zoe Dixon, Skeeter Faulkner, Evelyn Glover, Dot Hale, Harry & Laura Leigh Hicks, Bobbie & Jake Longino, Caroline Rowley

FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Janni Alings, Bonnie Brown, Nellie Crawford, Joseph Cook, Jenny Dubose, Ellen Evans, Charles Fitzgerald, Jo Ann Garrett, Kirby & Debbie Glaze, Jane Hannah, Alan Hudson, Karen and Al Pardo, John Perry, Jerry Robinson, Jerry Wiley Wilkes, Sandra Williams, James Woods, Clay Zupp, Sr.

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING - HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

On January 15th we will collect a special offering to support community advocacy including UM Voluntary Services and at-risk teens.

DECEMBER UPDATE

There is a cheerful holiday feel beginning at The Learning Academy! Children are practicing and staff and building in anticipation over our upcoming Christmas Program! We invite all to our Christmas Program on December 16th at 11am.

Did you know that the Learning Academy offers the follow programs intertwined into our solid curriculum? Spanish, Puppetry Arts, Chapel, Music and gardening all are rooted into our established Creative Curriculum?

Ricci Lewis-Johnson, Director

