

Community Thanksgiving Service

- **Sunday Evening, Nov. 23 6:00 p.m.**
- **Here in our First Church Sanctuary**



The Rev. Marvin McCormick, pastor from Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, will bring the message. The Wesley Memorial Handbell Choir will be one of the special music groups. Make plans to attend with other United Methodist Churches from our area in this time of worship. Nursery will be provided.

Commitment Sunday November 23

Hopefully you have received your Commitment Cards. One is for the 2015 Ministry Budget, which is our first priority. The other is for the Three-Year Capital Campaign that will go to reduce our debt. Please prayerfully complete your Commitment Card, then bring them with you to worship on Sunday. If you are not able to be present, you can mail your cards to the church so they will be joined with those that are presented at the altar.



Important Meeting

The 2015 Global Impact Celebration Team meets with the 2014 and 2015 Mission Teams. Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m. Minister's Conf. Room, New 3rd Floor

ADVENT is COMING

The word Advent means "coming." It is that season when we anticipate the comings of Jesus Christ: His coming as the baby born to Mary, and His second coming to bring in His eternal Kingdom. **Advent this year begins on Sunday, November 30.** That Sunday morning we will begin our journey with the Advent Wreath. A candle will be illuminated each Sunday as we journey to Christmas Eve, when we will light the center Christ Candle.



During the Advent Season, there will be several special times of worship that will help us celebrate the real reason for the season.

Sunday, November 30, 6:00 p.m. – Hanging of the Greens. This is a special time to begin our journey toward Christmas as we are reminded of the meaning behind many of our decorations.

Sunday, December 14, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. – the Christmas Cantata *Night of Miracles*, will be present by the Chancel Choir and the 8:45 Worship Team.

Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 PM – the Children's Choir will present *Here is our King*.

Wednesday, December 24, 12:00 Noon, 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Communion Services

Mission Moments

One Across the Street and One Around the World
Refuge of Grace Nigerian Partnership

Our November Mission Emphasis is Refuge of Grace. This is a residential, disciple-making program built firmly on the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. We provide a safe environment for women and their children when possible where they are given hope of a life transformed through the power and grace of Jesus Christ as they are involved in an intensive discipleship program. The women learn to be committed members of a local church as well as law-abiding, contributing members of society. Donation lists are available at the church. We have a blue bin by the Fellowship Hall for your donations.

The Nigeria-North Alabama United Methodist Partnership is a partnership between churches and individuals of the two conferences. The purpose is to assist the people of the Central Nigerian Conference build and operate the Ethel Johnson Comprehensive Secondary School in Karim Maundi, Nigeria. The school accepted its first class of students in September of 2013. Currently a combination of EBOLA, storm damage, and threats of terrorism have set back the start of 2014 classes, but they have plans to start in late October. The school will assist the Nigerian students in being prepared for post secondary educational endeavors, but there will also be a trade school. The partners in North Alabama have been able to help the school complete some of their buildings and dig well and plant trees for fruit and wind breaks. The North Alabama partners hope to help the United Methodists in Central Nigeria repair a building that was damaged in storms last year, get the trades building started and continue the self-sustaining agriculture projects. Our thanks to every church and individual who has helped and who will pray for and contribute to the needs of the North Alabama-Nigeria United Methodist Partnership.

Church & Community

REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. RUDY "A Response to Love"

A missionary on a Pacific Island was returning to America. Those in the village where he had shared the love of Christ gave a celebration for him. There were many different expressions of love shown to him. One teenager presented the missionary with a very rare seashell that he knew was found only on the opposite side of the Island. Because it was rare and because of its amazing beauty, the missionary knew it was an expensive shell. He also knew that it was a difficult and long trip to retrieve such a rare shell.

When the teenager presented the shell to the missionary, the missionary acknowledged the difficult trip the teenager had made in finding the shell. The teenager responded, "Long Walk, part of Gift."

Jesus made the long walk to Calvary to purchase the gift of salvation for you and me. Even more, He made the transfer from the glory of heaven, to become a human being, in order to make the long walk to Calvary. Because of His long walk, salvation is a wonderful gift that we receive by faith in Jesus.

The stewardship commitment that Gina and I will make is part of the long walk of loving God back. The teenager could have gotten a shell that did not require as much sacrifice to obtain. But he did not give just any shell; he wanted one that expressed the great love he had for the missionary. I also want my God to know that I love Him above all else. He is the priority of my life.

As you prepare for Sunday, how will the commitment you make represent your love for God?

Rudy

Bake Sale for Youth Missions

On Sunday morning, November 23, the youth will be sponsoring a Bake Sale for the church. We are asking for individuals to donate their items that are considered their "specialty!" If your specialty is making pecan pie, pound cake, cinnamon rolls, cookies, cupcakes, etc. please consider donating. We are also hoping to have items that could be used for Thanksgiving lunch. If you want to donate a casserole, stuffing, bread, or anything else that could help families in the kitchen, please get in touch with us!

Donations can be dropped off on Saturday, November 22 between 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Include with your item a card with your name, the name of the item, and any special instructions (ex. Freezes well, does not freeze well, contains nuts, etc.)

We will also be selling "Special Order" items to be made at a later date. If you would like to do this, provide us with your name, the item, and the date(s) you can provide the item. Contact Beth Green or Betty Ann Mitchum with questions.

Jamaica Mission Trip, July 18-24

Meeting: Anyone who has completed 9th grade is invited to join the youth and college group for our mission trip to Jamaica in 2015! On Sunday night, November 23 at 5:00 p.m. we will have an informative meeting discussing the trip, details, costs, and possible fundraisers. I will answer as many questions as I can! For additional questions, contact Beth in the youth office.

United Methodist Women

The General Meeting of the UMW was held on Monday, Nov. 3. Mr. Watkins, executive secretary of Abilities Plus, brought us up to date on their recent programs.



A check was presented by the UMW to Abilities Plus. Loena Boling presented Special Mission Recognition pins to Faye Irby and Gina Guess for their dedicated service.



Everyone enjoyed fellowship and a great lunch served by the Lydia Circle. All circles will come back together on Dec. 8 to prepare cookie trays to the church shut-ins. All ladies are welcome. Just bring some baked cookies to share!

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Nov. 9:

Total Count for 8:45am = 106

Total Count for 11:00am = 176

Total Count for morning services for Nov. 9= 282

Sunday School Nov. 9

Children- 10 teachers, 18 kids

Youth- 2 teachers, 14 youth

Adults- 138

Total= 182

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014:

Total Count for 8:45am = 92

Total Count for 11:00am = 155

Total Count for morning services for Nov. 16: 247

Sunday School Nov. 16

Children- 10 teachers, 19 kids

Youth- 2 teachers, 6 youth

Adults= 109

Total= 146

First Fellowship Nov. 5

Adults- 51

Youth 24 , 3 teachers

Children- 20, 10 teachers

Total= 108

First Fellowship Nov. 12

Adults- 47

Youth- 24 + 4 teachers

Children- 25 + 11 teachers

Total= 111

Our Stewardship of Resources

Ministry Budget

Received YTD \$716,274.35

Needed YTD 771,557.64

Given This Week 12,257.36

Needed Weekly 16,416.12

Capital Fund

\$185,678.82

1,128.00



Servant Spotlight:

Our Servant Spotlight this week shines on our volunteers who work each week in our church office greeting people, answering phones, and lending an extra helping hand with office chores.

We also say thank you to all who help enter Sunday worship attendance numbers. Your gift of service is greatly appreciated.

If you have individuals to lift up in the Servant Spotlight, please contact any of our staff at (256)355-0277.

Children's Choir News!



Our children are now working on our Christmas pageant and Hanging of the Greens music. Please mark your calendars for Sunday evening, **November 30th** for the **Hanging of the Greens service at 6:00 p.m.** and for our **Christmas Pageant December 17th 6:00 p.m.**



Church Christmas Pageant and Worship Service

**Wednesday, December 17th
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

We would love to see everyone come and join this special evening service which will be followed by a Dessert Fellowship time in our Fellowship Hall.



Hilltoppers Christmas Luncheon

We will be having our annual Hilltoppers Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The cost of the luncheon is \$6.00 per person. Our entertainment will be Wallace State singers. Please see sign-up sheets in Sunday School classes or in the Welcome Center and outside fellowship Hall.



Riverside Christmas Party

On Thursday, December 18th at 10:30 a.m. we will be hosting a party for our shut-ins at Riverside. We will sing carols, share in some light refreshments, and fellowship with the residents!

Shine

Children's Schedule

NOV. 19th Wednesday Evening

5:50-6:20 p.m. Pre- K & K Music Room #250
1st 2nd 3rd 4th & 5th Grade Story Room #226
6:20- 7 p.m. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th & 5th Grade Music Room #250
Pre- K & K Story Room #226

Parents please pick up Children from #226 room

NOV. 26th Wednesday Evening

No Children's choir rehearsal

NOTE: CHILDREN'S PAGEANT REHEARSAL following Thanksgiving break.

6pm to 7pm - **Dec. 3rd** - All Children will meet in Sanctuary

6 pm to 7pm - **Dec. 10th** - All Children will meet in Music room #250(New Building)

2:30pm to 5pm - **Sunday, DEC. 14th** All Children Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday school Helper 1st 2nd 3rd Grade Class

Nov 23rd - Mary Earley

Nov 30th - Pat Carl

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Thomas, Dan & Judy</i>	2 <i>Tidwell, John & Karen</i> {Grant, Paxton}	3 <i>Timberlake, Cecil & Carolyn</i>	4 <i>Tolleson, Gena</i> {Mary Ashley, Morgan}	5 <i>Tomberlin, Nathan & Courtney</i> {Willow, William}	6 <i>Torbert, Tim & Connie</i>
7 <i>Pray for our services</i>	8 <i>Turney, Dean</i>	9 <i>Underwood, Fred & Lou</i>	10 <i>Underwood, John & Stefanie</i> {Wiley, Jack, LuLu}	11 <i>Vaughan, Bob & Jane</i>	12 <i>Vickery, Bryan & Suzanne</i> {Margaret}	13 <i>Vickery, Dr. Willis & Virginia</i>
	<i>Tutwiler, Nita</i>			<i>Vermeire, George</i>		
14 <i>Pray for our services</i>	15 <i>Vickery, Mike & Weety</i>	16 <i>Wakefield, Brian & Whitney</i> {Olivia}	17 <i>Walker, David & Debbie</i> {Davy}	18 <i>Walker, Dick</i>	19 <i>Wallace, Billy & Lynda</i>	20 <i>Wallin, Wes & Cynthia</i>
	<i>Vickery, Paul & Donna</i> {Nicole, Jenna}			<i>Walker, Jean</i>		
21 <i>Pray for our services</i>	22 <i>Ward, Drew & Mary Ila</i> {Andrew, Paige}	23 <i>Warth, Gail</i>	24 <i>Weaver, Bill & Sabrina</i> {Ivey-Katherine, Anna-Quinn}	25 <i>Weaver, Larry & Leslie</i>	26 <i>Wheat, Joanne</i>	27 <i>Wilder, Dick & Arabelle</i> {Richard, Knox}
	<i>Ward, Mike & Dell</i>	<i>Weaver, A.Q. & Joyce</i>				
28 <i>Pray for our services</i>	29 <i>Williams, Peggy</i>	30 <i>Windsor, Vandon & Jean</i>	31 <i>Witt, Todd</i>			
	<i>Willis, Dr. Tom & Jane</i>	<i>Witt, Jody & Laurie</i> {Hayden}	<i>Worthey, Jim & Jan</i>			



**PRAY
FOR OUR
CHURCH FAMILY**

Church Family Prayer Calendar

Please pray each day for the spiritual growth and needs of the families listed. The calendar will help us personally pray for our entire Church family in 2014. One day everyone will be praying for you. The other days, pray for them.



Beth Green, Youth Minister

December Outreach Opportunities with the Youth



- Thursday, December 4- Boxing Groceries with the Salvation Army, time TBA
- Sunday, December 7- 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Worship with the homeless at Church of the Reconciler in Birmingham; Shopping for less fortunate teens following
- Thursday, December 11- Ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Old Navy 5-8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 21- Caroling at Riverside 5:45 p.m.

Coming Up...

Friday, November 21

DHS Football Breakfast
6:15 a.m. cooks
7:15 greeters and servers
7:45 clean up



Saturday, November 22

10:00-2:00 set up for Bake Sale/ Collect donations

Sunday, November 23- Bake Sale- 9:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

10:00 Sunday School
5:00 p.m. - Jamaica Info Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Community Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 24

7:45 Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at McDonald's

Sunday, November 30

10:00 Sunday School Breakfast
6:00 Hanging of the Green Service
7:00 dinner at Mi Hacienda

Thursday, December 4

7:30 a.m. - Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A

Make Plans NOW!

Summer mission trips are planned!

- The Jr High (completed 6-8th grade) will be going to Memphis, TN June 28-July 3, 2015.
- The Sr High, College and adults will be going to Jamaica July 18-24, 2015.

Registration letters and trip information will be sent to students in November. If you so not have a student at home and would like to register for either trip, please let Beth know.

Sunday Night UMYF Schedule

November 23

6:00 p.m. - Thanksgiving Service here



November 30

6:00 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens Service
Dinner at Mi Ha following

December 7

8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Christmas Shopping Trip to Birmingham; no evening activities

December 14

6:00 p.m. - Youth Christmas party at the church

December 21

5:30 p.m. - Caroling at Riverside & Huntsville Botanical Gardens Lights

December 28- No UMYF; SH on Ski Trip

General Info

If you would like to read the Stewardship Devotionals online, please visit

<http://answeringgodschallenge.blogspot.com/>

"Like" us on Facebook to get up to date information about our church, meetings, changes, prayer requests, photos and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC>

College Students

The following students have turned in college information:

Paxton & Grant Tidwell	Knox Wilder
Molly Neill	Lucy Beth Scott
Braxton & Elizabeth Rainey	Georgia Gamble
Kitty & Galvin Gray	Wiley Underwood
Kathleen & Hattie O'Hara	Anna Claire Woodall
Ford & Paxton Clemons	

Please share your college student's information with Beth so we can include them in mailings from our church. We need your student's name, college mailing address, school attending, year in school, and email at school. We will be sending cards and care packages throughout the school year and don't want anyone left out!

If you are interested in volunteering to help put together college care packages, please let Beth know!

Saturday – Sunday, November 22-23

There are still time slots available for this weekend's Prayer Vigil, which begins Saturday morning and goes through the Worship Services on Sunday morning. To help you with the 30 minute time frame, the Prayer Team has produced a guide that is available for pick-up in the welcome areas. If you have not committed to a time on the Prayer Vigil, your Prayer Team encourages you to participate. The sign up board is in the Welcome Center. Let's cover this church with prayer this weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bake Sale Donations accepted
Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Pledge Card Commitment Sunday
Sunday, Nov. 23 at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Bake Sale, Fellowship Hall (details page 2)
Sunday morning, Nov. 23 from 9:45 a.m. - 12:30**

**Jamaica Mission Trip Info Meeting
(details page 2)
Sunday, Nov. 23 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Community Thanksgiving Service, Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 23 starting at 6:00 p.m.**

**Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at McDonald's
Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:45 a.m.**

**Worship Team Practice
Monday, Nov. 24 at 6:00 p.m.**

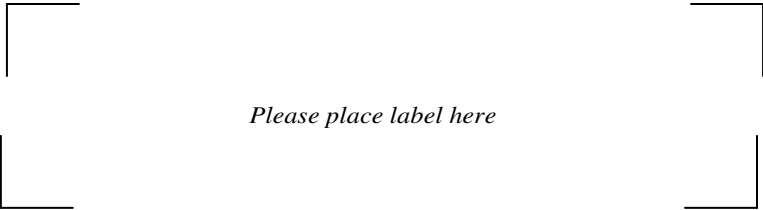
**Happy Thanksgiving
Church office closed Nov. 27 and 28**



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Please place label here

Dr. Rudy Guess, Senior Minister, rguess@decaturfumc.org **Cindy McCulloch, Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Finance, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org**
Beth C. Green, Youth Minister, beth@decaturfumc.org
Laura Vines, Interim First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org **Sandy Callahan, Food Manager**
Karen Moore, Worship Team Director, kkbabf@gmail.com **Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org**
Lorri McGuire, Director of Children & Family, lmcguire@decaturfumc.org **Kim Bell, Pianist**
Jimmy Cantrell, Chancel Choir Director, jcantr1011@aol.com **Charlie Elliott, Custodian**
Gail Warth, Organist **Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper**

**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

**November 23: Rudy Guess, preaching at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
"What Can I Give to the God Who Has Everything?" Psalm 50:1-23**

November 23 at 6:00 p.m.: Community Thanksgiving Service here

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Stores have been getting ready for Christmas for several weeks. The scriptures tell us that the first Christmas was not just a one night happening. For centuries God was preparing the stage for the miracle that would take place in Bethlehem. This Advent in his messages, Rudy will be looking at God's preparation for Christmas.

November 30, "God Announces His Plan" – Isaiah 7:14

December 7, "God Calls Mary" – Luke 1:26-38

December 21, "God Calls Joseph" – Matthew

Scheduled To Serve Nov. 23

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled
11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews and Mary Bibb Pylant (Nelson Earley, Crucifer)

Greeters:

8:45 a.m.— Lynn Temple, Willie & Glenda Pentecost
11:00 a.m. – Lou Underwood, Stephaniea Baggs, Gail Baggs

Ushers:

8:45 a.m. – Bob McAnnally, Whitt Roby, Norman Roby, Ronnie Dukes
11:00 a.m. – Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews, J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari



Church Office will be closed on Nov. 27 and Nov. 28.