

THIS IS MY Story



*Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.*

Psalm 107:2



A WORD FROM *Pastor Jeff*

This is our story...

The words of the Hymn "Blessed Assurance" say it well

*"...Watching and waiting, looking above filled with His goodness,
lost in His love. This is my story, this is my song..."*

Inside you will find some of the stories that make up the people who call Cumming First UMC home.

In these pages you will see and hear a few stories that are representative of our church. Families, persons, individuals, young and old that have been filled with God's goodness and love. I hope you will see that each story contains multiple contact points. People find the church through one of our important ministries, they meet other people, they move to a place of service, they settle on a worship service, they become connected with God and with others. This story theme runs deep into the fiber of the church. Our stories are about our longing to be connected to the God who created us. To that end we have dynamic worship services, experiences, special services and focused times of the year. But our longing is not to just be connected to God, our longing is also to be connected to one another in meaningful ways.

Prayer Ministry, Sunday School, Upward sports, After School, Preschool, youth ministry, children's ministry, mission trips, Bible study, book club, the bazaar, choir, Food Pantry, scouts, and so many other opportunities abound to provide ways for people to connect with each other.

All of these stories are possible because of the generosity of persons like you. CFUMC doesn't receive any UMC dollars, we are not subsidized by any fund or organization. Every bit of what we do comes from the generosity of the congregation. The maintenance of the buildings, upkeep of the property, lighting for the sanctuary, paper products, staff, and even coffee on Sunday morning are all possible because of your generosity.

I trust that you and your family will listen to the stories inside and prayerfully consider what God is laying on your heart to give as 2017 ends and then

during the 2018 year. As we have been reading in *The Grand Sweep*, God is generous, gracious, loving, and constantly provides for his people. We honor God and demonstrate our faith and trust as we return to God our tithes and offerings.

As our community grows, there are so many who are longing to experience what the people in these stories have discovered. Our ability to reach them, our ability to add their story to our stories depends on your generosity.

Blessings,

Jeff

Senior Pastor
Cumming First United Methodist Church
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MINISTRIES AT

Cumming First United Methodist Church

Here at CFUMC....

Cumming First United Methodist Church exists to bring glory to God through worship, Bible studies, ministries, giving, fellowship, and community outreach. Our purpose is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. We are so thankful to have a congregation who wants to give and love those in the church as well as around our community. CFUMC is leading the way in Forsyth County through our tremendous programs such as our weekday Preschool, our Food Pantry, Backpacks of Love, Afterschool, Upward Sports, Family Promise, Happy Knotters, the Christmas Bazaar, the Kid's Consignment Sales, Missions trips to various places, Gentle Souls, Grief Support and Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Groups, Assisted Living services, as well as so much more! These ministries and outreach programs are only made possible by the volunteer support and financial support of people like you. We can continue to grow our programs and minister to others with the support of your time and donations.



Thank you!



To learn more about what's happening at CFUMC, visit www.cfumcga.com

CFUMC STORIES

Carolyn Pittman



"We felt immediately at home when we visited CFUMC, and were drawn by the warmth of the ministers and members alike."

So many things make Cumming First United Methodist Church very special to me. CFUMC is, by far, the most warm and friendly church I've ever been blessed to be a part of. It offers so many opportunities for worship, service, and Bible study. I thank God every day for directing my path to Cumming, Georgia and to have the chance to be a part of this "outpost" of His mighty church," Carolyn said.

Carolyn Pittman and her late husband Pitt joined CFUMC in 1996 after feeling at home while visiting the church. Their grandchildren were enrolled in the **CFUMC Preschool** at the time. They commuted from their previous home to attend the children's preschool programs. They knew that the church was making a wonderful impact on their grandchildren's young lives and they wanted to be a part of that too.

"We didn't even visit other Methodist churches in Forsyth County. We felt immediately at home when we visited CFUMC, and were drawn by the warmth of the ministers and members alike. The wonderful **choir and music programs**, under the direction of Olive Kellum, were another blessing we felt when we attended the church. The excellent music ministry of this church under the direction of John Hutchinson has continued to be such a blessing."

Carolyn has been a Methodist all her life. She was a member of two other Methodist congregations before moving to Cumming. Her previous churches were not as large as CFUMC, and the benefit a larger church has given her are the numerous opportunities to study and serve. Carolyn is a dedicated member of the **Intercessory Prayer Ministry** which meets every Monday. "I became an Intercessor with the Prayer Ministry, and when invited to, become a Note Writer; I was very glad to do that. I knew I could give love and support to those on the prayer list, even if it meant writing notes from my husband's hospital room. I was blessed to be able to participate with this powerful ministry even more as time went by, and eventually becoming a part of the ministry's work with the weekly preparation of the prayer list. Serving as an Intercessor has blessed my life in so many ways," Carolyn said.

After battling with a lengthy illness, Carolyn's husband, Pitt passed away in January 2006. Carolyn remarks, "We were on the road to Emory Hospital weekly for most of those years beginning in 1994 when we moved to Cumming following Pitt's second heart surgery. God's work through our marvelous Emory medical team could "fine tune" his issues and allow us to have him with us for 12 years! We are so thankful for those years. During my husband's lengthy illness and declining health, the staff, **Intercessory Prayer Ministry**, and **Sorta Fifties Sunday School Class** could not have been more supportive. I felt so much kindness, love, and prayer directed toward our family. I knew I just had to pay all that forward and I was very thankful when the opportunity to help came my way."

Each Sunday, Carolyn attends the 8:45 am traditional service. In addition to being a part of the **Intercessory Prayer Ministry**, she is also a member of the **Bazaar Ministry**, **Happy Knotters**, and a part of the Caring Committee of the **Sorta Fifties Sunday School Class**.

Interested in the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Choir and Music programs, Christmas Bazaar Ministry or Adult Sunday School? Visit www.cfumcga.com to learn more.



CFUMC STORIES

Will Enger

"... Being a part of CFUMC has helped me to become a better person!"

Will Enger is a Junior at West Forsyth High School. He is a member of Cumming First UMC and involved in several ministries of the Church. As a child, Will was a part of the CFUMC Preschool although his family attended another church in Forsyth County. The Enger's began attending CFUMC when Will was in 6th grade. Will was confirmed in his faith at CFUMC. The Enger's were drawn here because of the traditional worship and the exceptional preaching style of Dr. John Cromartie.

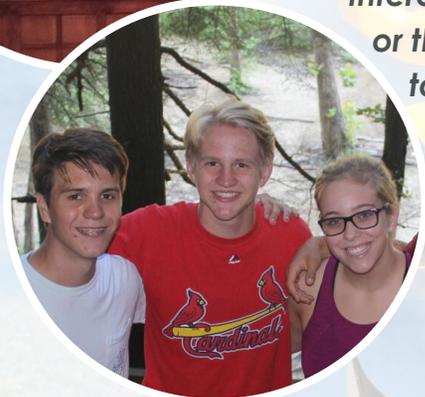
Will is an active member of the **Student Choral Ensemble** and attends both the 8:45 am and 11:00 am worship services on Sunday mornings. "Being able to go to both services has given me so much exposure to God and the Bible. Every time I hear a sermon, it makes me take an objective prospective on my own life and apply it to what I'm dealing with," Will said.

Will's involvement in the **Chancel Choir** has been an amazing experience for him as well. "Being a part of the choir has helped me in so many ways. The kindness that everyone has shown in the choir has been so infectious," Will said.

In 2017 Will traveled to Ecuador with the **CFUMC Missions Team**. It was an experience that he will not forget. Will stated, "We helped teach kids English and we played games with them. It was so encouraging to see how happy they were for us to be there and to help them! We made a huge impact on their lives and in return it made a huge impact on our lives."



After graduating high school, Will, hopes to pursue a career in engineering. He also hopes to seek out a church wherever he is that helps him grow spiritually. "I recognize the importance of being a part of a local church. Experiencing the atmosphere here has been huge for my own life. Being a part of CFUMC has helped me to become a better person!"



Interested in the Student Choral Ensemble, Chancel Choir or the CFUMC Missions Team? Visit www.cfumcga.com to learn more.

CFUMC STORIES

Assisted Living

"Ministry Wherever You Are"

When life's circumstances make it difficult to get to church, we bring church to you! Bible studies and church services take place every week at various Independent Living and Assisted Living facilities around Cumming. We also have a **visitation team** that makes sure that all of our homebound church members are contacted and/or visited on a regular basis.

Whether it is Holy Communion, hymn singing and a homily at the Villas of Canterfield, or Bible Study and a praise team at Cumming Manor, "Let's Share Supper" with all of the church members at the Villas, or Holy Communion brought to your apartment by a member of our **visitation team**, your connection to church is never broken.

Interested in learning more about our Visitation Teams?

Visit www.cfumcga.com to learn more.



The Beaumont Family

"Being a part of CFUMC has been a gift to our family."

In Lindsay's own words...

"Bruce and I just celebrated 10 years of marriage this past June, with our two kind hearted boys Elijah (5) and Oliver (2.5).

We became members of CFUMC February 2016 just before moving from Dacula, GA to Duck Town in Cumming.

While we were building our house, we knew we needed to find a preschool for our almost 4-year-old at the time Eli. We had heard great things about the **CFUMC Preschool**, so we toured the preschool and decided to send Eli there in the fall, and soon after we decided the **CFUMC Children's Ministry** was also a great fit for both our boys.

Deciding to join CFUMC was very easy for us. We immediately loved the rustic charm of the church, wood beamed ceilings and painted white brick, and the people we kept meeting in the church were just as charming. The nursery staff was so incredibly kind to our boys who were having a tough time adjusting to their new surroundings at CFUMC. The staff gave us peace of mind while we left our boys in their care to worship at 9:51 service.

While it was tough leaving our boys while they were visibly upset, every time we came back to get them they were happy campers. Eventually, the crying stopped and now Oliver loves his church nursery and Eli loves seeing all his friends in his Sunday school class.

If anyone is looking to bring their young family to CFUMC and their children are having separation anxiety, I can tell them first hand it will end quickly and their kids will love CFUMC just like my boys do now.



We have never attended any of the other services other than the 9:51 service. Sorry Dr. Ross. The **9:51 service** fits Bruce and me just right. Stephen's wit keeps us entertained while enlightening us. I could stand all day long singing and dancing to Jake and his worship band's song selections. The tables support our gigantic cups of coffee. 9:51 is just right for us.

Bruce and I both teach the 9:51 pre-k Sunday school class on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. While the pre-k kids can be a little rambunctious at times, it has been a true joy watching each one as they start their own relationship with Christ. Their honesty is humbling, and often pretty hilarious.

Reverend Allison Griner talked me into performing for one of the Bible Discovery rooms at VBS this past June. First off, I have never experienced a VBS that massive; 400+ kids!!! Secondly, it was a lot of work to make each section of that camp immersive and engaging for each child...thankfully, I had just one room. Most importantly, participating in VBS was energizing and up-lifting.

A big thanks to Children's ministry for letting me be a part of it and for making it so amazing for the children.

In just a little over a year of attending CFUMC, I have been blessed to have made some dear friends. It is a great feeling having friends who are moms and can talk openly about struggles and triumphs as a woman in Christ. I joined the **Mom Core Bible Study** at CFUMC, and there I met so many other amazing moms. I encourage any mom at the church to join **Mom Core** and connect with women who are going to uplift you in so many ways.

Being a part of CFUMC has been a gift to our family. We were without a church home for a long time and there is a great peace of mind now for us that we have found one and feel like we are right at home."



Interested in the CFUMC Preschool, Children's Ministry, 9:51 or Mom Core? Visit www.cfumcga.com to learn more.

CFUMC Stories

Food Pantry

"The CFUMC Food Pantry: making a difference in Forsyth"

The **CFUMC Food Pantry** exists to serve those in need in our community. Each week, a wonderful team of volunteers work hard to help the Food Pantry run smoothly and efficiently.

The Food Pantry distributes for two hours every Wednesday morning. The pantry is stocked and bags are packed 3 times each week. Bread is picked up and delivered Monday through Wednesday. Drivers bring food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Georgia Mountain Food Bank and local stores at least once per week. Donations are sorted and stocked as they come into the church. During the growing season, we have a Food Pantry Garden at **Cane Creek Farms** and are able to give out fresh, organic produce.

Anyone may receive help from the pantry. There are no income requirements and families may receive a full bag of groceries once per month. We offer bread and pastries each week. We are here to help out those in our community facing difficult economic times. There are multiple ways to help! We are always taking non-perishable food item donations as well as monetary funds. You can also serve as a volunteer at Cane Creek Farm.

Interested in learning more about our Food Pantry or Cane Creek Farms? Visit www.cfumcga.com to learn more.



HOW CAN YOU

Help?



Pray: Colossians 4: 2-3 says “Spend a lot of time in prayer. Always be watchful and thankful. Pray for the church too...” We believe in the power of prayer and know that it is foundational to all that we do. Pray for the church members, the staff, the ministries, the people in our community that need to experience the love and grace that Christ offers.

Find a place to serve and get involved: Attend a class, coach an Upward team, help with children, or youth, become a prayer intercessor, help greet on Sunday morning, go on a mission trip, volunteer on Thanksgiving, help set up communion, serve on a committee. There are so many ways to participate in the life of the church.

Invite: Most people come to church because they are invited. If you have benefited from your experience at CFUMC please think of a person or persons who you could invite. Share the experiences you have here at church on social media and invite your contacts to join you.

Give: The stories that you see here just scratch the surface of all the good that is going on at CFUMC. We count on your financial support to continue the good work that takes place. Your gifts matter. God asks us to be generous with all our resources. In giving, you honor God and you will experience the benefit of that obedience.

Endowment: Some are in a unique position to give enduring gifts to the church. Through our endowment you can give a part of your estate to sustain the church for the years to come. You can ensure that your children and grandchildren will have access to the same programs, ministries, and pastoral leadership that you have benefited from. We would love to talk to you about the many options that are available.

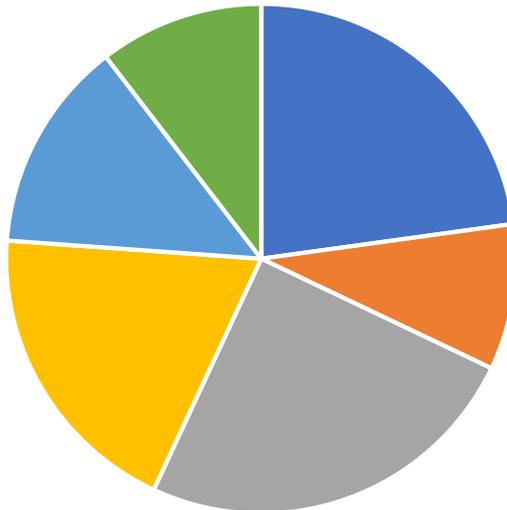
A LOOK AT THE 2017-2018 Budget

Proposed Budget

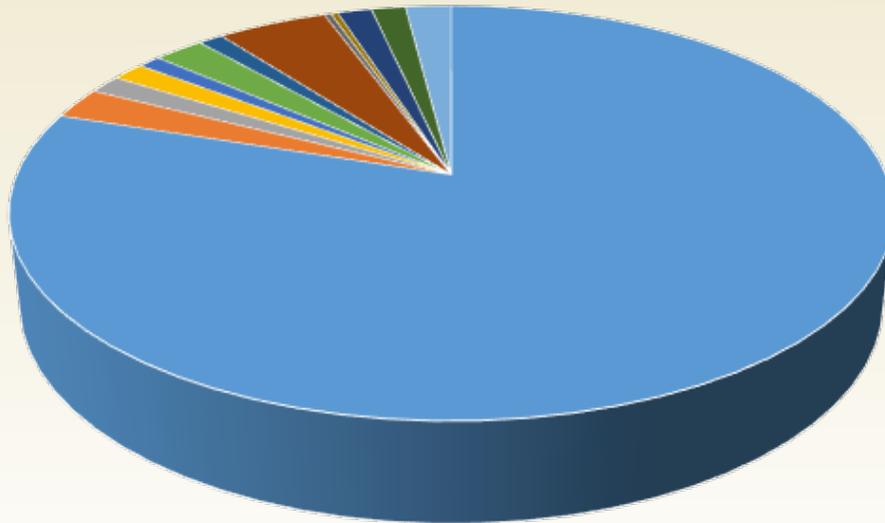
	2018 Proposed	2017 Actual	Variance
Staff Parish Relations (<i>Salaries, Benefits, Insurance</i>)	\$1,328,598.00	\$1,155,885.00	\$172,713.00
Board of Trustees (<i>Repairs, Maintenance, Utilities, Office, Equipment</i>)	\$762,173.00	\$583,998.00	\$178,175.00
Council on Ministries (<i>Music, Worship, Children, Youth, Adult Programs</i>)	\$177,125.00	\$160,075.00	\$17,050.00
Apportionments, etc. (<i>Support of United Methodist Church</i>)	\$189,548.00	\$184,847.00	\$4,701.00
Sanctuary Mortgage (<i>Principal and Interest on Building Loan</i>)	\$123,724.00	\$242,834.00	\$(119,110.00)
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$2,581,168.00	\$2,327,639.00	\$253,529.00

Where is the money spent?

■ Children/Youth Programs	\$531,077.72	23%
■ Adult Programs	\$215,570.33	9%
■ Worship & Music	\$578,480.42	25%
■ Missions & Outreach	\$447,052.83	19%
■ Office Administrative Support	\$312,622.72	13%
■ Debt Retirement	\$242,834.03	10%
	\$2,327,638.05	100%



CFUMC Outreach Provides \$750,000 in Annual Value to our Community



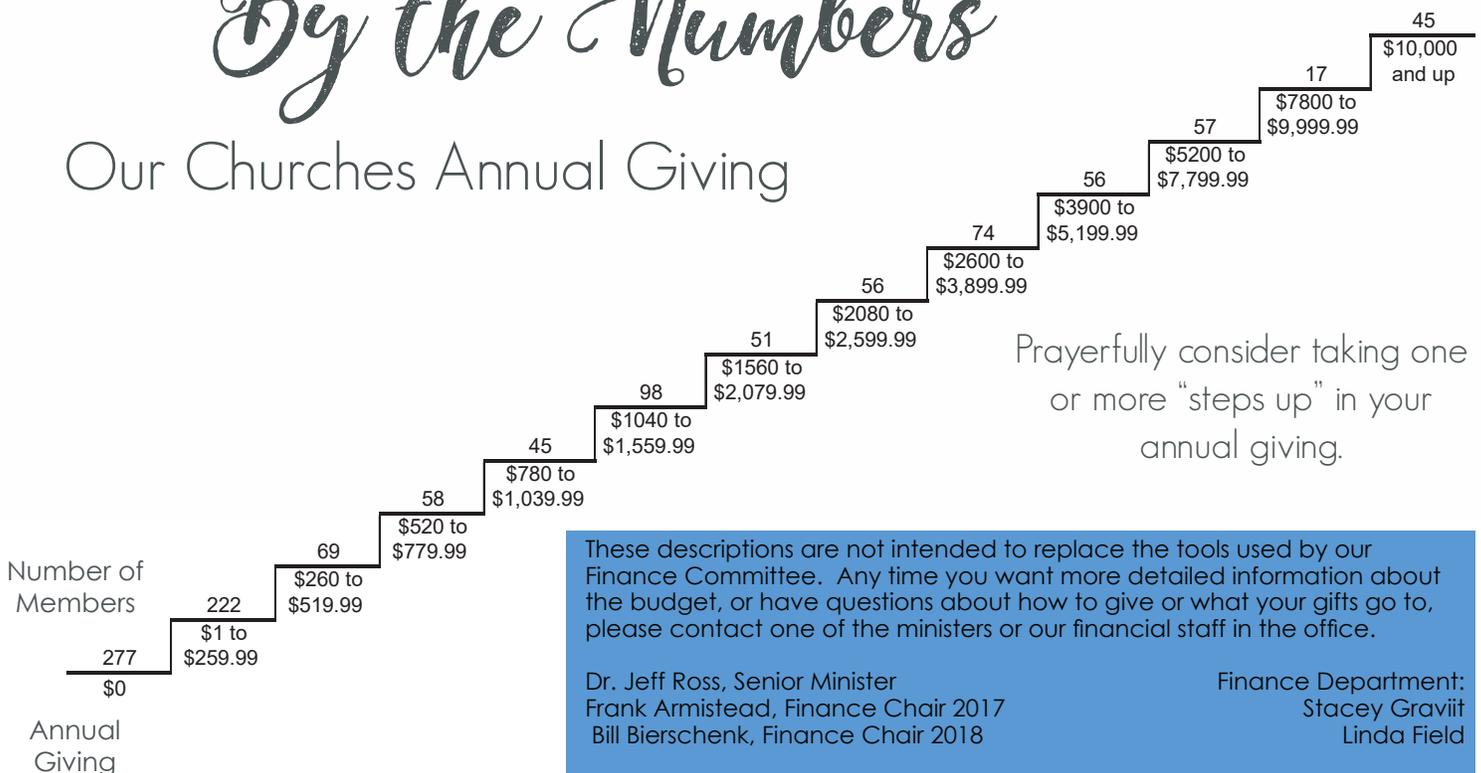
- Food Pantry \$600.0 K
- Back Packs \$18.4 K
- Summer Lunches \$10.8K
- Thanksgiving Meal \$10.8 K
- Military Care \$7.5 K
- OGDS \$16.5 K
- Family Promise \$8.1 K
- ESL/Literary \$36.0 K
- Cocaine Anonymous \$2.3 K
- Emotions Anonymous \$2.3 K
- Henderson \$11.2 K
- Ecuador \$11.2 K
- Hurricane Relief \$15.0 K

Note: The "value" represents the annualized retail value of supplies, services, and space provided to the community through these outreach programs.

GIVING

By the Numbers

Our Churches Annual Giving



Prayerfully consider taking one or more "steps up" in your annual giving.

These descriptions are not intended to replace the tools used by our Finance Committee. Any time you want more detailed information about the budget, or have questions about how to give or what your gifts go to, please contact one of the ministers or our financial staff in the office.

Dr. Jeff Ross, Senior Minister
 Frank Armistead, Finance Chair 2017
 Bill Bierschenk, Finance Chair 2018

Finance Department:
 Stacey Graviit
 Linda Field

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Visit us online at
www.cfumcga.com



Raise your joys
and triumphs high.

Raise your joys
and triumphs high.
Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens
and earth reply,
Alleluia!

