



Oconee Street  
United Methodist Church

# THE BEACON

Oct./Nov. 2006

www.oconeestreetumc.org

## Important Dates:

Sunday, October 22

### **Aldersgate Home Offering**

Sunday, October 29

### **Homecoming**

Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.  
Fellowship meal after service

Sunday, November 5

### **All Saints Day**

Special music by Amanda & Arvin  
Scott and guest musicians

Wednesday, November 8

### **Charge Conference**

Monday, November 13

### **UMW Meeting**

6 p.m. @ Maxine Easom's home

Sunday, November 19

### **Operation Christmas Child Offering**

Wednesday, November 22

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Supper at 6 p.m.  
Service at 7 p.m.

## *Oconee Street Homecoming*

### **Dr. Simmons serves as guest speaker**

Please join your Oconee Street UMC family and friends for the annual Homecoming celebration on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Worship will begin 15 minutes early at 10:45 a.m. with congregational hymn singing and special music by the choir.

The guest speaker for the service will be Dr. John A. Simmons, District Superintendent of the Athens-Elberton District.

John is a member of the program committee of Our Daily Bread and has shown

great interest in the ministry and mission of Oconee Street UMC and the Athens Urban Ministry.

In typical Oconee Street fashion, we'll celebrate after the service with a special fellowship meal. Please bring several covered dishes so we can share food with fellow members and guests.

Help is still needed with the preparation for Homecoming and getting the church ready for the special day.

If you can assist, please arrive at church on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 9 a.m.

## **Aldersgate helps those with special needs**

Since it's founding in 1991, Aldersgate Homes Inc. has been the North Georgia Conference-related ministry for persons with special needs — ministering to adults with developmental disabilities.

Through the residential ministry, adults are provided with safe and comfortable affordable housing in group homes, apartments and condominiums located throughout the North Georgia Conference.

The ministry of Aldersgate Homes also includes Collinswood, a fully accessible retreat and recreational facility on lakefront property on Lake Oconee in Morgan County.

Oconee Street will be taking a special offering Oct. 22 for Aldersgate Homes Inc.

**GET THOSE SHOEBOXES READY!  
DETAILS INSIDE ...**

## ***Pastor's Corner ...***

Dear Church Family,

My friend, Bill Ross, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Athens, sends out a weekly e-mail called "E"ssentials4life. Since November is a time for us to remember and thank God for our many blessings and to consider how we are called to be faithful to the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, and service, I'd like to share with you a summary of Bill's reflections on giving that he posted this week.

The Old Testament concept of charity is intermingled with the word for justice and can be broken down into levels of giving. There are eight levels for us to consider:

1. *Giving to another in a begrudging manner.* Scripture invites us to give with a joyful heart, but acknowledges that giving with bad grace is better than not giving at all.
2. *Giving in a joyful manner but not giving enough.* At least our attitude is good; the Lord loves a cheerful giver.
3. *Giving enough but only after being asked.* Here is where many of us camp out, we wait to be asked, but then cheerfully give what is needed.
4. *Giving before being asked.* When we reach this place in living, we are known as generous. We see a need and respond, many times – again and again.
5. *Giving to someone and the giver does not know who or what the gift is going to.* The giver is humbled and gives out of a sense of trust.
6. *Giving to someone and the recipient does not know the source of the gift.* The gift is given out of a sense of mystery and worship.
7. *Giving so that the giver and the recipient both remain anonymous.* There is no dominance; the right hand truly does not know what the left hand is doing.
8. *Giving that enables the recipient and others to become independent or self-sufficient.* The beginning of justice takes place.

Bill concludes his e-mail message by saying, "I believe each of us is made in the image of God. Part of that image includes our capacity to give. When our giving brings justice we experience the Kingdom of God among us."

Grace and peace,  
Lisa C.

**OCONEE STREET  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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**OCONEE ST. UMC**

***THE BEACON***

**Pastor: The Rev. Lisa Caine  
Editor: Joe Dennis**

*The Beacon* is published semi-monthly as the official newsletter of Oconee Street United Methodist Church. For newsletter submissions, please contact Joe Dennis at 706-548-9359 or [joe.dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.dennis@yahoo.com).

Oconee Street United Methodist Church welcomes all people regardless of age, color, race, ethnic background, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, struggles with addiction, physical and mental challenges, or educational level. We come seeking the healing balm of salvation through Jesus Christ. Please talk to the pastor or lay leader if you wish to join this fellowship through Baptism or transfer membership from another church.

**Oconee Street United Methodist Church**  
717 Oconee Street  
Athens, GA 30605  
(706) 543-1327

**Pastor Lisa Caine**  
[ecaine0992@charter.net](mailto:ecaine0992@charter.net)

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

## Operation Christmas Child

# Donated shoeboxes deliver gifts, loving Christian message

A program of Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child is an annual program that collects gifts from Christians of all denominations and delivers them to children of third-world countries at Christmastime.

Children receive the shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, candy and small necessities — along with a Scripture message.

"Take an ordinary shoebox, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Most important, these shoeboxes provide opportunities for local believers to tell children about Jesus Christ through Gospel literature and

evangelism programs."

To participate, use an empty shoebox (standard size) or a small plastic container. Wrapping the box (lid separately) is allowed but not required. Fill the box with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items and/or hard candy. Please include \$7 to cover shipping costs for each shoe box, however, if you cannot afford the fee you're still welcome to participate.

Oconee Street UMC will present their shoeboxes as a congregation at the Nov. 19 service. Shoebox forms are available in the Church narthex.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, please contact Carla Dennis at 706-548-9359 or [cadennis@uga.edu](mailto:cadennis@uga.edu).



**"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."  
2 Corinthians 9:15**



OCONEE STREET  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## Bulletin Board

E-mail bulletin board items to [joe.dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.dennis@yahoo.com) or call 706-548-9359

- We are updating the **church directory** of friends and family for 2007. Please check the directory in the Narthex of the church to verify your information and to update any inaccuracies. If you're not in the directory and would like to be listed, please write the information on the back of the directory in the following order: name, address phone number, e-mail address (if applicable), and family birthday and anniversary dates. Directory information can also be e-mailed to Lisa at [ecaine0992@charter.net](mailto:ecaine0992@charter.net).



- The target date for **Advent devotions** is Oct. 29. Please turn devotionals to Edwina or Lisa. The format is flexible. The general framework includes a passage of scripture (a verse or two), a one to two paragraph comment, reflection or recollection, and a brief sentence prayer. However, if you would like to do something different from the standard format, that is acceptable. Please make these original, if possible, and not something you have read from another source, even if it is a really good piece! Much of the pleasure and meaning of the devotions is that we are sharing our own thoughts and feelings. So, if possible, be creative!



- Leadership opportunities are available in the following areas in 2007: **study** (planning the Sunday school curriculum, children and youth activities, church retreat, book studies); **worship** (planning special worship events, serving as a communion steward, caring for the sanctuary, decorating for special events); **mission and outreach** (planning special mission events, coordinating bi-monthly Our Daily Bread volunteers, volunteering with Interfaith Hospitality Network); **nurture** (welcoming visitors, sending birthday and anniversary cards, visiting sick and shut-in members, planning Wednesday night suppers, maintaining church directory); **finance** (counting Sunday offerings, preparing bank deposits); and **trustees** (caring for the building and grounds, evaluating and supervising maintenance, repairs and planning for future needs). Please contact Lisa if you're interested in volunteering in any of these areas.

# Join us for dinner, study and fellowship every Wednesday evening



## Dinner Menus

**Oct. 25**

Eggs, grits, pancakes, sausage, bacon and biscuits

**Nov. 1**

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cole slaw and dessert

**Nov. 8**

Baked chicken, rice and gravy, green beans, tossed salad,  
rolls and dessert

**Nov. 15**

Spaghetti with sauce with or without meat, garlic bread, tossed salad and dessert

**Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving Eve)**

Vegetable beef soup, cream of potato soup, grilled chesse sandwiches, fruit and cookies

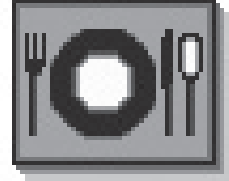
**Nov. 29**

Pork Chops, macaroni and cheese, turnip/collard greens, corn bread and dessert

Ranch dressing and oil and vinegar dressing is standard for salad.

Cost: \$6 per adult, \$4 per children ages 5-10, no family pays more than \$18.

Childcare is provided.



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**JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING OCT 29!**