

# Varnell

## United Methodist Church

OFFER Christ                      LOVE One Another  
BECOME More Like Christ

**The Varnell Voice**  
newsletter for Varnell UMC, Inc.

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## Turkey Trot Time

### Varnell UMC Tradition #1

You will not be asked to dance the Fox Trot at Varnell United Methodist Church's Annual "Turkey Trot." *No trotting is required.* However, you and your family will be asked to bring **and** enjoy some delicious Thanksgiving food. Special time spent with family and friends will be on the menu as well. The Thanksgiving tradition takes place **Sunday, November 22, 2009 around 12 noon in the Community Life Center.**

Sign-ups to serve, bring side dishes, or turkey and turkey fixings have been in the church bulletin for the last several weeks or you can come by or call the church office for a sign-up form (706.694.8023).

It's also a great time to bring a friend or two along with you and introduce them to this gracious and warm body of faith. And finally, thanking our Creator and Father for all his many blessings is the best way to "trot" in those thanksgiving feelings for this past year!



Will Brown enjoys the delicious food at Turkey Trot last year and reminds you to come Sunday, November 22, 2009!

## "Hanging of the Green"

### Varnell UMC Tradition #2

The season of Advent starts with the "**Hanging of the Green,**" which will happen on **Sunday night, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.** In this special time of worship, the church building in general and the sanctuary specifically are prepared for Advent.

The wreaths are hung, candles lit, bells rung, manger set up, tree decorated, carols sung and hearts warmed. Bring a neighbor or friend with you and get your mind ready to experience the coming of the Christ child in a very moving and spiritual way!

If you or your family would be willing to hang a wreath, light a candle, sing a song, or bring a snack then contact Cindy Eicholtz 706.259.2400.



Sharon Morgan and Daisie Bruce carry a basket with little gold bells for the children to decorate the altar rail greenery.



## Taking Time Off for Turkey! Thanksgiving Church Office Hours

The church staff will be taking some time off during the Thanksgiving holidays. The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27.

As always, if there is an urgent need, you may call James Gwin at 706.537.7899.

Have a wonderful, blessed, restful and “thankful” Thanksgiving Holiday. *God is GOOD. All the time!*

## Lighted Outside Sign Working Again!

A big thank you goes to Bruce Johnson who has been working tirelessly to get the lighted outside sign running again.

Since August, the sign was not updating and between sending the computer board back to the company, installing a new cable to the sign, and adjusting the sign, Bruce has put in many servant hours.

Thanks again Bruce for your help!

## Varnell’s Food Pantry

*It’s Making a Difference: Thanks to You!*

During the month of September, 145 families (representing 259 adults and 146 children) were given food boxes. Purchases of food totaling \$1,555 were made, and contributions toward the Food Pantry designated fund were \$1,310.

Once again, Varnell UMC is stepping up to the bat and responding with generosity toward those in our community going through difficult times. As we are faithful to push the blessings out the door, our Heavenly Father is pouring in more and more blessings on our congregation!

*Mission Committee*

## Food Drive

Benefits Varnell UMC & The Salvation Army

There is a Food Drive beginning November 6 through December 4 sponsored by Rob Cannon & the Aktion Club of Dalton. The food collected will be shared between Varnell UMC and The Salvation Army.

Food drop-offs can be made at Cross Plains Community Partners, 2738 Underwood Road in Dalton between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

If you need to call someone to pick up donations, you may call an Aktion Club member 706.278.8143 or Rob or Ron Cannon 706.694.8609.



## Run For Hope!

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**

**Several Varnell UMC Participants**

Several members of Varnell United Methodist Church will be participating in “Run For Hope”, sponsored by Family Promise. The 5K Road Race and One (1) Mile Fun Run/Walk will be held Saturday, November 7 at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Dalton.

Church members participating are: Kathye & Katelyn Farmer, Bob & Laurie Parker, Ann & Jack Boyd, Ashley Reed and Bart & Katherine Hill. For more information, call Sheree Firth 706.618.1518.

Please come out and support Family Promise and the members participating in this special event.



YOUTH PAGE --- "THE MOST FUN YOU SHOULD HAVE IN TWO COLUMNS".  
*What does it mean to be a part in a revolution?*

DECEMBER

Webster Dictionary says:

2 a : a sudden, radical, or complete change c : activity or movement designed to effect fundamental changes in the socioeconomic situation d : a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something : a change of paradigm <the Copernican revolution> e : a changeover in use or preference especially in technology

I want everyone to think about what a revolution would look like in our own life... personally think what it would look like for you to up and change everything about yourself. Some of us have had friends do certain things like this... they cut of all their hair or change the color of it... they might totally change their wardrobe or start hanging with a group of people that they never have before... they might even start forming habits like running a lot to smoking. Is this abnormal ?

I do not think it is. The Bible talks about self-revolution. In Luke 18 Jesus meets a man that will go down in history known as "the rich young ruler". This guy was as religiously devout as they come. The guy asks Jesus, "Good teacher, what must i do to inherit eternal life". Jesus asks him, "Why do you call me good?" "No one is good — except God alone." Then they begin to discuss how the young ruler has kept every commandment since he was young and lived a really good life. So Jesus tells him to give all he has to the poor and become a disciple of His. The young rich ruler is now confronted with the thing that we all encounter when we meet Jesus. Will we radically change our ways of self-centered thought A.K.A our "stinkin' thinkin' ?" I believe Christ is asking us as Christians, "Will we join the revolution?"

I believe God is raising up a generation that is revolution-minded! I can see, in this next generation, that they are in the same place as the rich young ruler. I believe that Jesus is asking us, as the whole church, the same questions: Will you give up

Winter  
Retreat!!!

Are you ready for UNCAGED?

Students: \$110 Leaders/Adults: \$60

February 5-7, 2010 (Weekend #1)

February 12-14, 2010 (Weekend #2)

Worship Leaders: Simple Fool (Weekend #1) and Anthony McPhail (Weekend #2)

Retreat Speaker: Mark Fritchman, Executive Director, The Gathering Place

([www.thegp.org](http://www.thegp.org))

and follow me? Will you trust me with your future? Will you allow me to be your teacher, friend, lover, guide? Will you surrender your things and pick up my purposes? Will you be still and worship me as your God?

The answer to this will place us on one of two sides:

The first side being the one of the rich young ruler... that side is the side of the "what-could-have-been". This is for people who have an encounter with Christ and say the cost of following him is too great. They hold to the understandings and misnomers that God would never ask anyone to be uncomfortable. When asked to be active in their faith they make statements like "that's not my gift" or "that's why I pay a pastor". These are those whom Christ will spit out of his mouth as lukewarm water.

The other side is the side of the revolutionary... this side is the side of the "on-Earth-as-it-is-in-Heaven". This is for people who have an encounter with Christ and it is a revolution. They hold on to the Word of God no matter of situation or circumstance. When asked to be active in their faith they make statements like, "Yes Lord, here I am, send me!" or "Where to next?" These are those whom Christ will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

I pray we as Christ's chosen people will stand and proclaim, "We want a revolution!!"



# Praise & Play Preschool Safety Week October 5 through October 9, 2009



Brian Tison, a Dalton police officer, holds Kayleigh Tison. Brian visited the 4-year-old class and spoke about how police can help you.



The preschool, along with Julie Scoggins & Sonia Harness, pose with Ryan Fowler, an officer with the Georgia State Patrol. Ryan came to speak to the preschool about bus safety.



Anna Claire Scoggins learns about fire safety from the Varnell Fire Department.

## Charge!

At 7 p.m. on Monday, November 23, Varnell will gather for our Annual Charge Conference.

In the United Methodist Church, a Charge Conference happens once a year. The District Superintendent will come to Varnell in order to receive report as to how the church is advancing in ministry. The Pastor's salary is set, leadership for the coming year is approved, and a lot of forms are submitted.

This is a time to review progress and set goals for the coming year. You are invited to come and participate.

Varnell's Administrative Council will gather following this Charge Conference for (perhaps) the last meeting of the year.

All the fun will take about one hour total and plans are to meet in the sanctuary. Come be a part of something powerful at Varnell.

## Thank You in Many Languages From The Ministry Staff

There's a way to say thank you in virtually all countries and many ways to do it.

The Varnell Ministry staff wants to say Thank You to the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPR) for the wonderful Staff Appreciation Picnic that you arranged for us! The beautiful boxes, heartfelt cards and discount cards blessed us as well.

A special "gracias" goes to Orenda Gregory for her hard work in organizing and coordinating the picnic.

So, whether you say "Merci" (French), "Toda" (Hebrew) or "Arigato" (Japanese), we say to all of you that came, gave and served, a very heart felt THANK YOU!

*James, John, Tammy, Janice, Bethany, & Matt*



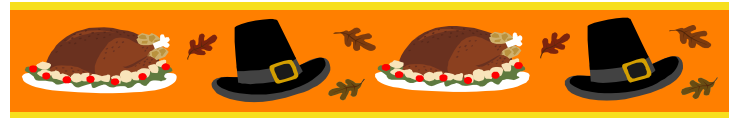
# November 2009 Birthdays & Anniversaries

## November Birthdays

Jonathan	Scott	November 3
Gabriella	Wright	November 3
Bill	Richards	November 4
Brianna	Guerrero	November 5
Paula	McManus	November 5
Matthew	Ray	November 6
Mandy	Choate	November 7
Ambyr	Gallegly	November 7
Keyla	Manning	November 8
Dawn	Wright	November 9
Cathy	Long	November 10
Kandy	Queener	November 10
Marie	Reed	November 10
Joe	Stafford	November 10
Kevin	Kyer	November 13
Martin	Gregory	November 15
Dominick	Suarez	November 16
Sean	Torbett	November 16
Ella	Smith	November 17
Jessica	Burek	November 18
Marie	Duzan	November 18
Maria	Wykoff	November 18
Lupe	Guerrero	November 20
Henley	Henderson	November 20
Billy	Ray	November 20
Sherri	Steadman	November 20
Megan	Torbett	November 21
Donna	Evans	November 22
Stephanie	Harrell	November 22
Henry	Hill	November 22
Annicc	Whitfield	November 22
Bobby	Creswell	November 23
Jerry	Grant	November 23
Bill	Bell	November 24
Kim	Baker	November 25
John	Creswell	November 26
Beth	Johnson	November 27
Carter	Ferguson	November 29
Kermit	McManus	November 29
Butch	Watson	November 29

## November Anniversaries

Joe & Connie Stafford	November 3
Randy & Patty Waskul	November 9
Doug & Ann Sullivan	November 13
Kerry & Priscilla Holmes	November 18
Chip & Leatha Whitfield	November 21
Lee & Arnetta Williams	November 28



### Take A Moment To Thank A Veteran

When you see someone in a uniform  
 Someone who serves us all,  
 Doing military duty,  
 Answering their country's call,  
 Take a moment to thank them  
 For protecting what you hold dear;  
 Tell them you are proud of them;  
 Make it very clear.  
 Just tap them on the shoulder,  
 Give a smile, and say,  
 "Thanks for what you're doing;  
 To keep us safe in the USA!"

**By Joanna Fuchs**

## Advent Readers Wanted:

Would you and your family or group like to participate in the Advent Wreath tradition of Varnell United Methodist Church (VUMC)?

Ten groups (two or more persons each) are needed to light the Advent candles and read the corresponding scripture and commentary during the worship services leading up to Christmas.

Please see Elaine Johnson as soon as possible or call her at 706.694.3250 or 706.270.3992.



BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 VARNELL GA 30756  
 PERMIT NO. 1

**PO Box 307**  
**Varnell, GA 30756-0307**

Office: 706.694.8023  
 Fax: 706.694.8519  
 Email: [office@varnellumc.org](mailto:office@varnellumc.org)

- Tena Stines** Infant Childcare Provider
- Maddie Sikes** Toddler Childcare Provider
- Janice Richards** Musician (8:40 & 10:45)
- Matt Laskey** Minister to Families with Youth  
 cell phone: 706459.8579  
 email: [matt@varnellumc.org](mailto:matt@varnellumc.org)
- Bethany Laskey** Children's Minister  
 cell phone: 770-316-2146  
 email: [bethany@varnellumc.org](mailto:bethany@varnellumc.org)
- Sonia Harness** Facility Manager/Childcare Provider
- James Gwin** Pastor  
 cell phone: 706.537.7899  
 email: [james@varnellumc.org](mailto:james@varnellumc.org)
- John Demerdjian** Minister of Music & Worship  
 cell phone: 423.488.7999  
 email: [john@varnellumc.org](mailto:john@varnellumc.org)
- Tammy Burek** Office Administrator  
 office phone: 706.694.8023  
 email: [office@varnellumc.org](mailto:office@varnellumc.org)
- Teresa Binford** Preschool Director  
 office phone: 706.694-9800  
 email: [preschool@varnellumc.org](mailto:preschool@varnellumc.org)



## *"The Bread of Life and The Living Water"* Middle School Youth Spiritual Progressive Dinner

The Middle School youth participated in a Spiritual Progressive Dinner in October. At the first two homes (Waskuls' and Newsomes'), we learned about Jesus being the "Bread of Life" and "The Living Water", and were served crackers and water. These devotionals, were led by Maria Rochelle and Melissa Thompson, and were powerful.

When we arrived at the Wiggins home, we were greeted by a fabulous feast, and learned how God wants the best for us, and by accepting Jesus, we get to participate in the Kingdom rewards. Beth Johnson shared with the group about the bountiful love that Christ has for us all. Isn't God's love amazing?

**Thanksgiving Day is**  
**Thursday, November 26!**

