

# ALIVE!



## GORDON'S CHAPEL UMC

6625 Nowhere Road  
Hull, Georgia 30646

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Pastor: Joel Embry  
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Sunday School 9:00 am  
Worship 10:00 am

Web: [www.gordonschapel.com](http://www.gordonschapel.com) To find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gordonschapelumc](http://www.facebook.com/gordonschapelumc)  
Over 100 years of serving the Sanford Community  
Editors Email: [homer10461@gmail.com](mailto:homer10461@gmail.com)

### Straight Talk from Joel

#### **The Straight and Narrow Road**

This Sunday I will be preaching on the "Narrow Way" to righteousness. There **are** so many things in our world today that can pull us to the right or left of our goal of reaching our spiritual destination.

As we read this newsletter we have an opportunity to look ahead to the Scriptures I have chosen for Sunday in Matthew 6:19-34. In this passage Jesus is speaking to each one as individuals.

The last couple Sundays I have been talking about our journey to the Cross. The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to examine ourselves, and look within ourselves, and see how we're serving Christ.

You may have decided to give up something for Lent, but have you ever considered taking on something new, this may even be a better way to see how we are doing as Christians.

We can become weighed down by our surroundings and many things can influence our journey on every side. We all have our ups and don't we? Physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our lives can influence how we see ourselves.

I am praying that you will take this opportunity of Lenten season to pray, meditate, and to take the time to let the Holy Spirit guide your thoughts; and ultimately your heart, as we make this journey to the cross together. Remember, no one lives in a vacuum, we need each other.

I hope this newsletter will speak to your heart.

If you haven't been to church lately-many reasons can keep **you** from coming to church- we have missed you. Please remember that when you're not there you're missing an opportunity to share the gifts you have with others. Each of us can bring something to share. Come and be a part of building God's kingdom right here at Gordon's Chapel.

"Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and all these other things will be added into you."

See you soon!

Yours in Christ. Pastor Joel

### **Prayer List Posted Each Week**

For those who may be unaware, the prayer list that is posted each week originates from the prayer book where those who come in list names in which they would like read out during the service on Sunday mornings. If you would like to write someone's name in that book, it is located in the church vestibule each and every Sunday morning. Thank you.

### **Annual BBQ**

Our annual pork BBQ will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM with preparations beginning on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10 for adults and **all take-outs**, \$5 for ages 6-12 and 5 and under can eat free. Hams will start being racked on Friday around 5:00 PM. We need everyone's help to make this the best one yet!

**SELL THOSE TICKETS!!!**

### **UMW Bake Sale**

Calling all Gordon's Chapel cooks! The UMW is again sponsoring a Bake Sale at the church's annual BBQ on **April 29th**. This is our main fundraiser each year, which funds many of the projects the UMW undertakes. All ladies of the church are members of the UMW and it takes everyone's participation to be a success. Please do your share by donating cakes, pies, cookies, candy, and/or homemade canned goods. If you have questions, contact any UMW member.

### **Car Wash Fundraiser**

Donations to go toward summer camp at Camp Glisson for our Elementary Students. Saturday May 13th from 11am to 3pm @ Gordon's Chapel. We will also be selling hot dog plates for \$5.00. Sponsored by Third Class.

### **Come to VBS!**

The theme for this year is "Salvation Ranch". Look to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/gordonschapelumc](http://www.facebook.com/gordonschapelumc)) for more information once dates are confirmed.

### **Mother/Daughter Banquet**

The Mother Daughter Banquet will be at the Ila Restaurant on May 7, 2017.

### **Chicken BBQ**

Sanford Men's Club will be having a chicken BBQ on May 20, at the community center.

Congratulations to Ken and a Peggy Deal on the birth of their great grand baby Piper Olivia Echols, weighing 7lbs 10 oz. and is 20" long!

Congratulations to Al and Anne Stone who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary! May God continue to bless them, as well as all of their family!

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Darrell and Diane Seagraves on the recent death of his brother, Ted. Please pray for Darrell, Diane, and all the family.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Charles Jay who passed away recently.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of George Holloman who recently passed away. Please keep Linda Kay, Adrienne, Beth, and all the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of LeeAnn Markham and Jonathan Markham on the recent death of LeeAnn's mother. Please be in prayer for LeeAnn's Dad, LeeAnn, Jonathan and all the family during this time.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL - Lets get serious!**

Sunday School is not just for kids....Adults need it just as much if not more!

It is a known fact that Sunday School has gone down in the last few years, however Sunday School is so important when we talk about our spiritual growth. Take a strong look at the recent attendance in your own class. Has the attendance gone down? If so, what are the reasons for the decline? Is it the course of study that is given? Is it the way your study is presented to the class? Is there too much discussion which leaves you without learning anything about the subject matter? Does the discussion get out of hand? Have you contacted those who no longer come and invited them to come back to your Sunday School Class? Do you get together socially as a group like you use to? Do you contact each other when you know for a fact that they are going through hardships and need help?

It is time to get serious when it comes to learning about God's word.

#### **6 Reasons why Sunday School Is so Important**

1. Sunday School improves your Bible knowledge. When you know and understand God's Word for yourself, you are more likely to obey the Lord. The Bible knowledge gained in Sunday School also helps you become more proficient in using God's Word, which helps you in your witnessing to others.
2. Sunday School assists your spiritual growth. Think of Sunday School teachers and class members who have modeled the Christian life. You learned from their examples how to live for Jesus. Most importantly, spiritual growth often occurs best in the context of small group Bible study.
3. Sunday School provides a "place to belong." In a Sunday School class you are known, personally recognized and transparency is more likely to occur. You can share needs and concerns from your life. As you participate in class discussions, you become part of the group.
4. Sunday School helps you build meaningful relationships. You meet people, learn their names, hear their stories, and meet their families. You share fellowship times with class members. You minister alongside others.
5. Sunday School gives you opportunities to serve and minister. Contacts with sometimes "unchurched prospects" gives you the privilege of sharing your faith. You show the love of Jesus by ministering to class members who have needs.
6. Sunday School has a place for the whole family. In one trip to church your entire family can participate in the important purposes of Bible study, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. You gain the assurance of knowing every member of your family is involved in weekly, small-group Bible study, which is growing their Bible knowledge and helping them grow spiritually.

## **What makes a great worship service?**

I regret to say it's taken most of my life before I contemplated or found the answer to this question.

I've had the good fortune to hear the great Billy Graham speak. Heard Dr. Stanley on Sunday morning give his message. Listened to Joel Olsen, who could be a great motivational speaker, without God being mentioned in his messages.

On trips to Europe we walked in what could only be described as Holy Ground in Ireland, and Middle Europe while visiting cathedrals which were built to honor the glory of our Lord.

We have had the opportunity to visit the Vatican and attend a Mass by Pope Francis. Again and always to the greater glory of God. The prompt and ceremony is almost overwhelming.

But none of these compare to attending a worship service of a church that has come together and perhaps has truly found itself in the process.

Over the past two weeks at Gordon's Chapel UMC I heard two songs that are so moving to me personally. Last Sunday it was Amazing Grace/ My Chains are Gone by our choir and today Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing by Donna and Ted in a praise format.

Accompanied by that is the Children's Service which is always at a level that the youngest child and even I can understand.

On top of all of this is we are Blessed to have in-house speakers who can step in if our Pastor is not available. It's not the eloquence of the speaker or the opulence of the setting that matters most.

It's the simple sincerity that goes into each service that raises us up. Welcome, music, prayer and fellowship that is a great service.

For years I've said "If you're born Methodist, you will live Methodist and die Methodist regardless of where you go or what your profession of Faith may be."

Now I'm more comfortable saying that than I've been in a long time.

IHS.

-Dennis Adams

## **The Church:**

I have been thinking when I look at old pictures of Gordon's Chapel, how our church (along with other churches), have changed over the years. In those old pictures taken in front of the church, the congregation seemed so huge. A long time ago, when my parents were young and I was little, the church was the center of the community. Most everyone went to church and to Sunday School because there were few distractions that would draw members away from church on Sunday morning. People gathered and talked, invited others, enjoyed dinner on the grounds, and caught up with each other and what was going on with them during the week. It seems as though church members were closer to each other then. In this day and time, there is technology where we look at our computer and phones, we text, and face book instead of picking up the phone and calling people directly, or going to their house and visiting them. Don't get me wrong, I love how we are able to stay in touch with people and communicate through Facebook and twitter, but I can see where it can hurt too when it comes to building relationships with each other. I don't know about you, but I yearn for the days of old, where on Sunday mornings, the church comes first and it is not something that you do when you can't come up with another activity or another place to be. I saw the following article and to me it is a great reminder on how we can come back to the basics in order to help our church. I have often wondered what our answer will be when we meet Jesus and what excuses we will come up with when He ask us about our service for Him.

Paulette Cooper

## **How to be a Help to Your Church**

Excerpts: By Dr. Dale A. Robbins

1. Be faithful to attend and participate —
2. Commit yourself to love the Lord and your brethren —
3. Pray for your pastor and your church—
4. Get to know your spiritual leaders and cooperate with them —
5. Help shoulder the load of responsibility —
6. Apply the teaching and ministry to your life —
7. Seek out and use your gifts —
8. Contribute to the solutions and not to the problems —

## 57 Cents

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was "too crowded." "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus. Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building. But the story does not end there... A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents. Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends. When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday School time. In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds" This is a true story, which goes to show WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS. ...copied and submitted by Paulette Cooper

## You Cannot be Neutral

Jesus Christ doesn't call us to be bystanders or spectators. He gave us a job to do. The word "Christian" actually means a partisan for Christ. It means that you have chosen Christ and you are following Christ. Partisans are not neutral. So, what is a true Christian? **(1)** A Christian is a person who has made a choice. We **HAVE** to choose, between Christ and the Devil. Ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sin. **(2)** A Christian is a person whose life has been changed. That is done by the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Christ, the Spirit of God comes to live in you. **(3)** A Christian is a person who has accepted a challenge. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The main reason people don't come to Christ is because they don't want to pay the price. Christ will not compromise. He will not negotiate. You either come by repentance and faith, or you don't come at all. Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Once we accept him, **We need to wake up, get up, get out, and work !**

6625 Nowhere Road  
Hull, Georgia 30646  
Return Service Requested



#### April Birthdays

1. Bob Kaes
2. Ruth Pittman
3. JoAnn Embry
4. Chris Epps
5. Holly Glenn
6. Sara Garmon
7. Linda Black
9. Adrin Free
10. Virginia Archer
11. Terresa Alexander
17. Jackie Adams  
Chris Burroughs  
Butch Appleby
20. Rita Stephens  
Nita Moon  
Dennis Smock
21. Brian Ingram  
Candace Pittman Fox
22. Scott Epps  
Vivienne Couch
24. Deborah Adams  
Hazel Hart
25. Jeweldine Chambers
26. Faye Jay
28. Rick Ingram
30. Jenna Gober Hill  
Dustin Alexander

#### May Birthdays

1. Obie Sue Brooks
2. Jenny Beck Nesbit
5. Tommy Dillard  
Jonathan Hix  
Julia Hix
7. Sue Goldsmith

11. Will Davis
12. Drew Chrisohon
13. Susan Dillard  
Inez Parham
14. Bob Harrison
18. Kimberly Pittman Smith  
Tonya Hix
19. Pam Smith
20. Larry Pittman  
David Bryant
21. Daniel Bond
22. Charlie Barrineau
26. Billy Pittman
30. Cheryl Bowen  
Adrienne Simmons  
Reatha Ingram

#### June Birthdays

3. Jeffrey Glenn  
Cullen Bryant
7. Chad Dillard
8. Austin Glenn
9. McClain Cheek
13. Julia Wilcher  
Sarah Upton
14. Barbi Smith
18. John Seagraves  
Cynthia Wages
19. Kayla Seagraves  
Jadah Hunter
21. Faye Harris  
Anne Bryant  
Jack Archer  
Reeves Barrineau
23. Margaret Jordan
24. Lisa Thaxton
25. Johnette Appleby  
Ann Nix  
Mary Beth Heaton
28. Jim Jeffer  
Janet DePooter
30. John Bellew

#### April Anniversaries

3. Mr. and Mrs. Al Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Seagraves
4. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Burroughs
6. Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Pittman
9. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Garmon
13. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Daniel  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Appleby
22. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Adams
27. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Goldsmith

#### May Anniversaries

18. Mr. & Mrs. Alan Simmons
19. Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Allen
21. Mr. & Mrs. Butch Bryant
24. Mr. & Mrs. Roger Gober
28. Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bradley
29. Mr. & Mrs. Rick Free

#### June Anniversaries

10. Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gober  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Heaton
12. Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Carney
18. Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Hix
19. Mr. & Mrs. David Cheek  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Christian  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jackson
21. Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Lovelace
25. Mr. & Mrs. Tom Beck