

Discovering Real Life Together

Vol. 32, No. 02
January 24, 2010

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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
Andria Alexander - Director of Children's Ministries
Debbie Palmore - Activities Coordinator
Bill Spinks - Church Administrator
Danielle Wilson - Administrative Assistant
Linda Massey - Director of Publications
Diane Neuman - Financial Secretary
Agatha Walker - Membership Secretary/Receptionist
Barbara Powers - Director of Preschool

THE Clairmonitor

CLAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Beginning February 1, 2010,
the Clairmonitor
will ONLY be sent electronically
unless otherwise specified.**

To cut down on postage and paper expenses, the Clairmonitor will be sent electronically beginning February 1, 2010. We will be happy to mail you a hard copy if you call the church office at (404)634-3355 by February 1. *Thank you for being good stewards.*



churchoffice@clairmontpres.org
if you have a new email
address.

MISSION EMPHASIS *with* SPECIAL SPEAKERS see page 3

At Clairmont our goal is for mission outreach to permeate every aspect of our congregational life. January, 2010, has been designated as a month of mission and you have been hearing what we are doing in our own Jerusalem and on to the "ends of the earth." While our regular budget funds many mission efforts, during January we have the opportunity to give "over and above" to three especially strategic needs:

Microfinancing has proven itself over the last thirty years in the developing world to be the path that has led many out of poverty through small loans which have helped ambitious but very poor people to get started in an activity that provides a regular income and enables them to repay the loan. Our support will go to World Vision and Opportunity International who are supervising loans to needy and qualified people in Asia.

A local church like Clairmont cannot process the many people who search out churches in need of emergency assistance so we cooperate with other churches in our area to support the **Toco Hills Community Alliance**, which provides emergency assistance (food, rent, utility, and transportation) to the needy in our own "Jerusalem."

We thank God for the local Christian mission called **Stirred-Up Ministries** which gives lost, destitute and semi-abandoned youth in our city love and support in the name of Christ. Clairmont, among other churches in our area, has been a friend and supporter of this ministry which has had a positive influence in the lives of almost a thousand youth and their families, for over fifteen years.

This is one of the very few times during the year that a special appeal is made and we invite your generous participation so that the values of the Kingdom of God be made known "beginning in Jerusalem" and to the ends of the earth.

Special envelopes are in the Sunday Bulletin for your use or you may mail your donation to Clairmont Presbyterian Church, 1994 Clairmont Rd., Decatur, GA 30033. *Thank you!*

8:30am First Light Worship Service
in Milligan Hall.
11:00am Worship Service
in the Sanctuary.

January 24, 2010 -
"So He Told Them..."
(The Heart of the Father)
Luke 15:1-32
Dr. Tom Pipkin

January 31, 2010 -
"One Day Closer"
Psalm 118:21-25
Dr. Ben Mathes, ROW



LAST CALL - 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

January 24 -
"So He Told Them..."
(The Heart of the Father)
Luke 15:1-32
Dr. Tom Pipkin

January 31 -
(TBA)
Rev. Megan Johnson

CLAIRMONT WOMEN



Contact Rev. Megan Johnson for more details at (404)634-3355 or megan@clairmont-pres.org

Dates for January 2010:

Friday, January 22 - Mom's Group meets in the Parlor at 10am. *Childcare provided for all Mom's Group meetings.*

Thursday, January 28 - Thursday Morning Bible Study meets in the Parlor at 10am.

Friday, January 29 - Mom's Group meets in the Parlor at 10am. *Childcare provided for all Mom's Group meetings.*

CLAIRMONT MEN

Attention Clairmont Men!

Mark your calendars — We'll be having a once-a-month breakfast January - May. This will be a time focused on strengthening our fellowship with one another and our faithfulness to Christ. Different topics for each breakfast. Breakfast will generally be on Thursdays from 6:45-8am in the church parlor. Bagels and coffee provided. Each month, a different pair of men will lead the time.

Thursday, January 21 - "Faith in the Workplace: Common Ethical Dilemmas"
Leaders: Frank Arnold and Eric Johnson

Thursday, February 11 - "Conversing with God - Prayer as a Two-Way Street"
Leaders: Bob Siegmann and Eric Voogd

Thursday, March - (date TBA)
Leaders: Tom Lockwood and Robert Rankin

Thursday, April - (date TBA)
Leaders: Ron Hieber and Jay Thomas

Saturday, May - (date TBA)
Leaders: Evan Secor and Robert Morris
(*This one will be a Saturday hike!*)

FYI

The Sunday Bread Visiting Team for Sunday, January 24 is George Castleberry and Fred Horne. The bread baker is Stacey Voogd.

The Sunday Bread Visiting Team for Sunday, January 31 is Barbara & Jim Dillon. The bread baker is Linda Massey.

SAVE THE DATE
CHURCHWIDE RETREAT
April 23-25, 2010
Toccoa, GA



SAVE THE DATE
July 12 - 16, 2010

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 or

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dr. Frank Arnold is teaching a series in March on world religions titled "Christianity and the Religions of the World" in which he compares Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism in Ed. Bldg. Room 102. Hosted by the John Knox Class.

All are welcome.

MISSION MONTH

AZALEA VILLAGE

Wednesday, January 27 - 6:30 - 7:30pm - Milligan Hall (Dinner at 5:30pm*)

Sarah and Joshua Ralston, Program Developer and Coordinator, respectively, of Shalom International Ministry in Clarkston. Sarah works for CARE, an international development non-profit agency while Joshua is currently pursuing ordination in the PC(USA). Sarah and Joshua



have merged their creativity and passion into Shalom International Ministry - a cross-cultural ministry that seeks to witness to the promise of God's holistic peace (shalom) embodied in Jesus Christ. They will share about their Clarkston-based ministry amid a large population often overlooked and marginalized in the Greater Atlanta area. *They will also be offering a bus tour of the Clarkston area – including a lunch with refugees – on Saturday, January 30 from 10am-1pm.*

Sunday, January 31 - 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Services

Dr. Ben Mathes, Executive Director. Rivers of the World (ROW) is a not-for-profit Christian ministry that targets remote river basins throughout the world. Their goal is to serve with people who live in these river basins. They ask the people what makes up their greatest challenges and covenant with them to meet and overcome those challenges together. ROW emphasizes that it is their country, their village, their culture, but our problem. Our goal is to serve in an atmosphere of mutual concern and respect. ROW projects run the gamut of human, physical and spiritual needs. Academics, research, education and medical/dental concerns go hand in hand with church planting, construction, evangelism and Bible distribution.

Wednesday, February 3 - 6:30 - 7:30pm - Milligan Hall (Dinner at 5:30pm*)

Debbie Palmore, Activities Coordinator at Clairmont Presbyterian Church. Debbie runs numerous camps, clinics, and leagues through the Family Life Center on Clairmont's campus. Hundreds of kids, families, and adults are engaged in these activities – many of whom are not involved with a church. Come hear as Debbie shares about her heart for this ministry and how she envisions the members of Clairmont being actively involved in the many lives who frequent our campus each week!

CLASSIFIED

Opportunity for paid work: Tamra Higgs needs someone to help her clean and organize her deceased mom's condo. Initially, a one time job, but possibly a continued housekeeping maintenance position. Please contact her at (404)840-2136 or tamrahiggs@gmail.com. Founded by Dr. Gary Brainard, a Pasadena-based psychologist and marriage enrichment speaker, The Couple's Circle is a

Vietnamese family graduates from Azalea Village!



Many of you have met the Nguyens (28-year-old Hai and his parents, Quyen and Xuan) at First Light, Wednesday Night Alive and Clairmont's ESL class. The Nguyens, who were sponsored by World Relief refugee resettlement agency, moved from the Village to Lawrenceville, where they have connected with a Vietnamese community. The Nguyens made one last visit to Clairmont to thank the church for everything we have done to support them since they arrived from Vietnam.

They were especially thankful to the Discipleship Sunday School class, who sponsored them during their stay with us, and the Last Call Community, who provided them with a Christmas tree, complete with lights.

Hai, who has a degree in electrical engineering, continues to look for work. We wish them Godspeed in their future endeavors.

The Nguyens made a special trip back to the Church last Wednesday to meet with members of the AVM team to say goodbye and to thank us for everything the Church did for them. They hugged everyone tearfully and promised to come back for worship as soon as they had transportation. They left the Village with grateful hearts.

AVM UPDATE

The Team is currently developing new partnerships with Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA) and the Salvation Army. We will host a refugee family in partnership with RRISA. The Salvation Army, which performs a variety of missions, will work with Clairmont specifically to support families in transition from homelessness.

As you consider what it means for you, personally, to be missional, please keep the Azalea Village Ministry Team in mind. If you are interested in ministering with us, please contact George and Nancy Miranda at (404) 325-2724 or gmiranda1@comcast.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Coordinating Team will meet at 10:00am on **Tuesday, January 26**, at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. We will carpool from Clairmont at 9:50am. After our business meeting, Mary Butler will give us a tour and explain the procedures of the food pantry. Each CT member is asked to bring two or more canned food items.

Circle Meetings on Tuesday, February 2

Ten O'clock Scholars - 10:00am Ed. Bldg. 101

Lunchtime Learners - 12:00noon in the Parlor

Sunday Supper Circle - **February 7** - Hosted by

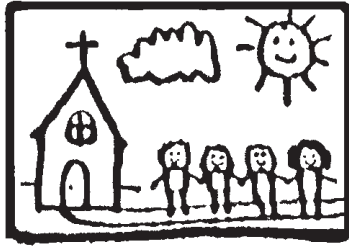
Sue Stevens-Thompson, Bible Couple's Circle to share.

relationship enrichment series of special "Date Nights" offering participants the opportunity to explore and nurture their relation-

PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

NEWS FROM CLAIRMONT'S WEEKDAY PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Clairmont Members - If you have a child you would like to enroll in our pre-school/kindergarten, now is the time to think about making those plans. During the month of January, the pre-school will have advanced registration for the 2010-2011 school year. At this time we will accept registrations from families currently enrolled in the school and from our Clairmont members. This makes getting into our great program very, very easy. You can get information and registration forms from Barbara Powers or you can pick up a registration form in the church office. Please take advantage of this early registration, because on February 9th registration is open to the public. *Don't wait!* Once we open to the public, you may not be able to enroll and we don't want that to happen!! Our pre-school classes begin with our Toddler Class (children that are one-year old on or before September 1, 2010) and includes 2-year old classes, 3-year old classes, a 4-year old Pre-K class and a 5-year old half-day kindergarten. For each class, the child needs to be that age by September 1, 2010 to enter the class.



You may want to come to **Open House on Monday, January 25** from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Please consider registering *NOW* for our loving Christ-centered pre-school & kindergarten. Call Barbara at the pre-school office (404)634-4212 or at home (770)934-4229.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The **Transportation Team** needs a volunteer to help drive members to the 11:00 Worship Service. The volunteer will be part of a rotation and participate one Sunday a month, possibly two on occasion. If you can help, contact Jay Scott at 404.558.5971 or jaysweb04@yahoo.com.

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

Contact Nate Perry at nate@clairmontpres.org.

ADVENT - NEXT YEAR!

Dear CPC members,

We're getting a head-start on next year's Advent! Perhaps you think we're crazy, but stay with the idea for just a moment...

We are inviting you to take a moment and consider one of the two following questions:

1. This past Advent season, where did you see God at work most meaningfully in your life (or the life of your family)?
2. As you consider this past Advent season, how do you hope next year might be different? Is there a way you hope to do some things differently, a routine you'd want to begin or change? Is there a way you might go about being more intentional in remembering and celebrating the true reason for the season?

Once you've considered one of those, we invite you to take a 1/2 hour in the next couple of weeks (while memories are still fresh!) and write down your response in a paragraph or two. Once finished, go ahead and email it to Megan (megan@clairmontpres.org) or Bobby (bobby@clairmontpres.org).

We'll keep your responses and send them back to you next October so that you can read over them, edit them as you see fit, and then we'll use your responses as the material for our Advent calendar in 2010. I know it seems like we're WAY ahead on this one - but we want to capture your thoughts and memories while they are still with you! Thank you in advance for your willingness to encourage others through the way God is working and speaking in your life.

AROUND TOWN

THE PARENTING CONVERSATION: SPEAKING TO THE HEART OF THE FAMILY

North Avenue Presbyterian Church presents a parenting conference that pours into parents so that they can overflow into their families

The conference will be held on **March 19 & 20, 2010**, and will be composed of two large session gatherings (including a live music concert from Echoing Angels), three module class periods, and one pre-session module option. Our keynote speaker, Sue Miller, is a leader, author, and gifted communicator with a passion to equip parents with the skills they need to raise great kids. Worship will be led by Atlanta-based Christian band, Echoing Angels which has been hailed as "one of the most sensational and promising rock debuts since MercyMe" by All Music Guide.com.

Registration is now open and costs \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. We encourage single parents to pair up with other single attendees to get the couple rate. For every church that sends 10 couples, one couple comes for free! **Registration is available on-line at www.theparentingconversation.com.**



Back by popular demand:
Todd and Beverly Sandel

from LifeGate Counseling Center (lifegatecenter.org). They will offer an interactive couples/marriage enrichment session.

Founded by Dr. Gary Brainard, a Pasadena-based psychologist and marriage enrichment speaker, The Couple's Garden is a relationship enrichment series of special "Date Nights" offering participants the opportunity to explore and nurture their relationship. If you have kids, they will enjoy "Movie Night" with the children's ministry during the Couple's Garden.

When: Friday, January 29, 2010

- 6:00pm - Drop kids off; enjoy snacks and the fellowship of other couples
- 6:15pm - Program "Solve the Sex Puzzle..."
- 7:15pm - Dine with your spouse at the restaurant of your choice
- 9:00pm - Pick up children

"Solve the Sex Puzzle: Discover God's Formula for Sex in Marriage"

Join us as Todd and Beverly Sandel take us on an exciting journey into how God designed married sex. Solve the sex puzzle in your marriage so that you and your spouse are cultivating a new level of intimacy. By the time Todd and Beverly complete their presentation, you will have a refreshed view of sex and how your marriage can be a welcome place again for true intimacy as God designed it to be.

One evening is \$10 per couple which covers the snacks, childcare, and speaker.

To register or obtain more information, please contact Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert at bobby@clairmontpres.org or (404)634-3355

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Elders and Deacons who were Ordained and/or Installed on Sunday, January 10, 2010:

2010 Session Membership - Class of 2012

- Nancy Cullison, Installed
- Tim Fenbert, Ordained and Installed
- Sue Oltman, Installed
- Jack Spangler, Ordained and Installed
- Cinnamon Sullivan, Ordained and Installed

2010 Diaconate Membership - Class of 2011

- Judy Milota, Ordained and Installed

2010 Diaconate Membership - Class of 2012

- Rob Gordon, Ordained and Installed
- Ron Reed, Ordained and Installed
- Jay Scott, Installed
- Ila Shroyer, Installed
- Gayle Turner, Ordained and Installed

Ways to Help
Our Brothers
and
Sisters
in Haiti



PRAY FOR OUR PC(USA) MISSION PARTNERS

PC(USA) RESPONSE - The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding to this earthquake through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and its partners. Presbyterian World Mission is gathering information on the safety and status of our mission personnel and ecumenical partners in the area. You, too, can be part of God's answer to prayer for those affected by this disaster. PDA is rushing an initial \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to help provide immediate emergency relief to the affected people. Funds are being sent through our ecumenical and local partners working in Haiti.

GREATER ATLANTA ASSISTANCE - The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta has a strong partnership in LaGonave. Reports indicate that some damage in LaGonave occurred. The Presbytery has received word that a team from First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta was in LaGonave during the time of the earthquake. They are safe and plans are being considered about how best to get them returned safely to Atlanta.

All contributions for Haiti assistance should be mailed to:

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta,
c/o Haiti Disaster Assistance
1024 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306.**
*The memo section should include
Haiti Disaster Assistance - DR000064.*

THE OUTREACH FOUNDATION

One of our close partners, Haiti Outreach Ministries, is based in Port-au-Prince and works with people in several of the poorest districts. Through its congregations, primary schools, feeding programs and clinics, Haiti Outreach Ministries shares God's love in word and deed.

We are thankful that, despite damage to churches and schools, the Haiti Outreach Ministries staff appears to be safe. But the needs they and their neighbors face are immediate and profound.

No administrative fee will be taken from these gifts. 100% of the gifts we receive will be forwarded promptly to Haiti Outreach Ministries.

**The Outreach Foundation
318 Seaboard Lane, Suite 205
Franklin, TN 37067**
*The memo section should include
"Haiti Earthquake"*

IN MEMORY/HONOR

In memory of Grady Tiller:

- Jim & Barbara Dillon gave to the Faulkner Fund.

In memory of Ann Johnson the following gave to the Memorial Fund:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Sara Rountree | • Virginia Patterson |
| • Robert & Mary Uhl | • Mrs. Theo E. Taylor |
| • Rufus F. Davis | • Alethea Dillard |
| • Dave Humphrey's Family
(Del Rey, Reece, Rena, & Alice) | • Helen Gordon |

SYMPATHY

Our loving Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sarah "Ann" Johnson, who died on Sunday, January 9, 2010, in Decatur, Georgia.

Our loving Christian sympathy is extended to Penny Bisbort and Patty Stevens on the death of their sister-in-law and aunt, Margaret Mielenz, on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, in Raleigh, NC.



CLAIRMONT MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nell Ball | Graham Mothershead
and her family |
| Phyllis Davis | Sara Owens |
| Lillian Eddings | Charlie Patterson |
| Bill Fleming | Lois Pruitt |
| Allee Florence | Joyce Rogers |
| Maggie Hartsfield | Judith Sale |
| Louise Hood | Anne Sheesley |
| Deb Hosford | Clyde Shepherd |
| Janice Hughes | Kay Turner |
| Melba Hull | Jimmie Waggoner |
| Louise Kite | Doris Whitener |
| Sidney Lines | Paul Young |
| Caroline MacNeill | |

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF MEMBERS

- Dara Barron (*Julie Comer's friend*)
 Marshall and Ginger Boykin (*Judy Burden's friends*)
 Peggy Dalton and Shannon Harper
 (*Ann Wooten's friends*)
 Major Mitchell Gibbs and the Gibbs family (*Carol Crochet's brother stationed in Iraq*)
 Cindy Haskell (*Jon Haskell's (ROW Trustee) wife*)
 Dad Mathes (*Ben Mathes' Dad*)
 Jim McCoun (*Mary Jo McCoun's son*)
 Tom Merrett (*Dot Burnett's son-in-law*)
 John Oltman (*Jack Oltman's dad*)
 Mark Shearon (*Pam Scott's friend*)
 Faye Wallace (*John and Judyth Williams' friend*)
 Judyth Williams (*John Williams' wife*)

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 six weeks unless otherwise instructed.

Thank you.



January 27
Robert Burek
Stephanie
Turnbull

January 31
Lillian Stamps

February 4
Suzanne Burek

January 28
Sara Owens
Eugenia Rucker
Sarah Jones

February 2
Robyn Finley

February 7
Mae Aycock
Barry Nave
Anne Marie Lynch

January 30
Vivian Reed

February 3
Katherine Watkins
Pat Hankins

February 8
Carson Kennedy
Michael Rucker

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

SENIOR ADULTS

Sunday Senior Lunch will be **Sunday, February 7** immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service at the Colonnade Restaurant on Cheshire Bridge Road. (They accept cash only). *Please call Judy Milota at (770)491-7274 with your reservations by Monday, February 1.*

Movie was cancelled last month.

Join us for a Movie and Lunch
Monday, February 8, 2010
Movie "Meet Me in St. Louis"
at 10:30am
Lunch at 12:30
Call (404)634-3355
with lunch reservations



6 Lunch provided by Oakgrove Market
Soup and Sandwich.

DIRECTED PRAYER

- Pray for the people of Haiti as they struggle to survive the devastation of the recent earthquake in their small country.
- Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the Azalea Village ministry so that Clairmont may continue to provide housing for families in need.
- Praise the Lord for all of His blessings and mercies in your life.

cut and post

COMING EVENTS



**Churchwide
Talent Show
Saturday,
February 27**
Mark your calendars
now and be thinking
of a talent!

Watch for details.

The Atlanta Concert Ringers concert on February 7 has been cancelled due to a change in their leadership in January. Possible future dates for a concert at Clairmont are being discussed. Watch your Clairmonitor and our website for updates.



GEORGIA FESTIVAL CHORUS

in Concert

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Eighth Annual Appearance!

Directed by Frank Boggs

Sunday, March 14, 2010

3:00pm in the Sanctuary

This concert, sponsored by the Clairmont Music and the Arts Ministry, features the wonderful Georgia Festival Chorus at 3:00pm in the sanctuary. This acclaimed community chorus, under the direction of its founder, Frank Boggs, has sung much of the world's greatest sacred choral literature for over twenty years. They have toured in England, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, and Italy. This is their 8th annual concert given at Clairmont Presbyterian Church. Each year they inspire and captivate those who hear them sing. Admission is free. Child care is offered for infants and children up to two years old. Don't miss this special event at Clairmont!

Wednesday Night Alive

**Dinner at 5:30pm
Programming 6:30pm**

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.



Children's Activities: Ages 3 years - 5th grade
6:30 - 7:00pm - **Music** with Mary Lou Swann, Tricia Reinschmidt, Andria Alexander & Mike Strain.
7:00 - 7:30pm - **Kids Quest Catechism Club**
Tricia Reinschmidt: 3 - 5-year olds
Andria Alexander & Sarah Guzman: 1st - 5th grade
6:30-7:30pm - See page 3
6:30-7:30pm - Clairmont Ringers Rehearsal
7:00pm - Soul Sisters - Small group for all women focused on spiritual growth through study and discussion. Parlor. Contact Renee Miller at rjmiller@yahoo.com.
7:45-9:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

Menu: Jan. 27 - Baked Pork Chops w/ Brown Gravy, Garlic Potatoes, Vegetable Blend, Dinner Rolls, Dessert & Beverages.
Feb. 3 - Macaroni Cheese w/ Ham, Mixed Veggies, Bread, Dessert, & Beverages.

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

CAREER NETWORKING

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 or Russ at rg_hanley@yahoo.com.

FLOWERS



The new year has started and flowers are needed for the sanctuary. 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.



Dr. Tom Pipkin
SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Clairmont Family,

It was a frozen Friday when I woke up to the sound of my wife preparing to go to downtown Atlanta. The radio was announcing that most all of the schools had been closed, so my kids were still snug in bed. I turned to Dawn and asked her if she was really still planning to go downtown today, subfreezing temperatures, icy roads, and all. Her response was that she still wanted to go downtown,

but she was concerned about the roads. She had been planning for the past two weeks to go downtown with Teresa Hamilton to help her in her ministry to the homeless. On a regular basis, Teresa prepares soup and what ever else she can bring to the hungry and cold of our city's streets. Dawn and I had both planned to join Teresa one day on her usual rounds to the alleys, parks, underpasses, and homeless shelters, but Dawn was the one to take action. In the week leading up to this frozen Friday, Dawn enlisted the help of her Sr. High girls' small group to make hundreds of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Other small groups of women and girls joined in to fill up the back of our van with those sandwiches. Tricia Sale also volunteered to go with Dawn and Teresa, but now they were faced with the uncertainty of the weather and its effects on our un-winterized city. In the moments between getting out of bed and getting dressed, I found myself volunteering, along with Larry Sale to take our compassionate wives downtown to join Teresa – who was determined to go – bad weather or not.

We loaded up our van with the sandwiches and a bunch of blankets and winter clothing that had been donated by Clairmont members, and we headed out of the neighborhood. As it turned out, some of the most treacherous conditions were on our own neighborhood streets, but the main roads were mostly clear of ice. It seems that God just wanted me (and maybe Larry too) to put action to our words about caring for the poor. We spent all morning making the rounds with Teresa, finding the streets mostly abandoned, because of the cold and ice. We fed and clothed people in a parking lot between two closed-down businesses and

also at Hurt Park (aply named) where three homeless men turned into a crowd of twenty within a few minutes. And then we turned the van toward a homeless shelter. Although I have spent a fair amount of time in homeless shelters, I still wasn't prepared for what I saw inside. Seated in plastic chairs were around four hundred men – packed wall to wall in the dimly lit room that felt like a human warehouse. We set up our tables and began to serve up the soup and sandwiches, fruit punch and a multivitamin. The men (I only saw a few women) were mostly well behaved and orderly. They were grateful for a warm meal and a place to stay. Many of them were regulars who called Teresa by name – “Lady T.” It was a real joy to see the relationship that Teresa has developed over time with “the least of these” on our city's streets.

I continue to marvel at that pint-sized wonder named “Lady T.” Her heart is a lot bigger than her body and her vision is unfazed by the seeming hopelessness of her regular ministry to the homeless. This past Monday, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Dawn and Tricia had hoped to join Teresa downtown again – this time with our teenaged kids, but Teresa was sick on Monday, so the 24 loaves of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that our Clairmont Youth group put together on Sunday night have been put into the freezer until Teresa can make another trip. In the meantime, I'll leave you with this quote from Dr. King –

“Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the mailing of a check, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the giving of one's soul.”

Who knows, maybe God will call on you to head downtown on a frozen Friday someday soon.

Under Christ's Mercy,

Tom Pipkin



January 24, 2010

Join us for worship at 8:30am, 11:00am, and 6:00pm each Sunday!