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# THE Clairmont

CLAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

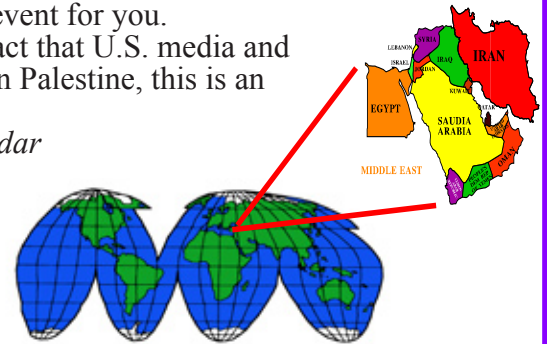
**Wednesday Night, May 6th at 6:30  
Special Event with Dr. Tom Pipkin**

Come out for dinner and some special time with our Senior Pastor as he shares stories and images with us about his recent trip to visit with Christian leaders in Israel/Palestine.

- If you are interested in the current situation in the birthplace of Christianity and the impact on real people in our day and age, this is an important event for you.
- If you are struggling with what to believe about the Israeli – Palestinian conflict, this is an important event for you.
- If you want to know how to pray for fellow Christians who are trying to be faithful to the gospel in the midst of daily hardship, this is an important event for you.
- If you want to discuss the impact that U.S. media and U.S. policy has on Christians in Palestine, this is an important event for you.

*Please circle this date on your calendar and bring others with you. You don't want to miss it!*

Dinner at 5:30pm. Please call the church office with your reservations for dinner at (404)634-3355.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY 13 - 17  
REGISTER THIS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 26**



## Super Sizzlin' Summer Sports Camps

**Boys & Girls Ages 5 - 14 • Grades K - 8th**

**COST:**  
\$130 per session for half days  
\$175 per session for full days

**Clairmont families receive**  
\$10 off half-day sessions  
\$15 off full-day sessions

Register **NOW** on-line at  
[www.clairmontpres.org](http://www.clairmontpres.org)  
- Click on Activities & Recreation  
- Click on Summer Camps

- June 1 - 5
- June 8 - 12
- June 15 - 19
- July 6 - 10
- July 20 - 24
- July 27 - 31

- Jump Rope Dance
- Basketball
- Chess Robotics
- Soccer Video Technology
- Softball Soccer
- Chess Jump Rope
- Robotics Video Technology
- Dance
- Basketball

**For more information on any of the activities, please contact Debbie Palmore at (404) 634-3815 or [debbie.palmore@clairmontpres.org](mailto:debbie.palmore@clairmontpres.org)**

- Dr. Thomas Pipkin - Senior Pastor
- Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert - Associate Pastor
- Rev. Megan Johnson - Associate Pastor
- Rev. Ron Hieber - Parish Associate
- Mike Strain - Director of Music and the Arts
- Tim Lloyd - First Light Worship Leader
- Nate Perry - Director of Youth Ministries
- Christine Callaway - Co-Director of Children's Ministry
- Sarah Guzman - Co-Director of Children's Ministry
- Barbara Powers - Director of Preschool
- Debbie Palmore - Activities Coordinator
- Bill Spinks - Church Administrator
- Danielle Wilson - Administrative Assistant
- Diane Neuman - Financial Secretary
- Linda Massey - Director of Publications
- Agatha Walker - Membership Secretary/Receptionist
- Allison Bryant - Membership Secretary/Receptionist

**8:30am First Light Worship Service**  
*in Milligan Hall.*

**11:00am Worship Service**  
*in the Sanctuary.*

**April 26, 2009**  
"Forever Traveling"  
*Luke 24:13-35*  
Mr. Mike Bodger

**May 3, 2009 (NO FIRST LIGHT)**  
"He Still Has the Whole World in His Hands"  
*Mark 14:17 - 72 (selected verses)*  
Rev. Ron Hieber

**LAST CALL Service at 7:00pm**

**April 26, 2009**  
"Risen"  
*John 24:13-35*  
Todd Reinschmidt

**May 3, 2009**  
"Invited: What Matters"  
*Mark 11:12-25*  
Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert

**FYI**



**The Sunday Bread Visiting Team**  
for Sunday, April 26 is  
Mae & Joy Aycok.  
The bread baker is Amy Nichols.  
*No Bread Delivery on May 3.*

The **Sacrament of Communion** will be celebrated on **Sunday May 3, 2009**, during the 11:00 Worship Services.

The **TODAY Devotional** for May/June is available for you at all entrances of the Sanctuary and Milligan Hall. You are encouraged to use them.

Children's Super Summer Sunday School will begin on Sunday, May 31, 2009.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

*Ephesians 5:19a*

The Clairmonitor is published bi-weekly by Linda Massey, Director of Publications. Information for the Clairmonitor must be submitted by Monday morning prior to the week's publication to [linda.massey@clairmontpres.org](mailto:linda.massey@clairmontpres.org) or (404)634-3355/(404)308-9816.

**CHURCH RETREAT**

Clairmont Presbyterian Churchwide Retreat



May 1- 3  
Toccoa, GA

"Gathered & Scattered"

**NOTICE**

The Churchwide Retreat is the weekend of **May 1- 3, 2009**. There will be only **ONE** worship service that day. Please join us at **11:00am** Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

We at CYM are here to Catch youth, grow in our Relationships, Offer worship, Study the word, and Serve in ministry. The **CROSS** is why we exist!



**Sunday School:** Sunday from 9:45-10:40am  
**TGIF:** Middle school students meet Friday nights from 6:30-8:30pm

**Rope Groups:** Middle School & High School students meet on Wednesday nights from 5:30 (dinner) to 7:30pm in the FLC. This is a small group setting where the youth can discuss issues with peers and adult leaders.

**WoW:** Senior High Youth meet on Sunday nights from 5:00-7:00pm in the FLC.

Contact Nate Perry at [nate.perry@clairmontpres.org](mailto:nate.perry@clairmontpres.org).

**YouTube** Youtube.com/CYMCPC

COMING THIS FALL to Clairmont Presbyterian Church

Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace UNIVERSITY**  
*Watch for details.*

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## ERNIE WINGARD SCHOLARSHIP

The Ernie Wingard Scholarship was established in 1998 and is available to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Will be attending college as an undergraduate
- Is able to demonstrate financial need
- Is a member of Clairmont Presbyterian Church
- Has a good, but not necessarily outstanding, academic record - such as B or B+ average, or that equivalent
- Has strong communication and writing skills and is able to articulate well
- Is active in a variety of ways in school and/or community organizations
- Has a general idea about his/her future plans and is able to express them in a one page essay.

### Application:

1. Submit name, address, telephone number, and date
2. Identify present and future school
3. List activities and organizations
4. Length of Clairmont membership
5. Submit names of character references/recommendations
6. Enclose a copy of most recent school transcript of grades
7. Submit an essay (not to exceed one page) entitled "Why Do I Want an Education?"
8. Enclose a recent photo
9. Submit a subjective explanation of "Why I need financial assistance"

The application should be completed and returned to church office by June 7, 2009, attention Dovie Wingard.

## GEORGIA CALKIN SCHOLARSHIP

The Georgia Calkin Scholarship, established by the Presbyterian Women at Clairmont, is available to members of Clairmont who are entering or attending college or graduate school with the intent of following a Church vocation after graduation.

Additional qualifications to be considered by the Scholarship Committee will include the applicant's scholarship records, other aptitudes and other aspects of the applicant's personality and lifestyle. All information submitted relating to the applicant will be held confidential by the committee.

### APPLICATION

1. Submit a brief summary of what you wish to accomplish in a Church vocation, and how this scholarship would be used. The applicant should sign this summary.
2. Please identify the college or seminary where you have been accepted.
3. Enclose a copy of the transcript of your most recent grades.
4. Submit letters of recommendation from two people who can recommend the applicant for entering a Church vocation. These recommendations should speak to both character and scholarship. Letters from a youth minister, Sunday school teacher, high school or college teacher are preferred. These letters should be mailed or emailed to the Scholarship committee chair (address below).
5. Please list known sources of financial backing.
6. Please indicate if the applicant intends to fund some or all of his or her tuition himself (herself).
7. If the applicant is a dependent student, the parent(s) should submit a letter stating their belief that the applicant meets the Scholarship requirements.

If the applicant is a dependent student, a confidential consultation with the parents may be requested by the minister or committee.

This application should be completed and returned to the Scholarship committee chair by May 31, 2009, unless the applicant has requested an extension due to unusual circumstances.

A personal interview with the applicant may be required, and if so, will be arranged by the Scholarship committee.

Please return the above documents to:



Margaret Watkins  
2279 Crestcliff Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084  
770-496-0954  
mwatkins@watkins-associates.com

## FELLOWSHIP

Dust off the clubs, polish the balls, kick the dirt out of the cleats and get ready for our

**Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, May 22.** If interested,

sign up on the board by the church offices or call George Hood at (770)939-1870 or Linda Massey at (404)634-3355.



### GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Bike ride** for non-professional riders, men & women on the Big Creek trail (no hills) at Northpoint Mall.

Are you interested? Watch for a Saturday in June. We will leave the church at 8:00am. For more information, contact Gene Carr at (404)402-4216 or gcarr@ccim.net.



## DIANE'S INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

You cannot be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you.



# WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

5:30pm Fellowship Dinner • 6:30pm Programming

Please make dinner reservations by marking the appropriate box on the Welcome/Communication Card in the bulletin, or by calling the church office by noon on Tuesday at (404)634-3355.



5:30-6:30pm - Dinner served in Milligan Hall

6:30-7:30pm - Youth Rope Groups

6:30-7:30pm - Children's Activities: Ages 3 years - 5th grade

Music, Choir, and Activities with Barbara Powers and Mary Lou Swann.

6:30-7:30pm - Adult Activities:

May 6 - Travels to Israel and Palestine with Tom Pipkin (see page 1)

Prepare/Enrich with Rev. Bobby and Rev. Megan

Study of Genesis with Ginny Secor - E-102

Clairmont Ringers Rehearsal

7:30-8:15pm - Disciplines for the Inner Life - Contact Gene Carr at (404)402-4216 Offsite

7:45-9:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Please direct questions to Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert at (404)634-3355 or [bobby.lippert@clairmontpres.org](mailto:bobby.lippert@clairmontpres.org).

Dinner Buffet: Adults \$6.00; Children 12 & under \$3.00; Family Max. \$16.

Menu for 4/29: Shrimp Pasta, Broccoli, Garlic toast, Dessert, & Beverages.

Menu for 5/6: Macaroni and Cheese with Ham, Mixed Veggies, Rolls, Dessert, and Beverages.

## SENIOR ADULTS

### Senior Adult Fellowship with

Barry Nave and Jada Carr, Wellness Directors with Presbyterian Homes of Georgia will help us tone up our mind, muscles, and spirit!!

Monday, May 11 at 11:00am in Milligan Hall

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for this fellowship event.

### MIND, MUSCLES, & SPIRIT



Lunch to follow with Richard Slade:

Cranberry and Nut Salad, Meatloaf, Broccoli Spears, Scalloped Potatoes, Peach Cobbler, Dinner Rolls, and Beverages

Please call the church office with your lunch reservation at (404)634-3355.

## FLOWERS

Sundays are filling up fast. Please sign up to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary. The flowers may be in memory or in honor of that special someone. The price is *only* \$50 and the arrangements are then separated on Monday morning into three vases and distributed to the hospitalized members or our special members. Call the church office at (404)634-3355.



## LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP

### APRIL LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP THEME

The Three R's of a Good Environmental Steward

Remember – Reuse – Recycle

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2: 15*

### GREENING OF THE CHURCH

This month the Stewardship Team has had an emphasis on Stewardship of our Natural Resources. The Buildings and Grounds Team also wants to invite your participation in this. How we can be better stewards of how we use our buildings, particularly with regard to our energy demand? We have already begun this with replacement of some lighting with more efficient fluorescent tubes and electronic ballasts in areas where the lights are on for most of each day. This action will reduce the amount of energy used to operate these light fixtures by 35% and will pay back the cost of making the change in less than two years.

If you have other ideas that may help the church conserve energy please send your thoughts to David Tansill, elder and Buildings and Grounds Team Leader. You can leave a note for David in the wooden suggestion urn at the front desk or leave your note on a comment card in Worship. If you want to send your thoughts to David via email send them to [dtansill@comcast](mailto:dtansill@comcast).



## IN HONOR

**In Honor of Carolyn Mounts' 90th birthday:**

- Allison Luton gave to the General Fund.

**In Honor of Mary Waggle:**

- Louise Kite gave to the Azalea Village.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**CLAIRMONT MEMBERS**

- |                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elaine Beavers    | Graham Mothershead<br>and her family |
| Lois Cerine       | Sara Owens                           |
| Rachel Carlton    | Lois Pruitt                          |
| Phyllis Davis     | Betty Pullin                         |
| Lillian Eddings   | Dot Rebhann                          |
| Phil Esty         | Esther Rodriguez                     |
| Bill Fleming      | Joyce Rogers                         |
| Allee Florence    | Judith Sale                          |
| Maggie Hartsfield | Anne Sheesley                        |
| Louise Hood       | Clyde Shepherd                       |
| Deb Hosford       | Kay Turner                           |
| Melba Hull        | Jimmie Waggoner                      |
| Avis King         | Doris Whitener                       |
| Sidney Lines      | John Williams                        |
| Caroline MacNeill |                                      |
| Claire Miller     |                                      |
| Carol Mitchell    |                                      |

**FRIENDS & FAMILY OF MEMBERS**

- Claire Brannen and Peggy Dalton  
*(Ann Wooten's friends)*
- Susan Caston and Mary Champion  
Lucile Cobb *(Betty Rowe's mother)*
- Melissa Evans *(Phyllis Davis' granddaughter)*
- Donna Hart  
*(Daughter of Ed Kilgore's cousin, Anne Massemann)*
- Harry Hastings *(Judith Camp's brother)*
- Mitchell Hunter *(Martha Hunter's father)*
- Dr. O. B. Johnson *(Mae Aycock's brother)*
- Susan King *(Avis King's daughter-in-law)*
- Alex Markert *(Jim & Barbara Dillon's step grandchild)*
- Jim McCoun *(Mary Jo McCoun's son)*
- Carolyn Morton *(Rachel Carlston's friend)*
- Joan Pepper *(Andrea Pepper's mother)*
- Avery Wlodarczyk *(Jim Hardeman's grandson)*

**Please pray for the people on these lists:** Many are facing, or have recently faced, health problems or other challenges. To place a name on the list, please call the church office at (404)634-3355. Names will remain on the list for 6 weeks unless otherwise instructed. *Thank you.*

**“Pager Prayer”** Two of our members are holding pager prayers and are in need of your prayers. When you call their specific number, the pager vibrates and it lets the person know that someone has just prayed for them. Call between 9:00am & 9:00pm.

**For Doris Whitener, dial (404)225-1503.**

**For Joyce Rogers, dial (404)225-1506.**

After the beeps, press “1,” then hang up. Your pager prayer is on the way. If you are interested in a Pager Prayer, please call the church office at (404) 634-3355. *This is another example of your Congregational Care Team at work!*

DIRECTED PRAYER

- Pray for our Nominating Committee; ask that God guide them as they select the nominees for Elder and Deacon.
- Pray for our members and all others who have lost their jobs. Pray that the Lord will guide them and comfort them.
- Pray for our members and others that we know are sick or hurting. Pray that they will feel God's healing hands comforting them.

cut and post



*Happy Birthday*

*If your name has been omitted from the birthday list please contact Agatha or Allison at (404)634-3355.*

**May 1**

- Betty Pratt  
Clyde Shepherd  
Betty Rowe  
William Tansill

**May 4**

- Lisa Mitchell  
Leeanne Melvin

**May 5**

- Byron Finley  
Sophie DelVisco

**May 6**

- Pam Scott

**May 7**

- Curtis Smith  
Wendy Wilson

**May 8**

- Cyndi Todd Lewis

**May 9**

- Bob Bereska  
Daniel Easton

**May 10**

- Janie Kinard  
David Cullison

**May 11**

- George Miranda

**May 12**

- Frank Arnold

## IN SYMPATHY

Our loving Christian sympathy is extended to Jo Hoffman on the death of her sister, Margaret Ohly, on April 15, 2009, in Marietta Georgia.

## AROUND TOWN

On Thursday morning, **April 30** from 8:00 to 9:00am Greater Atlanta Presbytery will hold a breakfast at Trinity Presbyterian Church in celebration of the **500th Anniversary of John Calvin's birth.**

You are invited to join with other Presbyterians to celebrate our heritage and to learn more about the role and mission of our Presbytery. There is no charge for breakfast but reservations are required. We hope that you will be able to attend. Please email Tom Adams at [tomeadams@comcast.net](mailto:tomeadams@comcast.net) to make your reservation.

*Trinity is at the corner of Howell Mill and Moores Mill Road just east of I-75 at the Moores Mill exit.*

Back in January the Stewardship Team focused on stewardship of our bodies as part of the "lifestyle stewardship" thrust. At the time, we came up with the idea of the walking competition in an effort to spur involvement. The effect of putting the 3 Day out there for everyone to see is two fold. Some could be directly involved by joining the team or just joining some of the training walks. The other effect would be, of course, to advertise the need for financial support. At a time when everyone is struggling, the amount each walker has to raise has increased to \$2300. It takes a considerable chunk of time to train. It takes close to that to raise the donations. So here's another opportunity for folks to be involved or support our involvement.

### The 2009 Christian Life Conference

#### *The Father's Love*

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are."*

1 John 3:1

**July 4-7, 2009**, come grow in Kingdom Living with Christian sisters and brothers in the beautiful mountain setting of Montreat Conference Center. Young or old, married or single, the ministry of outstanding speakers and worship leaders at the 2009 Christian Life Conference will bless you. Conference leaders include Dr. Kenneth Bailey (Morning Bible Study), the Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill (Evening Worship), Melicent Huneycutt Vergeer (Early Morning Inspiration), and David Bailey (concert).

Space is limited, so act now. Download your Christian Life brochure, including the conference registration form, at <http://www.montreat.org/current/2009-christian-life>.

Book your housing in Assembly Inn by May 1 to receive this special offer: for all double occupancy rooms, save \$10 per night (or \$5 per person) off normal rates (a savings of \$15 per person for the length of the conference).

*Sponsored by Presbyterians for Renewal.*

## WITH THANKS

Clairmont served approximately seventy guests at the Druid Hills Community Fellowship on Easter. The meal was healthy and tasty. Those participating from Clairmont were Caroline Surez, Martha Hunter, Suzanne McNabb, Doug McNabb, Nathan Thompson, Jack Oltman, Kristi Oltman, Karen Turney, and Beth Kennon.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet next on **Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00pm in the Parlor for a discussion of "Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert.**

Contact Rev. Megan Johnson at (404)634-3355 or [megan.johnson@clairmontpres.org](mailto:megan.johnson@clairmontpres.org) with inquires.

## MISSION



### AZALEA VILLAGE UPDATE

The Azalea Village Ministry Team warmly thanks all the Sunday School classes and small groups who have had such an impact on our Village families. Thank you for showing God's love to them:

**House #1:** Eduardo, Walquiria and Alianny Castillo Delgado (World Relief)

*Discipleship Sunday School Class*

**House #2:** Michael, Elaine, Nathan, John, and Peter Bodger (Columbia Seminary)

*Open Door Sunday School*

**House #3:** Anetris, Ddamonn, D'Vaughn and Dominick Austin (Decatur Cooperative Ministry)

*God Loves Teachers, Too, small group*

**House #4:** currently empty, planned for Columbia Seminary family

**House #5:** Waad, Zainab, Ali, and Fatema Jalal (World Relief)

*Seekers Sunday School*

**House #6:** Alisha Decoteau and Shakim Knight (DCM)

*YMCA Sunday School*

**House #7:** Return to Glory (Stirred-up Ministry), Darrell and Sarah Jones

Any other small groups, Sunday School classes or PW Circles interested in adopting a village family may contact Nancy Miranda at (404) 325-2724 or [nancymiranda@comcast.net](mailto:nancymiranda@comcast.net).

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Byron & Robin Finley on the birth of their son, *Rainier Tanner Finley*, on Saturday, April 4th. Earl & Nancy Finley are the proud grandparents.

## WOMEN OF CLAIRMONT

OUR POTLUCK DINNERS ARE THE BEST!



All women of the church are invited to the annual Presbyterian Women May Gathering, the last meeting until the fall, **May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm in Milligan Hall. The meat entrée and beverages will be provided. Everyone else is asked to bring a vegetable, salad, fruit or dessert contribution.

“You don’t belong to a Circle?” “You’re not involved with Clairmont’s Women’s Ministry?” Don’t let that stop you. Look at this as your personal invitation. Come, enjoy the meal and learn more about the fellowship, mission, and Bible study of the Presbyterian Women.

For April, the Presbyterian Women are collecting and donating to Villa International. Villa International Atlanta is a home-away-from-home for international visitors. Villa provides a friendly setting where guests can have privacy or enjoy the diverse international community. Villa welcomes all guests, including those from throughout our 50 United States, following the Biblical mandate to “show hospitality to strangers.”

Following is a listing of items most needed at this time. Please note that Villa staff are trying to eliminate the use of styrofoam products as they have recently embraced a focus on environmental stewardship. Let’s help them in this effort by eliminating our donations of styrofoam products.

- paper plates - dinner and dessert size
- cold drink cups - paper or plastic, recyclable #1
- hot drink cups - paper only
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- dinner napkins
- kleenex
- photocopy paper - recycled paper, if possible
- post-it notes

There is a box for Villa under the mailboxes. Please put your donations in the box or nearby. Please also label your donation bag so that we are sure that Villa is the recipient.

## ALL GRADUATES



**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**  
(High School, College, Graduate School, Doctorate, Seminary)

Please submit your graduation information – your name, school, degree, special awards, future plans, and a picture to Linda Massey by May 1 via [linda.massey@clairmontpres.org](mailto:linda.massey@clairmontpres.org).

## JOB SEEKERS

**Need work? Want a worker?**

Many of our members are out of work and looking for full time employment. In the meantime, they are available for hire. If you have work around your home (mowing, cleaning, fixing, installing, etc.) and have the resources to pay one of our members to mow, clean, fix, install, etc. please submit the opportunity to Linda Massey for publishing in the Clairmonitor.



If you are unemployed and are looking for some temporary work, please submit your abilities to Linda Massey for publishing in the Clairmonitor. Please include your phone and email and the type of work that you are capable of doing.

*We’ll match you up.*

*Everyone will benefit from this service.*

Send information to [linda.massey@clairmontpres.org](mailto:linda.massey@clairmontpres.org) or call (404)634-3355.

### Opportunities:

**Amy King Howell** and her husband could REALLY use some help. They started a bathroom remodeling project in their home and need someone who can help with drywall, tile installation, and some plumbing. They could also use help with some electrical outlets around the house, as well as yard work. Their house is conveniently located VERY close to the church. Please call Amy at (678)642-1605, who, by the way, is pregnant and due in a few months.

### Employment Seekers:

From May 1-15, members who are seeking jobs are encouraged to use the website [www.crossroadscareer.org](http://www.crossroadscareer.org). This is for a trial period, so we are requesting you to call the church office (404)634-3355 with helpful feedback. *Thank you.*

### Career Networking at Clairmont

You are welcome to attend a Job Networking meeting held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Education Building, Room 102 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. It’s very informal and lead by Shelby Davis and Russ Hanley. If you are interested or would like more information, please email Shelby at [shelbydavis@comcast.net](mailto:shelbydavis@comcast.net) or Russ at [rgh\\_hanley@yahoo.com](mailto:rgh_hanley@yahoo.com).

## WITH THANKS

With the deepest gratitude, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, emails, and calls during my stay in Upstate New York, after my broken leg surgery and convalescence. I also want to thank all those who helped me move and continue to help me during this transition. I am so glad to be home and look forward to being active at Clairmont.

Blessings, *Ila Shroyer*



Dr. Tom Pipkin  
SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Clairmont Family,

A few weeks have now passed since our great times of worship together on Holy Week and Easter. It was great to be together celebrating the amazing victory that our Lord has won over sin and death and the new life that is ours in Christ.

As I have thought back on our worship times and forward to what it takes to be a growing and devoted follower of Jesus, I have been reminded of the importance of our ongoing attention to God's Word for our spiritual nourishment. Stuart Briscoe offers a good illustration about the importance of feeding our souls with the things of God:

*The famous cuckoo bird never builds its own nest. It flies around until it sees another nest with eggs in it and no mother bird around. The cuckoo quickly lands, lays its eggs there, and flies away.*

*The thrush, whose nest has been invaded, comes back. Not being very good at arithmetic, she gets to work hatching the eggs. What happens? Four little thrushes hatch, but one large cuckoo hatches. The cuckoo is two or three times the size of the thrushes.*

*When Mrs. Thrush brings to the next one large, juicy worm, she finds four petite thrush mouths, one cavernous cuckoo mouth. Guess who gets the worm? A full-sized thrush ends up feeding a baby cuckoo that is three times as big as it is.*

*Over time, the bigger cuckoo gets bigger and bigger, and the little thrushes get smaller and smaller. You can always find a baby cuckoo's nest. You walk along a hedgerow until you find dead little thrushes, which the cuckoo throws out one at a time.*

*Paul teaches in Romans 8:5-8 that spiritually speaking, you've got two natures in one nest. The nature that you go on feeding will grow, and the nature that you go on starving will diminish.*

Ahead of us are many opportunities to continue to feed our spiritual nature including Sunday School, Small Groups, the Church-wide retreat, and other special programs. Let's commit together to the ongoing feeding of our souls with the things that will make us strong and dedicated disciples of Jesus.

Under His Mercy,

Tom Pipkin



CLAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1994 Clairmont Road  
Decatur, GA 30033-3498  
(404) 634-3355  
[www.clairmontpres.org](http://www.clairmontpres.org)

April 26, 2009

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Decatur, GA  
Permit #497

**Join us for worship at 8:30am, 11:00am and 7:00pm each Sunday!**