



Advent Sermon Series Unwrapped



December Events at McKendree

Christmas at McKendree Christmas Music featuring Choirs, Orchestra, Handbells, and Praise Teams	December 4, 6pm
Birthday Party For Jesus Cake and Ice Cream in honor of Our Lord	December 7, 6pm
Trans-Siberian Orchestra's 'Christmas Attic' McKendree Music Ministry presents our interpretation of this Trans-Siberian Orchestra classic	December 7, 7pm
4th-6th Grade Caroling Singing classic carols for the elderly in our community	December 16, 6pm
Walk Thru Bethlehem Walk the streets of ancient Bethlehem. Hear the news of the New Born Babe.	December 17 & 18, 6 - 8pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

One Great Night of Service	(Mission Outreach)	
Children's Christmas Eve Service		5pm
Service of Lessons and Carols		7 & 9pm (Nursery Available K & under)
Candlelight Communion Service		11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY Traditional Service 11:00am (Nursery Not Available)

NEW YEAR'S DAY Contemporary Service 11:00am (Nursery Available K & under)

** No Nursery, Children's, Youth or Music Programming on Christmas Day **

Ladies' Christmas Brunch
Saturday, December 10th, 10am

All women of the church are invited to Karla McHugh's home for a morning of good food and fellowship! Bring a brunch dish and an ornament to swap. Come find out how much fun we have as United Methodist Women! For directions to Karla McHugh's house, pick-up a flyer in the Narthex.



Classes begin January 8th (Sunday 4pm-6pm) and January 11th (Wednesday 6:15pm-8:15pm). Childcare is available at no additional charge on both nights.....what better gift to give, or investment to make than Financial Freedom! Simply sign-up today at www.daveramsey.com; the cost is only \$90 for all that you need!



An AA Class will begin meeting here at McKendree on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

Please join us at 6:30pm for fellowship and dinner followed by a meeting. For additional information contact Autumn Zellner at autumn.zellner@gmail.com.



One Great Night of Service

We are honored to have the privilege to serve Gwinnett Medical Center, Lawrenceville and Duluth on Christmas Eve! This year we are providing prayer blankets to patients, stuffed animals and blankets to the children, cafeteria meal tickets to visiting family and snack baskets to the medical staff. These items will be delivered to the hospitals following the 5pm service.

It takes the whole church working together to make this effort happen. Please consider participating in one of the following ways: 1) donating ready-made fleece blankets (any size or pattern) or stuffed animals; 2) providing a non-perishable snack basket; 3) delivering items to the hospitals; or 4) making a monetary donation.

Help McKendree spread God's love and grace on this special and holy night!

Blankets and stuffed animals can be dropped off at the "Giving Center" in the Fellowship Hall. Look for the OGNS basket.

Elizabeth Reifert, 770-476-3469;
ereifert@bellsouth.net

McKendree UMC Winter Weather Closing Guidelines

Monday thru Friday - Preschool and Office according to the Gwinnett County Schools decision
 Sundays - Check our website www.mckendreeumc.org or 11Alive WXIA TV



McKendree Food Ministry News

We have prayed fervently for a ministry to fill the gaps in peoples' lives, created when Angel Food ceased operations. Our prayers have been answered! McKendree has begun a partnership with Supreme Outreach, a food ministry operation borne from the desires to help the community with affordable food. Be on the lookout for more information soon! The December order deadline is Dec 9. Distribution day is Dec 17. Praise be to God for His provision!

Loads of Love

Sunday Dec. 4

Are you interested in going on a mission trip but can't get away for a week? Then join us for our Loads of Love (LoL) outreach Sunday, Dec. 4. You don't have to leave the country (or even the county). It's right in our neighborhood and it only takes about 2-3 hours of your time on a Sunday afternoon.

What is LoL? It's a group of McKendree folks, with smiles on our faces and in our hearts willing to help others. We go to a local laundromat loaded with quarters ready to assist and pay for laundry services.

Join this next "mission" trip in your community. You will be blessed! For more information please contact Bernie Richardson, rbrichardson@charter.net.

Cardmaking... A new small group
If you enjoy making cards or want to learn, we have a small group for you. During meetings we plan to teach and share techniques, consider how God works in our lives, and share our concerns. Our time together will be full of creativity, fun and fellowship.

You can make cards for yourself or to donate to various causes (prayer force, missions, hospitality team, military, & more). Our first meeting will be January 21, 2012 at 1pm in room #305. For more information and to sign up, contact Kathryn Tyrrell at n1inc1@yahoo.com or 678-373-1483 OR Kimber Norris at 3norrisgirls@gmail.com or 770-906-4786



The Color of Christmas

It was the fall of 1942 when Bing Crosby's nostalgic tune "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" first hit the airwaves. The song hit number one on the charts in October and held that coveted spot until well after the New Year. There's just something about a white Christmas, or just Christmas in general, that warms the heart and makes people happy. Unfortunately though, that's not always the case. For many, the color

associated with the holidays is blue.

The holidays are supposed to be a time for family, friends and loved ones to join together to share good times and fond memories. But what if you don't have family? What if you've lost a good friend? What if money is tight and you're struggling to just make ends meet or battling an illness? All of these things can contribute to a holiday season that is more depressing than uplifting. You don't have to weather it alone.

The Stephen Ministers at McKendree UMC are there to help people through difficult times. This specially trained group of lay ministers is available to meet with you one on one to listen to your concerns and pray with you. If you are dreading the upcoming holidays and would like someone to walk with you through this trying time, please let us know so we can help. Call Karen Hubbard at 678-985-6991. We can't promise you a white Christmas, but we'll do our best to help you overcome the blues.

Youth Dominican Republic Mission Team Fund-raisers

Want an easy, inexpensive way to get your Christmas cards out to members of your church family? The Youth Dominican Republic Mission Team is going to help. This holiday season bring your Christmas cards for church members by the youth office. For \$.25 per card, a youth will sort them for you and place



them alphabetically in bins. Each Sunday members will be able to come by & collect their cards.

The Youth Dominican Republic Mission Team will host a fund-raiser dinner on Sunday, December 4 before Christmas at McKendree. Please plan on attending and supporting our youth mission team.

Music Ministries



Shannon Nesbit, Director of Music Ministries
Devon Patrick, Contemporary Worship Leader
Elizabeth Manfroni, Assist. Dir. of Music Ministries
Kim Steinke, Admin. Asst. to Music Ministries
Phone: 770.339.9801

Special Rehearsal

Fri. Dec 2 6-8pm Christmas at McKendree dress rehearsal

Worship Events:

- Dec. 4th** K-4th choir singing 11am prelude
3rd-4th ringers ringing 11am prelude
McKendree Violin Ensemble 11am service
- Dec 18th** McKendree Bells & Joyful Praise 11am prelude
McKendree Orchestra at 11am offertory
- Dec 24th** 5pm Children's Christmas Eve (children who are interested in participating, please see rehearsal dates & sign up with either Shannon Nesbit, Susan Rowe, Kim Steinke or Elizabeth Manfroni)
7pm & 9pm Lessons and Carols Christmas Services
11pm Communion Christmas Service

We Are In Need of Help!!! We've got a great group of volunteers who handle the sound needs for 9:30 & 11am worship, but are in need of more help! Interested? Please contact Shannon Nesbit.

We'd love for you join us this upcoming year, so if you are interested in singing in Chancel Choir or playing in orchestra or ringing bells, please contact Shannon or Kim in the Music Ministry office.

Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsals

- Sun, Dec 11 - Sanctuary 4:30 - 5:30pm
- Wed, Dec 14 - Music Room 6 - 6:30pm
- Sun, Dec 18 - Sanctuary 4:30 - 5:30pm
- *** Wed, Dec. 21 5 - 6pm, (if needed)

Youth Worship Arts:

It's coming! Jan. 2012, McKendree UMC's STOMP, Drama, and Digital/Visual Arts electives. It's not too late to register. Contact Elizabeth Manfroni.
1st Annual Youth Showcase- April 22nd
This will be the culmination of all of the Youth's hard work throughout Worship Arts. Interested? Come see what all the excitement is about at MS/HS Choir!

*Christmas at McKendree
TSO's Christmas Attic*

*6pm, December 4th
7pm, December 7th*

Marriage Enrichment

Mark your calendar, for a new session of The Marriage Course! Over 125 couples have benefitted from this 7-evening course at McKendree and hundreds of thousands worldwide. Newlywed to golden anniversary and beyond, The Marriage Course gives you the tools to build and maintain a healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime. Start with a specially prepared candlelit dinner for two, accompanied by some great music. Later, couples spend time addressing important issues that can get swept under the rug in the rush of everyday life. These topics include: Recognizing each other's needs, Communicating effectively, Resolving conflict, Healing past hurt, Knowing how to make each other feel loved, Relating to parents and in-laws, Marital relations, Making time for fun together. The privacy of every couple is respected with no group discussions.

The course schedule for 2012 is:

Sat, Feb 4 at 5:45pm
Sat, Feb 11 at 5:45pm
Fri, Feb 17 at 6:45pm
Fri, Feb 24 at 6:45pm

Sat, March 3 at 5:45pm
Fri, March 9 at 6:45pm
Sat, March 24 at 5:45pm

The cost of the course is \$150 per couple, which includes childcare for children 12 mo. old and older, all text books, and 7 candlelit dinners for two - a real bargain. Aid is available for those with need. For more information, or to register, see www.mckendreeumc.org, pick up a flyer in the Narthex, or contact Tamar Piehler at tampiehler@yahoo.com or 770-962-6557. This class is open to the public, so invite your neighbors to share the experience! There is a maximum of 25 couples, so sign up early to reserve your seats.

Marriage Preparation Course

If you're about to be married consider The Marriage Preparation Course. So much energy is spent on the wedding, but what do you have after that? That's right - a marriage. So prepare. Learn how to make the transition from boyfriend and girlfriend to husband and wife.

The Marriage Preparation Course is a video series authored and recorded by Nicky and Sila Lee of Holy Trinity Brompton. This is the same couple that created The Marriage Course for marriage enrichment. The Lees are engaging and humorous, the sessions informative, heartfelt, and poignant.

In the curriculum couples spend time addressing important issues: communication, effective listening, the marriage covenant, resolving conflict, practicing forgiveness, sharing values, creating partnership, and building spiritual togetherness. The privacy of every couple is respected. There are no group discussions.

Classes run about two hours. The course schedule for 2012 is:

Sat, Feb 11 at 6:15pm
Fri, Feb 17 at 7:15pm
Fri, Feb 24 at 7:15pm

Sat, March 3 at 6:15pm
Fri, March 9 at 7:15pm

The fee for the course is \$35 per couple, which includes light refreshments, text books, and childcare for children 12 months old and older. Financial aid is available for those with need. For more information, or to register, see www.mckendreeumc.org, or pick up a flyer in the Narthex, or contact Tamar Piehler at tampiehler@yahoo.com or 770-962-6557. This class is open to the public, so please share this information with any couples you know who are getting married.

MIC 2012

SAVE YOUR QUARTERS! By now you've seen our giant Fork-o-Meter in the narthex tracking our goal to pack 50,000 meals for our Stop Hunger Now packing event. On January 28 McKendree volunteers will don hairnets and gloves to help feed the world's most destitute and hungry. Each serving costs only \$0.25. Consider donating what you'd spend for a candy bar (feeds 3 people), a McDonald's Happy Meal (feeds 12), take-out pizza (40 people), or four Wendy's combo meals (100 people). Empty your collection boxes each week in the receptacle in the narthex.

Plan now to join the amazing four-week study by Max Lucado, "Outlive Your Life," being offered in small groups and Sunday School classes in January. Max teaches that God has given our generation everything we need to alter the course of human suffering—so are we doing it? Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall this month.

How do you do your faith?

Youth Group

Joe Palmer, Director of Youth Ministries
Susan Rowe, Director of Family Ministries
Bill Anderson, Assist. Director of Youth Ministries
Paula Anderson, Admin. Assist. to Family Ministries
Phone: 770.339.9801

WTL - Sunday Youth Group for 7 - 12 grade

5 pm - Dinner

5:30 - 6pm - Praise & Worship

6:00 - 7:00 pm - split off for middle school and high school programs.

This month we will be talking about...

12/4 - HS & MS: We will meet from 3:30 - 5pm due to Christmas at McKendree

12/11 - Youth Talk with Mitchell Attaway

12/18 - No WTL: Have a great Christmas Break!

12/25- No WTL: Merry Christmas

Confirmation

We will not meet Sundays, December 18 & 25.

Upcoming Intern Meeting December 11

Cookies by the Pound & Photos w/ Santa

Sponsored by the Youth Dominican Mission Team on Sunday, December 11. We are in need of cookie bakers. If you can bake, please contact Sherry White at white0726@bellsouth.net .

Photos with Santa will be taken from 9am - 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Parties

Our High School & Middle School parties will take place on Friday, 12/ 9 - Saturday, 12/10.

High School: We will bake cookies to take to local nursing homes & hospitals, have dinner & bowl, and come back to the church for a lock-in. We will meet at the Lockridge Fellowship Hall at 5pm on Friday with pick up on Saturday at 9am.

Middle School: We will collect items for Rainbow Village, and have a progressive dinner, and lock-in. We are meeting at 6pm to leave the church by 6:30pm with pick up on Saturday at 9am at Lockridge.

Clarkston Service Project (Dec. 10)

The youth will be helping Clarkston with Christmas Shopping on Saturday, December 10. We will meet at Lockridge at 10am to leave by 10:15am. We will be donating toys to Clarkston's Christmas shop. Also, we will need youth to help run the Christmas Shop & to entertain the Clarkston kids while their parents shop. We should return to the church by 2pm. The youth will call when we are 20 minutes out. If you would like to volunteer to go to Clarkston, please let Joe or Paula know.

Important Dates

Dec 4 Christmas at McKendree - WTL will meet from 3:30 - 5pm

Dec 9-10 MS & HS Christmas parties

Dec 10 Clarkston

Dec 11 Intern Meeting



The Children's CORNER

Lisa Engberg, Director of Children's Ministries
Susan Rowe, Director of Family Ministries
Phone: 770.339.9801

Angel of the Month

Our angel this month is Ginny Shetler. Ms. Ginny has moved on to Ohio to be with her family. She was not only an employee at McKendree UMC, but she volunteered much of her time to taking care of our littlest treasures. Thank you for your 10+ years of service Ms. Ginny. God bless you in your retirement.



Preschool

Thank you so much for your support of the auction this year. The event was a huge success and will benefit local families and our own church and school. We have a lot of fun holiday events coming up so check your child's calendar. Contact the Preschool office 770-339-7040.

Kidz Klub

We are done for the calendar year, but want everyone to join us for the Birthday Party for Jesus on the 7th! Kidz Klub will return when we will be "Kickin' It Old School" on Jan 4th.

Flight 56

On the 4th, we will meet from 3:30-5pm and have dinner from 4-6pm so everyone can attend "Christmas at McKendree" at 6pm. On the 16th 4th graders will join us for Caroling at "The Bridge," an assisted living facility in Lawrenceville. And don't forget to sign-up (deadline is Dec 4) for the first-ever Flight 56 retreat, which will be Jan 14-15.

Fun Fourth

4th graders will not have a regular meeting this month, but instead will join Flight 56 and go Caroling at "The Bridge" on the 16th. Regular meetings resume Jan 22.

Birthday Party for Jesus

Join us at 6pm on December 7th in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate Jesus' birthday! Have some cake and punch and stay for the TSO show at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Children's Christmas Eve Service

Rehearsals are under way for our 5pm Children's Christmas Eve Service! The remaining schedule is as follows:
December 11th – Sanctuary – 4:30-5:30pm
December 14th – Music Room – 6-7pm
December 18th – Sanctuary – 4:30-5:30pm
December 21st – Sanctuary – 5-6pm (if needed)

"Star of Wonder" Advent Wreath Ballet

Georgia Christian Dance Theater's ballet will be featured at both services on Dec 11th. Join us in this awesome way to worship God through dance! Please join us!

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec 4 3:30-5pm, Flight 56; 6pm, Christmas at McKendree
Dec 7 6pm, "Birthday Party for Jesus"
7pm, "The Christmas Attic" No Kidz Klub.
Dec 11 – Georgia Christian Dance Theater's "Star of Wonder" Advent Wreath Ballet at both services;
4:30-5:30pm, Children's Christmas Eve rehearsal;
5:30-7pm, Flight 56
Dec 14 6-7pm, Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal;
No Kidz Klub
Dec 16 Flight 56 & Fun Fourth Caroling at "The Bridge"
Dec 18 4:30-5:30pm, Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal;
Flight 56 & Families are Invited to Enjoy "Walk Through Bethlehem"
Dec 21 5-6pm, Christmas Eve Rehearsal (if needed);
No Kidz Klub.
Dec 24 5pm, Children's Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25 & Jan 1 11am, One Service; No Children's Sunday School, Children's Church or Children's Worship. Nursery for Kindergarten and under will be provided. No Flight 56.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

McKendree United Methodist Church

1570 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road Lawrenceville, GA 30043

770.339.9801 office 770.339.7040 preschool 770.339.4561 fax mckendree@mckendreeumc.org www.mckendreeumc.org

Senior Pastor: Dr. Ed Wadsworth ☩ Minister of Discipleship: Rev. Diego Orsini ☩ Minister of Family & Administration: Tom Balog

December 2011 Prayer Ministry – Thanksgiving for God’s Love

Message:

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and focused on all the things for which we are grateful. Did you remember to thank God for sending his “one and only son that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life?” (John 3:16) As Christmas approaches and we become busy with shopping, parties, decorating, etc., stop and take time to remember the real reason for the Season, Jesus Christ (God incarnate) who came to earth in the form of a baby to eventually take the sins of the world upon Himself so that we could return to Him for all eternity. Let us make a conscientious effort to place Christ foremost in our Christmas celebrations.



Prayer:

Almighty God, help us toward the proper perspective of Christmas. Help us to slow down and capture the majesty and wonder of Christ’s birth so that we will be able to sing with the angels, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom your favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) In Christ’s glorious name we pray. Amen.