



Tidings of Joy

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

November 4, 2015

“The Use of Money” | A Note From Our Pastor

For three Sundays in November the sermons in both morning worship services will explore Biblical Principles about the use of money on which John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, based his stewardship practice and teaching. He urged the early Methodists to “make all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.” His approach was by no means a get rich quick scheme. He opposed the prosperity Gospel that promised material blessings if you have enough faith. However, many poor people in England and beyond who followed Wesley’s teaching gained wealth and rose from poverty to economic and social prominence. They helped fund the spread of Methodism throughout the world in the eighteenth century.

You will hear some surprising statements from Wesley’s writings about the Christian’s disposition toward money. Here are some excerpts from Wesley on stewardship:

- “Gain all you can by honest industry... Do it as soon as possible... Put your whole strength to the work... Leave nothing undone that can be done by labor or patience.”
- “Do not throw the precious talent into the sea... Do not throw it away in idle expenses, which is just the same as throwing it into the sea. Expend no part of it merely to gratify the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life.”
- “Render unto God, not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God’s, be it more or less; by employing all on yourself, your household, the household of faith, and all mankind, in such a manner that you may give a good account of your stewardship, when you can be no longer stewards.”
- “If you desire to be a faithful and wise steward, out of the portion of the Lord’s goods that he has for the present lodged in your hands, but with the right of resuming whenever it pleases him, First, provide things needful for yourself; food to eat, raiment to put on, whatever nature moderately requires for preserving the body in health and strength. Secondly, provide these for your wife, your children, your servants, or any others who pertain to your household. If, when this is done, there is an overplus left, then ‘do good to them who are of the household of faith.’”

These are not standard teachings on stewardship we have come to expect this time of year when preachers and finance leaders urge us to underwrite the church’s upcoming budget. Stewardship for Wesley is not meeting a legalistic requirement of tithing but rather responding affirmatively to Christ’s Gospel call to be his disciples: *“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life”* (Mark 8:34-37).

Christ followers know that all we have belongs to God. God does not begrudge our providing modestly for ourselves and our families but deplores opulence, and God allows us to experience the joy and freedom of generosity toward those in the household of faith and beyond. Let’s learn together to be Biblical stewards in the Wesleyan spirit.

In Christ,

Hughey

Sympathy

Rev. Carol Goforth's father, **P. C. Goforth Jr.**, 91, of Decatur, died Thursday, October 29. This family remains in our prayers.

Hilltoppers

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! Look for the sign-up sheet in Sunday School classrooms, the Welcome Center and Fellowship Hall with additional information.



UMW/ UMM

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 Pete Graham as the guest speaker on Sunday, November 8 at 7:30 a.m. This takes place in the Fellowship Hall and breakfast is \$5.00. 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.



Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers Sunday, October 25, 2015:
Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 124
Total Count for 11:00am = 126
Total Count for October 25 = 250

Sunday School October 25:
Children 18 + 6 adults
Youth 8 + 2 adults
Adults 122
Total Sunday School October 25 = 156

First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Oct. 21, 2015:
Children 20 + 9 adults
Youth 19 + 4 adults
Adults 77
Total First Fellowship Oct. 21 = 129

Attendance Numbers Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015:
Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 131
Total Count for 11:00am = 128
Total Count for Nov. 1 = 259

Sunday School Nov. 1:
Children 26 + 7 adults
Youth 11 + 3 adult
Adults 100
Total Sunday School Nov. 1 = 147

First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Oct. 28, 2015:
Children 18 + 8 adults
Youth 19 + 4 adults
Adults 79
Total First Fellowship Oct. 28 = 128

Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$662,160.53	165,413.14
Needed YTD	725,192.10	
Given This Week	10,734.25	4,370.00
Needed Weekly	16,115.38	

First Grace Child Development Center News

We dropped off 216 pairs of socks to (TVO) Tennessee Valley Outreach for our October Missions project. Socks were donated from the parents and children of First Grace. Thank you!

Our new flooring is being installed this week to the 1st floor First Grace/Children's Wing. Stop by and check it out!

Our new security cameras have also been installed. These are on the 1st and 2nd floor in hallways, all classrooms, and just outside both elevators. Total cost for this project was \$2,500.00 and it was taken out of the First Grace General Fund.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5 from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. for Pancakes with Santa. The cost will be \$5 per person with a family max of \$20. This will be an "all you can eat" with pancakes, sausage, and drinks. There will also be an ornament keepsake making station with Mrs. Clause, pictures with Santa, and Baked Goods Sale. This event will be open to the public.



The Church trustees are trying to identify any members of our congregation who have medical training, i.e., physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, LPNs, EMT techs and those individuals who have had CPR training.

If you have any of the above training, please call Alyson in the church office or email her at aquinn@decaturfumc.org and let her know this information. Thank you!

November Mission Emphasis

The November Mission Emphasis is *Refuge of Grace: Applying Biblical Truths to Women's Lives*. Blue barrels are in the hallway by the Fellowship Hall for your donations. They currently need:

Coffee
Macaroni
Canned Vegetables
Sugar
Soups
Instant Oatmeal
Crackers
Soap
Paper Towels
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Shampoo
Mouthwash
Razors



Refuge of Grace is a residential, disciple-making program built firmly on the unshakeable foundation of the inerrant, infallible and sufficient 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.

leighlittrell@therefugeofgrace.org

Ministry at Decatur Morgan Hospital

For several years, we have had a ministry that provides snacks to the mammography center at Decatur General Campus of Decatur Morgan Hospital. Over these years, some members of the ministry group have had to drop out for various reasons. Members take about 100 snacks (raisins, breakfast bars, trail mix bags, cheese crackers) about once a quarter. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact Ann Henry at 256-466-2599 or schoolmse@gmail.com.



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

Council on Ministries Workshop

To the ministry staff, Administrative Board Chair, current chairs of all ministries and committees, incoming 2016 chairs of all ministries and committees, lay leader, and presidents of all organizations:

Make plans to attend the Council on Ministries Workshop on Sunday, November 15th after the 11:00 service. We will be planning next year's calendar, coordinating information among current committee chairs and representatives and incoming chairs and representatives, and planning goals for the coming year. This will be a good time to pass on helpful information to the person who is to replace you. Please meet with your team prior to this event for calendar planning purposes. The Callahans will be preparing lunch for us, and we should be finished by 2:00-2:30. Please let Alyson know that you are attending and if you need childcare. aquinn@decaturfumc.org

Council on Ministries chairpersons:

Please meet with your committee members prior to the workshop on Sunday, November 15th, to discuss calendar events and changes or major focuses for this next year. Since only the chairpersons need to attend the workshop, a meeting with your team will have you prepared to share information at that time. I urge you to be at the workshop, but if that isn't possible, please have one of your ministry teammates attend in your place.

Thank you,

Peggy Black

Chair Council on Ministries

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary starting on December 6th to help decorate for the Christmas Season. Please specify to whom you wish to dedicate your poinsettia (in honor or in memory). Place this form with your payment of \$20 for each poinsettia (mark checks "poinsettia") in the offering plate, or turn it in to the church office. Proceeds will go to the FUMC Flower Guild. **These will be white, 10" poinsettias from a Nursery in Center, AL. Deadline is Thursday, November 12th!**



Name _____

Phone _____ # of Poinsettias _____

In Honor of:

In Memory of:



Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn
Director of Children's Ministries
aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
Office: 256-355-0277
Cell: 256-606-8646

Volunteers Needed

Children's Church is in need of teachers for the following dates for the 8:45 service. Please contact Alexia if you are able to teach. **November 29th , December 6th, 13th and 20th.**



We are also in the process of making a new Children's Church Schedule, please let Alexia know if you would be willing to be on our teacher and / or assistant rotation for winter and spring. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with Fall Festival! It was an amazing night of fellowship for our church family. What an outpouring of love and support for the children of our church!! It's one of the reasons that I LOVE MY CHURCH!

Acolyte Schedule

Date	8:45 Service	11:00 Service
Nov. 8	Becca Hall	Lulu Underwood, Mattie Fite
Nov. 15	Bristol Rayne Teal	John Benton Claborn, Aiden Garriss
Nov. 22	Susan Floyd	Mary Bibb Pylant, Mary Emma Harper
Nov. 29	Bristol Rayne Teal	Garret Buckner, Chris Reavis
Nov. 29 6:00pm	Hanging of the Greens service	Beau Claborn, Hunter Claborn, John Benton Claborn

Wednesday Night First Fellowship

Hope to see you there! Our last one is November 18!
There are only two more left before we break for the season.



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 8

Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Lise Greene / Assistant-Gail Herren

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

Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- Dell Ward / Assistant- Alexia Claborn

11:00 Teacher- Betty Ann Mitchum/Assistant- Barbara Ashwander

Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 15

Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Jami Buckner / Assistant-Jane Ann Ford

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

Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- Beth Green / Assistant- Alexia Claborn

11:00 Service Teacher- Leigh Ann Blankenship
Assistant- Carol Noe

Parents' Night Out- Save the Date!

The youth will be hosting a Parents' Night Out at the church on Friday, December 4th from 5:00-10:00 p.m. for all children 5th grade and younger.



We'll provide dinner, games, crafts and activities. Stay tuned for more information!

Save the Date

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



MATTHEW 19:14

Youth Dates Coming Up...

Sunday, November 8

10:00 Sunday School
6:00 Brown Bag Supper
6:30-7:30 p.m. - UMYF Pumpkin Games



Monday, November 9

7:45 a.m. - JH Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles' (rides provided to OPMS)



Tuesday, November 10

Beth visits University of Alabama students

Wednesday, November 11

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study

Thursday, November 12

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

Sunday, November 15

10:00 Sunday School
6:00 p.m. - UMYF Discovery Cook Out at Betty Ann and Don Mitchum's house

Wednesday, November 18

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study

Thursday, November 19

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

"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.

*Date Change! UMYF Pumpkin Games, November 8 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 Thanksgiving! All youth are encouraged to bring their favorite pumpkin flavored treats to share~ cookies, candy, muffins, etc.



College

Beth will be visiting The University of Alabama on Tuesday, November 10 and Auburn University on December 1. If you need anything delivered to your student, please get it to Beth!



We are still collecting small, flat items to mail to our college students at the end of November. If you want to help provide items or package envelopes, please contact Beth.

If your college student is graduating this semester, please let the church office know so we can recognize everyone in the *Tidings* next month!

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

Nov 11 Faith and Salvation
Nov 18 What is your destiny?

Jr. High/ SpongeBob Squarepants

Nov. 11 Spiritual Gifts Inventory
Nov. 18 Role Models

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. 8 Game Night (Pumpkin Games - wear clothes that can get messy!)
- Nov. 15 Discovery Follow Up Event (Betty Ann Mitchum's house)
- Nov. 22 UMYF
- Nov. 29 Hanging of the Greens & Dinner at Mi Hacienda
- Dec. 6 - No UMYF
- Dec. 13 - Christmas Party
- Dec. 20 - outing.... TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 8 at 7:30 a.m.

UMYS Brown Bag and Pumpkin Games
Sunday, November 8 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles'
Monday, November 9 at 7:45 a.m.

UMW Tidwell Circle, Courtyard Conf. Room
Monday, Nov. 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Congregational Care Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Monday, Nov. 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Worship Team / Monday, Nov. 9 at 6:00 p.m.

UMW Lydia Circle, Betty Ann Mitchum's house
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Staff Parish Meeting, Room 351
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Administrative Board, Minister's Conf. Room
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Alabama Emmaus, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Columbarium Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 4:00 p.m.

First Fellowship Nov. 11
Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir / Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room
Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 a.m.

UMM Breakfast, City Café / Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:30

Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A
Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 a.m.

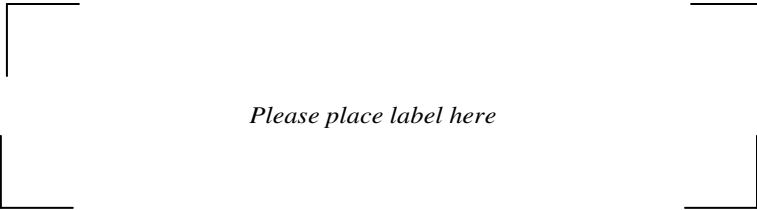
Hilltoppers' Thanksgiving Trip to Huntsville, Need Bus
Thursday, Nov. 12

First Grace Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, Nov. 12 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



805 CANAL STREET N.E.
DECATUR, AL 35601
PHONE (256) 355-0277
FAX (256) 355-2241
www.decaturfumc.org

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Dr. Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org
Patrick McCormick, Director of Worship, patrick@decaturfumc.org
Beth C. Green, Minister of Discipleship, beth@decaturfumc.org
Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org Laura Vines, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org
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
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.

**Nov. 8 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
1 Timothy 6: 17-19 "The Use of Money: Make All You Can"**

**Nov. 15 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
Matthew 6: 19-34 "The Use of Money: Save All You Can"**

Scheduled To Serve Nov. 8

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m. - Becca Hall
11:00 a.m. - LuLu Underwood, Mattie Fite

Greeters:

8:45 - Jim & Chris Surber, Fay Copeland
11:00 - Betty Ann & Don Mitchum, Barbara Ashw-
wander

Ushers:

8:45 - Sammy Dean, Jolly McKenzie, Steve Arm-
strong and Mike Boozer
11:00 - Stephen Brown, Bob Vaughan, Jim
Worthey, Ken House, Steve Haddock, Keith
Skelton

**First Fellowship Nov. 11 Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m. (details inside) Reservations are not re-
quired anymore!** The menu for Nov. 11 will be BREAKFAST: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon/Sausage links, Cheesy Grits, Bis-
cuits/Gravy Salad Bar, Peanut Butter & Jelly & Cheese Sandwiches, JoAnn's Cinnamon Rolls
Clean-Up Crew for Nov. 11: John & Fay Copeland, Michael Copeland, Jan Dean / Money Desk: Jan & Jim Worthey