

# The Orange Branch

Orange United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2009

## Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 AM Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

## The Members of Orange UMC are its ministers. The staff who assist them in their work are:

- Graham Arp  
*Youth Director*
- Anne Chandler  
*Administrative Assistant*
- Dee Smithwick  
*Custodian*
- Jennifer Smithwick  
*Children's Director*
- Joy Turner  
*Music Director*
- Max Vincent  
*Pastor*

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## Who Locked the Gates?

Gary Shockley writes for the Alban Institute, an interdenominational organization which consults with congregations. Recently he wrote an article for one of their weekly newsletters that reminded me about how, as we invite unchurched people to join us in our journey of discipleship, we need to be aware of ways we may exclude them once they show up for worship. I hope it stirs some personal reflection for you as well.

"Over the years I have heard countless painful stories about how people new to a congregation couldn't get through the "gates" of the church--those implicit codes and requirements that those of us "inside" the church unwittingly embody and construct as barriers toward them. These include unspoken dress codes, being made to feel like intruders by the members of the church, the expectation that newcomers should be familiar with our creeds and prayers (I can't tell you how many churches

I visit that never print these in a bulletin or project them on a screen for folks to follow), and being inundated by words and expressions, especially in our sermons, that presuppose some greater theological knowledge and experience of the church than most newcomers would have.

"My own experience of visiting with other churches has helped me realize what a huge step it is for "unaffiliated" people--the ones we say we are trying to reach--to show up, especially on Sunday mornings, and find their place among us. It has got to be about as uncomfortable for many of them to come and feel connected to what we are doing as it would be for us churched folk to show up at a Hindu shrine and be expected to jump right into the ritual.

Many of the unaffiliated people I relate to on a weekly basis would be open to visiting a church but often need an entry point like a baptism, wedding, or funeral to do so. I

have found over and over again that these occasions can create opportunities for us to connect with the unaffiliated--to build a bridge to where they are. And I believe it is our responsibility as clergy and laity to build these bridges to them. As they begin to join us in the journey, we can then lead them to begin to take responsibility for themselves--to understand about our history, to study our traditions, to learn how to spiritually feed themselves. But the process begins with us in the church.

I think we have a huge problem when unaffiliated people turn to our churches for services and support and we respond to them in a way that conveys a kind of club mentality: "If you are not a member here, attend regularly, or support 'us' financially, your request for services will be denied or at least met with lengthy policies and hefty fees." Such a response sends the message, "It's not about you. We're not about you!"

(continued on page 2)

## Church Council

Glenn Arp, Administrative Council Chairman  
Phone: 770-735-3563  
E-mail: [drafterglen@ellijay.com](mailto:drafterglen@ellijay.com)

We are well into this new year 2009, and we have had our first council meeting of the year. I wish to thank all of the members who serve on any committees or in any other positions or ministries in our church. God's word tells us that we are all called to a purpose as we serve him in this life. It is a credit to our church and an indication of the presence of the Holy Spirit that we have many people willing to serve in so many ways.

As we move forward this year, I urge everyone at Orange to give thought to ways that you can serve. Pray for His guidance to show you whether there is something special you can do as a beloved servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I truly believe that if we all follow His leading, He will richly bless us, bless our families, and bless our church.

I pray for God's blessings upon our pastor, our church leaders, and upon our entire congregation. May God be glorified and His people blessed in 2009!

## Youth News

Graham Arp, Director  
 Phone: 770-894-1979  
 E-mail: gram4.jesus@yahoo.com  
 Website: orangeyouth.org



**The youth at Orange UMC** are having a great start to 2009! We have so many events planned for this year, its hard to keep up. So far, we have hosted our annual Youth Appreciation Dinner. We had a wonderful evening serving those who serve us and everyone throughout the year.

**Fun Tuesdays** will be beginning in February. The youth will have fellowship every Tuesday night starting at 7 pm. They will be doing different things such as playing board games, watching movies, and much more. As it warms up, we will move our activities outside. Fun Tuesdays will be open to both Sr. and Jr. High. Each week's activities will be posted on the youth website: [www.orangeyouth.org](http://www.orangeyouth.org).

**February 1—Souper Bowl of Caring**—the youth will collect money and canned goods that will be donated to Mother's Cupboard. Also, our youth band will be playing at both services on February 1st.

**WinterJam09**—Sunday, February 8-tobyMac, Hawk Nelson, Brandon Heath, NewSong, Francisca Battistelli, Guest Speaker Tony Nolan and more! Meet at the church at 3:30pm. This will be in the place of our regular youth meeting. We will return home between 10:30-11 pm. The cost is only \$10.00 plus money for a fast food meal.

**SLR at Camp Glisson**—Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15. We still need chaperones! The theme for this year is "Walk the Line" with a focus on Proverbs 3:5-6. This will be a weekend filled with great music, fun, and powerful messages. Please sign up by February 15. The cost is \$60 per person. Pictures from last year are available on the website.

**Camp Woodlands**—Monday, July 27-Saturday, August 1. Please sign up by February 22. The cost is \$165.00 Last year's video is available on the website.

(continued from page 1) **Who Locked the Gates?**

But who or what are we about?

In my thirty years of ministry I have watched the chasm between the church and our culture widen considerably. As leaders in the church, we are much too quick to place the blame for this on those outside of our faith communities: "If only they would come to us. If only they would put their generous contributions in our collection plates. If only they... there would be no chasm between us." Not so fast. If only we would go to be where they are. If only we would listen to their concerns. If only we would be attentive to their needs. If only we would stop treating people as a means to our ends. (How many times have I heard people in the church say, "Our financial problems would be over if we could only get more people in the seats!")

It is not that people aren't spiritually minded these days. Studies have shown that while church attendance is declining in North America, interest in spirituality is increasing. So where is the disconnect? As a leader in the church, I had better be asking this question a lot of myself and my church.

While we can expect clubs to provide services exclusively to their members (that is what the members pay for), the church is different. Because of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, service to others is something we who are already in the church pay for. While club members legitimately have a "serve us" mentality, church members should have a "service" mentality. When we first started HopeSpring Church I talked about this in one of my sermons. That week a member made a sign for my office.

It read, "The church is the only organization that exists for its non-members." That sign remains a good reminder to me about our purpose.

Years ago, as a classically trained "ministry professional," I was caught up in my own gatekeeper style of leadership. I was hired to care for the flock already inside the gates and to make sure nothing got at them (including the stinging truth of the gospel). My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will keep breaking through my own propensity toward a gatekeeper approach of ministry to consider, again and again, another way--a more bridge-building way."  
 [used by permission of the Alban Institute]

*Peace, Max*

## Outreach / Missions

Ed McDonald, Outreach Coordinator  
 Phone: 770-720-6089  
 E-mail: edmacmo@gmail.com



**Mother's Cupboard** handed out approximately 44 boxes of food for January. If you would like to help with the next handout, contact Bob or Carol Koenig, or Ed McDonald. A big thank you to the scouts for collecting food for us during their recent Pinewood Derby contest.

**Souper Bowl on February 1-** Following church, the youth will collect money or canned goods donations to feed the hungry. Perhaps you can throw in a dollar or two, or three...oh, go ahead and make it a five!

**SOSA-The United Methodist Church** adopted Resolution #4093 during its 2008 General Conference commending the "Society of St. Andrew as a partner organization with the United Methodist Church in the alleviation of hunger in the United States."

**The Interpreter Magazine-**The January/February issue's focus is "Ministry with the Poor" and has several good articles given the General Conference's emphasis on poverty (one of the four areas of focus). This issue is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Perhaps

you might consider subscribing...I'll begin putting them out for your review. I particularly liked the article, "Our Tradition, Our Heritage, Our Call: Ministry with the Poor" by Bishop Joel Martinez (page 13). Perhaps you can take a moment to read it. Why are you a Methodist? The article concludes: "We are most Wesleyan, most United Methodist, when our mission is defined by works of justice and mercy inclusive of all of God's children."

## Stewardship

Paula Smith, Chair  
 Phone: 770-889-8964  
 E-mail: paulajsmith@bellsouth.net



**In December of 2008**, the Church council passed a budget of \$238,484 for 2009. To meet this budget, we need approximately \$19,874 a month. We now have totals for **January**:

Needed monthly: \$ 19,874.00

Received January: \$ 14,909.50

As you can see, our giving was nearly \$5000 below what we need to carry forward the ministries supported by our budget. This number represents a shortfall of over 25%. In looking at the budget from 2008, we spent almost 10 % less than we had projected, however, the largest savings was in the area of our local church ministries (we spent \$18,000 less than we had budgeted). What this means is

it is our ministries of evangelism, education, and mission that suffer when our giving falls short. We understand that these are uncertain and for many difficult economic times, and we are trying to think of creative ways to grow our financial support. Please pray for our finance committee, those in our midst who have lost jobs, our economy and how we can continue to grow our involvement in Christ's ministry.

### February 22 Special Offering for North GA Housing and Homeless Council

Each year our church receives a special offering to support the North Georgia Conference Housing and Homeless Council. This ministry provides housing programs and assistance across North GA. Last

year Orange UMC gave over \$700 to this offering. As you can imagine, the need has only grown this year. Sunday, February 22, is the day designated for the Homeless offering. You can mark your donation "Homeless" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you .

# February 2009

Orange United Methodist Church  
 220 Orange Church Circle  
 Canton, GA 30115  
 Phone: 770-886-9662 Fax: 770-886-9234  
 E-mail: orangeumc@orangeumc.org  
 Youth Events: orangeyouth.org  
 Prayer Request: prayer@orangeumc.org

**CALENDAR KEY:** S=Sanctuary; FH= Fellowship Hall;  
 SS=Sunday school Rm.; YR= Youth Rm.; BCO=Basement  
 Church Office; CO=Church Office; MR=Music Rm.;  
 SH=Scout Hut; CP=Church Pavilion CG=Church Grounds;  
 CPL=Church Parking Lot; OL= Outside Location ;  
 WA=Wooded Area; LLCO= Lower Level of Church Office;  
 BS=Boy Scouts; GS=Girl Scouts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany Worship 8:45 & 11am (S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am (MR) Youth-5-7pm (FH)  BS-4-5:30pm(SS)[Scott]	2  BOT-7pm (MR) GS-6-7:45pm (SS) [McPherson]	3  Fun Tuesdays-Jr/Sr High 7-8pm (YR) Choir Practice-7-8pm(MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	4  SPRC-7pm (CO)	5	6	7
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany  Worship 8:45 & 11am (S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am (MR) Youth-5-7pm (FH) Scout Sunday  WinterJam 09-3:30-10:30pm	9  Meals on Wheels - reserved all day (FH)	10 Meals on Wheels-8-2pm (FH)  Fun Tuesdays-Jr/Sr High 7-8pm (YR) Choir Practice-7-8pm(MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	11  Finance Committee Mtg. 7:30pm (CO)	12	13	14
15 6th Sunday after Epiphany Worship 8:45 & 11am (S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am (MR) Youth-5-7pm (FH)  BS-4-5:30pm (SS)[Scott] Retreat-Camp Glisson-signup deadline	16 School Winter Break  Deadline: March Newsletter	17 School Break  Fun Tuesdays-Jr/Sr High 7-8pm (YR) Choir Practice-7-8pm(MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	18 School Break  Church Council-7:30pm (CO)	19 School Break	20 School Break	21
22 Transfiguration Sunday/ Homeless Offering Worship 8:45 & 11am (S) Sunday School-10am Children's Music-10am (MR) Youth-5-7pm (FH) Camp Woodlands signup deadline	23 Nom. & Leadership- 7pm (CO) UMW-6:30-8:30pm (FH) GS-6-7:45pm (SS) [McPherson]	24  Fun Tuesdays-Jr/Sr High 7-8pm (YR) Choir Practice-7-8pm(MR) BS-7-9pm (FH)	25 Ash Wednesday  Senior's Bingo 11:30- 1:30pm-(FH) Worship Service-7pm	26	27	28 Eagle Scout Awards 4-9:30pm- (S, FH)



## Happy February Birthdays!

Ronnie Turner	1
Jake Turner	3
Whitney Williams	3
Jerry Kinser	4
Charlie Gibbs	8
Roger Leaders	8
Kyla Thompson	8
Tracy LeCroy	10
Bonnie Smith	10
Bob Leslie	11
Hannah Reynolds	12
Carol Smith	12
Pat White	13
Becky Escher	14
Terry Walton	14
Chad Corn	16
Nina Turner	16
Benjamin Greene	18
Jimmy Moore	18
Melba Bruce	19
Bethany Goode	19
Lauren Whitaker	20
Adam Rice	24
Bailey Smithwick	24
Mark Stackhouse	26
Nicole Mastriforte	27
Emily Barnes	28
Marsha Mastriforte	28
Emily Schwab	28

Please notify the church office if your birth date is incorrect or not listed.

## United Methodist Women

Jamie Hogue, President  
 Phone: 770-887-9616  
 E-mail: jamiebug@gmail.com



The Orchard Circle has changed its meeting time to the last Monday of the month, so the next meeting will be on Monday, February 23 in the Fellowship Hall. Beginning at 6:30 pm, we will have light refreshments and fellowship time, and the meeting will start at 7 pm.

Murphy-Harpst Children's Center is our mission focus for the month of February. The Children's Center, located in Cedartown, Georgia, offers a continuum of services designed to meet the needs of children and youth with emotional and/or behavioral problems. Murphy-Harpst Home has a history dating back to the early 1900s and is the vision of Sarah D. Murphy, the 10th child born to former slaves, and Ethel Harpst from the Women's Home Mission Society of the United Methodist Church. We will visit the Murphy-Harpst home on Saturday, February 21. If you are interested in joining us for the trip, please call Jamie Hogue at 770-887-9616.

## United Methodist Men

Bob Koenig, President  
 Phone: 770-781-6651  
 E-mail: koenig2681@juno.com



**Matthew 5:14-16**—You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The theme for UMM is to do good works whether it be for Habitat for Humanity, Mother's Cupboard, MUST Ministries or just feeding a neighbor who is in need. Let the light shine out in Lathemtown. On the third Saturday in February, we will have another mission project set up by Tom Schwab for all the men in the church to lend a hand. Watch the Sunday bulletins for details.

### SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

**February 1-4th** Sunday after the Epiphany-Sermon: “The Authority of Jesus”-Scripture: Mark 1:21-28. Communion

**February 8-5th** Sunday after the Epiphany-Sermon: “The Mission of Jesus”-Scripture: Mark 1:29-39.

**February 15-6th** Sunday after the Epiphany-Sermon: “The Will of Jesus”-Scripture: Mark 1:40-45.

**February 22-7th** Sunday after the Epiphany-Sermon: “He was Transfigured”-Scripture: Mark 9:2-9.

**February 25-Ash** Wednesday-Worship Service 7 pm.

## February Announcements

**Forsyth Central High School** is presenting the Grammy award winning musical, *Godspell*, on February 5, 6, 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday February 8 at 2 pm. Admission is \$5.00. This show reenacts Jesus' life and parables through music and choreography. It speaks of loving your neighbor, forgiveness, tolerance and celebration.

Orange United Methodist Women are getting a group together to go to the Sunday matinee performance. If there is enough interest, we will utilize the church van for transportation. Please contact either Mary Cissell at 770-886-5153 or Jamie Hogue at 770-887-9616 by Sunday February 1 if you are interested in attending.

If you are interested in attending one of the evening performances, please contact Cindy Boff at 770-844-8954 or e-mail [marklittle@bellsouth.net](mailto:marklittle@bellsouth.net).

**Remember that Scout Sunday** is February 8. Representatives from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be at Orange for both worship services.

Prayer Request E-mail:  
[prayer@orangeumc.org](mailto:prayer@orangeumc.org)

March newsletter deadline is  
February 15. E-mail to:  
[orangeumc@orangeumc.org](mailto:orangeumc@orangeumc.org)

Orange United Methodist  
Church Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9am-2pm

Youth Website:  
[orangeyouth.org](http://orangeyouth.org)

### ASH WEDNESDAY

February 25, 2009 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary begins the season of lent with a service of prayer and dedication.

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