



Monday Morning in North Georgia

July 7, 2008

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

This Week's Calendar

Week of
July 7- 13

(click on item for
information)

Thursday 10th

- [School of Christian Mission for Spanish Speakers Begins](#)

- [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.](#)
- [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](#)

Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, July 13

- [Genesis 25:19-34](#)

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness

“Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?” That is the question persons have been asked for decades when they become members of a local congregation. That will soon change.

The recent General Conference voted to revise the membership vows. The new language becomes official January 1, 2009 but some churches are already using it as new members are received. Persons seeking membership will now be asked to “be faithful to Christ through the United Methodist Church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.”

Lyn Powell, immediate past Lay Leader for the North Georgia Conference and leader of the General Conference Delegation, said this is the result of three years of conversation among lay leaders across the denomination. Discussion

centered around “accountability of laity to be witnesses in their community and how to bring the community into the church.”

The Association of Conference Lay Leaders sought to call the laity into ‘accountability for the renewal and vitality of the United Methodist Church,’ according to Powell. So they brought a petition to General Conference to change the membership vows. The idea received an enthusiastic reception and the vote was overwhelmingly favorable.

The intent of the additional language was to place emphasis on commitment to Christ that was lived out through the Church. Lay Leaders hoped this would then cause people to ask the question, “What should one do or not do to be a witness for Christ?”

Jesus called his followers to be “witnesses to me” as the Holy Spirit empowered them. He instructed his disciples to “tell people about me everywhere” (Acts 1:8, NLT) and the Holy Spirit would provide the “power, efficiency, and the might.” Witnessing for Christ means being intentional in actions and speech.



- Psalm 119:105-112
- Romans 8:1-11
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Worship Tools

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

Serving a meal at a soup kitchen, tutoring a child, helping repair the home of an elderly person, mentoring an adolescent, visiting the residents of a nursing home, providing medical care for those who can't afford it, advocating for children and the poor, lending an ear to one who is lonely, having integrity in business- these are only a few examples of how we can share our "witness" for Christ.

In a recent conversation I discovered someone that liked Mexican food. It was not awkward or uncomfortable to respond by telling them



about a restaurant I thought they would enjoy. If we believe that Christ makes a difference and the Church is important, it should be just as natural to verbally share that with others.

Being a witness for Christ is not a new concept but maybe we need to revive the idea that it is natural to share our faith with others in word and deed. It does not require a formula nor does it imply imposing one's ideas on another unwilling person. You don't have to be pushy or confrontational. Anyone with a relationship with Christ and the Church can simply speak to others out of their experience. Be alert to the opportunities that will arise to show and tell others about Jesus and invite them to church.

Jamie Jenkins

Urgent Need for Flood Buckets

UMCOR Sager Brown Depot has nearly depleted its supply of flood buckets after shipping thousands of buckets in response to recent floods. This low inventory is a serious concern especially when the Atlantic hurricane season is just beginning. Visit www.umcor.org for a list of Flood Bucket contents and packing instructions or to donate \$45 to purchase the supplies. The North Georgia Disaster Response Committee is coordinating delivering Flood Buckets to Sager Brown or directly to Iowa. The cost per trip to deliver 400 (one load) of costs about \$500 (mostly in gas). If you would rather pay for delivery than give buckets, contact Mike Yoder at yoderjm@yahoo.com.

unsubscribe at http://data.ngumc.net/emailunsubscribe.asp?e=!*email*&key=!*auto*!