



## Important Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 22

Youth: Ultimate Frisbee  
@Bishop Park, 12:30 p.m.

Children's Choir, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Eve Service  
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29

First Sunday of Advent  
Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Adult Choir Practice  
6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 7

UMW Christmas Meeting  
@Home of Frankie Wylie  
6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Adult Choir Practice  
6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Choir Rehearsal for  
Adult & Children  
9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Adult & Children's  
Choir Cantata  
*The Wonder of Christmas*  
11 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Service  
5:30 p.m.

## Generosity: A Spiritual Discipline

### 'Tangibilitate' to serve God, church

For the first four Sundays in November our church has focused on gratitude and the spiritual discipline of generosity manifested in our lives in many ways:

- as worship, when we thank God for the gift of life and our many blessings, and return to God our first fruits;

- as stewardship, when we thank God for entrusting us to share what is God's with God's people;

- as justice, when we thank God for the resources we have been given that can make a difference in the opportunities and possibilities, the hopes and dreams of others who have yet to receive what is their due; and finally,

- as charity when we thank God for the opportunity to develop relationships of benevolence and good will with those in need, finding ourselves transformed by giving to others.

We've kept gratitude journals and we brought special gifts each Sunday as tangible reminders of the

generosity of God and our ability to respond generously to what God has done for us by giving to others.

Now we come to the end of this time of focus on generosity, and there is no more fitting day than the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day and the Sunday which the church calls Christ the King Sunday to make our commitment to Christ and to the church. With generous hearts, thankful for all that God has done and is doing in our lives, we will have one more opportunity to "tangibilitate," by resolving consciously and intentionally to make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

Oconee St. UMC is a wonderfully generous congregation, small in numbers, but big in heart and hand and in vision. Please consider prayerfully how you wish to be a part of the ministry and work of the church in 2010, and then make your decision tangible by completing a commitment card and placing it on the altar during worship on Sunday.

## Oconee members learning 3 rules for living

Several Oconee Street members have been meeting this fall every Sunday, 90 minutes before church, studying *John Wesley's Three Simple Rules For Christian Living*.

The three rules — Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love With God — form the foundation of a Christian life. By keeping in constant contact with God and recognizing our role as Christians, we can live spiritually fulfilling lives.

Leaders of the 9-week Bible study were Edwina Biron, Jonathan Biron, Katie Calkin, Joe Dennis, Maxine Easom and Mikell Gleason.

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

Dear Church Family,

On November 11, we held our annual Charge Conference, with Dr. Gary Whetstone, Superintendent of the Athens Elberton District presiding. Dr. Whetstone asked pastors this year to prepare a brief meditation or devotion for the charge conference, and this is what I shared with those gathered that evening:

Paul's letter to the Philippians says: I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ . . . And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless . . ." (Phil. 1:3-10)

Paul had a real love for the Philippian congregation and they for him. Maybe you remember the story from Acts about how Paul wound up in Philippi. After the Jerusalem Counsel, he had planned to go to Asia, but he was stopped by the Holy Spirit, and in a vision saw a man of Macedonia pleading with him to come and help them. Thus, he sailed west with his friend Silas, rather than going east as he'd originally planned. They stopped at Philippi and there he met Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth, who was open to his message, was baptized with her household, and offered hospitality to Paul.

It was also in Philippi that Paul cast out a demon from a young girl, and for his effort, wound up beaten and imprisoned. But the power of God was demonstrated through an earthquake at midnight that unfastened his chains and unlocked the prison doors. Paul didn't use that opportunity to escape however, staying instead to convert the astonished jailer, who then cared for Paul's wounds and took him home to his family.

Paul had wonderful memories of his church family in Philippi that ministered to him as much as he did to them. This passage from Philippians, tells us so much about the partnership that exists between pastor and congregation when the Holy Spirit is present and God's work is being accomplished. I like to think that over these now eight plus years that we've been together, that our relationship is much like Paul's and the Philippians.

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### **OCONEE STREET UMC 2009 Church Leaders**

**Beth Gavrilles**  
Council Chair

**Sharon Pendley**  
Council Secretary  
Membership Secretary

**Mikell Gleason**  
Treasurer

**Meg Hines**  
Study Chair

**Lew Allen**  
Financial Secretary

**Linda Burchfield**  
Lay Leader

**Rebecca Alpaugh**  
PPR Chair

**Chris Hall**  
Trustees Chair

**Brian Levey**  
Nurture Chair

**Ken Easom**  
Sunday School  
Superintendent

**JoBeth and Lew Allen**  
Ministry Co-Chairs

**Steve Williams**  
Worship Chair

**Maxine Easom**  
UMW President

**OCONEE ST. UMC**

***THE BEACON***

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

*The Beacon* is published quarterly 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.

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.

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Pastor Lisa Caine  
ecaine0992@att.net

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

# 2010 Proposed Budget

## LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY

Ministry Work Area	
Our Daily Bread, \$1,200	
Nurture Work Area	
Hospitality, \$1,000	
Kitchen/clean-up help, \$800	
Visitation and Membership Care, \$200	
Communications, \$200	
Study	
Children's Study, \$800	
Youth Study, \$300	
Youth Activities, \$1,000	
Adult Study, \$500	
General Study Materials, \$200	
Vacation Bible School, \$500	
Worship Work Area, \$2000	
Music: General, \$1,500	
Special, \$500	
Choir Music Weekend, \$700	
Substitute Organist/Pianist, \$500	
Substitute Pastors, \$500	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund, \$1,000	
	Subtotal: \$13,400

## MINISTRY BEYOND LOCAL CHURCH

Apportionments, \$9,231	
District Work Fund, \$847	
Clergy/lay delegate AC expense. \$0	
Monthly Missions, \$1,200	
Foreign Missionary support, \$500	
	Subtotal: \$11,778

## OPERATING EXPENSE

Janitorial, \$3,045	
Postage/Office Supplies/Communications, \$500	
Lawn Maintenance, \$1,500	
Insurance, \$8,500	
Repairs and Maintenance, \$6,000	
Total Utilities, \$9,000	
Marketing, \$1,200	
	Subtotal: \$29,745

## STAFF EXPENSE

Pastor's Salary, \$25,000	
Pastor's Housing, \$16,000	
Reimbursement for travel/education, \$2,000	
Childcare, \$2,500	
	Subtotal: \$45,500

**TOTAL EXPENSE: \$ 100,423**

## Pastor's Corner

### *Continued from Page 2*

The New Revised Standard Version uses the word “sharing” to characterize Paul and the Philippian’s relationship. The Greek work is ‘koinoina’ which, in addition to ‘sharing,’ also means fellowship, affirmation, and generous cooperation. It means that we honor one another’s basic identity as children of God with individual gifts and graces. It means we respect our particular offices and responsibilities because as the body of Christ we need each other, not only to succeed but to be complete.

Oconee Street is a place where we take this kind of fellowship, cooperation, and affirmation seriously. We are church together, you and I, the body of Christ, on a journey, day in and day out, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Technically speaking for the North Georgia Conference’s records, I’m now a retired, part-time pastor. But I don’t believe that anyone in service to Christ, laity or clergy, can ever be either one of those things. If we profess ourselves to be Christian, then we are always and everywhere for as long as we live in the full time service of Christ.

With the election of these individuals to these leadership roles in our church, we are pledging ourselves to another year to learn together, pray together, and serve together as we grow as disciples. And as we grow in our love and understanding of God and God’s work, we will continue to grow in our love and understanding of one another, fostering even further that sense of koinonia that exists among us.

This month we have been focusing on gratitude – keeping gratitude journals – counting our blessings – discovering that gratitude for the gift of life creates generous hearts in response to God’s great generosity towards us. I am daily reminded of my gratitude for you and for this church. And so, like Paul, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel [with me] from the first day until now. And I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among [us] will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

Grace & Peace, Lisa C.

## Oconee Street UMC 2010 Church Council

Chair, Jonathan Biron  
Secretary, Sharon Pendley  
Treasurer, Mikell Gleason  
Financial Secretary, Gloria Hall  
Trustees Chair, Chris Hall  
PPR Chair, Maxine Easom  
Lay Leader, Linda Burchfield  
Lay Member to AC, Maxine Easom  
Sunday School Superintendent, Ken Easom  
Membership Secretary, Sharon Pendley  
UMW President, Maxine Easom  
ODB Liaison JoBeth Allen  
Worship Co-Chairs, Steve Williams & Amanda Scott  
Nurture Chairs, JoBeth & Lew Allen  
Ministry Chair, Beth Gavrilles  
Children's Education/Ministry, Rebecca Alpaugh & Meg Hines  
Youth Education/Ministry, Frankie Wylie & Joe Dennis  
Adult Education/Ministry, Edwina Biron

### **PPR Committee**

Linda Burchfield, Lay Leader  
Maxine Easom, Chair (2010)  
Neal Anderson (2010)  
Joe Dennis (2011)  
Jamie Calkin (2011)  
Edwina Biron (2012)  
Beth Gavrilles (2012)

### **Trustees**

Mary Weisenburg (2010)  
Gloria Hall (2010)  
Drew Davis (2011)  
Chris Pendley (2011)  
Gloria Hall (2012)  
Chris Hall, Chair (2012)

### **Finance**

Mikell Gleason & Gloria Hall, Co-Chairs  
Jonathan Biron, Linda Burchfield,  
Maxine Easom, Mikell Gleason, Gloria Hall,  
Lisa Caine

### **Worship Work Area**

Steve Williams & Amanda Scott, Co-Chairs  
Wilma Hutcheson-Williams, Amanda Scott, Maxine  
Easom, Sharon Pendley, Edwina Biron,  
Jonathan Biron,  
Altar Guild: Gloria Hall & Wilma  
Hutcheson-Williams

### **Missions Work Area**

Beth Gavrilles, Chair  
Katie Calkin, Enrique Alpaugh,  
Mary Weisenburg, Drew Davis,  
IHN coordinators: Jamie and Katie Calkin  
ODB liaison: JoBeth Allen

### **Nurture Work Area**

JoBeth and Lew Allen, co-chairs  
Hospitality Focus Group:  
JoBeth & Lew Allen, Mary Weisenburg  
Membership & Visitor Visitation Focus Group:  
Joel Siebentritt, Madelyn Osborn  
Communications Focus Group:  
Joe Dennis, Jesse Siebentritt

### **Children's Education and Ministry**

Meg Hines & Rebecca Alpaugh, Co-Chairs  
Meg Hines, Sharon Pendley, Rebecca Alpaugh, An-  
gie Pendley, Alexis Wylie

### **Youth Education and Ministry**

Frankie Wylie & Joe Dennis, Co-Chairs  
Hal Turner, Edwina Biron, Jenny Alpaugh, Kelsey  
Brown

### **Adult Education and Ministry**

Edwina Biron, Chair  
Allie & Mike Pennington, Maxine Easom, Katie  
Calkin

### **Committee on Lay Leadership**

Sharon Pendley (2010)  
Edwina Biron (2011)  
Joe Dennis (2012)



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UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

P.O. Box 6707  
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