

The First News

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Issue 01-18

JANUARY 2018



Our Mission:

Bringing People to Jesus
Building up Believers
Blessing the World

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR...

One of my favorite stories this time of the year is about Charles Eliot, once president emeritus of Harvard University. In the summer of the ninetieth birthday, he took a walk one day down a road from his home in Maine to a neighboring cottage where the young Shattuck family lived. After visiting with Mrs. Shattuck, Dr. Eliot requested permission to hold their new baby. Surprised by the request, Mrs. Shattuck lifted her baby son from the crib and carefully laid him in the frail arms of the eminent educator. Dr. Eliot held the baby quietly. While gazing intently into the child's face, he returned the baby to his mother and said with tears in his eyes, "I have been looking at the end of life for so long I wanted to look for a few moments at its beginning."

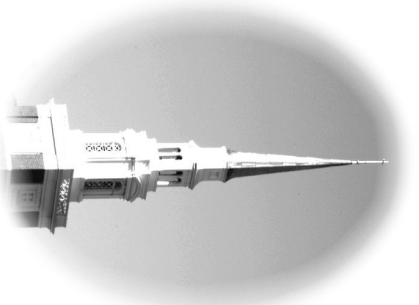
In this New Year we need to look back at the last year with such appreciation and joy. Memory plays such a significant role in the past, present and future of our lives. When we look back, we remember in a fresh way how important others have been in our lives. The prophet Isaiah was trying to get his people in touch with their spiritual heritage when he said, "Come to me all who seek deliverance, all who look for the Lord's help; look to the rock from whence you are hewn, the quarry from which you were dug."

But while we look back at our past, we need to look ahead to our future with anticipation. We all look to the future with mingled hopes and fears. There are many uncertainties out there in our unpredictable world along with many possibilities. Life is always changing as things do not stay the same. We spend a good part of our lives in transition moving from one phase of life to the other. The song from "Fiddler on the Roof" put it so well, "Sunrise, sunset, swiftly flow the years, one season following another, filled with happiness and tears."

Our lives are full of beginnings and endings, entrances and exits, passes and pauses. As I begin this New Year, I will remember what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 121, "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forward and forever more."

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

Congratulations to all of our Worship & Arts Team Members for making it through a wonderful Advent/Christmas Season. Thank you for using your gifts to lead our church in Worship!

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays – 6pm, Choir Room
Beginning January 3rd

New World Choir Rehearsals

Sundays – 4:30pm, Choir Room
Beginning January 7th

Praise Band Rehearsals

Wednesdays – 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall
Beginning January 10th

Children's Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays – 5pm, Fellowship Hall
Beginning January 10th

FUMC Easter Cantata – March 18th
(Details Coming Soon)

Sing Out '18 – March 24-29 *(Details Coming Soon)*
Homecoming Concert – April 1st, 6pm Sanctuary

Easter Sunday Celebration – April 1st

*And of course, don't miss the exciting worship experiences at our regular Sunday morning worship services during the Christmas season!
See you at CHURCH!!!*

David Simpkins

256-404-4109

david@firstmethodistchurch.com or
georgedavidsimpkins@gmail.com

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Jimmy Hare by Deborah Gammon Ford.

In Memory of Edna Hickman by Anne O. Gray, Vivian Machen, Archie & Katherine Huffstetler, Freda York.

In Memory of Terry Barnett by Jim & Kay Nail, Bill & Anne Hare.

In Memory of James G. Wright by Deborah Gammon Ford.

In Memory of Ware & Annette Gaston by Maury Gaston.

The **STAINED GLASS WINDOW** has been re-enforced and a new protective covering in place. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project. Project completed and totally funded!



ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

January 7

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 14

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 21

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

January 21

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jamie Brown, Linda Jinks, Chris McDaniel, Betty Martin, Jeff & Bethany Duncan, Clyte Fox, Dottie Arnold, Milton Hogland, Megan Samples, Louise Craig, Ruth Cather, David Cochran, Charles Jones, Joseph Zwireck, Crystal Wilson, Nan Hoaglin, Russ Stanton, Alex Dickinson, Lucy Barnett, Ashley Sanders, Anna Love, Lee J. White, L. P. Hickman, Daphne Robinson Stanton, Mollie Ann Ford, Kathryn Mallory, Corey Miller, Carol White Harris, Steve Phillips, Steve Ezekiel, Tripp Pickering, Cindy Diffie, Shannon Nickolson, Kevin Geeslin, Sammy Blocker, John Comer, Heather Adair, Shirley Pearce, Eli Fortner, Donnie Winfrey, Connie Farr, Nancy Taylor, Henry Blair, Dick Werling, Betty Sprayberry, Gage Wright, David Foote, Shelia Floyd Burton, Jamie Hardy, Todd Hoaglin, Terry Boyd, Betty Etheridge, Charles Vawter, Craig Hunnicutt, Jerry Henderson, Mack Howell, Jan Gibson, Millard Starnes, R. C. Wakefield, Betty Riggs, Lenny Hatala, Jimmy Persons, Tim Norris, Glenda Ivey, Harold & Becky Brooks, Glenda Styres, Carol Ann Hawkins, Dot Blocker.

IN HOSPITAL: Sarah Whitman-CVMC, Cheryl Dobson-Brookwood.

(Please notify the church office of anyone to be added or removed from the prayer list.)

YOUTH NEWS and OTHER STUFF

Discovery Weekend is coming! Yes, I know I just wrote about this last month, but, Discovery Weekend is our biggest event of the year, and it is what we are about right now. Our weekend to celebrate the junior high students will be February 2-4, 2018. Letters to junior highs will go out in late December. We need you to participate. Whether you are a student or an adult, we need your help. We need OVERNIGHTERS, meal fixers, snack fixers, decorators, prayer warriors, table leaders, show-er hosts, setter-uppers, taker-downers, cleaners, and the list goes on and on. I hope that all junior highs will come for the weekend, and I hope that all senior highs and adults will consider taking part in some way. There are quick jobs and weekend-long jobs. It is the most well-attended youth ministry event of the year!

Mark Arnold has begun a Sunday School class that meets at 9:10am on Sundays in the old New World Choir room in the back of the Activities Room. We call it, "Nine-Ten." Well, isn't that special. It is an all-ages class. The topic of discussion every week is the Scripture passage that will be preached in Grounded Worship at 10am. Hope to see you there.

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

Don't forget that we always enjoy (and need) extra adults at every youth meeting. We are depending on you volunteers to keep us Safe-Sanctuary compliant.

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

I love you, church.

Mr. Chuck =-)
Chuck Terrell, Youth Pastor to the stars
First United Methodist Church,
Sylacauga AL
256-267-1300
www.firstmethodistchurch.com

Children's Corner



FIRST METHODIST KINDERGARTEN - DAYCARE



MOTHER'S DAY OUT

First Methodist will start a Mother's Day Out Program this summer. The hours are 8am to 12 noon Wednesdays and Fridays. All children who are 2 years of age and not enrolled in our kindergarten / nursery program are invited to attend.

Registration fee is \$50.00. The cost for each month (June and July) is \$120.00. We must have at least 5 children to enroll.

If you are interested please call me at 256-249-2300 Ext. 26.

Dee Dee Mathews, Director
256-249-2300

Children's Corner Calendar

- January 3rd- NO children activities
- January 10th- Ringing in the New Year with Christ!
Back to normal schedule.
- January 17th- Singing at the Nursing Home at 5:30pm
- January 24th- Fishermen of God
- January 31st- Game Night!

Looking forward to a fabulous 2018 with all the children at FUMC! 2017 is going to be tough to beat.

Leslie Lucas,
Children's Director
256-861-0409

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 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Kindergarten: (256) 249-2300 Nursery: (256) 249-0644
Dee Dee Mathews - Kindergarten Director
Ramsey Reynolds - Financial Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **MEALS on WHEELS:** the 2nd Friday and the 4th Friday are open. We need volunteer for these days beginning in Jan., 2018. This is an important ministry of our church. Call the church office.
- ◆ Byron White's new study will begin January 15, 2018 in room 105. The focus of this course is Mike Slaughter's book "Made For A Miracle". Mike is Pastor Emeritus and Global Ambassador for Ginghamburg Church and a spokesman for change and growth. Please join us!

Deaths in our church family:

Terry Barnett	November 25, 2017
Georgeann Veazey	December 29, 2017
Theodore Kelly	December 30, 2017
Joe Swindall	December 31, 2017

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December, 2017

Contributions	\$72,342.00
Expenditures	\$62,675.00

ATTENDANCE / Average for Month

Sunday School	56
Casual 'n Christ	100
Grounded	69
Traditional Worship	55
Live Stream	85
Christmas Musical "The Jesus Gift"	177
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	381
Sylacauga Schools' Choirs Concert	650

FUMC Children's and BUBBAS Choirs January 2018



January 10 - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

January 17 - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

January 24 - Children's - 5pm
BUBBAS - 5:30pm

January 28 - Sunday - 9am
BUBBAS sing with Praise Band

LaKeisha Crocker

Children's Choir

256-762-5229

lakeishacrocker@gmail.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h1>January</h1> <h2>2018</h2> </div>
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* 4:30pm- 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	3:00pm- Youth Room Opens 5:00pm- Children's Choir 5:30pm- BUBBAS Choir 5:30pm- Children's Activities 6:00pm- UMYF / BUBBAS 6:00pm– Care Group-Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir * 7:30 pm - Praise Team *	9:00am-Breath for Life 10:00am-Breath for Life	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Church Office Closed	2	3 NO CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES 6pm-Chancel Choir	4 County Schools start back	5	6
7 New SS Class at 9:10AM All -ages Meet Activities Room 4:30pm-NWC 6:pm-Bread for the Journey Starts Back.	8 5:30pmTrustees Meeting City Schools starts back	9 6:00pm- Knit Together	10 5pm-Children's Coir 6pm—Care Group-Bible Study Room 105 7:30pm Praise Band	11	12	13
14	15 9:30am –Byron's Bible Study room 105 11:30am-UMW Exe Mtg. 5pm-Finance Committee 6pm-Leadership	16 10:00am UMW Circle I & II 2:00pm UMW Circle III 6:30pm GNO	17 5:30PM-Children Singing at Nursing Home.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 BUBBAS Choir sing with Praise Bank.	29	30	31			