



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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SARALAND, AL 36571
PERMIT #14

Special Activities for Lent

- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny*..... Saturday, April 4 (9 - 11 a.m.)
- Easter Cantata - Vivaldi's Gloria*..... Sunday, April 5 (10:30 a.m.)
- Last Supper Drama*..... Thursday, April 9 (7 p.m.)
- Good Friday Service*..... Friday, April 10 (7 p.m.)
Hosted by Chickasaw UMC
- Easter Sunrise Service*..... Sunday, April 12 (6:30 a.m.)
Hosted by Saraland UMC with breakfast served following the service
- Easter Celebration Service*..... Sunday, April 12 (9 & 10:30 a.m.)

The Cornerstone

A PUBLICATION OF SARALAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL
2009

Issue No. 216

**Jehovah Jireh
(The Lord Provides)**

God told Abraham to take his first and only son, Isaac, to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice on one of the mountains there. Amazingly, Genesis tells us Abraham “rose early in the morning” and took his son in order to sacrifice him. As the father of two boys, this passage is a little hard to swallow. First of all, it’s hard to imagine that God would ask anyone to sacrifice any child, let alone a person’s first and only child. Secondly, it’s hard to imagine any father (in their right mind) actually listening to a God who would ask him to do such a thing. The only way I can make sense of this incredible story is in two words: *Jehovah Jireh* which means “The Lord Provides.” This entire episode, God’s request and Abraham’s obedience, rests in that one thing, the fact that the Lord always provides. I believe Abraham’s faith in God’s provision was so great that he was able to wake up one morning and load up his son on a donkey in order to be sacrificed. God was so intent on demonstrating this part of himself that he asked Abraham to do something impossible, so that Abraham and all the people through the ages would understand about God’s provision.

As Abraham reached for the knife to sacrifice his son -- an angel of the Lord stopped him. Moments later Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket and immediately understood that God had provided that ram for the sacrifice. He named that place *Jehovah Jireh* – The Lord will provide. God showed Abraham, and all of us that he *is* the God of provision – the Lord who provides.

This fact became clear to me during the month of March. Many churches across our Annual Conference have been faced with difficult financial struggles. At the

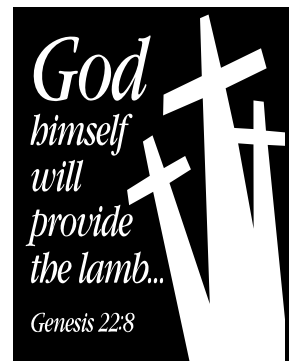
end of February I feared that our congregation was facing a similar challenge. For the first time since my arrival at Saraland UMC our monthly giving was lower than the previous year. With the right mix of faith and prudence, our Finance Committee began monitoring our financial situation very carefully and began making plans to reduce our budget if necessary. Several people, however, were calling on me and others to trust in God’s provision. During a period of worry, as I thought about our church’s health and growth, I sensed God very clearly saying to me that he was *Jehovah Jireh* – the Lord Provider, and that he would provide for our church. The one thing I sensed God saying to our church, however, was that he wanted us to pray for his provision. So, at our last Church Council meeting I tried to assure our leaders that God has promised to provide for us, and that God wanted us to pray. So we prayed for God to provide.

I am pleased to report that at the end of March giving to the day to day ministry and mission of the church (sometimes called operating budget) totaled nearly \$32,000; to my knowledge, the most ever given in any one given month (an additional \$14,043 was given to the Season of Growth Campaign). Needless to say, I and the other leaders of the church have been blown away how clearly God answered our prayers. I am grateful for the many prayers, and I am grateful for the generosity of our people. But, most of all, I want to give God all the glory. He is indeed *Jehovah Jireh* – the Lord who provides!

Love In Christ,

Rob

Rob



Spotlight on Grow Groups

We at Saraland UMC believe that one of God's intentions for every Disciple is to grow to be more like Christ. A great way to do that is to be a part of a Grow Group. At our church there are three different types of Grow Groups: Sunday School Classes, Community Groups, and Bible Studies. One Grow Group will be in the "spotlight" during each 2009 issue of The Cornerstone.

The Truth Seekers Sunday School Class has about 35 members and has seen a remarkable increase in attendance over the past year. They are currently participating in a study of books in the Old Testament. They have completed Job and Joshua and are currently studying Genesis. Their leader, Don Finklea, encourages class participation in their weekly sessions and indicates that the class will probably study Exodus next. When Don is away, the class is led by either Sandra Mercier or Barbara Williams.

The members of this class enjoy being the hands and feet of Christ. One member of the

class, Tonya Pritchett, has recently helped organize a ministry of visitation to our shut-ins and/or sick members of our church family. Several class members participate in this ministry. James and Sandra Mercier, also class members, have an active music ministry and travel to various events to share the Good News.

The class had a summer social and dinner as well as a Christmas gathering during 2008. They made donations to the Bay Area Food Bank and the United Methodist Men's Scholarship Fund. They also donated funds to provide food for Christmas baskets and toys for children at Saraland Elementary School. Class members also built a cross for the Home of Grace sanctuary and donated a new Christmas tree to be used in our Fellowship Hall this year.

The Truth Seekers meet in the first room on the left down the Education Hallway (room 3) every Sunday morning at 9. Visitors are welcome!

A note from Karen Andrews of LifeSouth Community Blood Centers:

On behalf of LifeSouth Community Blood Center, I would like to thank you for your support and assistance with the blood drive held on Sunday, February 15, 2009. The following is a break down of the total donations:

Prospective Donors: 19
 Deferred Donors: 1
 Actual Donations: 18



When you consider that one blood donation can save up to three lives it is easy to see how donating blood can make a significant difference in someone's life. One never knows when the life that is saved may be a member of your own family, a friend, or a co-worker.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Reading Skills and Speed Reading Programs for Children & Adults

Spring Hill Baptist Church will be hosting the University of Alabama Continuing Studies this summer as they provide a series of programs designed to improve reading and study skills. Phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, study skills, speed reading and love of reading will be the emphasis of this summer program. Tuition and material fees vary by program level. All classes are taught by professional instructors from the Institute of Reading Development. Information fliers are available at the Welcome Center at Saraland UMC or for more information call 1-800-979-9151.



9th Annual UMM Softball Tournament To Benefit United Methodist Children's Home

"Let's play some softball for a good cause! It's so much fun to come out and play with your Methodist brothers in a Christian competitive environment."
 Tony Caminiti, Event Coordinator

It's softball season again, and what better time to come out and support children across Northwest Florida and Alabama. This year, the 9th Annual United Methodist Men's Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday May 30th at Trione Park in Daphne Alabama, a few miles south of I-10. All United Methodist men's softball teams are invited to participate. Registration for this double-elimination tournament is \$300 with all proceeds going to help children in need. Make sure to register by May 23rd to secure a spot for your team. Checks should be made payable to *Fairhope Church Softball*, and mailed to: Tony Caminiti, 108 Volanta Avenue, Fairhope, AL 36532. ASA msp .44 cor/ 375 lbs Red Stitch balls will be provided for the tournament. Registered teams are required to use only approved ASA bats. Your team doesn't have to be semi-pro quality. Just get some men together and head down to the beach for a weekend of family-friendly fun. If you need more information about the tournament, please contact: Tony Caminiti, Home- (251) 928-8585, Cell- (251) 951-8007, or Email- stcaminiti@gmail.com.



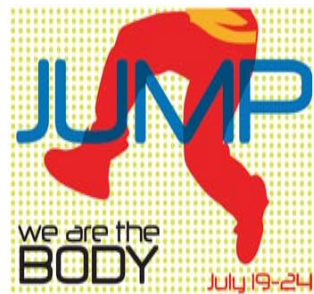
April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ATTENTION YOUTH! Please plan to participate in District Youth Rally on Sunday, April 19, at Christ UMC from 5-7pm. Meet at Saraland UMC at 4:15 and we'll be back at 7:30. There will be food, games and a great speaker! See you there!			1 5:45 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 PM Wed. Night Programs 7:15 PM Choir Practice	2 4:30 PM Daisy Troop 8191 6:00 PM Scouts	3	4 9:00 AM Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 11:00 AM Choir Practice
5 PALM SUNDAY Confirmation Sunday 9:00 AM Bold Service & Sunday School 10:00 AM The Crossing 10:30 AM Classic Service (Easter Cantata) & Sunday School 4:00 PM Discovery 101 5:00 PM UMYF Block Party	6 4:30 PM Brownies 6:00 PM Brownies 6:30 PM Evelyn Joy Circle 6:30 PM Trustees	7 12:00 PM Lion's Club Lunch 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader's Meeting 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	8 5:45 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 PM Wed. Night Programs 7:15 PM Choir Practice	9 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Last Supper Drama	10 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	11 6:40 AM St. Francis Street Breakfast
12 EASTER 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Bold Service & Sunday School 10:00 AM The Crossing 10:30 AM Classic Service & Sunday School 5:00 PM NO UMYF Block Party	13 Church Office Closed	14	15 5:45 PM NO Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 PM NO Wed. Night Programs 7:15 PM Choir Practice	16 6:00 PM Scouts	17	18
SPRING BREAK FOR MOBILE COUNTY AND SARALAND CITY SCHOOLS						
19 7:00 AM NO UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Bold Service & Sunday School 10:00 AM The Crossing 10:30 AM Classic Service & Sunday School 4:15 PM District Youth Rally	20 4:30 PM Brownies 6:00 PM Brownies 6:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Hope Circle	21 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Lion's Club Dinner	22 5:45 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 PM Wed. Night Programs 7:15 PM Choir Practice	23 4:30 PM Daisy Troop 8191 6:00 PM Scouts	24 6:00 PM How Sweet It Is! (MDO Fund-raiser)	25
26 9:00 AM Bold Service & Sunday School 10:00 AM The Crossing 10:30 AM Classic Service & Sunday School 12:00 PM Safe Sanctuaries Training 2:00 PM UMYF Love Out Loud	27	28	29 5:45 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 PM Wed. Night Programs 7:15 PM Choir Practice	30 6:00 PM Scouts		

News from The Bridge Student Ministry

JUMP!!

Get ready for this high impact mission experience! Our local mission outreach will be July 15-July 24. The deadline to register has been extended to Sunday, April 5th, and the cost is \$50 per person. This promises to be an opportunity of a lifetime as we seek to be Disciples of Christ by serving others in truly meaningful ways.



Coming in April...

PJ's and Popcorn

Come wearing your favorite PJ's and watch a movie on Sunday, April 5. The movie starts at 5 p.m. and will end at 7:30 so let your parents know that this movie goes a little bit longer than the normal time.

Check the calendar for info about the District Youth Rally.

Love Out Loud

Check out this opportunity to serve your community. We are serving the members at Carrington Place which is an assisted living facility in Satsuma on Sunday, April 26. We'll meet at the church at 2:00 p.m., head out to serve and come back here for supper. All youth should be picked up at 5:30 at Saraland UMC. Wear regular Sunday evening clothes and bring a willing-to-serve attitude. Here's your chance to be an irresistible influence on your community!



EVERY WEEK...

SUNDAY:
10:30 AM Youth Fuel Groups
5 PM UMYF Block Party

WEDNESDAY:
PROJECT 2819

How Sweet It Is!

Mother's Day Out Fundraiser

Join us on **Friday, April 24**, at 7 p.m. for a relaxing evening of dessert and entertainment. We will have performances by our own Patrick Jacobs, James & Sandra Mercier and several others. Tickets will be available beginning on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$10 per person. Delicious homemade desserts and beverages will be served. This event is a fundraiser for our Mother's Day Out Program.

Coming this Summer on Wednesday Nights...

Every Wednesday night this summer our children will be participating in "The Book". We will gather at 6 p.m. for a snack supper and then explore a new Bible story each week. Parent participation will be needed. This activity is for children age 3 years through 5th grade.

Summer Day Camp

We will be offering two opportunities for children to have some extra fun this summer. Our Mother's Day Out Program will provide a summer program and our Children's Ministry will be offering Summer Day Camp for elementary age children. Each of these programs will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the months of June and July. You may choose to attend on Tuesday and Thursday, on Wednesday only or all three days each week. For cost, schedule of activities and registration information, pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center or contact Betty Moyer (675-2728 or 604-0949).



Children's Ministry

LOTS of help is needed with VBS! Please sign up on the Children's Bulletin Board (back hallway).

Have your kids outgrown their school uniforms? We will be collecting used (in good shape) uniforms for Uniform Closets at our local schools. Watch the bulletin for details.

Vacation Bible School

June 15-19

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Safe Sanctuary Training

Sunday, April 26 12 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12 6:30 p.m.

APRIL ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

APRIL 5	NO ACOLYTES
APRIL 12	Zac Everett & Bret Crooker
APRIL 19	Emma Leveritt & Martha Simison
APRIL 26	Dalton McFarland & Katie Leaird

United Way Day of Caring

Hundreds of volunteers make a difference during the annual United Way Day of Caring event. The event, which takes place on one day, has grown to become a year-round activity. Many local companies have embraced the concept and regularly gather several volunteer groups together to visit nonprofit organizations and lend a hand. Day of Caring is a great opportunity for team-building and allows volunteers to make a hands-on impact in the community. Volunteers and donors spend a day in a United Way agency meeting their needs by completing projects they haven't had the time, money or staff to address. This annual one day event is kicked off early by fueling the volunteers with breakfast! From there, everyone goes to their respective job sites. Agencies take on the responsibility of seeing their guests stay gassed up by providing lunch. Over the past years, nearly 5,000 volunteers have participated in United Way's Day of Caring. **OUR 15TH DAY OF CARING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2009.** For more information on how you can be a United Way volunteer, call 433-3624 or e-mail kcohen@uwsa.org.

New Appointment for Rev. Neil McDavid

Bishop Paul L. Leeland has just announced that the Reverend Neil McDavid will be appointed as the AWF Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, effective July 1, 2009. McDavid currently serves as the senior pastor of Gulf Shores UMC in Gulf Shores, AL. McDavid has been a clergy member of the AWF Conference since 1967 and was ordained an elder in 1974. He has been at Gulf Shores UMC since 2003. Prior to his current appointment, he served a number of churches, including Capitol Heights (Montgomery), Cokesbury (Pensacola), Dauphin Way (Mobile) and Saraland. McDavid also currently serves as the chair of the Conference Board of Global Ministries. McDavid is a 1969 graduate of Huntingdon College (Montgomery, Ala.) with a major in Psychology and a minor in Religion and Philosophy. He received his master of divinity degree from The Divinity School at Duke University in 1973. He and his wife, Minta, have two children and two grandsons.



A word of thanks...

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the love, kindness and support that you have shown me while my mother was sick and after her death. I appreciate the cards, food, words of comfort and other gifts. Thank you, again.

Love...Cassie Moore

Do you want to know more about the United Methodist Church?

Join us at **DISCOVERY 101!**



Discovery 101 is the primary path to church membership at Saraland UMC and is typically held on the second Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. During the hour and a half long session, you will learn about the history and future plans of Saraland UMC as well as Methodism, Christian beliefs and church membership. If you would like to attend, please call the church office to reserve a space or complete a registration sheet at the Welcome Center in the lobby. A nursery will be provided if requested. Watch the church bulletin for the next Discover 101 date.

Relay for Life

The yard sale to raise money for Relay for Life was a huge success with a profit of over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you to everyone that participated in this event! Our Relay for Life Team is preparing for the event on May 1. If you would like to participate or would like more information, please contact Jon Miller (679-9258) or Brian Hasty (675-2728 or 518-8518).

Alabama-West Florida 2009 Annual Conference June 7-10

Annual Conference will be held at Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery this year. Bishop Paul L. Leeland recently announced the theme of the 2009 Annual Conference as **Partnership in the Gospel - Celebrating Together**. Special guests for the Annual Conference include Dr. Jason Borders as morning Bible study leader and Bishop Joseph E. Pannel (retired) as the preacher for the Service of Ordination and Commissioning. Constitutional Amendments will be voted on during the 2009 session of the AWF Annual Conference. These proposed amendments from the 2008 General Conference may be debated but not amended. For a PDF document of all proposed amendments, please go to Conference website (www.awfumc.org).

The Delegate to Annual Conference from Saraland United Methodist Church is Joyce Boshell. The alternate is Diane Finklea.



MARCH 2009 STATISTICS

ATTENDANCE	
WORSHIP	169
SUNDAY SCHOOL	112
GIVING	
2009 MONTHLY REQUIREMENTS:	
	\$ 27,502.91
RECEIVED IN MARCH:	
General Budget	\$ 31,974.15
Season of Growth	\$ 14,043.33
Visionary Shares	\$ 50.00
Choir Scholarship	\$ 1,171.00
Child Care Ministries (MDO)	\$ 3,329.50
Helping Hands	\$ 93.00
Children's Ministries	\$ 45.00
Youth Ministries	\$ 150.00
Facility Use	\$ 1,079.00
Trustee Projects	\$ 2,877.00
Sound System	\$ 300.00
Senior Ministries	\$ 25.00
Palms & Lilies	\$ 470.00
K. P. Moore Funeral	\$ 1,004.00

PLEASE NOTE: Reimbursements and pass through funds are not shown.

April Hosts/Hostesses for The Crossing



April 05	Kim Whisonant
April 12	EASTER
April 29	Joyce Boshell
April 26	Trip & Kristen Jennings

If you cannot serve on the date you are scheduled, please contact Jennifer McFarland (802-7510).



Welcome, New Members!

Kevin & Holly Rawls joined our church membership in March. Kevin & Holly bring their children Emma, Radley and Eliza. The Rawls live at 5933 Daphne V Street in Satsuma. Welcome!

PRAYER CONCERNS

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Helen McKeough; Cassie Moore and family on the death of her mother, Katherine P. Moore; and the family and friends of Wesley Lambert, Sr.



Special Concerns: Eunice Addison, John Aikens, Therese Brown, Jackie Sue Calder, Vernon Capps, Gerald Cargile, Kathy Cave, Sim Clark, Gracie Darnell, Curt Douville, Antony Embley, Jean Faggard, Noah Faggard, Louise Fox, Tommy Harbour, Terry Hopper, Mary Huff, Linda Jennings, Lillian Jepko, Wendell Kennedy, Eunice McAleer, Cassie Moore, Kenneth Mowery, Abbie Myers, Mary Parnell, Bonnie Ramsbottom, Preston Sasser, Joe Simison, Faith Stevens, Joseph Toomey, J B Vaughn, Rebecca Walker, Kathryn Williams, Dick Wilson, Hazel Yarbarough

Shut-ins:
Eight Mile Nursing Home: Herbie Clifton
Gordon Oaks Retirement Center: Bill Rodgers
N. Mobile Retirement Center: Johnny "Jimmy" Ross, Sr.

Please continue to pray for all of our men and women in the military.

New Sermon Series Begins April 26th

Don't miss this sermon series – where you help pick the topics. The new series is called *FAQ* or *Frequently Ask Questions:*

Questions about faith you wish someone would answer. Beginning Sunday April 5th, anyone can submit questions into the drop box located at the welcome center. The top five questions will help guide the topics of the sermon series Rob will be preaching. Start thinking of your questions now – and drop them in the box. What have you always wanted to know, what have you always wondered about, what are those things you've been afraid to ask. The FAQ sermons series will help us explore our most pressing questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

Questions about faith you wish someone would answer.

Say "CHEESE"... It's time for a new pictorial directory!

Olan Mills photographers will be at Saraland UMC to take pictures for our new pictorial directory on **May 14, 15 & 16** (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Photo appointments can be made at the church beginning on Easter Sunday or online at www.signup.olanmills.com. Each family that has a picture taken for the directory will receive a free 8 X 10 photograph plus a copy of the completed directory. Pictures of recent Saraland UMC events will be needed for our activity pages. You may submit prints to the church office or you may email pictures to sumc1@bellsouth.net. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fulton, directory coordinator, at 679-4165 or call the church office.



April Birthdays

Happy Birthday and best wishes to each of you!



- 04/01 Freddie Hammonds
Cindy Bruns
Brian Murphy
- 04/03 Donald Mitchell
Greg Toomey
- 04/06 Harold Smith
Shauna Crenshaw
Madison Douville
- 04/07 Emma Leveritt
- 04/08 Bill Wood
- 04/09 Jerry Johnson
Johnny Holley
Lance Lane
Brittni Sasser
- 04/10 Denise Childers
Margaret Blossoms
- 04/11 Johnny Sellers
Kristine Chisholm
Mary Helen Smith
- 04/12 Auburn Hudgins
Marshal Sellers
- 04/13 Lloyd Fulton
- 04/14 Andy Stubbs
Dalton McFarland
- 04/15 William Dean
- 04/16 Josh Epperson
- 04/17 Curtis Riley, Jr.
April Lindley
Mallory Childers
Micah Crenshaw
Emma Rawls
- 04/18 Ethan Couch
- 04/19 Ed McKibben
Donald Bunch
- 04/23 Jean Davis
Kathy Cave
Savannah Givens
- 04/25 Rodney Waltman
John Bruns
- 04/26 Debra Wright
- 04/27 Scott Crenshaw
Stephanie Moye
- 04/28 Lisa Massey
- 04/30 Maxine Dearman
Sydney Childers

Is your birthday missing? If so, please call the church office so we can update our records.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

Join us each Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. for dinner followed by programs for adults, youth (Project 2819) & children (Mission Kids) from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

- April 01 Missional Renaissance Study & First Place for Health
- April 08 Missional Renaissance Study & First Place for Health
- April 15 NO Wednesday Night Dinner or Program
- April 22 Gibbs Couch, Storyteller
- April 29 Small Group Emphasis



MENUS

- April 01 Chicken Alfredo w/Smoked Sausage, Tossed Salad, Bread & Dessert
- April 08 Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Layered Salad, Bread & Dessert
- April 15 NO Wednesday Night Dinner or Program
- April 22 Chicken Casserole, Glazed Carrots, Green Beans, Bread & Dessert
- April 29 Pot Roast w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Bread & Dessert

Reservations are needed for dinner and can be made on the attendance register at church or by calling the church office by noon on Tuesday. The cost of dinner is \$5 per adult and \$3 per youth/child (over age 3) with a \$15 family maximum.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS: For the safety of all of our children, please see that your child(ren) stays with you until it is announced that the children are to leave for their programs.

Community Group Kickoff

New community groups will kick-off on Wednesday night, April 29th. New groups for men, women, young couples, and other groups will be starting. All new groups will begin meeting on Wednesday nights for four weeks (April 29th-May 20th). If you would like to be a part of a small group or possibly lead a small group please contact Crystal Couch (675-1750) or Kristin Jennings (679-0809). There will also be a sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center. Community groups are small groups (5-15 persons) who meet regularly for prayer, study, and fellowship. This four week kickoff is a great way to try out a community group and see if it is for you!

Join us for a Night of Storytelling

Don't miss an evening of story telling by Gibbs Couch (Rob's mom, Crystal's mother-in-law, and Gan-Gan to David and Ethan). On **Wednesday night, April 22nd** professional storyteller Gibbs Couch will tell stories for people of all ages. Gibbs has travelled throughout the Southeast telling stories to groups of all sizes and ages. Gibbs discovered her dramatic side while a college student at the University of Montevallo. Toward the end of her career as a teacher of gifted students and as a speech pathologist in the Auburn City Schools, Gibbs took up storytelling as a hobby. This hobby led to her selection as the host of "The Reading Corner", a cable access television show which still airs in the Auburn area. After her retirement, Gibbs was able to take her love for storytelling on the road which she still does to this day. Don't miss this exciting night of storytelling! Her program will begin at approximately 6:30 following Wednesday Night Supper which begins at 5:45.