

Powder Springs Love Notes

Proclaim and Live the Truth in Jesus' Name

Rev. Susan Gary Ashe, Senior Pastor

A Sign of the Times:

The North Star

Recently in our parenting 101 class, we learned that every family needs a "North Star" which is the identified guiding principle of the family. The plan for this class was to help each family to name their "North Star" and make a family plan that keeps that guiding principle out in front of them.

Really, everyone needs a "North Star" to keep them on track, not just young parents. Never was this statement truer than right now, as we have seen great, seemingly indestructible institutions collapse. Anyone who put their faith, or much of their money, in those institutions has taken a big hit. These are hard times for many, often because they put their faith in the wrong places, and followed the wrong star.

Fortunately for us all, we have been given a once and for all "North Star" in the form of a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. He is our constant in times of uncertainty, our light in the darkness, our guide through the wilderness, our hope for all eternity. He is the very presence of God, with us--Emmanuel.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Susan



Special Opportunities to be in God's presence:

Junior Choir Christmas Performance

Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Café Noel

Saturday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Youth Choir Christmas Performance

Sunday, December 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Adult Choir Christmas Performance "All Bow Down"

Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.



and any other time you can pray or come weekly worship--don't miss it.

Did you know...

that because of your creativity and using the gifts given to you, we donated an extra \$1608.35 to Sweetwater Valley Community Action Mission Program (C.A.M.P.). May God continue to multiply our generosity in the lives of others.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

- 8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:55 am Worship Service
4:30 pm "The Source" for Youth
5:00 pm Visitation Team

Wednesdays

- 9:30 am Visitation
*No Wed Night Activities
Dec 17th thru Jan 14th
5:00 pm Senior's Dinner
5:30 pm Dinner
6:15 pm Angel and Junior Choirs
Main Building Room 108
Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Junior Choir, Chapel Bldg
Prayer Force, Chapel Bldg
7:15 pm "The Combine" for Youth
Worship Choir, Choir Rm.
8:15 pm Praise Band, Sanctuary

December Events

- Order your poinsettias by December 3
- Friendly Fellowship Breakfast December 6
- Church Office is Closed Dec 24—Jan 6
- Preschool Closed Dec 22 - Jan 6

January Events

Sermon Series: Financial Freedom
January 11, 18, & 25

Sunday evening at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study, Chapel Bldg

Monday, January 19th
Martin Luther King Holiday
Church Office and Preschool Closed

SPECIAL EVENTS

Marriage Foundations: A Series for Couples

What: All marriages face changes and challenges that call for a new approach from time to time. Come explore the possibilities for an enriched relationship with your mate.

When: Sunday mornings at 9:45 am—now through February 22

Where: Main Building Room 108

Resource: The Five Love Languages, by Gary Chapman

Leaders: Rev. Susan, Lay Leader Bobby DeCoux, and Misty DeCoux

Sweetheart Banquet

The Men's Club will host a Sweetheart Banquet on February 14, 2009. Men, this will cost you a lot less than taking your sweetie out to a crowded restaurant, plus you will be able to meet other couples from church. We have a lot of fun things planned. Look for more information but MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!! You don't want to miss this.

Sunday Worship Forecast

December 7, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
"John The Baptist - March 1:1-8

December 14 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
"The Way to Go" - I Thessalonians 5:16-24

December 21 at 11:00 a.m.
"Holy Conversation" - Luke 1:26-28

Financial Freedom: Sermon Series January 11-25

As the new year approaches, most of us will take a good, hard look at our lives again. What do we need to change? What happened this year that was worthwhile? And perhaps this year, this examination will hold more weight with us because of recent financial market shifts.

I would like to invite you to a sermon series aimed at helping us all to gain financial freedom. Beginning Jan 11 and for 3 weeks, we will examine some of the pitfalls to avoid in our finances and some of the practical tools to help us all attain or reclaim our financial health and freedom. Please invite your neighbors, your co-workers. This series is for you all

Now, I'd like to ask your help: Would you please email me (pastor@powderspringsfumc.org) your #1 piece of helpful financial advice? It doesn't have to be anything fancy, or maybe it is, but really, the simpler the better. Share your tips with the rest of us, and let's just see what God will do with us as we share our wealth of knowledge.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Susan

What is Financial Peace University?

Financial Peace University (FPU) is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey.

FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more!

With the economy the way it is right now, more people than ever are searching for financial relief. Financial Peace University can help you find that relief. *The next class starts Wednesday, February 4, 2009.* Make plans now to join us. Call Julie Banks, 404.229.2057 (email fpu@powderspringsfumc.org) for information.

Congratulations to our most recent FPU graduates, Tom and Kim Adams! They have joined the growing number of PSFUMC members who will work there was to freedom from debt and the ability to "live like no one else".

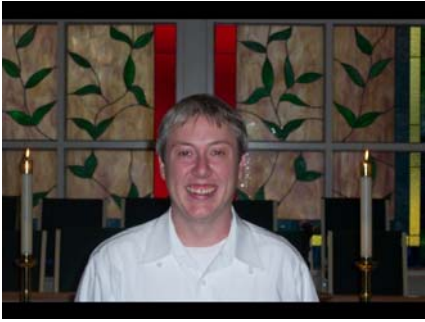
What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

A Stephen Minister gives one-to-one, lay Christian care.

- **One-to-one:** Stephen Ministers meet privately with one care receiver of the same gender.
- **Lay:** Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised lay volunteers, not professional counselors or therapists, pastors, or physicians.
- **Christian:** Stephen Ministers are Christians who care in the name of Christ. They are willing to talk about spiritual issues but won't force them.
- **Care:** Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting and encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy, and maintaining confidentiality in their care giving.

For more information on Stephen Ministry,
please contact Sylvia Huber at 770.943.5650.

Welcome to our newest members!



Dustin Fortson



Rodney Fortson



Andy Speer pictured with wife, Vicky, and son, Evan.

Welcome our new babies!



Steven Conrad Paintin

Congratulations to Steve & Amanda, and big sisters, Madelyn and Grace, and big brother, Carter.



Katherine Henrie Norton

Congratulations to Tripp & Heather, and big sister, Sophia.



Bryce Anthony Simpson

Congratulations to Gerad & Vicky, and big sisters, Madison, Kinsey, and Bailey.

Directory Updates

Krista Dunn
300 Walker Street
Tarboro NC 27886
252.823.2035

Dustin Fortson
74 Flanders Court
Douglasville GA 30134
770.949.1589

Rodney & Dora Fortson
74 Flanders Court
Douglasville GA 30134
770.949.1589

Julia Santalucia Krar will be spending the winter in Florida. You can still contact her at the following address:
213 Woodridge Drive; Douglasville, GA -- Cell # 770.653.306

Please cut and paste these changes to your home directory.

Trustees Make Plans for 2009

2008 was a good year at PSFUMC. We experienced growth within the Church and ourselves. And this growth was due in part to the plans that were made in 2007 and implemented in 2008. Those plans put "Children First." The Trustees planned and coordinated the biggest move since we moved into the New Sanctuary in 1999. We brought the preschool and children's Sunday School into the sanctuary classrooms and moved the adult Sunday School classes to the Chapel Building. We then moved the Youth to the old Preschool Building which is now the Youth Center. It was not easy but with an outstanding effort by the congregation and the Trustees we made it happen.

The New Year will bring us new challenges and new issues to deal with; however, we will continue to meet those demands and keep God's house as a shining beacon to the Powder Springs community. In that endeavor we will focus many of our efforts on the outside of the Church, with new landscaping and touch up painting where needed as we continue to keep the inside beautiful.

As each new year starts, there is a change in our personnel. I am personally thanking Mary Shallenberger, Steve Piper and Scott Winn for their 3 years of hard work and persistence as Trustee members. They will be missed but their replacements are just as capable. Please welcome Brenda Strong, Landy Puckett and Matt Manley to the Board of Trustees. I know they will make a difference at PSFUMC.

As we end 2008 and begin 2009 our goals remain the same, to follow God's will in keeping PSFUMC a beautiful testament to the grace and goodness of Jesus Christ our Savior.



PSFUMC Preschool

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." I love that song and agree wholeheartedly with the sentiment. I love everything about the season of celebrating the birth of Christ. From the smiling faces of children making "secret" gifts for parents to the beautiful candlelight service on Christmas Eve, there are wonderful moments and memories all around us.

The preschool children will be creating special gifts for their parents this month. We will have a book swap among the classes this year to encourage reading in our families. McGruff the Crime Dog will be here to visit and parents will have the opportunity to purchase identification kits for their children. The preschool will be closed the last two weeks of December to allow families time for travel and teachers to be with their children and grandchildren.

January finds us creating snowflakes; talking about cold weather and the animals that love it; making paper snowmen and dreams of children getting to see real snow--many for the first time! Won't you join us as we wish for just a touch of snow? We will again visit Bethel Gardens. The children are really starting to enjoy our visits with the "grandmas and grandpas." We have two great months ahead of us. I hope you all enjoy them as much as we plan to.

Rene' Dae, Preschool Director

HO! HO! HO!

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 13 at 9am



Visit with Santa.....Free

you may bring your camera (no charge) or we will provide a photo for a minimal fee of \$3.

Special Craft & Story Time with ElfFree

Breakfast \$3 each with a family cap of \$10.

The Adult Handbell Choir Annual Gift Wrapping Day

December 13 from 9am until 2pm.

No time to wrap your Christmas presents?

Drop your gifts in the Atrium and let us wrap them for you. Donations are appreciated.

CAFE' NOEL

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 5 & 7 PM

COFFEE & HORS D'OEUVRES SERVED. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME CENTER.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

LADIES MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The UMW invites all ladies of the church for an Open House to hear a special speaker on Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sue Raymond will present a dialogue on "Esther" of the Old Testament. She gives a dramatization of "Esther" in which she portrays Esther. You'll learn so much and be inspired.

UMW members will serve Christmas goodies. Be sure to come and enjoy the fellowship and fun.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED



Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout! Niko Moore completed his final step to obtain his Eagle rank by passing his board of review.

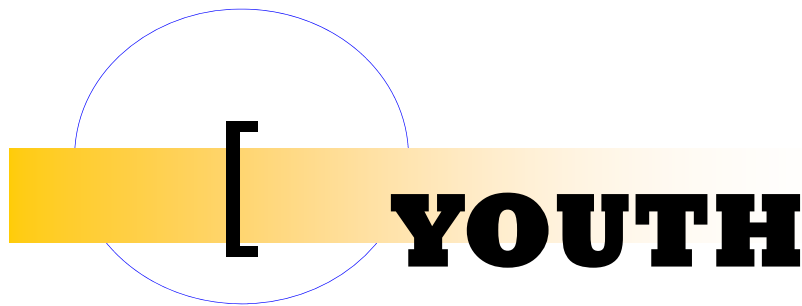
Up Coming Events

Caroling 12/21 at 4:30 p.m.

We'll be spreading Christmas cheer to people in the nursing homes and to elderly people that are unable to get out and about.

Ski Trip 1/23-1/25

It's that special time of year! We're going to skiing! Money for the ski trip is due on Sunday January 4th.



Words From Scott

2 Kings 2:23-24

"From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. "Go on up, you baldhead!" they said. "Go on up, you baldhead!" He turned around, and looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord.

Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths."

The moral of the story is don't make fun of people because if you do God will send bears to eat you.



HE'S WAITING ON YOU

DON'T FORGET

Wednesday Night Youth- High School and Middle School bible study starts at 7:15pm

Sunday Night Youth- Games and Awesomeness starts at 4:30pm

No Youth- December 28, or December 31

CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE STAIRWELL FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please Remember In Prayer

Our Church Family

Katherine Arnold
 Libby Beem
 Ron & Bobbie Bennett
 Bob Burkette
 Carmen Cobb
 Scott Cupp
 Rev. Jimmy & Sally Ford
 Dora Fortson
 Roy & Elaine Harcourt
 Mildred Kellett
 Lavinia Lindley
 R.E. Long
 Carrie Miller
 Chuck & Alfreda Miller
 Crystal Pitts
 Dusty Pitts and Family
 Rev. Grafton Pressley
 Wilbur & Ruth Reid
 Pattie Rich
 Maria Vinhateiro
 Gary Wiggins
 Branson & Amy Wood

Our Extended Family

John F. Anderson
 BJ & Brooke Cowan
 Randall Ingram
 Betty Patterson
 Emery Ann Patterson
 Emily Piper
 Mallory Smith
 Steve Skelton

Our Military Personnel & Families

Jarrod Bailey
 Daniel Van Buren
 Andrew Fulton
 Cale Long
 Robert Rish
 Clay Stokes
 James Watson

- **Wednesday, December 10**, The Kitchen Committee is pleased to offer hamburger stroganoff, vegetables, salad, bread and dessert. **Don't miss this wonderful fellowship time!**
- **No Wednesday Night Suppers** from December 17 until January 14, 2009. **Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**
- **Opal Isley would like to say thank you to the choirs and leaders that recorded "Happy Birthday" for Carmen Cobb.**
- **Congratulations to Morgan Ooten** for selection to the Georgia Music Educators 2009 Middle School Mixed Chorus held in Savannah in February. Way to go, Morgan!
- **Gobble Jog 2008** - The PSFUMC Gobble Jog team is 28 people strong this Thanksgiving! The event is a great way to start off Thanksgiving, and a great way to help neighbors in need. The final numbers were not available at publication time, but last year's event raised over \$150,000 for MUST Ministries. Mark your calendar for next year's jog & join the fun!
- **Greetings from Niger!** I have been in Niger for 7 weeks and so much has happened it is hard to describe. I am living near Niamey. I sleep under the stars (which sparkle and are so bright here!). I'm learning a language called Zarma. Last week I was able to see wild giraffe herds. I complete my training in December and will be assigned to a village right on the Niger River which is amazing! I will be teaching environmental education and working with trees like Morengia and gum Arabic. I do miss everyone so please send letters to Carrie Miller, PCV, Corps de la Paix, Gotheye, Niger—marked Air Mail or Par Avion.
- **Interested in saving up to 10% off your insurance premium?** Special holiday discount of \$5.00 off to attend a Driver Safety Course held in the Chapel Building. See calendar and sign up for the next available class. Information is available at the Welcome Center or contact the course instructor, Ange' Rae, at 770.222.1118.
- **The parsonage at 3895 Sharon Drive is for sale.** It is a well maintained 4 BR/2.5 BA brick ranch with a beautiful lot and within walking distance of restaurants and the Silver Comet Trail. It would be perfect for someone with an older parent since it has it's own suite. Price is \$159,000 and the church is flexible. Call Liz Mabry 678.371.1968 to see or with any questions.
- **We need additional Ushers for the 10:55 service.** This is an excellent opportunity to serve our church in a very important role with a minimal commitment of time. Prayerfully consider serving in this capacity. If you are willing to serve once per month, please contact Mike Dae at mike_dae@yahoo.com, cell: 404.862.5854, or at home: 770.943.0398.
- **Are you interested in being a Nursery Heavenly Helper?** Please contact Vicky Simpson at 770.577.0900.



Greetings from Niger!

Happy Birthday

<u>Dec 1</u> Barbara Guthrie Kynsley Westmoreland	<u>Dec 20</u> Mary Jo Boyd	<u>Jan 7</u> Jon Mach	<u>Jan 29</u> Brooke Skelton
<u>Dec 2</u> Steve Piper	<u>Dec 21</u> Melissa Kendrick Grace Paintin Tom Race Matt Smith	<u>Jan 9</u> Mary Andia Jim Morris	<u>Jan 30</u> Ninid Mercier
<u>Dec 4</u> Branson Wood	<u>Dec 25</u> Dot Lott Maddie Wood	<u>Jan 12</u> Scott Sienkiewicz	<u>Jan 31</u> Thomas Cangelosi Jamie McClure Alfreda Miller Diane Shallenberger
<u>Dec 5</u> Remy DeCoux Terry Ellerbee	<u>Dec 26</u> Bob Burkette Ed Elliott	<u>Jan 15</u> Eric Arnold Kathryn Groover	<u>Happy Anniversary</u>
<u>Dec 7</u> Damon Haynie	<u>Dec 28</u> Laura Runco	<u>Jan 16</u> Patrick Killingsworth Brittany Wheeler	<u>Dec 13</u> Kendall & Cindy Abbott
<u>Dec 8</u> Elizabeth Anderson	<u>Dec 30</u> Krista Dunn	<u>Jan 17</u> Bill Honiker	<u>Dec 20</u> Frank & Mary Jo Boyd Terry & Diane Ellerbee Steve & Ann Piper
<u>Dec 10</u> Lori Daniels	<u>Dec 31</u> Randolph Atcheson William James Alex Skelton	<u>Jan 20</u> Roxy Cupp	<u>Dec 22</u> Richard & Brenda Strong
<u>Dec 12</u> Dale Westmoreland	<u>Jan 3</u> Heather Norton	<u>Jan 23</u> Nicholas Long Vicky Speer	<u>Dec 26</u> Paul & Donna Anderson
<u>Dec 14</u> Barbara Cupp Mike Lott	<u>Jan 5</u> Christin Daniels Alexander Long Kaitlin Smith Richard Strong	<u>Jan 24</u> Erick Graham	<u>Dec 27</u> Chuck & Alfreda Miller
<u>Dec 17</u> Eric Miller Tommy Race	<u>Jan 6</u> Lindsay Zerressen	<u>Jan 25</u> Martha Bright Sally Ford	<u>Jan 15</u> Alan & Karen Palmer
<u>Dec 19</u> Emmie Sampsell Chris Stone Chuck Williams		<u>Jan 26</u> Hyun Storrs	
		<u>Jan 28</u> Juliet Cangelosi	

Our Faithfulness.

Year to Date Through November 14, 2008

Total Received to Date for Budget \$448,875.17

Total Needed to Date \$462,657.00

Contributions made in memory of George Crusselle

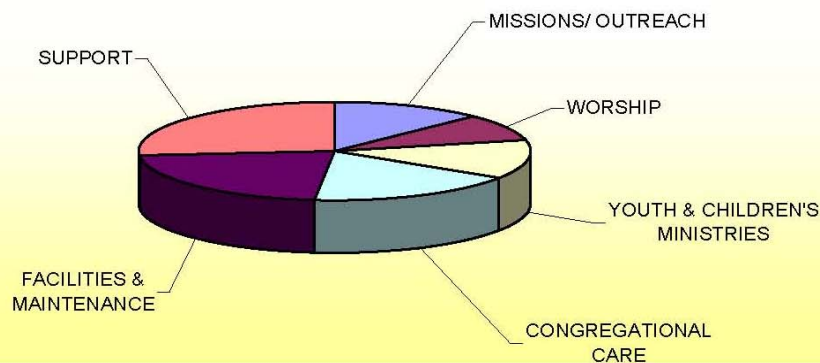
Bobby & Misty DeCoux, John & Brooke Skelton, Julie & Sophia Teague,
Bill & June Wester, Julie Wester, Surveying & Mapping Society of Georgia.

POWDER SPRINGS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2008 NARRATIVE BUDGET REPORT

through October 21st

	BUDGET		SPENDING	
MISSIONS/OUTREACH	\$65,133	12.5%	\$ 57,243	16.6%
<p>This portion of the budget encompasses our opportunities to witness to the community and the world to make disciples for Christ. In 2007, we supported Russell Long in Brazil, Samaritan's Purse, Sweetwater Valley C.A.M.P., MUST Ministries and many others. We witnessed through Powder Springs Day to the community and to the world through 100% payment of our apportionments.</p>				
WORSHIP	\$46,819	9.0%	\$ 28,552	8.3%
<p>This portion includes music and music staff salaries, worship supplies worship committee and church literature.</p>				
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	\$66,023	12.6%	\$ 19,253	5.6%
<p>This budget helps offset youth activities such as Big Stuff. It includes salaries for Youth Minister and Children's Director, Safe Sanctuary, Scouting, VBS, Children's Ministries and Weekday Children's Ministries.</p>				
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	\$91,768	17.5%	\$ 74,624	21.6%
<p>Congregational care budget includes the salaries of the Pastor, Stephen's Ministry, Stewardship, Senior Adult Ministry, Family Ministry, Women's Ministry and Annual Conference.</p>				
FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE	\$115,681	22.1%	\$ 70,752	20.5%
<p>Trustees administer this budget which includes care and maintenance of all facilities, utilities, parsonage and vehicle and debt service.</p>				
SUPPORT	\$137,579	26.3%	\$ 94,410	27.4%
<p>The support budget includes such items as insurance, Pastor's Pension, staff salaries, payroll service, FICA, SPR expense, office supplies, postage, communications, leadership training, financial reporting and contingency.</p>				
TOTAL BUDGET	\$523,003	100.0%	\$344,834	100.0%



Powder Springs First United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan Gary Ashe, Senior Pastor

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Powder Springs, GA 30127

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Preschool: 770.943.5869

Emergency: 678.986.4488

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Powder Springs, GA

30127



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

From Our Mission Committee

- The Mission Committee sponsored the Wednesday night supper on September 10 with the proceeds paying annual school fees for two students in Nhedziwa, Zimbabwe.
- A total of 22 boxes of food, hygiene items, medicines, towels and underwear have been mailed to Rev. Dorothy Mutambara for distribution through the Hope Center in Nhedziwa. Several adult Sunday School classes participated, and a box is in the atrium of the church for continuing donations.
- Eyeglasses are still being collected, and are promptly distributed to clients at Family Life Ministries in East Point. This is an on-going project.
- The annual Shoe Box Wrapping Party for Operation Christmas Child was set for November 16 following the 10:55 am worship service. Pizza, goodies and fellowship topped off the party.
- "Nothing But Nets" provides mosquito nets for protection from malaria in Africa. The nets cost \$10.00 each, and \$100.00 was donated to support this worthy project.
- Sweetwater Valley Camp (Community Action Mission Program) is asking for donations to help families in need during this holiday season. There are special envelopes at the Welcome Center for your donations.

PSFUMC SLUGS WIN FALL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

November 1 was the season playoffs where the PSFUMC Slugs entered as 4th place.

Our first game was at 8:30AM, with the temperature nearly at the 40 degrees, against High Point Baptist - the fifth place team. During this game our bats were a lot hotter than the temperature, with fielding even better resulting in a win for us by the 20 run rule at the end of 3rd inning.

The second game was even more exciting, playing against the first place Praise team from McEachern Methodist Church. The Praise team only had one loss during the regular season and that one game was against us in the last game of the regular season. Apparently the Praise team hadn't had enough coffee to get going and were very slow to start until the fourth inning. Our bats had continued to be hot and we ended up beating the #1 Praise team by the 15 run rule at the end of five innings. This win threw us in the finals against the McEachern Methodist Warriors.

The Warriors is a team made up of primarily very young, athletic team members - much faster and half the age of the average Slug. This game was a typical game of youth and energy versus the experience and patience of the older players. The game see-sawed throughout the regular seven innings which ended in a 7-7 tie. In extra innings, the game goes into a typical one-pitch game. The fans made up of family members, friends, and members of other teams were voicing their excitement as the overtime, championship game continued. First up to bat were the PSFUMC Slugs and with finesse they managed to score three runs. In the bottom of the eighth, the MUMC Warriors started out hot. Through persistence and patience the Slugs hung in and only allowed two runs thus winning the championship game 10-9. A great finale to some hard played games.

In addition to the first place trophy which was presented to the church on Sunday, Dave Beem was selected as MVP of the tournament. Much thanks goes to the leadership of coaches Mike Sampsell and Kendall Abbott for this great season.

