



Computers, cars and more are in the classified ads, 5C

**Also inside**  
Advice & More, 2C  
Faith Matters, 3C  
Church Listings, 4C

Saturday  
November 11, 2006

The Brunswick News

## FAITH MATTERS

**28th Annual South Georgia/North Florida Holy Spirit Conference**, at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, is Friday through Sunday. Nursery care available. Details: 634-9332.

**Ministry Center Church of God**, 4850 U.S. 17 N., holds a community festival from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday. Details: 264-2923.

**Mount Orum Baptist Church**, 66 Mount Orum Lane, Waverly, will celebrate its annual Men's Day at 3 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Mack Devon Knight will speak. Open to the public.

**St. James Missionary Baptist Church**, 1505 F St., Brunswick, will honor two senior church members at 11 a.m. Sunday. Dorothy Billue will speak. Details: 265-4771.

**Elm Grove Baptist Church's Trustee Board** will be celebrating its anniversary at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Edgar Timmons Jr. will speak. Details: 437-6274.

**St. Andrews Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**, 2101 Albany St., Brunswick, celebrates Harvest Festival at 4 p.m. Sunday with a fellowship worship service with guest churches Magnolia C.M.E., Needwood Baptist and Shiloh Baptist. Guest speaker is the Rev. Ozell Massey. Details: 265-0565.

**Grace United Methodist Church**, 1711 Albany St., Brunswick, continues its 138th anniversary services at 7 p.m. Wednesday with Hamilton Chapel United Methodist Church, Woodbine, and New Hope United Methodist, Brookman, as guest churches.

**Grace United Methodist Church**, 1711 Albany St., will continue its 138th anniversary celebration at 7 p.m. Wednesday and at 11 a.m. Nov. 19. The Rev. Earl James will speak.

• More Faith Matters is on 3C

To submit notices to Faith Matters, send material for consideration at least 10 days before the event to Faith Matters, The Brunswick News.

• By mail 3011 Altama Ave., Brunswick GA 31521  
• By fax 280-0926  
• By e-mail newsroom@thebrunswicknews.com

Services must be special services and events must be open to the public. Information must include a daytime telephone number News editors can use as a contact.

# Facing the 'DARK SIDE'

A rise in evangelical atheism is drawing a response of 'nothing we haven't seen before'



James Nix/The Brunswick News

The Rev. James Davis of Frederica Baptist Church.

By VICTORIA LOGUE  
The Brunswick News

**E**VANGELICAL ATHEISM. It sounds like a contradiction of terms. True, if you look up "evangelical" in a dictionary, at about the fifth or sixth definition there will be a meaning that doesn't relate to Christianity.

The word can mean being zealous for a cause, and that is just what neo-Darwinists like author Richard Dawkins and others mean when they link it to atheism. They are zealously behind a movement that would have all believers forsake their faith in a supreme being for things that can be proven only by science.

In previous books, Dawkins, an Oxford College professor, presents the materialist interpretation of biology — that there is nothing more to nature than what meets the eye. Dawkins has also engaged in numerous high-profile public arguments that science can disprove religion, often lecturing or speaking to the media on this theme.

In his newest book, "The God Delusion," Dawkins argues that faith isn't merely wrong, but that religion is dangerous lunacy. The religious do not deserve respect, he said, any more than respect should

be extended to crazy people raving in the streets.

Dawkins and other evangelical atheists want to stop the "God delusion" to help mankind live better.

It is an argument that the Rev. James D. Davis, pastor of Frederica Baptist Church on St. Simons Island, has heard before.

"If Dawkins believes in a "God delusion," which will one day result in people seeing the delusion and religion disappearing, then his idea is a rehashed version of Sigmund Freud," Davis said.

In 1927, Freud published a book entitled "The Future of an Illusion," in which he argued that religion was an illusion which one day would disappear, Davis said.

"While Freud did not give us a time schedule," Davis said, "we are almost 80 years out from Freud's conclusion and see no evidence of religion disappearing, rather there are more religions and denominations today than when Freud wrote his theory."

Davis said that there is a mistaken notion that atheism is not a religion.

"A religion is a system of belief which answers the great questions of life and which provides meaning, purpose and direction for a person's life," he said. "Atheism is a system of belief and therefore a

religion. The argument that all religions will disappear is better stated that all religions but atheism will disappear."

Davis also noted that there is always what Soren Kierkegaard, the 19th century Danish philosopher, called a "leap of faith" in religion.

"In evangelical Christianity we make a leap of faith which says there is a God," he said. "Atheism makes a leap of faith that says there is no God. We cannot prove the existence or the non-existence of God. All both sides are doing is gathering small pieces of evidence and saying, based on this evidence, 'I make the leap of faith toward a certain religion.'"

While evangelical atheism may be a cultural trend, Davis said, it is a trend in name only.

"The ideas which seem to form it are old, older than Freud. In many ways this seems to be just a repackaging of an old idea," he said.

"In combating Dawkins' ideas, there are two ways in which the Bible encourages me to confront this theory.

"First, I need to live what I believe. Hypocrisy is a terrible disease and one which can penetrate any religion. If I truly believe what the tenets of the Bible and evangelical Christianity teach, then I need to

live that."

By doing that, Davis noted, a person's life combats the ideas of evangelical atheism.

"The Bible tells me that I need to give an account for the hope that I have and that I am to love God with my mind," he added. "I need to be able to defend my beliefs. I am more than open to the discussion of ideas, theories and religions, but I want to be able to state why I believe what I believe in a compelling, accurate and intellectual manner."

Davis said he has no problem with the tenets of evangelical atheism being taught as long as the same amount of time and emphasis is given to evangelical Christianity.

"All too often a straw man argument of Christianity is set up," he said, "so that someone who opposes it can knock it down, stomp on it and call it foolishness. I want the information presented in a fair and complete manner and then allow each individual to choose.

"Finally, I think religion will never disappear. It may change drastically from what we know today, but humanity will always need answers to the great questions of life and a sense of purpose of direction. Some form of religion will always be here."

## Glyndale Baptist preaches single message

By KRISTA HARRIS  
The Brunswick News

### BELIEFS

It's one of the first sites you see when you round the corner of Exit 36B from Interstate 95. Glyndale Baptist Church members located their church in that area in 1953 and watched as Brunswick grew up around it.

Pastor Ken Creekmore recounts the humble beginnings of the church, when the first 12 members met in an old brick building called the chicken house.

It was called that because it was

once used to raise chickens. That lasted until the land next to the house was purchased and the building seen today began to take shape.

Today, 590 members attend the three worship services offered by Glyndale. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. with a Wednesday service at 7 p.m.

**Theology** "Loving God and loving people is what Glyndale is all about. It's a lot easier to say than to do, but when we love God and love people we

are most like Jesus," Creekmore said.

It's about sharing Jesus with others in word and action, Creekmore said. He hopes that others will come to Jesus and trust him as Lord and savior.

With 40,000 Southern Baptist Churches in the United States, they all share the same ideals about sharing Jesus with others, Creekmore said.

**Programs** Glyndale Baptist Church has a variety of ministries and worship opportunities.

Its senior ministry, Golden Harvest, meets at 11 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month for a meal and a program. "There are many exciting ministries

for children," said Creekmore.

The AWANA program is going on its sixth year and meets from 6 to 8 p.m. every Sunday, with James Rhodes and other volunteers leading the services.

KIDMO has recently been added to the children's ministry. It meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday and uses multimedia to convey Jesus' message and Bible stories.

The Glyndale Baptist Church Web site is [www.glyndalebaptist.com](http://www.glyndalebaptist.com).

— If you would like to suggest a congregation for Beliefs, call Krista Harris at 265-8320, ext. 242.

## Being open to truth can be life-changing experience

Who are you?

We asked that question last week. One of the reasons we can't discover who we are is that we aren't willing to be honest about our lives.

We like to pretend everything is fine. Some of us are stuck in some unhealthy patterns searching for meaning in all of the wrong places, and yet we are unwilling to admit our need.

Well, first we have to break out of our denial.

Denial is what keeps us from moving forward in our lives. Denial is one of the major barriers that keep us stuck in neutral.

We excuse ourselves and we accuse others: "If my wife would just get her act together then our marriage would be



David Yarborough

Local religion columnist

just fine."

And we play the blame game. Denial is one of Satan's greatest and most effective tools to keep us stuck in our sin, as we act like everything is fine while life is spinning out of control. We must be willing to be honest with ourselves and God.

I am constantly amazed at how unwilling we can be to simply admit the truth about our lives. Some deny their anger, some deny their irresponsibility, some deny their

unhealthy patterns, and so on. We justify and rationalize as we make excuses for sinful behaviors.

It has been said, however, that our secrets will keep us sick. I imagine that some of you may be carrying some secret skeletons around in your closet that you hope never come out. And yet we are not ready to move forward in life until we can step out of denial and into the truth.

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).

Truth is actually a person — the Lord Jesus Christ. He declared himself to be the "way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). But if he is going to set us free, we must start by being honest with ourselves.

Our denial only ends up isolating us from God. Scripture declares, "God is light, in him there is no darkness at all".

If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:5-7).

God's light shines on the truth. Our denial keeps us in the dark. If we keep denying our problems and keeping it a secret, then God has a word for us — a liar.

We cannot have true fellowship with God and other believers when we continue to walk in the darkness of denial. God's antidote for denial is

often a little word called pain.

Pastor Rick Warren said, "We rarely change when we see the light. We change when we feel the heat."

Many times we are not willing to change until our fear of change is exceeded by the pain of not changing. Most people do not want to change their lives until they are forced into it because they have no other options.

In recovery, they often call this "hitting rock bottom" or "bottoming out." In our spiritual lives, it usually comes when we see our powerlessness over our own sinful behavior and reactions, and truly admit our deep need for God's help, intervention, guidance and change.

I am warning you, though.

Our human pride will fight us tooth and nail.

There is a little lawyer inside of you that will come out and seek to justify and defend you to the end.

You will at times be tempted to cast a blind eye at some serious character flaws and issues going on in your heart. It may be time for you to fire that little lawyer and discover a new advocate — Jesus Christ.

For as you walk in truth — admitting who you are and what you are capable of doing — he can come and forgive and set you free.

And that's the Word.  
— David Yarborough is the pastor of St. Simons Community Church. He can be contacted at 634-2960 or [dysscc@adelphia.net](mailto:dysscc@adelphia.net).