

Interview Team for the New Director of Worship Position Has Begun to Serve

Peggy Black, Fred Underwood, Maryanne Dunnivant, Whitney Clemons, and Meredith Matthews have been  looking over resumes and watching DVDs of candidates for the new Director of Worship position. At present they have received 25 resumes. If you are wondering what the Director of Worship will be doing, here is a brief outline of his/her responsibilities:

- Give leadership to all our music ministries.
- Develop a planning team to serve with the Director of Worship and Pastor in planning worship.
- Work with our Sound Volunteers to develop a Sound Team to give oversight to sound and media needs for all events.
- Be the staff person who relates to the Communications Team, which helps us get the message out about Decatur First through means such as web page, Facebook, billboards, flyers, etc.
- Be the staff persons who relates to the Congregational Care Team, which gives leadership to our various care ministries like homebound visitors, meals of love, care callers, etc.

Please be in prayer for this Interview Team.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is beginning a new book by Lee Strobel called *The Case for Faith*. We invite any ladies who are interested to join us for this study on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Courtyard Conference room.

Church Family Prayer Calendar

You will see an addition to our Church Family Prayer Calendar (refer to insert) for the month of October. Our Stewardship Prayer Team is encouraging us to pray for our church and its ministries as we prepare for our "Answering God's Challenge" stewardship campaign. Each day  they have lifted a different ministry of our church so that we might pray specifically for the ministries of our church. As we continue to pray for the family of our church, let us also join in praying for the ministries that are lifted up each day.

Airline Miles for Global Impact Celebration

We are anticipating a wonderful Global Impact Celebration in February. We are trying to bring as many missionaries as possible from "Across the Street & Around the World" to Decatur. Frequent flyer miles would help to do this. If you have any frequent flyer miles that you could give to this cause, please notify Mark Heard via email ginha@aol.com.

LEE LOTT POWER OF PINK WALK

Saturday, October 11, 9:00 AM

You are invited to join the Decatur First United Methodist Church Team for this *Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness*. This walk gets its name from our own Lee Lott, who is a breast cancer survivor.  This mile walk is a great time of fellowship as we provide support for a great cause. Registration forms are available in our welcome areas. Forms must be returned to the church office by Thursday, Oct. 2.

Exploring the Church

• **Sundays, October 5 and 12 - 10:00 AM**

This is an opportunity to learn more about Decatur First and what it means to be a member. If you are a new member, considering membership, or just want to learn more about the church, you are invited to this two week class. The class will be held in Room 253, which is located on the "New" 2nd Floor, right above the Fellowship Hall part of the building. Please RSVP by calling the church office at 256-355-0277 or by emailing aquinn@decaturfumc.org.

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Sept. 14 (Youth Sunday):

Total Count for 8:45am = 142

Total Count for 11:00am = 144

Total Count for morning services for Sept. 14: 286

Healing & Wholeness Service, Sept. 14: 17

Sunday School

Children- 23 Youth- 40 Adults-128

Total Sunday School Sept. 14 - 191

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014:

Total Count for 8:45am = 111

Total Count for 11:00am = 154

Total Count for morning services for Sept. 21: 265

Sunday School

Children- 31 Youth- 12 Adults-89

Total Sunday School Sept. 21 - 132

First Fellowship

Children - 25 Youth - 35 Adults - 80

Total First Fellowship Wednesday, Sept. 10 - 140

Children - 25 Youth - 22 Adults - 50 (Hilltoppers' Trip)

Total First Fellowship Wednesday, Sept. 17 - 97

Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$605,548.74	\$175,706.55
Needed YTD	640,228.68	
Given This Week	10,517.10	1,868.00
Needed Weekly	16,416.12	

Church & Community

REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. RUDY

“Spiritual Leaders”

Our Bishop, Debra Wallace-Padgett, recently wrote an article about “Spiritual Leaders.” She said she had been asked to define a “Christian spiritual leader.” Instead of a definition, she described a couple of spiritual leaders who have influenced her. Their names are Will and Fran.

In her description of Will and Fran, she said that “most people would think of them as a rather ordinary duo. But when you hear about how they live their lives, you will understand why I consider them to be extraordinary spiritual leaders.” You can find her message on the Conference Web Page, www.umcna.org.

Here are some traits or characteristics of a spiritual leader I gleaned from her description of these two spiritual leaders:

- They acknowledge they are miles from perfection, but they are on the way to becoming more like Christ.
- Their relationship with Jesus Christ influences the decisions they make about ethics, time, talent and money.
- They spend a significant portion of each day nurturing their relationship with God.
- They tithe faithfully to their local church and frequently give beyond the tithe.
- They communicate their faith by the lives that they live as well as the words that they say.
- They are trusted by others because they are trustworthy.
- They make a difference in their church and community.
- They are humble servant leaders, committed to serving God and others.
- Christian living is more than a *part* of their lives; Christian living *is* their life.

As I read about Will and Fran, I thought of some of the first spiritual leaders chosen by the early church to give leadership to a specific ministry. You can read about it in Acts 6. The church was growing and so were the demands on the Apostles’ time. Here we find the first Lay Leadership Committee/Nominations Committee in the church. The Apostles called the church together to select what we today would call Spiritual Leaders. They even gave them some traits to look for in their leaders: “...select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom...” (Acts 6:3; NRSV)

We are not sure how they would measure being of “good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” One way that “good standing” is measured today is by our membership vow: prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Presently our Lay Leadership Committee is looking for spiritual leaders who will give leadership to the various ministries of Decatur First in 2015. Such leaders enter into covenant to be...

- Faithful to Worship
- Involved in Prayer
- Involved in at least one avenue of Spiritual Growth, outside worship.
- Involved in at least one area of Ministry, using their spiritual gifts
- Faithful in financial giving to the ministries of the church.
- Faithful in participation in their area of service.

Be in prayer for your Lay Leadership Committee as they seek the spiritual leaders God is calling to give leadership at this time.

Rudy

Sympathy

Sharing sympathy with the family of **Roger Gratwick** on his recent death. This family remains in our prayers.

Baptism

The baptism of **Sage Donald Copeland III** took place on September 21. **Dr. Rudy Guess** presided over the ceremony.



Sage’s parents are **Sage** and **Bailey Copeland** and big sister is **Emma**. The grandparents in this congregation are **Dr. Sage Kinney (Kin)** and **Ann Copeland**. Great grandparents are **Dr. Sage Donald Copeland** and the late **Emogene Copeland**.

Scholastic Book Fair Benefits First Grace

- Location: Children’s Wing, first classroom on the right.
- Sunday, September 28th - Friday October 3rd
- It will be open Sunday from 8:30 - Noon and then throughout the week from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- 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.”



WHY? Message series Continues

September 28

“Why Am I Here?” Luke 19:1-10

October 5

“Why Should I Believe in God?” Ecclesiastes 12:13

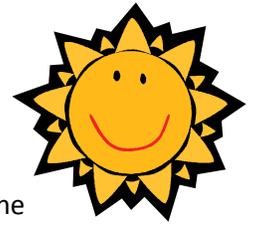
October 12

“Why Should I Trust the Bible?” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

October 19

“Why is the World So Messed Up?” Romans 8:23-39

Children's Sunday School - New "Rise and Shine Worship"



Do you know that our children love to worship and sing? Do you know that there is a new children's worship space? Do you love to worship, sing and dance? Do you love children? Are you wondering what's going on upstairs on the third floor as you pass by in the welcome center at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings? It is our children singing and praising the Lord with their whole hearts! The children's ministry team is very excited as we have begun the new children's Sunday morning format. It is the hope of the team that others may wish to come and experience our worship once a month or once a quarter. We would love to have people come and worship with our children and their leaders. You may find a new passion as a Children's worship leader or music leader once a month. Hope to see you in worship!

Children's Ministry Team Meeting

On Sunday, September 28th there will be a children's ministry team meeting at Noon. Members, please mark your calendar for this meeting. We are so grateful for those who serve on this team and the time and effort they give to our children.

Acolyte Training & Renewal Class

Sunday, Oct 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

There will be an acolyte refresher course and training class for those 3rd grade and above on Sunday, Oct. 5th from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. We will have a time to practice and share what it means to serve as an acolyte. We hope that all who serve will be able to attend. Please RSVP Lorri at lmcguire@decaturfumc.org with regrets. See you all Oct 5th. P.S. - there will be pizza!



Hilltoppers' Trip-Senior Adults

Carnton Plantation
Franklin, TN

Sign Up Today!



The next Hilltoppers trip will be to the Carnton **Plantation event** in Franklin, TN on **Thursday, Oct 16th from 8:00 - 3:00 p.m.** There are *sign-up sheets* in the welcome center, the entrance to Fellowship Hall, and in the Sunday school classes. We will go on a one hour tour of the plantation and you will be able to walk the grounds weather permitting. We will stop for lunch. The cost of the tour is \$12.00. If you have any questions, please speak with Merv Michaels or Lorri McGuire.

CPR Certification Class



A CPR certification class has been planned by First Grace and the FUMC Children's team for Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$25 per person. We would like to invite those wishing to be CPR certified or recertified to attend. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Children's ministry board near Fellowship Hall.

This is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents, Sunday school teachers, childcare workers, etc. Learn how to save a life! Be prepared in case of an emergency.



Servant Spotlight

Our Servant Spotlight this week shines on **Norman Roby, Steve Armstrong, and Claudia Blake** for the many hours of work in preparing and setting up for the "Back to Church" luncheon. Also, thanks to **John and Fay Copeland** and **Charles** and **Karen Taylor** for taking charge of the clean-up crew in the Kitchen. Thanks to all who attended and helped on this special day. Let us make every Sunday a "Back to Church Sunday!"

We are so grateful to **Charles** and **Loena Boling** for planning and leading the trip to Eureka Springs and Branson. Those who made the trip had a blessed time. We are looking forward to the next adventure!

First Grace has been blessed by many people lending a hand to help in a variety of projects. **Dell** and **Mike Ward** have worked hard on repainting the door frames down on the first floor children's wing. Also, **Mary Ila Ward** donated items to the infant rooms and **Kathy Armstrong** made over 20 crib sheets.

We also thank **John Copeland** who worked many hours assembling the projectors, computers, and sound for Youth Sunday. The youth are appreciative of John for all of his support.

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

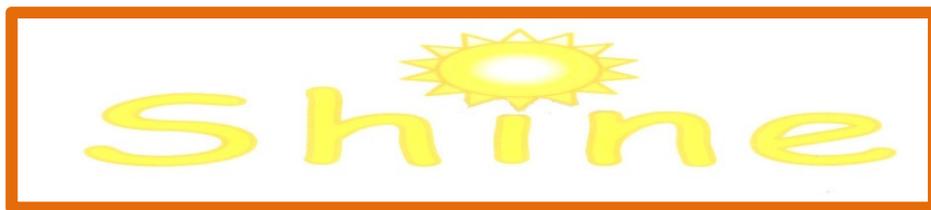


Sunday, October 19th at 4:30 p.m.

We will meet in room # 230 on the Second floor Children's Wing.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, children kindergarteners through 5th grade are invited to come and be a part of our Mission Possible Team. We will meet from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. for our mission. Mission Possible is a program designed for elementary children to learn about and participate in mission work. Children will learn and work on a mission project either locally, nationally or internationally. This is a great way for children to see that they can make a difference in the lives of others.

If you have a kindergartener and would like them to participate, please come early to fill out forms needed for your child. There is a cost of \$18.00.



Wednesday Evening Children's Ministry

Shepherds Needed!

Our children's Wednesday evening ministry needs you! We need shepherds to care over our three children's classes. A shepherd is someone who walks with the children from activity to activity. Our Station leaders prepare the lesson but our shepherds join the children as a faithful friend - being supportive, encouraging them, and mainly guiding them in where they are to go. If you love children and want a very special way to be a part of the children's ministry, this is your opportunity! If you are a young adult, youth or older adult who would love to find a place to share God's love and be an example of Christian discipleship, we need you. See Lorri McGuire or contact her at 256-355-0277 or lmcguire@decaturfumc.org. Come and see what God is doing in this place with our children and adults.



Coming Up...

Sunday, September 28

10:00 Sunday School
6:00-7:30 Re-Discovery worship and dinner

Wednesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 2

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

Sunday, October 5

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

Wednesday, October 8

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study

Thursday, October 9

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

Friday, October 10

DHS Football/ Cheerleader breakfast
6:15 a.m. Cooks arrive
7:15 a.m. greeters and servers arrive
7:45 a.m. clean up arrive

Saturday, October 11 / Power of Pink Walk

College Students

Please share your college student's information with Beth so we can include them in mailings from our church. We need your students 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!



Philippians 3:14

Beth Green, Youth Minister

RE-Discovery Night

We have been away from Discovery Weekend for seven weeks now. On Sunday night, Sept. 28, we are having a "Re-Discovery" night at the church for all the youth in the church. We are inviting the Discovery team, youth parents, and our congregation to experience this night with us! Adam Wheatley, the worship leader who led music for our weekend, is coming back to lead us in worship and Beth will be giving a talk on "Now What?" 

We will begin at 6:00 with dinner (\$3 per person) and worship will follow. If you are planning on joining us for dinner, please let Beth know so we will have enough food!

Sr. High Ski Trip

The annual Senior High Ski Trip will be December 27-30, 2014. We'll be going to Snowshoe, WV on the church bus. We will be staying in five slope side condos on the top of the mountain. We have room for 30 participants on this trip. The cost for lodging, ski/ board rental, lift ticket, food, and gas will be \$550 per student. 

Let Beth know by Friday, September 26 if your youth is/ are going. We will modify our reservations based on the number who let us know they are going.

A deposit of \$100 will be due by September 30 to hold your spot.

DHS Football Breakfasts

The Decatur High Football Breakfasts have been a success once again! Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with the first breakfasts we have had. We still have three more after this week: 

September 26- DHS/ Brewer

October 10- DHS/ Muscle Shoals

October 24- DHS/ Florence

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these breakfasts, please contact Beth (beth@decaturfumc.org). You will also be able to sign up in most Sunday School classrooms. Thank you for your help in making this ministry a success!

Volunteer schedule:

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



October 2014

Prayers of Gratitude and Petition for Our Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Rainey, Todd & Beverly</i> <i>{Elizabeth, Braxton, & Tucker}</i> <i>Sunday School Classes</i>	2 <i>Ray, Tom & Leesa</i> <i>College Students</i>	3 <i>Reavis, Sheila</i> <i>Office Staff</i>	4 <i>Rebman, Robert & Ingrid</i> <i>Our World</i>
5 <i>Spirit-filled Worship</i>	6 <i>Reed, Jerry & Winnie</i> <i>UM Men</i>	7 <i>Riant, Jim & Lori</i> <i>{Katelyn & Austin}</i> <i>Youth Ministry</i>	8 <i>Richardson, Susan</i> <i>{Hannah}</i> <i>First Fellowship</i>	9 <i>Roberts, Beth</i> <i>Nursery Workers</i>	10 <i>Roberts, Neel & Jennie</i> <i>{Davis & Miller}</i> <i>All Committees</i>	11 <i>Robinson, Linda</i> <i>Acolytes</i>
12 <i>Choirs</i>	13 <i>Roby, Norman & Patsy</i> <i>Volunteers</i>	14 <i>Roby, Whitt & Jenny</i> <i>{Wallace & Emma-Glenn}</i> <i>Love for One Another</i>	15 <i>Rogers, JoAnn</i> <i>Church Custodian</i>	16 <i>Rose, Mary Lou</i> <i>Hilltoppers</i>	17 <i>Rowell, Stephen & Kim</i> <i>Leaders Past & Present</i>	18 <i>Ryan, Robert</i> <i>Prayer Groups</i>
19 <i>Visitors</i>	20 <i>Salerno, Michael & Lauren</i> <i>{Leo}</i> <i>UM Women</i>	21 <i>Sanders, Rick & Caroline</i> <i>Children's Ministry</i>	22 <i>Sasser, Clyde & Mary Jane</i> <i>Teachers</i>	23 <i>Schubert, Mike & Jan</i> <i>Outreach/Missions</i>	24 <i>Scott, David & Amanda</i> <i>{Lucy Beth, Mary Ella, Katherine}</i> <i>Study Groups</i>	25 <i>Scott, Desiree</i> <i>FUMC in the Community</i>
26 <i>Our Pastor</i>	27 <i>Scott, Paul & Mary Ann</i> <i>Gratitude for FUMC</i>	28 <i>Sexton, Britt & Susan</i> <i>{Gray & Aly}</i> <i>First Grace CDC</i>	29 <i>Sherrill, Jeffrey & Meghan</i> <i>{Layla & Maddie}</i> <i>Small Group Studies</i>	30 <i>Siek, Gordon & Patsy</i> <i>Generous Stewardship</i>	31 <i>Simms, Tommy & Mary Ann</i> <i>Children, Youth, & Families</i>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scholastic Book Fair Sept. 28-Oct. 2 (details see p. 2)

Children's Ministry Team Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 28 at Noon

UMYF, Sunday, Sept. 28 starts at 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign – Executive Team Review #2
Sunday, Sept. 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign – Leadership Team Review #2
Sunday, Sept. 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign – Celebration Team Meets
Sunday, Sept. 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Mission Team Meeting, Minister's Conf. Room
Monday, Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Worship Team Practice, Monday, Sept. 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Lay Leadership Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Monday, Sept. 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, September 30 at 10:00 a.m.

First Fellowship; Oct. 1 starting at 5:00 p.m.

First Grace Board Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Wednesday, Oct. 1 starting at 4:30 p.m.

Youth Ministry Team, Youth 3rd Floor
Wednesday, Oct. 1 starting at 7:00 p.m.

UMM Breakfast, City Café,
Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7:30

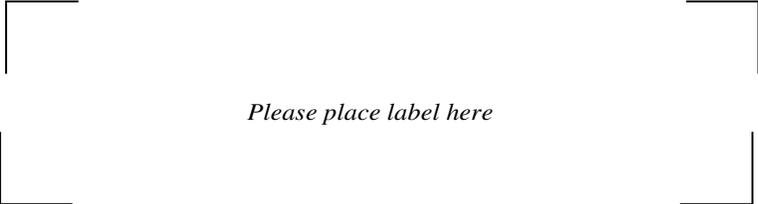
Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A
Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 a.m.



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

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Dr. 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, kbbabf@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

September 28

"Why Am I Here?" Luke 19:1-10
Dr. Rudy Guess, preaching

October 5

"Why Should I Believe in God?" Ecclesiastes 12:13
Dr. Rudy Guess, preaching

Scheduled To Serve September 28

Acolytes: 8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled

11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews and Davis Roberts

Greeters:

8:45 a.m. - Donna McAnnally, Ronnie & Vicki Dukes

11:00 a.m. - Mary & Tom Earley, Carl Evans

Ushers:

8:45 a.m. - Bob McAnnally, Drew Ward, Mike Boozer, Michael Boozer

11:00 a.m. - Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews, J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari

Kitchen Crew

If you have extra time on Wednesdays, please consider volunteering with the Kitchen Ministry. Sandy is needing additional help on Wednesday mornings to help prep dinner. She also needs extra hands with serving and cleaning up after dinner. If you can help in any way, please contact Beth (beth@decaturfumc.org) or Sandy.

First Fellowship October 1

(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., Oct. 1: Spaghetti, Salad Bar, Toasted Italian Bread, Pimento Cheese, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, Cupcakes
Wed., Oct. 1: Clean Up Crew: John & Fay Copeland, Leigh Ann Blankenship, Mary Malone
October Money Desk: Tom & Mary Earley