

# A.I.M. Newsletter

May 2008

*We have redesigned  
our website!  
Please visit us at*



[www.aim2020.com](http://www.aim2020.com)



We are not at the present time charging a subscription fee for the AIM Newsletter but it does cost about \$1.30 per issue to get it to you. If you would help us defer this cost it would be greatly appreciated and needed.

## *Featured Church - Christ Independent Methodist Church*

**Palatka, Florida**

***Bro. Michael K. Hudson, Senior Pastor***



Whenever you see old friends or family members that you have not seen in a while, there is usually one question: "What are you doing now?" Well, at Christ Independent Methodist Church, we are doing the same thing we have been doing for the last forty years - proclaiming the good news that God sent His Son as our Savior.

This June, Christ Independent Methodist Church will celebrate its fortieth year. On June 17, 1968, fifty-five members came together to form the church. Of those original fifty-five members, ten are still in the church today playing an active role. Those who have been in the church from the very beginning are still playing an active role in the music, children's, adult, and other various ministries. God has blessed the church over the last forty years in many different ways, and we pray that He will continue to bless the next forty years.

During this time the church has experienced many great blessings from the Lord. We have seen many individuals come to know the Lord as their Savior, others go into full-time ministry, and others promoted to Glory. One of those blessings was having Brother Amos Price serve as senior pastor for twenty years. Brother Amos is now a chaplain at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. Mrs. Nina and Amos are still faithfully serving in the church today. They have been and are continuing to be a wonderful blessing to the church.

As the past was such a blessing, the future is exciting as we see the Lord continue to work within the church. From the children's ministry to the youth ministry and all the way to the senior adults, each area is seeing both spiritual and *continued on page 3*

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## Director's Notes

by Dr. Mike Weldon

Spring has arrived and our Annual Meeting is fast approaching. We anticipate a wonderful blessing at annual meeting June 19-21. There will be anointed preaching by Dr. Ron Smith, good music provided by our AIM churches, delicious food provided by our host, Claud Independent Methodist Church, and warm fellowship provided by our AIM people. Bring a van load and don't miss it! Our theme is "A Fresh Touch from God." We need each church to send its pastor and as many of its members as possible. If we have representation from each church, we can take the "Fresh Touch" back to our home churches.

Friday morning will feature a class on theology from Dr. Smith and a class on a 4-week outreach program giving ideas on increasing Sunday evening attendance. The Friday noon mission banquet is always a high point in our annual meeting. We will hear reports from mission giving, ministerial students, missionaries and educational institutions.

We are working to try to have the new AIM constitution printed by annual meeting. We need to raise \$2,600.00 to finish the job. Please pray!

We have three summer camps planned this summer. There will be one for each region. Check this issue and the website for dates and details. These camps are well planned and staffed. They are geared to meet the spiritual needs of our youth. I pray each church will participate and send youth and counselors.

Many thanks go to those who work, pray and plan in order to provide retreats for men, ladies and youth and our youth camp teams. We have some of the best dedicated Christian AIM workers. Praise the Lord!

After forty-three years of ministry, one of the things that amazes me is the rapid rate at which things are changing. Some of the changes are good, some not so good. I struggle to stay up with technology and the fast pace of life. Some things we have to accept and adjust the best we can. But there are some things that I will never accept: the taking of a precious unborn life; a marriage that is not between a man and a woman; homosexuality as a normal lifestyle; some theory of evolution; that Christians are expected to sin in thought, word, and deed every day; that anyone cannot be saved; that there is no victory over sin; Satan and the grave; that Jesus is not the only way to salvation; that the Bible is not the inerrant, inspired and infallible word of God; And lastly and leastly - a ban of fishing!

I remain your servant as we work together to "Love God from a pure heart and love others by sharing the gospel."

## President's Notes

by David Chandler

This summer at Annual Meeting, I will have completed my 4<sup>th</sup> year as President of the Association of Independent Methodists. And I wanted to take this time to thank every one of our members and churches for the love, prayers and support that you have shown me as well as AIM. It has truly been an honor to serve the Lord this year through our Association. I have traveled to many of our churches and attended wonderful services, youth camps and other events. I have been blessed beyond belief. AIM is growing and the message of full salvation is being preached faithfully and lived out in the lives of many of our people. I pray that every church will send a large group to Annual Meeting in June, so that the fire of holiness might rain down and fill our hearts with love, so that we can continue to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world! Please be in much prayer for AIM, our leaders and Brother Mike Weldon. We need everyone's continued support as we all seek to do the Lord's will here on earth. God bless you and I look forward to seeing you at Annual Meeting.

## *Featured Church, cont'd.*

numerical growth. We are praising the Lord for new families who have joined the church and are taking an active role in the ministry.

As the church continues to grow, our Building Committee is actively planning for the future with a possible expansion of the facilities in order to reach more individuals for Jesus Christ. They have just completed designing the future sanctuary. As the Lord blesses and leads, hopefully, this will leave the planning stage and enter the building stage.

Our mission statement reminds us of the direction that we must go. Often our church is referred to as CIMC. The four points of our mission statement correspond with each letter. The first 'C' stands for 'Convert them.' It is our desire to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The 'I' stands for 'Involve them.' We want to see Christians involved in a ministry of the church. The 'M' stands for 'Mature them.' We want the Christians to grow in their faith in Christ so they might in turn help to disciple others for Jesus. The last 'C' stands for 'Compel them.' We want to compel Christians to go out into the world and bring the lost in to Jesus Christ.

C – Convert them

I – Involve them

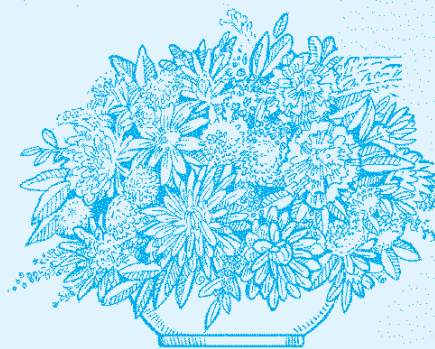
M – Mature them

C – Compel them

We have a burden to reach the community for Christ, and throughout the year, several special activities are designed to show the community that we are concerned about them. From the Men's ministry to Trunk-or-Treat to Bethlehem Marketplace, we are reaching out to the community to show the love of Christ. Our desire is to see souls saved and lives restored.

If you want to know more about our church, you can find us on the web at [www.cimc.org](http://www.cimc.org).

We are looking ahead to the next forty years of serving the Lord. We know that it will involve many joys and blessings as well as trials and tribulations. But we do know that we serve a God who is faithful and mighty. Please pray for us as we strive to serve our Savior, Jesus Christ.



## *A Donation was received in Memory of:*

Henry Flemming

Oscar Pickle

Joann Redd

Marie Trammell

You may send a donation in memory of someone in lieu of flowers or in honor of someone special.

Along with your donation please include name and address of the person whom you wish to receive the memorial or in-honor-of letter. He or she will be mailed a letter stating that a donation was made in memory of or in-honor-of.

## *44th AIM Annual Meeting*

**When:** June 19-21, 2008

**Location:** Claud Independent  
Methodist Church  
of Eclectic, Alabama

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Ron Smith  
President of  
Wesley Biblical Seminary.

Come enjoy gospel preaching, testimonies, singing, and fellowship.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. on June 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by a church sponsored supper and worship at 6:00 p.m.

# Why I'm Planting a Church

by Rev. Marshall Daigre

## Reason #1 - God's Calling on our Life

God has unmistakably *called* us to plant a new church. We fought with this calling for about a year. This was not something that we wanted to do or felt like we could do. In God's wisdom that is OK (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

We felt much like Moses did when God called him to lead the people of Israel out of bondage. We knew this was God's plan, but we were unsure of ourselves (Ex. 3:11). Just like Moses, we came to a place where we realized that God already had a plan and that God would give us the abilities needed to get the job done and that God would give us people to help (Ex. 4:1-17).



We accepted this call but wanted further confirmation. The more we prayed, the more God confirmed in our hearts that this was the task that he was calling us to. Looking for direction from the *scriptures*, we found that God planted a nation right in the heart of the ancient world and that God planted the church out of that nation. Both are planted for the same reason: to be a light to the world. God is a church-planting God.

We sought the *counsel* of mentors and those we trust the most. Overwhelmingly, we were told that this fit our gifts and that it seemed to be God's will for our life. *Circumstantially*, God opened the way for us to get where we needed to be. Those "open doors" were further confirmation that church planting was his unmistakable call.

## Reason #2 - God's Burden on our Life

When God calls a person, he places his **burden** on their life. All Christians are to share in Christ's burden for the world (Matt. 11:29-30), but in particular, those who are called to specific tasks are often given a burden for particular peoples or lands; think of Moses again (Num. 11:14, 17).

Reaching people in the third millennium is hard for a host of reasons. Although God's nature never changes, his methods for reaching people do (1 Cor. 12:6). God has placed a burden on us for the people of this area. It is a burden that drives us to prayer and work.

## Reason #3 - God's Vision for His Church

We have a **vision**. A little over twenty years ago, a man and his family came to Decatur to a small church located in Flint City, Alabama. With not much more than a calling and some financial provision, they moved and obeyed God's calling. That man was my dad, Hal Daigre, and God blessed his obedience.

Now with over two hundred in weekly attendance, they are a church that has, for years, been a sending church. They have sent out pastors, teachers, missionaries, and lay people for ministry in local, state, and out-of-state ministries and into mission fields abroad.

Like FIMC of Decatur, we want to be a sending church, a church that sends out people into ministry every week, to their homes and businesses for years to come. We believe that God will reward our obedience to his calling and to his vision for this church and for AIM.

## Reason #4 - God's Mission in the World

God's **mission** in the world is our focus, for it is the very heart of God. His last commission to us was to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them (Matt. 28:18-20). Making disciples is our mission. Evangelism is not complete without discipleship. Making disciples is a lot more work than just getting people to make a decision for Christ.

Join us on this mission in your community. We are all missionaries, people carrying out the mission of God. This great work will not be accomplished without prayer. Pray, therefore, to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest (Matt. 9:38).

## A New Start

by Dr. Steve Flick

Revelation 21:5, *He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

The dogwood trees are still adorned with their blossoms, and the many colors of azaleas dot the landscape. Last year's leaves which clung to some of the oak boughs are being pushed to the forest floor by a new crop of leaves. Ever taller grows the myrtle, maple, oak, osage orange, and a myriad of trees and shrubs. The new growth of each succeeding year stands upon the shoulders of the previous years' growth, adding new life and vitality.

What is true in nature is also true concerning our families. Our families are enlarged through the birth of children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. Since our children were infants, Beth and I prayed for the young man and young woman that Jessica and John would marry. Likewise, we also prayed for the children that might be given to their marriages. Though we do not think we are old enough to be grandparents, we now pray more specifically for our grandson who is to be born to Jessica and Stephen in July. I have sensed the joy of many of you as you have introduced to Beth and me your children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. There is an unexplainable joy in saying, "This is my son!" or "This is my granddaughter!" Each of us praise God for the enlargement of our families, perhaps because we believe that it is an extension of our lives lived out vicariously in those whom we treasure most deeply.

Only three weeks ago, on Easter Sunday (March 23), our church assumed its new place of residence at 1127 Luckney Road in Flowood. Since 2005, our congregation has labored to construct our new church. The obstacles have been enormous, and, at times, seemingly insurmountable. But the grace of God and the patience and persistence of our congregation have prevailed. Indeed, God is making all things new for our congregation. For the last seven years, Riverside has made its home in temporary facilities, and now we are finally home!

For our congregation, God is making all things new. We praise him for the beautiful new facility, but we are far more grateful for new family members. My heart is enlarged with joy for grandparents who have brought their grandchildren into the church and introduced them to me. Beth believes I am too old to play kick-the-can (a form of hide-and-seek), but I am invigorated by the zeal of youth and the boundless energy of our children.

New family members always require a place at the table. When our children were born, it was not long before we made a place for them at the table. In the same way, new family members will expand and multiply present ministries. In the weeks and months ahead, our ministries will continue to experience growth and witness new opportunities which they have not seen or enjoyed in several years.

Our Lord seeks to make the heart of the unbeliever new, fashioned after the image of God. And, because the Lord creates a new heart, He can create a new family, a new church, a new nation, and a new world. This is what our Lord implied when He prayed, "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done." This newness comes only through the grace of God. As we begin a new chapter in the life of Riverside, may we begin with the confidence that God seeks to renew his people. May our prayer be, "Lord, let it begin with me!"

## Tired Old Dog

From First Independent Methodist Church of Danville, Virginia Newsletter

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home. He followed me into the house, down the hall, and fell asleep in a corner.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, resumed his position in the hall, and slept for an hour. This continued for several weeks. Being curious, I pinned a note to his collar "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with ten children – he is trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

Wonder where your dog goes sometimes?

## Does God Answer Prayer

by Mrs. Beth Flick

*Exodus 17:12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.*

Each Sunday, I begin the elementary-aged Sunday school class with a time of prayer. We begin with a time of praise, thanking the Lord for specific blessings of the week. Next, we offer our requests to God, usually praying for those who are sick in our families. On occasion, I have the privilege of praying for someone who needs Jesus. What a special honor to pray with the students. Does God answer our prayers? The answer to that question is, “yes.” I often remind the students that in regard to the answers to our prayers that sometimes God says “yes;” sometimes He says “no;” and sometimes He says “wait.” Ouch! – that “wait” answer is a hard one, isn't it? In my adult life, there have been at least three times (that I can remember) when I have noted miraculous answers to my prayers.

The first was when Steve, Jessica, Jon and I first moved to Mississippi in 1986 for Steve to attend Seminary. Many questioned the wisdom of this move – so far away from family. My mother verbalized to me later that she felt like we were “moving to another country.” Steve was a full-time student and worked 30-hours a week; I worked 20-hours a week; Jessica was in first grade; and Jonathan was enrolled in a local day care. All was well ---- for awhile.

One Sunday morning Jessica woke up with a swollen face and neck (we took her picture and still have it). My immediate thought was “mumps.” She just didn't look like Jessica. I don't remember the circumstances as to why this was a panicked situation for us, but it was. There were no nearby friends or relatives to call; Steve needed to be at school the next day; I needed to be at work; and we did not have the money to take her to the doctor. The only thing we knew to do was pray. As Jessica lay on the couch, we prayed over our daughter. When she woke the next morning, all the swelling was gone, and we proceeded to get ready for the day's events, but not before taking time to thank the Lord.

Another time I can identify in which I felt a definite direction from the Lord was when Steve was preaching his last sermon at Victory Congregational Methodist Church in Florence in January 2004. Steve was finishing his one-year commitment to Victory while their pastor was serving in Afghanistan. At this same time, Steve and I were wrestling with the call to return to Riverside. I was reluctant because I was not anxious for Steve to be a full-time professor and pastor again. On that Sunday, I listened to my husband preach, and I watched the congregation respond to the preaching of the Word. As I sat in my pew, I was impressed with the words, “Steve is to be a shepherd of a flock.” After that Sunday, I felt at peace with the possibility of returning to Riverside.

The most recent time in which the Lord miraculously answered our prayers was in the fall of 2006. This was a very low time in our lives and a time in which we questioned whether we were equipped for ministry. We knelt as a couple by our sofa, cried out to the Lord and prayed until we had peace and felt at ease with the song's message: “Be Still and Know that I Am God.”

From that time until now, the Lord has graciously sent us at least 25 new people to our congregation—people who are willing to be Aarons and Hurs in a Moses life. We thank the Lord for everyone who has been so supportive during this building process—both our long-term friends and new-found friends: friends who have been prayer warriors, encouragers, furniture movers, window washers, interior decorators, painters, carpenters, landscapers, scaffolding experts, dusters, sweepers, moppers, coffee makers, cake bakers, organizers, garbage-picker-uppers, and the list could go on and on.

We praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve with you at the corner of Luckney and Cooper Roads. We would not want to serve there if we didn't know that the Lord was going to be with us. Thank you for ministering Jesus' love to us during this time of transition. Knowing that Jesus and you are going with us makes all the difference.

# Mark that Calendar for March 6-7, 2009!

by Mrs. Beth Flick and Mrs. Betty Parker

This year Riverside Church had 8 ladies attend the Ladies Refresher on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Springville, Alabama. Six of our ladies previously have been to this annual event. That should tell you something of the value of the experience. For two of our ladies, this was their first time to attend. On the drive home, one of those ladies described her weekend as “awesome;” the other commented, “I will not miss one in the future.” Now that should speak volumes as to why you should go ahead and mark March 6-7, 2009, on your calendar for next year’s Ladies Refresher.

Our good friend Janis Lane and her many helpers at Faith Methodist once again pulled together a spiritual weekend in which we heard challenging messages and encouraging songs. This year’s theme for the event was “Come to the Fire,” and our main scripture was Isaiah 6:6-8. *Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips: Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.” Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”*



Patsy Lewis of the Potters Clay Ministry in Hillview, Kentucky, was our keynote speaker. The illustration that I’m sure all participants will remember most was during one of the sessions in which Patsy had a lot of shopping bags on the stage, and we were all wondering what they contained. Patsy told in story form how each bag represented something from her past--sin, guilt, failure, hurts, burdens. As she named the different hurts, she picked up a bag and added it to her shoulder, eventually making her load unbearable, at which point at which she just had to surrender all to God. She spoke of the need to let go of the things that weigh us down and to use that energy to serve the Lord and to find peace with ourselves and God. Many in the audience found help at the altar regarding their own “baggage.”

An extra-special treat this year was the music provided by Kim McLean and Devon O’Day from Nashville, Tennessee. Kim, a gifted singer and composer, is a Dove Award winner, whose love for Jesus is evident as she speaks and sings ([www.kimmclean.com](http://www.kimmclean.com)). Both Kim and Devon have agreed to return for the 2009 Ladies Refresher.

The weekend was also filled with prayer times in which we broke into small groups, shared our praises and requests, and had the privilege of praying for each other. Through these times of prayer, burdens were lifted as loving and caring individuals held hands, wept, and prayed to our Heavenly Father.

At the conclusion of the 2008 Refresher, our cups were full and running over. Praise the Lord!



## ***“Relections”***

by Mrs. Blanche Fuhrman

*(Written in 1982 after driving through  
New York and Vermont)*

If God can change this world of His  
When spring-time breezes blow,  
From winter drab to summer green  
Dappled with every hue I know:  
Redo it all for autumn’s scene  
With vivid colors rare  
And mirror it in silver lakes;  
I know He must be there  
Delighting me with details  
To show His wondrous love.  
What glory must await me there  
When I reach Heaven above!

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## ***Calendar of Events - 2008***

**June 19-21, 2008**

### **44<sup>th</sup> AIM Annual Meeting**

Location: Claud Independent Methodist Church  
of Eclectic, Alabama

Speaker: Dr. Ron Smith  
President of Wesley Biblical Seminary  
Jackson, Mississippi

Theme: “A Fresh Touch From God”

Registration begins at 5 o’clock Thursday night.

**July 7-10, 2008**

### **Mid South Region Youth Camp**

Location: Timber Creek Camp  
Pulaski, Mississippi

Teen Evangelist: Bro. Randy Sawyer  
Pre-Teen Evangelist: Bro. Eddie Woods  
Cost: \$175.00 per person if paid by  
June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Theme: “His Space NOT My Space”

**July 14-18, 2008**

### **Tennessee Valley Region Youth Camp**

Location: Kamp Kumbaya  
Eupora, MS

Evangelist: Bro. Randy Sawyer  
Cost: \$105.00 per person (If you don’t want a  
t-shirt)  
\$110.00 per person (If you want a t-shirt)\

Theme: Dfnt

**July 27-31, 2008**

### **South East Region Youth Camp**

Location: Camp Shocco Springs  
Talladega, Alabama

Teen Evangelist: Bro. Marshall Daigre  
Cost: \$200.00 per person  
Theme: Activate Your Faith