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The Tower

Cahaba Heights UMC

August 2013

Letter from the Pastor

I was told as a child to quit wishing for important events such as Christmas and my birthday. It seemed then that time marched at a snail's pace. The same person that told me to quit wishing for things to get here sooner also said and has reminded me many times since that when I turned fifty I would better understand the phrase "in a blink of an eye." I am sitting here thinking that if time flies by any faster I may be convinced to simply never take my Christmas tree down. August, school starts, football begins, Easter is long past, where has this year gone? In a blink of an eye we will quickly be into fall and then once again into the Advent season.

As an entire congregation I want us to pray about the term "New Beginnings." What does that mean in your life? I want us to think and pray from an everyday point of view as well as a spiritual point of view. In our life we go through seasons. Many of us have had upheavals in our life that have caused us to have to develop a new normal. My goal is that as we look at new beginnings we look at ourselves and ask what God expects of us. Who knows, we may be entering a season that surprises all of us. Below is an article by J. Lee Grady that was discussed at the class I attended this week. I wanted to share with each of you. -Rusty

1. We must break free from the fear of change. God is always on the move. He might lead us to camp in one spot for a while, but we can never get too comfortable in one place. His trumpet will eventually blow and the cloud of His presence will shift. Don't park when God is calling you forward. Stay open to His fresh directives, and expect Him to stretch your faith. He is adventurous!

2. We must be willing to defy tradition. People who are married to the past cannot embrace the future. Sacred cows do not belong in the pulpit; they must be sacrificed on the altar. "The way we've always done it" will not work in God's new season. The crowd chooses the comfortable pews of nostalgia, but God is with the courageous few who are willing to blaze a new path into unreached territory.

3. We must ask the Spirit to reveal His new strategies. We cannot rely on church growth gurus, popular books or rock-star preachers to lead us into genuine change. Copying spiritual trends is just a form of carnality—and it is a sad substitute for real innovation. If the work of transforming the church is not totally led by the Holy Ghost, then our changes will be shallow and our impact will be pitiful. The last thing we need is a superficial upgrade. I believe the Lord wants to unleash a gushing river of new wine into the church today, but He is directing us to prepare our wineskins. What is old must be renewed by the Spirit, what is outdated must be remodeled, and what is ineffective must be replaced. God wants to do a new thing. Don't resist it.

J. LEE GRADY is the former editor of Charisma and the director of The Mordecai Project. He is the author of several books including 10 Lies the Church Tells Women, 10 Lies Men Believe and The Holy Spirit Is Not for Sale.

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Back-to-School Sunday

On August 18 Cahaba Heights UMC will celebrate the beginning of a new school year in our Sunday school classes and Sunday morning worship service. Kids moving from 5th to 6th grade will officially move up to the youth Sunday school class, and those moving from 8th to 9th grade will move to Senior High Youth Group.

During our morning service, we will have prayer for our teachers and school workers and a blessing of the backpacks for our kids. Bring your backpack and celebrate with us!

“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.”
- *Saint Augustine*

Youth/UMW Team Up

In Mission Together

The Senior High Youth and United Methodist Women Spirit Circle will team together to provide dinner to the First Light Women’s Shelter on Sunday, August 25.

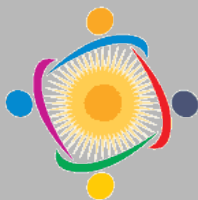
UMW will prepare the food and the youth will serve to approximately 70 women and some children who are homeless due to various reasons.

We Need Your Help!

The UMW and Youth need your help in this endeavor! Here is what you can do: We will need approximately \$300.00 total to make this meal. We need lots of donors to help cover the costs. If you can help, please give your donation to Marla Monk or Freddie Huey by August 18th. Thank you so much !

20’s/30’s Sunday School

On August 18 we will begin a new Sunday school class for Young Adults in their 20’s and 30’s. The class will initially be led by Kelsey Johnson. We will meet from 9:45-10:30 in the Parlor. Join us on August 18 and bring ideas for what you would like to study or learn about. Bring a friend, too! The class is entirely new so it is a great place to join in and find your place at CHUMC. See you there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

Let's Get Chummy with Ben Cook!

Ben Cook joined our staff as music director this past January.

Where did you grow up attending church?

Taylor Memorial UMC in Clay-Pinson

Tell us about your family.

My parents are John and Kathy. My wife Molly is a high school Spanish teacher and my daughter Emma Kate is a baby.

What is your day-job?

I am the choir teacher at McAdory Middle School.

When did you know you wanted to be a choir director?

In 11th grade after participating in my high school chamber choir.

What is your favorite thing about CHUMC?

Working with the choir. I love working with the choir and I feel like the CHUMC choir is really special. I enjoy spending time with them every week.

What are you most excited about in the choir program right now?

Right now I'm excited about expanding our repertoire and doing new things.

Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses...who's your favorite?

Choir Kicks Off New Season

Last Sunday, the CHUMC Chancel Choir led worship with seven spiritual and folk anthems, then hosted a lunch afterwards to raise money for the choir fund. The lunch raised \$523 to use in the new choir season! Thank you to the choir for their hard work and to everyone who participated.

If you have been interested in joining the choir, now is the perfect time! Rehearsals are at 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoons and last for one hour. No experience required! Ben is an excellent teacher and choir practice is always fun. We hope you will join us on Sunday afternoons!

Please take a look at our new choir website, www.chummusic.org for more information.

*You are cordially invited to a bridal
tea honoring*

Lindsay James

Bride-elect of Richard Moats

in our church parlor

Sunday, August 18th

*from 2:00 until 4:00 in the
afternoon.*

*Come and share in the joy as we
celebrate this special occasion.*

*Hostesses: Dana Crisson,
Ruby Martin, Pam Newton, and
Sylvia Barrow*

Lindsay is registered at Belk and Bed, Bath, and Beyond

AUGUST 2013

August Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:00 pm Kids/Youth	5 Meals on Wheels (all week) 8:00 am MTeam	6 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group 10:00 am Exercise Class	7 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group	8 10:00 am Exercise Class	9	10
11 8:45 am Men's Club 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:00 pm Kids/Youth	12	13 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group 10:00 am Exercise Class	14 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group	15 10:00 am Exercise Class	16	17
18 Back-to-School! 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:00 pm Kids/Youth	19	20 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group 10:00 am Exercise Class	21 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group	22 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Senior Saints Bible Study begins	23	24
25 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir 5:00 pm Kids/Youth *UMW / Youth Provide Dinner for First Light	26	27 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group 10:00 am Exercise Class	28 9:00 am Women's Prayer Group	29 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Senior Saints	30	31

- 1 Larry Daniels
- 3 Dianne Milstead, Teresa Banks
- 4 Annette Eberdt
- 5 Marjorie Jeffries, Will Daniels
- 8 Brad Boyer
- 13 Katie Gardner
- 15 Lucy Anderson, Blake Boyle
- 17 David Busby
- 18 Tara Mohnney
- 19 Betty Moore, Marlin Brasher
- 22 Ruby Martin
- 27 Kathy Muroski, Lewis Eberdt
- 28 Kaitlyn Harbison
- 31 Gerald Gann, Matilda Gerwig, Frank Heckathorn

August Servants

Readers:

4: Bill White
11: Susan Maxey
18: Richard Barrow
25: Brandon Busby

Hosts/Greeters:

4: Bill Maze, Bobby Williams
11: Marla Monk, Gerald Gann
18: Mike Mizerany, Lewis Eberdt
25: Freddie Huey, Gerald Gann

You Can Help!

If we have not listed your birthday, please call the church office to let us know! Also, please let us know if you can help as a host or greeter.

Attention Seniors!

C.H.U.M.S. will be starting a new Bible study in August, "Senior Saints." We are very excited to offer this study on Thursdays at 11:00, directly after morning exercise class.

Our first class will be August 22nd in the Parlor.

We will not have a C.H.U.M.S. outing in the month of August, but get ready to read about our fun Fall schedule in the September newsletter!

Return Service Requested

www.CahabaHeightsUMC.org

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