

Rev. John Donaldson—Pastor  
Dee McDaniel—Administrative Assistant

Mike Kelley—Music Director  
Alex Kelley—Children’s Director

Ashley Hammac—Preschool Director  
Delon Hampton—Custodian

Church Phone: 706-798-1454 Daycare Phone: 706-798-9843 Daycare Cell: 706-836-4765 (Secondary Number)  
Church E-mail: burnschurch@comcast.net Church Website: burnsmemorial.com  
Pastor’s Cell Phone: 706-421-6339 Pastor’s Email: pastor@burnsmemorial.com  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Burns Memorial Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 5157  
Augusta, GA 30916

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
AUGUSTA GA  
PERMIT NO 213

Electronic Service Requested



SERVING AT THE MASTERS TABLE

There is a Chinese saying that says: “If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.” This is not just an old saying, there has been some scientific research to show that helping others may just be the secret to living a life that is not only happier but also healthier, wealthier, more productive, and meaningful. For information on how you can be part of the Burns Masters Table Soup Kitchen Team, please contact the Pastor.

The Flame  
of Burns Memorial Methodist Church

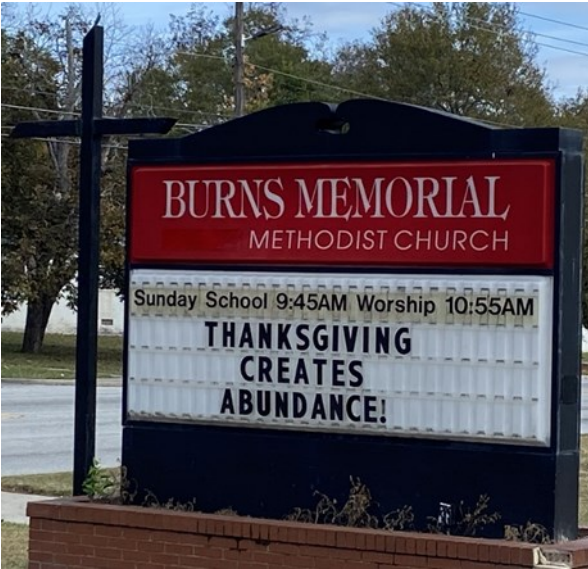
December 2023

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 215

From The Pastor

In my second year at Asbury Theological Seminary, in Wilmore, KY, I was able to attend the 1992 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which was held in Louisville, KY. It was there I was first exposed to the hard divisions in the church. On the one side were pro homosexual groups lobbying for full inclusion of openly gay ministers and pushing for permission for gay marriages in our churches. And on the other side, which represented the majority, were those in support of the Book of Discipline as written, with the traditional understanding of marriage and sexuality. The pro-gay group was voted down. Not accepting defeat lightly, they broke up the meeting with a protest march right down the aisles, taking over the stage. No one attending the GC in ‘92 thought the UMC was “united” or that it would last long. But it took another 30 years of pressure, until, like a frayed old shirt, held together by fewer and fewer threads, the church divided in 2022-23. It has been a long time coming.



We are now coming to the end of a two-year disaffiliation period. Over 7000 congregations have left the denomination world-wide, representing about 25 % of the total. In North GA, the last major step of the disaffiliation process came about on November 18, 2023. Over 1500 delegates met in Athens for a Special Session of the North Georgia Annual Conference. There, by a vote of 1222 to 295, with 20 abstaining, the Conference ratified the disaffiliation agreements of 256 congregations (including Burns). After some debate, 7 more disaffiliations were ratified, bringing the total to 263 for this session, a total of 334 over the last two years, or about 43% of the North GA Conference.

Strangely, it was the most unified and joyful Conference Session we have had in some time. Congregations and Pastors leaving seemed happy to be going. There was an absolute buzz in the air. And those staying seemed happy to see the disaffiliating churches leave. Perhaps they are happy to see the conflict end as well.

Friends, we are now **Burns Memorial Methodist Church**. We have a few steps to finish to complete the process, but by the end of the year we should have a full and clear title to the property. As you can see, the church sign has already been updated. Let us all now seek God anew, praying for his leadership.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor John*



MEET YOU AT THE TABLE

As someone said, “Food tastes better when you eat it with friends.” We have two official church meals in December. Please join us!

**Fellowship Lunch:** Sunday, December 10, following the worship service. The meat will be beef brisket. Please bring a side dish to share!

**Family Night Supper,** Wednesday, December 20 at 6 PM. We will be having Breakfast For Supper! The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 4-12. See the church bulletin for further details and to sign up.



HONORING DELON HAMPTON



Our long-time, part-time, custodian, Delon Hampton was surprised at the November Family Night Supper by a gift of appreciation and a special cake! He is pictured with his wife Valerie, who is an Assistant Director of our Daycare. Many spoke of Delon’s dedication, helpful attitude, and attention to detail. Thank you for your years of service, and we hope you continue for many, many more to come! And thank you to Michelle Pearce for organizing the event.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday night, December 24, we will have our traditional “Lessons and Carols” service. This beautiful service calls for several readers and soloists. If you would like to help with the year’s service, please let the pastor know.



HANG IN THERE



Watching the news last week, Erby said, “This world is getter worse and worse!” I know many of you feel the same way, with all the violence and hatred in the world. Longfellow’s old Christmas Carol reminds me that hate does not have the last word.

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: “There is no peace on earth,” I said, “For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: “God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men.”





OH HOLY NIGHT

A	D	N	H	P	W	P	J	Q	B	T	G	F	F	S	Q	V
Y	D	M	Q	M	I	A	A	S	T	A	R	R	L	G	F	R
F	X	F	A	G	R	D	O	N	K	E	Y	A	S	Q	L	J
F	S	B	U	G	S	A	V	I	O	R	M	N	F	W	U	W
H	H	E	A	X	W	I	X	H	Z	I	E	K	J	A	C	B
E	E	T	M	B	Y	J	R	S	N	M	V	I	N	Z	X	I
M	P	H	I	N	Y	R	O	A	E	H	H	N	U	G	L	B
I	H	L	B	K	Y	P	G	S	Z	B	N	C	Z	O	Q	J
W	E	E	Z	M	Z	N	I	M	E	U	Q	E	X	L	M	E
K	R	H	I	M	Z	W	F	M	E	P	S	N	P	D	N	S
Z	D	E	R	A	S	K	T	A	B	A	H	S	L	D	Y	U
G	N	M	Q	J	J	J	S	N	Y	I	A	E	S	R	V	S
V	A	N	F	Q	F	A	T	G	F	T	G	I	A	Z	T	X
N	J	C	U	R	Z	Z	X	E	U	N	O	M	N	G	L	Z
B	K	Y	M	W	I	H	F	R	A	P	E	A	C	E	G	W

ANGEL  
ANIMALS  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
DONKEY  
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS  
GOLD  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY

MYRRH  
PEACE  
SAVIOR  
SHEPHERD  
STAR  
WISE MEN

