



# Tidings of Joy

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

December 30, 2015

## Wednesday Night First Fellowship Resumes on January 6th!

Find an opportunity to grow in discipleship through great groups (listed inside this newsletter) and classes. **First Fellowship classes will begin at 6:00 p.m., following the meal at 5:00 p.m.**

**The menu for Jan. 6 will be Taco Bar, Taquitos, Mexican Rice, Tortilla Chips & Salsa, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, and Honeybun Cake. No reservations are required!**

## “Wellbeing in 2016”

### A Note From Our Pastor

The concept of wellbeing has been on my mind for several weeks. The word suggests a healthy and fulfilled life. Whether you are religious or not, you seek wellbeing for yourself and those you love.

How do we achieve wellbeing? There is a long line of advisors and gurus who will gladly, for a price, tell you how. Their price usually shows that no matter what gems of wisdom they sell you, they want the kind of wellbeing that comes from money. And who doesn't?

Anyone who says money is not an aspect of wellbeing is delusional. Anyone who says money is the primary contributor to wellbeing is even more delusional. Money and the comforts money buys do not make all things well.

The Bible teaches that faith in Christ is the path to ultimate and eternal wellbeing. It is the path of salvation through Jesus Christ, a path which includes belief in Jesus as Savior and Lord and taking up ones cross daily and following him.

I love the way Philippians 2:12-13 describes the joint responsibility you and God have for your salvation: “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

My wish, my hope, and my prayer is for us to seek and find our ultimate and eternal wellbeing through Christ in 2016.

In Christ,

*Hughey*

*“We have sought our wellbeing from the world with its system of economic reward for our fitting in... What people of faith need is to wean ourselves from depending on the world for our wellbeing and find it instead singing and living the message of the angels, ‘For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” --from 12/24/2015 sermon at Decatur FUMC*

## Birth

**Frances Cole Ashwander** was born on December 23 to **Charlie** and **Ashley Ashwander**. Big sister is **Kitty**. Grandparents from this congregation are **Brother** and **Barbara Ashwander**.

## Sympathy

Sharing sympathy with **Jeff** and **Maryanne Dunnivant** on the death of his father, **Joe**. This family remains in our prayers.

Sharing sympathy with **Jeflyn Baggs** and family on the death of her husband **Ellis Baggs**. Ellis died December 24. His funeral was on December 27 in our Sanctuary. This family remains in our prayers.

## Men's Breakfast

**All men are invited to breakfast on Jan. 10 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m.** Breakfast is \$5 per person.

Norman Roby has arranged for us to hear the story of **Martin Valcarcel Rodriguez**. Martin tells of his birth and young years of ignorance of God, his arriving in the United States, his accepting Christ, and his missionary work. His should be a very unique and interesting story.



## Welcome Dinner on January 20

The Evangelism Committee would like to invite our new and recent members and visitors to a Welcome Dinner on January 20, 2016. We will meet and eat during the First Fellowship Meal at 5:00 p.m. in the Minister's Conference Room on the 3rd Floor. It can be reached by the elevator or stairs by the Fellowship Hall. Come be our guest, and meet some members of Decatur FUMC and learn about the ministries of our church and upcoming events. Please RSVP by e-mailing Shannon Booth at [shannon@decaturfumc.org](mailto:shannon@decaturfumc.org).

## Hilltoppers

The Hilltoppers January trip will be a Mystery Trip! Join us on Thursday, January 21 for the "mystery" and lunch together. We'll leave the church at 10:00 by church bus and travel to our destination. We'll end our time together with lunch which will be the only expense you'll have. Sign-up sheets are in the Sunday School classrooms, the welcome center, and outside the Fellowship Hall. Call Beth with any questions.

## First Fellowship Resumes Jan. 6



**First Fellowship classes begin at 6:00 p.m., following the meal at 5:00 p.m.**

**The menu for Jan. 6 will be Taco Bar, Taquitos, Mexican Rice, Tortilla Chips & Salsa, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, and Honeybun Cake. No reservations are required!**

The classes for the Winter Wednesday Night First Fellowship are starting to form! Look for sign-up sheets in Sunday School Classes and outside the Fellowship Hall. You may also email [beth@decaturfumc.org](mailto:beth@decaturfumc.org).

These are some of the Discipleship classes that will be offered at 6:00 p.m. starting January 6:

- **Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture : An Agrarian Reading of the Bible** by Ellen Davis. This will be a Bible study of several Old Testament and New Testament passages **led by Rev. Hughey Reynolds**. The class will run January- March. No book is needed, but can be purchased through Amazon.
- **Sermon on the Mount** by Jen Wilkin **led by Marilyn Sykes**. This class will last nine weeks and the book is \$16.00 per person.
- **The Sinful Life in English and American Poetry** (Human emotion and spiritual difficulties explored by selected poets.) **led by Mitch Summerlin**. This four week class does not require a book.
- **Financial Peace** by Dave Ramsey, **facilitated by Steve Blake and others**. Workbook and membership to Financial Peace University is \$93.00. This class is nine weeks. You can sign up online: [www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1011575](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1011575)
- **20 Something Women's Bible Study** led by **Beth Green**. We will decide at our first meeting what book we want to study.
- Children's Bible Study
- Children's Choir
- Youth Bible Study
- Chancel Choir starts at 6:30 p.m.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of DECATUR**  
**OFFICERS—Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2016**  
**Hughey Reynolds, Senior Pastor**

*Continued on back→*

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

**General Officers**

Chairperson..... John Underwood  
 Vice-Chairman..... Ronnie Dukes  
 Recording Secretary.....Sue Milner  
 Lay Leader..... Ken Chandler  
 Council On Ministries Chairperson.....Peggy Black  
 Lay Member To Annual Conference..... Gerald New  
 Alternate Lay Member To Annual Conference.....Lou Underwood  
 President Of United Methodist Men..... Phil Corazzari  
 President Of United Methodist Women..... Betty Ann Mitchum  
 Membership Committee Chair..... Pat Carl

**Committee Chairpersons**

**Board Of Trustees.....(Will be decided at first meeting)**

Staff Parish Relations..... Steve Haddock  
 Finance..... John Pylant  
 First Grace Board..... Diane Summerlin  
 Parsonage.....Lesley Heidecker  
 Kitchen.....Claudia Blake  
 Columbarium.....Tom Earley  
 Library.....Caroline Sanders  
 Endowment.....Charles Boling

**Ministry Team Chairpersons**

Evangelism.....Diane Summerlin  
 Missions.....Scott Stone  
 Worship..... Maryanne Dunnivant  
 Discipleship..... Marilyn Sykes  
 Congregational Care..... Debbie Heard  
 Communications..... Rich Newman  
 Youth.....John Underwood  
 Children.....Carrie Hart  
 Hilltoppers.....Faye Irby

**Staff Members**

Senior Pastor.....Hughey Reynolds  
 Director of Worship..... Patrick McCormick  
 Administrative Assistant/Finance.....Cindy McCulloch  
 Minister of Discipleship.....Beth Green  
 Children’s Minister.....Alexia Claborn  
 Minister of Outreach..... Shannon Booth  
 First Grace Director..... Laura Vines

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

2016	2017	2018
Andrew Hart	Charles Adams	Jane Vaughan
Mitch Summerlin	Judith Beeck	Ronnie Dukes
Roger Beal	Norman Roby	Jean Walker
Jimmy Sykes	Vicki Dukes	Mark Heard
	Jane Ann Ford	Laura Norman
	Phil Corazzari	

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Ray Albert    Ellis Baggs    Carolyn Hargrove  
 Dick Williams    Nita Lawrence    Winnie Reed  
 Clyde & Mary Jane Sasser

**COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES**

*(Coordinating, calendaring & planning body of the Church)*

**Ministry Teams Chairs**

Evangelism.....Diane Summerlin  
 Missions.....Scott Stone  
 Worship..... Maryanne Dunnivant  
 Discipleship..... Marilyn Sykes  
 Congregational Care..... Debbie Heard  
 Communications.....Rich Newman  
 Youth.....John Underwood  
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 Minister of Discipleship.....Beth Green  
 Children’s Minister..... Alexia Claborn  
 First Grace Director.....Laura Vines  
 Church Secretary.....Alyson Quinn  
 Minister of Outreach..... Shannon Booth

Notes:

## COMMITTEES/BOARDS

*Three per class. Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary come for classes*

### **Board of Trustees Chair & Vice Chair, Will be decided at first meeting**

2016	2017	2018
Bob Ledbetter	Charles Ashwander	Jane Ann Ford
Bert Phippen	Don Mitchum	Wally Terry
Courtney Tomberlin	Ann Ozier (Secretary)	Ken Chandler

### **Staff Parish Relations Committee** Chair, Steve Haddock

2016	2017	2018
Andrew Hart	Whitney Clemons	Mary Ila Ward
Vann O'Hara	Steve Haddock	Jeff Earley
Charles Adams	Lou Underwood	Ronnie Dukes

### **First Grace Board** Chair, Diane Summerlin

2016	2017	2018
Drew Ward	Meg Tanner	Bailey Copeland
Leah Payne	Julianne O'Hara	Nathan Tomberlin
Diane Summerlin	Lisa Earley	Stefanie Underwood

Additional members: Director of First Grace, Assistant Director of First Grace, Children's Minister, Rep from SPRC

### **Committee On Lay Leadership (includes Senior Pastor Chair & Lay Leader)**

**Lay Leader:** Ken Chandler

**Lay Member To Annual Conference:** Gerald New

2016	2017	2018
Julianne O'Hara	Lise Greene	Scott Matthews
Pat Carl	Jeff Earley	Marilyn Sykes
Ronnie Dukes	John Coon	Billy Hudson

### **Finance (includes Senior Pastor & Lay Leader)**

Chairperson: John Pylant

Chairperson of Administrative Board: John Underwood

Chairperson of Council On Ministries: Peggy Black

Lay Leader: Ken Chandler

Staff Parish Relations Committee (Chair or Rep.): Steve Haddock

**Board of Trustees (Chair or Rep): Will be decided at first meeting**

Church Treasurer: John Coon / Endowment Chair: Charles Boling

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Gerald New

Staff Members: Sr. Pastor, Admin. Assistant/Finance: Hughey Reynolds/  
Cindy McCulloch, Members at Large (2 or 3) David Scott, Bob Vaughan,  
Wally Terry, Greg Clemons, Meg Tanner (F.G. Rep), Charles Boling

### **Parsonage**

Chairperson: Lesley Heidecker Pastor's Spouse: Sandy Reynolds

**Trustee Representative: Will be decided at first meeting**

Members & Large (3-5) Jane Ann Ford, Elizabeth Chandler, Arabelle Wilder

Staff Parish Relations Committee Rep:

### **Membership**

Chairperson: Pat Carl

Members at Large: Bill Dennis, Whitt Roby, Lou Underwood, Norman Roby

**Library** Chairperson: Caroline Sanders

Members at Large: Beth Roberts, Laura Norman, Lindsey Faulkner

### **Kitchen (includes Staff: Sandy Callahan)**

Chairperson: Claudia Blake

**Trustee Representative: Will be decided at first meeting**

Members at Large (3 to 5) JoAnn Christopher, Viva Teal,

Davia Newman, Mitch Summerlin, Don Mitchum (Trustee Rep.)

### **Endowment** Charles Boling, Chairman

2016	2017	2018
Gerald New	Gay Maloney	Bob Vaughan

### **Columbarium**

Chairperson: Tom Earley

**Trustee Rep: Will be decided at first meeting**

2016	2017	2019
Tom Earley	Lesley Heidecker	Jean Walker
Dick Williams	2018	2020
	Ned Estes	Pat Carl

## MINISTRY TEAMS

### **Evangelism**

Chairperson: Diane Summerlin; Staff Rep: Shannon Booth

Members at Large (6 to 10): Rich Newman, Ronald & Betty Matthews,  
Mitch Summerlin, Molly & Zeke Ferrell

### **Missions**

Chairperson: Scott Stone; Staff Rep: Shannon Booth

Coordinator for Disaster Relief: Charles and Karen Taylor

Coordinator for Local Missions: Lou Underwood

Coordinator of GIC: Mark Heard, Lise Greene

Members at Large: Anna Oletti, Scott Faulkner, Beth Roberts, Barbara Ashwander, Jan Dean

### **Worship**

Worship Chairperson: Maryanne Dunnivant

Altar Guild: Stefanie Underwood / Staff Rep: Patrick McCormick

Communion Stewards: Jim & Sue Milner and Keith & Lesley Heidecker

Head Usher 8:45 - Ronnie Dukes Head Usher 11:00 - Larry Weaver

Members at Large: Stephen Claborn, Jenny Pylant, Fred Underwood

### **Discipleship**

Chairperson: Marilyn Sykes; Staff Rep: Beth C. Green

Members at Large (6 to 10): Leigh Ann Blankenship, Brooks Coley, Donna

McAnnally, Jan Dean, Meredith Matthews, Dean Turney

### **Congregational Care**

Chairperson: Debbie Heard Staff Rep: Patrick McCormick;

Members: Elizabeth Chandler, Dean Turney, JoAnn Christopher, Dell Ward,  
Mary Malone, Diane Hudson, Jane Ann Ford, Pat Carl, Jim King, Bobbie Skelton,  
Vicki Dukes, Mary Earley, Jane Vaughan, Jane Boozer, Faye Hovey

### **Communications**

Chairperson: Rich Newman; Staff Rep: Patrick McCormick

Members at Large: Calley Ondocsin, Michael Boozer, Jr., Ashley Ashwander,  
Charlie Ashwander

### **Youth (and Young Adults)**

Staff Rep: Beth C. Green; Chairperson: John Underwood

Members at Large: Lisa Earley, Louise Brown, Lise Greene, Anna Oletti, Jessica Mitchell, Kathy Clay

### **Children (and Families)**

Children's Minister: Alexia Claborn; First Grace Director: Laura Vines

Director of Children Chairman: Carrie Hart

Members at Large: Ingrid Rebman, Barbara Ashwander, Leigh Ann

Blankenship, Jami Buckner

### **Hilltoppers**

Chairperson: Faye Irby

Staff Rep: Beth C. Green

Members at Large (6 to 10): Faye Irby, Ned and Susan Estes, Jan Schubert,  
Bonnie Lindsey, Dean Turney



## Sunday Morning Volunteers for Children

### Volunteers for Sunday, Jan. 3

#### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Lindsey Faulkner / Assistant-Gail Herren

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

#### Children's Church

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

11:00 Teacher- Alexia Claborn / Assistant- Carrie Hart

### Volunteers for Sunday, Jan. 10

#### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Lise Greene / Assistant-Lou Underwood

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

#### Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- TBA / Assistant- TBA

11:00 Teacher- TBA / Assistant- TBA

*Thank you for sharing God's word and his love with our children!*

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Ministry

- In need of teachers to rotate once a month for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Class
- Wednesday night teachers and assistants
- Children's Church teachers and assistants

**Thank you for prayerfully considering working with of children.**

## First Presbyterian Church Presents Fall Prevention Wellness Fair

Introducing "ABS" (Agility Balance Strength)

- Jan. 6 at First Presbyterian, 701 Oak St. NE
- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Acolytes for January 2016

Date	8:45 Service	11:00 Service
Jan. 3	Bristol Rayne Teal, Hunter Claborn	Aiden Garriss, Lydia Mathews, Crucifer-Nelson Earley
Jan. 10	Bristol Rayne Teal	Mattie Fite, Miller Roberts
Jan. 17	Bristol Rayne Teal	Mary Bibb Pylant, Mary Emma Harper
Jan. 24	Bristol Rayne Teal	LuLu Underwood, John Benton Claborn
Jan. 31	Bristol Rayne Teal	Aiden Garriss, Mattie Fite

## Youth Dates

### Sunday, January 3

10:00 AM Sunday School

No UMYF

### Wednesday, January 6

5:00 First Fellowship

6:00 Bible Study

### Thursday, January 7

7:30 AM Sr High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A

### Sunday, January 10

10:00 AM Sunday School

No UMYF

### Monday, January 11

7:45 AM Jr High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles (rides provided to OPMS)



## 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 PM. 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 PM.

Jan. 24- we'll start back with Destination Unknown

## "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](mailto: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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

No UMYF

**Worship Team Practice**  
Monday, Jan. 4 at 6:00 p.m.

**Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room**  
Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 10:00 a.m.

**Journey Group Resumes**  
Wednesday, Jan. 6, lunchtime

**First Fellowship Meal and Classes Resume**  
Wednesday, Jan. 6 starting at 5:00 p.m.

**Chancel Choir Practice**  
Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

**UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room**  
Thursday, Jan. 7 at 6:30 a.m.

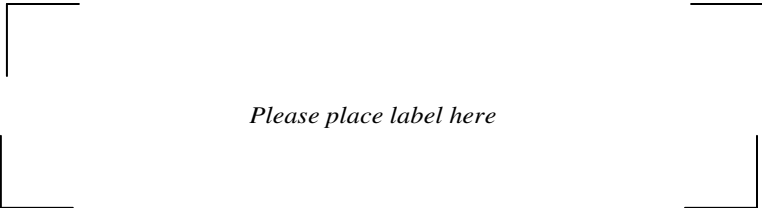
**UMM Breakfast, City Café**  
Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 a.m.

**Sr. High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A**  
Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 a.m.

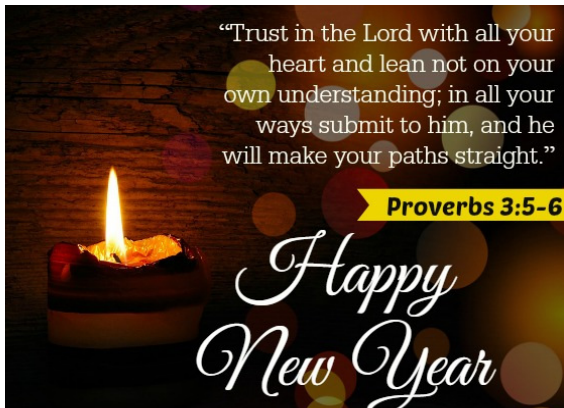


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Patrick McCormick, Director of Worship, patrick@decaturfumc.org  
Beth C. Green, Minister of Discipleship, beth@decaturfumc.org  
Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org  
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org  
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**

**Sunday, Jan. 3, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching**  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**"Wisdom from Above" Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Sunday, Jan. 10, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching**  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**"Water Washed and Spirit Filled" Luke 3: 15-22**

**First Fellowship Jan. 6**

Find an opportunity to grow in discipleship through great groups (listed inside this newsletter) and classes. **First Fellowship classes will begin at 6:00 p.m., following the meal at 5:00 p.m.**

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