



# Monday Morning in North Georgia

September 17, 2007

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

## This Week's Calendar

Week of

September 17-23

(click on item for information)

### Monday 17th

- [ACPK District Committee on Ordained Ministry](#)
- [New Church Leadership Academy](#)

### Tuesday 18th

- [Church Development Executive Committee](#)

### Wednesday 19th

- [Congregational Care Ministry Network Lunch N Learn](#)

### Saturday 22nd

- [Annual Latino Worship Service](#)

- [Entire Calendar](#)

## Article Archives

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

## Links of Interest

- [Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter and other North Georgia e-mails](#)
- [Manage e-mail preferences](#)
- [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](#)

## Responding to our Changing Community

The past week has been a real joy for me. My wife returned from a two-week visit with our oldest son and his family in Japan. That was enough to make my week but she also brought our four and a half year old grandson back with her. He is fluent in Japanese and English and has more frequent flyer miles than most of my peers. He is not only brilliant but he is also handsome and especially gifted. Okay, enough grandparent talk.



It is so obvious that the world is a very different place than it was just a few years ago. We live in a culture that is very diverse and rapidly changing. Three weeks ago an elaborate Hindu temple opened in the Atlanta suburb of Lilburn. The 27,243-square-foot temple is set on 30 acres and features Italian marble and Turkish sandstone which was shipped to Rajasthan state in western India, where artisans carved intricate designs into each block.

According to newly released census data nearly one in five people living in the United States speaks a language at home other than English.



The estimates from 2006 show the number of immigrants nationwide reached an all-time high of 37.5 million that year. In the 28-county Atlanta metro area, the number of Spanish speakers grew by 53 percent from 2000 to 2006. Spanish speakers now total 8.5 percent of the metro area's population, up from 6.9 percent in 2000. Spanish speakers now total 8.5 percent of the metro Atlanta area's population, up from 6.9 percent in 2000. The metro area's Asian-language-speaking population has also grown in the past six years, going from 2.3 percent of the total in 2000 to 2.8 percent in 2006. Recently I asked a retail store clerk a question and she replied with a strong eastern European accent, "I'm sorry but my English is not very good." I answered, "And my Russian is terrible."

**Lectionary Scriptures**  
Sunday, September 23

- Jeremiah 8:18:9:1
- Psalm 79:1-9
- 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- Luke 16:1-13

**Worship Tools**

- Worship Planning Helps
- Preaching Helps
- 21st Century Africana

The North Georgia Conference has started 91 new churches and mission congregations from 1990-2006. Thirty-nine of these have been with primarily Anglo populations. Most of the other fifty-two have been African American, Hispanic, and Korean. Other efforts include Chinese, Indian, Haitian, Kenyan, Liberian, Vietnamese, Brazilian, and multi-ethnic faith communities.

There was a time when “taking the Gospel to the world” meant “foreign missions.” Today it means our own neighborhoods and communities. How is your community changing? What are you and your church doing to respond?

Jamie Jenkins

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**Bishop Davis to Speak at Annual Latino Worship Service**

The Latino Worship Service is an annual celebration of what God is doing in our conference as churches welcome their Latino neighbors into their church families. There will be worship, music and fellowship in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Make plans now to attend the service Saturday, September 22, at 5 p.m. at St. Paul UMC (Washington St) in Gainesville. Bishop G. Lindsey Davis will be the preacher.

**ESOL Funds Available**

The Multi-Ethnic Development Committee has small grants available to assist churches that are interested in offering English classes for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). The committee also offers its expertise in the area to guide churches in developing this kind of program, which can be part of an outreach ministry to people of other cultures. To apply for these funds, [please complete the application at the Conference website](#) and mail to: Zack Martin, Chairperson Multi-Ethnic Development Committee, c/o The Office of Church Development, North Georgia Conference, 4511 Jones Bridge Circle NW, Norcross, GA 30092 or e-mail it to Nora Martinez at [nmartinez@ngumc.org](mailto:nmartinez@ngumc.org) with the subject: "Grant request for ESOL classes." Letters of request must be received by November 1.

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