

Christmas Lunch Buddy Delivers 252 Meals

February 17-19

Join Your Tucker Family on the Annual Family Camping Trip

Enjoy some quality family time with your family and the Tucker First family at Cloudland Canyon, February 17-19. Located on the western edge of Lookout Mountain, this is one of the most scenic parks in the state of Georgia.

Accommodation Options

Three bedroom cottage
 Sleeps ten (one available)
 \$290 for the weekend

Two bedroom cottage
 Sleeps eight (five available)
 \$270 for the weekend

Lodge
 Sleeps forty
 \$20 per person for the weekend

Five meals
 \$15 per person for the weekend

Saturday
 breakfast, lunch and dinner
Sunday
 breakfast and lunch

Please contact Mimi Sanders at mimi_sanders@tfumc.org to reserve your spot.

Cottages must be reserved by January 27.

The spirit of generous giving abounded in support of the Children First Lunch Buddy program. For the fourth year, volunteers delivered 252 lunches during the eleven weekdays of Christmas holidays, December 19–January 2, to over twenty children living at Northlake Inn. Deliveries on Mondays also included bags of breakfast items, fresh fruit, snacks, and milk for each child.

A special thank you to the volunteers who gave their time during the holidays to deliver the lunches and breakfast items:

- Andy and Delores Anderson**
- Lisa Carlisle**
- Joy Egge**
- Liz and Claude Grizzard**
- Laura Leathers**
- Sandy McClanahan**
- Bob Rogers**
- Tina Sjogren**



Three brothers enjoy their Burger King meal.

To celebrate the last day of vacation on January 2, volunteers cooked a pancake lunch served with bacon, sausage and juice for children of all ages.

Thanks to **Sandra Knighton, Bob Rogers, Ron Suddeth, and Jane Westbrook** for sharing their time and preparing the meal. "These pancakes are my favorite," said two girls with their plates piled high.

The Children First Committee is grateful for the generous financial support from over thirty-five donors who contributed to continue this ministry in 2012. In 2011, donations covered breakfast items, fresh fruit, milk, and ready-to-eat lunch during fourteen weeks of school holidays for an average of twenty children living at Northlake Inn on Northlake Parkway. Additional funds allowed us to provide weekend snack sacks to these children for all other non-holiday weekends during 2011, a pancake lunch and snack bags during Thanksgiving week, school book bags, a picnic and transportation to July 4 fireworks in Norcross, and monthly boxes from Angel Food Ministry for two local families formerly living at Northlake Inn.

In addition to lunches, generous donations were used to purchase a Target gift card for each of the children at Northlake Inn for Christmas. "I was able to buy some winter clothes for my son with the gift card," beamed a grateful parent.

Members of Tucker First are indeed changing lives by offering themselves in service and resources. Volunteers will be needed for spring break Lunch Buddy in April. Look for details in upcoming church communications.

Support Local Business That Sponsor Lunch Buddy

"My husband and I have been blessed and we want to honor God by giving back to our neighbors in the community. Helping with lunches for the kids is a small way to do that and it makes us feel happy."

Meenu Sharma, Owner of Quizno's Subs at Cofer Crossing, is a faithful supporter of Lunch Buddy.

Six local restaurants donated lunches or provided them at a discount. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of Lunch Buddy:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Burger King | Longhorn | Panera Bread Company |
| Quizno's Subs | Los Hermanos | Little Caesars Pizza |
| | Publix - gift card donation | |



Laura Leathers and Joy Egge pick up hamburger lunches and juice donated by Burger King to drop off at Northlake Inn.



The Rev. Jimmy Moor

A Fresh Start

I ran across this offering from Dr. Seuss recently:

“How did it get so late so soon?
It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June.
My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?”

Or as my Daddy used to say, "tempus fugits." It seems like it was just summer. But here we are at the start of a brand new year, with all of the mystery, hope, and maybe anxiety that it holds.

What to do with this new year? There is a certain cynicism toward New Years' resolutions in our culture. I see it even in the comics. And we all know someone – maybe us – who has started off a new year with good intentions, only to discover the exercise equipment gathering dust by the first of February, if not sooner. Still there is merit in taking stock of our lives at the first of the year, and it is energizing to think about what our God might do through us. Here are a few things on my heart as I look forward to 2012.

- I want to speak less and listen more, with other people and especially with God;
- I intend to grow in my roles of husband, father, and grandfather;
- I'd like to be part of helping us here at Tucker First to deepen our walk with God;
- I intend for my actions to be more in line with my words and beliefs;
- I want to keep being blessed by music and baseball and good books;
- I WILL become more technologically proficient;
- I intend to help us do a better job of record keeping at the church;
- Maybe this will be the year I finally fulfill my several year old resolution to become more fluent in Spanish. And I would love to get back to Honduras.

I could go on, but you get the picture. We'll see this time next year how I have done. What about you? Where is the Spirit nudging you to grow in the coming year? I am eager to see. *Blessings.*

Tucker First Missions

Salvation Army Ringers By the Numbers



30

Number of Tucker First volunteers who rang the bell in December for the Salvation Army at Northlake Mall.

2

Hours in an average shift in all kinds of weather including a very cold and rainy Tuesday before Christmas.

60

Total number of volunteer hours donated. Tucker First was complimented as one of the most reliable groups of Salvation Army volunteers at Northlake.

The following people volunteered to be bell ringers for the Salvation Army in December. Please thank them for their dedication when you see them in the hallways of Tucker First.

- Don Andersen
- Dick Baker
- David Cooke
- Pat Brady
- Susan Brosche
- Becky Burns
- Andrew Carlton
- Lisa Carlisle
- David Cooke
- Bob Daffer
- Entrekin Family

- Bill Harshman
- Hawthorne Family
- Alice Fink
- Ron and Donna Frankiewicz
- Ken Futch
- Bob and Stella Garrett
- Bill Harshman
- John Lanier
- Tom Lawrence
- David Majchrzak
- Dave Morgan

- Ron Nipp
- Paul Pansini
- Marilyn Parsonson
- Ward and Shirley Pollard
- Rosemary Rose
- Corrie Thomas
- Edgar Torbert
- Tucker First Brass Ensemble
- Ty Tyler
- Dianne Wood

This year I resolve...

New Year Resolutions From the Tucker First Staff

Owen Skinner
Associate Pastor

1. Find passionate youth leaders.
2. Make worshipping God as accessible as possible.
3. Love the hell out of people.
4. Read the entire Bible in a year.
5. Pray openly and often every day.
6. ...and lose fifteen pounds by training for my first triathlon!

Mimi Sanders
Director of Children and Family Ministry

Increase my prayer time - I want to pray for every child involved in our church, by name.

Tom Moore
Director of Music and Arts Ministry

My New Year's resolution is to involve new people in the community through the Music and Arts Ministry.

We Are the Hands and Feet of Jesus Tucker First Volunteer Bulletin Board

Spaghetti Noodles and Sauce Needed for NET Food Pantry

The NET Food Pantry assists people in the Northlake-Embry Hills-Tucker (NET) area with emergency food needs. Tucker First is responsible for stocking the pantry with spaghetti noodles and sauce. There has been such a demand at the food pantry that the shelves have been depleted and need restocking. Donations may be brought to the church office.

Here is a tip – each time you go to the store, buy an extra box of noodles or an extra jar of sauce. Store them in a carton at your house. When the box is full, drop the donation in the church office. Get your kids involved, have them decorate the box and make it their responsibility to remind you to fill it.

NETWorks Requests Ready-to-Eat Foods

NETWorks is a cooperative ministry that ministers to those in need who live in the Northlake-Embry Hills-Tucker (NET) area. The organization is located in the new Tucker Community Center at Tucker First Baptist at 2380 Fourth Street (across from our Wesley Center building). NETWorks provides assistance in the form of rent and utilities. In addition, they also provide food for those who may be homeless, living in cars or motels, and do not have access to regular kitchen facilities.

The following food items are requested:

- Pop-top, canned goods (nothing that requires a can-opener) and individual serving microwave containers of foods such as soups, noodle cups, mac & cheese, spaghetti/meatballs, tuna, vienna sausage.
- Fruit cups, jello cups, pudding cups that do not require refrigeration.
- Individually wrapped snack crackers, granola bars, trail mix packs.

Back for a Second Year!

“This Little Light of Mine” Choir Returning to Tucker First

On Sunday, February 19, during a special combined 11 am service, Tucker First will be blessed with a return engagement of the “This Little Light of Mine Choir” from Briarlake Baptist Church. If you have never seen this choir lead worship, you are in for a special blessing. The choir consists of special needs people from various group homes in our community. They are assisted by their parents, siblings and the Eastminster Presbyterian High School choir who help the choir members.



The choir leads the entire worship service by reading, singing, and signing the beatitudes. Under the direction and instruction of Linda Weaver, this choir lets their “little light shine” wherever they go. You will be blessed by this special service.

The “This Little Light of Mine Choir” is an outreach of Briarlake Baptist Church and their People with Special Needs Sunday School class. The class began in 1971 and over the years, the class has continued to grow and now includes twelve group homes as well as students from private homes. On any given Sunday, they can have as many as forty people in two classes.

Tucker Prays For

- ♥ The people we serve at the Trinity Soup Kitchen
- ♥ Our Beth Moore Bible study participants
- ♥ Our new church leaders

Tucker First Security

A Trustees Update

Given that the primary security issue at Tucker First continues to be that doors are often left unlocked after meetings and other activities, the Church Council has asked the Trustees to investigate and come up with a recommendation for the installation of a new automated door locking system. This system will be able to unlock and relock entrance doors on a predetermined schedule that accommodates worship, meetings and other activities. Look for more details in the coming weeks as progress on this project evolves.

If you have questions, you may contact **Butch Nall** at NALLASSOC@aol.com or **John Mitchell** at jgmitchell@comcast.net.

Trinity Table By the Numbers

800
slices each of bologna and cheese
20
pounds of honey
36
pounds of peanut butter
15
crates of bread with 10 loaves per crate/150 loaves/3,000 slices
10
bottles of squeeze margarine
12
boxes of saltines
80
gallons of soup
50+
volunteers who made sandwiches on Saturday
25
volunteers who served at Trinity Table on Sunday
230
number of people served at Trinity Table on Sunday

Priceless
serving at Trinity Table

Thank You!

A Special Thank You to Our Christmas at Tucker Volunteers



First, I want to offer my highest praise to God for the many ways that lives were impacted through *Christmas at Tucker*. Again this year, God's presence and hand has guided, shaped, and molded this project into a beautiful gift that was lovingly presented to the Tucker community twice on December 18. And, I look forward to seeing how God will continue to use this project to bless our church and this community in the weeks and months ahead.

Secondly, I want to express my gratitude for the many leaders, workers, volunteers, supporters, and prayer warriors, who captured the vision and who gave unconditionally to make a difference in the Tucker community through *Christmas at Tucker*. Perhaps the greatest blessing for me personally is to see this large team of talented believers coming together for a common goal. And on a few occasions when things didn't go as well as hoped, many folks stepped up to the plate and rallied to see what they could do make it better! This touched my heart greatly to see this kind of commitment. Another personal blessing for me was to see new faces from the community becoming involved in what we are doing through *Christmas at Tucker*. Like the prayer of Jabez, "we are enlarging our territory," which is a great thing to do.

Lastly, let me encourage all of us to look over the long list of those folks who had a part in *Christmas at Tucker* and find a way to express our appreciation for their significant efforts. And as a church, let's continue to find ways to "fish in deep water," "enlarge our territory," and reach out into this community with the message of God's love. **Tom Moore**, Director of Music and Arts, Tucker First UMC

Co-Directors: Dawn Hines, Beth Odom

Playwright: Dawn Hines

Project Coordinator: Laurie Golding

Stage Manager: Raye Varney

Stage Crew: Becky Burnett

Technical Director: Christa Forrester

Lighting Design: Randy Davison, David Smallwood, Charlie Wasmer

Sound Design & Engineering: Ken Harris, Charlie Wasmer

Sound Operator: Charlie Wasmer

Set Design: Beth Odom

Set Dressing: Becky Burnett

Set Construction: Randy Davison, David Smallwood, Charlie Wasmer

Props: Becky Burnett, Leanne Cash Springsted

Orchestra: Tom Carlisle, Scott Golding



Banners: Susan Wasmer

Costume Seamstresses: Debbie May, Jo Anna Becker, Joye Cauthen, Lee Cooke, Gail Cook, Mary Jane Cooper, Becky Eisman, Kay Entekin, T.J. Jarrett, Sally Lambert, Joan McDonald, Julie Moore, Vivian Nicholson, Barbara Nipp, Amy Ownbey

Makeup Artists: Beth Odom, Rebekah Breck, Donna Harris, Gail Lawrence, Jessica McNamara, Kelly Skinner



Plus all the musicians, actors, bell ringers, choir members, and soloists who were named in the Christmas at Tucker program. We tried to list every name but may have missed someone. Please accept our apologies and let us know if we did. Email us at communications@tfumc.org.

Communications/Marketing: Katherine Griffith, Tom Carlisle, Lisa Kubler, Paul White

Logo/Graphic Design: David Urda

Printing/Folding: Sarah Cann, Jimmy Morris, Jane McCombs

Program: Katherine Obarowski, Evelyn Burkett, Paul White

Tickets: Lisa Carlisle, Joy Cauthen, Mary Jane Cooper, Joy Egge, Gail Pansini, Elaine Winkler

Community Outreach: Jo Anna Becker

Websites: Patrick Price, Evelyn Burkett

Videos: Clay Garland, Gary McClanahan

Photography: Evelyn Burkett, Lloyd Breck, Laurie Golding, Bill Hines, Selina Kilpatrick



Food: Mike and Mimi Sanders

Nursery: Mimi Sanders, Dorinda Beard, Emma Cooke, Jessica Dillard, Laura Hardy, Christy Perulero

Nanny: Marti Coleman

Parking Attendants: Scott Varney, Andrew Carlton, Dave Majchrzak, Ken Streater

Greeters: Billy McDaniel, Norman Burkett, Mike Duffee, Jane McCombs, Jeanne Ann McDaniel, Allen Orr, Bee Jay Paulk, Owen Skinner, Ron Wilkinson, Karen Wood

Ushers: Ron Nipp, Don Andersen, Bob Rogers, Tim Cauthen, Michael Jann, Trevor Jann, Walter Kelley, John Lanier, Charlie Lester, Mike McLeod, Carroll Nordan, Pat Shaver, Glen Shanholtzer, Stephanie Shanholtzer, Chuck Stevenson, David Urda

Sanctuary Care: Sandra Emrich, Frieda Alston, Evelyn Burkett, Lisa Carlisle, Jill Hanson, Carolyn Masters, Jane McCombs



Social Awareness in the Christian Context

How Many Victims of Gun Violence Are Too Many Victims



January 8 marks the one-year anniversary of the shooting in Tucson, Arizona that took the lives of six people and critically injured Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. United Methodist churches in the US were encouraged by the General Board of Church and Society to recognize the anniversary in prayerful remembrance. The question, "How many victims are too many," is one addressed by the Brady Campaign in a video presentation that tells us that 12,179 Americans have been killed by gun violence since last January 8. And, even one loved one lost is one too many.

Consider this hymn lamenting gun violence:

God of mercy, you have shown us ways of living that are good:
"Work for justice, treasure kindness, humbly journey with the Lord."
Yet your people here are grieving, hurt by weapons that destroy.
Help us turn to you, believing in your way that brings us joy.

On a street where neighbors gather, shots are heard; a young girl dies.
On a campus, students scatter as the violence claims more lives.
In a family filled with anger, tempers flare and shots resound.
God of love, we weep and wonder at the violence all around.

God, we pray for those who suffer when this world seems so unfair;
May your church be quick to offer loving comfort, gentle care.
And we pray: Amid the violence, may we speak your truth, O Lord!
Give us strength to break the silence, saying, "This can be no more!"

God, renew our faith and vision; make us those who boldly lead!
May we work for just decisions that bring true security.
Help us change this violent culture based on idols, built on fear.
Help us build a peaceful future with your world of people here.

January 8, 2012 National Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence Toolkit - Brady Campaign. For more on the campaign against gun violence, visit toomanyvictims.org.

Library News

Start the New Year with a Book from the Church Library

The Family and Children's Council has donated three parenting books by Scott Turansky and seven books from the *Learning About Sex* series. This series includes books written for ages three to adult. The books for younger children are in the children's library, and those for teenagers through adults are on the "Featured Books" shelf in the adult library.

The United Methodist Women reading program books are here! The following books are on top of the cupboard in the library:

Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus by Mike Slaughter

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced by Nujood Ali with Delphine Minoui

Wasabi Gospel: The Startling Message of Jesus by Shawn Wood

Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor by Reverend Susan Sparks

Beaded Hope by Cathy Liggett

Rediscovering Values: A Guide for Economic and Moral Recovery by Jim Wallis

We Wait You: Waiting on God in Eastern Europe by Taryn R. Hutchison

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking in America Today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter

Welcome to the World

Miles Wesley Price was born on December 20 to *Patrick and Anna Price*.

Welcome to the Family

Virginia Ann Snyder was baptized on January 8. Parents are *John and Josey Snyder*.

Sympathy is extended to

The family of *John T. Bradley* who died on November 30.

The family of *Ben Shelton* who died on December 28.

Thank You

The staff of Tucker First would like to express our thanks for all the cards, goodies, and Christmas wishes we received during the holidays. Some of us lost weight, some of us gained weight, and some did neither but we all enjoyed being remembered.

To *Neil Duggan* for building the beautiful poinsettia tree that adorned our Sanctuary in December.

Postal Rate Increase

Are you still getting this monthly church newsletter by mail? Postal rates are going up this month. Help the church by reducing our postage and printing costs by requesting your newsletter be sent to you by email. Contact us at info@fumc.org and we can remove you from the church newsletter mailing list and place you on the electronic mailing list.

Communications Help Wanted

The Communications Committee is in need of persons for the following tasks:

Be a guest columnist for Social Awareness in the Christian Context newsletter column.

Help create the slides for the Wednesday Night Supper in PowerPoint.

Help edit the Tucker First UMC website pages in the software, Ezekiel.

Help create emails within Constant Contact.

Be a reporter/writer on the happenings around the church.

Help submit events to the local news outlets.

We will train on any software listed. If you are interested, contact

communications@fumc.org.

First United Methodist Church
 5095 LaVista Road
 Tucker, GA 30084-3502
 (ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED)

January 2012 issue

The Rev. Jimmy Moor
 Senior Pastor
The Rev. Owen Skinner
 Associate Pastor

Church Office 770-938-3030

Church Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am–4:30 pm
 Closed for lunch: 12:00 pm–1:30 pm
 Closed on Friday

*The office will be closed on
 January 16, 2012.*

Got an idea, blurb or story for the next
 newsletter? Submit your info to
communications@tfumc.org.
 Newsletter deadline for the next issue is
Wednesday, February 1

Tucker First Missions

It is All Hands on at Trinity Table



*More than fifty people made
 sandwiches on Saturday morning.*



Twenty-five volunteers at Trinity Table on Sunday, January 8.

