

## THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

Rev. Mike Lowery, Pastor

### Looking Towards the New Year

Changes. For good or for ill, we can expect changes in this new year. The trouble is, we are uncomfortable with change. We like the familiar, the expected. Have you ever wondered why the children of Israel wanted to return to the "fleshpots of Egypt," even after seeing the mighty hand of God at work? They knew what to expect in Egypt.

Not so with God. Our God delights in the wondrous, the never-before-thought-of. Who could have imagined the Red Sea parting? Who could have imagined a burning bush? A very real part of faith is the willingness to step into the unknown when God says "move." Just ask the refugees from Egypt, or Father Abraham.

Part of our timidity stems from our familiarity with challenges past, those that we have overcome or, at the very least, lived through. We know we can handle them, because we already have. But no new challenges, please. No new tests of faith. We don't know how we'll react.

People are wondering about the coming year. Collectively we face a poor economy, international ill-will, and a new man at the helm. Individually we face other changes, for good and ill. There are new widows and widowers, but there are also new mothers and fathers. There are children newly orphaned, yet also children newly adopted. Bonds of friendship and family are broken, but they are also forged.

We know there will be changes. Some of them will be difficult, but others of them will be joyous, full of God's grace. Now is not a time for desperation. Now, as always, is a time for faith. Have faith in the God who leads His children through the wilderness, into the Promised Land. He will never steer you wrong!

*Mike*

## THE YOUTH CORNER

Alice Howard, Cathy Smith: Youth Leaders

Treasure from God's Word: "For unto us a child is born, ...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Let us use the five names given to the prophesied Christ child to represent the five points of the Christmas Star, and may this star guide each of our lives as we follow the Holy Son of God.

The NSUM youth recently elected officers for 2009. They are as follows:

President: Luke Repass  
Vice-President: Mariah McConathy  
Secretary-Treasure: Laura Smith  
Sgt. at Arms: Matthew Bruce

The youth recently remembered Edith Lantych and Fred Pope on their 90+ birthdays.

Congratulations to our Senior Friends. Also, many thanks to our youth who helped with our annual Christmas Program and Christ's Birthday Party.

### TIMES TO REMEMBER

Sunday School—Each Sunday Morning—9:45  
Morning & Evening Worship Service—11:00 & 6:00

## LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, December 23, 12 Noon, BULLETIN DEADLINE  
Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
6:00 PM, **Christmas Eve Service**  
(Children encouraged to attend.)  
11:00 PM, **Christmas Eve Service**  
(Communion)  
Thursday, December 25, **Christmas Day!**  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
Wednesday, December 31, **New Year's Eve**  
10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
12 Noon, BULLETIN DEADLINE  
7:00 PM, **Drop By**  
**Communion Service**  
Thursday, January 1, **New Year's Day!**  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
(UMM Meeting will be next week.)  
Saturday, January 3, 9:00 AM, **Workday**  
Sunday, January 4, **Epiphany Sunday**  
HOLY COMMUNION  
5:00 PM, **SPR Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 6, **Epiphany of the Lord**  
6:30 PM, **Heavenly Hands Crafters**  
Wednesday, January 7, 10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
7:00 PM, **Evening Bible Study**  
Thursday, January 8, 6:30 PM, **UMM Meeting**

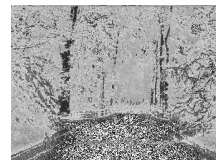
## LOOKING AHEAD CONTINUED...

Sunday, January 11, **NO Finance Meeting**  
**District Training**  
**(NO Sunday Night Service)**  
Wednesday, January 14, 10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
7:00 PM, **Evening Bible Study**  
Sunday, January 18, 5:00 PM, **Finance Committee Meeting**  
6:00 PM, **Family Night**  
January 18-25, **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
Monday, January 19, **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s B'day Observance**  
Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 PM, **Church Council Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 21, 10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
7:00 PM, **Evening Bible Study**  
Sunday, January 25, 5:00 PM, **UMW Meeting**  
Monday, January 26, NEWSLETTER  
12 Noon, **Jolly Elders**  
Wednesday, January 28, 10:00 AM, **Morning Bible Study**  
7:00 PM, **Evening Bible Study**  
Sunday, February 1, HOLY COMMUNION  
5:00 PM, **SPR Meeting**

## UP COMING EVENTS

January 23<sup>rd</sup> — Chili/Hot Dog Supper  
sponsored by the UMM  
February 14th — Valentine's Banquet  
Sponsored by Finance Committee

## THANK YOU



*Enjoy the Season!*

We appreciate your support throughout the year. Best Wishes for the holiday season!

*Family Crisis Center*

*Staff*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There will be no UMW meeting in December. The UMW still has some pecan halves and pieces left. See Pat Wilson before they are gone. Looking ahead to the January UMW meeting: Becky Payne will lead the study on *Jezebel*. Sharon Evans and Margaret Dixon will be the hostesses.

## WELCOME

We want to welcome into our church midst the new little baby girl that was born this past Wednesday, December 17, 2008—Alaina Marie Wright. Parents are Danielle and Garrett; Grandmother, Rachel Hood; Great-grandmother, Sharon Evans.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



The UMM is sponsoring a **Chili / Hot Dog Supper** in the church Fellowship Hall on **Friday, January 23, 2009**, from **5:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.**

The Howard Brothers will then sing at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Tickets are available now! — \$6.00.

## VALENTINE'S BANQUET



The Finance Committee will be sponsoring a **Valentine's Banquet** on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 6:30 p. m. The tickets will be \$10.00 and will be available soon.

## STOCKING FULL OF LOVE



I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who gave to the *Stocking Full of Love* Christmas toy drive sponsored by the Sheriff's Department. We took the toys to the Sheriff's Department last week. The toys were very appreciated. Thanks, Newnan Springs.

— Mildred Thompson

## MISSION POST OFFICE



Yesterday marked the end of the "Mission Post Office". We want to thank each of you for participating in this local mission project that will benefit **Rossville Community Ministries**. Over \$700 was raised! **THANK YOU** so much!

(That's the most we've ever raised for the Mission Post Office!)

I really appreciate all of you who helped sort and deliver.

Thank you, *Mildred Thompson*

**Join us this Wednesday Evening  
at 6:00 p.m. and/or 11:00 p.m.  
for a Christmas Eve Service**

**...Then**

**Join us Wednesday Evening  
New Year's Eve  
at 7:00 p.m.  
for a Drop-by  
Communion Service**

## WALT'S WITS

In loving memory of Walt Varnell who contributed the material for this column.

- Walking to the barn across a frost-covered yard, two year old Brock asked his mother, "Who whitewashed the grass?"
- A mom knew it was time to color her no-longer-blond roots when her 4-year-old noted, "Your hair is getting tan."
- When a little girl asked her grandmother what year she was born, the grandmother replied '33. It really aged her when her granddaughter then followed up with, "Was that 1833 or 1933?"
- It was clear that a son had heard his mom's kitchen lament once too often when he trudged in from school and announced, "I've been slaving over a hot desk all day!"
- Years ago, a son named Joshua was paging through the maps in the back of the family Bible. "Mom," he inquired, "are these the direction to Heaven?"



"There are a lot of cookies missing from your cookie jar? Well, Granny, my horse likes 'em, too."

### Church Office Hours

**Monday thru Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

In case of an emergency **after 2:00 PM**, you may call the church parsonage.

**NEWNAN SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**  
78 Monahan Avenue, Rossville, Georgia 30741-8118

(706) 866-6724 (Office)

December 22, 2008

**Sunday**  
9:45 AM - Sunday School - Classes for All Ages  
Worship - 11 AM - Traditional  
5-6 PM - Youth Activities

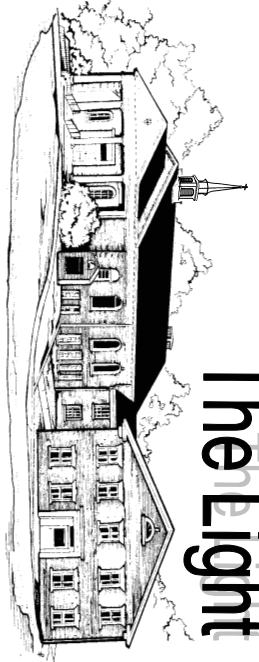
6 PM - Evening Worship Service  
Chancel Choir Practice  
Following Evening Worship Service

**Wednesday Activities:**  
10 AM - Bible Study  
7 PM - Evening Bible Study  
8 PM - A.A.

**Thursday**  
6:30 PM - Visitation every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Evening

**Saturday**  
8 PM - A.A.

Web Site: <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/newnanspringsumc>



**The Light**

Mission: "To make disciples for Jesus Christ."

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