

The First News



Information published as of: December 30, 2016
Issue 01-17

JANUARY 2017

Our Mission:

Bringing People to Jesus
Building up Believers
Blessing the World

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

January 1st seems to signal a time to rally the troops to make better our past, to seek new adventures, and to improve the world around us. The church, with the exception of Church Staff, relies completely on volunteers who will share their time and talent to make new dreams reality. Even though we have nominated and elected our new officers for 2017, there is still a great need for others to help.

These are some of the most needed areas where volunteers can work with Staff to provide the best ministries that help meet our spiritual and personal needs:

We need a volunteer(s) who will work with others to plan and implement local mission projects. Our steeple can be seen from just about anywhere in the community. One of the ways we can become more visible is to be active in missions in our very own community. The possibilities are endless. We need servant disciples who will extend our reach into our community and help to "make Jesus real" for others. Who can step up and lead us in making our church visible in local missions?

We need more persons who are gifted and can facilitate and lead Bible studies, whether at the church or in their homes. Bible study is essential to the growth and nurturing of disciples for Jesus Christ. New Sunday School classes need to be organized. New APPS groups are needed. These are home study groups that offer study and support for spiritual growth. Biblical illiteracy is a huge problem in our churches. Who will step up and lead a study?

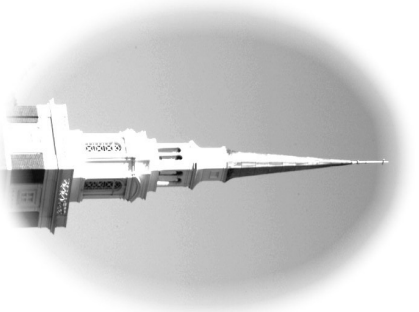
We need persons who will join our Stream Team. These are persons who can help with the livestreaming televising of our worship services, persons who can help run sound systems, and work on Media teams. No experience is necessary. These are simple operations than anyone can learn in a short time. Who will step up?

We need persons who will commit to visit our homebound, assisted living homes, and nursing homes. This is not a ministry limited to the pastoral staff. Some of our precious members constantly need to be reminded their church still remembers them. Holy Communion can be offered in many of these opportunities. Who will step up and make this ministry real for others?

These are but a few of the ministry areas to which you can give time. Any Staff person can help you plug in to any area for which you might have gifts and interest. **Supporting the church with our time and talents is one of the most overlooked contributions we make.** Our Church Staff does a great job. Our strength, however, depends on the number of volunteers and their contributions that can make 2017 a great year for Sylacauga First United Methodist Church.

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»



MUSIC & WORSHIP

New Year's Note from David

As we close out 2016 and prepare for a 2017, let's celebrate some of the awesome things we've seen happen in Worship & Arts!

- > *Weekly Worship Experiences* – **Dawson Brown, FUMC Praise Band**
- > *Weekly Traditional Worship* – **Chancel Choir**
- > *Frequent Worship offerings from New World Choir & Children's Choirs*
- > **Celebrity Benefit Concert** – *Music of the Eagles & Fleetwood Mac*
- > **Sing Out '16** – *NWC – Central Florida Music/Worship & Missions*
- > *Chancel Choir Lent/Easter Cantata 2016, "A Living Hope"*
- > **FUMC Handbells re-born**
- > *New World Choir – Summer Retreat, Shocco Springs*
- > **Praise Band (aka Spring Street Band)** –
- > *Community Fall Festival / The Christmas Experience*
- > *NWC Christmas Musical 2016, "O Holy Night"*
- > *Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata 2016, "At Last, NOEL!"*
- > **2016 Christmas Eve Candlelight**

In 2017, we are super excited to see our *New World Choir* take to the air, literally! They will be flying to **Italy** in March for **Sing Out '17**. For eight days, beginning March 15th, they will be performing and witnessing, as well as doing missions in **Rome, Florence and Venice**. It will be a trip of a lifetime for our young people. Many thanks to all who are helping support this wonderful trip!

With Lent/Easter right around the corner, we are excited about launching our efforts toward more powerful programs for the season. Most of all, we are working to make each and every worship experience here at FUMC a special one, indeed. One that will help everyone involved to be inspired and encouraged to walk the challenging walk of discipleship.

Lastly, and on a personal note, I would like to say thank you to our church family for continuing to support our Worship and Arts Ministry. Musicians are funny! Yes, applause helps our feelings. But, really, it is an affirmation that we are helping to make a difference in the lives of people that we seek. I believe that I would speak for all of our Worship & Arts team members in saying that we are broken vessels, jars of clay, not perfect. But we sincerely want to use the talents that the Lord has blessed us with to sing his praises and to support the church. Your words of encouragement, prayers and hugs mean more to us than you would ever believe. Don't be shy to applaud or shout 'AMEN!' when you hear something that stirs you. Remember, that you're not really applauding the musicians so much as you are giving praise and glory to our God and our Redeemer who brought us all together and gave you that stirring in your heart.

Happy New Year! Let's make 2017 the BEST EVER at FUMC!!!

Yours in Christ!

David Simpkins

256-404-4109 david@firstmethodistchurch.com or
georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS: Leslie Morris, Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Sandra Haynes, Theodore Kelley, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Jimmy Hare, Clyde Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Joanna Shealey, Megan Samples, Louise Craig, Ruth Cather, David Cochran, Charles Jones, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Nan Hoaglin, Russ Stanton, Alex Dickinson, Abby Hicks, Lucy Barnett, Pat Carver, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, Edna & L. P. Hickman, Daphne Robinson Stanton, Mac Howell, Susan Gilbert, Terry & Vickie Barnett, Mollie Ann Ford, Family of Jimmy Isbell, Charlene Cleveland, Kathryn Mallory, Robert, Corey Miller, Larry Cobb, Johnny Mullins, Carol White Harris, Steve Phillips, Steve Ezekiel, Gene Strickland, Robin Morris Family, Tripp Pickering.

IN HOSPITAL: Sarah Whitman-CVMC.

Please help keep our prayer concerns list up to date.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Willa Dean Lewis by Mickey & Sandra Morton, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Clifton, Upper Room Class, Steve & Carla Taylor, Karen R. Little, Linda & Ben Gamel, Danny Deese, Travis & Averiett Wesson, Martha McKemie, Mr. & Mrs. W. Howard Gillum, Gene & Margaret Ann Ham, Ralph & Clarene Jackson, Craig, Vicki, & Cory Miller, Phil & Suzy Hammonds, Joe & Willie Harris, Jerry & Nan Henderson, Joanne Herold, Bill & Pat Jessup, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Menzies, Nancy W. Powell, Taylor & Lydia Pursell, Janice Reams, Jim & Joyce Snowden, Alan & Dianne Wingfield, Marion Wood, Bill & Anne Hare, Alice P. Cislo, Jim & Kay Nail, Dr. & Mrs. William Friday, Anne O. Gray, C. Cayce Rumsey, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Werling, Bill & Anne Hare, Bradd & Jane McCune, Connie Farr, Ruth Cather, Gene Rozelle, Tommy & Cheryl Dobson, Ray & Martha Crump.

In Memory of Dr. O.B. Carr by Anne Gray, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Menzies

In Memory of Marie Floyd by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hawkins, Bradd & Jane McCune.

In Memory of Annette Gaston by Jamie & Laurie Aderholt, Marilyn Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Werling, Alice P. Cislo.

In Memory of Betty Hollis by Ray & Martha Crump, John & Carol Reamey, Alice P. Cislo.

In Memory of Morris Hollis by Anne Gray, Ray & Martha Crump, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hawkins, John & Carol Reamey, Deborah Gammon Ford, Alice P. Cislo, Melissa H. Mulligan.

In Memory of Fredrick Hodges by Upper Room, Mr. Mrs. Raymond Styres.

In Memory of Desmond Mitchell by Upper Room Class.

In Memory of Thomas Hale, Jr. by Upper Room Class.

ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

January 1

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

January 8

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 15

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 22

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 & Family and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Holmes & Family.

January 29

ALTAR FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Cherry Rozelle** by Gene Rozelle.

Christian sympathy is extended to
Ruth & Willie Johnson
in the death of her brother
Thomas J. Hale, Jr.

Christian sympathy is extended to
Don & Lynn Hodges
in the death of his brother
Frederick Hodges.

Christian sympathy is extended to
Tony & Joann Mitchell
in the death of his brother
Desmond Mitchell.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December, 2016

Contributions \$50,229.00
Expenditures \$58,990.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	89
Casual 'n Christ	148
Grounded	58
Traditional Worship	67
Dec 11th: Chancel Choir-Christmas Cantata	132
Dec 18th: NWC Christmas Concert	162
Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service	362

YOUTH NEWS

CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUTH

www.firstmethodistchurch.com

Springtime by the Sea VBS for Senior Adults. The dates are May 22-25, 2017. I'm driving the bus. Daggone. The list of people interested is getting pretty big. I now have rates and brochures if you are thinking of going.



This month's youth Kodak moment is a picture of Calvin. Calvin is a one year old boy from Malawi. Calvin was born with a limb deformity. He is the kid that FUMC Youth is helping this month. If you would like to financially support our venture with Cure International, you can drop a check off by the church office, or you can go to www.cure.org and help directly!

Speaking of the internet, you should go check out www.firstmethodistchurch.com, while you are there, you should 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. Some exciting changes are taking place on the website, too. Making it more user-friendly. Let us know what you think!

Don't forget to bring peanut butter for the Care House to the Activities Room when you can. If you get it here, I can get it there. We are not just a steeple. We are the peanut butter church. Makin' Jesus REAL. Daggone.

Check the website calendar and social media (or sign up on the website) to get the latest on upcoming activities for the youth group.

That's my story, and I am sticking to it.

I love you, church.

Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars

256-267-1300



Children's Corner

What an awesome year our children have had here at FUMC. We have done so many things to serve others in our community, learned, and grew more through Christ. It has been an amazing thing to see and I'm so thankful to watch these children grow.

As we approach a New Year, just about all of us are going to make some kind of goal. There's nothing wrong with setting goals, but this year resolve to do something with a higher purpose. I pray for 2017 that we all make our walk with Christ more real.

If you would like to get involved with the children's ministries here at FUMC for one of your 2017 goals, please let me know. Rather you'd like to help teach a Sunday School class once a month, help out on Wednesday nights for an hour, or getting involved with our VBS, we'd love to have you join the team.

January Children's Corner:

- January 1st-** Combine Service at 10am. No Sunday School
- January 4th-** Game Night. Bring one game to share with others.
- January 11th-** Setting New Year's resolutions with God and sticking to it.
- January 18th-** Movie Night! Show starts at 5:30pm.
- January 25th-** Walking with Christ in 2017.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2017 here at FUMC!

Leslie Lucas,
Children's Director
256-861-0409
leslieslu-
cas@hotmail.com



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE

FUMC KINDERGARTEN IS
THE BEST!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We are heading into 2017 – 70 years of building Christians. Can you believe it?! FUMC opened its doors in 1947. No, I have not been here that long!

I can happily say that we are going full force in the coming year. Animal Shelter fundraiser, Original Works fundraiser, teaching ABEKA curriculum, singing, learning through computers, Bible verses, etc. FUMC is the best!!

Dee Dee Mathews, Director

256-249-2300

CHURCH STAFF

- James Haskins - Senior 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; Robin Lewis/Charmelle Lewis - Pianists
- Karen Brewer - Church Administrator
- Jean Campbell - Administrative Assistant

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ◆ **2017—OFFERING ENVELOPE are on the table in the Narthex.**
- ◆ **Byron White will begin a new bible study on January 9th.** This study will be an introduction to the Synoptic Gospels. Will meet in room 105 from 9:30am-11:30am. Books \$20. Please call the church office to express your interest. See you on the 9th.
- ◆ **DISCOVERY WEEKEND RETREAT: January 27th-29th.** Youth will lead all three services.
- ◆ **SUNDAY, February 12th**—will be **Scout Sunday**. Recognizing the Scouting ministries of our church in the 9am & 11am services.
- ◆ **Constant Contact** is our main source for communicating events and current happenings. Sign up for Constant Contact (an email from James Haskins)
<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=5g9rkiqab&p=oi&m=1116971002078&sit=5muqsruib&f=13af20f2-89dd-44f0-8fd2-9121555f6616> this will take you directly to the sign up form.
- ◆ ***Stream Team.** We need volunteers. Sound Board, Lights, Computer/Video Graphics, Live Stream Camera and Editing, No Experience Necessary.....just a heart for service.



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>

**ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DUE :
JANUARY 27th!**

FUMC Sylacauga Cherub Choir & Children's Choir

I am beyond blessed to begin the new year with you and your children.

The tentative date for our Easter production is Sunday, April 2, 2017 in the Sanctuary. I will give you more details as I receive them.

Both choirs will begin rehearsing on Wednesday nights at 5:00pm. We will resume on Wednesday, January 4.

Please let me know if your child would like to sing during a worship service.



January Bible Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...”



**Both choirs will
rehearse on
Wednesday nights.**

Bring a friend to choir.

Dates to remember:

>Wednesday, January 4—resume rehearsal

>Wednesday, February 22—no choir

>Sunday, April 2—Easter performance

LaKeisha Crocker

Children's Choir

256-762-5229

teachmusic73@yahoo.com

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- Children Choir 11:00am- Traditional Service* 4:00pm- NWC 6:00pm- Bread for the Journey	6:30am –Monday Morning Glory 9:30am-MMBS 9:30am-Bible Study 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 4:00pm- Hand Bell Choir 5:00pm- Emmaus Reunion Group 6:00pm- Knit Together	3:00pm –Youth Room Opens 5:30pm- Children's Activities 6:00pm– Care Group-Bible Study 6:00 pm –Chancel Choir * 6:00 pm– Pastor's Bible Study 6:15pm—UMYF/BUBBA's/ Children 7:30 pm - Praise Team *	9:00am-Breath for Life 10:00am-Breath for Life 5:15pm-CardioActivities Room



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1  10:00AM—COMBINED WORSHIP—SANTUARY No Bread for the Journey	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 5PM-Children's Choir	5 SCHOOL STARTS BACK!	6	7
8 6pm-Bread for the Journey	9 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm-Trustees Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Leadership	17 10am UMW Circle I & II 2pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm-GNO	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Discovery/Youth will lead all three services.	30	31			DISCOVERY WEEKEND Jan. 27th—Jan. 29th	