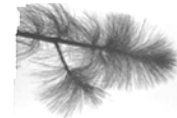




The Evergreen Bough



Volume II, No. 1, January, 2007

A monthly newsletter for the congregation and friends of Evergreen UMC

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”—*Maya Angelou*

Evergreen 2007

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” proclaims the prophet Isaiah (43:19). Although we are four weeks into the new year (beginning with Advent) most of our calendars are geared to a January start date. It seems fitting to take a snap shot of where we are, and what we might expect in 2007.

During the advent series of sermons I shared the vision I have received for Evergreen. We are called to make a difference in North Chatham County. In other words through our words and actions we are to be about the business of proclaiming the gospel in this community. We do this in a variety of ways: by changing lives, touching hearts, and bringing hope. As we journey together through the coming years we will discover the many and varied ways we do these things. I think you would agree that this has been part of Evergreen from the beginning. Perhaps we haven't named them as such, but clearly God is directing us. Think about our ministries: Food Pantry, Hope Meadow, Habitat, Operation Christmas Child, children and youth, worship, UMCOR, and the list goes on and on. Like Isaiah, one of my jobs as pastor is to point to all we do and declare, “There! That is God at work!”

One of the things God is doing is sending people to Evergreen. In response we started a third worship service! Our **9:00 Contemporary service** along with **The Connection** and our **10:30 service** provide more opportunity for persons to worship at Evergreen. One has but to look around in any of our worship services and see the beauty and richness of our growing congregation. Thanks to the new risers, you cannot help but notice all the children. Even a cursory look at local demographics reveals that we must earnestly prepare for the influx of persons soon to become part of this community. To that end a study committee has developed a preliminary plan for increasing our worship space. As a reminder that God is in the midst of this new thing, I am excited

to announce an anonymous donation of \$6,300 toward this project in anticipation of meeting our growing need for worship space!

Financially we continue to increase our giving to God's glory. All that we are able to do is a reflection of God's pleasure for our growing faithfulness, expressed not only financially, but also in our loving care for one another, our commitment to excellence in worship, our study, our sharing of varied and wonderful talents, and, of course, through the prayer life of our community.

If I were to name one overarching goal for this next year it would be for each of us to respond with enthusiasm and hope to the amazing things God is doing in our midst. We are called to craft an attitude of expectation for God's mighty work. One look around Evergreen and the evidence of God's work is astounding: **“Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”**

Peace and Grace, *Pastor Jeff*

Financial, Annual Summary

Add interest earnings which will be around \$50.
Funds received on 12/31 will be credited to 2006 income for tax purposes but disbursed in 2007.

Receipts for the year:

Offerings	\$159,593.65
Misc Income	2,489.89
Net Fund Raising Income	7,437.49
Total Receipts =	\$169,521.03

Total Expenses = \$169,810.16

Deficit (to date) for 2006	\$(289.13)
Begin Gen'l Fund Balance	304.63
Ending Gen'l Fund Balance	15.50

2006 Average weekly giving (offerings) was \$3,069/week

2005 avg weekly giving was \$2,856
Avg weekly giving increased \$213

Robbie Dircks

Please return your pledge cards

Knitting/Crocheting Ministry

Holy Hookers

Evergreen's Fiber Artists meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Evergreen. Bring your knit, crochet or needlework project and enjoy the fellowship.

Anna Nicholson

Worship Schedule:

"Early at the E": 9:00 am (Contemporary Worship)

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 10:30 am

"The Connection" 6:00pm (Contemporary Worship/Singing/Preaching/Testimony)

Sale In January ??

No, it's not time already, but plans are being made for the annual fall sale and your help is requested.

One way you can help is to adopt a sales area and get it ready. When you know what the inventory is in your area, price it, display it and sell it, you are more likely to have better sales. The furniture department last year did a great job sorting, pricing and displaying the inventory as it would look in a room. As a result, many sales were for multiple pieces. If you would like to work in a particular area, please see Jo Briggs or Marion Haywood to learn what kinds of things can be done throughout the year to prepare.

Another way to help is to pay attention to yard sales in your neighborhood and offering to remove the things that don't sell, in return for a tax receipt for their donation. I was able to get some very good furniture by doing this last year.

We also ask for your assistance if you have donations to place in the storage trailers. The trailer on the left (#1) is for small items. Please place them in front of the tables, in the marked bins. Trailer # 2, on the right, is for furniture. Both trailers now have a loading dock with a removable front section so you can back a truck up to it for easy unloading. If you don't know about the key location, please ask.

Remember to donate only those items that are useable and in reasonably good condition. We want your "junk", not your trash. This year we will not be accepting clothing until August. Clothing took up much of our storage space, as well as a lot of time to unpack, sort, and hang for a relatively small return and a large amount left over.

Below is the breakdown of profit from each of the departments. We hope to improve on those areas bringing the best income.

Marion Haywood

Yard Sale 2006

	\$	% of Total
Furniture	1,331.50	18.85%
Car	800.00	11.33%
Food, Coffee, etc	524.75	7.43%
Kitchen	518.54	7.34%
Hardware/Electronics	445.00	6.30%
Chipper	400.00	5.66%
Books	370.95	5.25%
Computers	364.00	5.15%
Garden	345.36	4.89%
Linens	315.42	4.47%
Toys	252.50	3.57%
Accessories	248.60	3.52%
Crafts/Seasonal	206.85	2.93%
Gifts	205.00	2.90%
Boutique	199.00	2.82%
Music	153.40	2.17%
Clothes	128.50	1.82%
Sports	97.50	1.38%
Home	81.95	1.16%
Pictures	75.00	1.06%
Total	7,063.82	100.00%
Deposits	8,177.25	
Less \$600 Cash	600.00	
	7,577.25	
Difference	513.43	Dept. not accounted for

Evergreen website: (www.evergreen-umc.org).
You'll really love it!!!

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 20, 2007

Last chance to celebrate before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and to support Relay for Life. This fundraiser will benefit the American Cancer Society.
February 20, 2007 More info next issue.

Bough Editors: Mary Kay and Herman