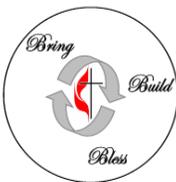


# The First News



Information published as of: October 27, 2015  
Issue 11-15

NOVEMBER 2015

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

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Finance Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

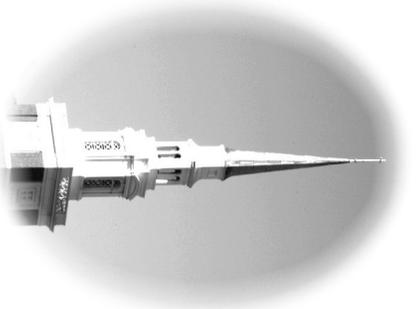
*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Leadership Team Chairperson,

Claude Williams



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)

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«City»«State» «Zip» «Zip1»

## NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

I have always appreciated the Thanksgiving season because it gives me a little time to put my life in perspective. In the course of my daily activities there are too few moments when I really get in touch with what is around me and become aware of how richly I have been blessed.

Some of my favorite Thanksgiving Scriptures come from the writings of the Apostle Paul. In all of his letters there is a world of gratitude or thanksgiving about what God has given to him or done for him.

For Paul, gratitude was more than a feeling you have when things are going just the way you want them to, but gratitude was a basic approach to life. He looked upon life as a gift from God and was able to see that God was working in his life even in some of the most difficult experiences. Paul was thankful with gratitude, only then did he count the blessings God gave him.

Gratitude is a sharpener of our awareness, it is an attitude that allows us to see more clearly and starts us looking for the possibilities in our life situation. In a perspective moment of deep appreciation for the beauty around him, Robinson Jeffers wrote: "He is the kind of God who flings rainbows over the rain and makes the necessary embrace of human breeding as beautiful fire, and give birds color and song and arranges it so even the weeds blossom."

Even when life throws us curves or we don't get our own way or we believe someone has truly made a terrible mistake, we can take a look at all circumstances and see the good and glory and great potential if we are letting our gratitude guide our path of life. Paul said, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:18).

*Blessings,  
James*

## Cherub Choir & Children's Choir

I am overwhelmed with pride after our October 18 performance. Our children are a blessing to the church, and I am humbled that I get to work with them every week. We are continuing our Christmas music for Cherub Choir and Children's Choir. I'm so proud of the students and the progress they are making. Please let me know if your child needs a CD or the music book. The choir robes are being dry cleaned and the Children's Choir will wear them for the concert. I would like for Cherub Choir to dress as angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, etc. ... I will send home more info when I assign parts. Please let me know if you have a preference for your child and I will do my best to honor that request.



The Christmas concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 6 at 6pm.



30th-Eli Morris

**November Bible Verse**  
**1 Chronicles 16:34**

**"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good; His love  
endures forever."**



- ◆ **Children's Choir Rehearsal**  
Sunday, November 23.
- ◆ **Cherub Choir NO Rehearsal**  
Wednesday, November 26.
- ◆ **Children's Choir NO Rehearsal**  
Sunday, November 30.
- ◆ **Both Choirs—Dress Rehearsal**  
Wednesday, December 3.

LaKeisha Crocker

[teachmusic73@yahoo.com](mailto:teachmusic73@yahoo.com)

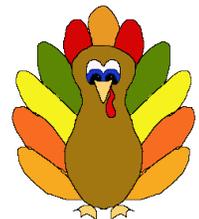
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# FIRST METHODIST CHOIRS

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

It is my pleasure to present to you some of the wonderful worship & fellowship opportunities that are happening with our Music & Worship Ministries!

## **\*Celebrity Benefit Concert**

*featuring*

**Music of Fleetwood Mac & the Eagles**

**Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm FUMC Fellowship Hall**

**Tickets \$15 in church office (256)249-0362**

Our wonderful musicians in the FUMC Praise Band are at work preparing this exciting concert featuring the greatest classic hits by Fleetwood Mac & the Eagles. We are partnering with the Sylacauga City Schools, Indian Valley Elementary “Angel Tree” Project, which seeks to provide Christmas joy for special children in our community. This is a great way to enjoy some great music, great fellowship...and all for a great cause. These songs aren’t necessarily “worship” songs. But, there is a sermon in every one, I say! Please plan to be with us on this special night.

## **\*The Jesus Gift**

**Christmas Concert**

**FUMC Chancel Choir**

**With Special Keyboard and String Ensemble**

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**6pm FUMC Sanctuary**

This very special Christmas program will be presented by the FUMC Chancel Choir and accompanists. Featuring classic Christmas hymns and contemporary tunes by Tom Fettke and Russell Mauldin, this program is sure to be a blessing to all who hear. We are excited to have a special string ensemble (2 violins, viola, cello) from Birmingham performing with us that evening.

Stay tuned for other special events involving our Children’s Choirs and New World Choir as we approach the Christmas Season. This year promises to be a tremendous time of blessings!

If you would like to be involved in our Music & Worship Ministries, please contact me. We would love to have you join our program!

[georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com](mailto:georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com)

Blessings to ALL!  
David Simpkins



When Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him, Jesus is revealing something to all believers. Peter denied Jesus three times in (Matthew 26:75), but here he declared his love three times. Peter was drawn toward a new beginning, and a new future. The failures of the past are to be forgotten and the new possibilities are to be embraced. Those new possibilities are reflected in the mission given to Peter.

Each of us has our own list of failures to recite but the good news is that we can start again. We can also recite the failures of institutions and systems that are near and dear to us. The good news is that the past can be forgiven. God does offer another chance to people like Peter, whose denial seemed like such an enormous failure, and to each of us, no matter what our failures may have been. The question to Peter becomes the question to each of us, “

In the Peace of Christ,

*Carolyn Goza*

*Associate Pastor 256-510-6785*

## Children's Corner

October has come and gone and what a wonderful month it was! The children have done so much for our church and community by bringing can goods to the Care House and donating candy to our Trunk or Treat! They have learned in Matthew 5:16, In the same way, let your good deeds shine for all to see, so that everyone will praise our heavenly Father. The children have definitely shined for us this month.

For November we will be learning about how we can give thanks to God in different ways. This month we will only meet twice, due to Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. The dates we will meet are November 4th and 18th. It will be a short month, but I am looking forward to every minute of it.

Please mark your calendars for our first Breakfast with Santa! It will be Saturday, December 12th. Tickets will be \$5 a person which includes your breakfast and a picture with Santa! More details to come. This is going to be an awesome mission and I know our kids will LOVE it!



I want to thank all my wonderful volunteers on Wednesday nights that help me. You all are awesome and I can't do it without you! Our Wednesday nights are growing and if you would like to be apart of it, please let me know. The children will be a blessing to you as you will be to them.

*Leslie Lucas*

*Children's Director 256-861-0409*



**BUBBA's** (Bringing Up Believers Before Adolescence) is a group of totally awesome 6th graders at FUMC. So far this year, we have laughed at videos and role played disciples in the boat amidst the storm (that was interesting!). We have discussed topics like faith and prayer. When the group hit 20, an ice cream party was thrown. Now that we have passed the 30 a pizza party will be coming in the next few weeks. What are we going to do when we hit 40? I thought I would let them shave my head, but I quickly remembered that I don't have any hair:) The BUBBA's went to Judgement House at First Baptist and will enter a BUBBA car in to the Trunk or Treat at FUMC on 10/28. I am looking forward to the lessons planned for the Holiday season. I am in awe at God's work with this class. Please take time to pray for the BUBBA program. Thank you for allowing me to work with some amazing kids.

God bless,

**Gregg Wykoff**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Leslie Morris, Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Bob Bain, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Polly Kramer, Sandra Haynes, Tyler Blair, Theodore Kelley, Sue Cochran, Alex Dickinson, Steve Thompson, Jeff and Bethany Duncan, Ashton Black, Joe Swindall, Willa Dean Lewis, Larry Reams, Jimmy Hare, Cytee Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Bebe Cather MacDougall, Joanna Shealey, Mason Vick, Dan Lindall, Elizabeth Legg, Mozelle Hosley, Lewis Allen, Megan Samples, Louise Craig. Mayce Harrison, Ruth Cather, Penny Moore, James Haskins, David Cochran, Matt Avery, Steve Etness, Brady Hubbard, Charles Jones, Sue Machen McGee Wind, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Christie Caine, Nan Hoaglin.

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

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Woodrow Fowler** by Robert & Janet Huffman.

**In Memory of Jo Charlotte Harris** by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hawkins, Gene Rozelle, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Upper Room Class, Marion Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Styres, Anne O. Gray, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Lewis.

**In Memory of Jimmy Wright** by Travis & Averiett Wesson.

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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>**

## ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

### November 1

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of FUMC **All Saints** by Deann and John Floyd.

### November 8

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory **Jay Hudson** by Dr. Walter & Judy Hudson Pinson.

### November 15

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Lamar & Mable Ray** by Lamar Ray Family.

### November 22

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mrs. Nelle W. Barnes** by Morris and Betty Hollis.

### November 29

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in honor of **Jim & Kay Nail and Earl & Willa Dean Lewis** by Connie Farr.



In the busyness of life, sometimes I lose sight of how richly God has blessed me. I look back through pictures and find gems like this one, with Faith and Neeley Scott at a soccer game in the spring! Do you ever just look around and count your blessings? It is so easy to get caught up in the negative things in our lives, that we sometimes forget the overwhelming positives. Being a follower of Christ is not easy. It requires discipline and a heart and mind that are focused on Christ as the center of our lives. If you (like me) sometimes have difficulty seeing the positives, start every day in the Word. I PROMISE it will change your outlook on the day ahead, and even on the DAYS ahead. Hit or miss, “flip open the Bible” study is usually not sustainable. You need a good plan to follow. I recommend the Life Journal Reading Plan. It can be found at [www.lifejournal.cc](http://www.lifejournal.cc), or it is one of the plan options when you browse plans on your YouVersion Bible app. If you need help finding it, let me know. I will be glad to point you in the right direction.

Go to [www.firstmethodistchurch.com](http://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.

Here is your youth group calendar:

**Thursday, November 5**—The youth group selling concessions for Fleetwood Mac/Eagles concert. Proceeds benefit youth group, Hugs for Alex, Angel Tree ministry.

**Wednesday, November 25**—No youth group meeting. The youth room will not be open. Happy Thanksgiving! Gobble Gobble!

**Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29**, —Regular Sunday Schedule. Youth Praise Band practice at 2pm, Youth room opens at 3:30, NWC practice at 4pm, free supper at 5, Dinner and a movie at 5. Bread for the Journey at 6.

**Wednesday, November 4, 11, & 18**—Regular youth group schedule. Youth room opens at 3:30. Concession stand open. Randy Tankersley is in the youth room on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 til 5:15 for math and science tutoring. Lesson at 6:15. Youth Room closes at 8pm. If you can get here, I can get you home.

**Discovery weekend**... the Winter Retreat for Junior Highs. Jan. 29-31. Registration forms and parent letters available at [www.firstmethodistchurch.com](http://www.firstmethodistchurch.com) !

**Encounter...**A Wintertime Youth Retreat for Senior Highs...Feb 19-21.

**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

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

### **October, 2015**

Contributions 10/1– 10/26 ..\$54,521.00

Expenditures 10/1– 10/26 ...\$54,969.00

### **ATTENDANCE / Average for Month**

Sunday School	- 95
Casual 'n Christ	- 150
Grounded	- 66
Traditional Worship	- 71
Bread for the Journey	- 21

Deadline for December Newsletter articles is November 27, 2015

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 Snack Supper 5:00pm—G2 Girls 6:00pm—Youth Worship 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 6:15pm -UMYF/BUBBA's/ Children 6:15 pm –Chancel Choir * 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 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	2	3	4	5 Praise Band Benefit Concert	6	7
CARE HOUSE CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT....FUMC will collect <b>GREEN BEANS</b> this month! Place your donation in the collection bins.						
8 Charge Conference	9 5:30pm—Trustees Mtg.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 11:30am-UMW Exe. Mtg. 5pm-Finance Mtg. 6pm-Leadership Mtg.	17 11am – UMW Joint Meeting & Luncheon 5-9pm Ammanus Cluster	18	19	20	21
22 UMW-Bake Sale CONSECRATION SUNDAY Community Thanksgiving Service @ Reaching the World Bible Church on N. Cannon Ave.	23	24	25 NO Wednesday Night Meal	26 THANKSGIVING DAY 	27	28
29	30					

