



Thought for the Month

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

-Augustine



Welcome Visitors...The *Road*UMC is the place to be!

The mission of The Road UMC is to become a community of believers committed to helping all people to personally know Jesus Christ by delivering a biblically based teaching and preaching of the gospel to those saved and seeking Christ and thereby developing disciples, families and communities through the power of the Holy Spirit. If you are new to our community and looking for a church home or desire to explore your spirituality, please consider us.

At The ROAD, we are engaged in the L4 experience:

Loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and loving neighbor as thyself.

Living a life that is Christ-centered and biblically oriented.

Learning to be a disciple of Jesus Christ as we live counter to the culture following wholeheartedly after God in a broken world.

Leading others to experience God; being light in darkness and salt in a decaying environment.

If you would like to enter into fellowship with *The ROAD UMC*...

- Come during the Invitation to Discipleship
- See our pastor or a member after church
- Call the church office and schedule an appointment to speak with the pastor
- Email us at stmarysrd@theroadumc.org
- See one of our ushers after the worship service

This is the working church!
The lazy church is down the street!



James R. King, Jr., Resident Bishop Rev. Dr. Buddy Cooper, D.S.
Cynthia Williams, Lay Leader Willie Belfield, Associate Lay Leader

The SMRUMC Staff

Shea Ellis, Receptionist
Jacqueline McCall, Administrative Assistant
Jacquelyn Ekins, Director of Music
Debra Alexander, Youth Musician
stmarysrd@theroadumc.org
F/B: The ROAD UMC

Pastor's Information

Email: PastorK@theroadumc.org
Telephone Number: (706) 221-7643

**ST. MARY'S ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

“A Christ-centered church,
where we are,
loving, living, learning and leading in the kingdom of God”

3993 St. Mary's Road
Columbus, Georgia 31907
Office: (706) 689-8707 Fax: (706) 687-6944
www.TheRoadUMC.org

Sunday, December 20, 2015 / 10:00 a.m.

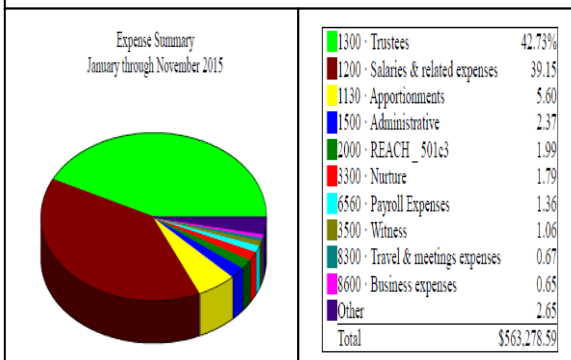
Rev. Dr. L.K. Pendleton, Pastor



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9

- December 2015 -						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Trustees on Call for December West Dryden (706) 888-0381 James Jones (706) 332-9698		1 Christmas Choir Rehearsals @ 6:00 p.m.	2 Noon Day Bible Study @ 12:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsals @ 6:00 p.m. Prayer Ministry @ 6:15 p.m.	3 Zumba @ 5:30 p.m. Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Boy Scout Mtg. @ 10:00 a.m. Open Door Golden Agers Luncheon @ 11:00 a.m.-3:00
6 Health screenings Children's Church @ 10:00 a.m.	7 Trustees Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m. Worship Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.	8 Outreach Mtg. @ 6:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsals @ 6:00 p.m.	9 Noon Day Bible Study @ 12:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsals @ 6:00 p.m. Prayer Ministry @ 6:15 p.m.	10 Zumba @ 5:30 p.m. Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsals @ 6:00 p.m.	11 Food Box Deadline	12 UMM Mtg. @ 8:30 a.m.
13 Christmas Cantata @ 6:00 p.m. Ushers Meeting after worship service	14 Married Couples & R.O.C.K. Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Activities Same as December 2 nd (No Christmas Rehearsals)	17 Zumba @ 5:30 p.m. Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. Food Box Pick Up	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 Boy Scout Mtg. @ 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Celebration @ 11:00-2:00
20 Health screenings Children's Christmas Program @ 8:30 a.m.	21	22	23 Noon Day Bible Study CANCELLED Prayer Ministry @ 6:15 p.m.	24 Admin Office Closed for Christmas Observance	25 Admin Office Closed for Christmas Observance	26
27	28	29	30 Noon Day Bible Study CANCELLED	31 Admin Office Closed for New Years Observance		
<p>NOTE: The Church office will be closed Friday, January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day Observance.</p>						



MORTGAGE PLEDGES	Amount
5 Year Goal	\$1,000,000.00
1 Year Goal	\$200,000.00
Pledged	\$483,570.00
Contributed	\$83,161.50
Total Pymts.	\$52,000.00

Our Time of Worship

4th Sunday of Advent
Liturgist
Color: Purple or Blue
Helen Gibson

THE GATHERING
(Time of Prayer and Meditation)

Lighting of the Candles
Acolytes

*Call to Worship
Leader: We come to worship today to hear your good news,
People: To hear of faith, hope and love ringing out from your kingdom.
Leader: We know that doubt, fear and hatred can shake even the strongest.
People: Shape us into faithful, hopeful people - fill us with your love that passes all understanding.
All: We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

*Song of Praise "Every Praise is to Our God" Choir/Congregation
Morning Prayer Unison
God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.

Response "I Just Want to Praise You" Congregation
Lighting of the Advent Candle Kristian Gordon/Austin Taylor
The Ministry of Music "Have You Heard About the Baby" Unity Choir
The Message Pastor K
Invitation to Discipleship
The Presentation of Tithes, Commitments & Offerings
Parish Notices/Welcome & Recognition of Visitors Yvonne Hart
Benediction

LISTENING TO THE SERMON

Listen to the message from God's Word and use this sheet to write down your personal notes. Reflect over them during the week and let God's truths take root in your heart and produce fruit in your life.

"Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only." James 1:22

A Message from Pastor K

It is with deep joy and gratitude that I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas.
Christmas is about peace, hope, love and joy! In this season of Advent, as we move toward the miracle of Christmas, let's proclaim our faith in the God who is our hope of salvation who has come to give us new life! May our Lord Jesus Christ born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace.

Your Sister on the way,

A Message from the Finance Ministry

Dear Congregation: We would like to thank you for reinforcing your commitment to our church through your tithing, sacrificial offering and pledges. To date, we have raised \$32,467.00. There remains a balance of \$14,403.00. With your continued assistance, we will resolve this assessment by the end of December. We encourage you to continue worshiping God through faithfully giving your:

- Tithes, Offering, Gifts
- Support our mortgage pledge
- Paying \$225.00 assessment towards the apportionment.

We are grateful for all that you do!
Your Finance Ministry

The Faith of Finance

Three theological principles that direct our path around finance.

ONE: WE ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST
A TITHING COMMUNITY. *Deuteronomy 14:22-23, NRSV*
TWO: WE WORSHIP A LIVING LORD WHO DEFINES
VALUE AND ETHICS, NOT MONEY. *1 Timothy 6:6-10, NRSV*
THREE: WE DO NOT OPERATE LIKE A BUSINESS,
BUT AS THE COUNTER-CULTURAL
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST. *Mark 4:18-20, NRSV*

Poinsettias are given in Honor/Memory of:

In Memory of:

Ms. Margie Butler - By: Mrs. Bennie Newroth
Ms. Shelia Smith - By: Mrs. Sandra Snell
Mrs. Harvey Justice, Mr. Mack Jackson & Mr. Robert Justice
By: Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. James Jackson
Ret. CSM John McGowan, Grandfather & Mr. Bennie Parker, Grandfather
By: John McGowan-Parker
Ms. Susie Simmons & Mr. Paul Simmons
By: Mr. & Mrs. David Simmons
Mrs. Ida M. Bell - By: Ms. Virginia Bell
Our Mothers - By: Mr. & Mrs. Willie Wells
Mrs. Mary Rose Powell & Mrs. Alean Winder
By: Mr. & Mrs. William Winder
Mr. Lewis & Mrs. Katherine Banks, Mr. Willie & Mrs. Geneva Greene
By: Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burton Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Hutman Upshaw Sr.
By: Mr. & Mrs. Hutman Upshaw Jr.
Mrs. Evelyn Griggs & Mrs. Leslie B. Jones
By: Ms. Emma Griggs & Dr. Phillis Jones

In Honor of:

All Children
Dr. Georgina Asante | Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Dudley
Dr. & Mrs. Sylvester McRae

St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church
extends to you a blessed Christmas!!

News in the Pews

Note: Worshippers use the time before morning service to pray. Therefore, limit your talking during this time.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: If you are a part of any of the following ministry teams, today is your last opportunity to take your picture following our worship service; *Education Team, Lay Leaders, M.I.T., Membership, SPRC, Married Couples, Children and Nursery Teams*. And, any other groups that did not take your picture. Thank you!

60 Acts of Kindness: As part of your Acts of Kindness, consider giving an hour a month to our Food Pantry. We need you! Contact Janice Ramsey at (706) 326-2269 or Sheila Woodbury at (706) 536-8508 today!

Watchnight Service: We will celebrate Watchnight, December 31, 2015 at 10:00 p.m. Prepare to join us for breakfast following the worship service.

Men's Bible Study: A bible study for men will begin Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Join with brothers who desire to live a Christian lifestyle and advance in the knowledge of God's word. Please protect this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Church Retreat: Protect Saturday, January 23, 2015. More to Come.

Ads and Patrons Deadline for Church Anniversary is fast approaching! Please remember to ask your friends and family for an ad or patron to include in our 60th Anniversary booklet. The deadline is February 1, 2016. The deadline to pay for your Anniversary Church Directory is January 31, 2016.

Remember to silence cell phones and technology devices during our morning worship. Thank you!



Like us on Facebook at The Road UMC!
Visit our Website @ www.theroadumc.org

Lectionary Readings, Week of December 20, 2015

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45



Prayer Warrior On-Call for the Month of December

Patricia Willis (706) 573-6113

Prayer Concerns

Mary Russell 1207 Rowell Street, Columbus, GA (07) (706) 687-0986
Jerry Thomas 29 Holt Court, Dothan, AL 36301 (334) 405-0200
Emily Walker 6830 River Road, Rm #216, Columbus, GA (04) (706) 569-0760

Christ in our Homes, Christ in our Church,
Christ in our Community, Christ in Us!

Call the church office to notify the staff of any known Prayer Request or, you may enter your Prayer Request on our website, www.theroadumc.org.