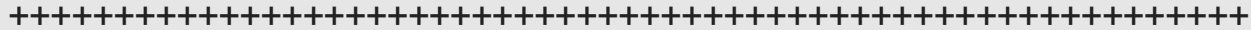




Meriwether Messages
Week Ending January 9, 2015



*Welcome new Member: First
Presbyterian Church, Warm Springs*



Located at 3065 Judson Bulloch Road, the First Presbyterian Church welcomes you and your family. Services are offered each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. led by Pastor Gary Kemp. For more information, call 706-846-3690 or email Peggy Mangum at peggym49@gmail.com or Pastor Gary Kemp at gbgentllc@gmail.com Pastor Kemp is also the Chaplain at Roosevelt Warm Springs



Public Transit now available. Yes, we finally have public transportation available in Meriwether County. The system will operate under a “demand response” model which means there are no fixed routes, bus stops or pick up times. To schedule your ride, please call 24 hours in advance to 1-877-339-0249. Fees are \$3.00 one way and service is offered Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information you can also contact the County Administration office at 706-672-1314 or the Chamber of Commerce at 706-655-2558



Grief Support Group

GriefShare group will start January 11, 4:30-6pm, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Durand. Here you will find help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. For more information or to register, please email revangie@bellsouth.net or call 706-663-9005. Trinity is located at 25 Palm Lane (on Hwy 18, Chipley Hwy).

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Volunteers Needed:

Junior Achievement program at Unity Elementary help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Lessons are scripted and only take 45 minutes of your time. If you are available on the following dates and times, please contact Erika White at **Unity Elementary, 172 N. Main Street Luthersville, Ga 30251 at 770-927-6488**. These are the following dates we would like to schedule Junior Achievement but are flexible if you would prefer another day of the week.

Thursday, January 15th; Thursday, February 12th; Thursday, February 19th; Thursday, March 5th
Thursday, March 19th

Teen Maze – volunteers are also needed for Meriwether County’s Teen Maze event to be held on February 20, 2015. Teen Maze is an organization that promotes awareness about various issues and challenges facing adolescents within the community. Students are provided an opportunity to navigate through a life-size maze that offers real life choices in order to discover the consequences of their behaviors. The goal is for our youth to understand the implications of their choices regarding sex, alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Volunteers are needed for approximately 6 hours to help put on the Teen Maze Event and if you are interested, please contact Lisa Parker at 706-672-1118 or email lparker@pathwayscsb.org

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Healthcare enrollment ends February 15th! *Have questions or need assistance?*

Let HUMANA help you. Call Kimberley at 706.905.9177 or email knewman4@humana.com
For more information, see flyer attached



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The first 15 days of January, a timeframe with historically low visitation, Callaway Gardens** will temporarily close operations to the public for a Winter Break. Reservation agents will be available daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer questions and book future reservations, which also can be made online 24 hours a day at www.callawaygardens.com. To reach someone, please email reservations@callawaygardens.com or call 1.800.352.3810. Free Admission Beginning Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, admission to the Gardens will be free on weekdays* through Friday, Feb. 27. There are lots of fun things to do and see at Callaway Gardens in the colder months, such as witnessing butterflies emerging and taking flight in the warm, tropical Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center and exploring the beautiful John A. Sibley Horticultural Center with gorgeous floral displays.



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Meriwether County Animal Shelter is partnering with PetSmart Charities to neuter cats and dogs. On January 21st, Meriwether County pet owners can have their male cats and dogs neutered for only \$20.00. To take advantage of this offer, pet owners must mention “Happy Neuter Year” when calling to make an appointment. Call 770-304-7911 to schedule an appointment or email helptransportcoordinator@gmail.com

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Georgia's Legislative Session to "kick off" Monday January 12th, transportation funding is likely to be one of the more prominent topics. Just as momentum is building in the U. S. Congress for raising the federal gas tax as a way to pay for upgrades to the nation's crumbling road and bridges, Georgia is in good company with other states challenged by the same issue. The Georgia Chamber, the most powerful voice of business in the state Capitol is said to be ready to endorse the move to raise the federal gas tax. Meanwhile, State Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) believes there is about \$200 million "squirreled" away in the state's general fund that can help boost transportation. Out of the 7% sales tax generally levied on gas in Georgia, 4% goes to the state and 3% to local governments. 3 of the 4% goes to the Georgia Department of Transportation, with the 4th penny going to the general fund. Senator Gooch wants that 4th penny out of the state's general fund and back with GDOT.

Have information to share?

Advertising?

Community Events?

Announce them here – send information to meriwetherchamber@windstream.net

U. S. Companies clamor to do business in New Cuban Market: The New York Times reports that "within hours of President Obama's historic move to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba, companies in the U. S. were already developing strategies to introduce their products and services to a market they have not been in for the better part of 50 years. Despite Cuba's long stagnation and isolation from the global economy, the potential trade opportunities go both ways. While some Americans will be itching at the opportunity to obtain the famed Cuban cigars more easily, the country also has a surprisingly robust biotechnology industry that makes a number of vaccines not now available in the United States. Another hot spot for the economy could be mining as Cuba has one of the largest deposits of nickel in the world.

Keystone Pipeline: It's no surprise that the White House is threatening to veto a bill authorizing construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, setting up an immediate clash with Republicans just as they assume control of Congress. Mr. McConnell has vowed to make the Keystone bill the first measure that the new Congress sends to the President's desk. The House passed the bill today (Friday) and the Senate is expected to take up the measure next week.

Jobless Rate Falls: Employers added 252,000 jobs in December and the unemployment rate dropped to 5.6% as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last year saw total gains of 2.95 million jobs, the best showing since the late 1990's.