



VANNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A VOICE IN THE VANNA COMMUNITY

REVEREND ED DICKENS, PASTOR

CELL (706) 265-9229

P.O. BOX 261, ROYSTON, GA. 30662

PASTOR@VANNAMETHODISTCHURCH.COM

Homecoming 2016 Celebration

We were blessed to have almost 100 family and friends join us
for singing and praising God.

Singing by Tina Hart
& Carnesville UMC's
Sunday Morning
Singers



Homecoming Message

Delivered by:

Reverend

Ed Dickens

Wonderful lunch
for all to share.



We would love for you join us at Vanna United Methodist Church
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30am ~ Sunday School: 10:30am

Website: <http://www.vannamethodistchurch.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Vanna-United-Methodist-Church-1641787629394391/?fref=ts>

*Members at Vanna UMC
took a pledge to collect
peanut butter for the
Rainbow Pantry. In one
week we were able to
collect over 40 jars of
peanut butter. Thanks to
everyone who assisted and
participated.*

Thanks!

Congratulations to Heather
Stephenson who passed her
GACE test. Heather will be
completing her student
teaching and other course
work but is one big step closer
to completing her teaching
degree!

Congratulations

FROM OUR PASTOR'S HEART

Are We The Church we think we are?

The Mission of The United Methodist Church is to, “Go and make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The questions we must ask ourselves as the congregation of Vanna United Methodist Church are:

Are we partnered with God to make Disciples of Jesus Christ?

Are we even trying to make Disciples? If you answer yes, what evidence is there? When did we last baptize someone? When did we last hear a first time profession of faith?

Are we, the members/regular attenders maturing as Disciples?

What are the greatest needs in our church, and in our community?

How is God calling us to be in mission and ministry to meet those needs?

Do the things we do as a congregation – the activities and experiences we plan and execute – lead people into a mature relationship with God and a life of deeper discipleship?

What does God want to do through our congregation in this place and time?

Maintenance, ministry, mission

One way to think about what we do and how we do it is by 3 M's, Maintenance, Ministry and Mission.

Maintenance is essentially setting the conditions for the conduct of Ministry and Mission.

Ministry is what we do inside. How we care for those in need within the congregation.

Mission is what we do outside. How we care for those in need outside the congregation.

We are pretty good at taking care of our property, buildings, classrooms, sanctuary etc. We pay our bills, we keep the HVAC systems working, the kitchen is clean, stocked and organized, the grass gets cut regularly and we have bank account(s) with sufficient assets.

We provide a weekly worship service, during which we sing, pray, read and receive the Word, and we share the sacrament of Holy Communion monthly. During Lent, and Advent we gather for special services of worship, sometimes combining with other UMCs. Individuals and small groups (Sunday School classes) do a pretty good job of looking after those who are shut in. We have a prayer chain that is activated when needed, so prayers are lifted for those in need.

We pay our apportionments, we give to General and Annual Conference special offerings and we support Rainbow Pantry both monetarily and with in-kind gifts of food, household items, and clothing. Many from the congregation volunteer their time by personally serving. We have provided assistance to some in time of need.

But Are We Intentional?

Have we a vision for what we want to accomplish? How do we plan to make disciples? How will we know if we are being effective?

Does our budget reflect a vision of Maintenance (caring for our stuff), Ministry (caring for those inside the church) and Mission (caring for, reaching out to those outside the church)? When we review our financial plan (budget) what conclusions can we make? What are the priorities?

Is there any evidence that we are committed to the mission of “Going and making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”?

I ask you to seriously consider and pray about all the above. Take some time before you react negatively. Ask yourself is there any difference in Vanna UMC now compared to 1971? Why 1971? In 1971 we claimed 144 members, average worship attendance of 70 and church school enrollment of 104. Last year we reported 66 members, average worship attendance of 35 and church school attendance 27.

In 1971, T.F. Ellison, Pastor since 1968 wrote these 2 paragraphs as part of a letter in the front of the “new” directory.

“We are faced with a challenge for there are many people in your area who aren’t attending Church, who would be reached. Let me urge each of you to assume this responsibility, by your personal witness for Christ and to pray, visit, and invite your friends and neighbors to attend Vanna Church and worship with us. Let the people know you are concerned about their Church life and would like for them to be a part of our congregation.

My prayer to God is that Vanna Church will always be a beacon light and witness to each of you and this community to accept our responsibility in every area of the Church work. Bear our cross with joy and gladness in our hearts and life to glorify God. In these times when the need is so great, in a changing world, with so much crime, violence, drug addiction, facing our youth and adulthood, we must be alert and ready for the conditions that face us such as these. God bless each of you to be faithful to Christ.”

Has anything changed? Have we made a difference? Have we made Disciples? Are we being Disciples, growing in sanctification? Are we the Church God wants us to be?

I am committed to doing my part, will you join me? Will you partner with God to be Disciple, to grow as a Disciple, to go and make Disciples?

Charge Conference, the meeting where we set the vision for the next year is in November. To prepare for this meeting there is much that must be accomplished. The process starts with a prayerful assessment by all of us, first as individuals of ourselves, then as individuals of our congregation, then we join together as a congregation to assess us as a congregation and then we cast the vision. Please pray!

In His grip, Ed



Vanna UMC is proud to announce that are youth group is growing.

We have two age groups:

Junior Youth Group: 3rd Grade —7th Grade

Senior Youth Group: 8th Grade - High School

We have planned many fun activities and fellowship opportunities. We hope to have at least one Community Outreach Activity each month. Community Outreach activities we are planning include visiting local nursing homes, assisting church members and other community members with yard work/housework. If you or someone you know is in need of something , please let us know and we will do our best to help. We will also be planning many fundraising activities to help us pay for fellowship & mission opportunities.

July 2016

Community Outreach: Volunteering at the animal shelter in Lavonia, Georgia on Saturday, July 23rd. We will be volunteering our time as well as taking up donation's for the animal shelter.

Youth Fellowship: July 23rd we will be taking Youth Class to T&S Skating Ring in Canon to enjoy a youth night with other local churches.

August 2016

August Community Outreach: Sunday, August 14th - Community/Church Wide BACK TO SCHOOL COOKOUT.