

As you know, we have many ways of keeping you informed about upcoming events. Please remember to check the bulletins, announcement screens, monthly newsletters, the website and Facebook page for upcoming events. Included in the back of the handbook is a program calendar also. Also remember to listen for announcements from the pulpit, voice calls from One Call Now, text messages and/or e-mails. We will try to keep you informed. We also put information out by mass emails and on our Facebook. Our website is updated on a weekly basis to keep information current. All of this handled by the Church Administrative Assistant.

If you have an announcement that you would like to include please notify the office by phone or e-mail by Wednesday of each week for the bulletin and before the last week in the current month for next month's newsletter. Announcements can be put on the screens with less notice.

Early Worship Service is held each Sunday at 8:30. Communion is observed each Sunday. Music is Contemporary with our praise band, Uplifted. Dress is usually more casual and Pastor Roger brings the sermon.

Breakfast is provided free of charge for everyone, each Sunday unless announced beginning at 9:15 AM

Sunday School is held weekly at 10:00 am for all ages, except on Easter and Homecoming.

Traditional Worship Service is held at 11:00 AM. (On special occasions such as Easter and Homecoming, 8:30am and 11am worship services are joined at 11am.)

Men's Prayer Meeting meets in the fellowship hall at 7:00 AM for prayer and Bible Study. Men you are welcome to join in anytime your schedule allows.

Family Meal is Wednesday nights at 6pm. (January thru May and September thru December) everyone is invited (*cooked by Kenneth and Cindy Little or anyone that volunteers*). A donation is suggested plus helping to serve and pitching in to help clean-up is always welcome. The meal is followed by Bible Study or special biblical learning activities for all ages at 7:00 pm.

Choir practice is held each Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. (*sometimes a schedule change is necessary*). Becky Pentecost is the Choir Leader. You don't have to be able to read music, just have a joy in your heart for singing for the Lord.

United Methodist Men meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thursday after the 1st Sunday each month. They meet and have a meal at their meetings. They do not meet in July. The December meeting includes a Christmas party usually at a local restaurant and is subject to change.

United Methodist Women meet at 7:00 PM the 2nd Tuesday after the 1st Sunday each month. They do not meet June, July and August. November's meeting is replaced with the Fall Festival, usually the 2nd Saturday. December's meeting includes a Christmas party and is usually moved up a week.

A 3 Sunday Revival is held on Sundays in July. Service on Sunday is held at 6:00 pm. Please check the calendar for the exact dates.

Homecoming is held the 3rd Sunday in September with a combined 11:00 AM worship service with a covered dish lunch following. (***No Sunday school or Breakfast or Early Service***)

The Youth are actively involved in the church. They have activities planned each week of each month. Please check the calendar for events.

Special activities for Jr. Worship and Wee Worship age are held throughout the year, usually after the 11:00 am worship service. A meal is usually provided. Jr. Worship is held 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays in the Choir Room. Wee Worship is provided following the Children's moment during the worship service in their room next to the choir room.

Our Pastors Message

As one year ends and another begins it is always difficult to remember what took place, if you're like me, sometimes it's difficult to remember what you had for breakfast much less what occurred over the past year. So I thought we'd take just a minute and review some of the journey we've been on this past year. Before we begin let me say that it is impossible to do a thorough review of the past year, too much has happened and you'd be reading a 10+ page document instead of one page summary. I say this because invariably someone reading this will think, "What about _____?" - If something is not mentioned here it is not because it wasn't important! It is simply a matter of space.

From a personal perspective 2016 completed our first year and began our second year together here at Union Chapel (for those unfamiliar with the United Methodist Church, pastors work on a yearly appointive system, so here in North Georgia we are appointed to a church from one June to the following June. So, June of 2016 completed our first year at UCUMC & July 2016 began our second). We as a family would like to thank you for your continued kindness and hospitality in welcoming us into your community, church, and families. It takes time to get to know one another; we are well on our way.

As we look over the life of the church this past year we find: 1) the youth took two mission trips together, they also continued to feed those in need on a monthly basis in Athens, and additionally they represented the church in assisting with the regional loading of shoe boxes at Operation Christmas Child - 2) we had a magnificent car show this past spring in which we were able to give witness to God's character through the acts of hospitality and love to those who came, this was an important outreach to our community and beyond! - 3) moving into summer we had a fantastic VBS in which we averaged around 80 children per night, we also had a very well attended and powerful set of revival services during the month of July in which folks were invited to enter into or to deepen their relationship with the most high God; we look forward to another series of powerful revivals this summer - 4) this summer we also saw UCUMC come together to support the FISH-For-Kids summer feeding program both financially, as well as having a number of members personally volunteer two days a week at FISH in both preparing meals and delivering them! - 5) this fall UCUMC hosted another fruitful turkey shoot in which over \$10,000 was raised to help children and families in our community, praise God for 23 safe and fruitful turkey shoots thru which community needs are met in the name of Jesus! - 6) during November we once again collected a number of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, the simplest of ways to demonstrate the love and redemption God has for every individual in every place on this earth thru the gift of Jesus Christ!

Brothers and sisters this is simply a brief "aerial view" of the past year at UCUMC, so many additional things have happened and we just do not have the space to write them down. So I encourage you to share individually and in your groups (Sunday School, etc.) the various ways in which we've experienced God together over the past year; we'll give testimony to His goodness!

In closing, we (UCUMC) exists for a very simple reason: To Know God & To Make Him Known! That's it! It is not to keep us busy or for us to feel good about ourselves. We're here to help each other to deepen our faith (becoming disciples & in turn we disciple others) and to share our faith (tell our story of how God rescued & continues to rescue us – tell of His faithfulness). We do this through worship, study, fellowship, the sacraments, outreach, and service. May we at UCUMC be found faithful in this work during 2017 – Amen!

God's peace & blessings, Pastor Roger
Ps. 6:9

Nominations Report (Beginning January 2017)

Pastor	Roger Canuel
Lay Leader	James Johnson (Member of all committees by virtue of office)
Assistant Lay Leader	Cindy Elsmore
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Rachel Peters
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference	Ken Sherwood
Certified Lay Speaker	Cindy Elsmore
Certified Lay Servant	Kenneth Little
Certified Lay Servant	Sherrell Malcom
Local Lay Servant	Cindy Little
Local Lay Servant	Don Jones
Local Lay Servant	Anita Jones
Local Lay Servant	Trey Jones
Local Lay Servant	Braxton Jones
Local Lay Servant	Hannah Jones
Local Lay Servant	Richard Marr
Sunday School Superintendent	Gina Canuel
Membership Secretary	Jane Peters
Associate Membership Secretary	Carol Johnson
Administrative Council Chairperson	Glenn Barton
Administrative Council Recording Secretary	Delores Barton
Church Historian	Kay Hannay
Co-Church Historian	Janet McGaughey
Church Treasurer	Nicholas Peters
Communion Stewards	8:30 Service – Jane Peters 11:00 Service – Martha Jordan David & Sally Malcom

Lay Leadership Development (Chaired by pastor)

2017

Clay Harris
Carol Johnson
Cindy Elsmore

2018

Harry McGaughey
Steve Sargent

2019

Rita Peters
Nancy Snell

Staff Parish Relations (Chair to be voted by committee)

2017

Vickie Sargent
Harry McGaughey
Don Oakley

2018

Bruce Wright
Elaine Towler
Jim Bridges

2019

Don Jones

Board of Trustees

2017

Harry McGaughey (Chair)
Jon Patterson
Penny George

2018

Phil Aycock
Cindy Elsmore

2019

Steve Sargent
Ricky Towler
Jeff Peters

Committee on Finance

2017

Jane Peters
Cindy Harris (Chair)
Phil Aycock

2018

Frank Elsmore

2019

Barbara Weekly
Nicholas Peters

Church Grounds

Kenneth Peters

Greg Adcock

David Malcom

Long Range Planning

2017

2018

2019

Clay Harris
Patty Aultman Wright
Cindy Elsmore (Chair)

Ricky Towler
R G Baker

Kyle Peppers
Nicholas Peters

Worship (Chair to be voted by committee)

2017

Cindy Elsmore
David Malcom
Judith Ford

2018

Phil Hannay
Brandy Peters

2019

Sherri Rollins
Beth Adcock

Sunday School (Consists of Sunday School Teachers)

Cindy Little
Clay Harris
James Childs
Jon Patterson

Sherrell Malcom
Phil Hannay
Tammy Childs
Cindy Harris

Penny George
Jane Peters
Kenneth Little
Gina Canuel (Chair)

Children's Ministry

Cindy Little
Jessica Gibson

Brandy Peters
Tammy Childs

Laurie Hamby
Kenneth Little

Youth Ministry

Kenneth Little
Becca Canuel

Alec Hamby
Valerie Souza

Patty Wright
Cindy Little

*(Pastor & Lay Leader serve on every committee)

** (Pastor is Chair of Lay Leadership Development Committee --- "Nominations Committee")

Composite Report

Finance Committee Composite

The following is a list of accomplishments and activities for the 2016 Finance Committee:
The committee met quarterly to review the financial reports as prepared by the church treasurer.
The treasurer presented financial reports quarterly to the Administrative Council on the finances of the church.
Mailed thank you letters to all 2015 donors to our church.
Increased the pastor salary upon recommendation of SPR.
Prepared 2017 church budget.

Board of Trustees and Parsonage

Harry McGaughey (Trustee Chair), Board of Trustee Members and with Nicholas Peters (church treasure) are responsible for the maintenance and up keep of our church facilities. Some of the up keep and improvements this past year included:

- Jan. - "IMEC" replaced the bulbs in the ceiling of the sanctuary.
Ceiling fan repairs and roof leak repairs were completed by Jeff Peters
Several light fixtures were also repaired.
- Feb. - The sprinkler system was serviced
Sound system work was continued by Tom Googe.
- April - 150 bales of pine straw was put down on the church grounds
Block walls on the cook shed were repaired by Noel Dill \$120
Brian Widmer removed the honey bees from the Hubert Hawk building.
A second sound board was purchased from All Pro Sounds for \$2181.95. With other material needed and labor charges for Tom Googe the total was \$3081.94
- May - New sod was purchased and placed by Jeff and Brandy Peters in the children's play area.
- June - Bids were obtained to replace the AC unit in the chapel before spring of 2017.
Approximate cost is \$10, 000. Donations are greatly appreciated for this expense.
- July - The ice machine in the fellowship hall was replaced for the lowest bid of \$1600.
- Aug - Forty yards of kids safe mulch was purchased for the playground.
All buildings were pressure washed, new wood was replaced where needed and the cook shed was painted. Charles Anshulta completed the work. With materials and labor costing \$2500.
- Sept - 75 bales of pine straw was purchased from Boss Brothers in Loganville for \$3.25 per bale and placed on the church grounds. Work day clean-up was completed to get the grounds ready for Homecoming.

We continue to have two Brunswick stew and BBQ cooking fund raisers a year with the proceeds going to maintaining and upgrading our church facilities. The UCUMC parsonage continues to be in very good condition.
Thanks to all members of the committees for their hard work in 2016.

Church Grounds Committee

The crew made sure that the grass was cut and the grounds were kept neat. Grass was watered during the summer. Special clean-up was done for Homecoming.

UMC Youth/Children's Report Prepared by: Kenneth and Cindy little

In January the youth went on their annual winter mission trip to Winterplace in West Virginia. Due to the extreme warm weather and lack of snow there was no skiing on our free day, but the youth were very positive and enjoyed themselves. We worked at the women's abuse shelter. The youth cleaned and painted as well as prepped the next area for the maintenance man to be able to complete. We organized the closets, cleaned the walls and prepared the vacant rooms for new arrivals. The staff of the shelter are always appreciative and complimentary of how hard our youth work. They bless us with lunch.

In February the youth attended Winter Jam at the dome in Atlanta. It was a wonderful evening of great contemporary Christian music and great testimonies from the performers. On February 13th we had a steak supper fundraiser for the youth summer mission trip.

The children attended the circus at Gwinnett arena. The children's fund paid \$10 on each child's ticket. We had 16 in attendance.

In March the youth attended the bull riding event at Gwinnett arena. It was a great outing and something different. The children had a huge egg hunt on March 20th. There was a meal then egg hunt and egg painting.

On April 23rd the children attended Disney on Ice – Frozen at the Gwinnett arena. It was a special time. Some came in costume.

On May 22 there was a youth/children (family) time at Rutledge. There were around 16 in attendance. We grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Played corn hole and volleyball. It was a relaxing afternoon.

On June 12-17 we had our Vacation Bible School. Rachel Peters directed it for the second year in a row. She does a fantastic job. The average attendance was around 80 to 85 each evening.

On July 17-23 the youth went to Virginia Beach on a mission trip and worked on the yard, painting and roof for two ladies from the Philippines. They were so kind. They cooked for us and made tote bags and put a new towel in each one for the kid's bags to use at the beach. We had 15 with us. Again the youth worked very hard and respected the ladies.

On July 31 we had a blessing of the backpacks and prayer for safe driving.

On August 14th we had back to school water day. Lunch was provided and a huge water slide was available for the big kids and smaller slide for little ones. On August 27th the young families attended a planning session for the last quarter of 2016, we had 19 in attendance. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and planning.

On September 25th the children attended Bear Hollow zoo in Athens. We had 8 in attendance. It was a nice zoo and look forward to attending again in 2017.

On September 24th we started the Date Night back for our young families. This was suggested in our young families meeting. It would be each 4th Saturday of the month.

On October 15 the youth attended Six Flags. The youth sponsored Operation Christmas Child collection started in October.

On October 22 the youth helped with date night.

On October 29 the young families had Trunk or Treat. It was a capacity crowd. We had over 150 folks in attendance. Lots of food, fun and fellowship.

On November 16th the youth had a men's dessert auction to help raise funds for the winter mission trip. It was the most successful yet raising over \$600.

On November 20 the youth worked at Operation Christmas Child in Athens. This is the 8th year that Union Chapel UMC youth have helped.

On November 26 the youth helped with date night.

On December 11 the youth and children performed for their annual Christmas program.

On December 17th the youth cooked chicken stew for a fundraiser for their winter mission trip.

***Every first Sunday the youth go and feed the homeless in Athens. This is the 10th year that Union Chapel youth have been serving the homeless.

The youth are meeting at different venues on Wednesday evenings at 7PM. The later time and different venues has increased attendance. Venues include: Taco Bell, Kenneth and Cindy's home, Hot Rods, etc...

On Sundays the youth have gone roller skating, ice skating, movies, out to eat, RUSH and bonfires.

The subject matter we have been studying with the children is about creation. Letting the children know how powerful God is. This lets the children know that if He can create the earth and all the animals and plants then He is powerful enough to help them with whatever they need. In 2017 we will begin studying Fruits of the Spirit. We want the children to learn how much God Loves them and how much He wants them to love and care for others.

The children are taking a tithe from their monthly change collection and making hygiene kits for the children at Harmony Elementary. The children receive about \$1200 each year for the change collection. This is the fundraiser for the children.

The youth have been using different subject matter helping them to cope with the ever changing world around us. How to focus on God's truth and not on earth's truth. The goal is to strengthen them in who they are as a child of God. We want to help them understand that a lot of times as a Christian we will have to stand alone with His word as our shield. They must have this base before graduating high school.

We are a blessed church with growing families. Growing both physically and spiritually.

Staff-Parrish Relations Committee

No changes occurred in the paid church positions in 2016. Pastor Canuel completed his first year in July and our Church is blessed to have him as our spiritual leader. Becky Pentacost continues to lead our music ministry as our pianist and choir director, and Carol Ashford has once again shared her talents on the organ. Julia Criswell is completing her second year as our administrative professional. Several meetings were held and all functions were performed as prescribed by the Book of Discipline.

Long Range Planning Committee

For 2016, God put on our hearts to do a spiritual plan for Union Chapel. He guided us to do a four level plan, in order to be able to help each member in his/her spiritual walk.

To be a more welcoming church, we had directional sign installed to direct our guest to our different buildings on our campus. Also had signage installed on our buildings so they can be easily identified.

In April, we hosted a car show. With the proceeds for the car show we helped Trustees financially with the purchase of a new ice maker in the fellowship hall and helped two families dealing with health challenges.

For marketing: We are keeping our website current, focusing on getting information about events to people in a timely manner; purchased a banner for homecoming and will be running ads in the Walton Tribune.

Union Chapel has had a great group of people on the Long Range Planning Committee. We have been blessed and are looking forward to where The Lord will lead us in 2017.

Blessing! Cindy Elsmore, Long Range Chairperson

United Methodist Men

We had an average of 28 at our monthly meetings where the men cooked, had guest speakers and had GREAT fellowship in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! We were blessed to be able to pay for fuel for the Youth Winter Retreat & Summer Mission Trip. Our 23rd Annual Turkey Shoot was a great success. The total amount raised was \$10,300 and we took the money and used it to help 23 needy families with children during Christmas and throughout the coming year! The UMM helped the fire victims that had children which attended Harmony Elementary. There was a total of 15 children within 3 families. We were able to help with Summer Meals for kids through FISH, \$500 supplied 10 kids with meals throughout the summer months. We have been truly blessed for our efforts for our Lord in 2016 and look forward to a great 2017!

United Methodist Women

The UMW had a very busy, productive and blessed 2016.

Missions:

Assisted three local families with medical expenses - \$1,500
Donated \$200 to CLC (Christian Learning Center)
Donated \$500 to Harmony Elementary boys & girls clubs
Donated \$500 to Josh Dubose family for their mission in Peru

UMW:

Assisted local family with children winter clothing expenses \$218.56
Paid \$800 toward purchase of new ice maker
Purchased 5 new high chairs for fellowship hall totaling \$245.94

UMW Fundraisers:

Chicken Stew in January
Soup Luncheon after UMW Sunday in October

UMW Pledges given to the District of \$1,457.00

Church Activities:

Placed flowers in the Fellowship Hall for Homecoming, Fall and Christmas. Placed Christmas wreaths on the doors of the Fellowship Hall. Replaced tablecloths for these occasions.

In May, we provided fried chicken for the Graduation Luncheon.

Assisted with the Annual Car Show by having a bake sale.

Assisted with 2 meals for Vacation Bible School in June.

Several ladies cleaned the basement of the Fellowship Hall to get ready for Homecoming. The UMW provided the fried chicken for Homecoming.

On October 16th, we had our UMW Worship Service with ladies of the UMW doing the church service that Sunday. We had three cancer survivors give their testimony for the service.

We sent flowers to our home-bound. We also put together Christmas baskets for our home-bound containing different items such as cookies, socks, coffee cups, lotions, etc. that we felt they might enjoy.

Assisted the men with the Turkey Shoot by providing coffee and biscuits.

In December, we ended our year with our annual Christmas party. We had a wonderful meal at Blue Willow Inn. We had about 28 ladies who attended.

We ended the year with \$4,255.15 which will go to continue our international and local mission work and church projects.

Our new year begins with Patty Wright as our president, Genie Lissemore as vice-president, Vickie Sargent as our secretary and Kaye Hannay as our treasurer.

Worship Committee

We had a good year in the worship committee planning the worship services.

We planned Ash Wednesday Service February 10th.

Palm Sunday was planned with the children walking in with palms in March 20th.

March 24th was Maundy Thursday with a 7pm service.

Easter Sunday was March 27th with a 7am Sunrise Service and breakfast following.

May 1st we honored all graduates at our Graduate Recognition Day.

Mother's Day on May 8th, we honored the mothers with the youngest child and Wisest (oldest)

On June 19th, Father's Day, we honored the Youngest and Oldest Father.

We planned for Revival July 10th, 17th and 24th. There was a good turn out each night.

We planned Homecoming Sunday for the 18th of September with a meal following.

All Saints Day Service was October 30th.

Veteran's Recognition Service was celebrated with photos of the church family veterans past and present on November 6th.

We decorated the church for the Christmas Season November 21st.

Christmas Eve service was at 5pm.

Christmas Day service was at 11am.

We look forward to planning for 2017 worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lay Leader Report

In 2016, Union Chapel was excited to have Roger staying for a second term as our pastor. Mission work has been a focal point at Union Chapel this year and several of our small groups were able to help families with challenges in their lives. United Methodist Women helped with several after school programs at Harmony Elementary and supported "The Upper Room" military program.

We have been blessed this year and our focus is to continue doing God's work to spread the message of His Good News. I pray that everyone who worships at Union Chapel will grow in love with their relationship with God and with others. Let us love with all our soul, heart and strength and to love our neighbors.

Blessings, Cindy Elsmore – Lay Leader