

Udderly Fantastic:

Shelby Fowler, a senior at Berkmar High School and member of **Pilgrimage Presbyterian**, attended Project Burning Bush, an initiative of Union Theological Seminary, PSCE and Montreat. The program is designed especially for rising juniors and seniors in high school who display gifts for Christian ministry.

Three African-American students were recipients of \$1,000 scholarships given by the Korean Central Presbyterian Church at the 7th Annual Advent Christmas Concert, which featured the choirs of racial/ethnic churches in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Scholarship recipients are **Milton Bolton, Radcliffe Presbyterian; Pierre Edwards, Church of the Master Presbyterian; and Napoleon Hendricks, III, Hillside Presbyterian.**

Presbyterian by birth?

... by choice?

... perhaps by birth & choice?

Welcome to **HOLY COW!**

We hope this exclamation of excitement will be yours as you read news of the

PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA.

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I Know I'm a Presbyterian When...

"I know I am a Presbyterian when reading the book of Ephesians sets me to thinking that Paul must have memorized the Shorter Catechism."

—Bonneau H. Dickson

Former Presbytery Executive, currently serving in the Development Office of Columbia Theological Seminary

I know I'm a Presbyterian when tears come to my eyes and there's a lump in my throat whenever the Pipers play, and the blood of my ancestors makes my heart beat a little faster when I see the bleak, stark beauty of Scotland.

—Marjorie Greer Howard

First Presbyterian, LaGrange

I know I'm a Presbyterian when I can attend 11:00 worship service, fellowship after church, and be in my seat at a Braves game at 1:10 p.m.!

—Erma Gore Killings

Hillside Presbyterian

Tell us what makes you know you're a Presbyterian. Your contribution may be humorous, serious or decidedly odd! Be sure to include your name and the church where you worship, and send to: Holy Cow!, c/o Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306-4216.

HOLY COW! Loose on the Web!

Starting with the next issue, *HOLY COW!* will be published exclusively on our web site.

We welcome stories about your church, mission involvement or individuals from your congregation. Stories should be limited to one-two typed pages.

Be sure to include a contact name and daytime telephone number. To submit stories or to write articles, contact:

HOLY COW!

c/o Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30306-4216
fax: 404 898-0679

Announcements about meetings and events can be posted on our web site.

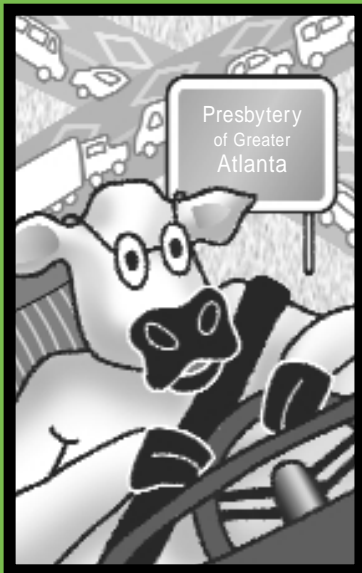
Contact Barry Lastinger at:

blastinger@presbyteryofgreateratl.org



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

HOLY COW!



Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

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HOLY COW! is a ministry of The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Decatur Presbyterian Church

175 and still Going Strong



Anniversaries...through the course of a lifetime we experience many different kinds—wedding, high school graduation, death of a loved one, number of years on the job. In the life of the church, anniversaries are experienced as well, and perhaps none are more cherished than how long a particular church has been in existence.

Decatur Presbyterian, located in downtown Decatur, recently celebrated its 175th anniversary—making it one of the oldest churches in the Atlanta area (even older than First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta). In addition, because it was incorporated in 1827, Decatur Presbyterian is the oldest corporation in DeKalb County.

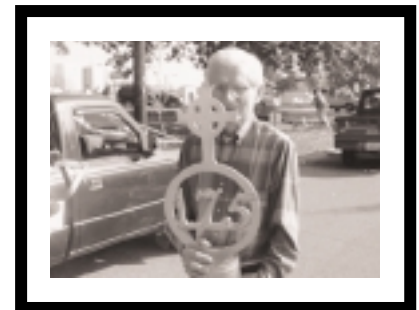
According to Caroline McKinney Clarke, author of *The Story of Decatur Presbyterian Church*, the church began meeting in 1825 in a crude log structure. Six years later, under the name of Union Sunday School, Decatur Presbyterian hosted the first Sunday School in the area. In attendance were Methodists and Baptists as well as Presbyterians.

By 1889, thanks to the able leadership of Dr. Frank H. Gaines and his session, Decatur Presbyterian was known throughout the area as a community leader in education. That role was further strengthened with the church's establishment of the Decatur Female Seminary. In 1890 the school's name was changed to Agnes Scott College to honor the mother of Col. George W. Scott, a substantial contributor to the school. Today, of course, Agnes Scott is a nationally recognized center of higher education for women and one of the oldest women's colleges in Georgia.

In addition to its contributions to education, Decatur Presbyterian has been instrumental in the establishment of 17 sister churches in the metro area. Among those are First Atlanta, Smyrna, Clairmont, North Decatur, Oakhurst, Rock Springs, Emory, Columbia, Glen Haven and Midway.

Today, led by Rev. Dr. Jasper Keith, Decatur Presbyterian is a flourishing congregation of 750 people of all ages. Forming a well-educated community of faith, members seek to maintain a commitment to one another and value friendship and fellowship. "It is my joy and pleasure to provide pastoral leadership for this congregation," states Dr. Keith. "At the beginning of a new century, I am grateful for our heritage and challenged by the legacy we will bequeath to our grandchildren."

Decatur Presbyterian celebrated its anniversary with a parade, barbecue and lighting of candles on a giant birthday cake. During the celebration, the church honored Life Elder Milton C. Scott, aged 106, as its oldest living member (he is the grandson of Col. George W. Scott) and Life Elder Dr. H. Mark Huie, Clerk of the Session.



Milton C. Scott, Decatur Presbyterian's oldest member, celebrates the church's 175th anniversary.

*Newly Renovated
Calvin Center Provides
Opportunities for*
**REST,
RENEWAL
and RETREAT**



Rev. Martin Huggins leads a worship service in the Lakeside Room

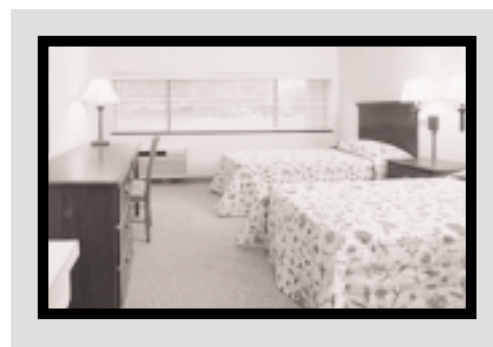
Each of us needs time away from our daily routines to take stock of our lives and relationships. Retreats offer a unique opportunity to focus on such aspects. Whether it is planning, sharing information, or simply bringing a group closer together, getting away from the regular grind allows a fresh perspective. Jesus himself is reported to have gone on a few retreats with his close followers.

Did you know that we are fortunate to have within our Presbytery the ideal location for a retreat? Located on more than 500 acres of land, the Calvin Center in Hampton, Georgia is just 20 minutes south of Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport. The Center offers programs for people of all ages year-round, and features accommodations and facilities from motel-style overnight and meeting rooms to rustic camping. In addition to its summer camping program, the

Center offers a low and high element ropes course, a climbing wall, swimming, basketball, tennis, boating and more. A year-round equestrian program, which offers both therapeutic and recreational riding opportunities, has recently been added to the Center's schedule.

Executive Director John Hicks, who joined the Calvin Center last year (see related article), is overseeing renewal efforts for this valuable resource. Just drive onto the property and you will see the many improvements that have been made recently to the facilities, such as the new Lakeside meeting room that adjoins the dining room and

overlooks the 10+ acre lake. The new room is home to the New Church Development's congregation led by Rev. Martin Huggins, and can be booked during the week by churches and nonprofit organizations for conferences and retreats. The Conference lodge is undergoing renovations to the guest rooms and the meeting rooms. Anticipated completion date for the improvements is February 2001.



Grazings

Mary Ann Blackwood (wife of the late Andrew W. Blackwood, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian), member of Church of the Master and immediate past moderator of the Justice for Women Committee, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, is leaving Atlanta this month to be near her daughter in Charlotte, NC.

Margaret Ann Gatch, member of **Peachtree Presbyterian**, received the Valiant Woman Award from Church Women United in Atlanta.



*Executive Director
John Hicks*

Each congregation in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is invited to tour the grounds and use the outdoor picnic facility and the pool (in season) at no charge on Sunday afternoons for the next year. Reservations are required.

Make your plans now to visit the Calvin Center, YOUR camp and conference center! For reservations and additional information call: 770-946-4276 ext. 26, or visit www.CalvinCenter.org. Speakers are available for your Sunday School class, Wednesday evening supper, or other church groups. To make arrangements call Dorie Griggs, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, 770-367-3266.

ATTENTION: COW WANTED!

Fast food, billboards, television, city streets... Yes, cows are everywhere these days and now we're looking for our very own "poster" cow for the Holy Cow newsletter. If you think you've got the perfect bovine picture to grace the pages of Holy Cow, send it in today to HOLY COW!, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30326-4216.

An Interview with...

John Hicks, Executive Director, Calvin Center

Holy Cow! (HC) recently had the opportunity to talk with John Hicks (JH), Executive Director, about the rejuvenation of the Calvin Center. John, who brings more than 25 years' experience in camp and conference center management, took over the direction of the Center in January 2000.

HC: *The Calvin Center has recently undergone a major transformation in the facelift of several of its facilities and expanded programs. What is your formula for its continued success?*

JH: We have just finished a very exciting year! Calvin Center struggled for a long time. It used to be a mission project, but it's now undergoing a shift to becoming a resource to congregations. The Calvin Center does have a budget and isn't struggling for dollars, but the [Presbytery's] Capital Campaign is certainly vital to our success.

My passion is for nurturing the growth and development of a project, and I believe in establishing partnerships. I envision the Calvin Center serving the Presbytery's 110 congregations through expanded summer opportunities and events co-sponsored with other entities and congregations, such as confirmation classes and interim pastor training. We need to create programs that address all kinds of congregations

HC: *Tell us about some of the expanded and new programs that Calvin Center is offering this year.*

JH: Our equestrian program is very exciting. Cathe McKinnon, the director, is an experienced equestrienne, and she'll be overseeing the new therapeutic riding program and recreational riding schedules, which will now operate throughout the year. In the past, Calvin Center has only offered riding classes as part of its summer camp program.

We are also offering a full summer day camp this year, with a goal to have drop-off sites on the south side of Atlanta, which will expand our outreach. In addition, we hope to establish an outdoor education program for local schools.

HC: *What improvement projects are underway or planned for the near future?*

JH: Our youth and children's facilities were built 40 years ago, and they need to be completely rebuilt. There are 13 cabins—some of which are

The Calvin Center, a ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, offers a wide variety of meeting and recreational facilities for church, nonprofit and civic groups, individuals and campers:

- **Conference Lodge, featuring 24 motel-style rooms, each with twin beds and private bath, as well as two meeting rooms to accommodate groups of up to 200.**
- **Lakeside meeting room, which accommodates up to 175 people.**
- **Geneva and Knox Lodges, featuring guest rooms with six beds each, kitchen facilities and large meeting room, complete with fireplace, tables and chairs.**
- **Rustic cabins with bunk beds, heat and bathrooms in each building, surrounding a main meeting lodge.**
- **High and low element ropes course and climbing wall.**
- **Large outdoor pool, volleyball, tennis and boating.**
- **Picnic area with covered pavilion and grills.**
- **Hayrides.**
- **Year-round equestrian program.**

not winterized—that can only be used four months out of the year. It's a priority to improve these facilities.

We have already re-roofed all the buildings on the property that were critical and are now addressing the heating and air conditioning problems. Everything will be upgraded at the conference center, which needs to be expanded so that larger groups can use it. (The new meeting room now accommodates up to 175 people, which doubles its former capacity.) And the dining hall has undergone a transformation, after removing the screened porch and installing air conditioning, into a lovely meeting room.

Our goal is to complete all of the upgrades as quickly as possible with the money in our budget.

HC: *What message would you like most to communicate about Calvin Center?*

JH: We have lodging, meeting spaces, and outdoor recreational facilities that are available year-round on 548 acres. Where else can you find these amenities on that kind of property in the metro area? This is a fantastic resource for our churches!