



Monday Morning in North Georgia

June 2, 2008

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

This Week's Calendar

Week of

June 2 - June 8

(click on item for information)

Tuesday 3rd

- [UMM Executive Committee Meeting](#)

- [Entire Calendar](#)

Article Archives

- [Monday Morning in North Georgia](#)
- [Weekly Conference Update](#)

Links of Interest

- [Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter, & other North Georgia e-mails.](#)
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- [E-mail Jamie Jenkins](#)
- [Employment Openings](#)

Lectionary and Bible Readings

Daily Bible Reading

- [Readings that will take you through the entire Bible in a Year](#)

Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, June 8

- [Genesis 12:1-9](#)
- [Psalm 33:1-12](#)
- [Romans 4:13-25](#)
- [Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26](#)

Worship Tools

- [Worship Planning Helps](#)
- [Preaching Helps](#)

Are We Faking It?

Do you remember when you were a child and you pretended to be someone else? I recall we would say, "Let's play like..." and then we would assume the role of a character in a game-like setting. Pretending to be someone other than yourself is alright if you are in the cast of a theater production or in a group role-play activity but it is unhealthy if we remain in that role on a day-to-day basis.

Police said a man posing as an emergency room doctor, even fooling his wife, was arrested last week at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta. Tammi Perteet said she and her husband met last November and married in March. He said he was working at the Piedmont Hospital emergency room. "Every morning I would drop him off at the hospital." She said that from March through May, her husband called every hour or so from the hospital -- at least he said -- telling her about his tough day. When he didn't call one night last week, she got worried and called the E.R. To her surprise, the people there had never heard of him.

Just last week a Gwinnett County grand jury indicted a 32-year-old woman on bigamy charges over accusations she was married to six men at the same time. Authorities said the woman sought marriage as a way to gain American citizenship for her spouses.

Ann Tyler, in her novel *Morgan's Passing*, told the story of a middle-aged man who repeatedly assumed roles and gratified expectations. The novel opens with Morgan watching a puppet show on a church lawn on a Sunday afternoon. A crisis arises when the puppeteer's pregnant wife goes into labor and a birth seems imminent. Morgan puts the young couple in the back of his station wagon and sets off for the hospital and halfway there he delivers the baby. He then drives to the emergency room of the hospital, sees the mother and baby safely to a stretcher, and disappears. Later the young parents are puzzled and frustrated when they can't find the doctor to express their gratitude.

Several months later they happen to run into Morgan. They greet him, showing him the healthy baby that he brought into the world. They tell him how hard they had looked for him, and of the hospital's bureaucratic incompetence in tracking him down. In an unusual moment of honesty, Morgan admits to them that he is not really a doctor. In fact, he runs a hardware store. But they needed a doctor, and being a doctor in those



- 21st Century Worship
- Lectionary Hymns

circumstances was not all that difficult. It is an image thing, he tells them: You discern



what people expect and fit into it. In other words, it's easy to fake it.

It is easy to render harsh criticism on these people. How could they do such a thing? But before we pass judgment let us remember what Jesus said. "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other" (John 13:34-35, The Message).

Faith in Jesus as our Savior is required to become a Christian but love is expected of those who are Christian. Are we really following Jesus or are we just faking it?

Jamie Jenkins

Georgia Pastors' School

Georgia Pastors' School is July 21-24. The theme is "A Fresh Look at Stewardship" and this year's program leaders are Bishop Al Gwinn, Resident Bishop North Carolina Annual Conference; Jan Love, Professor of Christianity & World Politics and Dean Candler School of Theology; and Hal White Vice President North America Field, Life Change Results, Crown Financial Ministries. For more information, registration and housing reservations, visit www.gbpm-umc.org/gapastorsschool/.

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