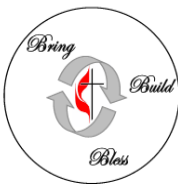


The First News



Information published as of: January 29, 2016
Issue 02-16

FEBRUARY 2016

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

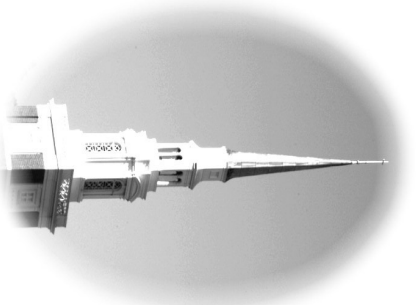
NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

It is hard to believe the season of Lent begins in a few days. February 10 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Lent can be a valuable season in the church because it is a time of looking inside and preparing us for Easter. **What we see and experience on Easter is determined by our preparation and readiness to perceive and experience what Christ's victory has done for us.**

In the ministry, more than any other profession, it is so easy to become "addicted to agendas." We get swept up in a fury of responsibilities and move so fast in life that moments of light and life are passed by and never known. Too often in my ministry that has been the case. I have come to appreciate more and more those regular moments of withdrawal and reflection that were part of Jesus' life. So many times in the Gospel stories we find Jesus scurrying to a lonely place to pray. Surrounded by hours of busyness, there is a moment of quiet stillness and solitude. While in those places of Sabbath rest, Jesus was able to gain a larger perspective of his life. Those moments of conflict and hurry had clouded his focus and he needed to get in touch with the wider view of his life. The vision of life's greater realities became clearer. Jesus was able to get in touch with himself, his inner feelings and struggles. I find one of the real hazards of an active life is that it is easy to lose touch with ourselves and who we really are on the inside.

God has offered us in the cross of Christ a way of seeing who we are; a gift of vision. Through these gifts of vision, we are able to make exciting discoveries about those around us, our lives, and who we are as the people of God. I hope you will use this Season of Lent as a time preparation and vision of all Easter can be.


*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

«Code»
«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
«Address»
«2nd line Address»
«City» «State» «Zip» «Zip1»

CAROLYN'S CORNER



We are well into the drudgery of the winter season. Cold, dreary weather is common and we have no holidays or time off from work to break the monotony. We can easily get into the dreary rut of going to work and forget the importance of our performance and how we should take pride in our work.

We spend as much as a third of our life working. We teach children, manage financial portfolios, shepherd congregations, create beautiful landscapes and so much more. Does it matter? Of course. And we can be sure it matters especially to God.

The first worker was God himself! Already on the first page of Scripture God shows up as a worker. Out of nothing, God creates everything. He not only speaks the world into existence; he arranges it. Like a contractor preparing a worksite, God separates earth and sky, water and dry land. Like a physicist, he sets the stars, sun, and moon perfectly in motion. Like a sculptor, God forms all manner of living creatures. Then each day, God blesses the work of his hands!

In our everyday work we should follow the pattern of the greatest worker. Ask yourself are you pleased with your performance? Then ask yourself is God pleased with your labor?

God teach us to do our work well, to honor you in all we do. Amen.

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, Ashton Black, Willa Dean Lewis, Larry Reams, Jimmy Hare, Clyde Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Joanna Shealey, Dan Lindall, Elizabeth Legg, Mozelle Hosley, Megan Samples, Louise Craig, Mayce Harrison, Ruth Cather, Penny Moore, David Cochran, Matt Avery, Charles Jones, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Christie Caine, Nan Hoaglin, Heaven Harris, Family of Doug Wesson, Russ Stanton, Rick Cleveland.

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

Please help keep our prayer concerns list up to date.

OUR STEWARDSHIP January, 2016

Contributions ..\$61,125.00

Expenditures ..\$45,272.00

Pending Expenditures : Jan. Apportionments \$7,374.00 (Awaiting remittance form)

Payroll: February 4th: \$12,016.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	-	104
Casual 'n Christ	-	181
Grounded	-	62
Traditional Worship	-	67
Bread for the Journey	-	13

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

February 7

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in honor of **Penny Moore** by Raymond & Glenda Styres.

February 14

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **John Durden** by Lorez Durden; Rita & Family; and Dylan & Family.

Flowers in the NARTHEX are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Nell Whetstone Sarvis** by Paul Sarvis; Paul Sarvis, III; John & Ellen Sarvis.

February 21

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of Helen White's Birthday by Her Family.

Flowers in the NARTHEX are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Louise Wakefield** by R. C. Wakefield.

February 28

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **The Deceased Members of Our Families** by Travis & Averiett Wesson; Wallis & Jimie Wesson; John & Katie Wesson.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Bob G. Bain & Shirley Bain by Hope Class, Larry & Jan Reams, Gene Rozelle, Craig Miller Family, Mary Burdette, Tommy & Donna Hebson, Vivian Machen, Anne O. Gray, George H. Pruitt, Jim & Jane Hare Sims.

In Memory of Virginia Campbell by Vivian Machen.

In Memory of O. J. Mooney, Jr. by Ralph & Clarene Jackson, Don & Freida Gillum.

In Memory of Mary McCollum by Jim & Kay Nail, Clarene & Ralph Jackson, Anne Gray.

In Memory of Bebe Cather MacDougall by Hope Class, Brooks & Candice Friday, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Cleghorn, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Mrs. Joanne Herold, Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Hackett, Vivian Machen, Anne Gray, Karen Ray Little, Charlotte Medley, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Jim & Jane Hare Sims.

In Memory of Jackie Melton by Bradd & Jane McCune, Don & Freida Gillum, The Family of Sarah Whitman, Marion Wood.

In Memory of John Newberry by Hope Class, Steve & Carla Taylor, Gene Rozelle, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Craig Miller Family, Mrs. Joanne Herold, Karen Ray Little, Bradd & Jane McCune, Anne Gray, The Family of Sarah Whitman, Vivian Machen, William (Billy) Dunlap, Virgil E. Cooper, Jr., Becky & Roger Blair, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Jim & Jane Hare Sims.



MUSIC & WORSHIP

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **February 7th and 21st. New World Choir Luncheon.**
The New World Choir will be serving lunch from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and stay for lunch on these dates. Donations and contributions are greatly appreciated and will benefit the New World Choir Sing Out 2016
- ◆ **February 25th – “FREE” Celebrity Benefit Concert,**
FUMC Praise Band Presents:
An Evening with the music of Fleetwood Mac & The Eagles
6pm - First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Donations Graciously Accepted on behalf of FUMC's New World Choir / Sing Out 2016.

March 4th -6th - New World Choir Retreat –

March 13th - Easter Cantata 6:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

March 19th – 24th - New World Choir Sing Out 2016

Yours in Christ,

David Simpkins

Director of Worship & Arts

256-404-4109

Children's Corner

February 2016
6-7pm

Fun dates to remember!

- ◆ **February 3rd** - Game Night! Bring your favorite board game to play with friends!
- ◆ **February 10th** - Ash Wednesday. No Children's Activities. Service at 6:30pm
- ◆ **February 24th** - Craft Night!

We will still meet the other Wednesday's during the months as well. Looking forward to lots of fun!

Our Children's program is Rock n' Rollin! We are having a blast on Wednesdays nights. January was an awesome month. We reached our highest number for Wednesday nights so far! I hope to beat that number for February.

This month we will be learning of God's love and how you should love others as Christ loves us. If you would like to help out on a Wednesday night from 6-7pm, please let me know. We'd love to have you.

- ◆ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Leslie Lucas

Children's Director

256-861-0409



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN/DAYCARE

FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN ROCKS!

A new year and a positive attitude! Helping others is what Jesus wants us to do. We will have fundraisers for the animal shelter and St. Jude in the next few months. A book fair will be held the week of March 7th or 14th. We invite everyone to come see what scholastic books have to offer. Children and grandchildren love books! Books would be a great gift anytime – even in an Easter basket!!

Our kindergarten committee is working hard to support our wonderful ministry, and we do appreciate them – Tim Allen, Lynn Hodges, Marion Wood, Stephanie McGee, Clarene Jackson, and Bebe Andrews.

Registration for the 2016-17 school year will be held March 8th from 7:30-5:30 in the director's office on 2nd floor.

Check out our Facebook page and look around town for our beautiful pamphlets. We are F.U.M.K. and we are the best!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Dee Dee Mathews – proud to be a part of this ministry!!!!!!!!!!

Dee Dee Mathews,

Director, 256-249-2300

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Wednesday, Family Night Meal 5:30pm**
RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY 10AM TUESDAY.
- ◆ **Volunteer needed for ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY:** The months of January and February are open. Please contact the church office if you can serve in this ministry.
- ◆ **Volunteer needed for Meals on Wheels:** The **third Wednesday** of the month is open. Please contact the church office if you can serve in this ministry.

† 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.

YOUTH NEWS



Here is your youth group calendar:

Wednesday—Regular Youth Group Schedule. Youth Room opens at 330pm. Concessions available. Youth Worship at 6:15. Youth room closes at 7:30. Tutor available most days 3:30-5pm.

Sunday, -Regular Sunday Schedule. Youth Praise Band practice at 2pm, Youth room opens at 3:30, New World Choir practice at 4pm, Dinner and a movie at 5. Bread for the Journey at 6.

Encounter...A Wintertime Youth Retreat for Senior Highs.... Feb 19-21. Watch the website for details how to sign up!

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



E-GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE.
This is the **QR code** and also the **tinyurl** that was made for the giving website.
<http://tinyurl.com/give-FUMC-Syl>

FUMC Sylacauga Cherub Choir & Children's Choir



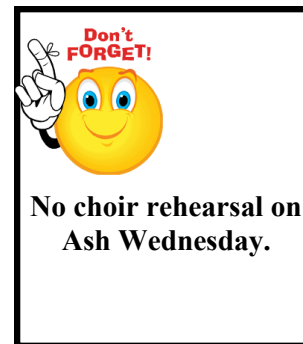
I am very excited about the many performances that are scheduled through May. This semester I am focusing on how we can let our light shine to show others the love of Jesus. We have amazing kids at FUMC and I love to hear the stories of how they are shining their lights. Thank you to Bevin, Gracyn, Katelyn, and Lily Frances for kicking off our special music performances. These four young ladies are working hard in His kingdom. I love seeing the children in our church eager to serve. Cherub Choir 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.

We will have a performance on Sunday, February 14. The schedule is listed below.



February Bible Verse

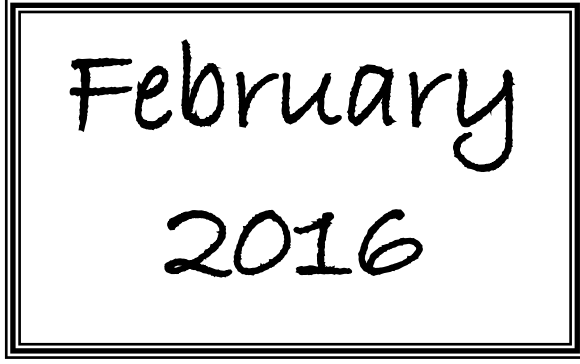
1 Corinthians 13:13
**“And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love. But the
greatest of these is love.”**



LaKeisha Crocker
Children's Choir
256-762-5229

February 10-Ash Wednesday service
February 14-Cherub choir perform 9am
February 14-Children's choir perform 11am
February 21- Lilly Kate solo 9am
February 21- Solo—11am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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—Traditional Service* 4:00pm- NWC /Children's Choir 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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	1	2	3	4	5	6 Scouts-Pinewood Derby
7 • NWC Performing at the 11AM service.	8 5:30pm-Trustees Mtg.	9	10 6:30pm ASH Wednesday Service. NO Children's Activities	11	12 8am-12pm Kindergarten —Ball in Activities Room	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day • Cherub Choir—CNC • Children's Choir-11am Service	15 11:30am-UMW Exe.Mtg. 5pm-Finance Mtg. 6pm-Leadership Mtg.	16 *10am-UMW Circle I & II *2pm-UMW-Circle III *6:30pm-G.N.O.	17 6pm-Lenten Bible Study Room 305	18	19	20
21 • Cherub Choir Solo Singer—CNC • Children's Choir-Solo Singer –11am Service.	22	23 *EMMAUS CLUSTER Follow-up Meeting-St. Andrews UMC	24	25 Fleetwood Mac / Eagles Benefit!	26	27
28	29					