

## “Settling” | A Note From Our Pastor

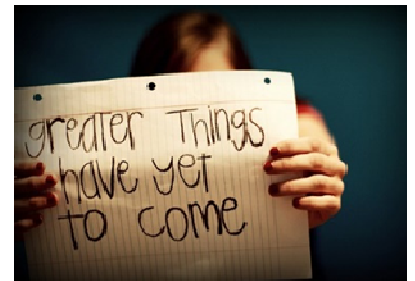
The word "settle" can mean one stops moving around and now resides in one place, or one gets into a routine, or one compromises and accepts an outcome that is less than hoped for. Settling can also mean that a structure built on an unstable foundation is sinking. The term is used in courts, in engineering, in the church, and in our lives. I hesitate to claim you or I have settled at Decatur First, although there are signs of settling I want to examine and assess with you.

John Wesley gave Bishops the authority to appoint clergy annually to prevent preachers and churches from settling for anything short of the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I have said I plan to remain at Decatur First until I retire or the Bishop moves me. I now question the wisdom of making such a statement. I said it because I love being here, but it can have a settling effect, decreasing the urgency we feel to take actions to grow this church. The Bishop should keep appointing me to Decatur First only if we are growing in every way under my leadership—in our faith and knowledge of Christ, in our care for one another, in our love for and outreach to the world, in our worship attendance, in our financial support of the church, and in the number of people who become believers and join the church.

If my being here is merely a consolation for our lack of growth, we have settled for a slow decline to death instead of resurrection and life. Let's hold one another mutually accountable for every kind of growth Christ expects of His Body. Start with those things you can control. Take charge of your schedule and your spending and giving. Be here every time you possibly can when the church gathers for worship, fellowship, and study. Make giving to support the ministries of the church a top priority in your budget. If you believe good things are happening at Decatur

First, tell others about it and invite them to come to church with you or to join you in a service project on behalf of the church.

Decatur First did not go through a difficult visioning process for nothing. Years of declining worship attendance and the rapidly rising median age of our membership sounded an alarm. You made some hard decisions to put Decatur First UMC in a better position to grow again. People left as a result of those decisions. Their leaving brought grief. In the short term, the changes were counterproductive for growth. If the changes were part of a well-studied growth plan that leaders prayed and struggled over, there is no basis for guilt and remorse. You acted for the growth of the Body of Christ at Decatur First.



We have worked together now for three months sowing seeds. You may be wondering if any of the seeds will sprout. We must continue to sow and to improve the soil in which the seeds are sown through prayer and care. Meanwhile, God is at work behind the scenes transforming those seeds into sprouts, those sprouts into plants, and those plants into fruit. We are called to be the laborers in the fields when harvest comes. Then “we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.” Trust God and stay faithful. Settle for nothing less than an abundant harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God at Decatur First.

Yours in Christ,

*Hughey*

## United Methodist Men

The Men's Bible Study is every Thursday from 6:30 a.m. until 7:15 a.m., followed by a prayer breakfast at the City Cafe beginning at 7:30 a.m.

All men are invited to breakfast on the second Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m. Come learn more about what the United Methodist Men do in our church and get a good meal at the same time! Contact Phil Corazzari for more information at 256-616-3859.

## Birth

**Barton Paul Payne** was born on Sept. 10 to **Leah** and **Adam Payne**. His big sister is **Amelia**. Congratulations to this family!

## Scholastic Book Fair Benefits First Grace

- Location: Children's Wing, first classroom on the right.
- **September 28 - October 2**
- Our church family is invited to shop for books or make a donation to help us purchase books for First Grace. Please make checks to First Grace and specify "Book Fair."



## Hilltoppers

- **Trip for Hilltoppers to Moundville, AL ~ Sign up in Sunday School Classes or contact Beth ([beth@decaturfumc.org](mailto:beth@decaturfumc.org))**



The Hilltoppers group will travel to Moundville, AL on **October 8th** to attend the Native American Festival at Moundville Archaeological Park. We will leave the church at 8:00 a.m. and return by 5:00 p.m. The cost of the Festival is \$8.00 per person. We will be collecting money for fuel and you will be responsible for your lunch in a Native American Restaurant.

Repeatedly named one of Alabama's Top 20 Tourism Events, the award winning Moundville Native American Festival is always slated for Wednesday through Saturday during the first full week of October. Located at The University of Alabama's Moundville Archaeological Park, performers, artists, craftspeople and tradition bearers entertain and educate visitors about the rich culture and heritage that makes Southeastern Indians unique.

## Looking Ahead:

Nov. 12 - Hilltoppers Thanksgiving Lunch in Huntsville  
Dec. 10 - Hilltoppers Christmas Lunch & Program in the Fellowship Hall

## 2015 Lee Lott Power of Pink Walk

The walk will be held on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Founder's Park Amphitheater at the Old State Bank. The format is a little different this year. There will be food trucks, vendors and entertainment beginning at noon and the walk will begin at 2:00 p.m.



Anyone who has "wares" to sell is welcomed. There is a very quick application and \$20 vendor fee.

Registration Forms and Vendor Applications will be available in the Welcome Center starting Thursday.

You may also make a donation to the Power of Pink without taking part in the walk. Please make checks payable to Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation.

Thank you, *Susan Baughn*

## Our Stewardship of Presences

**Attendance Numbers Sunday, September 13, 2015:**

**Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 115**

**Total Count for 11:00am = 143**

**Total Count for September 13 = 258**

**Sunday School September 13:**

**Children 21 + 7 adults**

**Youth 7 + 1 adults**

**Adults 97**

**Total Sunday School September 13 = 133**

**First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Sept. 9, 2015:**

**Children 21 + 9 adults**

**Youth 17 + 4 adults**

**Adults 79**

**Total First Fellowship Sept. 9 = 130**

**Attendance Numbers Sunday, September 20, 2015:**

**Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 113**

**Total Count for 11:00am = 107**

**Total Count for September 20 = 220**

**Sunday School September 20**

**Children 17 + 6 adults**

**Youth 4 + 1 adult**

**Adults 126**

**Total Sunday School September 20 = 154**

**First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Sept. 16, 2015:**

**Children 16 + 8 adults**

**Youth 14 + 4 adults**

**Adults 59**

**Total First Fellowship Sept. 16 = 101**

## Our Stewardship of Resources

### Ministry Budget

**Received YTD**

**\$579,088.84**

**Needed YTD**

**628,499.82**

**Given This Week**

**6,976.00**

**Needed Weekly**

**16,115.38**

### Capital Fund

**138,627.42**

**1,593.00**

## No Reservations Needed for Wednesday Night Meal!

Reminder: We will NOT be taking reservations for Wednesday night First Fellowship dinners anymore! Our kitchen crew, under the leadership of Sandy Callahan, does a great job preparing enough food each week. Everyone is invited to come eat, fellowship, and stay for classes or choir following dinner. There is room at the table for everyone!

## New Community Sunday School Class



The New Community Sunday School Class will be moving to a new room location. In the next few weeks, they will move from the old second floor (by the Prayer Chapel) to the new third floor in the former "Harris Lend A Hand" classroom. If you are looking for a class, consider joining them as they transition into a new space! Also, if you are interested in leading this class, please contact Beth Green.



# Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn  
Interim Children's Minister

## Attention: New Class Locations

Starting Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

- Children's Church room # 215
- Preschool Sunday School Class #215.
- K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday School Class #207
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Class #306 (note this is NOT a change in location)



## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat on Oct. 25 and for Children's Church on Sunday Mornings during the 8:45 service. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve our children.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Please contact Alexia via email: [aclaborn@decaturfumc.org](mailto:aclaborn@decaturfumc.org)

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

### Volunteers for Sunday, Sept. 27

#### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship  
Jessica Earwood Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Jami Buckner  
Seekers Class Volunteer

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

#### Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Dell Ward  
Assistant- Jim Greene

11:00 Service Teacher- Debbie Heard  
Assistant- Larry Sturges

### Volunteers for Sunday, Oct. 4

#### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship  
Jessica Earwood Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Lindsey Faulkner  
Seekers Class Volunteer

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

#### Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- TBA  
Assistant- Courtney Tomberlin

11:00 Service Teacher- Debbie Heard  
Assistant- Peggy Black



## Acolyte Training

We will have acolyte training on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00- 3:00. Pizza will be served for lunch before we get started. Ann Crabbe has graciously volunteered to teach or training class!



## Keeping Our Nursery Safe

We will close the door at the end of the nursery hall and it will be locked to secure our children in the nursery during the Sunday School, each church service hour, and Wednesday nights. The door will be open for regular drop off and pick up times. If you need to enter the hall when the door is locked, please ring the doorbell to alert a nursery worker.



## Thank You!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that worked so hard cleaning and moving the children's supplies and rooms. Words cannot express my gratitude for the time and hard work each of you gave to our children's ministry. What a blessing it is be a part of such a giving church family! Thank you!

*Alexia Claborn*



## First Fellowship

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday night!

Thank you to all of our volunteers that make our Children's activities possible.

Games and crafts- Carrie Hart

Lesson- Stephen Claborn

Assistants- Meredith Matthews, Ashley Ashwander, Davia Newman & Choir- Ruth Ann Fite

## Wednesday Night Schedule

**Pre-School - (ages 3-5) 6:00-7:00**

**Choir- 6:00-6:20 - in the choir room #220 (note this is not the children's choir room)**

**Lesson and activities - 6:20-7:00 room #305 & #306**

**Once your child is dropped off at choir at 6:00 their teachers will take them to their next activity. Your pre-school child will need to be picked up at 7:00 in room #305 and after 7:05 children will be taken down to the nursery on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor for pick up.**

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade- 5:30-7:00**

**Choir- This is a new time!! 5:30-6:00- in the choir room #220 (note this is not the children's choir room)**

**Lesson and activities - 6:00-7:00 room #305 & #306**  
**Once your child is dropped off at choir at 5:30 their teachers will take them to their next activity. Your child will need to be picked up at 7:00 in room #306 and after 7:05 children will be taken down to the nursery on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor for pick up.**



**Save the Date!**  
**Fall Festival / Trunk- or- Treat**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup>**



## Kitchen Clean-Up

Our First Grace Child Development Center is now using the church kitchen to prepare daily lunches for its students. Therefore, we are now subject to Health Department inspections. Please follow the procedures below after each kitchen use. Thank you.



### After each kitchen use.....

Wipe down counter tops  
Wipe down stove top  
Wipe down sinks  
Wipe down carts

Wipe down rolling metal tables  
Spot sweep kitchen floor  
Take all trash out & put new liner in trash can  
Dirty towels go in laundry basket by big sink  
Make sure all clean dishes are put away  
Make sure dishwasher is cleaned out

Dishwasher directions are on the wall to the right of dishwasher

Make sure oven and stove are turned off and wiped clean

Oven and Stove directions are posted on the wall to the left of the units

Any leftover food needs to be labeled with name and date or it will be thrown away

Warmer needs to remain by the coke machines in the stair area when not in use

**\*\*\*Remember, we are now inspected under the Health Department.**

**If you have any questions or concerns please call me anytime, 256-302-6114\*\*\***

Thanks,

*Laura Vines* First Grace Director

ATTENTION!

CLEANING  
UP THE  
KITCHEN

**The 2015 Leadership Survey is available in the Church Office. Fill this out and return to the church office as soon as possible. If you already completed one last week, thank you.**



## CCC Fantastic Fall Rummage Sale

- Friday, Oct. 2 from 7:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- 119 1st Ave. NE (down from City Café)
- Thank you for supporting vital CCC programs!

## Sunday Flower Dedications

We have several available dates for Sunday flower dedications. Please call the church office or email [aquinn@decaturfumc.org](mailto:aquinn@decaturfumc.org) for more information.

## Calling All Ladies!

You are invited to the **“Beauty and Strength” Luncheon** featuring author Angela Thomas to benefit Refuge of Grace. The event will be **Wednesday, October 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First Bible Church** of Decatur. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Angela’s books include *Choosing Joy* and *52 Things Kids Need from a Mom* along with numerous Bible studies including *Brave*, *Stronger*, and *Living Your Life as a Beautiful Offering*. Refuge of Grace is a local ministry that leads weekly Bible studies in the Morgan County Jail and follows with an 18- to 36-month program providing a home as these women seek a new path to freedom in Christ. You can go online to order tickets, [www.therefugeofgrace.org](http://www.therefugeofgrace.org) or call 256-686-1691.



Refuge of Grace



## Youth Dates Coming Up...

### Sunday, September 27

8:45 & 11:00 Youth Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. - Brown Bag  
6:30 p.m. - UMYF Generation Speed Date

### Monday, September 28

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

### Wednesday, September 30

5:00 First Fellowship  
6:00 Bible Study

### Thursday, October 1

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

### Sunday, October 4

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

### Wednesday, October 7

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

### Thursday, October 8

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



## Youth Sunday

The youth will be responsible for the worship services on Sunday, September 27. I hope and pray each of you will make plans to come support our youth as they prepare to share how God has worked in this ministry through missions and Discovery Weekend!



## DHS Football Breakfasts

If you are interested in volunteering for the DHS Football breakfasts, please contact Beth ([beth@decaturfumc.org](mailto:beth@decaturfumc.org)). You will also be able to sign up in Sunday School classrooms. Thank you for your help in making this ministry a success!



Volunteer schedule:

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

The remaining dates of the breakfasts are:  
October 16- DHS/ Cullman  
Thurs. October 29- DHS/ Oxford

## UMYF

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) resumed on Sunday nights starting September 13. 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.

- Sept. 27 Generation Speed Date
- Oct. 4 Missions
- Oct. 11 no UMYF due to Fall Break
- Oct. 18 Game Night
- Oct. 25 Fall Festival for the children

## “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.

## College Addresses

It's time to collect mailing addresses for our college students. The church sends cards and care packages throughout the year and we don't want to leave anyone out! Contact Beth with your student's information. Thanks!

**Paxton Tidwell**  
**Knox Wilder**  
**Molly Neill**  
**Elizabeth & Tucker Rainey**  
**Georgia Gamble**  
**Galvin & Kitty Gray**  
**Wiley & Jack Underwood**  
**Hattie O'Hara**  
**Mary & Karen Place**  
**Heath Harrelson**  
**Erin Elledge**  
**Paxton & Ford Clemons**  
**Sarah & Lily Sherrill**

**Web Brown**  
**Lane Derrick**  
**Sara Catherine Floyd**  
**Natalie Frith**  
**Lexy Hamilton**  
**Elizabeth Hunt**  
**Katelyn Riant**  
**Mary Ella Scott**  
**Mary Charles Stewart**  
**Mary Ashely Tolleson**  
**Mitch Davidson**  
**Will Hall**  
**Emory Buckner**

## Find Us On Social Media

“Like” us on Facebook to get up to date information about our church, meetings, changes, prayer requests, photos and more! [www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC](http://www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC)

If you have not seen our updated website, please visit [www.decaturfumc.org](http://www.decaturfumc.org) to see the exciting updates.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**UMYF Brown Bag & Generation Speed Date**  
Sunday, September 27 starting at 6:00 p.m.

**Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles'**  
Monday, September 28 at 7:45 a.m.

**Zumba, Old 3rd Fl. Children's Worship Area**  
Monday, Sept. 28 at 4:00 p.m.

**Worship Team Practice**  
Monday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m.

**Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room**  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 10:00 a.m.

**First Fellowship Sept. 30**  
Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m.

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

**UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room**  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 a.m.

**UMM Breakfast, City Café**  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7:30

**Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A**  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 a.m.

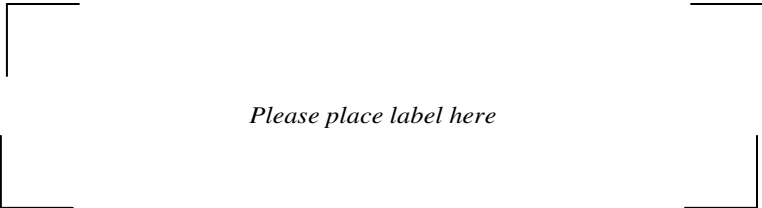
**Zumba, Old 3rd Fl. Children's Area**  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4:00 p.m.

**District Consultations, Courtyard Conf. Room**  
Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



**805 CANAL STREET N.E.**  
**DECATUR, AL 35601**  
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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  
Alexia Claborn, Interim Children's Minister, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org  
Charlie Elliott, Custodian  
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper  
Sandy Callahan, Food Manager  
Wayne Keller, Accompanist  
Laura Vines, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org

**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.**  
**Sept. 27 - Youth Sunday**

**Oct. 4 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching**  
**Mark 10: 2-16 "How Disciples Listen"**

**Scheduled To Serve September 27**

Acolytes:  
8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled  
11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews  
Greeters:  
8:45 - Fay Copeland, Billy & Diane Hudson  
11:00 - Lou Underwood, Peggy Black, Becky House  
Ushers:  
8:45 - Mike & Drew Ward, Kin Copeland, & Jack Ozier  
11:00 - Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews,  
J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari

**First Fellowship Sept. 30** Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m. (details inside) **Reservations are not required anymore!** The menu for Sept. 30 will be Cornish Hen, Loaded Baked Potato Casserole, Butter Peas, Rolls, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter & Jelly & Cheese Sandwiches, Chocolate Delight  
Clean-Up Crew for Sept. 30: Mitch & Diane Summerlin, Mary & Tom Earley / Money Desk: Bettye and Bill Dennis