



Tidings of Joy

The Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church of Decatur, Alabama

October 21, 2015

“The Rhythm of the Growing Church” | A Note From Our Pastor

I attended the annual Gathering of North Alabama Elders, Deacons, Associate Members, and Local Pastors at Camp Sumatanga this week. Our guest teacher was Bishop Paul Leland who presides over the Alabama West-Florida Conference. With a gentle and sweet spirit he challenged the notion that a stable church is a worthy goal for any pastor or church leader. He also dared us to reject predictions that the church will continue its slow decline toward death.

Bishop Leland kept before us two statements from Erwin McManus' book *An Unstoppable Force*:

- “The life of the church is the heart of God. The heart of God is to serve a broken world” (P. 23).
- Church leaders today are valued for their ability to bring and keep order rather than for their ability to bring and lead change. The reality is that church leaders are being equipped to preserve the past rather than create the future” (P. 25).

Bishop Leland compared efforts we have made and programs we have tried to improve church attendance and slow down the loss of members to a man with tightness in his chest asking his doctor for medicine to relieve the symptoms. The doctor tells him he has medicine that would most likely reduce the tightness in his chest temporarily but what he needs to eliminate the cause of the symptoms is to change his habits: get on a better diet, exercise more, and eliminate some stress in his life. Does it surprise you when we opt for the medicine to reduce the symptom rather than changing our habits?

This word “change” alarms us and we become defensive and resistant. Why? Very likely we have seen change that threatened the legacy of our church and the core of who we are. We cannot erase the long past of this church and reinvent ourselves into the new church down the road that has the popular appeal. We cannot abandon the core beliefs of Wesleyan faith and practice to offer instead ten sure-fire ways to have a good marriage, be a good parent, or get rich quick. The missional challenge before us is to hold on to our legacy and remain true to our unchangeable beliefs while we respond creatively to challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world. We need courage to experiment with ministries we have never tried before, to fail, and try again.

As scary as change may be to those of us who prefer things in the church to stay as they are, the process for implementing the lifestyle change that grows the church is not new. Jesus, when he appeared to his disciples following his resurrection, outlined that process clearly: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

There is a pattern here we need to practice until it becomes the rhythm of our daily walk: Go, Disciple, Baptize, Teach, Obey, Go, Disciple, Baptize, Teach, Obey, Go.

In Christ,

Hughey

Sympathy

Sharing sympathy with **Jan and Jim Worthey** on the recent death of her brother **Phillip Jeffrey Owings**. This family remains in our prayers.

Hilltoppers

The Hilltoppers group will travel to “**Grandmother’s House**” in **Owens Cross Roads, AL on Thursday, November 12 for lunch**. Mike Boozer will be driving the bus. You will need money for your lunch and gas for the bus. The lunch menus consist of a choice an entree and a selection of two or three vegetables. 

“Come and enjoy a unique dining experience in the peaceful country side. Enjoy a home cooked meal at lunch like your grandmother made. The history of this property goes back to the early 1800s. The home is beautifully decorated and filled with antiques.”

Following lunch, we’ll visit Lowe Mill. *“Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment is America’s largest independent center for the arts. With over 120 working artists, small businesses, restaurants, and live performance venues, this huge historic textile mill is now a rising home for music, art, and culture. Visitors are encouraged to enter our studios and speak with artists to learn about their work processes, inspirations, and to purchase work.”*

The Hilltoppers Christmas Lunch is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 in the church Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us for this last event of 2015!

Congregational Care

Congregational Care is always open to new ideas to further meet the needs of our members. We are seeking volunteers interested in serving in the areas of Grief Support Care and Care for Caregivers. **Grief Support Care** requires the volunteer to make periodical brief visits, send uplifting cards, and make phone calls that will brighten that individual’s day. **Care for Caregivers** requires the volunteer to relieve a caregiver when needed, make a phone call to the individual, or run an errand for the individual. 

Hospice of the Valley can provide a counselor to be available to assist the volunteers in whichever area they choose. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community. Please contact Patrick McCormick by email at patrick@decaturfumc.org if interested.

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers Sunday, October 11, 2015:
Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 106
Total Count for 11:00am = 139
Total Count for October 11 = 245

Sunday School October 11:
Children 11 + 7 adults
Youth 4 + 2 adults
Adults 101
Total Sunday School October 11 = 125

First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Oct. 7, 2015:
Children 13 + 7 adults
Youth 19 + 5 adults
Adults 87
Total First Fellowship Oct. 7 = 131

Attendance Numbers Sunday, October 18, 2015:
Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 80
Total Count for 11:00am = 150
Total Count for October 18 = 230

Sunday School October 18:
Children 18 + 6 adults
Youth 5 + 1 adult
Adults 115
Total Sunday School October 18 = 145

First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Oct. 14, 2015:
Children 19 + 8 adults
Youth 6 + 4 adults (DHS Homecoming Week)
Adults 73
Total First Fellowship Oct. 14 = 110

Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$639,338.73	151,300.64
Needed YTD	692,961.34	
Given This Week	10,405.10	1,495.00
Needed Weekly	16,115.38	

First Grace News

The First Grace Kathryn King Scholarship Fund currently serves four students on scholarship: two on part scholarship and two on full scholarship. We currently move \$1,120.00 monthly out of our scholarship fund into our general fund for tuition for these four students. We have our scholarship committee that consists of Laura Vines, Jim Greene, Diane Summerlin, and Betty Ann Mitchum. **We welcome anyone to give a donation to our scholarship fund in honor or memory of a loved one.** If you would like more information on our Kathryn King Scholarship Program, please call Laura at First Grace, 256-355-5555 or email at firstgrace@decaturfumc.org. 



Also, we will be adding new flooring to the 1st floor First Grace/Children’s Wing starting Monday, October 26th. We will be replacing the carpet for hardwood floors to match the hallway. The total project will cost \$10,582.04. The Trustees will be paying \$2,733.66, a First Grace family donation was given for \$2,000.00, and First Grace will be paying the remainder \$5,848.38.



Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn
Director of Children's Ministries

Help Needed for Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat



Trunk-or-treat and Fall Festival is this Sunday, Oct. 25th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and we need your help!

Trunk-or-Treat- will be from 5:00-5:30 p.m. Please consider decorating your trunk and bring candy to pass out to our Trunk-or-Treaters. We ask that you be in the parking lot by 4:30 to set up.

Cupcake & Little Debbie Walk - We need volunteers to bring cupcakes and Little Debbie cakes for this game. Cupcakes can be dropped off Sunday morning in the fellowship hall.

Candy- We also need candy for some of our games for prizes. A box will be labeled and located outside of the fellowship hall. Sunday is not too late but it would be helpful to know what we have by Wednesday evening.

Set up Help- We will begin set up on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to come that early please come when you are able. We will have plenty to do up until the festivities begin. We realize that many of our members will be participating in the Power of Pink Walk.

Games- Please contact Alexia if you would like help facilitate one of the games. We would love for you to come and bring your friends! aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
256-606-8646

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Oct. 25

Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Lise Greene / Assistant-Mary Earley

3rd-5th Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- Diane Summerlin / Assistant- Mike Ward

11:00 Teacher- Carrie Hart/Assistant- Louise Brown

Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 1

Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Lindsey Faulkner / Assistant-Beth Roberts

3rd-5th Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- Lise Greene / Assistant- Alexia Claborn

11:00 Service Teacher- Jane Ann Ford
Assistant- TBA

Save the Date

- Wednesday, December 9th
Church Christmas Dinner and Children's Christmas Pageant!



We would love for you to come!

Trunk-or-Treat
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

&

Fall Festival
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25th

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



* Trunk-or-Treat, Blow-ups,
Dunking Booth,
Hay Ride, Games, Prizes &
3 yr. & under Play area
*Hot Dog Dinner \$5
\$18 maximum per family

Wear your costume!

First United Methodist
Church

Parking Lot / In Case of
Rain Fellowship Hall

October Mission Emphasis

Tennessee Valley Outreach (TVO) is our October Mission Emphasis. They have given us a list of items that they need. Place these items in the blue barrels in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.

Q-Tips
Disposable Razors
Shampoo and Conditioner
Feminine Hygiene Products
Bar Soap
Deodorant
Bleach
Laundry Detergent
Dishwashing Liquid
Toilet tissue
Paper Towels
Coats
Gloves



Kitchen News

As of last month, First Grace began using our church kitchen Monday-Friday to cook and serve lunches to our preschool children. In order for them to be able to do this, the **FUMC kitchen has to be evaluated by the Health Department**. Our Wednesday night volunteers always do an excellent job cleaning up. We need ALL groups from the church (children, youth, UMM, UMW, SS classes, etc.) to all follow the same procedures our Wednesday night volunteers do when cleaning the kitchen. If the Health Department comes after an event (football breakfast, UMW lunch, UMM breakfast, etc.) and the kitchen is not properly cleaned and things are not stored properly, First Grace will not be able to continue meals. Please look on the bulletin board in the kitchen, near the dishwasher, for a detailed list of "things to do when cleaning up" from Sandy!

2015 Lee Lott Power of Pink Walk

You may register or make a donation through this Friday, Oct. 23 at Noon, but are not guaranteed a shirt. Registration forms may be found in the Welcome Center.

Our team will meet at the FUMC Portico at 1:30 on Sunday afternoon the 25th as the Walk starts from Founder's Park at 2:00.

Thank you, *Susan Baughn*



A Big Thanks

Thank you to those Sunday school classes who participated and to several individuals who were very generous in our shoebox project. Thirty-five filled boxes were sealed and are now ready to ship. We also provided extra items to fill other boxes that were being readied at the Disaster Warehouse.

Thanks to all who helped make this possible for those children to have a special Christmas gift.



JoAnn Christopher

UMW/ UMM

The United Methodist Women will have their **General Meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, November 2 at 10:00 a.m.** All women, regardless of age, are encouraged to join United Methodist Women. The program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. Our mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy



The **UMW Tidwell Circle** will meet on Monday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Conference Room at the church. The **UMW Lydia Circle** will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Betty Ann Mitchum's house.



United Methodist Men (UMM) will have their monthly breakfast with guest speaker Pete Graham on Sunday, November 8 at 7:30 a.m. His talk will be based on Dr. Aubrey Daniels' book *R+*, the subject of which is "the re-inforcers behind motivation". A key connection in that subject is why Faith is so important. The concept is both simple and powerful.



Just like United Methodist Women, all men of all ages are invited to join. The mission of UMM is to "Help Men Grow in Christ, So Others May Know Christ." Our local UMM group is also very active with missions and outreach in our community.

All Saints' Sunday

Decatur First United Methodist Church will celebrate All Saints' Sunday on November 1 at both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. This is a time to remember those who have joined the Communion of Saints around the throne.

Church Library

The **library committee** is beginning to take inventory and restructure the library at FUMC. During this time, no materials will be able to leave the room. If you have a need, please see Cindy McCulloch in the church office or call Caroline Sanders (256-565-9597). We are also asking that all library materials be returned to the office to be included in the inventory. Thanks ~ Library Committee



Youth Dates Coming Up...

Sunday, October 25

10:00 Sunday School
2:00 Power of Pink Walk
3:30 set up Fall Festival
5:00-7:00 Fall Festival



Monday, October 26

7:45am JH Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles' (rides provided to OPMS)

Wednesday, October 28

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study

Thursday, October 29

DHS Football/ Cheerleader Breakfast
6:15 Cooks arrive
7:15 greeters and servers arrive
7:45 clean up arrive

Sunday, November 1

10:00 Sunday School
6:00 Brown Bag
6:30 UMYF Game night (Pumpkin Games)

Wednesday, November 4

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study
7:00 Youth Ministry Team

Thursday, November 5

7:30 SH Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A

Sunday Night UMYF

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) occurs on Sunday nights. If school is out on a Monday, we will not have UMYF the Sunday night before. We meet on the youth floor (third floor, enter the building on the ally side) at 6:00. Bring your own dinner (fast food or from home) and eat with the group until 6:30 when we'll start our programming. We'll rotate between different activities that may include games, outings, worship, programs and missions! We typically end at 7:30.

- Nov. 1 Game Night (Pumpkin Games - wear clothes that can get messy!)
- Nov. 8 Destination Unknown
- Nov. 15 Discovery Follow Up Event (Betty Ann Mitchum's house)
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 29 Hanging of the Greens & Dinner at Mi Hacienda

"Remind" Youth Messages

Youth parents are encouraged to sign up for "Remind" messages from Beth. You can receive reminders and messages via text or email. To sign up for text messages, text @b43ddd to (205) 224-0165. To receive messages via email, send an email to b43ddd@mail.remind101.com. Reminders are sent to inform parents of upcoming youth events/ meetings, sign up deadlines, cancellations of events due to weather, etc.

UMYF Pumpkin Games, November 1 from 6:00-7:30

Wear your old, messy clothes and come to youth prepared to have fun! We'll have pumpkin themed games, contests, and activities to properly celebrate fall and the end of Daylight Saving Time! All youth are encouraged to bring their favorite pumpkin flavored treats to share~ cookies, candy, muffins, etc.



Last DHS Football Breakfast

If you are interested in volunteering for the final DHS Football breakfast on Oct. 29, please contact Beth (beth@decatourfumc.org). Additional volunteers are needed in all areas. Thank you for your help in making this ministry a success!

Volunteer schedule:

6:15am cooks arrive
7:15am greeters and servers arrive
7:30am serve the students
7:45am clean up teams arrive

College Addresses

College addresses are complete! We have all the college addresses and will be sending cards and care packages this fall. If you would like to send items to be mailed, we are collecting 39 of each item. We try to mail flat items (pens/ pencils, post it notes, microwave popcorn, hot chocolate packs, "gummies" granola bars, sticks of gum, flat candy bars, etc.) to keep the shipping costs down. All donations are welcome!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The youth have great discussions on Wednesday nights each week! Currently, the Jr. High group watch a SpongeBob Squarepants video and have a lesson on the "topic" discussed in the video. The Sr. High watch a clip from Forrest Gump and discuss the issues found in the video clips. These are the topics we'll discuss over the next few weeks:

Sr. High/ Forrest Gump

Oct 28 Actions and Consequences (drugs, alcohol)
Nov 4 Actions and Consequences (sex)
Nov 11 Faith and Salvation
Nov 18 What is your destiny?

Jr. High/ SpongeBob Squarepants

Oct. 28 Peer Pressure
Nov. 4 Spiritual Gifts
Nov. 11 Spiritual Gifts Inventory
Nov. 18 Role Models

UPCOMING EVENTS

Power of Pink Walk
Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival
Sunday, October 25 from 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Jr. high Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles' (rides provided to OPMS)
Monday, October 26 at 7:45 a.m.

Worship Team Practice
Monday, Oct. 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 10:00 a.m.

First Grace Field Trip
Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 a.m.

First Fellowship Oct. 28
Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice
Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 a.m.

UMM Breakfast, City Café
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 a.m.

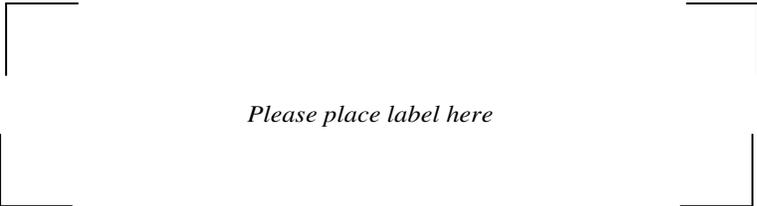
Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 a.m.

DHS Football/Cheerleader Breakfast
Friday, Oct. 29 in Fellowship Hall
6:15 a.m. - Cooks arrive / 7:15 a.m. - greeters and servers arrive / 7:45 a.m. - clean up arrive



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Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
Shannon Booth, Director of Outreach, shannon@decaturfumc.org
Charlie Elliott, Custodian
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper
Sandy Callahan, Food Manager
Wayne Keller, Accompanist
Laura Vines, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org
Gail Warth, Interim Organist

Upcoming Worship Services
(8:45 & 11:00 AM)
VISION STATEMENT:
Growing in Christ, Sharing God's Love through...
Inspiring Worship, Empowering Ministries
Equipping Persons for Ministry
Promoting Well-Being
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Oct. 25 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
Mark 10: 46-52 "How Disciples See"
Nov. 1 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
"The Word of Life" All Saints' Sunday

Scheduled To Serve October 25
Acolytes:
8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled
11:00 a.m. - Mary Bibb Pylant & Mary Emma Harper
Greeters:
8:45 - Bill & Bettye Dennis, Dean Turney
11:00 - Lawrence & Jane Ann Ford, Barbara Ashwander
Ushers:
8:45 - Jimmy Sykes, Norman Roby, Bert Pippen and Bob McAnnally
11:00 - Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews, J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari

First Fellowship Oct. 28 Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m. (details inside) **Reservations are not required anymore!** The menu for Oct. 28 will be BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Rolls, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter & Jelly & Cheese Sandwiches, Mounds Candy Bar Cake
Clean-Up Crew for Oct. 28: Jim & Chris Surber, Anne & Bob Ledbetter / Money Desk: Bettye and Bill Dennis