



Biblically, bragging is not a good thing. However, BRAGging with me this June would be a good thing. The **Bike Ride Across Georgia** will begin in Oxford, Georgia on June 7th and will end in St. Simons Island on June 14. Yes, it is approx 325 miles and 6 days of bike riding. Two are now signed up and we are looking for others at Maple Avenue to ride along. It is not a race; it is a ride. It is a time of fun and fellowship that is paced to each individual's ability. This year Maple Avenue will ride for food pantry items for The Extension and Cobb Street ministries – pledge sheets coming soon. If you would like to ride or want more information go to [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org) .....Mark

### Classifieds Bulletin Board

There will soon be a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall called "Classifieds Board." Not only will it include happenings in the church but serve the congregation and visitors to get the word out about things "wanted, needs, for sale, for rent, babysitters, car or appliances for sale, etc., business cards (church members only). Information should be given to Tina Maloney or be placed in the "Classified Board" envelope on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall.

### Staff, Maple Avenue UMC

- Mark Nugent** - Senior Minister  
mark@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Barry Lancaster** - Associate Minister  
barry@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Jonathan Brown** - Youth Minister  
jon@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Sue Sloane** - Preschool Director  
preschool@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Barbara Perusich** - Admin. Assistant  
office@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Vicki Newton** - Pianist  
vicki@mapleavenuechurch.org
- Lamar Newton** - Organist  
lamar@mapleavenuechurch.org

- Feb. 4 - Pep Club
- Feb. 6 - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8 - Lifeline-all day here
- Week of Feb. 18 - Preschool closed**
- Feb. 21 - Ad. Board, 7 p.m., GR
- Feb. 21 - Gleam Followers, 6:30 p.m., FH
- Feb. 28 - B.B. King SS Class, 6:30 p.m.

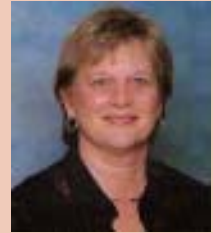


Maple Avenue United Methodist Church  
63 Maple Avenue  
Marietta, GA 30064-2219

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## Maple Ave UMC Preschool Christian Academy

*Sue Sloane, director*



### Building a Solid Foundation for the Future

Can you believe it? Maple Avenue UMC Preschool is 10 years old and what an adventure it has been. In January of 1998 we had the desire to develop a preschool ministry and opened our doors in September to 35 children. Within three years we had 80 children entering the education building each day. Since then, we have had higher and lower enrollments, but have been faithful in our desire to provide a strong Christian enrichment program for young children. This year we have 50 children enrolled, a dynamic curriculum, an outstanding staff and we're preparing for an increase in enrollment in the 2008/2009 school year. Our new name, Maple Avenue UMC Preschool Christian Academy, reflects our commitment to this goal.

We have ten wonderful Christian women on our staff; seven of whom have been with the school for six years or more. Our music teacher, Ms. Sandi, is certified in the Musikgarten Music and Movement Program. The children performed a musical Christmas program for their parents in December, costumes and all. The entire staff worked hard to make the program a special event.

The children will soon be learning several musical pieces using hand bells for their Easter concert in March. It is a joy for me to work with our staff and a blessing for the children and parents. We will be hiring additional teachers for our next school year, so please let me know if you are interested or know someone who might be.

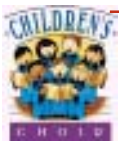
The curriculum we purchased this year is a Christian based preschool program called A-Beka. After researching many curriculums, we decided this one offered the children the best learning experience in reading/phonics, language development, math, science, creative art and Bible adventures. The first 5 years are a crucial time in a child's development. Good early learning experiences lead to a better outcome in a young person's future education.

A preschool program that properly stimulates and nurtures a young child's mind, will result in better prepared children by the time they start school, according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children. What an exciting ministry for Maple Avenue UMC.

## February, an exciting month in our children's department.

The Valentine Play Day is Saturday February 9, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon on the pre-school floor. Many beautiful Valentines are crafted by children and any adult who is willing to help. All children under age three need parents or other adults to stay and participate with the children. As many as 300+ Valentines are needed and will be delivered by our youth to area shut-ins, etc. If you find you cannot come on February 9, you may pick up supplies from either Sandy McFalls or Linda Reece and work on them at home. Also, February is Sock Tree Month. This is a church-wide project that goes through our children's ministries. Infant, children and adult socks are needed and will be distributed to those in need.

Easter Egg Hunt is coming in March.



Our Children's Choir meets every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the choir room located off the hallway behind the sanctuary. All children between ages 5-11 are welcome to join us in practice and to perform with us. We sing at several 11 a.m. services throughout the year. WE NEED YOU!! We have lots and lots of fun singing praises to Jesus. *Cindi Kosior, director.*

## New Sunday School Class for Young Adults

Beginning February 10 there will be a brand new Sunday School class for young adults. Meeting place will be the Disciple Room, upper level of the Education Building, at 9:45 a.m. This is for young adults, 18-35 years of age, single or married, children or not. This is mainly for anyone who does not already have a Sunday School class. Initially, Andy and Carolyn Anderson will rotate teaching this class. They will host a "Get Acquainted" dinner at their home 3883 Stone Lake Drive, Kennesaw on February 8 for those who are interested in the class. Let them know if you plan to come. (770) 425-8296.

**Supper Time is a Special Time**, especially at Maple Avenue each Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tina Maloney is coordinating the meals. She plans to offer a meatless alternative in addition to baked potatoes. Indicate this on the form or call Tina (770)-424-6390 to let her know if this is your preference. Many thanks to those who faithfully help keep our Wednesday suppers running smoothly: Jean Bryant, Mary McLemore, Margaret Law, Joyce Reece, Cindi Kosior, Wanda Hurt, Bruce and Patti McCampbell, Bill Anthony, Lori Bolton, Marsha Durham, Mark, Jonathan, and Steve, Bobby, and Danny from the Extension. Let us know if you are also helping. We want to thank you, too.

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# Lofty Notes

Barry Lancaster



Psalm 100 says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God. It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: Be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth to all generations."

With Easter right around the corner, plans are already being made for the Easter music season as well as the cantata to be performed on Palm Sunday, March 16 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Looking back at the past year, my heart is filled with joy at the strides that were made in the music program to a more spiritual and musical maturity. The addition of Lamar and Vicki Newton as instrumentalists for the chancel choir has added a whole new dimension to our worship. Their warm cooperative spirit is truly a blessing to our church not to mention their obvious talents both instrumentally and vocally.

The Christmas Cantata was awesome this year and had a different twist to it with the drama. The talent show set a new record on the *Laugh-O-Meter*. The choir sang at one of the services for the annual Marietta Campground Campmeetings and was received with warm, open arms by all who attended. It



was a powerful service with a lot of good ol' gospel singing that made the rafters ring.

As we look ahead to this new year, we invite anyone who loves gospel music to join us in the choir or praise team. We always welcome more voices. Even if you think that you're not the best singer in the world, your spirit and love for the Lord is what's important. If you play an instrument, pray about joining us as we worship each and every Sunday and lift up the name of Jesus Christ.

## Opportunities this year:

- ◆ Easter Cantata – March
- ◆ Children's handbell choir – March
- ◆ King's Kids choir
- ◆ Campmeeting service – July
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night concert series – March, June,

November (with groups like the Peachland Quartet, Promise Quartet, GMC Trio, Eternal Vision and others)

Thank you for your support and prayers of the music program. May God bless you.



Vicki Newton



Lamar Newton

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# Youth News

Jonathan Brown



## **Point Break Is Here!**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

The year 2008 has already been a year of change for Maple Avenue United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The first change is that the group has a new name: Maple Avenue Point Break. The term "Point Break" has its origins in surfing. There are several different uses of the term. The definition that inspired this name change comes from [www.surfmissionbeach.com](http://www.surfmissionbeach.com). The definition reads, "A Point Break is a surf zone where the waves start to break in front of a headland or point and wrap into a bay or cove as they continue to break. This style of break usually allows for very long rides thanks to the wrapping nature of the waves. Point breaks can have a variety of bottom surfaces, ranging from sand and rock to sharp coral." I pray that in the New Year our Youth Group will become a place where kids

grow in their knowledge of and relationship to God, and go on to make an impact in the world as waves in the ocean go forward and make impact on the shore.

The biggest change Maple Avenue Point Break Ministries is going through is a change in the Sunday night program. We now meet at 4 p.m. for a time of fellowship and games. We move on to our second hour with our meal and a time for song and worship. This brings us into our small group time. In this time we have been splitting our youth into high school and middle school groups, and we talk about what is going on with everybody, read devotions, and pray. As the leader of the high school group I was very humbled to be part of a time in which the teenagers of our church prayed for fifteen minutes straight. They took to God the needs of the church, the community, their friends, families, and themselves.

In looking ahead I ask the church to be in prayer as Point Break prepares for its Summer Mission Trip. The trip will take place June 22<sup>nd</sup> and go through June 27<sup>th</sup>. As this date approaches more information will be made available. While the Youth will be the ones who will be taking the trip, this will be a mission of the entire church. In the coming months we will be asking for Prayer Partners and more to make this trip a success. I urge everyone to be in prayer and meditation about how God can use you in this ministry.

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# The Maple Leaf

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**February, 2008**

*From our Pastor,  
Mark E. Nugent*

**Here  
Comes  
2008!**



What an exciting year we had at Maple Avenue in 2007! From a smashing Vacation Bible School, to Trunk or Treat, Breakfast with Santa, a beautiful Cantata, Wednesday Night Suppers, Holy Communion with our shut-ins, and yes, even the talent show which was wonderful. In 2007 we had 21 individuals join Maple Avenue church by professing their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

You have been a very gracious and loving congregation to my family and me and you have welcomed us into the community as we committed ourselves to you and the ministry of Maple Avenue for many years to come. I cannot thank you enough for your gifts at Christmas and your presence at our home during our open house. We truly feel as though we are a part of your family. And, as a family member, I am always available for you in life's excitements and when disappointments come.

We have experienced a great many changes. Some of these changes were difficult for us to adjust to and others were a welcoming breath of fresh air. Throughout all the events, dates and transitions there is one common fact that we celebrate – Jesus Christ is Lord.

As we begin a new year, full of new possibilities, it is wise and our Christian duty for us to remember

whom we serve and why. We serve the risen Savior; and because we serve a risen Savior it is our responsibility to share the news of his presence in this world. This is our calling as a church - as Maple Avenue UMC. How do we do this? How do we serve Christ in Marietta and the world? It is through worship, Bible studies, fellowship ministries, missions, congregational care and even administrative duties. As we continue to enhance and grow all these areas of our church we will come to be a vibrant church effectively reaching out to others in Christ.

I hope that you can see, in this newsletter, some of the exciting work going on as well as the work required by each of your church staff. However, it takes each and every one in God's church to become active and involved in order to become the church that I know each one of you pray for. I do hope that you will take the blessed opportunity to become involved in ministry this year. I know that there are several ministries that need assistance immediately: Audio and video for the Worship hour, volunteers to assist with office work, Wednesday Night Suppers, shut-in visitation and evangelism outreach and missions. Please let me know if one of these areas might spark an interest. Each of us has a gift, given to us by the Holy Spirit to serve in the body of Christ. If none of the above mentioned is your gifting there are many other opportunities available. Please let me know where you are willing to serve.

But wait there's more... there is still one more thing that all of us can do together. We can ALL be in prayer for Maple Avenue church. Prayer is a life changing force that can and will not only change our lives but also impact the entire congregation. Let's make 2008 a year of exciting ministry, growth and prayer.