

**2019 FLOWER CALENDAR:** If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, call the office or email Shantae at [shantae@douglasfirst.com](mailto:shantae@douglasfirst.com). Available dates are January 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ANGELS OF PRAISE** meet on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Robertson Hall. For more information please contact Loreli Rogers at 904-556-1136, Patti Vick at 706-455-0559 or Robin Clemmer.

**ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!** A Sewing/Prayer Shawl Ministry at DFUMC in The Refuge Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 p.m. There are six sewing machines set up in one room for the sewing ministry and sofas in the other room for the prayer shawl ministry. Please contact Vicki Pridemore (912-389-6322) or Jackie Greene (912-393-4429) if you are interested.

**CASSEROLE PATROL** – The Casserole Patrol was started from 40 Days of Community. We deliver casseroles to children cancer patients and their families and to members within DFUMC that are going through medical treatment. We need volunteers that would be willing to make a casserole or contribute monetary donations to help purchase supplies for those making casseroles and to make deliveries. For more information please contact Barbara Abercrombie at 384-2849 or Shantae at the church office.

**GIVEPLUS<sup>+</sup>** is an on-line giving app for those who would like to begin giving financially to Douglas First UMC. We invite you to download the app and put in 31533 (zip code) and Douglas First will come up. You will be required to put in your home address, debit/credit card information or checking account. Any questions contact Chris Tuten, Finance chairperson or church office.

**PROJECT MUNCH** – We meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in The Refuge. We serve elementary schools with over 500 munch bags for students each week. We need volunteers to pack bags weekly. Contact the church office for more information.

**HEAVEN'S HELPERS** want to know who needs assistance with fixing a small project at your home. Many of you are not able to climb a ladder or go into the attic any longer and you just need assistance. Please call us at 912-293-7087. Pastor Doug and his helpers are ready to go to work.

**CARING AND CONCERN MINISTRY** is getting started again at Douglas FUMC! Many of remember when we had "Caregivers", a grief support team, fifteen years ago. Many of you were a part of it. Do you know someone hurting from a death, a divorce, or some major issue within their lives? Call the church and get hooked up to a caring, compassionate person.

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>.  
ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

Our Church provides a brief communion opportunity for shut-ins on Sunday afternoons after regular communion services. If you know of members who are unable to attend church and desire this service, please call Shantae at the church office with the name, address, and phone number.

**Monthly Meetings & Upcoming Events**

- January 10: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Ladies Italian Dinner Night – Robertson
- January 11-12: Winter Jam (Youth) – Jacksonville, FL
- January 12: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon Leadership Training – Pennell
- January 13: 11:00 a.m. Consecration Sunday
- January 21: 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Pennell
- January 22: 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry – Pennell
- January 26: 10:00 a.m. Parent Meeting – The Refuge
- January 28: 11:30 a.m. Keenagers – Flyin Cowboy

Doug Walker	Pastor		
Dana Calhoun	Financial Secretary	Tania Myers	Organist
Josh McLemore	Youth Director	Clara Hayes	Preschool Director
Shantae Dockery	Sec./Receptionist	Norman Dockery	Facilities Manager
Sloane Cliett	Children's Director		CCL# 1585573

Douglas First United Methodist Church  
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Douglas, GA 31534  
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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

**Douglas First  
United Methodist Church**

Sharing God's Love  
through Discipleship

311 North Madison Avenue † [www.douglasfirst.com](http://www.douglasfirst.com) † 912-384-4404

**January 2019**

**New Year's Resolutions**

Do you believe in "New Years' Resolutions?" Some do and some don't! So often I make an empty pledge (promise) to lose 10 pounds or to become more active or maybe to pray more. Problem is without someone holding me accountable, I probably will not do it. A few years ago (10 years) I told the church I was serving in Midway that I would get my bus license. The church had a 28-passenger bus, and nobody could drive it. If it had not been for my wife encouraging me (some may call it nagging) I probably would not have done it. So today, I have a certified, bonafide bus license. What was the secret? ACCOUNTABILITY!

All of us need it! We have it within our families, our workplaces, schools, and addiction recovery groups. The church is loaded with opportunities to be accountable. As a young person I remember being a part of youth discipleship group called the "6:33 Club." We were committed to waking up at 6:33 a.m. every morning and being a part of discipleship group. The early Methodists got their name from someone making fun of them because they were so "methodical." John Wesley spoke of an "Order of Salvation" to help his Christian friends to understand how to grow and mature: Preventive Grace, Justifying Grace, Sanctifying Grace, and Glorious Grace. Ephesians 4:15, says, "we are to grow up in all things into Him (Christ) who is the head." Jesus said, "Abide in Me, for apart from Me, you can do nothing (John 15:5)."

Living the life of a Christian is not EASY! If it were then everybody would be doing it. Growing up into full maturity is not an easy thing. Forgiving one another! Being patient with one another! James 1:19 says, we should be "quick to listen, and slow to anger and slow to speak." Have you noticed the older you become the less you say! I wonder if that's the secret to life! Silence is a beautiful thing. Also, turning the cheek requires maturity as well. Standing for righteous things can be hard! Jesus once said, "Be mature, as I am mature." I have plenty of room to grow in this area. Thanks for holding me accountable and helping me move toward perfection. Come be with us and seek to be accountable, because God loves us too much to leave us alone.

Doug Walker

OUR STEWARDSHIP					
<b>Attendance</b>	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/30
Sunday School	68	102	113	78	
8:30 AM	40	32	25		32
11:00 AM	143	136	169	269	130
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Church Budget (YTD through November 2018)</b>					
Amount Budgeted	\$561,756				
Amount Given	\$507,640				
Difference	-\$54,116				

**Our Prayer Concerns:** Jan Adams, Cole Suttles, Shantae Dockery, Hazel Patton, Hilary Patterson, Lora Riner, David Nelson, Anne Peterson, Peggy Guthrie, Sonny Owens, Jenifer Raulerson, Kathy Howard, Diane Harrison, Harry Cohen, Walker Smith, Meg Minchew, Mary Clyde Scott, Wesley Adams, Judy Hall, Tony Fletcher, Manor House & Lakeside Residents, Venita Milhollin, Sheryl Youngblood

**Season of Epiphany** - Our theme is "Signs and Wonders." During the 8 weeks of Epiphany we give attention to Jesus, who is the "Light of the World." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world." The ultimate mission of God is to CHANGE the world. Big task! Yes, but with all of us striving to be God's agents of Grace and Truth, great things are happening. We will celebrate during this season, the Baptism of the Lord, where Jesus was Consecrated, Commended and Commissioned! At the first Miracle of Jesus, we discover that we all are "running out of something." Our lives are empty without the filling of God's Spirit. Jesus produces Wine out of our ordinary Water! Then next Sunday (January 27) Jesus said (Luke 4:18-19) the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me . . . NONE OF US CAN DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD. During Epiphany, we will discover as the Wise Men did on Epiphany Sunday, this baby was no ordinary baby, He was and is the "Light of the World."

Our **Wednesday Night Programs** will start up on January 9<sup>th</sup>! Our adults will have the options of several things: Disciple Bible Study (New Testament) led by Mike Greene (workbook available for \$15); Freedom from the Jezebel Spirit led by Don Griffin in the Chapel. Financial Peace (Dave Ramsey) led by Loreli/Scott Rogers (Sign up is required). Pastor Doug will lead a group on "Building Blocks for Living".

**Leader Training and Planning** – January 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Pennell Room. All persons on the Administrative Council along with your new committees need to be present. We will be serving a light breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

**Consecration Sunday** will be January 13<sup>th</sup> in both worship services! All new leaders will be recognized and prayed for at each worship service.

**Children's Activities** – We are adding a new Sunday school class for older children on Sunday mornings. We are grateful to the volunteers who are helping Mrs. Sloane with this endeavor. Also, on Wednesday nights we have activities for children starting at 6:30 p.m. Our children did an amazing job during the Christmas season with their musical. We want to give a "Shout Out" to Mrs. Lynn Walker and those who assisted with her. We want to express gratitude to children's church volunteers and nursery volunteers.

There is a spot for you on the Guatemala mission trip to Panajachel on July 13 to July 20, 2019. \$200 deposit is due in January. \$1,500 cost includes flight to and from Guatemala, food, lodging and transportation in Guatemala and team mission activity fee. If you are unable to go with the team, please keep the team in your prayers and/or consider donating to help sponsor those who are going. For more information contact Scott Rogers at [ufcheme@hotmail.com](mailto:ufcheme@hotmail.com) or Loreli Rogers at 904-556-1136.

#### YOUTH NEWS:

**Winter Jam** -We will be headed back to Winter Jam on January 11<sup>th</sup> in Jacksonville. The plan is to attend the concert and then head over to Rebounderz the next day for some awesome fun! The concert is \$15, Rebounderz is \$45 for all you can play. We will cover cost of food on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Rebounderz and we will cover cost of lodging for Friday night. Please let Josh know ASAP if you are going!

**Parent Meeting** - We will have a parent meeting Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at The Refuge. We will talk about the year in review and also have time to answer your questions about our program. Hope to see you there if you are a parent of 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Refuge News** - We had a great college student lunch on December 20<sup>th</sup>. I love getting to meet up with former students over the holidays! We had a great turnout of our college folks including people from our monthly college Bible study as well as people who have moved away and were just home for the holidays.

The Refuge wants to thank the Trustees for the purchase of a very much needed new laptop for our youth ministry as well as many other activities around the church. As the people running the slides at our various services know, the old one was having a lot of trouble keeping up to the demands we put on it on a weekly basis and this new one will be a great help for years to come!

**Winter Retreat-Coming in February!** - Presidents Day weekend (15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>) we are headed to Gatlinburg, TN for a trip like we've never done. We are going to stay in an awesome cabin and spend a few days worshipping and learning about God in the beautiful Smokey Mountains. We will also take a break to visit the Ripley's Aquarium and some other Gatlinburg attractions. Full cost is coming soon but keep that weekend open!



We are so grateful for your generosity in helping sponsor the 2018 Caring Christmas Tree Project. Thank you! The children were blessed with new clothes and Christmas gifts because of your generous donations.

In addition to the gifts that were purchased by individuals for 12 children and youth being served by the Hope Center, DFUMC members also donated \$1850 to enable the Hope Center staff to purchase gifts and clothes for children in need. Thank you for your expression of Christian love. Your generosity, prayers, and support mean so much to so many.

With heartfelt appreciation, Elizabeth Cottingham  
(The Outreach Committee)

The Outreach Committee appreciates the generosity and support of our congregation throughout 2018 in helping with DFUMC's mission of serving others. With your help, we have offered assistance in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to): Repairs to several homes (Camp One Fifty One); Project Munch, which provided more than 550 needy students each week with weekend snack packs; your monetary contributions and Christmas gifts purchased for selected children at the Hope Center; Items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes; the Sewing Ministry which made clothing items and toys to include in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes; the Outreach meals (250-500 meals) delivered on the last Saturday each month; and the food pantry which reached more than 1200 household members with staple food items.

We say "Thank You" for your assistance in making these projects successful whether you gave monetarily or gave of your time and energy...it takes both money and active participation to make these projects happen!

#### Signs and Wonders

##### Epiphany – A Season of Light!

**"They saw His Star in the East – We have come to worship Him!"**

The Christian story is full of "signs and wonders." Sometimes we have to look hard to see them. They may be so obvious that we overlook them. The epiphany season calls us to look with high intensity. Jesus once said to his disciples, "ask, seek and knock." God has much to reveal if we are willing to seek Him as the Wise Men did.

Epiphany Sunday (January 6) "Wise Men Still Seek Him"  
Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord (January 13) Commended, Consecrated, and Commissioned - Luke 3:15-17

Epiphany 2 (January 20) "Are You Out of Wine?"  
John 2:1-11 (God longs to fill us . . .)

Epiphany 3 (January 27) The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me  
Luke 4:14-21 (How Jesus Walked in the Spirit)

Epiphany 4 (February 3) Today this Scripture is fulfilled  
Luke 4:21-30 (Can you say the Scripture is fulfilled in You?)

Epiphany 5 (February 10) Boy Scout Sunday!  
Luke 5:1-11 - We have worked mighty hard . . .

Epiphany 6 (February 17) Walking in the Spirit – Beattitudes!  
Luke 6:17-26

Epiphany 7 (February 24) Walking in the Spirit – Requires Maturity!  
Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration Sunday (March 3) Son of God – filled with the Spirit  
Luke 9:28-36