



A Day in the Life of FPC: Kids in Ministry



Whether it be collecting donated items, sorting, and packing hygiene kits for disaster victims (pictured above), gathering supplies and making activity bags for homeless children (below, left), walking with others in the annual Hunger Walk to end hunger in Atlanta (below, right), or packing lunches for hungry kids in our local community during the summertime Smart Lunch, Smart Kid program — involving kids in active ministry is a vital part of our programs at Fayette Presbyterian Church.

Portraying Christ's love through service at a young age develops not only a habit of love but often a desire to continue to serve throughout adolescence and into adulthood.

We also believe that one of the best ways to foster this desire to show love through service is to model it! We are so grateful for every adult volunteer who works with our children during Sunday School, Kids' Club, Nursery, VBS and all of the other various programs we hold throughout the year.



A Word from the Pastor

This time of year it feels like I stand on the border between the old and the new. I look back over the events of the last year and I look forward to the events that are coming. This last year there have been exciting and fun times like going to the BSA Sea Base with Addison, Disney World with the whole family, and adult training at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. I have gone on fun field trips with Caroline and seen her start the enrichment program at school and join Cub Scouts as one of the first girls. I have taken Broecks to a robotics team competition and enjoyed his performances with the school chorus. We got a puppy (who is now a 7 month old, 50 lb bundle of energy with a Christmas Tree to keep him entertained). At the same time there have been some very sad times this year. The tragic loss of a dear friend. The loss of my kind, joyful uncle.

Then I look to the year ahead. Broecks will finish elementary school, start middle school, and move from Cub Scouts to a Boy Scout troop. Addison will get his driver's license (gahk!!!). We are going to Yosemite National Park over the summer. But at the same time, I know that the year ahead will also bring some unwelcome surprises.

As I think about all of this, I am reading a very enjoyable book by Maryann McKibben Dana, a Presbyterian minister and amateur performer/participant of improv. The book is called "God, Improv, and the Art of Living." Near the beginning she says how much she used to like acting in high school plays because there was a script to simply be memorized and performed. Everything was predictable. Everything happened on cue. It took hard work, but it was comfortable and safe. That form of acting also reflected her outlook on life and faith.

Later, though, Maryann began to explore the world of improv. She realized that improv is a much better reflection of the life and faith that were unfolding in her life. A lot of things happened that definitely did not go according to plan – times when life throws us a curveball. Sometimes that curveball is an amazing, great thing. Sometimes it is disastrous. In either case, much depends on how we respond. If we are locked into the scripted, predictable, safe way of approaching life, then life's curveballs can send us into a tail-spin. Our desire is to shut down. But improv gives us a different way of approaching things.

Improv, Maryann says, teaches us a way of approaching life and faith that she describes as "Yes, and." The "yes" part is accepting the reality of whatever it is that we face. An improv actor must first accept the reality of the material their co-actor gives them. If the other actor says "I'm holding up this bank, put your hands up!", you do not get the option of simply saying "No. I refuse. We're going to do this other thing instead." You have to deal with what you are given. Sometimes you like it, but sometimes you don't. What matters is how you respond. That's the "and" part.

Improv is scary. It is risky. It takes creativity. It requires us to be light on our feet. It means we have to be resourceful. It also empowers us and energizes us. We learn to understand and trust in God in ways that before we did not imagine. It is also good to live life with some other people who are good at improv.

Maryann also reminds us of Neibuhr's little prayer that seems ready-made for improv:

*God, grant me the serenity
To accept this things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.*

You might get a copy of this little book for yourself, but I hope Maryann's analogy of improv is a helpful one as you approach life in this New Year.

Grace and peace to you all.

Alex

With Thanks...

Below is a Facebook post that I made the Sunday of our Christmas Cantata. I wanted to share it with the rest of the congregation because I believe it expresses a sentiment shared by most leaders in the church when people dedicate their time and energy to any particular ministry they serve in.

This morning was our annual Christmas program at the church. A ton of work went into making it happen and the musicians, adult choir, soloists, and kids group certainly were a blessing for everyone. As the director, I make sure to thank each and every one of those people for what they have done, but this afternoon I felt the need to explain what I really wish I could say every time I said "thanks".

I love music of every form, shape, sound, and color. It is an inseparable part of who I am. When I get to stand in the front center of any number of singers and instrumentalists however, it becomes something far beyond the love of music. In fact, the sounds that are created by these wonderful people are just icing on the cake. Imagine receiving an amazing gift from someone that you did not expect, did not even realize you desperately needed, and have absolutely no way of paying back.

This is the gratitude that I feel along with every note. I feel that gratitude with each individual moment of eye contact during a song. I feel it with each communal breath of preparation for the next musical phrase. I feel it with every strike of the piano key, the slide of the bow, the pluck of the string, and the rumble of drums. I feel it with every secret smile shared when I miss a cue and the choir moves along as if nothing happened. I feel it when I look to the children and youth as they sing out with smiles and sometimes unsure voices.

It is gratitude because not a single person up there was forced to come and sing or play. They have certainly not come to sing and play because I am some great maestro (they all know very well I don't even have an official music degree). Almost all the singers and instrumentalists are volunteering their precious time and energy, and those that are compensated are certainly worth more than we are able to give. I get to be there in front of professionals, amateurs, and people who have simply been talked into joining, just hoping that they aren't singing or playing the wrong note. Together they agree to listen to this one guy (me) in the middle of things and trust that what he asks them to do will result in something special. I never, ever, want to take that fact for granted. *This* is community, family, a togetherness in a form that I can appreciate most- music.

As I conduct and sing and dance along, praying not to botch things up too terribly, I cannot help but revel in that moment. I cannot help but feel unspeakably grateful to be in that place at that time with these people. To all those who have made so many moments like today for me, that is what I mean when I say- "*Thank You*"

Always remember: *service is more than just completing a task*. When you serve, you are also communicating to everyone around you that this is important, that it is worth the time and effort. When we choose to participate, we also inspire others to join in and that might be the most powerful aspect of service in the first place. In this new year, I challenge you to step out into service in new ways that will show others that the church and its mission is worth the time and effort we all strive to put in. For those who are already serving: keep up the good hard work and know that I for one am thankful for it.

Blessings for the New Year,
Jacob

Music Schedule

CHANCEL CHOIR

We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:30pm.
After our holiday break, we return to
rehearsing on January 9.

PRAISE BAND

We rehearse on Tuesdays at 6:00pm.
No rehearsals on January 1.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 January		1 10:30a Al-Anon 8p AA Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 12n AA	3 10a Ladies Bible Study 10:30a Al-Anon 7p Quilters (FH) 8p AA	4 6p AA	5 8a Men's Mtg 11a AA 5:30p Calvary Refuge Dinner
6 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship 2:00p GriefShare Begins 5:00p Youth Trip to Urban Jungle, PTC	7 10a F&N Board Mtg 6p AA 7p PW Circle: Linda Weller	8 10:30a Al-Anon 11a PW Circle: Good Fruit 1p PW Circle: Morning Glories 6:00p Praise Bd 6:30p PW Circle: Nightingales 7:00p Lectio Divina Worship 8p AA	9 7:15a Youth Prayer Breakfast 10:00a PW Circle: Homebuilders 12n AA 5:30p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p De-hanging of the Greens 7:30p Choir	10 10a Ladies Study 10:30a Al-Anon 7p Pub Theology 8p AA	11 6p AA Newsletter Deadline	12 11a AA 1p Cubs (FH)
13 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship 2:00p GriefShare 	14 6p AA	15 10:30a Al-Anon 7p PW CT 7:00p Lectio Divina Worship 8p AA	16 7:15a Youth Prayer Breakfast 12n AA 5:30p Fellowship Dinner OUT at Shanes Rib Shack 7:30p Choir	17 8a ROAR Store 10a Ladies Study 10:30a Al-Anon 8p AA	18 8a ROAR Store 6p AA	19 11a AA
20 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship 12:00p Trip to the King Center, Atlanta 2:00p GriefShare	21 6p AA Church Office Closed MLK Day	22 10:30a Al-Anon 7:00p Lectio Divina Worship 8p AA	23 7:15a Youth Prayer Breakfast 12n AA 7:30p Choir	24 10a Ladies Study 10:30a Al-Anon 7p Quilters (FH) 8p AA	25 6p AA	26 11a AA 5:30p Mission Dinner MISSION DINNER!
27 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship 2:00p GriefShare	28 9a Friends & Neighbors (FH) 6p AA 7p Worship Committee Mtg	29 10:30a Al-Anon 7:00p Lectio Divina Worship 7p CG/Youth Committee Mtg 8p AA	30 7:15a Youth Prayer Breakfast 12n AA 7:30p Choir	31 10a Ladies Study 10:30a Al-Anon 8p AA		


Nurture Coordinators
 Ann Johnston and Kathie McClain
 coordinate our nurture needs.
 Ann Johnston, 404-403-5101
 Kathie McClain, 404-394-1968

Presbyterian Women's Circles

- Nightingales Circle** will meet at Vickie Jeffries' home.
- Mission: Items and Donations for Wound Care Boxes for Haiti.
- Linda Weller Circle** will meet in the church Fellowship Hall.
- Homebuilders Circle** will meet in the church Fellowship Hall.
- Good Fruit Circle** will meet at Arline Deacon's home.
- Morning Glories Circle** will meet at the church in room A-2.

Celebrating with you!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 Jim Eldridge
1/6 Mike Higginbotham
1/9 Greg Swayne
1/11 Thomas Smith
Amanda Bowles
1/17 Mary Lou Abbett
1/18 Mary Lou Montgomery
1/21 Pat Cantoni
1/23 Mike Blackburn
1/25 Trey Phillips
Marc McMahan
1/27 Katie Jackson
1/28 JD Masters
Sarah Simpson
1/29 Lee Dodds
Kellie McMahan
1/30 Berkeley Stonebraker
Marie Chance
1/31 Ben Schueffner

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/3 Tom & Betsy Jackson
1/8 Darrell & Sue Bandy
1/19 Ernie & Carolyn Coward

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

FPC needs to add one or two **slide presentation creators** to our rotation in the new year. These volunteers receive the worship outline during the week and create our beautiful slides of readings and songs every week—and then, run the presentation during worship! We would love to train YOU! Please contact Jake Winslett at 770-733-3713 or jwinslett@fayettepcusa.org.

We need a few new ushers for next year. We will train you and with our rotation system, the commitment is just once a month. Help make Worship a welcoming experience for our congregation. Contact Lamar Hasty, 770-461-0417.

We also need 1-2 more volunteers to run our audio sound board. Do you love working with technology and have a love for music too? Come and help make all our voices heard during services. We will train you and let you shadow our experienced team as long as you need to. Contact Jake Winslett at jwinslett@fayettepcusa.org.

Prayer Chain Updates. Please call Sharon's cell phone or email her to submit prayer requests. If Sharon does not answer, you may leave a message or call Art's cell.

Sharon: 404-402-4094, sharart.ayers@gmail.com
Art: 678-276-5585

Participation in the Prayer Ministry of FPC is one way we grow in our encounter with Christ. Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do in life! Be a part of this ministry and see how God works in our lives. **Please update us as concerns change—prayer concerns with no update may be removed after 6 weeks.** Written prayer request cards are available in the lobby.

Please be in prayer for...

All those serving our country
Beit Sahour Lutheran, sister church in Palestine
The people of Nicaragua, continued civil unrest
Sawyer Park, praises for good reports from doctors and no treatment needed
Carol Lunsford, recovery from pneumonia and broken arm
Steve, Lori Burks' brother, final chemo and radiation treatments this week for throat cancer
Robyn, Malline Austin's granddaughter, continued severe leg pain and clots
Sarah Simpson's grandson, loss of his wife
Martha Jackson, FPC's custodian, seeking treatment for ongoing headaches
Don Holder, recovery from knee replacement
Kim, Laurie Winslett's sister, undergoing treatment for recurring melanoma
Bill, Berkeley Stonebraker's son, prostate cancer
Dorothy, Berkeley Stonebraker's daughter, open heart surgery for valve replacement upcoming
Louie Chance, continued recovery
Lacy, the McNeill's nephew, undergoing treatment for stage III colon cancer
Ken Salters, prostate cancer, health concerns
Joyce Britt, health concerns
Linda McNeill, continued treatments
Debbie, Susan Holcombe's sister-in-law, aggressive oral cancer
Rick Holcombe, continued recovery
Cheryl Paradis' relatives, Jacob and Justin, continued recovery

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Jeani Holder; Linda McNeill; Betsy Apel; Corey Leonhard; Joe McNeill; Yvonne Olson; Larry Olson; John Sackett; Hettie White; Sarah Klett; Tim (Glenda Hasty's cousin); Larry (Pepe Bowman's brother-in-law); Bernice (Roy Westerfield's sister-in-law); Sarah (Jim Jacob's daughter-in-law); Ed (Jim Jacobs' brother); Claudia (Jim Jacobs' sister-in-law); Thomas (Pat Cantoni's nephew).



Here are some other great opportunities for families with kids and youth!

- ☆ De-Hanging of the Greens on January 9, beginning with a Fellowship Dinner! 5:30pm.
- ☆ Krog Street Market and The King Center after worship on January 20.
- ☆ Mission Dinner on January 26—Disney Themed! Begins at 5:30pm.

We are working on the **Liturgist roster** for January-June 2019. The liturgist is a member who helps lead worship with responsive readings, announcements, scripture, etc. If you are interested in serving in this way in the coming months, contact Emily Smith at emily@fayettepcusa.org. You can include in your email any dates that you are NOT available. Emily will create a roster and email everyone the dates they are assigned (usually once or twice quarterly). Those who are on our current liturgist roster, please email Emily with your continued interest. We are planning a liturgist training session on January 13 after worship.

Youth

WEDNESDAYS

Prayer Breakfast at 7:15am at Chick-fil-A on Hwy 85s. No prayer breakfast on 1/2.

January 6 - Youth New Year Kickoff at Urban Jungle, 5pm-7pm

January 20 - Trip to The King Center Atlanta following the morning service. Lunch at Krog Market

Churchwide Events:

1/9 — De-Hanging of the Greens, 5:30pm

1/26 — Mission Dinner!! 5:30pm. Would you like be involved? Chat with Jake TODAY!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FES ROAR

The Roar Store is set to **open January 17-18, 8am-12pm**. We are organizing 6 FPC volunteers each day—look for sign ups in the main hallway.

The dates for the rest of the school year are March 21 & 22 and May 16 & 17. Plan which date(s) you'd like to volunteer at Fayetteville Elementary!

GriefShare

Starting January 6 at 2pm

Help & Encouragement after the Death of a Spouse, Child, Family Member, or Friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our 13 week group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. For more information and registration, please contact Sharon Ayers, 404-402-4094 or Mary Lou Montgomery, 770-460-3326.

Lectio Divina on Tuesdays

On Tuesday evenings at 7pm, we offer a Lectio Divina contemplative worship service in the sanctuary. This renewing service, centered around the ancient practice of communion with God and the Word, lasts about 30 minutes. Come enjoy a break from the busyness of a new year and spend a few minutes with God!

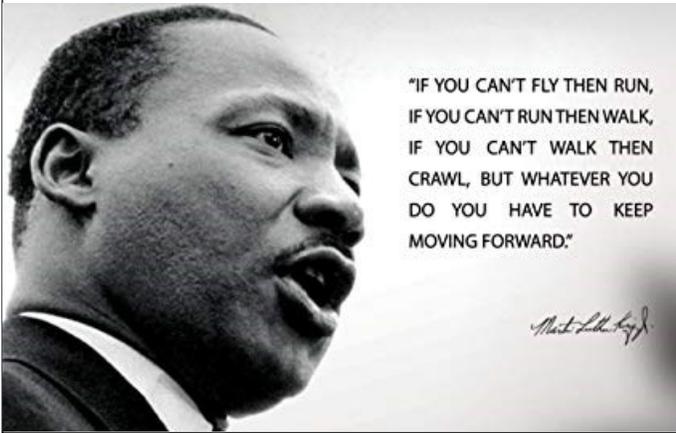
Please note we will not have Lectio Divina on December 25 or January 1.

King Center Outing

On January 20th, we are having a special church-wide outing to The King Center in Atlanta. We'll leave right after church. There is no charge for admission to the center, including a tour of Martin Luther King Jr's childhood home and Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Before we head to the center, we'll stop by Krog Street Market, a 1920's warehouse that's been renovated with market stalls to sell produce, goods, and a big variety of prepared food, along with a few southern-grown restaurants and retailers. You can choose your lunch and we'll sit together to eat!

Parking is free at both The King Center (449 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta) and Krog Street Market (99 Krog Street, Atlanta).



Dinner Out on the Town!

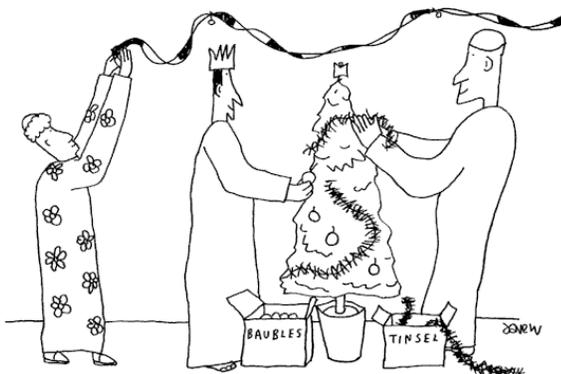
Wednesday, January 16, plan to join us out on the town. We'll be eating at Shane's Rib Shack at 5:30pm. Sign up!

SAVE THESE DATES!

February 3—Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser to fight hunger. Cook-off with PRIZES right after worship.

February 24—Luau Style Party with yummy eats, games, an indoor bouncy house, and so much more! Fun will start after worship.

January 13: 2nd Sunday Focus on the Fayette Samaritans. Most Needed this Month: Canned Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Instant Potatoes, Canned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Soup, Cereal, Jiffy Corn Bread Mix.



EPIPHANY: THE WISE MEN /
TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS

January 9, 2019 at 5:30pm

We had so much fun at the Hanging of the Greens in November! We can make this annual "De-hanging" JUST as much fun! Make plans to join us that evening at 5:30pm for a Fellowship Dinner (menu tba), followed by the organized chaos of taking down Christmas decorations and hauling everything back to its place in the attic—decently and in order, the Presbyterian way!

Per tradition, we always wait until after Epiphany—the 12th Day of Christmas—to take down decorations.

Church Staff

Alex Moses, *Senior Pastor*

Cell: 770/990-9578

amoses@fayettepcusa.org

Emily Smith, *Discipleship Coord.*

Cell: 423-368-9186

emily@fayettepcusa.org

Jacob Winslett, *Director of Music
and Youth Coordinator*

jwinslett@fayettepcusa.org

Chris Whitley, *Accompanist*

cwhitley@fayettepcusa.org

Laurie Winslett, *Office Manager*

church@fayettepcusa.org

Christina Price, *Nursery Attendant*

Richard Morris, *Facilities Manager*

Fayette Presbyterian Church (USA)

791 Forrest Avenue

Fayetteville, GA 30214

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9am-5pm

Friday: 9am-2pm

www.fayettepcusa.org

facebook.com/fayettepcusa

770-461-7147



Mission Fund Raiser Variety Show - SAVE THE DATE

Disney songs dinner show, sing-a-long and costume contest!

Check your calendars to put a big note on **Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 5:30pm** and plan to join us for a night of music, fun, laughter and support for our 2019 FPC mission efforts.

Here's a list of just a few of the things you'll enjoy on that evening:

- Delight in talented FPC musicians and singers performing some of your favorite Disney songs.
- Come dressed as your favorite Disney character to be in our Disney Costume Contest (Prizes! Fun! Fame beyond your wildest dreams!) (Optional, of course).
- Follow the bouncing ball to sing-a-long with some of your favorite Disney Songs
- Enjoy fabulous cuisine just like you were at a Disney park!
- Experience surprise guests!
- Have the opportunity to engage with mission team members about their experiences and support this year's mission efforts through your donations and/or volunteering.

You'll hear more in January "Minute for Missions" from the lectern. So start planning now to join us on the 26th and, as Lumiere would sing it: *"Be our guest!"*