

MADISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE WESTER TRACT

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NOVEMBER 2008

Dear Friends,

The Session, the church staff, and I are reading a book entitled The Habits of Highly Effective Churches, seeking to discern how our church might become more effective in our mission and ministry. I am finding it very helpful and thought I would share some of what I am learning with you. I have additional copies of the book if you would like to read it in its entirety. It defines a church as effective “when lives are transformed such that people are constantly enabled to become more Christ-like.”

The six “Pillars of Effectiveness,” which are mirrored in our ministry units and in our life together, are worship, evangelism, Christian education, community among believers (fellowship), stewardship, and serving the needy. In my judgment, we have a wonderful foundation in each of these areas of our life together. Our goal is to strengthen these pillars that we all might become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship together and serve both within and outside our church.

The list of habits, or cultures, that lead to a highly effective church include excellence in all we do, evaluation and accountability of programs and individuals, visioning, holistic stewardship, creativity, openness, change, corporate and individual spiritual growth, prayer...especially for God’s leading, strategic leadership, transformation, effective lay leaders, training, and strong leadership. Habits are effective and desirable when they are intentional, strategic, productive, and biblical. A habit is harmful when it is static, rote, never evaluated, and continued because “we’re always done it that way.”

Needless to say, these are effective habits for individuals and organizations other than the church. But I am trying to look at everything we do through the lens of highly effective habits and I hope you will do the same. It is my hope that we will “dream dreams and see visions” of what we can be as our Pulpit Nominating Committee begins the process that will result in the call of a new pastor. I pray that God will lead us and bless us in this work.

During this season of stewardship and thanksgiving, I am thankful for the “great cloud of witnesses” who have gone before us and who built the strong foundation upon which we stand. I pray that we will faithfully continue that work.

Blessings upon you,

Coile Estes

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## WELCOME MPC’S NEWEST MEMBERS

Please give a warm MPC welcome to our newest members Tommy and Jenny Arthur and Phyllis Boyd. Tommy and Jenny join MPC by transfer of letter from John’s Creek United Methodist Church in John’s Creek, Georgia. Tommy and Jenny live at 1080 East Magnolia Loop in Madison; their telephone number is 706-342-9855; and their email address is arthur5022@bellsouth.net. Phyllis joins MPC by transfer of letter from First Untied Methodist Church in Madison. Phyllis lives at 307 W. Dixie Highway in Rutledge; her telephone number is 706-557-2213.

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



|             | <u>8:30 a.m.</u> | <u>9:45 a.m.</u> | <u>10:45 a.m.</u>                     |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 2  | Camilla Moss     | Brad Evans       | Brandon and Monica Jolley             |
| November 9  | Michelle Paschal | Pam Latham       | Courtney Boswell and Reba Whitaker    |
| November 16 | Barbara Conine   | Brillo Jackson   | Fru and Kirby Hayes                   |
| November 23 | Wendy Barber     | Kathy Moorhead   | Julie and Shelby Morrill, Anna Nolan  |
| November 30 | Denise Biscoglia | Garry Phelps     | Chris and Ashley Braswell, Katie Moss |

## USHER SCHEDULE

|             | <u>8:45 a.m.</u>             | <u>11:00 a.m.</u>        |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| November 2  | Bill and Dottie Borst        | Rusty and Will Bullard   |
| November 9  | Jack and Nancy Pluckhahn     | Tim and Steven Lamb      |
| November 16 | Chris Barber and Dick Mohler | Hank and Theresa Johns   |
| November 23 | Tommy and Barbara Conine     | John Moore and Bob Fultz |
| November 30 | Ed and Pam Latham            | Jerry and Lib Cole       |



## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE



|             | <u>8:45 a.m.</u> | <u>11:00 a.m.</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| November 2  | Sarah Jones      | Hannah Hartney    |
| November 9  | Luke Biscoglia   | Caroline Smith    |
| November 16 | Kate Broach      | Frank DuBose      |
| November 23 | Sutton Trulock   | Natalie Smith     |
| November 30 | Anna Beth Barber | Katelyn Carson    |



## Children's Church

|             | <u>8:45</u>                          | <u>11:00</u>                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| November 2  | Jep and Michelle Paschal             | Jason and Jill Connolly       |
| November 9  | Ashley Hunt and Mary Helen Trulock   | Brad and Jennifer Evans       |
| November 16 | Chris and Wendy Barber               | Chris and Jill Adams          |
| November 23 | Emily Malanowski and Margaret DuBose | Jessica Phelps and Katie Moss |
| November 30 | Lissa and Grant Phelps               | Agnes, Ansley and Sarah Jones |

## MINISTRY MEETINGS

- ◆ The Worship Ministry will meet Monday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.
- ◆ The New Members & Evangelism Ministry will meet Tuesday, November 4, at 11:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ The Outreach Ministry will meet Wednesday, November 5, at 5:00 p.m. in the church library.
- ◆ The Adult Education Ministry will meet Wednesday, November 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the church library.
- ◆ The Finance & Stewardship Ministry will meet Monday, November 17, at 6:15 p.m. in the church library.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Upcoming Youth Events

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 2     | 6:30—8:00 p.m. Youth Group  |
| November 5     | 7:00 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast (Ye Old Colonial)<br>3:30 p.m. MS High Snack Attack (Wendy's)  |
| November 7     | 4:00 p.m. MS Retreat Departs  |
| November 9     | Ski Trip deposit due (\$100)<br>12:00 p.m. MS Retreat Returns<br>6:30—8:00 p.m. Youth Group |
| November 12    | 7:00 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast (Ye Old Colonial)<br>3:30 p.m. MS High Snack Attack (Wendy's)  |
| November 15    | UGA-Auburn @ Hartney's  |
| November 16    | 6:30—8:00 p.m. Youth Group  |
| November 17—23 | 6:00—8:00 p.m. Operation Christmas Child  |
| November 23    | 6:30—8:00 p.m. Youth Group  |
| November 26    | No Wednesday Activities   |

## PICNIC FOLLOW-UP

Could there have been a better day for the annual church picnic? After singing all morning, a swarm of people journeyed over to Hard Labor Creek for an afternoon together. What an afternoon we had! Garry Phelps and Ed Latham took their typical places behind the grill and did a fabulous job. Charles Merritt, fresh off honeymooning in Paris, brought fudge. Hoyt Jackson led four teams through an intense scavenger hunt. Plenty of others brought sides and desserts. Other brought games and crafts. With so many involved, a great time was had by all. Thanks to all who participated. It was a blast!!

## INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT EVENT —by Emmie Smock

On Wednesday night, November 19, we will hold an Advent workshop designed for the whole family. Without going into details, let me say that it will involve individually creating something that will be displayed in the building all during Advent. So wear crafting clothes, tap into your artistic natures and come ready to share a wonderful time of fellowship and creativity with friends of all ages!

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—Connie Booth, Clerk of Session

At its October meeting, the Session

1. Welcomed into membership Jenny and Tommy Arthur by transfer of letter from Johns Creek United Methodist Church, Johns Creek and Phyllis Boyd by transfer of letter from First United Methodist Church, Madison.
2. Heard a report from Treasurer Fred Johnson on the state of the church's finances
3. Approved the recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Ministry to place a freeze on discretionary spending through December 31, 2008
4. Approved the recommendation from the Property Ministry to permit the use of the fellowship hall on December 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM by the Artist Guild for its annual Gingerbread House Workshop
5. Approved the following to serve on the Class of 2011 Elder Search Committee:
  - Elders Hoyt Jackson and Harris Warbington
  - Hannah Smith
  - Susan McCullar
  - John Moorhead

## Offering Hope, Changing Lives—With Our Thanksgiving Offering to Thornwell Home

Thornwell Home for Children is a Presbyterian Outreach that houses more than 100 youth who have no other place to live for a short or long period of time due to various family situations. The care of Thornwell's residents is based on sound Christian principles and a warm, loving cottage atmosphere staffed by Family Teachers dedicated to providing the finest in Christian development. They make it a priority to help these children achieve academic success. How do they accomplish this?

**Good nutrition** – Instilling healthy eating habits is an important part of nurturing a healthy mind. Your support helps to provide nutritious meals, planned by Family Teachers. The meals include all the food groups and engage the children and youth in mealtime preparation.

**A good night's sleep** – Clean sheets, comfortable beds, a safe place. Many of the children who come to Thornwell have not experienced these basics.

**Praise** – It is at the center of the Teaching Family Program at Thornwell. Their staff believes that each child can succeed. For children who have heard only harsh words and criticisms, seeing them light up at the words "Great job!" is truly a wonder.

**Routine** – The daily routines of a Thornwell cottage are a marvel to observe. Children who have known only chaos in their lives learn the comfort of regular schedules. There is a space for study in each cottage and people to help when there are questions. Afternoon school buses are met by a smiling Family Teacher and snacks are waiting at the cottage before going to the Thornwell Learning Center.

**READING!** – Someone once said that children spend the first years of their lives learning to read and the rest of their lives reading to learn. Truer words were never spoken. At Thornwell, each child is encouraged to become a lifelong reader.

Your support provides books, tutors, computers and other technology to help Thornwell's children succeed academically. Give **generously** from your heart this Thanksgiving season. Envelopes can be found in the pews each Sunday in November. Thank you for your support and caring of others.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AUTUMN OUTING —by Dollie Pettis

Camp Pinnacle at Clayton in the North Georgia mountains was the setting for the NE GA Presbyterian Women's Fall Retreat, Oct. 24-26. Evelyn Milstead and I attended and what a blessing it turned out to be! A drive up in the rain made us appreciate the beauty of the mountains and the sunlight shining through the brightly colored leaves, reflected in the lake during the next two days! In the evenings the stars were quite visible, and one night we walked up into a wooded picnic area and sat around a fire, sang choruses, and roasted marshmallows for s'mores! Our theme was "Living Out Our Purpose", based on Micah 6:8. Our Spiritual Leader was Rev. Beth Daniel, a young woman who was born and educated in Wales. She led us to look at our spiritual selves, and to write a letter to God! Our music leaders were Cathee and Greg Funkhouser, and Cathee led our singing, and both of them sang to Greg's accompaniment on the guitar. We had other great teachers in classes of Bible Study, Stained Glass Making, Christian Responsibility to the Environment, and Taking Care of your Body Responsibly. We were an inter-racial group, who related well in discussions, singing, and enjoying together the delicious meals served in the dining room. Evelyn and I wish that all of you could have such a mountain-top experience!

The Morning Circle will meet Monday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. in room 205.  
 The Coffee Circle will meet Tuesday, November 4, 10:30 a.m. at Perk Avenue Café.  
 The Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.  
 The Next Circle will meet Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the church library.

## **FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Through your pledges and donations to the Church, the following organizations receive monthly gifts from you in 2008:

- Northeast Georgia Presbytery (NEGA Presbytery)
- Mexico Mission through NEGA Presbytery
- Columbia Seminary
- Andy & Ellen Collins, missionaries in Thailand
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Caring Place
- Madison-Morgan County Boys & Girls Club
- Children Ferst Foundation of Morgan County
- Morgan County Foster Care
- Chris Berardi, Seminary Student
- Mitch Miles, youth we are supporting this year at Thornwell Home for Children

You have also helped the following organizations this year:

- Chimwang'ombe Orphan Care Center/ Malawi Africa
- Rivers of the World
- DFCS – a foster child in need
- The Circle of Love Shelter
- Touchdown Club of the local high school
- Christian Friends of Korea – TB medicine and funds for food
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Disaster Response & Relief in the U.S.

Many local families have been given help with rent, utilities, and/or food.

Thank you for your continued support of the church and its Outreach ministries.

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## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Our January to October budgeted income is \$374,646.50; our year-to-date income (as of 10/26/2008) is \$308,409.73. Our January to September budgeted expenses are \$401,931.70. Our year-to-date expenses are \$366,784.48. We owe \$35,660.74 on our kitchen renovation.

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## **PLEASE NOTE—BE SURE TO LOCK THE DOORS!**

Several people have recently found a door in the education building open or unlocked early in the morning. If you are the last to leave our building, please remember to lock the door and check to make sure it is closed tightly.



## Music Notes

—by Mark Argo

### All-Saints, Stewardship, and Thanksgiving

#### November in the Church

My Aunt Libby loved Thanksgiving more than all other holidays, so it was natural that the entire extended family gathered at her house each Thanksgiving. I have to admit that I really didn't get the point in my younger years. It was a long drive to Athens from Atlanta, there was all this food that I really didn't like to eat, and almost all the conversation was about times I had not experienced and people I did not know. I began to understand what this season was all about as the crowd began to dwindle each year. Soon Aunt Libby's generation was gone, leaving the traditions to the succeeding generations.

November is the month that the church calendar, the fiscal calendar, and the secular calendar all intersect in a powerful interconnection of similar ideas. Centuries ago, church leaders included a celebration of All-Saints to open the month of November. Many times as I walk into the MPC sanctuary, I think of Martha Rhodes and of the many years of love that she put into music at MPC. As I walk into the choir room, I am reminded of Kathleen Reid, the consummate music professional who constantly worked to build up the music program at MPC. The music for All-Saints Sunday will provide a means to celebrate the contributions of the thousands of people who have generously provided their time, talent, energy, and yes, money to give us the legacy we call Madison Presbyterian Church.

The secular calendar reminds us that budgets have to be set for the coming new calendar year. The stewardship season is a time when we are reminded that we are all a part of the generation that is now responsible for MPC. Part of being a leader is to realize that a leader has the responsibility of the path created by the previous generations. This church has an especially ambitious fiscal program involving an historic building and ministry well beyond the bounds of the building. Fulfilling this calling requires time, talent, energy, and treasure from the current occupants.

November closes with two celebrations, Thanksgiving and Christ the King. Both events will be celebrated at MPC on November 23. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all the themes presented in November. We should be thankful for the contributions of those no longer with us, for the legacy left for us, and the responsibility that is ours to enhance all of their gifts. We can also be thankful for the blessings of all of the families that we are a part of. The commemoration of Christ the King is a reminder that none of this is possible without Him, and He is the reason that we exist. The music of November 23 will celebrate both important commemorations.

Thank you Aunt Libby, I understand now!



### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE—NOVEMBER 23

Our congregation is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23, 7:00 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church (562 Vine Street). An offering will be received for the Community Benevolent Fund and canned goods will be accepted for The Caring Place.

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## NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY—NOVEMBER 5 AND 12

Many of us are already beginning to ask: “Who will be our next Senior Pastor?” We will also be asking God to guide the Pastor Nominating Committee in their search for “the person of God’s own choosing.” For the first two Wednesday nights in November, I would like for us to ask two questions of ourselves: “Who are who?” and “Whose are we?” If we prayerfully ask these questions of ourselves, we can become better prepared to welcome and work with the new Senior Pastor, whoever that person may be. I hope many of you will join with me in this endeavor. We will meet in the St. Andrews Class room (room 205) following the Wednesday night supper on November 5 and 12. I look forward to being with you. —Harry Beverly

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## MAKE MPC YOUR CHURCH HOME!!

Visitors to Madison Presbyterian Church are invited to join and make MPC your church home. During November, Rev. Estes will lead an Inquirer’s Class on Wednesday evenings, November 5 and 12, 6:30—7:30 p.m. The classes will meet in her office and will consider what it means to be a Presbyterian and what it means to be a member of Madison Presbyterian Church. Please call Rev. Estes for more information (404.405.5692).

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### Wednesday Nights at MPC

- 6:00 p.m.—Dinner in fellowship hall
- 6:30 p.m.—4 yr. olds - 1st graders with Emmie Smock
- 6:30 p.m.—2nd - 5th graders Bible study & worship skills
- 6:30 p.m.—Jr. & Sr. High Youth led by Pat Hartney
- 6:35—8:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study, Rev. Chris Carson (August 13—December 10)
- 6:35—7:25 p.m.—Inquirer’s Class, Rev. Coile Estes (November 5 and 12)
- “Christian Identity”, Rev. Harry Beverly (November 5 and 12)
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, November 19—Dinner and Advent Festival for all ages

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS—UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, December 3  | 6:00 p.m.—Dinner<br>6:30—7:25 p.m.—Organ Concert<br>6:30—7:25 p.m. Pageant Practice         |
| Wednesday, December 10 | 6:00 p.m. Dinner<br>6:30—7:25 p.m. Pageant Practice   |
| Sunday, December 14    | Handbells play at both services<br>5:00 p.m.—Christmas Pageant<br>5:30 p.m.—Christmas Party |
| Sunday, December 21    | Lessons and Carols at both services   |

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Health Concerns

- Kim Murray (Alfred Murray's daughter)
- Paul Cotton (Paula Vaughan's father)
- Evelyn Hunter
- Mary Carter (Dan Vaughn's mother)
- Heather Landmesser (friend of Babs Johnston)
- Jonathan Tisdale (friend of Brandon & Monica Jolley)
- Hayes Avery (friend of Karen Strelecki)
- Chris Mohler (Dick Mohler's son)
- Mazelle Phelps (mother of Garry Phelps)
- Holly Johnston (Babs & Hiram Johnston's daughter-in-law)
- Gloria Belcher
- Keely Jenkins (Marie Harris' great-granddaughter)
- Steve Barrett
- Bill Parks (Larry Parks' father)
- Barbara Moorhead
- Jay Lamb (Tim Lamb's father)
- Marie Ponder (Deb Smoak's mother)
- Trent Funk (Sherri Brady's brother)
- Debra Bernes (treatment for cancer)
- Richard Pippin (Jim and Elinor Pippin's son)
- Helen Woodson

### Recently Hospitalized

- Wes Busby (son of Bob and Norma Busby) - at home and recovering well
- Helen Wadford

### Madison House

- Doris Atkinson
- Marie Moorhead
- Helen Hossler
- Inez Jones

### Serving Our Country

- Rodney Hardeman (Bob Phillips' cousin)
- Sean Bryan Hudson (son of Mary Alice Hudson)
- Ben Tisdale (Ken & Betty Morris' grandson)
- SPC William Jacob Henderson (Bob & Norma Busby's grandson) & SPC Amber Ramsey-Henderson, Texas
- Denny Gerber (Jim & Lorene Malanowski's nephew)
- Michael Crosby Launius (son of George & Nancy Launius)
- Bobby Hughes (son of Bob & Rose Mary Hughes)
- Daniel Whitlock Fort Rucker, AL
- WO1 Arthur Hugh Dye II (son of Greg & Karen Strelecki) Fort Rucker, AL
- Parker Jackson—Travis AFB
- Kristopher Pruitt (Sue Crowley's grandson) - Shepard AFB, Texas

### Birthdays

- 11/1 Anna Beth Barber, Britt Philpott
- 11/4 Lela Anne Laseter, Elaine Sutherland
- 11/5 Nick Smith
- 11/7 Rena Holt, Lady Kuperberg, Sara Shepherd, Fritz Williams
- 11/9 Lauren Lindsey
- 11/10 Gloria Buchanan, Walt Shepherd
- 11/11 Bobby Jones
- 11/13 Jim Malanowski
- 11/16 Frances Griffin
- 11/20 Theresa Johns, Daniel Whitlock
- 11/21 Weyman Hunt, Sally Wickland
- 11/24 Clifford Bell, Susan Moorhead
- 11/25 Chris Carson, Bailey Carter, JP Sheehan
- 11/26 Anna Arthur, Chris Barber, Lorick Howard, Michael Reeves
- 11/29 Charles Merritt, Colleen Shumake



MADISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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EMAIL US!

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Nicki Peppers - Church Administrator

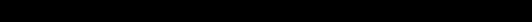
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Rev. Emmie Smock - Dir. of Christian Ed.

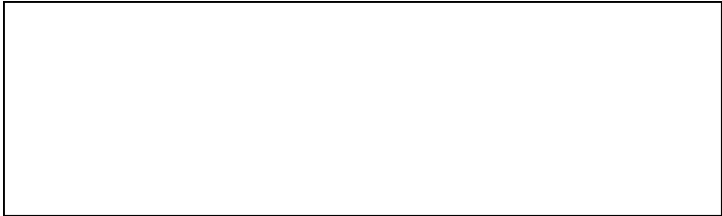
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**ELDERS**

**Class of 2008**

- Melissa Broach (Property)
- Jason Connolly (Finance/Stewardship)
- Hoyt Jackson (New Members/Evangelism)
- Richard Howard (Adult Education)
- Linda Sky (Outreach)
- Connie Booth (Clerk of Session)

**Class of 2009**

- Chris Barber (Worship)
- Sonny Biscoglia (New Members/Evangelism)
- Johnnie Sue Moore (Cong. Care)
- Mary Pickles (Worship)
- Harris Warbington (Outreach)

**Class of 2010**

- Bob Hogan (Property)
- Christie Jones (Children’s Education)
- Lorene Malanowski (Cong. Care)
- Garry Phelps (Youth Education)
- Robert Trulock (Finance/Stewardship)



**HANDBELL CHOIR SCHEDULE**

November 2—Rehearsal 1:30—3:00 p.m.; November 9—Rehearsal 1:30—3:00 p.m.; November 16—Rehearsal 1:30—3:00 p.m.; November 23—Rehearsal 1:30—3:00 p.m.; November 30—no rehearsal (Thanksgiving weekend).

**YOUNG AT HEART—SECOND THURSDAYS**

Young At Heart will meet Thursday, November 13, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.