

CROSSTALK

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Forget Wall Street—Occupy Church!

For months now, a small group of people who claim to represent 99% of us have protested for change in our political and economic systems. The Occupy Wall Street movement now claims activity in 600 U.S. cities and 2,720 cities around the world. I know quite a few people who have been inspired by their actions, but many more who observe it with a yawn. OWS has had difficulty maintaining a coherent, consistent message, aside from generalized rage over corporate greed, political corruption, and income disparity. One protestor explained, "The system is broken and needs to be fixed." That would seem to be a pretty good one-sentence summary of Occupy Wall Street. With talk of a world revolution and societal makeover, OWS is making judgments about political, social and economic systems, about quality of life in America, and who is to blame for all of our problems. It merits response, especially from the Christian community, which has claimed to have interest in such things for thousands of years.

It is hard to deny homelessness in our midst, that government doesn't always function well, and that there seems to be a breakdown of morality in the country. Who wants children to go to bed hungry or hurting? Who wants people to languish without healthcare? Who wants injustice to go unchecked? We agonize over the breakup of family life and the encroaching drug culture. In this sense, perhaps they do represent 99% of us. If there is common ground between Occupy Wall Street and Christians, it is on this point: The system is broken and needs to be fixed. But we may part company on what is the cause of the brokenness and how it can be fixed.

For the Christian, the system that is the world order has been broken ever since Genesis 3, when sin and rebellion came upon the scene. The system is broken because the individuals that comprise it are broken. We are not surprised to hear, or to experience firsthand, the byproducts of sin, which are, among other things, injustice, exploitation and greed.

But sin is not the last word, nor the first. The first word is that we are made in the image of God, which is the beginning point for all conversation about human nature. Indeed, it is the image of God within us that makes us rail against injustice. The last word is redemption, or restoration into the people we are supposed to be. If the problem can be summed up "the system is broken and needs to be fixed," the Christian solution can be summed up, "The image of God is tarnished and needs to be restored."

As I view world events from this perspective, I appreciate the discontent expressed by OWS, and mourn the complacency I see outside their ranks. But I fear the Occupy Wall Street movement is doomed for disappointment. We could break up the multinational corporations; we could redistribute wealth. But the "system" would not be fixed. The OWS movement is flawed because it looks outward to others for blame, and wants to fix, or punish, "them." As Methodists, we care about "social holiness", fixing broken systems. But we realize it begins with personal holiness, the redeemed and transformed heart. I seek to fix the system, one transformed life at a time, beginning with my own. And I want to do it, not with rage, but with hope and joy that will not be quenched. God's redeeming work is done, and the New Creation is underway. Won't you join me?



LIBRARY CORNER



To get you into that Valentine mood, the library has a wonderful selection of books filled with romance.

Judith Michael's Acts of Love is a tale of modern day life and love and Prairie Brides is a book of four inspirational love stories from the North American prairie. Christy by Catherine Marshall and Savannah by Eugenia Price are two more novels filled with love and romance.

Two non fiction selections are Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom, a heart warming story of a young man's love for his mentor, and Works of Love are Works of Peace, a stunning photographic record of Mother Theresa which "portrays the joy that can come when 'small things' are done with great love".

Read one! Better yet, read them all and Happy Valentine's Day!

Seniors Live At Kingswood

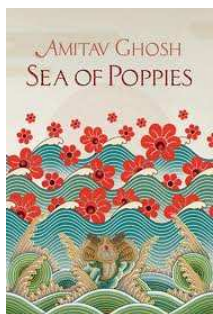
Tuesday, February 14 ♦ 12 noon

SLAK welcomes Amber Brooke as she sings nostalgic and romantic songs from the 50's.

Menu: Herb crusted pork loin, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, and cherry crisp

Lunch is served at noon. The program follows.

Please sign up online or contact the church office by noon on Monday, February 13.



BOOK CLUB

February 3 ♦ 7:30 pm
hosted by Barbara Cooper
4469 Parkspring Terrace, Norcross, GA
770-248-9792

The Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh

A tale of the nineteenth-century opium trade that is witty and provocative while presenting a magnificent historical adventure. A former slave ship, The Ibis, brings together a motley crew of sailors and stowaways, coolies and convicts who embark on a voyage across the Indian Ocean, without benefit of a common language, from the poppy fields on the banks of the River Ganges to the Mauritius Islands and finally to the backstreets of Canton, China. The motley crew on board the Ibis begin to view themselves as ship-brothers who will build new lives for themselves in the remote islands where they are being taken.



VBS 2012

June 4 - 8

Online registration begins the week of February 6.

In an effort to maximize the impact for those attending, we are limiting the enrollment to **180** children. The cost is **\$30 per child** with a family maximum of **\$75**. For those who volunteer for the **whole** week, the cost for your children will be **\$25 per child** with a family maximum of **\$45**.

Dare to Go Deep with God!



news from **The Kingswood School**

Fabulous February is here! With an extra day this year we will "leap" into a month filled with special activities to warm the heart. Some of the "love-ly" events scheduled are a *Parents, Can We Talk?* session, a visit from a dentist, Valentine Parties and an Around the World Trip.

Parents, Can We Talk? will resume on February 7 and 8 to discuss "Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten". Parents of rising Kindergarteners are encouraged to attend to gather information on this important topic.

Dr. Jamison, a local dentist, will visit The Kingswood School on Friday, February 10, to demonstrate the importance of dental hygiene and making regular visits to the dentist.

The highlight of the month will be the exchanging of Valentine's Day cards. Themes of kindness and friendship are emphasized for this special day of love.

Around the World is an annual event for the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. On February 24, each of these classes will "travel" to Ireland, Egypt, China, Germany and to the USA with a special emphasis on Georgia. Bon Voyage!

Please note that school will be closed on Friday, February 17, and Monday, February 20.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please keep in your prayers...

Roger Butler, Bob & Barbara Cooper, Clare Eanes, Betsy Daugherty, Dot Eskew, Will Fuller, Lee Ganaway, Chris Glaze, Joyce Hurst, Mildred Johnson, Fred & Reed Kramer, John Lanier, Bert Miles, Dick & Suzanne Miller, Bernice Reynolds, Rod Solomon, Charlotte Wells, Ray Zimmerman

Pray for those in military service...

All military, Chris Deupree, Todd Twiggs (Ellen Brinkley's nephew), Tommy Lewis (Elaine Lewis' son), James Bowen (grandson of Tom and Martha Bowen), Adam DuVall, and Jennifer Wynn

Send confidential Prayer requests to: pray@kingswoodumc.org

Christian Sympathy to...

Mildred and Brenda Johnson in the death of Mildred's sister, Carol Royal, on January 4, 2011.

Welcome New Members...2012 Confirmation Class...

Bridget Boyle	Mary Catherine Davis	Kate McCahan
Journey Bradham	Jessica Deyo	Lindsey Puckett
Macon Chiles	Joe Lundy	Claire Turner
Jackson Dalton	Margaret Lundy	Jennifer Wilson

Gift in honor of Tim Jeffrey...

Doris Lovell

Gift in memory of Stan Harshfield...

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Betsch

Gifts in memory of Joe Lovell...

Carolyn Brooks

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Butler

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Creedle

Gift in memory of Michael Payne...

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rice

Gifts in memory of Alice Zimmerman...

Stevie Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. James Hoke	James Perry & Julie Harrold
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Breffle	William Hoke	Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Segoe
Ruth Chafer	Sara Houdyshell	Dr. & Mrs. Rod Solomon
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Cline	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Jones	Marion Perry Walker
Mr. & Mrs. John Daniel	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jones	Bobbie Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Donaldson	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Mathis	The Highlands Club
Peg Harshfield	Patty Murphy	The Bill Landiss Class

SUNDAY MORNING

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Date	Worship	Sunday School
January 1	150	none
January 8	240	166
January 15	251	177
January 22	259	158
January 29	289	168

FREEDOM CAMPAIGN STATUS

Loan Balance on 12/31/2011:	\$1,967,669
Regular Amortization Payment:	\$17,271
Early Principal Payments This Month:	\$15,000
Early Principal Payments to Date:	\$272,500
Total Interest Savings to Date:	\$239,734
Loan Balance on 01/31/2012:	\$1,944,787

Contributions to the Freedom campaign this month have been sufficient to allow us to make an early payment of \$15,000 toward the principal on our loan in addition to the regular monthly payment. This early payment saves us approximately \$11,816 in interest expense over the life of the loan.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, February 25 ♦ 6:00 pm

A misfit ant, looking for "warriors" to save his colony from greedy grasshoppers, recruits a group of bugs that turn out to be an inept circus troupe.

The fun begins at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with cartoons. Bring dinner, blankets and beanbags and come hang out to watch this fun movie. We provide the free popcorn and drinks! For more information, visit the Family Ministries page at www.kingswoodumc.org/family_ministries.htm.

YOUTH MINISTRY



On January 29, we had 12 students confirm their faith on Confirmation Sunday. It was a time of great joy and celebration. I am very proud to say that I am a part of the lives of these young believers! Kingswood is greatly blessed to have such fine young members of our congregation.

The decisions they have made to follow Christ are not very popular in the culture where they spend most of their time, and they will have difficult roads to navigate as they grow and mature in their faith. I invite the congregation to keep these students and all of our other youth in your daily prayers and to be there to help support and guide them on their journeys.

Yours in Christ,

Dondra

Youth News:

Out of the Box provides new and out-of-the-ordinary ways to tell the Good News. Music, drama, movement and multi-media experiences allow middle and high-school students to be the creators. There are many ways to tell the story and exploring the possibilities is part of the fun. This group meets 6:30 - 7:20 pm on Wednesdays in room 226.

Super Bowl Party – February 5 – 6:00 PM until half-time: Join us in the Youth Café for food and fellowship as we enjoy the Super Bowl and of course all of those really great commercials!

Pancake Supper – February 12: This fundraiser puts the fun in fundraiser! We meet to cook pancakes for our congregation, but it's not all work. We have a pancake eating contest and other fun games for the whole family! A portion of the proceeds will go toward our Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event in April.

NO UMYF – February 19: Youth Fellowship will not meet due to the President's Day school holiday. Enjoy your family time!

Destination Unknown – February 26: We'll meet at the church at 5:00 pm and head out. For a clue to where we're going, read Luke 14:7-24. Dinner will be included. We need to know if you're coming so please register by February 21.

For more information about our youth events, please contact Dondra Davis (ddavis@kingswoodumc.org or 770-457-1317 ext: 22).

To register for events please go to our web page, www.kingswoodumc.org/youth.

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY

Our Community Life Ministry is thriving! We're serving adults and children from within the church, the Kingswood Preschool, and the community with our various programs. We've seen growth in all of our programs; basketball has exploded. This year we have 14 teams with 130 children participating in the program!

We continue to serve a large number of children and adults who haven't found a church home. Please come out and support our teams and introduce yourself to the people who are here enjoying our programs...maybe even invite them to church; you never know what an impact that will make. Basketball games are being held here every Friday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 pm until February 11 and every Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm through February 26.

If you want to keep up to date with what's going on in Sports & Fitness at Kingswood, join our mailing list. Go to www.kingswoodumc.org and click on the "Join a mailing list" button at the bottom of the page. Then just check the box next to Sports & Fitness and click on the "subscribe to the selected newsletters" button at the bottom of the page.

Activities for Kids

Karate: Instructors from Kai Ku Do will join us at Kingswood to teach your four-six year olds the art of karate. Classes will focus on discipline, concentration, honesty, respect, fairness and compassion through modeling and class conduct. Classes are Wednesdays, 1:15 - 2:00 pm. Cost is \$80 per month. There are no contracts; simply pay for the classes monthly as long as your child is interested.

Hawks Dream Team: Join us March 23, 2012 for this exciting event between the Atlanta Hawks and the New Jersey Nets when kids (ages 6-14) can join the fan tunnel to high-five the players as they enter the arena. Children need to be accompanied by a parent. Plan to be there by 6:00 pm if you're participating in the event. The game starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$28.00 and includes unlimited pop corn and soda. Purchase tickets online at www.kingswoodumc.org/sportsfitness. **Tickets must be purchased by February 22.**

Activities for Adults

Ballroom Dancing: Instructor Tom Bellamy continues this popular activity at Kingswood. This five-week session is held on Sundays, February 19 through March 18, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Kingswood gym. Call Tom Bellamy at 404-932-7640 for more details or to register. Registration fee is \$60 per person. The class is open to couples or singles.

Adult Yoga & Pilates: Join one or all of these ongoing classes. Yoga is held every Tuesday, and Pilates is held every Wednesday. The combined Yoga/Pilates class is held every Saturday. All classes are in the Fellowship Hall, 9:45 - 10:45 am. The cost is \$10 per class or \$75 for a 10-class discount punch card. No need to register; just show up for the class.

Operation Boot Camp: Whatever your goals, Operation Boot Camp will jump start your fitness progress with a 30-day specially designed fitness boot camp program. Their experienced team of instructors works with you every step of the way to help you achieve your goals and reach a whole new level of health. The group meets at Brook Run Park weekday mornings at 6:00 am. For more information and to register, go to www.operationbootcamp.com. Discounts will be offered to Kingswood members and Preschool parents.

Singles Volleyball: Join us each Monday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 pm for these FREE singles volleyball games. No reservation is required, just show up and play. Please see our web page for game schedule.

Check out the Sports and Fitness web page for more activities!

For more information and registration, please visit our web site, www.kingswoodumc.org/sportsfitness, or contact Kent Burel at sportsdir@kingswoodumc.org or 770-457-1317 x25. Unless otherwise indicated, please make checks payable to Kingswood UMC.

February Birthdays



FEBRUARY 1	Ray Zimmerman Jr.	FEBRUARY 14	Aiden Doherty Isabelle Doherty
FEBRUARY 2	Matthew Barlow Sam Barlow Carol Hawkins Mark Kaminski	FEBRUARY 15	Georgia Miles Del Nash
FEBRUARY 4	Mark Botsch Bob Eanes Lauren Trout	FEBRUARY 16	Nona McCoy
FEBRUARY 5	Mark Botsch Bob Eanes Lauren Trout	FEBRUARY 18	Pat Seimetz
FEBRUARY 6	Madeline Facticeau Ben Reilly	FEBRUARY 19	Greg Hewell Marcelle Lewis Colin Mach
FEBRUARY 7	Peg Harshfield Chris Scheele Nathan Summa	FEBRUARY 20	Benjamin Barlow Katherine Facticeau Roberta Green Cheryl Nick
FEBRUARY 9	Gordon Bracey Vera Deese	FEBRUARY 21	Hannah Kim Ann Norton Kyle Paris Chris Webb
FEBRUARY 10	Suzanne Miller Celeste Webb	FEBRUARY 22	Jane Mobley
FEBRUARY 11	Allison Bartliff Norman Petty	FEBRUARY 24	Karen Grout
FEBRUARY 12	Erik Deupree Kristen Holladay	FEBRUARY 25	Jenny Breffle Sarah Breffle Sue Dale
FEBRUARY 13	Joshua Brown Barney Epps Jesse Webb	FEBRUARY 27	Kathleen Friedlein
	Ginny Adams Cameron Curry Shirley Frantz	FEBRUARY 28	Wendy Puckett Will Todd
			Fred Kramer

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 8:00-MFP-Kitchen 9:00-La Leche-209 9:45-Pilates-FH 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 5:00-KidChimes-140 5:30-WNS-GYM 6:30-JWC-141 6:30-FPU-208 6:30-Out of the Box-226 6:30-Wed. Program-212 6:30-Handbells-134 7:30-Chancel Choir-134	2 9:15-Open Hearts Prayer Group-141 1:15-Tennis-GYM 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-YFK-210 4:30-YFK-210 5:30-Basketball-GYM	3 5:30-Basketball-GYM	4 9:00-Basketball-GYM 9:45-Yoga/Pilates-FH 7:00-AA-211	
5 8:45 & 11:00-Worship 9:45-Sunday School 12:00-Finance-CR 5:00-UMYF-Café,312 4:30-DBS-210 7:00-Ballroom Dancing-GYM	6 10:00-Cong. Care-209 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 1:15-PreBallet-208 5:30-Basketball-GYM 6:30-GSA 26425-Café 7:00-CSA 477-Variou 7:30-MBS-Camarda Home 7:30-SV-GYM	7 9:00-CFLT-Kitchen 9:45-Yoga-FH 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-Tap/Ballet-226 4:00-WSG-219 4:30-Tennis-GYM 5:30-Basketball-GYM 5:30-Creative Kids-134 7:30-BSA 477-SH 8:00-AA-211	8 9:45-Pilates-FH 10:00-Sew & So Forth-304 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 2:00-Library Committee-Library 5:00-KidChimes-140 5:30-WNS-GYM 6:30-JWC-141 6:30-FPU-208 6:30-Out of the Box-226 6:30-Wed. Program-212 6:30-Handbells-134 7:30-Chancel Choir-134	9 9:15-Open Hearts Prayer Group-141 1:15-Tennis-GYM 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-YFK-210 4:30-YFK-210 5:30-Basketball-GYM	10 5:30-Basketball-GYM	11 8:30-Children/Youth Leadership Training-208,209,210,212 9:00-Basketball-GYM 9:45-Yoga/Pilates-FH 7:00-AA-211	
12 8:45 & 11:00-Worship 9:45-Sunday School 12:00-Finance-CR 4:30-DBS-210 5:00-Pancake Supper-GYM 7:00-Ballroom Dancing-FH	13 10:00-Cong. Care-209 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 1:15-PreBallet-208 5:30-Basketball-GYM 7:30-MBS-Camarda Home 7:30-SV-GYM	14 9:45-Yoga-FH 12:00-SLAK-GYM, 212 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-Tap/Ballet-226 4:00-WSG-219 4:30-Tennis-GYM 5:30-Basketball-GYM 5:30-Creative Kids-134 7:30-BSA 477-SH 8:00-AA-211	15 9:45-Pilates-FH 10:00-La Leche-209 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 5:00-KidChimes-140 5:30-WNS-GYM 6:30-JWC-141 6:30-FPU-208 6:30-Out of the Box-226 6:30-Wed. Program-212 6:30-Handbells-134 7:30-Chancel Choir-134	16 9:15-Open Hearts Prayer Group-141 1:15-Tennis-GYM 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-YFK-210 4:30-YFK-210 5:30-Basketball-GYM	17 5:30-Basketball-GYM	18 9:00-Basketball-GYM 9:45-Yoga/Pilates-FH 7:00-AA-211	
19 8:45 & 11:00-Worship 9:45-Sunday School 12:00-Finance-CR 4:00-DBS-210 5:00-UMYF-Café,312 7:00-Ballroom Dancing-GYM	20 8:30-BBall Camp-GYM 10:00-Cong. Care-209 5:30-Basketball-GYM 7:30-MBS-Camarda Home 7:30-SV-GYM	21 9:45-Yoga-FH 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-Tap/Ballet-226 4:00-WSG-219 4:30-Tennis-GYM 5:30-Basketball-GYM 5:30-Creative Kids-134 7:30-BSA 477-SH 8:00-AA-211	22  ASH WEDNESDAY 9:45-Pilates-FH 10:00-La Leche-209 1:15-Creative Kids-134 5:00-KidChimes-140 5:30-WNS-GYM 6:30-Ash Wednesday Service	23 9:15-Open Hearts Prayer Group-141 1:15-Tennis-GYM 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-YFK-210 4:30-YFK-210 5:30-Basketball-GYM	24 CROSSTALK DEADLINE 5:30-Basketball-GYM	25 9:00-Basketball-GYM 9:45-Yoga/Pilates-FH 6:00-Family Movie Night-FH 7:00-AA-211	
26 8:45 & 11:00-Worship 9:45-Sunday School 12:00-Finance-CR 2:30-Leading Effective Meetings Workshop-212 3:00-CSA 477 Pack Meeting-Sanctuary,FH 4:00-DBS-210 5:00-Trustees-209 5:00-UMYF-Destination Unknown 7:00-Ballroom Dancing-GYM	27 10:00-Cong. Care-209 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 1:15-PreBallet-208 5:30-Basketball-GYM 7:30-MBS-Camarda Home 7:30-SV-GYM	28 9:45-Yoga-FH 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Karate-208 1:15-Tap/Ballet-226 4:00-WSG-219 4:30-Tennis-GYM 5:30-Basketball-GYM 5:30-Creative Kids-134 7:30-BSA 477-SH 8:00-AA-211	29 9:45-Pilates-FH 1:15-Creative Kids-134 1:15-Kids Fit Fest-GYM 5:00-KidChimes-140 5:30-WNS-GYM 6:30-JWC-141 6:30-FPU-208 6:30-Out of the Box-226 6:30-Wed. Program-212 6:30-Handbells-134 7:30-Chancel Choir-134	PRAYER SCRIPTURE FOCUS MATTHEW 5:1-12			BSA / CSA = Boy / Cub Scouts Troop 477 CFLT = Cooking for the Lord's Table DBS = Disciple Bible Study FPU = Financial Peace University JWC = John Wesley Choir MBS = Men's Bible Study MPF = Missions Food Prep SV = Singles Volleyball TKS = The Kingswood School WNS = Wednesday Night Supper WSG = Women's Small Group YFK/YFY = Yoga for Kids/Youth



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“A personal church in an impersonal world”

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