

THE TOWER

A Publication of Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church

April 2011

A word from James.....

As we walked down Park Avenue recently in New York City, Caroline and I saw a familiar sign. It was posted outside the United Methodist Church. The sign read, "Open Hearts ... Open Minds ... Open Doors." Seeing a man standing in the doorway, I stepped up and introduced myself as a Methodist pastor from Alabama. Next, I asked if we could go inside and possibly use the restroom. His response was a firm "No." As we walked away from the church Caroline and I both agreed that the church sign was misleading. Some would say the sign sent a mixed signal.

I wonder if Cahaba Heights UMC also sends mixed signals. We pride ourselves as being open to people of all ages and walks of life, but are we any different from the congregation in New York? Before answering, consider the fact that the two age groups that we are least effective in reaching are youth and young adults. We currently have a small youth Sunday school class, but no Sunday school class for young adults, married or unmarried. Unfortunately, just hoping one will get started or reminiscing about how it was "in the good old days when 20, 30, 40, 50 or more attended youth and young adult activities" are usually fruitless exercises. Changing a situation involves making a commitment to being "open" to the ones we hope to reach.

In contrast to the experience on Park Avenue, Caroline and I had a wonderful experience at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The doors were open and we were welcomed as warmly as longtime members of the congregation. Later, we returned for a tour of the facility and experienced that same warm hospitality from the staff member who led our guided tour. After my experience at the Cathedral and with the misleading sign, it is highly unlikely that I would recommend the church on Park Avenue for persons visiting New York.

The pilgrimage continues ...

Peace,

James

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Gwen Johnson

Choir & Traditional Worship

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Organist/Pianist

Dr. Ginger Dismukes

Contemporary Worship Leader

Drake Roberts

Youth Director

Drake Roberts

Children

Jana Cook

Preschool/MDO Director

Laura Goatley (969-3149)

Bookkeeper

Jadell Dunn

"Cahaba Heights UMC is called to share God's message of love and grace with all people in our community and beyond, by using our gifts and our resources in each ministry opportunity to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

Our CHUM Family ...celebrating & serving

April Birthday

- 3 Janis Corley, Harrison Armstrong
- 4 Dan Gilmore
- 5 Catherine Gamble
- 6 Leslie Keith
- 9 Ben Hope
- 13 Jeanne Nappi, Joyce Wiggins
- 14 Tim Pollard
- 18 Draske Roberts
- 20 Jason Nappi
- 22 David Scarbrough, Carolyn Gann
- 23 James Calhoun
- 24 Bob Scofield
- 25 Sydney Rangeley, Andrew Scarbrough,
Caila Gamble
- 27 Dusty Cobb
- 30 John Parris, Hazel Wright



Trustee Workday

Saturday
April 2, 2011
9:00 am



PreSchool/MDO News

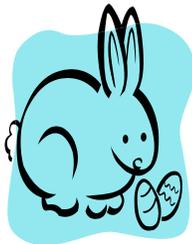
The preschool classes are gearing up for our annual Preschool Program/Spring art show. The date is set for Friday, April 15 @ 10:00 am. We would like to invite our church family to attend too! Fall registration forms are now due for the 2011-2012 school year. We only have a few spots left!

God Bless, *Laura Goatley*

SERVANTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Usher/Greeters</u>
4/3	Don Harbison	Bobby Williams/Bill Maze
4/10	Richard Barrow	Marla Monk, Gerald Gann
4/17	Dick Johnson	Mike Mizerany, Lewis Eberdt
4/24	Bill White	Bill Maze, Freddie Huey

Come Join the Fun Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt April 16th 9:00 am Everyone is welcome!



Kids bring your Easter basket with 10 plastic eggs filled with goodies to share. You and your friends can make crafts and play games before we have the biggest egg hunt ever!

Love, Ms. Jana

Save the Date!! April 3-First VBS Meeting

We will meet for just a few minutes right after worship service. Anyone who is willing and able to help, please come. Thank you for your continued support of our children. Love, Ms. Jana

THANK YOU!!! The youth would like to offer up their most joyous thanks to everyone who participated in the chili cook-off! Without you we would not be able to have such a successful event. All of the chili was spectacular and the desserts were equally great. We also want to extend our gratitude to those who gave donations. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise \$1350. These funds will be put towards all of our activities, which include bible study materials as well as trip expenses.

This was without a doubt the most successful chili cook-off we have had since we started it three years ago. I think this is a wonderful accomplishment and a sign that the youth program, as well as the church as a whole, is moving in a very positive direction. The togetherness I have witnessed over the past few months has been a marvelous thing to behold. I am very much looking forward to seeing how God continues to work through us all here at CHUM.

I would like to, one last time, say thank you so very much for all that you do for the youth program. Special things are unfolding every day here, and if we continue to work together and let God work through us, there are no limits to what we can accomplish. So, thanks, and God Bless!

In Christ, Drake and all the Youth here at CHUM

**CAHABA HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN**

Reading Program books are missing. If you have one of our books please drop it by the church office with my name on it. We want you to read them but, please return them in a timely manner.

We are proud to announce that we turned in five Layette Kits for UMCOR to use where needed. This cost us about \$40 a kit and we had been told originally it would be \$30; therefore, we had to reach into our treasury to complete the kits. If you promised to contribute to this cause and you didn't, please don't forget to write a check to CHUM Women and put it in our box in the Narthex.

Wendy Toottle is preparing Birthing Kits which we will send to UMCOR in early April.

Thank you for your support.
Reita Davis, President



On Easter morning we will once again be decorating a Flower Cross in front of the church. The cross last year was beautiful! Many thanks to all those who brought flowers and helped to decorate. Please make plans to participate again this year as we share our joy on Easter with our community. Simply bring flowers to church with you on Easter morning to be placed on the cross. The flowers can be from home gardens or purchased from a store. Thanks again for all your support. *Shana Williams*

A Word of Thanks to Our Church Family.....

Marshall and I are so appreciative and thankful for all of your cards, phone calls, and visits. Your thoughtfulness helped us to continue to feel a part of the church through your expressions of love and concern. Again, thank you.
Marshall & Sue Fitzpatrick

A Word of Thanks...

We want to thank our church family for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and visits during Christy's illness and passing. They were much needed and appreciated. She was a special girl who we miss every day.
Mike and Jeanette Mizerany

**Cahaba Heights UMC
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