

156. Prayer Force of the North Georgia Conference

The PrayerForce is a new conference initiative having begun on Pentecost Sunday, 2001. The PrayerForce is meant to be a grassroots movement calling the people, lay and clergy alike, back to our heritage as a people of prayer. The main focus of the PrayerForce is to get United Methodists in North Georgia to pray for one another and the unchurched in our communities

There are two main parts of the PrayerForce initiative. The first part consists of individual members praying for other churches each week. Taking advantage of the technology now available, each week 20 or so churches (1-3 from each district) will be listed on the North Georgia Conference website. (Don't worry if you're not on the internet, the weekly list can be mailed to you as well). Each member of the PrayerForce will be asked to pray for at least the churches listed from their district that week. (They are encouraged to pray for other churches as the Holy Spirit leads them). Then after they have committed to praying for these churches, their needs and the unchurched in their communities, the members of the PrayerForce will be asked to let the churches know that they are praying for them. This can be a card, an e-mail, a short note, whatever. The goal is to strengthen the connection and to let all of our churches and communities know that they are not alone.

In addition to the listing of these established congregations, each week there will be an extension ministry listed (Simpsonwood, Wesley Community Centers, etc). Also, in an attempt to bathe these ministries in prayer, we will list any new congregations from the moment they are announced and continue to pray for them throughout their first year of ministry.

The second part of the PrayerForce structure goes back to the local church. Every church in the conference will be designated for a week of prayer on their behalf. As others around the district and conference are praying for that congregation, we want to encourage that congregation to take that week designated and make it a week of prayer for their people. Prayer rallies, services, classes, etc. Be creative, but encourage your people to pray.

As you can see, the success of this prayer initiative falls upon the individuals who call themselves United Methodist in North Georgia. Whether you are a brand new Christian and 13 years old or whether you are a founding member of the church and 93 years old, you can be a part of the North Georgia Conference PrayerForce.

The web page of the PrayerForce will also feature weekly columns on prayer and recommended resources for making prayer a vital force in the life of your congregation.

Thanks to the Conference Council on Ministries, the Cabinet and the Conference Board of Laity for their enthusiastic support.

Rev. Roger A. Vest, Chair