



This is the newsletter of the
Georgetown Community UMC
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THE GROWLER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A quote from Inviting God In by Joyce Rupp. It is a scriptural reflection on Act 10:38 "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power." This reflection may be helpful in becoming aware of the work of the Holy Spirit--editor

What was it like for Jesus when John baptized him? When he heard the voice from the heavens call him "the beloved"? He must have felt a surge of tenderness wash over him. A strong, assuring conviction of his relationship with God must have become firmly stored in his soul at that time. Jesus felt this power again and again in his life as he came forth from the desert, as he healed the sick, as he spent the nights alone in prayer, as he stood up for his beliefs, as he communed with his friends, as he walked the road to Calvary.

I have felt the effect of my own baptism time and again. I am surprised every time it happens. I notice this inner power when people tell me how much my words or action helped

them, or when I am hiking in the woods and, suddenly, I sense and pay attention to a presence much bigger than my own. I experience this power when I feel a nudge inside of me to be a better person or to do something to help alleviate the pain of my world. It is a wonderful gift, this power of the Holy Spirit. I invite you today to reflect on your own life and how you have experienced this potent presence of God.

FROM THE PASTOR
Chansoo Lee

Before sharing my thoughts and hopes for the New Year, I want to thank the members and the friends of Georgetown UMC for supporting its ministries in 2011. And also I want to thank for the support that I received as the newly appointed pastor. I have not yet received the year end balance statement, but the church finance improved since last July; the membership has been holding without significant changes. Personally, I feel at home now and I am looking forward to starting another year taking as challenges the things that made me feel uncertain and insecure when I first arrived in Georgetown.

Regarding the goals and the directions of the ministries at Georgetown for this year, we all need to take time and discern prayerfully. And I would like to take this opportunity to share mine.

First, practice of prayer and hospitality will be emphasized. However, these emphases are anything but new; in fact, they are central to Christian life. To say this by using traditional phrases of the Methodism, "Personal holiness" begins with the practice of prayer which leads to the practice of "social holiness." It involves the practice of hospitality for those who are in need in the community, both near and far. It is a concrete reflection of the Christians'

relationship with God, namely “staying in love with God.” And it is in turn expressed in concrete acts of “doing good.”

And, existing ministry teams will be arranged under ministry of nurture, outreach, and witness respectfully; this rearrangement will help the congregation to understand local church life in terms of its purpose and nature, for instance. Ministry of “nurture” involves meeting the needs, both spiritual and physical, of the congregation; for example, it includes worship, visitation, Bible studies, and prayer meetings. “Outreach” ministry involves activities and programs that will extend the hospitality of congregation into its communities. “Witness” ministry involves inviting those in the community to the life of a faith community by sharing our personal experiences and knowledge of God who is Love. That is to say, we become the witnesses in the world of God’s love that we experience in the life of the congregation.

Emphases on prayer and hospitality will inform all aspects of our planning. We will seek ways to improve our existing nurture ministry and at the same time we will keep our eyes open for new opportunities for outreach and witness ministries.

I believe when we participate in the ministries of church we also participate in the joy of those who would benefit from our ministries. Thus, when we gather, for instance, for Sunday worship, prayer, or small group meeting, we come together to share the joy that we discover practicing what we believe.

Wanted: Steeldrum Payers
By Chansoo Lee, Pastor

I started making a steeldrum out of 55 gallon steel drum that Wayne gave to me. I have never played a steeldrum; I have only watched on Youtube steeldrum bands playing. But I

really liked its music and I decided to learn to play. Also, I thought to myself that I would be able to make the instrument with little money. Besides the cost, I like the idea that I will make my own musical instrument.

On the internet I have found a manual for making the instrument, which, in my opinion, is detailed enough for an average person like me to make one. So far I have done initial “stretching.” This process involves hammering the bottom surface of a steel drum by bouncing a 6 pound shot put. I anticipate that tuning process will be most difficult for it will require experience and skill.

Steeldrum playing require a band. I have seen as little as four member band to fifty or more member band. So far I have been successful in recruiting one play, Joy Bennett. She already bought a steeldrum on the internet not long after I explained my idea. According to her, she has “found something to do for the winter” on the Divide.

I will report on the progress of my drum making project. In the meantime, let me know if you are interested; or if you know someone who might be interested.

Mark Your Calendar

Valentines Dinner

Plan ahead for this year’s Valentine’s Day—February 14, Tuesday—for your sweetheart and come to the Valentine’s Dinner with your sweetheart. The dinner menu is not finalized yet by the United Methodist Men, who will prepare and serve the dinner. Also, bring your favorite games and stay for a game night afterwards. Dinner tickets are: \$10 per person

and \$5 for children 12 and under. The dinner starts at 5 p.m. in the Buckner Hall. See Neil or Al for tickets.

SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Super Bowl Sunday will be February 5 this year. After church our chefs will prepare favorite soups and bread. Donations received will go to fight hunger and poverty. Instead of paying for the Sunday lunch at a local restaurant, donate the money for the cause. Tips will not be refused.

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible study resumes on January 11 and will begin Paul's letter to the Romans. Attendance of this first session will prepare us for the whole series by introducing the recipients and their particular circumstances, as well as the very interesting person who delivered the letter. We will start to understand why Paul wrote the letter and will also begin to identify with the Roman Christians in order to understand what his letter meant to them. I expect the study to last about 12 weeks and to end with a first-century agape meal and a brief worship service promoting among us the unity that Paul wanted in the Roman house churches.

Frances Fuller

MINISTRY MATTERS

Divide Christmas Food Basket

(This is the appreciation letter sent out to individuals and organizations who supported this year's Divide Christmas Food Basket. The letter is submitted by Gary Johnson, chair of DCFB—editor)

Thank You:

Your gifts to the Divide Christmas Food Basket has been greatly appreciated. Your donations and those of others have allowed us to increase the quantity and quality of the food items we share with our less fortunate clients.

This year we had 350 families registered to receive a food basket. We were able to serve every family whether they were registered or not. In the last 3 years we have been able to provide fresh meat for our larger families (3 or more) and MarVal script for our families of 1 or 2 persons. In addition to Christmas, we have been able to provide: Turkeys at Thanksgiving and Hams at Easter at Calvary Chapel in Greenwood; We provide Turkeys and Hams for the House of Prayer Christmas Day Dinner; We also provide additional Hams (with Turkey Bucks from MarVal) to Cool Community Church for distribution at their first distribution in the New Year. We also prepared and delivered food baskets, hams, turkeys and Angel gifts to the families and each child at Progress House in Garden Valley.

The actual number of families that received a food basket was 307. That means we had an 88% turnout that picked up a food basket. That percentage is 10 points higher than previous years (78% picked up food baskets last year).

I would like to especially thank the members of our Church family for supporting this ministry and working with the other church families in putting the food together, sorting and finally working on Friday to deliver the food to our clients. I depend heavily on our the men and women of our Church to be there each day, but those that are scheduled on Friday make the difference in that they have most of the experience, and it is the experience that makes our program stronger each year.

Thank you again for your generous donation of time and money in support of this ministry.

Gary W. Johnson, Chairman DCFB 2011.

After-Thought: Divide Christmas Food Basket

During a conversation I had with Gary Johnson I could not miss a figure that gave me an insight into an important aspect of the social reality on the Divide. That is what I would call, for now, the reality of “mountain poor.”

This year 350 families registered for to receive free food—last year it was about 380. Let me place this figure in perspective. Let us say each family has two members in average. This means roughly 700 persons received temporary food assistance for a week. Georgetown population is little less than 1,000. Since not all registered were from Georgetown, persons need temporary food assistance, at least, should be less than 70% of the population. Now then, the question is how much less?

Helping Hands and Wheels

CN Ministry (Cup of Noodle Ministries)

Men’s Ministry

Church Family Contact and Care Caller System

by Wayne Fuller

In an effort to help our church family stay connected, the church devised a volunteer ministry whereby the church families were divided into groups of ten or fewer with physical addresses, telephone numbers, Email addresses. The volunteer care callers are requested to call each family unit on the list at least once a month. This provides an opportunity for church families to ask questions, make comments, share prayer requests or just have someone to talk to. Special concerns are passed on the Ministry

Coordinator for his response. The Coordinator passes on to the volunteer care callers any special or non-scheduled events taking place in our church life. Being a church family Care Caller is a good way to share your love for one another and be a blessing.

Good News

January Birthdays Men’s Breakfast Prayer Chain List of Helping Hands and Wheels

General Income/Expense 2011: Georgetown UMC

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Gain/Loss</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Jan	12,712.31	10,093.28	2,619.03	2,619.03
Feb	7,838.41	10,894.92	(3,056.51)	(437.48)
Mar	11,192.19	11,685.10	(492.91)	(930.39)
Apr	12,327.95	12,416.15	(88.20)	(1,018.59)
May	11,165.29	12,407.10	(1,241.18)	(2,260.40)
Jun	9,759.55	15,756.92	(5,997.37)	(8,257.77)
Jul	10,996.98	7,164.82	3,832.16	(4,425.61)
Aug	8,745.08	6,940.25	1,804.83	(2,620.78)
Sep	8,307.36	6,760.96	1,546.40	(1,074.38)
Oct	10,428.97	6,442.33	3,986.64	2,912.26
Nov				
Dec				