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From the Pastor

The fall and Christmas season is always an exciting and special time in the life of the church. In these pages you will see pictures of all the ways we live out our faith both in the church and in the community. Our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Young Women’s Ensemble proclaimed the good news of Christ’s birth to passengers arriving and departing from the Savannah Hilton Head Airport. Thanks to Ralph for this creative idea for outreach into our community. Several passengers stopped to listen, others recorded the group on their phones, others called a friend and held the phone in the air. Children in strollers were lined up to get a good view of the bells playing. One weary passenger stopped to say thank you. She was dreading leaving her family for business and arrived at the airport in a sour mood. She came around the corner to hear the Christmas music and her whole spirit lifted!

At our Leadership Summit in January of 2014, we discussed our desire to use our Cowart Retreat Center property more regularly. We have done that. You will see more pictures of fun, fellowship, and blessing at the pond. God is present when we gather in good spirits in such a beautiful place. God has truly blessed us with this wonderful place to share life together.

Breakfast with Santa continues to be one of our most popular community events. Reservations went from 25 to 120 in less than five days—many of these folks were community families we had the opportunity to welcome into our church.

The Christmas season is fundamentally about celebrating that Christ has come among us and that God is with us. God is indeed with us. God is with us in all that we do. God is with us as we share life, as we seek to be witnesses for Christ in this place. I’m excited to see what God will do with us next!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Melissa

Dear Rincon UMC,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for so much support with my Eagle Scout project. Second, I would like to thank you for allowing me to do my Eagle Scout project at Cowart’s Pond. Not only have your donations and services helped me, but also your encouragement to finish the project. I know I have a church that is there for me. I hope to someday pay back all that the church has given me.

Sincerely,

James B. Morris
“Bailey”
Living Faith through Generous Giving

Rincon UMC is blessed with many generous people who give of themselves to God and the church in many ways. Rincon UMC is also blessed with many people who give generously financially to the church. That generosity has borne much fruit in 2014. Last year, the church set three ambitious financial goals. In January, it was not certain that all of them could be accomplished in a single year. However, we lived faithfully trusting that God would provide enough for us to continue our mission and ministry as well as these three additional goals. Those goals were to pay off our air-conditioner loan and be debt free, to make a huge stride in paying our conference apportionments, and to address the long overdue flooring needs in the narthex. Due to your faithfulness, all of these goals were met in 2014. Meeting these goals positions the church to be more invested in our mission and ministry in 2015. It will be exciting to see how God will use our gifts this year.

Bonfire at the Pond
People
In the News

Gussie Nease served as Grand Marshal for the Rincon Christmas Parade 2014.

Gussie continues to serve Rincon and Effingham County in many ways.

She was surprised by the announcement, “It was totally unexpected.”

 Appeared in the Effingham Herald on November 19, 2014

A Night for Royalty

Lauren Morgan (pictured with her father, Darren Morgan) was crowned Effingham County High School Home Coming Queen!

Appeared in the Effingham Herald, October 28, 2014; Picture by Paul Floeckher.

Being the Hands & Feet of Christ
Leadership Spotlight

How did you become part of Rincon UMC?
I moved to Rincon from Weaverville, just north of Asheville, NC after taking a position with Gulfstream back in the fall of 2008. My wife, Jean, and I still had children in school so she stayed in North Carolina until the summer of 2009 while I drove back and forth almost every weekend without fail. On the rare weekends that I did not drive home I visited Rincon UMC and once Jean moved down we started looking for a new church home. We were members of Salem UMC in NC and transferred our membership after a couple more visits to Rincon UMC. We were welcomed warmly and made immediate connections with a handful of folks. That handful has grown into a much larger group and we appreciate each relationship we share.

Tell us about yourself.
Yankee. No other way to put it. Born in Detroit and you actually have to go south to drive into Canada from there. I was raised in that area until I left for the U.S. Air Force after high school. Mom, Dad, 3 brothers, 2 sisters, oldest son, daughter-in-law and 2 grand daughters all still live within 2 hours of each other outside of the Detroit area. I think it's mostly due to a lack of sense but they are my family and I love them all the same. Jean and I met and were married in Weaverville and have been blending our families ever since. Between us we have joined together both sets of parents. Jean's mom has since passed away, 4 children and two grand children with one more due on January 5th. Other than being with and taking care of my family I like to think of myself as a DIY type of guy. I like to work through home improvement projects as well as the yard and landscaping aspirations that Mrs. Moco has for me.

What scripture inspires you?
Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

What has God helped you to do?
God has helped and continues to help me become a better person. It wasn't that long ago that I was the lost blind guy everyone sings about. I still struggle from day to day with the pieces and puzzles of life but the big picture is much more focused when I look through the lens that was given to me by my mom when I was a child. I managed to selectively lose that part of my life for awhile but that is a different story. A bit of a sad story with a happy ending thanks to "Him who strengthens me."

Why are you a leader in the church?
Because I was invited to try and felt led to help as best as I could based on what I knew as well as what I was capable of learning along the way.

What positive steps have you seen in the life of the church since you have been in leadership?
I have seen our church grow in terms of active learning. We continue to learn and experience how to work together better, how to play together better, how to be better stewards of what God has given us, and how to share and reach common goals with each other. We are actively learning how to GROW. Make a Goal, understand our Reality, our Obstacles, and our Way forward. We are GROWing as a church. A great example of GROWing would be in our financial stewardship. We recently paid off our loan debt thanks in no small part to a generous gift but that gift was preceded by equally generous giving for the same thing, which could be looked at as growth in personal stewardship. We are also making strides to grow into our collective stewardship with our district apportionments now being given at 100% and our conference apportionments growing to reach that goal year after year.

What next steps do you hope to see in the life of the church?
That is a tough question but I believe that the future lies in our children in more ways than just the life of Rincon UMC. What can we do to effect a Christian perspective and a positive experience that draws young adults and children to a better and continued faith and relationship with God? I believe our continued goal of active learning will help us grow and be better equipped to tackle any issues as a church family but I also think that we will need to extend and increase our individual outreach and our personal abilities to reach those goals.
Living Faith in the Community

Sunday, December 7, 2014
Savannah International Airport
RUMC Choir, Handbell Choir,
Young Women’s Ensemble
Blessing of the Animals
October 1, 2014, Cowart’s Retreat
New Year Highlights
Campground & UMMen’s BBQ
Lent & Easter
Family Promise Bed Race
UMW Sunday
Sunday School Convention
Celebration of Women Banquet
Jr. High Youth Retreat
High School Graduate Banquet
Sunday School Convention
Annual Conference
Vacation Bible School
Youth 2015
Camp Meeting
Sunday School Promotions
KidzQuest
Blessing of the Animals
All Saint’s Day Remembrances
Community Thanksgiving Service
Choir Cantata
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Leadership Summit
January 31 @ 9 am ~ 1 pm

Holy Days
You are invited to explore Holy Week one day at a time through this special Ecumenical Sunday Dinner Program:
5:00—6:00 pm Program
6:00—7:00 pm Dinner ($5 per person)
Reservation to OUR church office by Noon Wednesday each week.
Youth & Children’s Classes Held Each Week. See the Flyers posted around the church & on our website.

VBS
Join us on June 7th through 11th
Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God’s awesome power. Anchor kids in rock solid Bible truths that will guide them through life’s challenges.