

The First News

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Issue 04-16

APRIL 2016



Our Mission:
Bringing People to Jesus
Building up Believers
Blessing the World

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

The Easter event that we celebrated just a few days ago is about a discovery the disciples made. On Good Friday the cross was a great tragedy that seemed a denial of God, but on Easter it became a victory symbol, a revelation of God. What a great story of defeat turned into a victory. At the heart of Easter is that proclamation that we need never allow life's experiences to defeat us, that the last word is always a word about new life and new possibilities.

The message the disciples and followers of Jesus began to preach after the resurrection was that the world was not under the control of fate or impersonal forces, but in control of a God who cares and loves. They said there are no ultimate defeats, only new beginnings. It makes a big difference if we really believe that through all of the seasons of our lives God is at work helping us turn our tragedies into triumphs and our defeats into victories. If we really believe this we look for the opening, we look for the possibilities, and we become more aware of the possibilities that are around us.

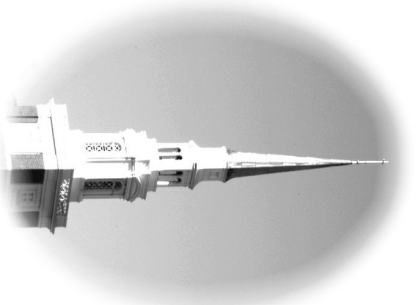
I like the spirit of the eight-year-old boy who left the following note on the kitchen table for his mom: "Dear Mom, I have a very bad headache and my stomach aches. I have taken two aspirins and a glass of water and gone out to play football."


In the final analysis isn't that what Easter is really all about? May we communicate the message of Easter in a bold and clear way to all people during this great Easter season. May the world hear "the music of life" played in a bold and triumphant way!

*Blessings,
James*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
105 E. SPRING STREET
SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA
256-249-0362

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 We're on the web!
www.firstmethodistchurch.com

You can see the newsletter and much
more ... check it out!

CHURCH INFORMATION
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Phone: (256)249-0362 Fax: (256) 207-0941
Web: www.firstmethodistchurch.com

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CAROLYN'S CORNER



“I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest.” John 10:10

This heading caught my eye as I was reading from Great Multitude Christian Daily Devotional and with this time after Easter I thought it would be worth sharing.

This verse reinforces the thought that God does more for us than forgiving and cleansing us from our sins. Jesus came to give us life because we deserved death. God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil he would surely die. Adam and Eve experienced spiritual death and separation from God, which is our experience until we become Christians. When we become a Christian we are born again spiritually and therefore have spiritual life.

However, more than this Jesus came that we might have life to the fullest. We don't start our Christian life at zero and then spend our time earning "bonus points" for good behavior in order to be in credit. Instead God has already credited us with righteousness at our conversion, so we start and continue our Christian life in complete credit. We don't "pay our way" since we are already God's "book of life". Furthermore it's impossible to get into debt again because when Jesus died, it was for all our sin, past, present and future.

We live from a place of being complete in Christ of accepting that Jesus has not only done everything necessary for us to have forgiveness but also he has done everything necessary so we can live from a place of fullness.

That is abundant life.

Carolyn Goza

Associate Pastor 256-510-6785

PRAYER CONCERNS: Leslie Morris, Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Sandra Haynes, Tyler Blair, Theodore Kelley, Steve Thompson, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Willa Dean Lewis, Larry Reams, Jimmy Hare, Clyde Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Joanna Shealey, Elizabeth Legg, Mozelle Hosley, Megan Samples, Louise Craig, Ruth Cather, David Cochran, Matt Avery, Charles Jones, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Russ Stanton, Alex Dickinson, Abby Hicks, Lucy Barnett, Chase Dennis, Pat Carver, Peggy Porch, Matt Hare, Neely Medine, Edna & L. P. Hickman.

IN HOSPITAL: Sarah Whitman-CVMC, Leslie Morris-UAB, Betty Lessley-CVMC, Mildred Davenport-CVMC.

Please help keep our prayer concerns list up to date.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March, 2016

Contributions ..\$61,98400

Expenditures ..\$74,670.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	-	113
Casual 'n Christ	-	223
Grounded	-	77
Traditional Worship	-	150
Bread for the Journey	-	106

CHURCH STAFF

James Haskins - Senior Pastor;

Carolyn Goza - Associate Pastor; Byron White - Assistant Pastor;

David Simpkins - Director of Worship & Arts

Chuck Terrell - Director of Youth Ministries

Leslie Lucas - Children's Ministries; LaKeisha Crocker - Children's Choir

Dawson Brown - Grounded Worship Leader

Martha McKemie...Organist; Sharon Wright, Robin Lewis...Pianists

Karen Brewer - Church Administrator

Jean Campbell - Administrative Assistant

Tim McCain - Custodian/Maintenance

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten: (256) 249-2300 Nursery: (256) 249-0644

Dee Dee Mathews - Kindergarten Director

Ramsey Reynolds - Financial Secretary

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

April 3

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Deceased members of UMW** by FUMC-UMW.

April 10

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **John Milton and Bernice Williams Hightower; John Judge and Neal Chandler Hightower; and Robert Neal Hightower** by Martha and Joe Turner & Family.

April 17

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Dr. & Mrs. Dwight L. Evans and Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Gaston, Sr.** by Mrs. Ware Gaston.

April 24

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Jackie and William Murray Melton, Sr.** by The Earl Lewis Family and the Bill Melton Family.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Bob G. Bain & Shirley Bain by Ann Lott.

In Memory of James Cochran by Anne Gray, Craig Miller Family, Bill & Anne Hare, Nick & Janice Menzies, Jim & Jeannie Green, Jim & Jane Hare Sims, Hope Class.

In Memory of Justin Marten by Jerry & Nan Henderson.

In Memory of Lenox Mallory by Anne Gray, Upper Room Class.

In Memory of Bebe Cather MacDougall by Jerry & Nan Henderson, Ann Lott.

In Memory of John Newberry by Ann Lott, Jay & Martha Richey.

In Memory of Irene Rourke by Anne Gray.

In Memory of Carroll Snyder by Southeast UMC Pastors Fund, Sandra & Mickey Morton, Anne Gray, Southeast District Office.

† Please remember to give as you can to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund here at FUMC. Such funds help the advancement of education for those who feel led to hold ministerial positions. Thank you.



MUSIC & WORSHIP

What an amazing year it has been in the life of FUMC's Music Ministry! Let's review for a moment –

Last summer, we had an awesome kick-off to our Music Ministry programming, featuring Children's Choir with Ms. Lakeisha Crocker, the New World Choir (Youth Choir) with yours truly as Director, the Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) with new plans and new members, the Praise Band with amazing plans for the year, and the State Champion Youth Praise Band with Chuck Terrell as Director!

- ***Children's & Youth Choirs** leading in Worship Services at least once a month!
- ***Dawson Brown** leads worship weekly at Grounded 10am Service!
- ***FUMC Praise Band** presented "An Evening with Fleetwood Mac & the Eagles" for Angel Tree Project! Mark & Stephanie from WDJC as Master of Ceremonies!
- ***Youth Choir & Children's Choir** Christmas Programs!
- ***Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata** "The Jesus Gift" with guest musicians and string ensemble from Alabama Symphony!
- ***Youth Praise Band** leads worship at various Worship Services!
- ***FUMC Praise Band** reprises "Fleetwood Mac & Eagles" Show to benefit New World Choir, Mark Harvard from WDJC as Master of Ceremonies!
- ***New World Choir Scholarship Lunches** raises money benefitting N.W.C.!
- ***Children's Choirs** present Palm Sunday and Easter Specials!
- ***Chancel Choir** with guest musicians and Birmingham Strings present Easter Cantata, "A Living Hope"!
- ***Beautiful Easter Sunday Worship** featuring Children's Choirs, Youth Choir and Adult Choir & Praise Band!
- ***New World Choir** travels to Central Florida to present "Sing Out '16"! NWC leads worship and missions at Indian River City United Methodist & St. Andrew UMC in Titusville, FL, Orlando Rescue Mission in Orlando, FUMC Clermont, FL, and Fun Spot Amusement Park, Orlando. Tremendous Homecoming Service on Easter Sunday evening!

We currently have over 70 children and youth participating in choir, and nearly 40 participating in adult music ministries. That is something to celebrate!

Let's continue to pray for and support our Music and Worship Ministries. God has us growing and blooming here at First United Methodist Church in Sylacauga!!!!

Yours in Christ,
David Simpkins

Director of Worship & Arts
256-404-4109

Children's Corner

◆ **Wednesday Night Children's Corner updates:**



During the whole month of April we will be collecting food and supplies for the animal shelter. It will be Boys vs Girls. Can't wait to see who wins.

April 6th - Game Night (bring your favorite board game to share)

April 20th- Field Trip to the nursing home!

◆ **VBS meeting Sunday April 24th** at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping, please attend.



***Vacation Bible School
June 20-24th
8:30am-11:30am**

Leslie Lucas
Children's Director
256-861-0409

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMING EVENTS

- ◆ **April 3rd NWC Luncheon**—Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ **April 24th 2PM...VBS Meeting** -Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping, please attend.
- ◆ **UMW ladies are still collecting BOX TOPS and Soup Labels.**
The soup labels **MUST** have the UPC code intact.
- ◆ **Thursday, April 28th C.O.R.E. Group** leaving church at 4PM, Dinner at Village Tavern. ASFA "GALA" -music dept. performance.
- ◆ **You are invited to a Bridal Coffee honoring Elaine Haskins**
Bride-elect of Noah Meeks. Saturday, April 30th, 9 am-11 am
At the home of Mary Lee Swindall, 64 Cedar Shores Drive, Sylacauga, AL 35151. Registered at Magnolias, Griffins, and Macys. Regrets 256-245-7686
- ◆ **Sunday, May 8th—Joint Service:** 10am– Sunday School; 10:30am-Worship Service in Sanctuary; 11:30am-Lunch in Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ **Senior and Handicap parking....** Please be mindful of the parking area located behind the sanctuary. This parking lot is designated for Senior Adult and Handicap parking. Please be courteous.

In Memory Of
James Edwin Cochran
March 19, 2016

Christian sympathy is extended to
Bob & Kathryn Mallory in the death of his brother
Reverend Lenox Mallory

Christian sympathy is extended to
Carolyn & Neal Goza in the death of her father
Carroll Edward Snyder.

Christian sympathy is extended to
Linda & Rex McAdam in the death of her mother
Irene Rourke

Christian sympathy is extended to
Deann & John Floyd in the death of her uncle
Grady Barnett.

Christian sympathy is extended to
Mahala & Marty Waldner in the death of their son-in-law
Tony Falco.

YOUTH NEWS

CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR TO STAY UP TO DATE
WITH WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUTH
www.firstmethodistchurch.com



WOW. Just wow! SingOut is 49 years old. The New World Choir just returned from the 49th annual Spring SingOut Tour. We spent almost a week in Central Florida, spreading the Gospel message through our music (and hopefully our actions). We enjoyed great

weather. In addition to singing at a theme park, three churches, a rescue mission, and a truck stop, We played at four different parks: Sea World, Busch Gardens, Fun Spot, and Florida Wild Adventure. We experienced and airboat ride, many of us for the first time. We saw gators and bald eagles in their natural habitat. It could not be done without your prayer, work, and financial support. Thanks be to God, and thanks to you, for supporting The New World Choir and the Youth Praise Band at FUMC Sylacauga.

Go to www.firstmethodistchurch.com and sign in on the upper right hand corner. You can choose how much information you receive from the church. Sign in and stay in the know!

Don't forget to bring peanut butter for the Care House to the Activities Room when you can.

Alex Dickinson's family has purchased a handicapped accessible van for Alex, and could use some help paying for it. You can donate to the fund set up at Wells Fargo Bank ("Hugs for Alex"), or you can donate online at gofundme.com, and search for "Hugs for Alex,". If you have ever had one of Alex's hugs, you know that they are worth about a million dollars each. Thank you in advance and blessings on your head for helping this sweet family.

REACH Mission Trips—June, 2016—Registration forms, repair applications, and supply lists available at www.firstmethodistchurch.com.

That's my story, and I am sticking to it.
I love you, Mr Chuck =-)

Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars
256-267-1300

FUMC Sylacauga Cherub Choir & Children's Choir

I am very excited about the many performances that are scheduled through May. This semester I am focusing on how we can let our light shine to show others the love of Jesus. We have amazing kids at FUMC and I love to hear the stories of how they are shining their lights. Thank you to Lexi for singing a beautiful solo accompanied by the praise band. I love seeing the children in our church eager to serve. Parents: please let me know if you want your child to sing a solo for the church. I will be glad to add them to the schedule.



April Bible Verse

Matthew 6:19

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroys..."



Children's Choir will now meet at 11am on Sunday mornings instead of 4pm Sunday afternoons.

April 17—Payne Ernest solo—9am

April 20—Perform at assisted living.
More details to follow.

April 24—6th grade performs—
service TBA

LaKeisha Crocker

Children's Choir

256-762-5229

teachmusic73@yahoo.com

crockerl@sylacauga.k12.al.us

256-762-5229 – cell

lpcrocker – Instagram

LaKeisha Phillips-Crocker – Facebook

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">April</h1> <h1 style="font-size: 3em; margin: 0;">2016</h1>	
8:30am – Prayer for Worship 9:00am- Casual 'n Christ* 9:00am- Children's Church 9:00am- Sunday School*Rm305 10:00am- "Grounded" Worship 10:00am- Sunday School* all ages 10:40am- Prayer for Worship 11:00am- Children Choir 11:00am—Traditional Service* 4:00pm- NWC 5:00pm- Youth Dinner/Movie 5:00pm—G2 Girls 6:00pm— Bread for the Journey	6:30am –Monday Morning Glory 9:30am-MMBS 9:30am-Bible Study 5:15pm-Cardio-Activities Room 6:30pm- Boy Scouts-(Scout Hut) 6:30pm CUB Scouts (F.H.)	6:00am - Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00am- Breath for Life 10:00am- Breath for Life 5:00pm- Emmaus Reunion Group 6:00pm- Knit Together 6:00pm— Divorce Recovery- Bride's Parlor	3:00pm –Youth Room Opens 4:15pm- Children's Choir 5:30pm– Family Night Meal 6:00pm—Care Group-BibleStudy 6:00 pm –Chancel Choir * 6:15pm—UMYF/BUBBA's/ Children 6:15 pm –Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 pm - Praise Team *	9:00am-Breath for Life 10:00am-Breath for Life 5:15pm-Cardio- Activities Room		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8 Youth Praise Band to Camp Sumatoga	9
10 **NWC @ Flint Hill 6PM	11 5:30pm-Trustees Mtg.	12	13	14	15	16
17 **NWC Serving Lunch	18 11:30am-UMW Exe. Mtg. 5:00pm-Finance Mtg. 6:00pm-Leadership Mtg.	19 10am-UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm-UMW Circle III 6:30pm-G.N.O.	20 Children-Field Trip to CV-Nursing Home	21	22	23
24 VBS Meeting 2PM	25	26	27	28 CORE Group 4:00PM "GALA"	29	30