



At Bright Star, we will be a beacon of light
so that we might bring people to

Jesus Christ

and live a life that magnifies

create disciples,
share and develop
our spiritual gifts.



God

Bright Star Beacon

The Light of Love and Hope in Our Community

A Publication of Bright Star United Methodist Church, Douglasville, Georgia 30135-3223

**December 2020
Volume 33, Issue 12**



con·fir·ma·tion

/ˌkənˈfərˈmāSH(ə)n/

United Methodists use the term "confirmation" to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church.



Pictured L to R: Dakota Gammage, Maura Plumley, Georgia Holloway, Noah Plumley, Madeline Holloway, Vianne Warner, Laura Frank, D. Samples, Matt Holloway, Edwin Jones, Una Jones.

More photos inside

Christmas Eve
Service

5:00 pm

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



Finance/Stewardship

Monthly Operating Budget Required:\$32,475
 Fiscal YTD Operating Budget
 required thru November\$357,225
Report thru November 23, 2020
 Operating Budget Received MTD\$18,612
 Operating Budget Received Fiscal YTD\$267,082
 Average 11:00am Worship Attendance52

Mortgage Account Activity

Monthly mortgage pymt\$8,110.21
Principal Balance as of 11/23/20\$1,311,311

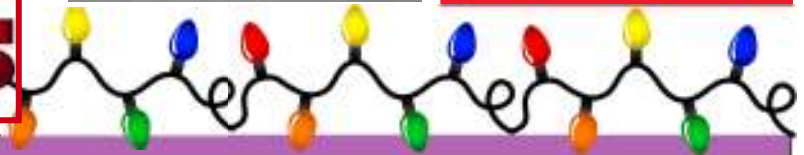
NOTE: Fiscal Year is January 1 to December 31

“Strive for \$1.5” Fundraiser as of 11/23/20

Donations to date (beg. 1/27/19)\$109,516
 Amount needed as of 1/27/19\$1,500,000



Merry
Christmas



Pick an Angel
from the tree



Buy A Gift

Be A
Blessing To
Those In
Need

Wrap & Return
With All Tags
Dec. 13th
BY NOON

Angels available starting
November 22nd



Give someone hope and love this Christmas



A VISION OF HOPE



A vision of hope, that is what the seasons of Advent and Christmas are all about and who of us does not need some of that new vision and hope right about now? We all do because we have all been thrown an unexpected curve ball by this pandemic that has not only destroyed lives, the economy, the way we usually go about our daily lives, but also, and perhaps more importantly, our mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Thankfully, all is not lost because hope springs eternal. Hence, it is in that spirit of optimism and determination that I pursued new ways of bringing the mobile food ministry to our church. Needless to say, it was not always easy because there were days when I was more than ready to just give it all up. Until of course, I talked with Cassia Milhollin, who in turn told me about Tammy Kone and the Good Samaritan Food Bank, and after a few phone calls to Tammy the rest is history.



You see God has a way of sending guardian angels our way. Not only that, I wished that you were there to see what happened on our very first food drive-thru. It was amazing because we served close to three hundred families with about 5 tons of food. Now we are now getting ready for our second drive-thru which is scheduled for December 12th, 2020. We anticipate serving the same number of people with the same amount of food and since we are always in need of additional help, please feel free to join us if you are able.

In the meantime, let's continue to pray for one another and for the needs of the country and the world. Let's not give up or get weary because as the scripture says, in due season we will reap the harvest. So, keep on keeping on. Keep on believing and keep on doing what you know that you have to do because you never know just when or how things might turn in a brand new direction and especially in your favor.



Now having said all that, let me also say that the same is true for the way we handle and boost our finances. It is no secret that COVID has done a number on our finances and indeed the church's finances as well. As you know, for this entire year we were not able to gather for our Wednesday night suppers as we used to in the past. Neither were we able to organize our various annual fundraisers that have helped us boost our budget. Therefore, I want to challenge all of us to think outside the box and to come up with new ideas of raising money for the church during these challenging times.



One new idea, came from Stan Copeland who suggested that we organize an online auction to raise additional funds for the church. Now, it looks like that might take a lot more planning and organizing, because it looks like none of us have ever done anything like that before. But, as the saying goes, nothing ventured, nothing gained. So, let us know if you have any auctionable items that we can auction when that happens and how you would like to get involved.

Also, just another reminder, if you have not yet sent in your 2021 commitment card and still need to catch up with your 2020 pledge, it is never too late to do so. Remember that we are all in this together and everything we do for God and for others impacts not only someone else's life, but our lives as well.



So, thank you for who you are, for what you do for and through Bright Star UMC. Thank you also for allowing your work and witness to be a vision of hope and encouragement for someone else.

May the life renewing spirit of God continue to be with you and in you to bless you and your family, and may we all have the best Christmas ever, irrespective of the time we are living in. The birth of our savior Jesus Christ is a vision of faith, hope, and love today, tomorrow, and always.

God Bless and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Edwin & Una

. . . From the Pastor

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 2020

Congratulations to the newest members of our church!

Georgia Holloway, Madeline Holloway, Maura Plumley,
Noah Plumley, D. Samples, and Vianne Warner



Vianne Warner and family



D. Samples and family





Georgia & Madeline Holloway and family



Maura & Noah Plumley and family

We love you!



What a lovely gift!

Thank you so very much for the prayer quilt. It is such a wonderful thing for you to do. It really touched my heart. It is an inspiration to me.

Prayer is the greatest of gifts. I pray the Lord will continue to bless you and the wonderful work you do in your church. God bless you all.

Love in Christ,

Catherine Budlong

Thank you very much for your ongoing dedication to the American Red Cross. Every day, I am deeply moved by the kindness and generosity of spirit you bring to our vital mission. But it's times like these – times of great uncertainty – that I am truly in awe of your unwavering commitment.

As thousands of blood drives around the nation were cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19, please know that your drive protected the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us – including accident victims, cancer patients, those suffering from chronic illnesses and many others.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for stepping up to help collect and donate life-saving blood, even as the circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak often made it difficult to do so.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you once again for your tremendous efforts to strengthen and advance our Red Cross mission during this uniquely challenging time. We look forward to better times ahead, and to our continued partnership to save lives.

Sincerely,

*Gail McGovern
President & CEO
American Red Cross*



A BLESSING FROM FOCUS ON THE FAMILY



The ultrasound machine is an extremely important tool at PRC Medical because 95% of our clients who have an ultrasound choose life for their babies!

Some months ago PRCM applied for a grant from Focus on the Family (Optional Ultrasound Program, OUP) for a new ultrasound machine since the software on ours was 20 years old. Focus on the Family did a two-day audit and site assessment on our medical clinic to qualify us for the grant.



Two new 3D/4D
Ultrasound machines



Left: 3D/4D
Ultrasound Image



Right: Old 2D
Ultrasound Image

The purpose of the site assessment is to ensure that the medical clinic is operating with the highest standard of excellence and providing medical services built on a strong foundation. The overwhelming news is that Focus on the Family granted Douglasville's PRC Medical **two 3D/4D ultrasound machines!**

The new 3D/4D machines produce colored pictures, and the baby images are clearer and more easily visible than the old 2D style. The Site Consultant stated that PRC Medical is to be commended for providing a warm and welcoming office setting that communicates professionalism to the clients but deeply respects and honors them. She stated that we are to be commended also for our commitment to evangelism.

Our numbers reflect that the staff and volunteers have been well trained in ascertaining spiritual needs and sharing the Gospel when appropriate and that clients have responded to this life-saving message. We are truly blessed by these two new machines, and we are looking forward to using them to save more lives!!

Douglas County Pregnancy Resource Center

3030 Chapel Hill Rd • Douglasville, Ga 30135
www.partnersofprc.com • volunteer@partnersofprc.com

DRIVE-THRU FOOD PANTRY



Saturday, November 14, was a beautiful day for our first Drive-Thru Food Pantry in more ways than one. We were blessed with beautiful weather, a wonderful turnout and an outcome that exceeded expectations.

There were 37 hard working volunteers who distributed over 10,050 pounds of food to 315 families. That is amazing for our first time to do this!

The 37 volunteers consisted of 20 Bright Star members, 7 members of our Boy Scout troop and 10 other friends and community members.

The day began with the arrival of the truck from the Atlanta Food Bank just before noon. It contained one pallet of 600 pounds of eggplant and seven pallets with a total of 315 boxes holding a combination of milk, eggs, meat, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, apples, and watermelons.

We had advertised that food distribution would begin at 3:00. At 15 minutes before 3:00 the parking lot was filled with cars and traffic was backing up onto Bright Star Road. We had to start distributing food immediately to relieve the traffic congestion. All of the volunteers jumped into action and before 3:30 the parking lot was empty and 75% of the food had been distributed. I was very impressed by our volunteers' hard work, response to challenges, quick action, and helpful attitudes. The efficiency of the traffic flow and food loading in that first 45 minutes was so very impressive.

Vehicles continued to arrive in fewer numbers until about 4:30 when practically all the food was gone. Some volunteers took the remaining food to distribute to their neighbors.



TO THE VOLUNTEERS:

I want to congratulate each work group on the fine work they did.

I'll start with those who did the advertising and promotion of our event. There were fliers distributed and redistributed seemingly all over town. The Good Samaritan Center distributed them to their clients last week and PRC Medical did the same. There was a huge presence Face Book, as well. An outside volunteer found us by Googling "Food Pantry". I think we were the top of the list of responses. She didn't know anything about us or Bright Star Church.

Next I want to thank those who helped with the planning and preparation for the event. There were lots of details that had to be

thought through and materials provided to help things run as smoothly as they did.

Those who helped with the health checks, signing in volunteers, passing out name tags, etc. are greatly appreciated for helping us stay safe.

The parking lot management, traffic flow, and distribution of tickets and handouts to the food recipients was excellent. Without the hard work, flexibility, and quick reactions of those involved, things could have gone very badly.

Even though bagging and preparing food was not an issue because there was so little to do, next time may be different. Thanks to those involved in this effort.

Everyone involved in loading the food into vehicles is to be commended. Your hard work and ingenuity made this go extraordinarily well. This was remarked on by many including the group from Midway Food Pantry, who have been doing this for two years.

Thanks to our Boy Scouts, their leaders and parents for coming. Your help and participation is greatly appreciated. The scouts seem to be fine young men. The scout leaders and parents are to be congratulated for your instruction and the examples you have set for them.

Thank you once again to all who helped to make this a huge success! We could not have done it without each and every one of you!

The next Drive-Thru Food Pantry is December 12.

Please keep it in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Bryson Tallant



DRIVE-THRU FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, December 12th

starting at 3 p.m.



In partnership with Good Samaritan Center
& Atlanta Community Food Bank

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bright Star United Methodist Church

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The Bright Star Beacon

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BRIGHT STAR STAFF - *READY TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU!*

Rev. Dr. Edwin Jones, *Pastor*
Kim Daniels, *Office Manager*
Joan Ray, *Financial Secretary*
Jill Perry, *Children's Director*
Dakota Gammage, *Youth Director*

Katie Plumley, *Director of Music/Drama*
Ivan Winslett, *Assoc. Director Of Music*
Tara McIlwain, *Nursery*
Cliff Daniels, *Custodian*
Richard Jacobus, *Stephen Ministry Referrals*

(770) 949-2555

Worship With Us Each Sunday

11:00 am in Hunter Hall

or livestream via our YouTube channel

brightstarumc

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next newsletter is

January 20, 2020



OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
8am - 12pm

OUR PURPOSE

As a beacon of light, we will bring people to Jesus Christ, create disciples, share and develop our spiritual gifts, and live a life that magnifies God.



BSUMC is a Stephen Ministry congregation