

# 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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These kids are saying, "Come be a part of Kid's Klub for 2009 & 2010!"

## Kids Klub is Here!

**Every Wednesday at 6:30**

Fall is here and Kids Klub has begun again. Things are a little bit different for this year. Last year, we had a great time each week working with the Pioneer Club Program. This year, we will be working with a slightly different program. Each week, we will have fun worshipping together with high-energy songs, a Bible lesson, a special activity or game and memory verses.

A note to parents and other interested volunteers: We are looking for anyone interested in helping out with Kids Klub each week or even from time to time! We will need leaders to help kids learn verses, 'listeners' to hear the verse and keep track of points, attendance taker, game facilitator, and anyone else who just would be willing to be present each Wednesday.

If you are even slightly interested in taking part in Kids Klub, please don't hesitate to call Bethany Laskey at the church or at [bethany@varnellumc.org](mailto:bethany@varnellumc.org). I hope this Klub year will be a blast and we would love you to be a part of the fun!

Other fun and exciting activities are also happening on Wednesday night beginning September 9, 2009. Here is the list of activities, in which your whole family can participate:

- 6:00 p.m.      **Wednesday Night Suppers – sign up before Tuesday at noon.**
- 6:30 p.m.      **Kids Klub (Children in kindergarten through 5th Grade – a nursery will be available at 6 p.m. for younger children)**
- 6:30 p.m.      **All Youth (Middle School through High School)**
- 6:45 p.m.      **Wednesday Night Bible Study – No prep needed! More information on page 2.**
- 6:45 p.m.      **Varnell Choir – Adults wanting to sing God's praises are welcome to come meet in the sanctuary or choir room every Wednesday night.**

## Day Retreat 2 Plan Worship Saturday, September 26th

Can you think of ways Varnell's worship services can offer Christ to more people? Is there a topic you really want to hear Pastor James address? Then spend a fun, meaningful, worship-filled day gathering with others to look ahead to worship themes and opportunities in 2010.

Come, connect, contribute, and help create meaningful worship at Varnell. No cost, no reservations, no commitment. To know more, call Pastor James (706.537.7899.) This group will leave the church at 8 a.m. and return by 6 p.m.

## Godly Greetings Sunday, September 27th, 9:45am

Since 2009 is the year of "radical hospitality" at Varnell UMC, the Worship Committee would like to start a "Greeter Ministry" for Sunday mornings. The task is simple. Stand near an entrance and greet each person who comes to that entrance. (You can even drink coffee and enjoy a biscuit whilst greeting.)

At 9:45am on September 27 in room 223 (large room just off the gym.), Pastor James will offer training for anyone interested in serving in this vital Sunday morning ministry. The plan is to develop a schedule so that no greeter will have to serve more than one Sunday each month.

If you are able to smile, open doors, say "Good Morning," and answer simple questions like "where is the sanctuary?" then you can be a great Greeter. So, two weeks from today, skip Sunday School, come to room 223, and be an important part of Varnell's Sunday morning worship experience.

## Staff Hours Adjusted

In an effort to better coordinate ministry, the staff at Varnell made slight adjustments to the hours they are available. Please note the schedule below. The posted times are when the staff is available to serve. That does not mean they will physically be in their office.

Of course, in the event of an emergency, do not hesitate to call Pastor James at (706.537.7899.)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
<b>James G.</b>	7a-1p	7-9p	10a-5p	10a-8p	10a-5p	10a-5p	off
<b>Tammy B.</b>	off	9a-5p	9a-5p	9a-5p	9a-5p	9a-4p	off
<b>Matt L.</b>	8a-1p / 5-8p	9a-5p	9a-10a	9a-8p	9a-5p	off	off
<b>Bethany L.</b>	8a-1p	off	2p-5p	11a-8p	2p-5p	off	off
<b>John D.</b>	8a-1p	off	3-8p	3:30-8p	off	off	off

## "Luke. Use the force Luke." Wednesday evenings from 6:50-8:10pm

Are your kids in youth? Husband in the choir? Children at Kids Club? Tired of Wednesday night television? Need more friends? Want more faith? Looking for a fresh measure of faith?

The Wednesday Night Bible Study might be the answer you're looking for. This season, those who dare to come will be finding the force revealed in the Gospel of Luke. Bring yourself and show up in Room #201 Wednesday nights from 6:50p until 8:10p. You don't even have to bring your Bible (but might receive extra credit if you do.) No cost. Nursery provided. Coffee can be available. Everlasting benefits offered to those who come. Got questions, call Pastor James 706.537.7899. Biblical expertise is not required for this Bible study.

## Acting Up In Church Wednesday at 6:30ish p.m.

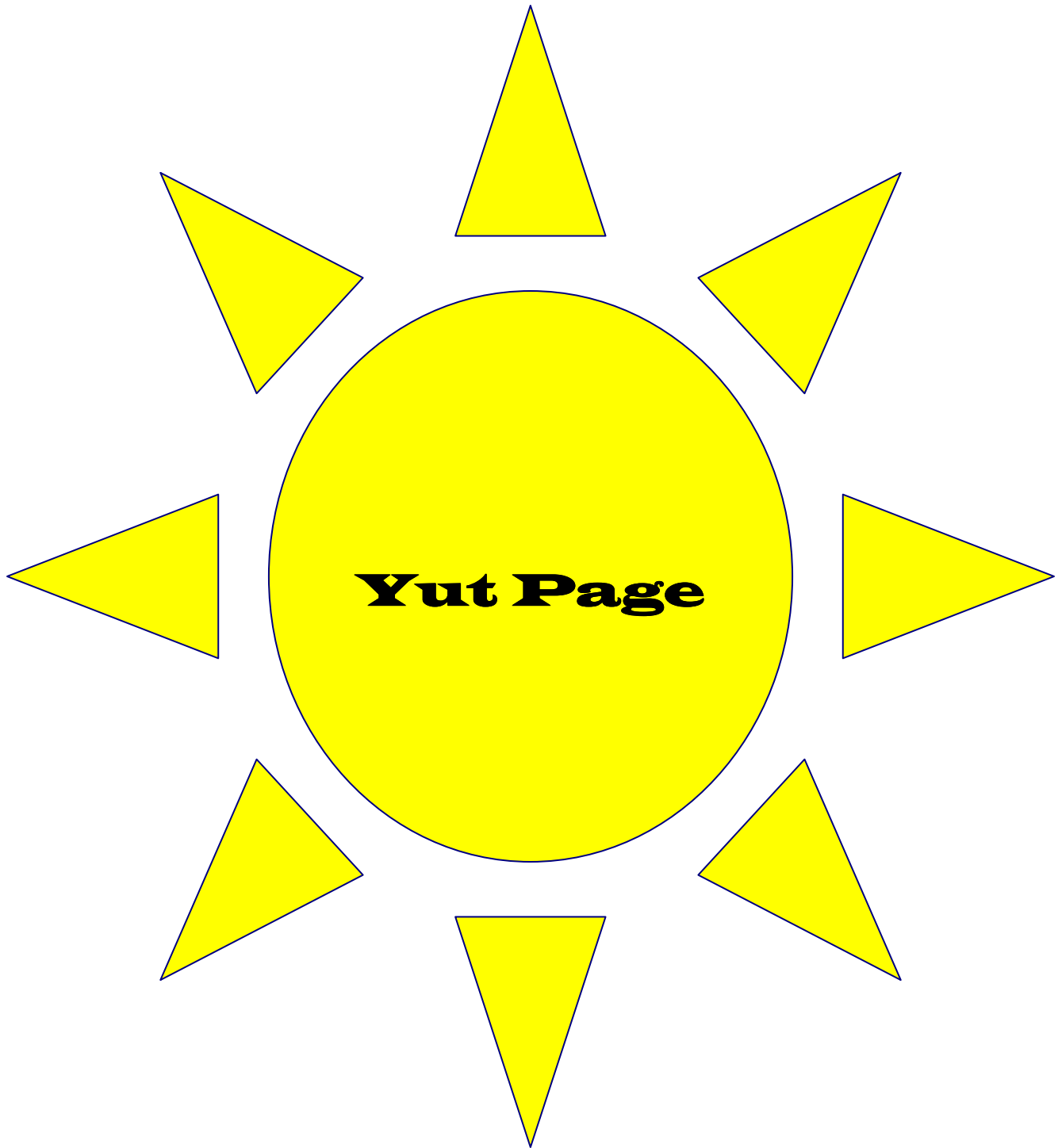
Starting in September, there will be brief creative gatherings for people who enjoy acting up every now and then.

Yes, Varnell UMC is gathering an acting group to do short (mostly improv sketches) occasionally during worship. This is being planned as a low demand ministry that would gather briefly to "play around" with worship ideas from time to time. Interested? Call Tammy Burek (706.694.8023) or James Gwin (706.537.7899.)

## See Less of the Staff

Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> look to see less of Varnell UMC's staff. John, Matt, Bethany, Tammy, Sonia, and James have all challenged each other to set a weight loss goal and to achieve that goal by the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> end date.

The "weigh-ins" will be at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays at the church. If you would like to become a part of this healthy choice, contact James in the church office (706.694.8023.)



## Pantry Praises

In August, Varnell distributed over 162 food boxes to people in the surrounding communities. Each box that goes out has been packed and prayed over by volunteers. Thanks to all who have donated food, purchased food, given money, packed boxes, helped to give out food boxes, and otherwise worked to keep Varnell's food pantry stocked and available to the community.

**Special Note:** Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, the hours that Varnell's food pantry is open will change to Monday and Thursday from 10am until 12noon. If you would like to help with this faith filled ministry, call the church office (706.694.8023.)

## Running on Empty

The famous 70's song by Jackson Browne is a good description of Varnell UMC's 2009 Operating Budget. Although 2009 expenses are right on track, the offerings slowed down during the summer and have not yet recovered.

The Bible instructs all in the discipline of giving the first ten percent back to God. This is called the **tithe**. If you are not yet a tithing worshipper, please pray about increasing the amount you give another step or two towards a tithe. The money you offer now makes an eternal difference in future generations. Without an increase, the 2010 Operating Budget will have to make deep cuts in vital ministries and staff.

Want to know more, call Pastor James (706.694.8923.)

## Bears Got Fed!

Thanks to Everyone who donated time, food, and money to help "Feed The Bears", the Northwest High School Football Team, on August 28<sup>th</sup> Varnell was radically hospitable



## Family Promise Good News and Bad News

As many of you know, Varnell UMC was set to be a host for Family Promise Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. The good news is a lot of people stepped forward and were trained and prepared to be wonderful, Godly hosts to the family that was expected to come.

The bad news was, no Family Promise families stayed at Varnell UMC.

The good news is the family "graduated" out of Family Promise and was able to move into their own apartment.

The bad news is Varnell was "all dressed up with nowhere to go."

The good news is, Varnell is scheduled to host again in November during the week of Thanksgiving. Since this is a holiday week, there will be even more ways to serve.

The good news is if you feel led to assist during this week, all you need do is contact the church office by phone or email.

## Appreciative Picnic Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the VUMC Staff Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m. The picnic will be held at the Highland Forest Picnic Shelter.

This is a great opportunity to show our staff members, James Gwin, Matt and Bethany Laskey, John Demerdjian, Janice Richards and Tammy Burek, how much we appreciate them!

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the next few weeks. For more information contact Orenda Gregory, Elizabeth Day, Matt Thames, Joey Sheppard, Jerry Grant or Marget Sikes.

## BLUEGRASS BANDS & HELPING HANDS CONCERT

There will be a bluegrass benefit concert to help North Georgia neighbors devastated by job loss, Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 5 p.m. at Heritage Point Park in Dalton. This special concert will feature Mountain Heart and The Dixie Bee-Liners.

All proceeds (Admission charged) will go to The Dalton Organization of Churches for People (DOC-UP) which Varnell UMC supports each month through our missions budget.

For more information, visit [www.bluegrassbandshelpinghands.com](http://www.bluegrassbandshelpinghands.com).

## September 2009 Birthdays & Anniversaries

### September Birthdays

Ken	Ogle	September 1
Ken	Arthur, Jr.	September 2
Katrina	Minor	September 2
Carolyn	Taylor	September 2
Will	Gordon	September 3
Jan	Clarey	September 4
Freedom	Payne	September 4
Ashley	Carter	September 5
Shelly	Keller	September 5
Ysleta	Morgan	September 6
Mark	Burek	September 7
Faith	Thompson	September 8
Scott	Wright	September 9
Melissa	Thompson	September 10
Dana	Willman	September 12
Mark	Bolding	September 13
Christopher	Gwin	September 13
Andrea	Bradley	September 14
Barbara	Phipps	September 14
Larry	Reed	September 14
Michael	Hicks	September 18
Drew	Satterfield	September 18
Ann	Sullivan	September 18
Daphne	Henderson	September 20
Kathy	Swilling	September 20
Todd	Bradley	September 22
Cindy	Eicholtz	September 24
Autumn	Thompson	September 26
Alaina	Thompson	September 26
Jason	Owen	September 27
Maddie	Sikes	September 27
Robby	Cantrell	September 28
Debbie	Douglas	September 28
Mitchell	Arthur	September 29
Adam	Mixon	September 29
Nate	Wolfe	September 29
Janice	Bolding	September 30

### September Anniversaries

Doug & Greta Chandler	September 2
Chris & Sandy Owens	September 2
Janice & Bill Richards	September 3
Randy & Ann Cook	September 5
James & Cyndie Coker	September 15
Mark & Tammy Burek	September 17
Jeff & Karen Martin	September 17
Jason & Amy Owen	September 20
Lester & Daisy Bruce	September 21
Kevin & Cindi Wright	September 23
Craig & Kathy Swilling	September 27
Butch & Tammy Watson	September 27

### Maddie about Childcare

Varnell is blessed to have Maddie Sikes join Varnell's staff as a toddler nursery child-care provider. Maddie grew up in Varnell and returns with ample "child-care" experience. While away at college, Maddie was certified by the Red Cross in infant "first-aid" and CPR.

Currently, Maddie is working as a receptionist at the Harriss & Hartman Law firm while she works on a Paralegal Certificate at Kennesaw State.

Stop by the toddler nursery and welcome Maddie back home!

### Baby Cleaning Ur, I Mean, Shower

Sunday, September 27th, 3pm

The United Methodist Women will be hosting a baby shower for **Vicki and Joshua Froat** Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m. in the lobby and gym of the Community Life Center.

The baby is a boy and the parents are registered at Walmart. Vicki is the daughter of Bill and Jolene Morrison.

**Share Christmas 2009**  
**Details to come in October**



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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  
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- John Demerdjian** Minister of Music & Worship  
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- Tammy Burek** Office Administrator  
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- Teresa Binford** Preschool Director  
office phone: 706.694-9800  
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## Created By God Class

5th & 6th Graders are invited to participate in an upcoming event called Created By God. This is a study of human sexuality with a Christian foundation. It will offer both you and your child an opportunity to learn, grow and celebrate our creation by God and the responsibilities that it brings.

Accurate information and proper terminology will be used to help gain a better understanding how sexuality fits into God's plan for human relationships. The schedule is as follows:

### September 13<sup>th</sup>:

- Parents (required) and Students
- Students 3 to 7:30 p.m.
- Parents 3 to 4:30 p.m.

### September 20<sup>th</sup>:

- Students only – 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

A snack supper will be provided for the students at each session.

The fee for the event is \$25.00, payable to Varnell UMC by August 30. To know more, call Libby Satterfield 706.694.2850 or Beth Gwin 706.694.8447.

## Get Tee'd Off

**Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The 2009 Varnell United Methodist Church golf outing is scheduled for Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25. This year the group will go to Sevierville, TN to play 2 excellent courses; River Islands Golf Club and Eagles Landing Golf Club.

We will plan to leave the church at 7 AM on Friday morning, and play 36 holes at River Islands. The accommodations are at a new La Quinta Inn. Saturday we will play 36 holes at Eagles Landing, play 18 holes at River Islands Sunday morning, and then return home.

The golf package includes all the golf and the two nights accommodations, plus breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings. The cost is \$289.00 for two golfers sharing a room, and \$374.00 for a single. There are no "upfront" costs, as each player will pay for their package when we arrive in Sevierville. Please sign up early as space is limited. Contact Kermit McManus at 706-483-8555 or [kermitmcmamus@yahoo.com](mailto:kermitmcmamus@yahoo.com) to sign up.

