



# Tidings of Joy

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

November 5, 2014

## Capital Campaign Info Sessions on Sunday, Nov. 9

The Home of Dr. and Mrs. Ken Chandler

2307 Fairway Circle, SE - Decatur

This year's Stewardship Campaign is a combination Ministry Budget campaign and Capital Campaign. Dr. Ken Chandler and Dr. Gerald New are our Leadership Coordinators for our Answering God's Challenge Campaign. They invite you to attend one of the Information Sessions that Ken and Elizabeth Chandler are hosting related to the Capital portion of the Campaign.

The sessions will all be on Sunday afternoon, November 9. You can choose between one of these times: 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., or 3:30 p.m. They will begin at the announced time in order to finish before the next session begins.



## Commitment Sunday Will Be November 23

Be in prayer about the commitment you will make to God and His Church. You will be receiving two Commitment Cards - one for the 2015 Ministry Budget and one for the three-year Capital Campaign. The Ministry Budget is the first priority. The Capital Campaign is an extra mile commitment to reduce the debt. Be looking for your Commitment Cards in the mail.



## Community Thanksgiving Service

- Sunday Evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 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. Nursery will be provided.

## Upcoming Messages

Rudy Guess, preaching November 9 -

"Whose Fries Are These?"  
1 Chronicles 29:1-19

November 16

"A Cost Worth Paying"  
Mark 10:17-31

November 23

"What Can I Give to the God Who Has Everything?"  
Psalm 50:1-23



## Mission Moments

One Across the Street

and

One Around the World

### Refuge of Grace

Our November Mission Emphasis is Refuge of Grace: Applying Biblical Truths to Women's Lives. This is a residential program providing hope for determined women in crisis (and when possible their children). Please visit their informative website at [www.therefugeofgrace.org](http://www.therefugeofgrace.org). **There is a blue collection bin outside the Fellowship Hall for the needs of toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, sandwich baggies (gallon sized), sugar, coffee, deodorant, hair-spray, and toothbrushes.** Please take a look at their bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

### Weigert Weekly - Mission Society

From their newsletter ....

Paul and Kelly Wiegert, along with their three children, are missionaries in Peru, South America. They began their training through the Mission Society in July 2011 and began serving in Trujillo, Peru in January 2013 in the areas of church planting and discipleship.

Weigert Ministry Prayer Requests:

- Pray for their upcoming Alpha classes.
- Be in prayer for those God is leading to be a part of a new class.
- Please pray for building issues as they are having to conduct their adults' class outside now. Also, pray about where their medical offices will be in the future.



# Church & Community

## REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. RUDY

### “Little Is Much When God Is In It”

I remember many faithful stewards who felt their “little” could not make a big difference for the Kingdom. Several of them have been widows on very limited incomes, but they gave so faithfully to the church. I remember one lady at Hazel Green who was still teaching music lessons long after most of her peers had retired. She would only heat three rooms in her old house to save on heating costs. During a capital campaign she said she was going to turn the heat down a little more and take on a couple of more piano students in order to give beyond the tithe to the Capital Campaign. Her story has been repeated in church after church. They may not give the most, but often they make the greatest sacrifice in their giving.

I believe God honors such sacrifices. In fact, often what seems like little, when given to God, becomes much. It happened for the boy whose lunch Jesus blessed so that it fed over 5,000.

There is a song by Kittie Louise Suffield that captures that truth. The title is “Little Is Much When God Is in It.” It reminds us that no matter how little our part may be, God can do wonders with it.

Kittie and her husband Fred came to Christ under the ministry of the Rev. A. J. Shea. As they grew in Christ they entered into the ministry of evangelism. One summer they invited Brother Shea’s teenage son, George Beverly, to spend of month with them. One night, accompanied by Kittie on the piano, George Beverly attempted to sing, but his voice cracked on the high notes. He sat down vowing to never sing again. Kittie wouldn’t hear of it, suggesting he sing in a lower key. He did, and he kept on singing. His rich baritone voice became a main stay in the Billy Graham crusades.

In 2000, George Beverly Shea chose Kittie’s song to sing at team reception just before the Nashville Crusade was to begin. George Beverly was then 92. That song had become part of his testimony. He did not feel that he had much to offer, but God took the little and made it a blessing to the ministry of the Kingdom.

*Rudy*

**Be in prayer for our church. Remember to sign up for the "Answering God's Challenge" prayer vigil, which will be held Nov. 22-23. There is a sign-up board in the welcome center.**

## Lunch Buddies for Austinville

If you have 30 extra minutes to share once or twice a month to make a child feel very special, I have the opportunity for you! Lunch Buddies are children selected by the principal and teachers (for several reasons) that can really benefit from some special attention.

You meet them at their lunch time when it is convenient for you. All that is needed are listening ears and a big heart. You can sit outside the lunchroom at the café tables and visit for a little while. Eating the school lunch is up to you. The requirements are few, but the benefits are huge for them and you!

Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you,

*Jan Dean*

## Church Cookbooks

We still have an abundance of our Church Cookbooks available for purchase. You will find these in the Church office for only \$10 each. These make wonderful gifts. Pick one up today!

### Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Oct. 26:

**Total Count for 8:45am = 88**

**Total Count for 11:00am = 140**

**Total Count for morning services for Oct. 26: 228**

Sunday School

Children- 13 (Teachers of Children - 10)

Youth- 5 (Teachers of Youth - 1)

Adults- 100

**Total Sunday School Oct. 26 - 129**

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014:

**Total Count for 8:45am = 115**

**Total Count for 11:00am = 124**

**Total Count for morning services for Nov. 2: 239**

There was no Sunday School on Nov. 2 due to the Harvest Brunch during the Sunday School hour.

### First Fellowship Oct. 22

Children- 22; children’s teachers - 7

Youth- 24; youth teachers - 3

Adults- 66

**Total First Fellowship Oct. 22 - 122**

### First Fellowship Oct. 29

Children - 25; children’s teachers - 11

Youth- 21; youth teachers - 3

Adults- 44

**Total First Fellowship Oct. 29 - 104**

### Our Stewardship of Resources

#### Ministry Budget

Received YTD

\$690,679.23

Needed YTD

738,725.40

Given This Week

11,024.50

Needed Weekly

16,416.12

#### Capital Fund

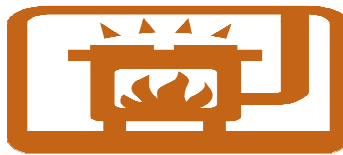
\$182,064.16

3,670.35



This Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.  
We will meet in room # 230 on the Second floor Children's Wing.

This Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> children, kindergarteners through 5th grade, are invited to come and be a part of our Mission Possible Team. Our next mission will be a mystery mission along with a completion of our last mission. Children will earn a star if they bring in canned goods for those in need. Children can earn a star twice a year if they bring a friend! See you Sunday!



## Hilltoppers' Trip Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

The next Hilltoppers trip will be to "The Old Cook Stove" in Danville AL on **Saturday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** This will be our Thanksgiving Dinner together. We will arrive for an early lunch and following lunch we will make a quick stop at the "Dutch Bakery" just a few miles down the road. We should be back at the Church by 1:00 p.m. There are [sign-up sheets](#) in the welcome center, the entrance to fellowship hall, and in the Sunday school classes. This is an all you can eat buffet! Adult: \$11.99: price includes coffee, tea or Pepsi® products, the hot buffet, salad bar and dessert bar, featuring homemade ice cream. If you have any questions, please speak with Merv Michael or Lorri McGuire at 256-355-0277 or [lmcguire@decaturfumc.org](mailto:lmcguire@decaturfumc.org).

Here is a photo of the Hilltoppers at Carnton Plantation on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone will join us for our next adventure!





# Servant Spotlight

Our Servant Spotlight this week shines on all those who worked so hard on our Stewardship kickoff event. We thank **John Copeland** for leading the sound for the Community Service, the Harvest Brunch, and Charge Conference and we thank **Jane Ann Ford, Chris Surber, Gina Guess, and Lawrence Ford** for setting up and cleaning up refreshments for the Charge Conference.

We also appreciate **Stefanie Underwood** for assembling the candles for the All Saints' Sunday service.



# Fall Festival

A very special spotlight to Meredith Matthews and Gina Guess for leading the Fall Festival this year and to all the youth and adults who hosted trunks, cooked, and helped with games. Thank you to Laura and Cooper Vines for the hayride and smooth driving! Over 175 people enjoyed a very warm but AWESOME Day!

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

## Wednesday Evening Children's Ministry

Wow, what a fun time we are having on Wednesday evenings! We will begin learning and practicing for our Christmas Pageant. We are encouraging all children to come on Wednesday evenings for fun, Fellowship and learning. Our program will be altered for just a few weeks as we prepare for our pageant.

### OCT, NOV, DEC Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:50-6:20pm	Pre- K & K 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Music Room #250(New building) Story Room #226(Children's wing)
6:20- 7:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Pre- K & K	Music Room #250(New Building) Story Room #226(Children's wing)

**Parents: Please pick up Children from #226 room (children's wing)**

## Children's Choir News!



Our children's choir meets on Wednesday evenings and all children and their friends are welcome. We 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 on Dec. 17th at 6:00 p.m.**

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. All rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings starting Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 19<sup>th</sup>, and DEC 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be NO rehearsal on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving! Dress rehearsal will be on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - time will be announced.



Beth Green, Youth Minister

### 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
- Ford & Paxton Clemons
- Anna Claire Woodall

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!

### Coming Up...

#### Sunday, November 9

- 10:00 Sunday School
- 6:00 p.m. - Brown Bag Supper
- 6:30 p.m.—UMYF Game Night

#### Monday, November 10

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

#### Wednesday, November 12

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

#### Thursday, November 13

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

#### Sunday, November 16

- 10:00 Sunday School
- 6:00 Brown Bag Supper
- 6:30 UMYF

#### Wednesday, November 19

- 5:00 First Fellowship
- 6:00 Bible Study

#### Thursday, November 20

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



### Sunday Night UMYF Schedule

- November 9-** 6:00 Brown Bag; 6:30 Game Night at FUMC
- November 16-** 6:00 Brown Bag; 6:30 UMYF
- November 23-** 6:00 Thanksgiving Service
- November 30-** 6:00 Hanging of the Greens Service; Dinner at Mi Ha following
- December 7-** 8:00a-5:00p Christmas Shopping Trip to Birmingham; no evening activities
- December 14-** 6:00 Pizza at church; 6:30 Caroling at Riverside
- December 21-** 6:00 Outing to Huntsville (botanical gardens or ice skating at the museum)
- December 28-** No UMYF; SH on Ski Trip

### Bake Sale for 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! Stay tuned for more details.

### Make Plans NOW!



Summer mission trips are planned!

- The Jr High (completed 6-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall**  
Sunday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 a.m.

**Children's Mission Possible (details insert)**  
Sunday, Nov. 9 from 4:30 -6:00 p.m.

**UMYF (details page five)**  
Sunday, Nov. 9 starting at 6:00 p.m.

**Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at McDonald's**  
Monday, Nov. 10 at 7:45 a.m.

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

**Worship Team Practice; Monday, Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room**  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10:00 a.m.

**UMW Lydia Circle, Fellowship Hall**  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10:00 a.m.

**Administrative Board Meeting, Minister's Conf. Room**  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6:00 p.m.

**Ala. Emmaus, Fellowship Hall**  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6:00 p.m.

**First Fellowship; Nov. 12 starting at 5:00 p.m.**

**Youth Ministry Team**  
Wednesday, Nov. 12 starting at 7:00 p.m.

**UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room**  
Thurs., Nov. 13 at 6:30 a.m.

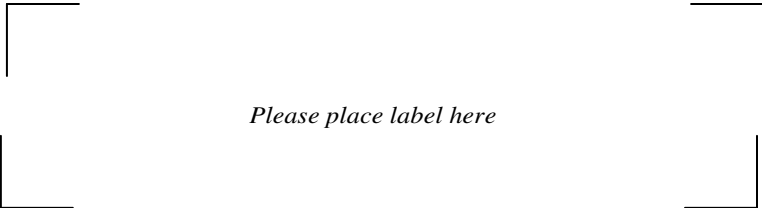
**UMM Breakfast, City Café, Thurs., Nov. 13 at 7:30 a.m.**

**Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A**  
Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 a.m.



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**Dr. Rudy Guess, Senior Minister, rguess@decaturfumc.org**  
**Beth C. Green, Youth Minister, beth@decaturfumc.org**  
**Laura Vines, Interim First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org**  
**Karen Moore, Worship Team Director, kkbabf@gmail.com**  
**Lorri McGuire, Director of Children & Family, lmcguire@decaturfumc.org**  
**Jimmy Cantrell, Chancel Choir Director, jcantr1011@aol.com**  
**Gail Warth, Organist**

**Cindy McCulloch, Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Finance, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org**  
**Sandy Callahan, Food Manager**  
**Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org**  
**Kim Bell, Pianist**  
**Charlie Elliott, Custodian**  
**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**

**Rudy Guess, preaching**  
**November 9**

**"Whose Fries Are These?"**  
**1 Chronicles 29:1-19**

**Rudy Guess, preaching**  
**November 16**

**"A Cost Worth Paying"**  
**Mark 10:17-31**



**Scheduled To Serve Nov. 9**

**Acolytes:**

**8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled**  
**11:00 a.m. - Aiden Garriss**

**Greeters:**

**8:45 a.m.—Barbara Smith, Jim & Chris Surber**  
**11:00 a.m. – Charles Adams, Carl & Mary Evans**

**Ushers:**

**8:45 a.m. – Jack Ozier, Whitt Roby, Norman Roby, Kin Copeland**  
**11:00 a.m. – Steve Brown, Bob Vaughan, Jim Worthey, Ken House, Steve Haddock, Keith Skelton**

**First Fellowship Nov. 12**

**(Meal starts at 5:00 - Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00, Family Maximum \$18.00, \$6.75 to go plate. Please make dinner reservations by noon Monday. Don't forget to fill out a reservation card for a standing reservation, too.)**

**Wed., Nov. 12: Chicken & Dumpling Casserole, Butter Peas, Corn Casserole, Rolls, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, Coca Cola Cake**

**Wed., Nov. 12: Clean Up Crew: Jim & Chris Surber, Tom & Mary Earley, Jean & Ken Hovey**

**November Money Desk: Barbara Smith and Elaine Maxey**