

# The Messenger

**Atlanta First United Methodist Church**  
360 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30308 404-524-6614

## Warming Up for Summer at Atlanta First!

**T**he first official day of summer is just a couple of weeks away yet Hotlanta is already living up to its moniker. Things are also heating up at Atlanta First UMC.

As we begin the month of June we continue our Habitat build, we look forward to Vacation Bible School, we welcome some great folks to the Atlanta First Staff and say farewell to a pastor who has made a tremendous impact in a very short time. This past Sunday we welcomed Sarah Watson and Alex Benford as the newest members of the Atlanta First team.

Sarah is originally from southwest Missouri. Sarah just graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Master of Divinity degree. Prior to attending Candler, Sarah had a career as a teacher and school counselor and small business owner. As she explored her call to ministry she served as a missionary in Honduras. Sarah will serve as assistant pastor with responsibilities in leading worship, mission and outreach, pastoral care and oversight of the day school.

Alex is originally from West Virginia. He earned his undergraduate degree in Organ Performance from Marshall University in West Virginia and his Master's degree in Accompanying and Coaching from the University of Tennessee. He currently serves as a staff accompanist at Clayton State University. Alex will serve as our organist and assist Ariel in overseeing our music program.

Finally, we will wish Godspeed to Kevin Murriel as he is appointed to Cascade United Methodist Church. Kevin will be commissioned as a provisional Elder during Annual Conference. Kevin has been a tremendous asset to Atlanta First during his year of service. He has provided leadership in our mission and outreach as well as many other areas.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have a reception honoring Kevin's ministry among us as well as celebrating the arrival of Sarah and Alex.



*Dr. Charles Z. Gardner, Sr.*  
Senior Pastor, Atlanta First UMC  
[Charles@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Charles@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)



**Volume 105, Issue 5**  
**June 2012**

### In This Issue:

**Pg 2** Atlanta First News &  
Senior Adult Ministries

**Pg 3** The Prayer List &  
Christian Formation  
& Education

**Pg 4** Atlanta First History

**Pg 5** Atlanta First Day School

**Pg 6** Compassion In Action,  
June Birthdays &  
May Reports

**Pg 7** Church Calendar

**Back** Contact Information &  
Worship Schedule



Join us this summer as we build  
a home for a family in need!

**Saturdays, May 12<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>**

[www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/AtlantaHabitat](http://www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/AtlantaHabitat)

## Mark Your Calendars!

- **SafeHouse Outreach Dinner:** Tuesday, June 5 at 3:30 PM
- **Good Bye & Welcome Reception:** For Rev'd Kevin Murriel, Rev'd Sarah Watson and Alex Benford, Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> after worship.
- **UMW Meeting:** Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM
- **Prayer Shawl Guild:** Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM
- **Hospitality House Dinner:** Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- **VBS:** July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>



# Atlanta First News

## Vacation Bible School

This summer's Vacation Bible School will take place during the week of July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. More details and sign up info coming soon!

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Catherine Kenimer, daughter of Ed Kenimer and Pat Sibley, who graduated in Spring 2012 with a B. S. in Business from the University of South Carolina.



# Senior Adult Ministries

## 2012 Annual Trip with David Ogletree at Epworth by the Sea

This year we will offer a weekender trip (Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>). The program is for all ages. Those persons who were children, teenagers and young adults will especially enjoy this time. We have the sheet music from the Atlanta First theatre performances featuring many of you. And everyone brings old pictures and we play guess who games. Of course we enjoy relaxing and worship on the Epworth grounds and at Wesley Memorial UMC.

The cost of room and board per person in the Booth unit for the weekender program is: **Single room: \$211.90 and Double Room: \$137.26.**

The extended trip (Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>) includes day trips, Bible study at Wesley Memorial UMC, eating at one or two of our favorite restaurants, and possibly participating in the workshop sponsored by Epworth.

The cost of room and board per person in the Booth unit for the extended program is: **Single Room: \$635.76 and Double Room is \$411.78.**

**Cost of transportation and Epworth program are not included.**

Your registration form and payment of non-refundable (after September 15<sup>th</sup>) registration fee of \$50 is required by **June 30<sup>th</sup>**, to reserve your room and to designate your roommate. Use the registration form, available from Rev'd. Frank, the church office, and attached to the online Messenger, to register. Full payment is due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Refunds as based on Epworth refund policy.

## May "Guess Who?" Answers

1. Which two families lived next door to one another for a long time? **Lillian Wyant and the Bruners**
2. Who is known as "Ms. Turkey Feathers?" **Geraldine Sudderth**
3. Who has been delivering meals on wheels for 16 years? **Rufus Mullikin**
4. Which two church members grew up two blocks from one another in Midtown? **George Web and Dr. Bob Smith**
5. Who was the "Betty Furness" for Georgia Power Company? **Cornelia Witte**
6. Which one of your ministers may be changing his name to "Marryin' Sam" (from Lil' Abner comics)? **Rev'd Frank**



## UMW News

**Next Meeting: June 19 - 10:30 AM**

In June, Rev'd. Sarah Watson, our new Assistant Minister here at Atlanta First, will be sharing her ministry story. She will be showing pictures of her time as a missionary in Honduras and other ministry activities.

## Bible Study Class

The study of Revelation continues on Thursdays at 11:00 AM. There may not be a study on June 14<sup>th</sup>; call the office to check.



# Prayer List

\* Active Military Service

Helen Atherton  
 Miriam Badey  
 \* Major Chuck Bowen  
 Margie Britt  
 Mary Brown  
 Jovita Burnell  
 Frances Bussey  
 Edith Callaway  
 Angela Cardwell  
 \* TSgt. Logan Cathcart  
 \* MSgt. Scott Cathcart  
 Frances Collins  
 Lyn Dillard  
 Rita Edward  
 Andrew Edwards  
 \* Elmer Edwards  
 \* 2nd Lt. Ben Fulp  
 Harrison J. Gaines  
 Dollie Gilreath

Isobel Ginn  
 Sandra Graham  
 Janice Hall  
 Rita Hardeman  
 June Harris  
 William Hartigan  
 Adelaide Harwell  
 Harriet Head  
 Louise Hickman  
 Bill Hitch  
 Pam Howard  
 Jon & Lee Hurst  
 Margaret Kirby  
 Sonia Lemons  
 Gary Martin  
 Joyce Montgomery  
 Diana O'Brien  
 Joe Pemberton  
 Deborah Pompey  
 Paul Ragan

Jackie Scarborough  
 Jeremy Scarborough  
 Brooke E. Sheldon  
 Betty Small  
 Layton Smith  
 Natalie Smith  
 Tripp Stedham  
 Ralph Steiger  
 Roger Stotler  
 Gerry Sudderth  
 Travis Swinton  
 Ann Taylor  
 Leah Tinson  
 Shirl Troglia  
 Charlie Watkins  
 Ruby Wilkes  
 Billie Williams  
 Mary Wilson  
 The Stotler Family

Condolences to the family and friends of **Jubin Lane**, brother of Ross Lane, who passed away on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. His funeral was held on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Condolences to friends and family of Charles Rice, whose former wife passed away on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.



## Christian Formation and Education

### Adult Sunday School Classes

*Classes begin at 9:45 AM, unless otherwise noted*

#### Hemphill-Rogers Class:

Main Level, The Library

#### MACO (MARried COuples) Class:

Main Level, The Fellowship Hall

#### Currents Class:

Upper Level, Room 321

#### St. Andrew Class:

Upper Level, Room 318

#### Genesis Class:

Upper Level, Room 313 – Begins at 10:00 AM

#### Mid-Week Bible Study: Thursdays at 11:00 AM

Room 316, led by Rev. Frank Windom.

### LAUGH Children's Ministry

Summer is here and our theme in the Live B.I.G room for June is "The Story of Paul!" Our children will explore the story of the Apostle Paul's conversion experience and also his missionary journeys recorded in the Book of Acts. The B.I.G. Idea is, "**We believe that stories about Paul's life give us strength to tell others about Jesus in all situations!**"

Our Nursery will focus on the lives of Mary and Martha. The B.I.G. Idea is, "**I can choose to listen**" taken from Luke 10:38-42.

We look forward to seeing you on Sundays in June! The Nursery opens at 9:30 AM. The LIVE B.I.G. Room opens at 9:45 AM. Contact Ami Moody at [Ami@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Ami@AtlantaFirstUMC.org) for more information or to volunteer.



## Secrets of the Sanctuary

Our beautiful sanctuary has stood at the corner of Peachtree Street and Porter Place for one hundred and nine years. While there have been several major renovations in the past, most of the building remains as it was when it was designed by Willis Franklin Denny in 1903. There are several architectural elements that are either partially hidden or not quite what they seem to be.

I have had several members of the church remark that we need a cross on the outside of our sanctuary. There are in fact two crosses on the front façade facing Peachtree Street. The crosses are located at the ends of a slender stone arch that arches over the balcony window and the Blind Arcades (the area that looks like walled-in windows). Each cross is placed on a decorative fruit motif. The cross on the north end of the arch is a Latin cross. On the south end is a Maltese cross, also known as the Cross of St. John. The Latin cross has been damaged by the elements over the years, but the Maltese cross remains in good shape.

The main sanctuary has interesting symbolism that is not immediately noticeable. The interior of this area is an exact square. Because of this, the main vaults in the ceiling, running east to west and north to south, form a Greek cross. The Greek cross is formed by four equal length arms. The tracery in the upper portions of the larger stained glass windows on the north and south balcony and the window in the east balcony, form Latin crosses.

The beautiful gold moldings that decorate the support columns of the interior look like exquisitely carved and gilded wood. They are in fact made of formed plaster and painted with gold paint. A section of the molding was removed from the balcony during the installation of the new organ in 2007. When this section was examined, it revealed that the interior of the molding is in fact hollow and had been stuffed with natural items to support the shape while the plaster dried. These materials included moss, wood chips, and leaves. This finding has helped to preserve the integrity of the moldings during subsequent work in the sanctuary. Workmen and painters now know that the plaster is delicate and must be treated carefully.

The ceiling of the sanctuary was originally bare wood which resulted in very bad acoustics in the room. In

1923 the ceiling, with the exception of the area around the central stained glass window, was covered with a layer of hair felt and artist canvas. Hair felt was an early form of insulation and a one inch layer was applied. The canvas was tightly stretched over the insulation and then covered with three coats of paint. According to the July 22, 1923 Messenger, the result “will produce the effect of fresco work”. The Rubberstone Flooring Corporation of New York spent six weeks applying the material. A total of 4005 square feet were covered and cost \$3,510.00. If you look carefully at the ceiling you can see the outlines of the panels of canvas. When the ceiling was painted during the 2007 renovation, the painters took special precautions when applying paint to the ceiling. It is not known how many coats of paint have been applied to the covering since 1923 or how much weight or layers of paint the ceiling will hold without damaging it.

These are just a few of the interesting secrets of our sanctuary. In a later article the historic Christian symbolism of many of the architectural elements will be examined.

**Carol Witcher Colly**  
**Church Librarian & Archivist**  
[Archives@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Archives@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)



*A cross section of the plaster moldings; note the moss and wood chips used as filler.*





# A Note From Atlanta First Day School

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

**Linda Evans, Day School Director**

**Congratulations, AFDS Pre-Kindergarten Class of 2012!!**

The Class of 2012:

Kamrin Micah Brannon

Darby Jameson Carter

Miles Xavier Cumbermack

Matthew Romero Frady

Lila Rose James

Alexander Teruo Klingsoehr



Ms. Adriene Pearson - Lead Teacher  
Ms. Amy Pearson - Co-Teacher  
Mr. Walker Mitcham - Assistant Teacher





# COMPASSION IN ACTION

## Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Summer Project: House Build

Our Atlanta Habitat project continues and will conclude in the month of June. Thank you to all who have participated so far! There is still much left to do, so if you have a free Saturday, we encourage you to prayerfully consider volunteering. Lunch, refreshments and all safety gear such as hard hats and gloves will be provided. We ask that you please register to volunteer. You can do so at our website:

[www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/AtlantaHabitat](http://www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/AtlantaHabitat)

The project is scheduled to work from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the following Saturdays:



- Saturday, June 2    Install shingles, siding, insulate walls
- Saturday, June 9    Complete siding, exterior painting
- Saturday, June 16   Interior trim, cabinets, interior and exterior painting
- Saturday, June 23   Interior painting, miscellaneous items
- Saturday, June 30   Landscaping and House Dedication

### SafeHouse Outreach

Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>- 3:30 PM

1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday's of each month you're invited to help provide hot meals for nearly 300 men, women, and children. You may meet the team in the Atlanta First UMC Fellowship Hall at 3:30 PM for meal preparation and travel with the team to SafeHouse for dinner and worship at 6:30 PM; or join in the fellowship anytime you can arrive.

### Atlanta Hospitality House

Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM

At 6:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month, we meet at the Hospitality House at 1815 Ponce de Leon Ave. to prepare and serve a meal and also to fellowship with the guests. For more info and to serve with us, please contact M.L. Purcell via email at:

[marylynnpurcell@gmail.com](mailto:marylynnpurcell@gmail.com)



## Happy Birthday in June!

- 1 Mr. Randall Edenfield
- 2 Mrs. Joyce Fortson
- 3 Mr. Harry Wells
- 4 Mr. Bud Kragor
- 10 Mrs. Barbara Pate
- 12 Mr. Mark McKinney
- 13 Mrs. Elisa Wells
- 14 Mrs. Jeanne Thomas
- 15 Dr. Bob Smith, III
- 16 Mrs. Jackie Scarborough, Jr.
- 18 Ms. M. J. Stephens
- 23 Mr. Anthony Williams
- 25 Mrs. Frances Riley
- 27 Mr. James Johnson, II
- 29 Dr. Sam Dennard
- 30 Ms. Arleen Walker



## May Attendance & Giving Report

Week Of:	April 29	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Sunday School	34	53	45	51	44
Sunday Worship	153	132	143	229	126
Regular Giving	\$2,963.11	\$7,334.15	\$35,704.21	\$1,936.55	\$2,159.35

April Online Giving: \$2,998.00

May Online Giving: \$3,181.00

# Atlanta First UMC Calendar - June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																	
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Atlanta, GA 30308-3235

**PERIODICALS**



## Church Information

### e-Mail & Website Addresses

Dr. Charles Z. Gardner, Sr., *Senior Pastor*  
The Rev'd Sarah Watson, *Assistant Pastor*  
The Rev'd Kevin Murriel, *Assistant Pastor*  
The Rev'd Frank Windom, *Senior Adult Ministries*  
Ariel Merivil, *Music Ministry*  
Alex Benford, *Organist*  
Linda Evans, *Day School Ministry*  
Steven Colly, *Communications*  
Cornelia Witte, *Receptionist*  
Madelyn Mitcham, *Financial Secretary*  
Carol Colly, *Church Archives & Library*  
Dorothy Chandler, *MAC Director*  
Facebook Page:  
Twitter Page:

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[Kevin@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Kevin@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)  
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[Archives@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Archives@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)  
[DChandler@MidtownAssistanceCTR.org](mailto:DChandler@MidtownAssistanceCTR.org)  
[www.facebook.com/AtlantaFirst](http://www.facebook.com/AtlantaFirst)  
[www.twitter.com/AtlantaFirstUMC](http://www.twitter.com/AtlantaFirstUMC)

### Phone Numbers:

**Church Phone Number**  
**404-524-6614**

**Pastoral Care Line  
Number**  
*(If you need to reach a pastor  
during out of office hours,  
please call this number)*  
**404-446-3777**

**Church Fax Number**  
**404-521-3709**

**Day School Number**  
**404-333-0270**

### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 AM Worship Service

### Thursday Schedule

11:00 AM Bible Study





# David Ogletree Reunion - Epworth by the Sea

**Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
(Optional extension to October 18<sup>th</sup>)**

Atlanta First is joining David for a weekend outing. Those persons who were children, teenagers and young adults will especially enjoy this time. We have the sheet music from the Atlanta First theatre performances featuring many of you. And everyone brings old pictures and we play guess who games. Of course we enjoy relaxing and worship on the Epworth grounds and at Wesley Memorial UMC.

Transportation costs and Extended Stay Evelyn Laycock Event costs are not included with room and will be announced soon. A \$50 deposit is required by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

	Single Room	Double Room
<b>Weekend Only October 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup></b>	\$211.90	\$137.26 (per person)
<b>Extended Stay October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup></b>	\$635.76	\$411.78 (per person)

**Non Refundable Deposit of \$50 is due June 30<sup>th</sup>**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Stay Duration:  Weekend Only  Extended Duration

Room Type:  Single  Double

Roommate's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Reserve a Handicap Room

I Require Transportation

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my deposit of \$50

I am enclosing my full payment of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Atlanta First UMC and mark for "David Reunion"