

A Note From Our Pastor

“Rotated, Balanced, and Aligned”

We will begin the process of enlisting 2016 leaders at Decatur First UMC this month. On the one hand, we are late getting started since all our church leaders must be identified and contacted, and agree to serve, before their nominations are ratified by our charge conference November 1. On the other hand, for me September feels early to do this since I have been your pastor for only three short months. I am still getting to know and learning to work with the current slate of leaders.

Nonetheless, the terms of several committee, ministry team, and board members will expire at the end of the year. Some of those limits are set by *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* to allow no successive terms and some one year service limits have been set by our Administrative Board. Changing leaders every year or every three years can feel like interruptions of important work going on within ministry teams and committees. Here are some reasons we rotate and enlist new leaders:

1. The process of electing leaders annually keeps the question of God’s call before each of us. Is God calling me into service to advance the vision of His Church in the world? Isaiah had a vision of the Lord’s presence and power in the Temple and felt inadequate to serve God until he also perceived God’s forgiveness and call: *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”*
2. The nominations process asks us annually not if we will serve but how. Service is not an option for a follower of Christ. Jesus said, *“The Son of Man has come not to be served but to serve, and to give himself as a ransom for*

many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus calls us to serve in roles that use the gifts we already have and in roles that stretch us. The challenges we face serving the church require us to pray and grow spiritually.

3. Rotating leaders declares that the church is led by vision and mission rather than by personalities. Decatur First UMC would be like a pinball changing directions every time we had a change in leadership except for a strong vision that gives every leader a target for his or her service. The annual election of leaders allows us as a church to align our leadership resources with our vision. Our vision says we are “Growing in Christ, Sharing God’s Love through Inspiring Worship, Empowering Ministries, Equipping Persons for Ministry, and Promoting Well-being.”

H. Richard Niebuhr described multiple forms of God’s call. There is the call to all who hear the Gospel to be a Christian, the secret call to specific forms of ministry, the providential call that gives us gifts for service, and the ecclesiastical call that places us in roles to serve (*Ministry in Historical Perspectives*, 1956, p. 64). How will you answer God’s call? A questionnaire inside this issue of the *Tidings of Joy* invites you to name where you sense God calling you and equipping you to serve your church. Please complete the form and return it by September 15. Your prayerful response will help your church align the leaders God has called with God’s vision for Decatur First UMC.

Yours in Christ,


Hughey

New Member

We welcome **Sandy Reynolds**, Pastor Hughey's wife, as a new member of First Church! Her address is 1404 Regency Blvd SE, Decatur, AL 35601 and her home phone number is 256-822-2044. She transfers to us from Latham UMC in Huntsville. She works at LMI Consulting Inc. in Huntsville as a Human Resource Manager. She and Hughey have two grandsons and one on the way. Welcome!



United Methodist Men


The Men's Bible Study will start on Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 a.m. till 7:15 a.m. in the Minister's Conf. Room, 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. **The men will be meeting on September 13 for breakfast and a guest speaker.** 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.

United Methodist Women Circle Meeting



- The UMW Tidwell Circle will meet on Monday, Sept. 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Jane Boozer's home. Her address is 4313 Indian Hills Rd SE, Decatur.
- All women of the church are invited and no reservations are necessary. 

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 



No Reservations 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!

Volunteers Needed

Community Action is looking for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels. They need volunteers Monday-Friday of every week at around 9:00-10:00 AM. Most of the routes can be finished in 1- 1 1/2 hours. Volunteers can commit to as little or as much time as they want. Volunteers would use their own vehicles. If you are interested, please call Cindy Anderson with Meals on Wheels at 256-260-3103. 

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers Sunday, August 30, 2015:

Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 128

Total Count for 11:00am = 153

Total Count for August 30 = 281

Sunday School August 30

Children 17 + 5 adults

Youth 6 + 2 adults

Adults 139

Total Sunday School August 30 = 169

First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Sept. 2, 2015:

Children 18 + 7 adults

Youth 14 + 5 adults

Adults 83

Total First Fellowship = 127

Attendance Numbers Sunday, September 6, 2015:

Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 94

Total Count for 11:00am = 107

Total Count for September 6 = 201

Sunday School September 6

Children 8 + 4 adults

Youth 8 + 1 adult

Adults 99

Total Sunday School September 6 = 120

Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$569,741.89	125,613.42
Needed YTD	596,269.06	
Given This Week	41,865.00	18,155.00
Needed Weekly	16,115.38	

Upper Room Sunday School

The Upper Room Sunday School Class will be starting a new book, *The Thirteen Apostles* by J. Ellsworth Kalas on Sunday, September 13. Norman Roby will be leading the class for a 13 week study. If you are not a part of a Sunday School class, you are invited to join the Upper Room Class as they prepare to start a new study!

Hilltoppers to Joe Wheeler State Park

Join us on Thursday, September 17 from 9:30-2:00, as we travel to Joe Wheeler State Park to take a scenic tour of Wheeler Lake by pontoon boat. We'll enjoy lunch together at the Lodge. This tour is limited to 24 on the boat. The boat tour is \$8.00 per person and you'll need money for lunch and fuel. Sign up in Sunday School classes, in the Welcome Center, at the First Fellowship money table or contact Beth Green.

LEADERSHIP SURVEY 2015

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development will use this survey to develop our leadership for the coming year. Please complete this survey and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office as soon as possible. Instructions: In the “experience” column, check all areas you have served—here or at another church. In the “wish to serve” column, check those areas in which you feel led to serve. In the “will serve” column, check those areas in which you would serve if called upon.

Your Name _____

Phone # _____ **Email** _____

Leaders should demonstrate the vows taken to uphold the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

AREA OF SERVICE	EXPERIENCE	WISH TO SERVE	WILL SERVE
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEMBER			
COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES MEMBER			
LAY LEADER			
LAY DELEGATE/ ANNUAL CONFERENCE			
RECORDING SECRETARY/ ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD			
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY			
BOARD OF TRUSTEES			
STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS			
FINANCE			
FIRST GRACE BOARD			
COLUMBARIUM			
PARSONAGE			
KITCHEN			
LIBRARY			
LAY LEADERSHIP			
ENDOWMENT			
EVANGELISM			
MISSIONS			
WORSHIP			
COMMUNICATIONS			
CHILDREN			
YOUTH			
DISCIPLESHIP			
HILLTOPPERS			
CONGREGATIONAL CARE			
OTHER (PLEASE EXPLAIN)			



Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn
Interim Children's Minister

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Sept. 13 Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship
Jessica Earwood Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Lise Green
Seekers Class Volunteer

3rd-5th Grade - Molly Ferrell
Ginny Pylant

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Karen Taylor
Assistant- TBA

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

Volunteers for Sunday, Sept. 20 Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship
Jessica Earwood Mitchell

K-2nd Grade - Lise Green
Seekers Class Volunteer

3rd-5th Grade - Molly Ferrell
Ginny Pylant

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Beth Green
Assistant- Jim King

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

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

Clean Up and Moving Day

Please join us this Sunday, Sept. 13th at 12:00 to help clean our new children's rooms. We will be cleaning our VBS storage room, cleaning our children's furniture, moving our craft room, and moving supplies to our new Sunday School Rooms. We will have pizza for lunch and then get to work, Please bring work clothes we will be getting dirty! Let Alexia know if you are able to help and if you need childcare.



Please contact Alexia Claborn at aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
Office 256-355-0277 / Cell 256-606-8646

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed 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

First Fellowship

What a wonderful start to our 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 1st floor for pick up.

K-5th 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 1st floor for pick up.



Save the Date!
Fall Festival / Trunk- or- Treat
October 25th

Youth Dates Coming Up...

Sunday, September 13

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
6:00 p.m. - Brown Bag
6:30 p.m. - UMYF Destination
Unknown



Monday, September 14

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

Wednesday, September 16

5:00 p.m. - First Fellowship
6:00 p.m. - Bible Study

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

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

Sunday, September 20

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

Wednesday, September 23

5:00 p.m. - First Fellowship/ Youth Help Clean Up
6:00 p.m. - Bible Study

Thursday, September 24

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

Sunday, September 27

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

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!



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!

UMYF

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) will resume 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. 13 Destination Unknown
- Sept. 20 Game Night
- 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



DHS Football Breakfasts

If you are interested in volunteering for the DHS Football breakfasts, please contact Beth (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:
September 18- DHS/ Hartselle
October 16- DHS/ Cullman
Thurs. October 29- DHS/ Oxford

"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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, September 13 starting at 7:30 a.m.
- UMYF Brown Bag & Destination Unknown
Sunday, September 13 starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles'
Monday, September 14 at 7:45 a.m.
- UMW Tidwell Circle at Jane Boozer's home
Monday, Sept. 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- First Grace Grandparents' Day, Fellowship Hall
Monday, Sept. 14 at 3:00 p.m.
- Zumba, Old 3rd Fl. / Monday, Sept. 14 at 4:00 p.m.
- Congregational Care Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Monday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m.
- Worship Team / Monday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 10:00 a.m.
- GIC/Missions Meeting, Minister's Conf. Room
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5:00 p.m.
- Trustees Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5:00 p.m.
- Nominations Meeting, Room 351, New 3rd Fl.
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- Worship Planning Committee, Courtyard Conf. Room
Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 4:00 p.m.
- First Fellowship Sept. 16
Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir / Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room
Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 a.m.
- UMM Breakfast, City Café / Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30
- Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A
Thursday, September 17 at 7:30 a.m.
- Hilltoppers Joe Wheeler Outing, Need Bus
Thursday, Sept. 17 leave from church at 9:30 a.m.
- District Meetings, Courtyard and Minister's Conf. Rm
Thursday, September 17 at 1:00 & 2:00 p.m.
- DHS Football Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Friday, September 18, Cooks arrive at 6:15 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. 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, Interim Children's Minister, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org

Charlie Elliott, Custodian
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper
Sandy Callahan, Food Manager
Wayne Keller, Accompanist

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. 13 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
James 2: 1 - 17 "Is Your Faith Alive?"

Sept. 20 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
James 3: 1 - 12 "What You Say Is Important"

Scheduled To Serve September 13

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled

11:00 a.m. - Aiden Garriss

Greeters:

8:45 - Jim & Gail Herren, Dean Turney

11:00 - Don & Betty Ann Mitchum, Barbara Ashwander

Ushers:

8:45 -

11:00 - Stephen Brown, Bob Vaughan, Jim Worthey,
Ken House, Steve Haddock, Keith Skelton

First Fellowship Sept. 16 Meal at 5:00 p.m., Classes at 6:00 p.m. (details inside) **Reservations are not required anymore!** The menu for Sept. 16 will be Kenny's Marinated Pork Loin, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Turnip Greens, Cornbread, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter & Jelly & Cheese Sandwiches, Variety of Desserts
Clean-Up Crew for Sept. 16: John & Peggy Black, Ned Estes, Don Mitchum / Money Desk: Bettye and Bill Dennis