

## *WHERE GOD AIN'T!*

*He was just a little lad,  
and on the week's first day,  
He was wandering home from Sunday School,  
and dawdling on the way.*

*He scuffed his shoes into the grass;  
He found a caterpillar;*

*He found a fluffy milkweed pod,  
and blew out all the "filler".*

*A bird's nest in a tree o'er head  
so wisely placed on high,  
was just another wonder  
that caught his eager eye.*

*A neighbor watched his zigzag course,  
and hailed him from the lawn;*

*Asked him where he'd been that day,  
and what was going on.*

*"I've been to Bible school," he said, and  
turned a piece of sod.*

*He picked up a wiggly worm and said,  
"I've learned a lot of God."*

*"Mm, a very fine way," the neighbor said,  
for a boy to spend his time, If you tell me where God is,  
I'll give you a brand new dime."*

*Quick as a flash his answer came! Nor were his accents faint.*

*"I'll give you a dollar, Mister  
If you'll tell me where God ain't!*

*March 2017*

# Tidings

Quarterly Newsletter of  
**Clarkston United  
Methodist Church**

*Volume 8*

## ***Our Forty Day Journey of Preparation***



*Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God." **Matthew 4:1-1.***

*A New Year, month and forty day Lenten journey are upon us. God continues to prepare us for what is to come and gives us the tools to protect us. Will we trust the word of God and fight temptations head on with the Word? Temptations will come, those difficult times of intense spiritual struggles, unpredictable and harsh places. Sometimes we feel all alone and must totally rely on. God for survival. Be prepared for this new journey. Remember, the words of Jesus and also those of Moses and Elijah who prayed and fasted for forty days. Let us deny ourselves and fully follow the will and footsteps of Jesus Christ. Stand fully armed! God is always present!*

### ***Prayer of Presence***

*Loving God, remind me often today where I find my identity. May I never forget that I am your beloved child. May I listen for and hear your faintest whisper, feel your slightest touch, respond quickly to your call, yield to your word of correction, rejoice in your companionship, and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Thank you for hearing my prayers and accepting my life. I offer them to you as completely as I can. In the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. **Amen!***

*Devotional: 40 Days with Wesley by Rueben P. Job. 43.*



Once again, the Georgia Federal Credit Union has donated food for our food pantry. A big thank you to the Credit Union for their continued support in helping feed the hungry!



*Pictured are Linda Parrett, Debbie Taylor, Branch Manager, Michel Bimbe, Fred Morris, Wendell Carter and other Credit Union staff.*



*Pictured with Debbie Taylor is Wendell Carter and Fred Morris. Thanks Fred, Wendell, Pastor, Linda and Michel for picking up the food for the pantry!*



*Atlanta Emory District United Methodist Women held its annual Leadership Training event February 11, 2017 here at Clarkston. The event served as the kick off for the year- long focus on refugees. The keynote speaker was David Nelson from World Relief's Atlanta office. The Atlanta office is a refugee resettlement office that helps local churches serve refugees who are forced to flee their countries to escape persecution. After Mr. Nelson spoke, UMW broke out into Leadership Training sessions, where they shared event ideas, etc. Thanks to the Clarkston UMW for hosting the event.*



*Pastor Lyons welcomes the Atlanta Emory District UMW*



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*In the past few weeks, the church has received many notes from worship centers, thanking us for working with Refugees. These notes are a results of the Immigration Ban that was put in law. One if the notes came from Rev. Julie Dowler (former student youth pastor), who is pastor at the Wesley Center on the University of Illinois Campus in Urhana, Illinois. Please see the display in the narthex.*

## **SPOTLIGHT ON CLERGY!**



*Rev. Dr. Patricia Williams, M.Div., is native of Atlanta, GA, where she received her early education. She completed Business College and undergraduate work at Beulah Heights University. She is also a graduate of Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) with a Master of Divinity Degree with concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and Urban Ministry. Rev. Williams received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Ministry from the American Bible University, April 2015.*

*Rev. Williams is a preacher's kid on her maternal side. She comes from a line of ministers in the Church of God. She worked with her Mom at Welcome Traveler's Church of God where she obtained ordinations for the position of Visiting Missinary, Evangelist, Minister of Music, Choir Director, and ultimately Associate Pastor.*

*She later joined Cascade UMC, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Walter Kimbrough and entered the United Methodist minister's process. Upon completion of degree requirements from ITC, she entered and completed the Chaplain Residency Program at Emory University. She was appointed Pastor at Wesley Chapel UMC, Newnan, GA. then to Union Chapel UMC LaGrange Ga. She retired in June 2014 and is now assisting Pastor Lyons. She has two sons and six grandchildren.*

*Steve & Linda Parrett's daughter, Marnie was married to John McFarland January 2017 at Peachtree Road UMC. The Clarkston Family always show up to support each other!*



*Pictured with Pastor Lyons is Frances, Beth, Grace, Bob, Clara, Betty, Shirley, Ben & Princess*

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*We welcome back Wendell Carter, our beloved custodian. Wendell was told "Ain't nobody got time for this!!" To assist with the custodian duties we hired a part timer, Michel Bimbe. Michel is from the Congo and you will see him working here with Wendell.*



*Michel Bimbe*

