

The Maple Leaf



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March, 2008

*From our Pastor,
Mark E. Nugent*



Is it as hard for you, as it is for me, to believe that it is March already?

This year seems to be flying by. I really believe that it feels this way because Maple Avenue has so many great and wonderful ministries going on at the same time - larger churches I have served would be very surprised. From staff meetings, to choir, to suppers and meals, to children's events, to Sunday School, Sunday School events, to circle meetings, to youth and youth events - all leading to important aspects of the Christian life - **FELLOWSHIP, PRAISE AND WORSHIP!**

Even in the middle of our very busy schedule we have to also find a way to be faithful to the command that God gives us to "go therefore into the world and share the gospel." In other words, in the midst of keeping the current ministry and missions of the church in good order, we have to find time to go out into our community and share the word of God - or at the very least invite folks to church in order that they may experience the welcoming love of our people and hear the word of God preached.

March 15th is on a Saturday and I know that for many of you that it is a hard choice to give up an entire Saturday from family and other social events but that is what we are asking each of you to do. We are going to meet at the church at 11 a.m. We will spend 30 minutes in training and prayer followed by a 30 minute lunch before we go out into our community and invite people to visit our church (*all day childcare provided*). As I have said before, and I wish to repeat, we do not go out into the

community to invite people to church just for numbers, we do it so they might have an opportunity to visit and somehow in their worship experience and their presence come into contact with the Living Christ and have their lives changed forever.

We really need each and every one of you to be a part of this event. Our prayer is to have 100 volunteers committed to spreading the love of God - to sign up and be "sent out." We have 2,000 homes to visit which will be done in teams. You do not have to know how to witness because this is a time to invite people to worship and leave them with information about the Ministry of Maple Avenue. So far, eight people have signed up. We will begin posting the visiting teams on the church website and will send the team assignment list on our weekly e-leaf.

We also need volunteers to be at the church in prayer during the time that teams are on the streets visiting and inviting. I know that some of us can't physically visit door-to-door but most of us can come to church and be in prayer for a few hours. I feel that everything we do in church should be wrapped in prayer and this is your opportunity. Following the visitation portion of the day we will meet together again at 3 p.m. for a time of celebration and worship. Please pray that God will convict you to be a part of this event in the life of God's church in which we are called to serve. I really look forward to hearing from each of you. Please e-mail me at mark@mapleavenuechurch.org, or call me on my cell phone at **(404)317-9696** to sign up for the visitation or prayer time. I do not want to miss your message or your call.

Peace and Blessings,

Lofty Notes

Barry Lancaster 

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” *Ephesians 5:19,20.*



◆ Easter Cantata – Palm Sunday, March 16, “The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference” 11a.m. Don’t miss it!

◆ Easter Sunday Service March 23 – Let’s have a full choir!!!

◆ Gospelfest Night at Maple Avenue, March 30, 6 p.m. featuring The Peachland Quartet, The Heirborn Quartet, and the GMC Trio. Bring

your family and friends to this special night of worship through a lot of good gospel music.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of the music ministry at Maple Avenue.

March Music Events

◆ Preschool Children Handbell Choir, March 9, 11 a.m. worship service

Special Guest, Laura Pehler on Palm Sunday

We welcome Laura Pehler as our special guest on Palm Sunday, March 16. She will be communicating in sign language on the last song of the cantata and the hymn of invitation. Laura has been serving as a teacher assistant in all the classrooms of the Maple Avenue Preschool Christian Academy for four years. She says, “the greatest gift that I have received from being at Maple Avenue is spending time with my kids - watching them grow physically and mentally.”

Laura was raised in a deaf household. Both parents are deaf. She learned sign language at the earliest possible age in order to be able to communicate with her parents. She says people often ask if she had a “normal” childhood. She says it was normal for her because she knew nothing else. Patience, kindness and understanding are virtues she mastered early in her life, a benefit of living in a deaf household.

She and her husband Kevin moved from Wisconsin to Georgia in 1999. She says they vowed to never again shovel snow and scrape icy windshields for six months a year. They now live in Marietta and have been blessed with two wonderful children, Maddy, age 4 and 3-year old Jack who “keep us very busy.”

Tina Maloney the coordinator for our Wednesday Night Suppers and also in charge of all bulletin boards throughout the church, may be reached via email at ttmaloney@bellsouth.net regarding these areas.

Cobb Cares is in need of sheets, pillow cases, towels, etc. These may be new or slightly used. Contact Dorothy Lawrence (770)421-1555 for more information on where to bring your donation.

New Young Adult Sunday School Class Off to Great Start

The newly formed young adult Sunday School Class has started off great. Andy and Carolyn Anderson are the teachers and report that they had a successful dinner at their home with 10 people attending. They are averaging seven each Sunday. Their study is focusing on the subject of “malice.” If you are a young adult and not presently attending a Sunday School class, please visit this new class. They meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., upper level of the Education Building. When you reach the top of the stairs, turn right and it is the first door on the left. You are always welcome.

Preschool Christian Academy



Sue Sloane, director

Hand Bell Concert
March 9, 11 a.m. worship
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mark your calendars and change your clocks!

Students in Ms. Starla’s 4-year old class will be performing with hand bells at the 11 a.m. worship service. These children have been learning how to play the handbells in their weekly music class with the preschool’s music teacher, Ms. Sandi. You don’t want to miss this special performance of our precious preschool children.

Preschool Academy has begun enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year. You may pick up a registration form at the preschool office or access online at www.mapleavenuechurch.org to print the form.
