

# Chaires UMC

## Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 6

September 2007

### Rev. John Rainwater ~ Minister of Music



A man of many words, Rev. John Rainwater has been inspiring the hearts of others not only through music, but through his love for Christ long before he made his home at Chaires United Methodist Church.

Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Rev. Rainwater worked as Minister of Music in such states as Texas and Louisiana before finally settling in Tallahassee. Growing up, Rev. Rainwater desired to be a band director. "I was a very good trumpet player," said Rainwater.

However, one year that all changed for him when he felt God lead him into worship music at a camp in Glorietta, New Mexico. Walking in God's path for his life, he later attended seminary in Fort Worth to get his Masters degree. The decision was a big change, but has hence changed his life.

Rev. Rainwater arrived in Tallahassee in 1980, where he found work at Celebration Baptist, Morning Side, and First Baptist churches. Eventually he arrived at CUMC in 2002, close to five years ago. It is clear from the passion he brings each Sunday, that his position of Minister of Music is a job in which he gives his all.

"Seeing people enjoying a worship experience is such a thrill," Rainwater said on the rewarding aspects of his position. At the ripe age of 64 though, he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. "I plan on doing this as long as I can," said Rainwater.

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### CONGRATULATIONS!

Gene Deese proudly announced to our congregation on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, that Kathy Lee has finally honored him with a "Yes"! Thank you for such happy news and we wish you both the very best for a long and happy future together. May God richly bless your marriage.

~ your family at CUMC

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### Pastor's Column



Do you need a spiritual boost? Or, perhaps a long weekend to recharge

your batteries? If so, then perhaps the Walk to Emmaus is for you. What is the Walk to Emmaus? It is a three-day weekend where all you do is study the Word of God, praise, sing, and worship. The Big Bend Walk to Emmaus (BBWE) event is designed to immerse you in the study of how to walk the Christian walk in this secular world, and sharpen your skills as a Christian leader for your family and your church.

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## news & announcements

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### Church Expansion Update

For our first article after the summer vacation, the biggest thing to report is that it has been terribly hot this year. However, while it has been hot, we have finished the preliminary design of the expansion, which incorporates 100 percent of the needs identified during our many meetings and charge conferences. At the charge conference last May, we received unanimous approval to proceed to the detailed design phase of the project. Additionally, during August, the Building Committee put together the information needed to begin the funding pledge drive, which was presented to the congregation twice during August (5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>). We had designated the last Sunday of August (the 26<sup>th</sup>) as our pledge commitment day for the drive. The total funding need for the project was estimated at \$450,000; prior to the presentation on Aug 26<sup>th</sup> we had already received pledges from six families amounting to \$49,200. That amounts to over 10% of the total need **before** we reached pledge commitment Sunday. . Early returns (before commitment Sunday), like election returns, can be misleading; however, we are thoroughly encouraged that the Lord is guiding our hands and hearts and we will reach the pledge goal quickly and we will

~ cont'd on Page 3

### Women's Event - 2007 October 13, 8:45-12noon

**The Women's Event this year is a follow up to our Women's Conference of last November. The event will be held here at Chaires UMC on Saturday, October 13, 8:45 -12 noon. We will have a worship and praise time, a wonderful guest speaker, and a brunch. Women, don't miss this opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth. Bring a friend. Registration is only \$5 per person. Space is limited, so please sign yourself and your guests and friends up early!**



### "Wanted! Old Dry Bones!!"

We are all familiar with the story of the "Valley of Dry Bones" that is recorded in the book of Ezekiel. There were old, dry bones scattered on the valley floor, when God asked, "Son of man, can these bones become living men again?" Then God said, "Speak to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! I am going to breathe into you and make you live again!'" Pastor Bill believes this story of "Dry Bones" can also be the story of the United Methodist Men's Ministry at Chaires UMC.

God is breathing new life into the Men's Ministry as they rally to serve the Lord. With Keith Horne serving as President and Marty Raggett as Vice President, the men are determined to revitalize this ministry that is greatly needed in our church. Keith pointed out that UMM is not a club or a social group; it's about providing the men in our church a vehicle to serve the Lord. And we do that by serving our church and our community, as well as each other. However, we can only do this with the involvement of the men in the church. Pastor Bill believes that it is imperative that all men, and particular those in leadership positions, be involved in UMM.

So, UMM is currently looking for some old dry bones--and some young, healthy ones too--who want a vehicle to serve the Lord. In addition, they are looking for ideas. Keith emphasizes that we are

~ cont'd on Page 3

### Church Charge Conference

An annual Church Charge Conference is being held in Wacissa, Fla. at 3:00 PM on Saturday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is open to everyone, so all CUMC members with an interest in the church's business are welcome, and encouraged to come. The meeting will consist of reports given on what has happened thus far in the year, along with expectations for the future. The District Superintendent Rev. Fernandez or an appointed Elder will preside over the Church Charge Conference.

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### Refuge House

The ladies at Refuge House can always use our help in the way of daily needs that we all take for granted. The most needed donations include:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Combs
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand Cream
- Socks
- Soap

Mary Taylor says the UMW and CUMC would like to say a big "Thank You" to Ms. DeWease Lewis for making the beautiful new bags for donations to Refuge House. We are blessed to have you and may God richly bless you for using your talents for service to Him and others who are in need.

*Refuge House Coordinator  
Mary Taylor*

A sincere **THANK YOU** to the "Holy Ground keepers" for keeping the grass mowed here at CUMC, most especially Brian Mullen and Jon Berry.

### Chaires UMC Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 6

Editor: Evelyn Brown

Assistant Editor – Sara Taylor

Layout: Mulder Brown

WE'RE BACK! – late but hopefully back on schedule.

Thank you to all who contributed articles – most especially Sarah Taylor, an outstanding young lady who volunteered to help, and who really made this issue possible.

### ~ Wanted! Old Dry Bones!! – cont'd from Page 2

looking for ideas to increase membership and involvement, to beautify our church grounds, ideas for fellowship projects, to raise funds, and for service projects. If you have ideas, Keith would love to hear about them.

"There is so much that can be done and so much I hear people wanting to do; but they feel that they cannot do it alone," says Keith. Well, we don't have to go it alone. We have a vehicle (UMM) that we can use to accomplish whatever the Lord wants us to do.

As Pastor Bill puts it, "We all would like to see our Men's Ministry grow again into a vital, living part of the Body of Christ and an ongoing Christian Fellowship. With the involvement of the men in our church, and by the grace of God, these old, dry bones can come alive once again."

God Bless,

*~ submitted by Keith Home*

**Hot days are still here, so please reach out to ECHO with their needs for *electric fans* and *canned food items*. You may place them in or near the ECHO box in the church sanctuary.**

### ~ Church Expansion Update – cont'd from Page 2

be able to meet our expanding mission to the community and God's people.

It must be remembered that the pledge is not a replacement for the normal tithe donation, nor do we want the normal tithe donation diverted to the building fund (the tithe donation is still needed to support our existing operations and missions). Many types of donations could work as a pledge, such as cash, check, stocks, bonds, property, virtually anything negotiable. We do not want anyone to mortgage their home and donate the proceeds of the mortgage (They can always pledge and make monthly donations from their available income as their pledge). If someone does want to will their home, or other property to the church, that is wonderful, but that would be for some future project, not this one. We do want everyone's support, but not to the point where they are affecting their everyday life.

Be sure to watch the pledge funding progress chart as it grows. It will remain in the sanctuary until completed. It will be updated as the data changes. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, please do so at your earliest convenience (the forms are on the rack near the hymnal bookcase).

*~ by Jon Berry*

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### Love at Work



It's never easy to leave one's comfort zone, but on July 22<sup>nd</sup> ten Chaires United Methodist Church members decided to take the risk. For a full six days the CUMC youth group Craig Messer, Alex Taylor, Taren Brewer, Matt Ingram,

Alice Linzy, Taylor Marshall, I, and adult volunteers Judy Taylor, Bob Glover, and Sue Wilson attended Love at Work, a camp devoted to serving others in the name of Christ. From it flourished closer bonds, fresh tan lines, and a strengthened relationship with Him.

For a week we roughed it. Campers stayed in outdated cabins deep in the woods. By the end of the week air conditioning had become our new best friend and mosquitoes the number one public enemy. The camp was located in Gretna, outside of Quincy where poverty runs rampant. "It was a place where you could find others in need, but within our own community," said Alex Taylor. Assigned in work crews, each would be given a house to repair or revamp in some way for someone who couldn't afford to have it done themselves.

During the day we would separate into our work crews to go to our assigned site to accomplish our job. From nine o'clock until four campers slaved under the hot sun, hammering and painting the day away. Required to go fully clad in long pants and sleeved shirts,

~ cont'd on Page 5

### Kid's Korner

*Splish, splash, we've been having some fun! The summer has come and gone and we have had loads of fun along the way. Our Family Fun day was just that...fun! We had great participation. The slip and slide was the place to be.*

*Beginning in September, the Pre-K class will be movin' and shakin' with the start of a new class, using the Gospel Light Mover's and Shaker's curriculum. Mrs. Debbie Pahl is the lead teacher, assisted by Renee Grubb and Connie Mayo.*

*The K-4 class has focused themselves on serving others. They have raised \$57.00 this summer for the Children's Home and have started collecting items to create bags for the homeless members of our community. Donations are collected each Sunday. These may include cereal bars, toiletries, a kind note, bottles of water, and scripture. Stay tuned for more fun fall activities*

~ by Joy Marshall

### Getting to Know ~ Brian Mudd

As close knit of a church as Chaires United Methodist is, it never hurts to find out a few interesting facts about a fellow member. Take for instance, CUMC member Brian Mullen. At 12-years-old, Brian works the sound and tech board behind the scenes, each Sunday. "Someone asked me to do it and I accepted. It is great," said Brian. Having attended CUMC for the past ten years, he was happy to get involve d.

In the mean time, Brian attends North Florida Christian School. There his favorite subject is lunch, a most promising part of the day. Previously playing in the school band, Brian plays the drums and hopes to continue to do so in the future. Also in his future, he hopes to become a baker when he grows up. For now though, he finds favor in pizza, baseball, and the band, Plain White Tee's, a perfect combination.



~ by Sarah Taylor

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### Adult Choir

To Present

## "Peace On Earth" Christmas Musical

Now is a great time to come and join the choir and help us  
this

special Christmas Program.

The Adult Choir started listening and rehearsing  
this music last Wednesday.

Come on and Join us in singing this exciting Christmas Musical  
Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:00.

It will be one hour well spent.

We need Singers Ladies and Men!

There is also a great narration part to be prepared as well.  
See John Rainwater Now!

### An Old Cherokee Indian Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage?

His father takes him into the forest - blindfolds- and leaves him.

He's required to sit on a stump the whole night and not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each lad must come into his own manhood.

And so it began. The boy was terrified. The frightful noises, beasts all around...perhaps even an outlaw might hurt him. The wind sighed through the grass and he imagined it shook his stump stool.

But he was determined and so he sat, never removing the blindfold. In the morning he'd truly be a man

He sensed that dawn was near as sounds of night faded. He could feel the warmth of the sun. He removed his blindfold.

It was then that he saw his father - sitting on the stump next to him- on watch the entire night.

As with the boy, we're never alone. Even when we don't know it, our Father is protecting us. He sits beside us if we'll but remove our blindfolds.

~ author unknown

~ *Love at Work – cont'd from Page 4*

our clothes were drenched in sweat by noon. At the sites we would meet the family we were working for, as well as others passing by. It was so rewarding knowing that the homeowners and neighbors saw us working hard in the name of Jesus. "It was hard but in the end it was one of the greatest feelings in the world," said Taren Brewer.

After the day of work, we would come back to the cabins and relax until dinner, where worship and a speaker would follow shortly behind. Each was incredibly inspiring and did a perfect job targeting the younger audience. Finally, after a long day of work we would all head to bed to recharge for the next day.

This schedule continued on for the remainder of the week, as God chose to reveal more and more to us each day. Youth leader Sue Wilson said, "It was a great opportunity to serve the Lord." The week showed all of us that one doesn't need to travel hundreds of miles to serve others for God. It can be done in our own backyard, like Gretna. Serving in the name of our Lord can be a difficult task. Too often we let judgment and fear get in our way of being the tangible hand of Jesus Christ. However, as followers of Him, we are called to put our selfish ambitions aside and live by faith alone.

~ by Sarah Taylor

~ Pastor's Column – cont'd from Page 1

It begins with check-in on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon.

Some of the questions often asked are: Is it a long walk? Will I be walking? The Bible tells us it is about seven miles. However, that is from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, while you are not making that walk, I would bring along your tennis shoes. Where did the name come from? The name Emmaus is derived from Luke 24:13-35, where the resurrected Christ walked along the road to Emmaus with two disciples and revealed himself in the breaking of bread. What about food? Again the Bible talks about the breaking of bread; therefore, there will be food to eat. However, your sponsor may take you out for your "last supper" on Thursday.

During your three-day retreat, you will be staying at Camp Centenary with dorms and bunk beds. There are short lessons / testimonials each day (fifteen for the entire weekend). Every weekend is exactly the same in lesson content, but the speakers are different, so that you get to hear a little about their personal walk with Christ. You'll sing a lot, fellowship with others, and eat. The idea is to create a spiritual renewal full of joy.

There is no obligation beyond the weekend itself, but if you like you can attend weekly reunion groups and monthly potluck suppers afterwards. And, you can participate as a team member serving new pilgrims at future weekends, which many have said is even better!

Ask one of the folks listed below about being sponsored for a walk – I promise you will be blessed.

This years - Men's Walk: Oct 4 – 7, Women's Walk Oct 18-21

Diane Pollock	Lynne Mulder	Margaret Boyette	Evelyn Brown
Steve Lenzo	Sharon Lenzo	Bob Glover	Lynn Glover
Sandy Tuten	John Peth	Sue Wilson	Jeff Messer
Brenda Messer	Jean Ingram		

De Colores!

*– From the desk of Pastor Bill*

~ John Rainwater – cont'd from Page 1


Ingram wouldn't have it any other way. "John Rainwater is truly a blessing to this church, and a blessing for me," said Ingram.

When he's not busy with ministering music, Rev. Rainwater spends his spare time on reading. He greatly enjoys reading such topics as history, the west, and scripture study. He holds an extensive library at home, where he says there's no telling how many books he really has. Besides reading, his five grandchildren make sure to keep him busy when he sees them every birthday. At ages seven, six, and two three-year-olds, he's guaranteed a handful no matter what the occasion.

It is clear that Rev. Rainwater has truly been a blessing to CUMC, shown by the life and vibrancy he adds to each Sunday. Wherever life will eventually take him, he will continue to inspire and bless those who are fortunate enough to receive.

~ by Sarah Taylor

## Chaires UMC Newsletter September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p><u>Communion</u></p>  <p>ECHO Sunday</p>	<p>Labor Day</p>		<p>Family Night 6:00 pm.</p> <p>Choir 7:00 pm</p>			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<p>United Methodist Men &amp; United Methodist Women 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study <u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>Choir 7:00 pm</p>			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Widow's Mite Offering</p>			<p>Choir 7:00 pm</p>			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>30 Children's Home <u>Offering</u> Dinner on The Grounds</p>			<p>Adult Bible Study <u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>Choir 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm</p>		<p>Charge Conference @ Wacissa 3:00 pm</p>

### Birthdays

Susan Thompson	1 <sup>st</sup>	Lewis Jones	11 <sup>th</sup>	Michelle Parker	20 <sup>th</sup>
Rick Davies	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bobbie Harrison	13 <sup>th</sup>	Amber Matthews	26 <sup>th</sup>
Dorothy Hutto	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ashley Thompson	13 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Taylor	26 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Matthews	8 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Alley	17 <sup>th</sup>	J. C. O'Steen	28 <sup>th</sup>
		Judy Taylor	17 <sup>th</sup>		
Anniversary ~ Gordon & Lucia Lightfoot				13 <sup>th</sup>	

***Chaires UMC Newsletter***

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Bill Ingram, Jr., Pastor  
John Rainwater, Minister of Music  
Paula Winter, Administrative Assistant  
Edna Matthews, Nurture Person  
Dale Thompson, Administrative Council Chair  
Gordon Lightfoot, SPRC Chairperson  
Steve Lenzo, Lay Leader

**Fresh Vegetable Salad**

- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
  - 1 bunch broccoli
  - 1 head cauliflower
  - 16oz. frozen peas
  - 2oz. bacon bits
- 1 envelope Hidden Valley Ranch dressing
  - 8oz. (lowfat)sour cream
  - 1 cup(lowfat)mayonnaise

My family and I always go to my Grandmothers (on my mom's side) for Thanksgiving. Each year there is always the fresh vegetable salad, and I make sure to save room for it on my plate, and in my stomach. When I was much younger, I had the revelation that I didn't have to wait until each Thanksgiving to eat the veggie salad, and that I could make it at home! So I got the recipe from my grandma - pronto, and since then it has been a favorite of mine and our household, no matter what time of year.

*~ submitted by Sarah Taylor*

**ATTENTION!** To all the good people who use the kitchen and bring the great food – ***PLEASE!!*** Pick up your containers from former dinners, etc. It would help greatly if everyone would put their name on their dishes. There are labels on the refrigerator door that you are welcome to use when you bring your dish. Any unclaimed containers not picked up by October 1<sup>st</sup> will be donated to ECHO. All the help and cooking is greatly appreciated. Many thanks from the kitchen outreach.