



Monday Morning in North Georgia

March 17, 2008

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

This Week's Calendar

Week of

March 17 - 23

(click on item for information)

March 17th

- [CF&A Meeting](#)

March 18th

- [New Church Pastor's Leadership Academy](#)

March 19th

- [UMMen Retreats Committee](#)

- [Entire Calendar](#)

Article Archives

- [Monday Morning in North Georgia](#)
- [Weekly Conference Update](#)

Links of Interest

- [Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter, & other North Georgia e-mails.](#)
- [Manage e-mail preferences](#)
- [E-mail Jamie Jenkins](#)
- [Employment Openings](#)

Lectionary and Bible Readings

Daily Bible Reading

- [Readings that will take you through the entire Bible in a Year](#)

Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, March 23

- [Jeremiah 31:1-6](#)
- [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)
- [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

Stormy Weather

• John 20:1-18

Worship Tools

- Worship Planning Helps for Easter Day
- Preaching Helps
- Lectionary Hymns
- 21st Century Africana

This past weekend brought stormy weather to north Georgia. A tornado in downtown Atlanta on Friday night caused major damage to the Georgia Dome, World Congress Center, CNN Center, and many other buildings in the heart of the city. The massive old Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts in Cabbagetown collapsed. One weather front after another swept through the area on Saturday.

The violent weather changed the plans of thousands of people. In Atlanta the SEC Basketball Tournament was interrupted and had to be relocated. The St. Patrick's Day Parade, Atlanta Home Show and other events were cancelled because of the damage. Homes were destroyed all across the area. There were two fatalities. Lost revenue and property damage costs will be enormous.

The abrupt change in the lives of people in our city and state is nothing to compare with the happenings of the last week of Jesus' earthly life.

The week that began with celebration as Jesus entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd ended in tragedy five days later. Upon entering the city Jesus went to the Temple where he created chaos as he overthrew the money changers' tables. Blind and crippled people came to him and he healed them. When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing they were up in arms and took him to task.

The next morning Jesus was teaching in the Temple and the high priests and leaders of the people questioned his credentials and challenged his authority. They wanted to arrest him and put him in jail but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. The storm clouds appeared as the plot to kill Jesus developed. It was the beginning of the end.



Last month I was on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group from North Georgia. We retraced Jesus' Palm Sunday route down from the Mount of Olives. We visited Caiaphas' House where Jesus was taken after his arrest in Gethsemane. We went to Fort Antonia where Pilate "washed his hands" of Jesus and turned him over for crucifixion. From there we followed the traditional Stations of the Cross down the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over what many scholars believe is Golgotha where Jesus died. Inside



the church is what could be the tomb where He was buried.

The next day we visited The Garden Tomb which is believed by many to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, and therefore a possible site of the resurrection of Jesus. Our guide led us through this beautiful place and as he stood before the empty tomb he said, "It is amazing that you have come this far to see nothing. The tomb is empty. Jesus is not there!"

This Holy Week we will remember the "stormy weather" that caused Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, mocking, scourging, and cruel death. But the cross is not the end. What appeared to be a tragedy without parallel on Friday is transformed into a celebration without equal on Sunday. This Easter remember the words of the angel, "He is not here. He is Risen!" Hallelujah!

Jamie Jenkins

Annual Conference Bishop's Love/Mission Offering

Bishop and Mrs. Davis have requested that rather than receive a love offering for them at Annual Conference, that this year's Bishop's offering go to two mission causes they have designated. Half of the offering will go to Venezuela NOW, to support the training of pastors in the Methodist Church of Venezuela. The other half will be used to continue Jennifer's work in the Agalta Valley of Honduras, a ministry to children through schools and provides for their basic health and nutritional needs. The offering will be presented to them at Annual Conference in June. For all the details and a letter sent to churches, visit www.ngumc.org and choose "Annual Conference 2008" from the drop-down menu "News and Info."

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