



News of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) of Marietta

The HARBINGER

Volume 61

December, 2010

We are an inviting, welcoming, growing Christian community, worshipping God in the Disciples tradition since 1949, where you are a stranger but once.

- **To re-focus our mission**
- **To increase levels of giving to the church and its mission**

Given the church's financial constraint, each of us will accept a small monthly stipend. It is felt that going forward the congregation should continue to bear responsibility for the support of pastoral leadership in preparation for the time when it can once again employ a full time senior minister. Donna, Jeff, and I have agreed to accept this part time pastoral role for a period of two years while the church conducts a search for a new senior minister. Should a new minister be called within that two-year period, we will step aside. We begin our collaborative ministry December 1, 2010.

Donna, Jeff and I accept this call and its responsibilities because we can no longer stand to see the congregation struggle so without pastoral guidance. The three of us consider ourselves "servants" which is the root meaning of "minister" and so we are here to humbly serve you. We look forward to a time of fruitful ministry, under God, in this wonderful congregation.

Jerry Gladson, Minister Emeritus

MARIETTA FIRST TO HAVE THREE PASTORS!

Every member of First Marietta is aware that, of late, we have experienced what could be called a "crisis" of pastoral leadership. Giving levels in the congregation have fallen far enough that they have deprived us of a full time minister. For several months we have benefited from a series of fine "supply" preachers, whose ministry we have deeply appreciated, but the church has been unable to contract with any of these for even part time responsibilities. As a result, lacking on-the-ground pastoral leadership, our church has stumbled a bit in its missional direction.

Harking back to the early days of Disciples history, when churches regularly appointed persons from among the congregation for pastoral leadership, your church has called Donna Kremer, Jeff Shimizu, and me to serve as part time *Transitional Ministers*. Instead of a solitary senior minister, the church will be led by a team of ordained ministers, each bringing different gifts and talents to the role. All of us are bivocational in that we each have responsibilities elsewhere, but will collaborate to lead worship, preach (on a rotating basis), conduct funerals, weddings, and baptisms, make pastoral calls, and provide pastoral leadership in church affairs. Our goals are:

- **To bring back a sense of pastoral normalcy to our congregation**
- **To assist the congregation in clarifying its identity**

Elders Serving In December

**December 5 & 12: Joe Kern &
Jeannie Farris**

**December 19 & 26: Bob Kremer
& Al Rowe**

Greeters Serving in December

**December 5 & 12: I need
volunteers, please**

**December 19 & 26: Mike
Bradford and I need another
volunteer!**

If for some reason you can not fulfill your obligation please try to find a replacement or contact Joe Kern for the Elders and Tommy Russell for Greeters.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely flowers that you sent to me this past week. I will miss you all. I enjoyed serving the congregation for over 13 years and have many fond memories. I wish you all the best in the future.

**God bless.....
Pam Barksdale**

A Word From Wilma!

This is a Poem that Wilma wrote and can be sung to the tune of *Jingle Bells!*

Jesus came! Jesus came!
Jesus came to earth!
Oh what joy He brings to us
From a lowly manger birth.
Dashing from the hills,
Shepherds worshiped Him.
Wise men followed, too;
From the east they came.
Bells and voices rang,
Angels in the sky.
What wonder 'tis to lively sing
Our joyful song tonight.

CWF/DM Potluck Dinner

**On December 2, 2010 @ 7PM
come and bring a friend with you
and a dish to share and listen to a
program about how to D-Stress for
the Holidays. It should be a fun
and informative
evening!!**

Help!

**If you do not want to be a greeter
in 2011, please let me know and if
you would like to help, old or new
members, please let Tommy
Russell know.**

A Note from Our Congregational Health Minister, Rev. Donna Kremer

Helping Yourself Heal During the Holiday Season

Holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Rather than being times of family togetherness, sharing and thanksgiving, holidays can bring feelings of sadness, loss and emptiness. No simple guidelines exist that will take away the hurt you are feeling. Grief expert Dr. Alan Wolfelt provides the following suggestions to help you better cope with your grief during this joyful, yet painful time of the year

Talk about your grief. During the holiday season, don't be afraid to express your feelings of grief. Find caring friends and relatives who will listen without judging you.

Be tolerant of your physical and psychological limits. Feelings of loss may leave you fatigued, and your low energy level may naturally slow you down. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. And lower your own expectations about being at your peak during the holiday season

Eliminate unnecessary stress. Realize that merely "keeping busy" won't distract you from your grief, but may actually increase stress. Avoid isolating yourself, but do recognize the need to have special time for yourself

Be with supportive, comforting people. Identify those friends and relatives who understand that the holidays can increase your sense of loss, and who will allow you to talk openly about your feelings

Plan ahead for family gatherings. Decide what family traditions you want to continue and which new ones you would like to begin. Do what is right for you, even if it conflicts with what well-meaning family and friends try to prescribe for you

Embrace your treasure of memories. Memories are among the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. Include the name of the person who has died in your holiday conversation

Renew your resources for living. Spend time to nurture yourself spiritually by reflecting on the meaning and purpose of your life. Express your faith. Define the positive things in life that surround you. Love yourself, and be patient with yourself.



Pastoral Staff

Hal Doster, John Lee † Jerry Gladson Jeff Shimizu	Senior Minister Emeritus Senior Minister Emeritus Senior Minister Emeritus Minister of Soulfire Ministries /Pastoral Assoc.
Warren Taylor	Minister of Recovery
Donna Kremer	Pastoral Associate
Eduardo Villarreal	Minister of Congregational Health
Sherwood Smith	Spanish Service Pastoral Associate Dir. of Disciples Mission Food Pantry

Church Staff

Wilma Zalabak	Interim Minister of Music
Tommy Russell	Administrative Assistant

Services

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship & Communion	11:00 a.m.
Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Spanish Bible Study	7:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Unlimited Recovery	7:45 p.m. Wednesdays
Church Office Hours	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. T-F closed Monday
Website	www.fccmarietta.org
Email address	fccmarietta@comcast.net

You are invited to...

Worship

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Dec. 5: Rev. Jeff Shimizu to
bring the message

Dec. 12: Rev. Linda Whit-
mire to bring the message

Dec. 19: Christmas Cantata

Dec. 26: to be announced



Conversations

(A mid-week Bible study)
Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Dec. 1: Rev. Dr. Jerry
Gladson leading our
Bible Study

Dec. 8: Rev. Dr. Jerry
Gladson leading our
Bible Study

Dec. 15: Rev. Dr. Jerry
Gladson leading our
Bible Study

Dec. 22: to be an-
nounced

Dec. 29: to be an-
nounced

THIS IS TIME VALUED MAIL

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Marietta, GA 30060
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