

Cokes Chapel UMC 2008

January

December started under budget \$10,000. The Lord and the people came through and the year ended \$800.00 under, and this first Sunday in January, we hope, will bring us ready to start the new year with a clean slate.

We had three baptisms from the same family, Ansu, Chetan, and Ragan. Their parents are Tom and Johanna Overstreet. Ansu joined the church. He was so happy. Confirmation Class starts Wednesday, January 9th. Financial Peace University starts classes on January 13th. The Birthday Lunch Bunch met at Cracker Barrel on January 10th. The UMM met for breakfast on January 12th at 8:00 a.m. and meet every month on the second Saturday. The Fellowship Dinner is every 3rd Sunday after the 10:55 a.m. worship service. The UMW meets every Tuesday night following the 3rd Sunday of the month. We had snow and ice on the 3rd Sunday, January 20th, and services were cancelled. God and Country Series begin. Both Boy and Girl Scouts, age 6 to high school seniors attend. Jim McCarthy and Jason Ponzio lead the Series. On the 4th Sunday, we had a large group. The choir sang "Let Your People Come" and Pastor John preached on "Jesus and His Kingdom". Tony Spinelli joined the church. His wife, Becky, a member, reconfirmed her belief in the Lord. On Sunday night, January 27th, General Bible Study resumed with Pastor John leading and Tommy & Rita Godwin leading the music.

Extra Giving:	Building Fund	\$6,649.50
	Needy Family	882.00
	Luthersville	231.00
	One Roof	131.00
	Children's Home	90.00
	Welcome House	90.00

February

This month Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will participate in "Scouting for Food". Pack 2193 and Troop 2193 are collecting food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. On February 3rd we shared in the Souper Bowl of Caring sponsored by the youth of the church. They collected \$123.14. On February 6th we had an Ash Wednesday Service with St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, our neighbor. On February 7th a Lenten Women's Small Group starts meeting for six weeks, *Reflections for Lent – a Clearing Season*. The first Sunday in Lent, February 10th, is also Boy Scout Sunday. At the 8:30 a.m. service, Rev. Bob Martin filled the pulpit. At the 10:55 a.m. service, the Boy Scouts were in charge of the Service. The Ad Council met on Saturday,

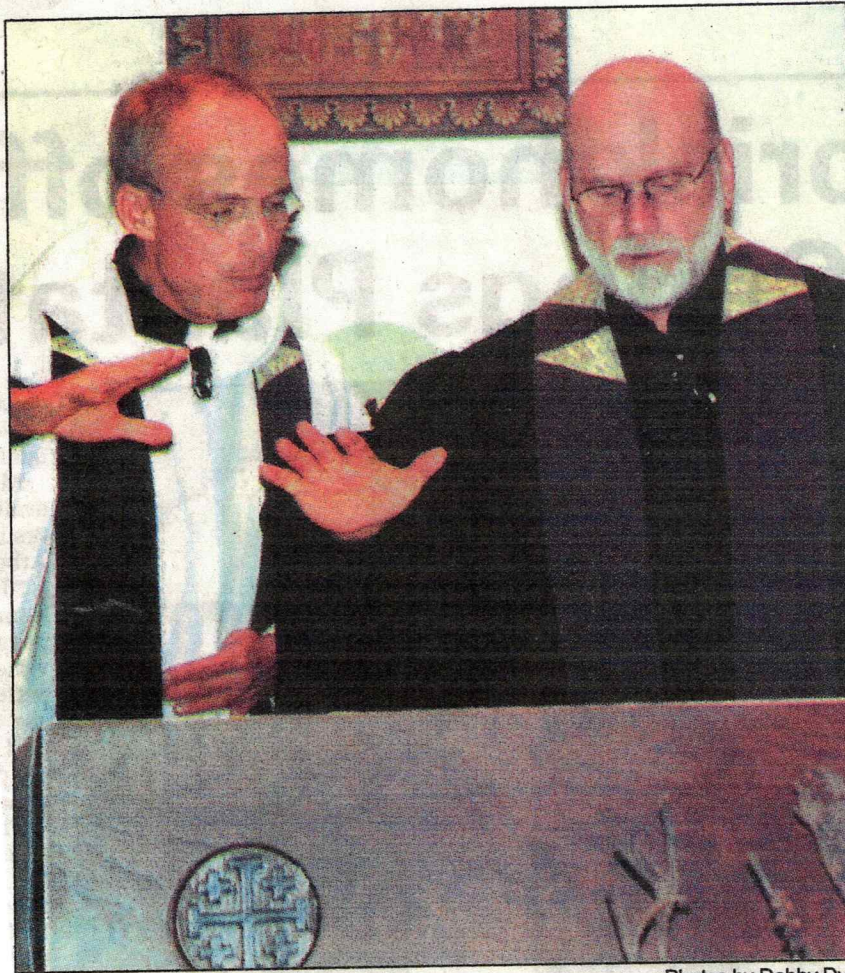
Churches join for Ash Wednesday

by MARIE MULVENNA
for The Times-Herald

In a joint service of prayer and reflection, Methodists and Catholics gathered for the seventh consecutive year to mark the beginning of the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

It was a packed house at St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church with parishioners and members of next door Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church joining together in prayer. From tiny infants to senior citizens, they came to observe this special day of penance and remembrance, each person receiving the traditional application of ashes on their forehead in the sign of a cross.

Joint hosts of the ecumenical service were John Hagen, pastor of Cokes Chapel, and Daniel Fleming, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene.



Photos by Debby Dye

Dan Fleming, left, priest at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, and John Hagen, pastor of Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church, bless the ashes for the joint Ash Wednesday service.

February 16th. Afterward, the seniors had a covered dish dinner and made plans for 2008. On February 17th, second Sunday in Lent, Becky Peters and Linda McGee joined the membership of the church. For the church, a tragedy occurred. Scott Adams, a member for seven years, died this morning. Scott was a young father who left a young wife and one year old son. Scott loved the Lord. Cokes Chapel is hosting The Alliance Green for Educational Facilities Program, "Think Kids" along with "The Climate Project", a documentary on global warming on February 21st.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$8,138.00
Needy Family	5.00
Luthersville	149.75
One Roof	267.89
Children's Home	20.00
Emmaus	50.00

March

March 2nd is fourth Sunday in Lent and "One Day of Sharing". Adam and Lisa Luppens joined our membership. Their children, Anna and Adam Joseph, Jr. were baptized. March 7th is "One Day of Prayer," March 9th is fifth Sunday in Lent. Tonight, a new Bible Study, *Invitation to the New Testament*, begins. The children had a Passover Seder meal and celebration, while recreating Jesus' Last Supper. March 16th is Palm Sunday. The children led the procession waving palm branches. Pastor John led the Maundy Thursday Service. He had been sick for three weeks. It was good to have him back. On Good Friday, Pastor John led a large crowd in a service of Tenebrae. Scripture was read by church members, and music led by the choir. Prayer requests and sins written on index cards were nailed to the cross by the congregation. Resurrection Day was not cold. Flowers covered the cross. Pastor John preached at the 8:30 a.m. service and Lay Leader, Larry Carter, preached the Sunrise Service. The choir presented an Easter Cantata closing with the Hallelujah Chorus to a full church at 11:00 a.m. It was glorious – a good dinner followed and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. A wonderful day!

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$5,185.00
Needy Family	1,355.00
Luthersville	309.50
One Roof	169.50
Emmaus	20.00
Homeless	50.00
One Great Hr. of Sharing	165.00

March 2008

Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church

The Messenger

Update from the Childcare Center

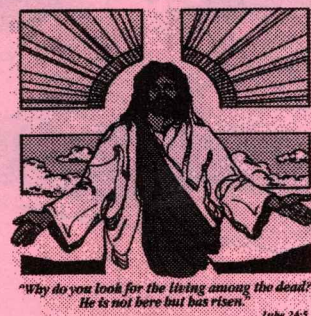
It is with a thankful heart to God that I can report that we now have 91 children enrolled in our childcare center. We also have 7 children pre-registered and waiting for space to come available in our nursery. Melanie Reeves, our Director, conducts tours of the center daily and receives several phone inquiries every day. We have a new Assistant Director, Mrs. Wyndi Henson, who joined us in early February. Wyndi has an early childhood education degree and will head up our Pre-K program for the fall 2008 school year. Currently, we have a staff of 21, which includes both full and part time staff and three high school students who work in the center after school. We have already had to expand our two and three year old program due to demand that we did not anticipate. The Childcare Center Board of Directors continues to meet twice each month developing policy and giving guidance to the management team. With just over three months of operating under our belts we have managed to stay serious incident free. We could not be more pleased with the growth and operation of our center during our first 90 days.

The board and management team would like to take this opportunity to express a special thank you to all the volunteers that have been so generous with their time helping out at the center: the Tuesday night cleaners, the floor buffing, those helping out in the kitchen with food preparation, those assisting at the front desk, and the many other volunteers. We appreciate all you have done and would ask that you continue to pray for us as we work through this start-up period. We proceed with great faith in God's mission for the center and praise God for this opportunity to serve our community of children in such a special way.

Each time I visit the center I have the opportunity to meet parents and families who testify to the blessing that the center is for their families. I know that the path that took us to this place was difficult and the road ahead is still a little up hill, however, I am confident that we will soon be cash flow positive and then all those that have been so faithful in their giving can breathe a little relief. Until then, please remember the center in your gifting and if the spirit moves you, please give what you can. The center staff and Board of Directors are dedicated to doing everything we can to control costs and cap spending until we are cash flow positive. But every time I hear a mother or father express the blessing our center is to them I know that all of our hard work and financial sacrifice is truly an investment in God's kingdom.

By the way, if you have not visited the center since we opened and seen it in full operation, the members of the board of directors would be glad to take you on a guided tour so that you can experience the blessing first hand. Please remember the mission of the center in your prayers. I praise God for my opportunity to be a part of God's special work here at Cokes Chapel.

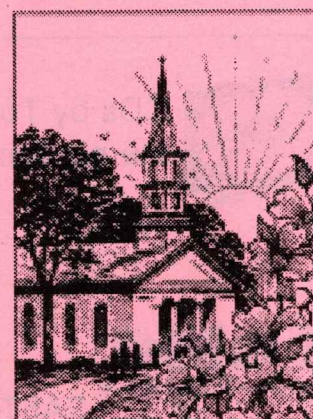
Pat Hopkins
Chair, Board of Directors



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Pastor John Hagen



May 2008

Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church

The Messenger

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

Isn't it a joy to be a small part of God's great plan to redeem the world? God is definitely at work in our midst. This month The Messenger is full of exciting reports about how God is working through our new childcare outreach ministry. In this issue our Childcare Center Director, Rev. Melanie Reeves, shares actual stories of how the lives of children and their parents are being touched every day at the Center. Jama Martin, our Church's Finance Committee Chairperson, will cover the financial side of the ministry by sharing an overview of the financial status of both the Center and the Church. You will also find a report on the history and status of the enrollment in the Center, as well as projections for the future. Last, but not least of importance, there is a financial appeal for all of us to consider so that we can continue to see this ministry blossom through the power of God into a mighty powerhouse for the kingdom. The purpose of this issue is to give everyone an overview of the entire ministry of the Center now that we are up and operating. Since some of you may want more detailed information than what is being reported in this addition of the Messenger, on the right is a list of people and their contact information so you can get the specific and detailed information you desire.

In August of last year, we celebrated the completion of the construction phase of our new Center; however, we were not able to begin operating the Center until mid-November. (Remember the long wait for the state to make its inspection?) In December, we made the hard decision to replace our first Director. Then in January, we asked our Associate Director, the Rev. Melanie Reeves, to become the official Director of the Center, and she has done an outstanding job in getting the Center up and running, often working long hours for several days in a row without a break. The Center has grown continually since January, and we now have a total of 100 children (full-time & part-time) enrolled in the Center. However, we still consider it to be in its start-up phase because it is not carrying itself financially. The goal is for the Center to be financially stable sometime this Fall after school starts.

As a community still growing in our faith, we have much to celebrate as we become aware of God's power and presence in our midst. Let us continue to pray that many lives will be touched as we reach out to our community for our Lord and His kingdom. To God be the glory, great things He has done – and is still doing!

Pastor John

Spring
Edition

2008

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Pastor John Hagen

Childcare Center

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770-599-3674
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Coordinator of Volunteers
770-683-4022
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Childcare Center Director's Perspective

Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he does for his people! -Ps. 66:5

On any given day, you can often find a fingerprint or two (or ten) on the glass doors entering the Childcare Center. As I clean it...again...I am reminded that on any given day, I can see God's fingerprints throughout the building and on the precious lives of those who serve and are served here.

Looking back, I could have missed out on this experience of God at Cokes Chapel. In all honesty, I never imagined myself in this position. God, however, always has the better plan. In this case, it was a plan I discovered through whom else...my children. It was through VBS last summer that I found Cokes Chapel and learned of the vision for the Childcare Center. I was amazed then, and I am amazed still at what God is doing in and through the ministry of Cokes Chapel Childcare Center.

Today, as I walk down the hall, I see much more than the daily "activity" of the classrooms. I see God in the smiles of each precious child and in the dedicated teachers who love them.

I have literally seen God's hand at work through the infant room staff as the teachers reacted and possibly saved the life of one of our babies. His color looked "odd" and when they reached for him he took a deep, gasping breath. He had truly been in distress. Thankfully, although tests showed enlarged tonsils and he now sleeps with a monitor, we praise God that His precious child is thriving. His mother will tell you that the love and prayers of the Godly women in his room give her a daily peace as she leaves her child in our care.

I have seen God's fingerprints in the after school room as the students share what they have learned from daily Bible lessons. I have seen His hand as one young man accepted Christ as his personal Savior and is now talking about his faith openly with his unchurched family.

I see God working in the lives of a congregation stepping out in faith and answering a call. I see His fingerprints as volunteers work diligently to pull weeds, cook meals, clean windows, mop floors, build shelves, and rock babies.

From the infant room to the afterschool room, and every room in between, whether it is receiving blown kisses through the classroom windows or giving hugs for scraped knee, God's presence is here. So, cleaning tiny fingerprints off of the front doors may be a menial task, but God can use even that to remind me that He is here and He is truly at work in this place! And I cannot imagine myself in any other ministry at this moment. Cokes Chapel Childcare Center is God's plan for me and for my family, and I am so grateful for the opportunity He has given me to see His work in this place.

Rev. Melanie Reeves
Director, Cokes Chapel Childcare Center

Board of Directors' Perspective

The Board of Directors is an eight-member Board appointed and approved by the Charge Conference of our Church. They are responsible for the general oversight of the Center focusing on its policies, procedures, and operation. The Board meets twice a month, once as an official Board to make decisions and once in a working session. The Board also is divided into several committees, such as, finance, marketing, personnel, fund-raising, etc. Needless to say, Board members are busy people working on a daily basis with the Center. Several of the members spend countless hours each week volunteering in the Center itself, maintaining the building, getting supplies, and supporting staff.

The Board wants to say a special thank you to all the volunteers from the Church that have also helped in the Center doing everything from cleaning bathrooms to pulling weeds. It is not an overstatement to say the success of the Center is the volunteers that support it so lovingly and freely.

Two major responsibilities of the Board are maintaining tight rein on the finances of the Center and maintaining compliance with all licensing requirements. The financial goal of the Board is to be very frugal with the finances without comprising quality care for the children. The operational goal is to meet or exceed our licensing requirements without comprising our main reason for existence - presenting Christ to the children and their parents.

The Board of Directors welcomes your interest and questions regarding the Center. You may call or talk with any of them at any time about any aspect of the Center. In fact, you are encouraged to do so. Sometimes it may seem as if they are not available or open with our Church community, but that is not the truth. The truth is that they have been working night and day to get the Center up and running.

Most of all the Board of Directors depends on your prayers for them and the Center. Please remember to ask God to bless this ministry every day in your prayers.

Pat Hopkins
Board of Directors Chair

Childcare Center Board

Pat Hopkins	404-304-9132
Jennifer Beard	678-378-3455
Larry Brown	770-253-3414
Larry Carter	770-871-0051
Dee Croft	678-423-1804
Cornelia Cunningham	770-251-3463
Robyn Klein	770-252-1286
Bob Martin	770-851-1876
Jama Martin	770-851-0437

Financial Perspective

Our Childcare Center is a ministry of Cokes Chapel UMC; therefore, the Church is responsible for covering any monetary shortfalls the Center may experience. The current monthly budget for the Childcare Center is \$43,925, including the mortgage payment. The monthly tuition income at the present level is \$30,328. Monthly pledges and contributions to the Building Fund/Childcare Center from the congregation average \$6,175 per month. This leaves a deficit of \$7,422 per month. The cumulative total of the deficit since January has been \$25,327.

Now, where did the Church find \$25,327? Thankfully, the Administrative Council set aside \$20,000 a few years ago for emergency or special use, and we tapped into that reserve fund for \$15,327. In April, we also received a very generous one-time contribution of \$10,000. You may see these figures as well as the numbers for the Church's General Fund under the calendar on page 5.

Because of the terrific "above and beyond" support of many in our congregation in the past, the Finance Committee has been reluctant to make further appeals to the congregation. We have sought outside funding, thus far with limited success. Both the Church and Childcare Center are reducing and controlling expenses by requiring pre-approval for all purchases. The Finance Committee has prayed together and individually for guidance and for the financial miracle needed to get us through this period.

Where God guides, He provides. Believing God will provide as He has in the past, we now see what may indeed be His provision in the form of the economic stimulus package (income tax rebates). It is amazing to think that thousands of dollars will come into our households over the next several weeks, just at the time it is needed! Many of the Finance Committee and Childcare Center Board have made a commitment to give all or part of their tax rebates to meet this special need. We dare not overlook what may well be God's provision, and so we are asking you to consider donating all, or a portion, of this money to help fund God's ministry at Cokes Chapel. Thank you for your investment in the young lives and families touched by our Childcare Center.

Jama Martin, Finance Committee Chair

Trustees' Perspective

Since first occupying the Childcare Center and Community Hall last summer, very few problems have occurred with the building. We have had a few "lessons learned" as would be expected with any new building. And we are still learning the nuances of the security system, air-conditioning and heating system and so forth.

Work days have found volunteers grooming landscape, cleaning floors, building cabinets, installing child safety items, etc. All of the hard work is much appreciated and more work days are planned for the future.

I am blessed every time I see children in the Childcare Center. They are the reason this facility was built and this is our mission field.

Harvey Armstrong, Trustees Chair

Future Plans

Cokes Chapel Childcare Center has made an application to the state for a Pre-K classroom to begin this August. There is a big demand in our area for more Pre-K classes. Here are the reasons why the board made the decision to expand our program at the Center at this time:

- It will give us an opportunity to minister to more families.
- We have the space.
- There will be no additional administrative costs to the Center.
- There will be no increase in overhead or supplies.
- We only need to add one teacher.
- It will provide additional income for the Center.

If we are approved for one Pre-K class this year and it is successful, the plan is to expand to four classes for the 2009 school year. We expect to hear from the state by June 1, 2008. Please keep this in your prayers.



To submit prayer requests, contact Debbie Carter: 770-253-7743 (h), 678-233-4980(c), or debbiecarter30263@charter.net. Prayer meetings are every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

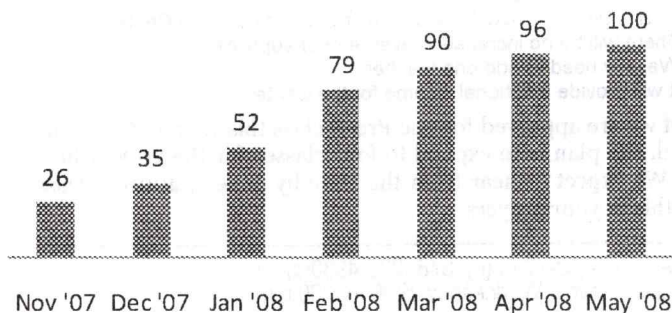
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlene Smith (Praise the Lord, doing very well!) • Terry Rogers (Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy) • Noah Chronic (Merlene Smith's grandson) • Judy Williamson (long time member in failing health) • Bob Stewart (Parkinson's disease) • Lamar & Charlene Lassetter • Kay Polk (Chemo) • Leah Cunningham (Prayer force) • Webster Marlowe (missionary) • Brady Vining (Jennifer Rogers' cousin, having seizures) • Nelle Ashmore • Jenna Peters, Williamson's grandchild diagnosed with Dyslexia • Chris Jones, son of Sandy Smith, In Afghanistan • Rick Orleck (Friend of Merlene Smith) • Jeff Ray (friends of the Lenox family) undergoing cancer treatment • Ann Williams, relative of Celeste Cantrell • Evelyn Wilson, relative of Celeste Cantrell • Kallie Brook, may have brain tumor, Friend of Velda's • Rick Baker, looking positive that with surgery & chemo he can recover • Donn & Ruth Murray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamar & Charlene Lassetter • Dorothy Stephens, Cathy Snyder's grandma • Nathan McLean - the Bagleys' four-year-old great-nephew who is recovering from stem cell transplants for neuroblastoma. • Madison Adams, 6 mth old diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, friend of Jennifer Beard's • Joan Brim, 3rd stage colon cancer • Laura & Andy, friends of the McCarthy's • Jesse Friedrich has Lupus, friend of Lenard's • Heather Moore, little girl with cancer • Betty Allen, having medical problems • Adam Sheets, Pat Hopkins nephew having difficult • Paulette Stribbling, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Becky Williamson's niece • Hazel Boucher, Rachel Bodner's mom, diagnosed with Cirrhosis of the Liver • Dorothy Stevens, Nancy Bridges Mother • Teresa Fuller, diagnosed with Breast cancer, Jace Williamson's niece • Jackie Aikin, Jennifer Roger's sister, battling breast cancer • Buddy Dunlap, medical issues • Gleandean, Bennett, colon cancer surgery, Becky Williamson's sister | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viola Parham (Jimmy Parham's mother) • Velma Lewis (Debbie Carter's mother, Alzheimers) • Ryan Lewis (pray to gain strength) • Gabe & Jodi Johnson (addiction and incarceration, Jodi has given birth to twins. Pray for the babies.) • Millie Kim (missionary in Mongolia) • Paul Hanak (Ambassador's for Christ) • Marie Parham's son, William & family • Marie Parham's father • Mona Bass, Brenda Hagen's sister • Betty Waters (having serious health concerns) • Ansley McGuire, friend of Patrice Miles • Steve Dennis, (cancer) • Jackie Whitlock, Martha's husband, pray for healing • Rev. Charles Culbreth (Parkinson's Disease, pray for peace) • Lori Walker, all cancer removed, Lara McCarthy's friend • Eleanor Hoeffler, friend of Lori Reber • David Kristynik in Iraq, his family has asked for our prayers. • Sam Acox, Lauryn Luppens friend • Therese, friend of Sandy Murphy's, having a double mastectomy |
|---|--|---|

The Enrollment Perspective

Someone recently made the observation that he remembered some early discussions about the Center being financially secure when it reached 90 children. So, the obvious question is, if we now have 90+ children in our Center, why are we still supporting it financially? The first answer is that the original plan for the Center was to build only the classroom portion of the building and to have only 100 children in the Center. However, the Building Committee decided to recommend to the Church that it build a community hall and youth room at the same time as the classrooms. In order to pay for the increased costs of the two additional rooms, the capacity of the Center had to be increased from 100 children to 160 children. The new plan was presented to the entire Church at a Church Conference on June 4, 2006 where it was accepted, and the construction phase of the project began shortly thereafter. Because of the increase to the capacity of the Center and the total cost of the project, we now need a larger enrollment than 90 children in order to achieve financial stability. The Board of Directors projects financial stability at around 115+ children, (*stability* means carrying itself) and financial security at around 140+ (*security* means producing income to retire the loan). If we continue adding children at our current rate, we should meet this goal in the early part of the new school year, hopefully, in September. However, there is the unknown factor of what will happen to our enrollment this summer; unknown because we are a new Center and do not have a history to help us with our projections. It is common in childcare centers for the enrollment to drop during the summer months. To compensate for this anticipated drop, we will be holding summer camps. The good news is that we do expect most of our children to return in the fall.

The second answer to the question is that the original projection of 90+ children was based on full-time, full-pay enrollment. However, the enrollment figures that have been reported to the Church since we opened the Center include part-time, daily drop ins, and partial tuition payments for some employees. The Board decided to add part-time and daily drop ins for marketing purposes in order to fill up the Center. Below you will find a history of enrollment at the Center, as well as a breakdown of our current enrollment by age group and by full-time, part-time attendance.

Enrollment History



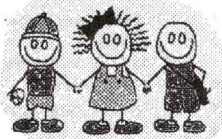
COKES CHAPEL ROCKS!!!

Would you be interested in rocking one of the beautiful babies enrolled in the Childcare Center?

Changing, feeding and direct child care are the responsibility of the staff. You would have the delight of holding a little bundle of joy while you rock in one of the rocking chairs provided.

If you are interested in this worthwhile project, call Becky Peters, 770-683-4022, or sign up in the narthex. Thank you for your loving support of the Childcare Center and the awesome staff who work there!

SUMMER CAMP



We have an awesome summer planned for children, ages 5-12, at Cokes Chapel Childcare Center.

Field trips and activities will reinforce our faith based curriculum.

We want each child to know how special he or she is. Our Center is a great place for your kids to learn and grow!

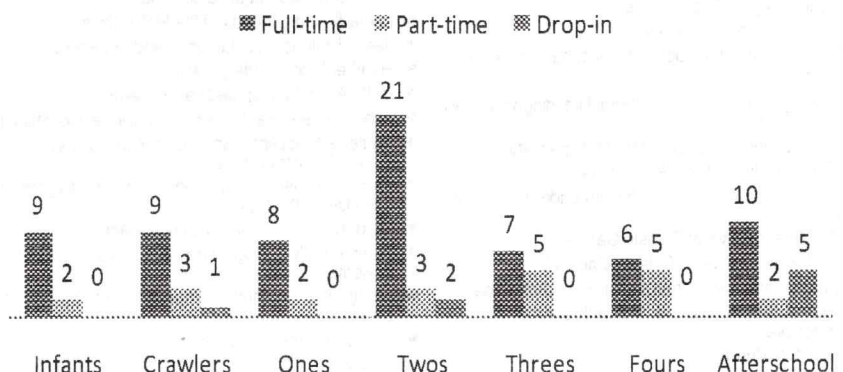
Call and register your camper today!

770-253-6414

www.cokeschapelchildcare.org

Current Enrollment at 100

Totals: 70 Full-time; 22 Part-time; 8 Drop-in



Gatlinburg Trip - April, 2008
Seniors



Betty
 Becky Peters
 Cornelia Cunningham
 Judy Lassetter
 Marie Allen
 June Segrest



L. R.
 Marie Allen
 Cornelia Cunningham
 Pastor John
 Betty (Pastor John's mother)
 Becky Peters



June
 Segrest



Becky Peters
Carmel
Johnson
Cait, Celeste

Betty Head
+ others



Michelle O'Bryan
Jennie Underwood
Breezy

Stephanie Todd
Susan
Lauren O'Bryan
Anna Rodgers
Liz Todd



L.R.
Judy Lassetter
Sarah Beam
Elaine Lassetter
Kaye Beam
Donna Collins
Dagmar Deeky

Scouts earn God and Country emblems at Cokes Chapel



Gathered in front of historic Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church at the God and Country awards program are, from left, front, Connor Reid, Brendan Reid, Aaron Ponzio, Avery Grillo, Megan Ponzio, Corey McCarthy; middle, Cassidy Powell, Lindsey Jackson, Jennifer Linrille, McKenzie Artman, John Taylor; back, Shell Hoeve, Derek Higginbotham, Sean McCarthy and Cubmaster Jim McCarthy.

From STAFF REPORTS
religion@newnan.com

A large number of Scouts have earned their God and Country Awards at Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church near Sharpsburg.

The Scouts worked on the religious emblems project this spring — spending their Sunday afternoons fulfilling requirements for the God and Country Awards. Scouts voluntarily choose to enroll in the God and Country program.

In making the commitment, a Scout chooses to go beyond the regular expectations of the church experience to become involved in an intentional and personal study program. The program requires a commitment of both time and energy to study and to act out their faith, along with an expectation to seek continued religious growth.

The young scouts seek to follow the example set by Jesus, for it was written, "that he who grew and became strong, he was full of wisdom, and God's Blessings were upon him." (Luke 2:40)

First-third graders completed the requirements of study and service for the God and Me Award under the direction of counselor and Pack 2293 Cubmaster Jim McCarthy. Fourth-fifth graders earned the God and Family Award under the direction of counselor Nancy Ponzio, a member of Cokes Chapel.

Participating scouts have earned the right and privilege of wearing a special religious emblem in recognition of their accomplishment on their uniforms. Scouts completing the religious emblem program at Cokes Chapel are:

- from Cub Pack 2293: Nolan Keohane, Corey McCarthy, Sean McCarthy, Aaron Ponzio and Derek Higginbotham.

- from Cub Pack 55: Connor Reid, Brendan Reid and David Gardner.

- from Cub Pack 897: Mitchell Hoeve

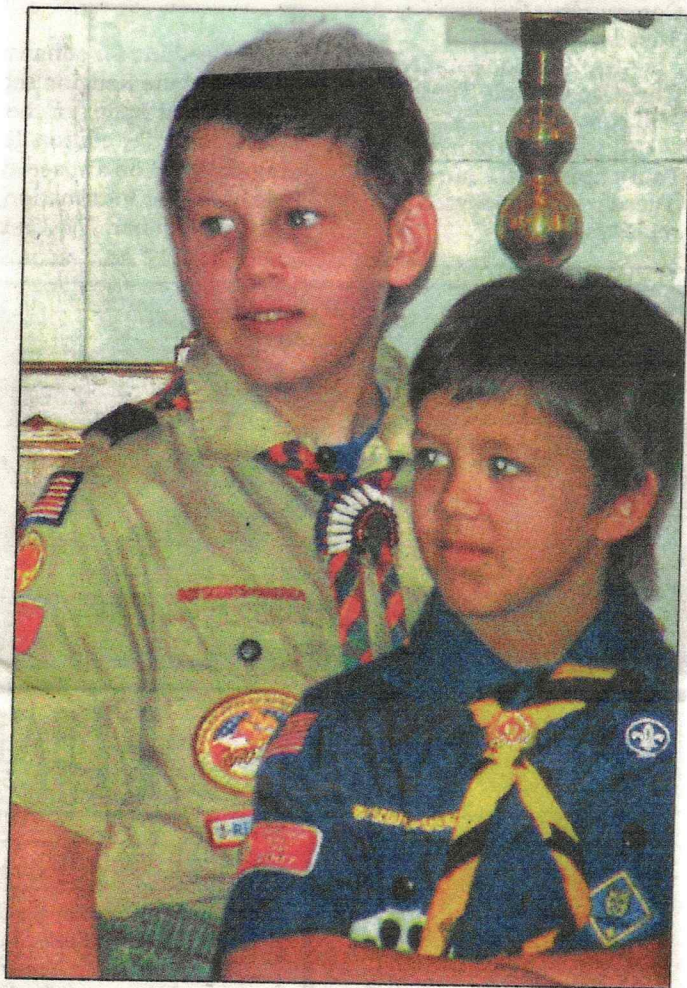
- from Cub Pack 570: John Taylor and Bruce Cobb

- from Girl Scout Troop 548: Cassidy Powell, Jennifer Linrille, Lindsey Jackson and Avery Grillo.

- from Girl Scout Troop 202: McKenzie Artman.

- from Girl Scout Troop 143: Jessica Stubbs.

- from Girl Scout Troop 397: Victoria Neundorfer and Megan Ponzio.



Sean McCarthy, left, and his brother, Corey McCarthy, listen intently during the God and Country recognition at Cokes Chapel.

Evangelist from Norway coming to Cokes Chapel

Roy Johansen, an evangelist from Norway, will be preaching at Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church near Sharpsburg from July 27-30.

Services will be held at 8:30 a.m., 10:55 a.m. and 6 p.m. on July 27. From July 28-30, services will start at 7 p.m.

Johansen is the former regional secretary of evangelism for Northern Europe under the auspices of World Evangelism of the World Methodist Council. For many years he gave leadership in local United Methodist Churches in Scandinavia and northern Europe.

His pastoral appointment has been arranged to enable him to schedule evangelistic missions worldwide, and he has conducted missions and Living Faith revivals in United Methodist churches, large and small, in the United States.

Johansen has preached at large conferences like the United Methodist Congress on Evangelism and at the World Methodist Evangelism Institute. A former chemist, Johansen worked for Shell Oil and was a manager in the textile industry.

He is married and has four children. A reception for Johansen will follow the Sunday evening service.

April

We're participating in Coweta Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program which delivers fresh, hot meals to elderly people in need. The seniors went on an overnight trip to Gatlinburg, TN. Eight people enjoyed this trip. On April 27th, the UMW was in charge of both worship services. Their theme was "Women of the Bible." Lib Todd was *Sarah*; Cornelia Cunningham was *Ruth*; Jennie Underwood was *Mary, mother of Jesus*; Nancy Lenard and Betsy Bagley were *Mary and Martha*; and Brenda Hagen was *Mary Magdalene*. It was all very well done.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$14,265.00
One Roof	101.00
Luthersville	96.00
Needy Family	25.00
Emmaus	50.00
Native American Sunday	100.00

May

On May 4th the UMW sponsored the Mother-Daughter Tea. 43 ladies (all ages) attended. On May 5th children received God and Country Awards. Rev. Bob Martin filled the pulpit. Pastor John was preaching in a revival. May 8th the Ladies Lunch Bunch went to Warm Springs for lunch at the Bulloch House and celebrated birthdays. On May 10th the UMM met for a breakfast meeting. May 11th was Mother's Day, the UMM gave all mothers flowers. Pastor John had Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. On May 13th, the seniors went to the Fox Theater to see *Riverdance*. It was most enjoyable. On May 18th the children's choirs sang at the 10:55 a.m. service. They were very good. On May 21st the UMW had their annual hamburger/hot dog supper - always a success. On May 25th, after morning services, a church conference was held, conducted by Pastor John. The people agreed to open a \$50,000 line of credit to be used as needed by the Childcare Center with hopes of not needing it.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$9,762.00
Luthersville	134.50
One Roof	244.50
Wesley Woods	50.00

June

The childcare enrolment is up to 111. God is blessing the church and the center. No extra money was needed from the church for childcare expenses. Father's Day was June 15th. The UMW gave the fathers cards with pens and gave a donation to the Childcare Center in honor of our fathers. On the evening of June 22nd a country-gospel group, *Griffith and Company*, were in concert at the church. It was enjoyed by all. The seniors went to a Braves game on June 25th. The UMW is selling books entitled *Antebellum Churches of Georgia*. Proceeds will go to the Childcare Center. Cokes Chapel is featured – 20 books were sold.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$8,653.00
Needy Family	5.00
Summer Games	100.00
One Roof	174.50
Luthersville	174.50

July

On July 2nd *FUSE Youth Praise Band* from Jacksonville, Florida, presented a concert at 6:00 p.m. following a hamburger supper by the UMM. Proceeds were given to the band as a love offering. On July 6th Ella Rose Craig, daughter of Sean and Jennifer Craig, was baptized. On July 9th adult choir practice resumes. July 13th Rev. Mary Ruth Davidson filled our pulpit while Pastor John was on vacation. July 14th the sanctuary was re-roofed. July 20th Rev. Melanie Reeves filled our pulpit. July 21st through 25th was Vacation Bible School. The theme was *Jerusalem Market Place*. There were 42 students in attendance. On July 24th nine seniors went to see *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. We really enjoyed it. Jama Martin has been named Church Administrator as of August 1st. Brenda Hanes will be Secretary/Bookkeeper as of August 1st. Lamar Lassetter, age 81, life-long member died on July 23rd. Rev. Roy Johansen, Evangelist, led a Living Faith Revival beginning Sunday, July 27th, ending Wednesday evening, July 30th. A reception followed the service on Wednesday. Rev. Johansen comes from Norway. The last service was a celebration and healing service – very spiritual.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$5,186.15
One Roof	180.00
Luthersville	180.00
Needy Family	5.00
Emmaus	25.00

August

On first Sunday, a new worship service begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Hall, emphasizing spiritual disciplines, home altars, and *ancient-future worship*. Music will include contemporary worship songs and a praise band. Thirty attended the first service. The confirmation class graduated. Three were received into church membership: Sara Beam, daughter of Richie Beam, granddaughter of Tony and Kaye Beam, great granddaughter of Judy Lassetter; Elizabeth Bishop, daughter of Mike and Crystal Bishop; Cera Carter, daughter of Larry and Debbie Carter. Elizabeth and Cera were baptized. David and Traycee Newton were the leaders. Miracles happen here at Cokes Chapel all the time. Today, Larry Carter felt able to assist Pastor John in serving communion. UMM resumes monthly meetings on Saturday, August 9th at 8:00 a.m. A senior adult social at Pastor John and Brenda Hagen's home will be held on Saturday, August 9th, at 2:00 p.m. There will be food, fellowship and conversation about senior ministries. The Eubanks Class has placed a marker at the sidewalk entrance, explaining the mounting block which dates back to 1857, where ladies mounted horses and later buggies and wagons. Cokes Chapel has teams to deliver Meals on Wheels. The school supply drive by ACE was a success with the help of Cokes Chapel. One half of our communion offering goes to One Roof, and the other half goes to Luthersville Food Pantry. On August 10th there were 36 at The Well (second service). Craig and Lyn Wiggins' son, Gabriel Wiggins, was baptized and accepted into fellowship. Gabe is the first child from our Childcare Center to accept Jesus as his Savior. On August 17th attendance at The Well was 40. On August 21st eleven seniors went to LaGrange to attend the Antiquity Center (Holy Land) and have lunch. August 24th is One Roof Sunday. All Coweta County churches are asked to collect \$1.00 per member to assist in this outreach ministry. Sara and Jessica Cole were baptized and Julia Cole was confirmed. They are the daughters of Ricky and Susan Cole. On August 31st Craig and Lyn Wiggins and Ricky and Susan Cole joined our membership.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$3,076.00
Luthersville	178.00
One Roof	193.00
Needy Family	5.00
Emmaus	315.00
Meals on Wheels	50.00

September

As of today, we have 52 baptized members and 272 professing members. Bishop Michael B. Watson, as of September 1, 2008, has been appointed to serve as the next Episcopal Leader of the North Georgia Conference. A youth group, known as C.C. Rockers, has been started. It is led by Marie Parham. The age range of the youth is 13 – 18. On September 14th we had an infant baptism, Dorothy Lucille Snyder. She is the daughter of Kris and Cathy Snyder, granddaughter of Paul and Vivian Snyder and Harry and Nancy Bridges. On September 21st we had the United Methodist Children's Home Offering. \$440.00 was collected. Jama Martin filled the pulpit due to Pastor John's viral attack that lasted about 36 hours. On September 24th, a fourth round of Financial Peace University started. The elementary and pre-school music programs began with Carmel Johnson leading. The Missions Team started a project that will benefit our Childcare Center. The goal is to collect a million pennies (\$10,000). The fish bowl is placed in the Narthex every week and will remain there until the amount is collected. As of September 28th, 9,512 pennies have been collected.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$5,919.00
Emmaus	255.00
Luthersville	138.50
One Roof	173.50
Needy Family	805.00

October

October 5th is World Communion Sunday. Brenda Hagen has been hired as Director of the Childcare Center. The 26th Annual Wesley Walk for Others was on October 25th. Several youth and leader, Velda Graydon, attended. They walked 6 miles around Stone Mountain. They collected \$181.00. 25,000 pennies have been collected. The Childcare Center was inspected by the State and received an excellent grade. There are many volunteers from the church that participate in different duties and the Lord blesses. The annual Charge Conference was held at Cornerstone UMC on October 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$5,110.01
Luthersville	163.00
One Roof	193.00
Welcome House	90.00
Missions Fund	580.00
Music Ministry	60.00
World Wide Communion	30.00

Proposed 2009 Budget

The operating budget of our church makes possible many important ministries. Listed below is a breakdown of the dollars in our "hoped for" budget – requests by ministry team leaders for specific areas, along with examples of the items which will be covered for next year. Your generosity allows our church to change lives. Please be reminded that this "first proposed" budget will be adjusted according to the estimates of giving received in this stewardship campaign. This proposed budget is only 10% over our current estimate for total giving for 2008. Thank you for your prayerful support of the ministries of Cokes Chapel UMC!

Children & Youth	\$106,000	32%
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Anticipated uses include:

Children's Sunday School resources and curriculum ● Vacation Bible School ● Our ministry to the community with the Cokes Chapel Childcare Center ● Our Children's Church program ● Children's special events ● Confirmation Class resources ● Youth materials ● Youth special events ● Salary for Children's Ministry Coordinator ●

Worship	\$105,761	32%
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Anticipated uses include:

Worship service materials (flowers, candles and communion elements) ● Music ministry expenses ● Christmas Trees and seasonal church decorations ● Pastor's salaries and benefits ● Musicians' salaries ●

Outreach and Mission	\$25,883	8%
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Anticipated uses include:

Financial support for a variety of local, regional and global ministries through the World Service Fund ● Stipends for seminary students ● planting new churches in our North Georgia Conference ● Support for our Methodist-related Africa University in Zimbabwe ● support of the special education program at East Coweta H.S. ● Programs to interpret missions in our local church ● LaGrange District administration and ministries ●

Other Programs	\$3,250	1%
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Expenses include:

Flowers and special meals ● Our prayer ministry ● Welcome packets and get-acquainted events ● Publicity ● Fellowship meals and gatherings ● Curriculum for adult Sunday School classes and other study programs ●

Operation and Administration	\$92,775	28%
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Expenses include:

Utilities ● Building maintenance ● Landscape maintenance ● Insurance ● Pest Control ● Kitchen and Janitorial Supplies ● Payments on the Sunday School house and land ● Office supplies ● Office equipment maintenance ● Secretary's salary ●

2009 "Hoped for" Budget	\$333,669	100%
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Generosity

**A HABIT
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November

November 1st is All Saints Sunday. Larry Carter will preach. We have two long time members, Lamar Lassetter and Carrie Lassetter Sprayberry, and one young husband and father, Scott Adams, gone to be with the Lord in 2008. The 2008 Stewardship Campaign is now going on, with Velda Graydon as chairperson. The 2009 budget is presented to the church. Pledge cards will be turned in on November 16, Commitment Sunday. Veteran's Sunday is November 9th. Our veterans were honored. Col. David Adamson was our guest speaker. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to be turned in on November 16th, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. On November 23rd, the Angel Tree is placed in the Narthex with names on it of needy children for Christmas gifts. Gifts are due on December 10th. The Chrismon Tree was decorated on November 29th and the next day is first Sunday in Advent. The candle of Hope is lit. The Million Pennies Campaign continues. We have received 30,668 pennies. Hanging of the Greens is Sunday evening with a chilli supper to follow. The church looks beautiful. Poinsettias are being purchased by members in honor/memory of loved ones. They will decorate the altar during the Christmas season. *Dr. Charles Singleton died. Nov. 3*

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$4,778.00
Triple Play Match	2,231.00
Children's Fund	340.00
Luthersville	148.37
Missions Fund	220.00
Music Ministry	25.00
Needy Family Fund	330.00
One Roof	233.38

December

On December 4th the Childcare Center presented a Christmas program. 175 to 200 people attended. The church hosted and provided refreshments. In November, an anonymous donor pledged to match the church \$2500.00 to help the needy. In addition, they will give the Childcare Center \$2500.00. It has the name 3-Play Match. On the second Sunday in Advent, the candle of Peace was lit. On Thursday, December 11th the Lunch Bunch met at Wanda Moore's for a covered dish luncheon. On Saturday, December 13th a group of 15 went to New Hope Baptist Church in Fayette County. We enjoyed "The Living Christmas Tree." It was beautiful to the eyes and ears. On Sunday December 14th, the third Sunday of Advent, the candle of Joy was lit. The 3-Play Match has been met. 33,296 pennies have been collected in the Million Pennies Campaign. The Adult Choir presented *Christmas is Jesus*, absolutely beautiful, extremely well done. Jennie Underwood directed, Harvey Armstrong narrated.

Soloists were Susan Todd, Cathy Snyder, Kirk Stewart, Velda Graydon and the beloved trio, Ann Navin, Brenda Hanes and Velda Graydon. Following immediately was a Christmas Party for the children. Sunday, December 21st the candle of Love was lit by the Middle School Sunday School Class. The Children's Choir presented Christmas music. The UMW is selling *Cookbook-Vol. II*-they're here! On December 24th, Christmas Eve, there was a Candlelight Service. The Jesus candle was lit in the Advent Wreath. There were carols, scripture and communion. Our new total in the Million Pennies Campaign is 37, 243 pennies. Kneeling pads have been generously donated by one of our church members. On December 28th a combined service is held with lots of carols.

Extra Giving:

Building Fund	\$24,400.00
Luthersville	190.00
Needy Family	973.00
Office Renovation	1,800.00
3-Play Match	269.00 (\$2,000 went to One Roof/\$500 to needy family)
Music Ministry	25.00
Missions Fund	125.00
One Roof	255.00
Wesley Walk for Others	106.00

In 2008

We had: 10 baptisms
 3 deaths † 1 - DR. Charles Singleton died - Nov. 3 - 2008
 11 joined the church

There are: 52 baptized members
 272 professing members