

# The First News



Information published as of: December 30, 2015  
Issue 01-16

JANUARY 2016

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

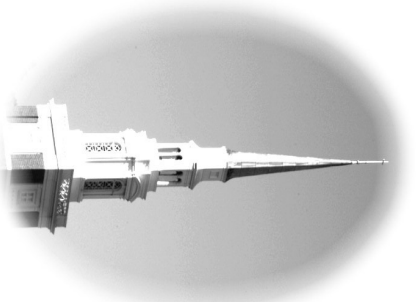
## NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

Of all the Psalms, the 121<sup>st</sup> is perhaps the nearest and dearest to my soul. I have especially been reading it as I approached the beginning of a new year. It is called "The Traveler's Psalm" by the Scottish people. When we think of what a new year can mean for us, we usually think of the past while looking to the future. We remember triumphs and victories as well as gray and dark gloom and sorrow. We remember accomplishments as well as regrets. We remember prayers we prayed that were answered and those prayers we are still waiting to be answered. We celebrate new friends we have made and say goodbye to those friends who have left our lives.

Our lives are always in transition and if they are not, then we are stale and stagnant. We are a traveling people. We grow from our experiences and hope along the way our experiences did not offend and cause anyone to stumble. We are always "going out and coming in." The 121<sup>st</sup> Psalm is a poem of "new song; new beginning." The Hebrew singer of this old song wrote it from somewhere deep in his soul where truly God lived.

As I think about my own "goings out and comings in," my prayer was that I lifted my eyes to the hills from where my help came, believing my help came from the Lord. I take comfort that God moved my feet always in God's direction. I am assured that God kept me from evil, that God kept my life for God's sake. And I pray that as I begin this new year, the Lord will keep my going out and my coming in from this time on and forevermore.

*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](http://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](http://www.firstmethodistchurch.com)

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



Christmas has come and gone, or has it? We anticipated the coming of the King of kings. We were reminded of the announcement of the angels, “ I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” We celebrated the birth of the Christ child, who was sent for the salvation of all. And we shared time and gifts with those we love. What happens now that Christmas is finished?

Well, the world will resume as normal, the celebrations will end, the decorations will be removed and we will not hear Christmas carols until next year. But as Christians Christmas has not ended it has just begun. If we truly believe in the virgin birth of God’s son our Savior; then we also believe in the miracles He performed during His ministry here on earth. And if we believe in His miracles then we believe that He was crucified, died and then was buried for three days in a borrowed tomb, from which He arose and now sits in heaven on the right side of God the Father.

Wow, that sounds familiar doesn’t it? That is what we profess each time we affirm our faith, isn’t it? If we believe these things then all we should live our lives in that belief each day for the next year until the time comes again to celebrate the Advent season. If we make a conscious effort to remind ourselves that Christ came to save the world and that He is still doing that today how might our lives be different in 2016?

Believing in Baby Jesus,

*Carolyn Goza*  
Associate Pastor 256-510-6785

**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Leslie Morris, Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Bob Bain, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Sandra Haynes, Tyler Blair, Theodore Kelley, Steve Thompson, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Ashton Black, Willa Dean Lewis, Larry Reams, Jimmy Hare, Cytee Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Bebe Cather MacDougall, 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.

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

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**December, 2015**

Contributions 12/1– 12/30 ..\$49,415.00  
Expenditures 12/1– 12/30 ..\$43,915.00

**ATTENDANCE / Average for Month**

Sunday School	-	106
Casual 'n Christ	-	179
Grounded	-	36
Traditional Worship	-	64
Bread for the Journey	-	11
*Children’s Choir Christmas Program –		345
*The Jesus Gift—Choir Program -		175
*Christmas Eve Candle Light	-	324

**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  
Heather Gregory - Financial Secretary

## ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

### January 3

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. Jack Spears** by Ted & Shirley Spears; Jonathon & Tara Douglas and Anthony & Tonya Strickland.

**Flowers in the NARTHEX** are presented to the glory of God and in honor of **Nan & Jerry Henderson** by Connie Farr.

### January 10

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mrs. Lilian Shirey and Mrs. Jane W. Kramer** by Mr. Chris Kramer, Jr.

### January 17

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **James Stuart Reed, Brodie & Ramon E. Reed** by Jean and Grace.

### January 24

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Tony Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. W. J. McKemie, Sr. and Mr. William Joel McKemie, Jr.** by Mrs. Martha McKemie and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Howard Holmes and Family.

### January 31

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Miss Virgie Oden; Miss Sadie Cliett; Mrs. Olier M. Hebson; Mrs. Polly W. Wright and Deedie & Dr. French H. Craddock, Sr.** by Martha Hightower Turner.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Virginia Campbell** by Ruth Cather, Annette Gaston, Carol Ann & Wayne Hawkins, Jane & Don Machen.

**In Memory of Jackie Melton** by Mr. & Mrs. W. Howard Gillum, Annette Gaston, Hope Class, Anne Gray, Ann Lott, Ruth Cather, Jane & Charlie Vawter, Chris & Kyle Padgett, Carol Ann & Wayne Hawkins, Willie & Joe Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Cleghorn, Joanne Herold, The Phil Turner Family, Upper Room Class, Kay & Jim Nail, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Mitchell.

**In Memory of O. J. Mooney, Jr.** by Ann Lott, Kay & Jim Nail, Anne & Bill Hare.



## MUSIC & WORSHIP

**Wow!** What a year it has been! Thank you for all of your support and encouragement as we continue to build and develop our Worship and Arts Ministries.

First, let's celebrate a few things that have happened over the past few months –

- \* Our Casual 'n Christ Praise Band continues to work extremely hard to provide great worship music for the 9am Services. In November, their production of "Music of Fleetwood Mac & the Eagles" was very successful musically, and we were able to donate \$800.00 of the proceeds to the Angel Tree. This was a great way to kick-off the Advent season!
- \* Our Youth Choir & Children's Choirs presented a wonderful night of Christmas singing on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see all of our young people giving their talents back to the Lord!
- \* Our Chancel Choir, along with a few guest voices and a professional String Quartet, presented the Christmas Cantata, "The Jesus Gift". It was extremely well received. It was certainly a blessing for us to prepare!

**Now.....a few things coming our way –**

\***New World Choir Rehearsals** will begin again on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 4pm. We will hit the ground running as we work toward Sing-Out '16. NWC Retreat will be March 4-6. Sing-Out will be March 19-23.

\***New World Choir Homecoming Concert** will be Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.

\***On the evening of March 13<sup>th</sup>**, 6pm, the FUMC Music Ministry will present its **EASTER CANTATA**. Our church musicians will be contributing to this special event, along with a few more guest voices and yes, the String Quartet will also be on hand to add a truly special touch.

\*I suppose it's not too early to mention that plans are now in the works for a **Special Patriotic worship service on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a wonderful service, celebrating America!

Finally, I will be officially retiring from Sylacauga City Schools on July 31<sup>st</sup>. I will be looking forward to beginning my "official" full time work for FUMC on August 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, please keep me in your prayers as I continue to try to fulfill all of my duties for the church AND the school system. It's been tough, at times. Your encouragement and prayers, along with the strength of the Lord, have helped me keep going up to this point. Merry Christmas to all and a happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

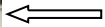
**David Simpkins**

*Director of Worship & Arts*

256-404-4109

## Children's Corner

December was a busy month for our children here at FUMC! They had a beautiful Christmas program, Breakfast with Santa, sang carols at the Spring Terrace and even had time to throw Jesus a Birthday party! It was a great month!



**Caroling at Spring Terrace**

**Breakfast with Santa** ⇒



2016 is going to be an awesome year! Our Wednesday nights programs are growing each week. It's so exciting to see the children's faces each week and watch them grow in Christ. There is going to be a lot going on, so if you would like to help in any way with the children's ministry please contact me. We'd love to have you on board!

Happy New Year to you all!

*Leslie Lucas*

*Children's Director*

256-861-0409



## FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN/DAYCARE

The year is flying by. Christmas is near and the children are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will also be able to tell Santa how 'good' they've been. The Christmas programs were some of the best ever! The teachers and students worked so hard for so long. Don't think we could have made it without our great piano player, Rhonda Gill. January will bring the new year with lots for us to get into! Not only does First Methodist provide a safe environment for these children, but they actually engage in academics (phonics, numbers, computer, etc.). By the time they reach K-5 they are reading and writing. Thanks to our wonderful staff! Sylacauga First members should be very proud that they have such a fantastic program under their roof! We are blessed. I love First Methodist Kindergarten! There's no one like us anywhere around!

*Dee Dee Mathews*

Director

256-249-2300

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Wednesday, Family Night Meal 5:30pm**  
\*RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY **10AM MONDAY\***
- ◆ **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.

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† 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.

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**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>**

# YOUTH NEWS



Discovery Weekend is 4 weeks away! If you are the parent of a junior high student, please go to [www.firstmethodistchurch.com](http://www.firstmethodistchurch.com) and click on Discovery Weekend. There

you will find parent letters and Registration forms. Please fill out a form for your junior high students that will be attending, and drop it by the church office. **REGISTRATION CLOSSES SUNDAY, JANUARY 17.**

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

Here is your youth group calendar:

**Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, & 27**—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, January 3**—Youth Room opens at 4pm. Dinner and a movie at 5pm.

**Sunday, January 10, 17, & 24, -Regular Sunday Schedule.** Youth Praise Band practice at 2pm, Youth room opens at 3:30, New World Choir practice at 4pm, free supper at 5, 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](http://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 cannot thank you enough for all your help in making our Christmas program a huge success!!! Thank you for your support and prayers. My prayer for this new year is that your child will feel the love of God every day.

**We will begin Cherub Choir rehearsals on Wednesday, January 6th. Children's Choir will begin Sunday, January 10th.** We will start working on our Easter music. Our Easter performance is tentatively set for March 13th.

I also want one choir member a month to perform a special music solo for our church family. I will begin with my 6th graders and make a schedule for the year. They do not have to participate in the special music. I will post that schedule after our January 10th rehearsal. We will begin the special music in February.



**Please return your  
choir robes.**

*LaKeisha Crocker*  
Children's Choir  
256-762-5229

### December Bible Verse

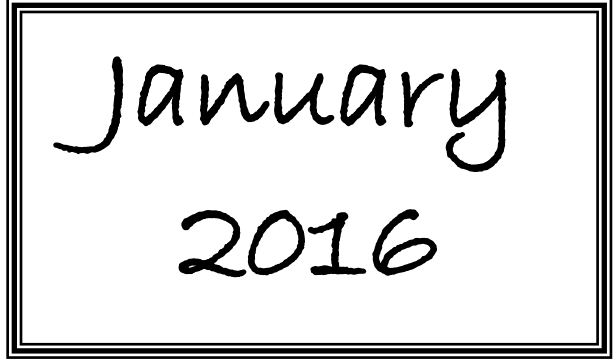
#### January Bible Verse

#### Psalm 20:4


**"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."**

- January 6—Cherub Choir—5pm
- January 10—Children's Choir—4pm
- January 13—Cherub Choir—5pm
- January 17—Children's Choir—4pm
- January 20—Cherub Choir—5pm
- January 24—Children's Choir—4pm
- January 27—Cherub Choir—5pm

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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3	4 9:30am Bible Study Starts!	5 5pm Emmaus Group Starts!	6 6pm Care Group Bible Study Starts!	7	8	9
10 NWC will perform at CNC	11 5:30pm-Trustees Mtg.	12	13	14	15	16
17 NWC will perform at 11AM	18 11:30am-UMW Exe.Mtg. 5pm-Finance Mtg. 6pm-Leadership Mtg.	19 10am-UMW Circle I & II 2pm-UMW-Circle III 6:30pm-GNO-Girls Night Out.	20	21	22	23
24 NWC perform at 6PM Bread	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					<b>Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> DISCOVERY WEEKEND 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES</b>	