



# The Jones Journal

April 2009

A NEWS LETTER OF THE JONES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Shari Rates, Pastor

## Agnes Martin Retires After Many Years of Service

By Jim Wood

When Pastor P. V. (Buck) Hall came to visit the Martin household where daughter Beverly was sick, he told Agnes Martin about looking for someone “to fill in” until he could replace the church secretary who was leaving. “I don’t know where I’m going to get anybody,” he told Agnes. He was talking to the person who would be there for over 30 years.

Not only did Agnes fill the role of church secretary, but Pastor Hall told his board in a few years that she was more than secretary to the congregation at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, she was a “minister in calling.” That has defined her years of faithful service. In the interim she gained other roles, such as becoming church treasurer, membership secretary, and church business manager overseeing operations of the church and its congregation. Many members felt Agnes Martin had become an institution.



Thus, her letter to Staff-Parish Committee announcing retirement April 15, 2009, was something of a shock. Despite two back operations to correct a painful nerve pinch in the spine, and a long rehabilitation due, Agnes “stepping down” was still a surprise.

Agnes stayed in her church secretarial role through the pastorates of many Methodist senior preachers who were assigned to Jones Memorial: Dan Maxey, who followed Hall; Herb Chisenhall, Harold Smith, Paul Harwell, Terry Phillips, Tom Tout, Ken Fuller, Candy Thacker, more recently Shari Rates. Hall led the move of Jones Memorial from the original site on Forest Parkway to the new location on Phillips Drive. Chisenhall was the minister during the construction of the sanctuary. Through it all, Agnes Martin was the constant of church operations.

She has always been “close by”, Atlanta-born to Albert and Agnes Harbin in a large family---four sisters and two brothers. They moved to College Park when Agnes was two. One living sister, Ruth Smith, is a member of Jones Memorial, too. Agnes went to high school in College Park and attended Georgia State before she married John Simmons in 1948. They had four children---John, Nancy, Marty and Matt, before Simmons died in 1958. Four years later, in 1962, she married John M. Martin. Their daughter is Beverly, who lives across the street from Agnes in Forest Park, helping “look after Momma”. John Martin died in 1991.

Most of Agnes’ children live nearby, with Marty and wife Glad furthest away at a mountain home near Clarksville. She can’t say the same about eight grandchildren and now one great-grandchild.

You might try to measure Agnes’ popularity by remembering how many friends and church members dropped by, many on a daily basis, when she was in full sway as the church business manager. They were plentiful.

What will she miss most? Seeing friends and Jones members on a regular basis at the church, many of them every day. What will she be doing now in retirement? Working in the church garden right outside her former office. She doesn’t intend to get too far away from her beloved church.



## Fifth Sunday Program to be Inaugurated

*Joint Meeting for Adult Sunday School  
Classes, Invite a Friend Sunday, and  
Church-wide Covered Dish Lunch.*

Nearly 200 members and friends gathered on Sunday, March 15th for what appears to be a new Jones Memorial tradition. Following an inspiring service with guest speaker Betty Smith along with outstanding music from the Chancel Choir and guest musicians: Russell Wilson, Oboe, Mona Manning, soloist, and Christopher Davis soloist, Covered Dish Lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall.

Future plans call for combining the joint Adult Sunday School class meetings on the Fifth Sunday with the Bring a Friend and Covered Dish emphasis. Plan now for the next Fifth Sunday Activities, May 31

### *Fifth Sunday Services*

**May 31, 2009**

**Joint Adult Sunday School Class  
Meeting  
Bring a Friend Sunday  
Covered Dish Lunch**

## Nothing But Nets

On Sunday April 26, the Health and Wellness Team at Jones Memorial will be taking contributions for mosquito nets to be sent to areas where Malaria is a serious threat. A \$10 contribution will provide a mosquito net that may save the lives of families in areas of our world where Malaria is endemic. Make checks to Jones Memorial UMC for "Nothing But Nets."

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

The following persons are listed in our 2008 Membership Directory and in our Birthday File. Please help us up-date the Birthday File by sending additions or corrections to Jones Journal Editors at

[marthaandjim@bellsouth.net](mailto:marthaandjim@bellsouth.net).

If there are people listed here that you have not seen lately, this would be a good time to send birthday greetings and let them know that they are missed.

April 2	Richard Haynie
April 8	Gina Epps Carliss
April 9	Julian McCullough
	Vicky Hendrix
April 14	Lona Brown
April 15	Lisa Cline
April 17	Rod Bowlden
April 18	John Winkle
April 19	Carolyn Helms
April 20	Penny Conner
April 21	Mike Twomey
April 22	Kenny Tankersley
	Gary Hicks
April 23	Valerie Blackburn
	Jeff Purvis
April 26	Joe Spradlin
	Todd Ellenberger
April 29	Van Conseption

*The Mission  
of the United Methodist  
Church is to  
Make Disciples of Jesus  
Christ for the  
Transformation of the  
World*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Irma Powers:**

*Carol Boatwright, Lamar and Kay Shelnett, Amelia L. Senkbeil, Joe Amaro, Chancel Choir, Joe and Donna Leoni, Haynie Class, Margaret Shubert, Cal and Teena McBroom, Jim and Arleen McCord, Marlynn Buie Jones, Sharon Lawton, Annie Laurie Berry, Paul and Lynda Norris, Claudine Burns, Mildred Shoup, Al and Janice Shoup, Hoyt and Carolyn Trammell, Christine Turley, Joy Huie, Eva Brown, Bonny Morgan, Mary Casey, Frances and Tom Kemp, Ted and Judy Key, Jack and Alice Ring, Mildred Trammell, Buzz and Gerry Stone, The Keen-Agers*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Montine Tomasello:**

*Ted and Judy Key*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Gladys Porter:**

*Tom and Frances Kemp, Mr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Speir*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Donnie Deadwyler:**

*Mary Beasley, Martha B. Williams, Allen Long*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Inez Wood (sister of Ruth Smith):**

*Buzz and Gerry Stone*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Karen Henderson:**

*The Keen-Agers, Jim and Arleen McCord, Jack and Alice Ring*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Mary Pearcey:**

*Margaret Shubert, Jim and Arleen McCord*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Wm. R. Brown and Irwin Shubert:**

*Margaret Shubert*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Lester Blackburn:**

*His family, Ina*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Ruth and Walt Phillips:**

*Janie Green*

**Given to the General Fund in Memory of Liz Alford:**

*Christine Turley, Margaret Shubert, Cal and Teena McBroom, Dot and Pete Padgett, Wright's Walk Homeowners, Eva Brown, Keen-Agers, Buzz and Gerry Stone, Betty Hardeman, Mildred Shoup*

**Given to the Cemetery Fund in Memory of Liz Alford:**

*Miriam Farmer*

**Given to the Cemetery Fund in Memory of Crystal Harmon Maloney:**

*Buzz and Gerry Stone*

**Given to the Cemetery Fund in Memory of Irma Powers, Wayne Smith, Betty Lavendar, Doris Comer (sister of Ruth & Agnes), Wilford Cook, Gladys Porter:**

*Julian and Ginny McCullough*

**Given to the General Fund in Honor of Lorena Helms:**

*Ricky Helms*

**Given to the General Fund in Honor of Eva Brown and Margaret Shubert:**

*Beth L. Jones*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

### **A Season of Renewal**

By Pastor Shari Rates

Today is the first day of spring and it is Pastor's Sabbath Day, but I have received a friendly reminder to send my article in for this issue of the Jones Journal.

Spring is an amazing time of year and usually my favorite season save inclement weather, pollen and the ensuing heat. Yet it is during this time of year that a sense of newness emerges from what was at one time, stark and cold, deep winter months. Nowadays, it is harder to tell when our four seasons arrive, except for the evidence as witnessed through trees, grass, flowers and the appearance or disappearance of insects.

Coupled with this season of renewal is a beautiful reminder of our faith as Christian believers. It is during this time that we set our focus on the memory of Christ's death and resurrection which served as the impetus for our belief system today. You see, God so loved us that He birthed Himself into our reality and lived among us so that we too could participate in eternal life. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are re-birthed - reborn into this salvatory truth. And like this season of spring, all things are made new; our sins are washed away as the pollen eventually will be, and we grow new limbs of hope, love and peace just as trees and flowers bud new life as well.

Soon there will be talk of Easter bunnies, hunts and baskets, but it is my hope that in the midst of this season's secular appeal, we will not take our gaze off the cross of Calvary - or the one who conquered death for you and me. May we be revived, restored and re-birthed to an ever present realization that each day serves as a new beginning, an Easter in which we can cast aside our shortcomings and look to the example of Christ who loved us so very much. May we enjoy, reflect and re-commit our lives to growing anew in our beloved faith. Amen

## **REPORT FROM OUR MINISTER OF VISITATION**

Marti Slife

Ten in-home visits, six retirement or nursing home visits, and six phone calls were made, and three cards sent. Jerry Tomasello is not feeling well, Cheryl Baker is receiving chemotherapy, Virginia Hanson is quite lonely and needs visits and cards, Becky Tomasello is home after surgery at Southern Regional last week, Winnie Dunbar says she's "doing well for the state she's in," Betty and Linnie Widney are fine and send their love to all the church friends.

### **REPORT FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Three members of the worship committee: Betty White, Flora Wise and Marti Slife attended the Traditional Worship Workshop held at Decatur First UMC last month. The local committee met on Feb. 25 and March 4 to discuss the Lenten worship, Easter lilies, card with worship aids to be placed in the pew racks, acolytes, Palm Sunday and Easter worship.

### **ACOLYTES NEEDED**

If you are interested in being an acolyte for worship services, please see a member of the worship committee. There is no age limit. Marti Slife will have a training session soon.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (this year on Feb. 25) and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter and began as a period of fasting and a time of penance. The worship committee has provided a somber purple drape for the sanctuary and chapel crosses as visuals to help us remember the season.

# April 12<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday

*Join us as we celebrate this very special season at  
Jones Memorial UMC*

**April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**

**Palm Sunday Service**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**Maunday Thursday Service**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**

**Easter Sunday Service**

## Happenings

### Administrative Council

**April 6, 6:30 p.m.**

### Easter Egg Hunt

**April 11th**

### Keenagers Meeting

**April 22, 2009**

Keenagers will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following a short meeting, the group will go to Chick-Fil-A headquarters for a tour of the Chick -Fil-A Museum and will then be treated to lunch at the Chick-Fil-A at Union Station in Union City. Gas money will be collected on the bus. Please make reservations with Bonnie Martz no later than April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Teacher Appreciation Lunch

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Following the morning worship service on April 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a luncheon to honor Jones Memorial's Sunday School Teachers.

### UMW Unit Meeting

Also on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the United Methodist Women will hold their Unit Meeting at 2:00.

### Email Directory

In anticipation of the preparation of a new Church Directory, we would like to begin collecting the email addresses of our members. We will be posting sign up sheets for the next several weeks and would appreciate your entering your email address if you are able to receive email. Please write clearly, since email addresses are easily misread.

### Website Calendar

If you haven't noticed it yet, check out the church calendar which can be accessed from the website: [www.jmumc.com](http://www.jmumc.com) Just click on "News & Events" and then on "Calendar". When the Calendar comes up, you will notice topics in red. When you click on one of these, you will see additional information about the event listed. You can even select a specific month by adjusting the menu of months which is on the left side of the page. Way to Go!!!! Lamar.

### From the Editors

The next issue of the Journal will be for May. Please send copy by April 22<sup>nd</sup> to [marthaandjim@bellsouth.net](mailto:marthaandjim@bellsouth.net).

# BAR-B-Q JONES MEMORIAL UMC

*Saturday – April 4      11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.*

**Cost \$6:00**  
**(Bake sale and Book sale also)**

*Volunteers are needed to help with all of these events. If you will be able to help and have not already signed-up, please notify the appropriate contact person for each event:*

<b>Barbecue</b>	<b>Ray Johnson</b>	<b>404-366-8116</b>
<b>Bake Sale</b>	<b>Alice Ring</b>	<b>404-366-6489</b>
<b>Book Sale</b>	<b>Kathy Guptill</b>	<b>404-361-8521</b>

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