



First News First

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5

JUNE 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

Dates to Remember

- June 6 Health Screenings Handbell Spaghetti Dinner
- June 8-12.. VBS
- June 14 Anchor begins
- June 16 Senior Fellowship
- June 17 Grocery Bagging
- June 18 Jubilee Day
- June 19 UMW Lunch & Learn
- June 21 Pastor Mike's Retirement Celebration
- June 28 Pastor Mike's Last Sunday Rejoicing Spirits
- July 5 New Pastor Meet & Greet

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From the Pastor

As my time at First Church draws to a close, I have been thinking about these eleven years. All of us are different now than we were eleven years ago, and though First Church is in a different place, still we are vibrant and vital, still fully engaged in the ministry and mission to which God calls us, still devoting all the resources we can gather and deploy to strengthening God's Kingdom among us and across the globe. What a privilege it has been to be a part of this community of faith for a small part of your journey.

I'm rooting through files and papers, books and mementoes that I have gathered through forty years of ministry. As you can imagine, I'm saving some things (too many!), parting with some things, and rediscovering things I've forgotten about. I came across the outline of the first sermon I offered here at First Church, on July 4, 2004. In it is a story that I'd like to repeat for you here, because it is even more true now than it was then.

Stan Musial played baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals for 22 years. After that he was manager and Vice President of the club. Musial always wore a smile and meant it, never argued calls, and always enjoyed the game and the other players who shared the field with him. When asked by a reporter, "How do you, after so many years, maintain your boyish enthusiasm, your excitement for baseball?" He said that he had never lost his sense of awe that he was privileged to play on the same field as Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, Leo Durocher, and so many others. "Who am I to have this opportunity?" he asked.

On July 4, 2004, I understood what Stan Musial was talking about. I stood before the esteemed congregation of First Church as your pastor and marveled at your faithfulness, your generosity, your sense of mission and your commitment to the ministry of Christ Jesus. Now I marvel at those same things even more.

Through the past decade we have seen, and continue to experience, unanticipated difficult times. Our nation and the world experienced a remarkable economic challenge in 2008 and since...from which we are still recovering. We have seen the global battle against terrorism move in increasingly unsettling directions. In our North American culture values associated with community, justice, family, generosity and honesty, among others, have eroded at a remarkable rate. All these things we, the Church, resist and challenge as we work to strengthen community, family, generosity, peace and justice in all our relationships.

First Church's ministry and witness have challenged all these trends and stood to represent the Prince of Peace at every opportunity and in more ways than I can catalogue. For all this and or so much more I offer you my admiration and my thanks. "Who am I to have had this opportunity?"

Pastor Mike

Stewardship



I hope you are enjoying the 2015 Stewardship Campaign and the weekly Stewardship Seconds during each Sunday service. It really is amazing the number of ministries, and the various types of ministries that are supported by our annual unified budget. The congregation is to be commended for their generous and consistent support each and every year. But this year, we have great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond the “normal” giving levels. At this point, that gap shortfall is estimated to be about \$50,000 (about 5-6%).

Jesus talked often in the Bible about truly being rich. In Luke 15, he warns all of us about covetousness, and how our life does NOT consist in the abundance of the things we possess.

In order to be “rich toward God”, we need to lay up our treasures to heaven, not for ourselves. It is our hope that our annual giving will be enough to continue to support and possibly expand many of the important ministries/activities here at FUMC.

During June’s “Stewardship Seconds”, we will concentrate on the ministries that are supported by the “Pastors”. It is true that a large portion of our annual budget goes toward support of our Pastors (including salaries, healthcare, retirement, housing expenses, and travel costs). But the job description for the Pastors is much more than just Sunday morning church services. Besides preparing for Sunday morning worship services, there is planning for the Anchor services, Rejoicing Spirits, and other special services throughout the year (especially during Lent and Advent). The Pastors also plan and lead many Weddings and Funeral services throughout the year. Pastoral Care is a large part of their commitment. This includes visits to Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Rehab centers, and the homebound. Also included under Pastoral Care is pre-marital counseling, and grief, marital, and other personal counseling care. The Pastors also must assume CEO responsibility for the administration and general oversight of all operations of the church, including staff supervision, planning, committee meetings, and district and denominational reporting. The Pastors positional authority puts them right in the middle of local, district, and annual conference denominational issues. It also provides them with committee and Board of Directors opportunities with local charitable and other important denominational organizations. In their “spare time”, they also lead Bible Studies and provide small group leadership support, among other weekly church commitments. During June, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Pastors’ Root”. If we have roots “**Grounded in Faith**”, we will be able to “**Grow to Serve**”.

Staff Parish Relations

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Most people experience some difficulty learning the names of the people they meet. Think of the challenge posed by the need to learn almost 1000 names. Drawing on the special powers granted the Staff/Parish Relations Committee in times of transition, the Appellation Protocol is hereby invoked. When one encounters Denny or Betsy Keller, one prefaces the conversation with one's name. This practice continues until Denny and Betsy begin the conversation with one's own name.

It wouldn't hurt to wear your name tag.

Thank you for your cooperation ~ SPRC

Fellowship

PASTOR MIKE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



When: Sunday, June 21st @ 12:15pm.

Where: FUMC's multi-purpose room.

What: Lunch will be provided. For this reason, we ask that you kindly **RSVP by Sunday, June 7 using the RSVP card that was mailed to all members.** Please give this card to the **church office.** We will have special guests from outside the church joining us for this celebration, so First Church members are also asked to **bring a side dish to share on that day.**

Why: To celebrate Pastor Mike's 40 plus years of ministry! Let's send him off with a great gathering of people! Please come celebrate with us! All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!

Senior Fellowship June 16, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Pastor Mike has agreed to play the organ from our enjoyment!



Contact Janice Bowen at 766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com for more information.

New Pastor Meet & Greet July 5, 9:30 - 10:30 am

A "Meet & Greet" reception will be held on Sunday, July 5 from 9:30 -10:30 am for our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Denny Keller and his wife Betsy. Don't miss out on this opportunity to welcome them both on their first Sunday here at First Church!

Finance

Through April 30, 2015 33% of year

General Fund

2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 288,750	
Actual income	\$ 287,079	(33% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 1,671	

Actual expenses \$ 285,835

Building Fund \$ 3,031

Legacy Campaign \$ 1,420

During April we paid a quarterly interest payment of \$371 and a principal payment of \$10,000 from the General Fund and \$3,000 on the principal from the Building Fund. That brings the balance of our building debt to \$20,400. However, the trustees borrowed \$259,000 for the purchase of a parsonage for our incoming senior pastor.

Please support our Grounded in Faith... Growing to Serve campaign with an extra gift to the General Fund.

Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services

8:15 am &

10:45 am

Sunday School

9:30 am

Anchor Worship
Sunday Evenings @ 7:00 pm



Beginning June 14



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and care givers.

Holy Communion

Bimonthly Communion	6/7/15	Pew Service
Bimonthly Communion	8/2/15	Pew Service
World Communion	10/4/15	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	11/29/15	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	12/24/15	Loaves and Chalice

Note: Gluten-free bread available in the center of the bread plates.

Get Ready for Anchor!

If you didn't get a chance to check out the Sunday evening summer service last summer, here's your chance. Anchor will begin on Sunday, June 14 at 7:00pm and will continue each Sunday during the summer months. Join us for a young adult inspired worship experience. All are welcomed.

Why Wear a NameTag in Church?

When large groups of people get together where there are potential new faces, name tags help to break the ice. And with Pastor Keller and his wife, Betsy, arriving in July, just imagine how overwhelming it will be for him to learn everyone's name!

Name tags invite people to greet one another and help newcomers to get to know people more easily. Think about it: How many relationships are you missing out on because you don't know someone's name? So let's get in the habit of wearing our name tags! Check your mailbox... If you don't have a name tag please email adultministry@fumchurch.com or call Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104.

Always be eager to practice hospitality! (Romans 12:13)

Bells

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner June 6, 4:00-6:30pm

The Bell Choirs will be hosting our 6th annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner. Come enjoy the atmosphere downstairs in the Belle Campanile. Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Beverage, and Dessert – all for \$8. \$5 for children, and 3 & under are free! Tickets are available from any bell choir member, or at the door that day.

On the Road

We have 9 ringers who will be attending the Area 2 Festival Handbell Conference at the University of Scranton June 27 – 30. Next year we are planning on attending our 3rd International Handbell Symposium to be held in Vancouver, Canada in August.

Missions

Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on June 17 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeeking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket in the narthex. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. There were 240 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,527.49.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project!



VIM Workcamp to Clearfield County, PA

It's not too late to sign up for the Susquehanna Conference's Volunteers-In-Mission (VIM) workcamp in the Allport/Bigler/Woodland area of Clearfield County, PA from Sunday, June 21 through Friday, June 26. This is the fourth annual VIM workcamp to the Allport/Bigler/Woodland area, and there is still much work to be done helping the elderly, homebound, and economically struggling residents of those communities. Reverend Jeff Fisher from Calvary UMC in Harrisburg heads up this workcamp. Jeff can be reached at 717-545-0021 or via email at jfisher@susumc.org for more details. Come and work for the entire week if you are able, or come for just part of the week if that's all your schedule allows. Even if you can't physically be part of this VIM workcamp, please pray for me and the other volunteers who will be endeavoring to provide a faithful witness to Jesus Christ to those in need in the Allport/Bigler/Woodland area. Thank you!

Roger Walton

Isaiah 61 - New Opportunity to Feed the Hungry in the Name of Jesus!

This summer get outside, get some exercise and help those less fortunate. Volunteer with Isaiah 61 and help to provide ministry and hot meals to the homeless in Harrisburg.

Tiffany Holland has been involved with this valuable ministry for months, and is assembling teams to serve on the third and fifth Wednesdays of the month. If you would like to join or simply obtain more information, please contact Tiffany either by phone at 717-961-9644 or email: tholland1967@gmail.com.

Congregational Care

Bereavement Support

Homeland Hospice will be offering a summer bereavement support group at our church on Tuesday evenings from June 16 thru July 21 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. This group is offered free of charge to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The group will promote a sense of healing, support, community, and new coping skills. Registration is required by June 10 and can be completed by calling Homeland Hospice at 221-7890 or by email at bmedkeff-rose@homelandhospice.org.

Adult Ministry

“Go and Make Disciples” ~ Summer Sunday School 2015

In Matthew 28:19 the disciples are each commissioned by Jesus to go and make disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we are each called to do the same, and not just here, but in all nations! What does that mean? It means that we are each given the power and authority by Jesus to teach others about Him. How do the people of First Church do this? The ways are endless!

This summer join us as we engage in various ministries, missions and discussions focused on how we make disciples. Come to actively participate, gain new experiences and discover or rediscover your calling to teach and show others the love of Christ.

Combined Adult Summer Sunday School will begin on July 12 and run through September 6. Children and youth are also invited to attend. The schedule is being planned now so if you have a ministry/mission that you would like to share with the congregation on a Sunday morning and it has an “active” component (something that those in attendance can participate in helping with) please contact Tina Eaton right away at 766-4611 or email adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Matthew 28:19

Summer Bible Study

Summer is a great time to participate in a short-term Bible study, and a new study is set to begin on June 17! The study being offered is written by Philip Yancey and is called “*Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?*” As Christians, our views are often counter-cultural and misunderstood. In this 5-week, video and discussion-based study, we will explore what kind of news is good to a culture that thinks it has rejected Christian views, and learn more effective ways to communicate the Good News in a way that will disarm even the most cynical.

This study will meet on Wednesday evenings from June 17 to July 15 from 6:45 – 8:15 pm. You can choose two ways to study:

1. Simply come for the video and discussion on Wednesday evenings. All materials for discussion will be provided.
2. Come on Wednesday evenings for the video and discussion, AND read the book ahead of time. (The book is available for you to purchase for \$11.49 at christianbook.com. The Kindle version is available for \$9.99 at amazon.com.)

This study will be facilitated by Tina Eaton. Kindly let her know you are coming by emailing adultministry@fumchurch.com or sign up at the display in the main lobby.

Children’s Department

Children’s Department Newsletter- Are you receiving the Children’s Department Newsletter by email? If not, contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado to provide your email address so you can receive this information packed Newsletter!

Vacation Bible School June 8-12

Children, youth helpers and adult helpers join the force -



To register, go to <http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/fumchurch>, or call the church at (717) 766-4611, ext 102. It’s always one of the best weeks of the summer!

Vacation Bible School Snacks!

As we happily anticipate about 150 children joining us for this year's "G-Force Vacation Bible School" we are gathering snack foods to keep the children nourished and energized!

If you would like to donate snacks, collection baskets can be found along the tower entrance and outside the gym. Snack items needed: animal crackers, graham crackers, Cheez-it crackers, goldfish crackers, and TastyKakes (chocolate and vanilla varieties would be best!). Thank you so much!!

Questions? Janice Bowen – wecare@fumchurch.com or 766-4611 x112

Youth

All High School Graduates

There are scholarship applications available for all active Youth Group members that are graduating this year and going to further their education through 4-year colleges, trade schools or technical schools. Please complete the application and return it to Cheryl Mengle, Board of Trustees by June 30, either by putting it in her mailbox or emailing it to cmengle1@verizon.net. All scholarship awards will be paid directly to the school for tuition only. See Cheryl or Lisa Aronson for an application or pick one up outside the youth department by the Wedge.

Jubilee Day

Calling all youth and parents!

Sign up to help us with our trash clean up and parking lot supervision for Jubilee Day. This is one of our most profitable and consistent fundraising efforts for our youth mission trips and we can use all the help we can get.

Sign up in the main lobby in the Sign Up Binder or at www.timetosignup.com/kidscount in the 3G events and activities folder.

2015 Youth Mission Trip June 28 – July 3 Taylorsville, North Carolina

27 youth and adults will be partnering with YouthWorks for this year's summer mission experience. We will be helping with kids clubs, soup kitchen, clothing banks, minor repair jobs, and so much more! Our desire is to meet a new community of people and to both help them and learn from them. We pray that God is sharpening our minds to the fullness of what mission work can mean and is writing on our hearts a lifelong passion to want to help and make a difference.

Want to know more about the team? Pick up a pack of 2015 "How We Ride" trading cards in the main lobby of the church. Donations for cards are appreciated, but regardless, we would like you to take some cards and read the backs to learn about the team member. Then we ask that you be praying alongside us as we ready ourselves for this trip and while we are away.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Impact 2015 July 29 – August 2 Sign up Today!

Registration forms are now available for this summer camping experience. While this is an event aimed primarily at youth aged students, it is also very family friendly. We have had families attending since before their kids were youth and helped instill in them a lifelong love for Impact being a staple to their summer routine. Many college students return year after year to be a part of the Impact experience. The best part: you can come for part or all of Impact! Check out the promo video on www.snylm.com to learn more about this spiritually rich camping adventure and considering being a part of this faith filled event. Registration forms are online at www.fumchurch.com under the "youth" tab labeled "events and activities" and by the camping display in the main lobby.

Graduates

Congratulations to our Graduates!

We are very proud of your effort and determination in pursuing and completing your educational endeavors. Well done! Celebrate those graduating from high school, undergrad, masters, and certificate .

Alana H. Daum

High School, Cumberland Valley
Attending: Mississippi State,
Veterinary Medical Technology

Cassidy Krnjaic

High School, Mechanicsburg
Attending: Widener University, Nursing

Colin Strumsky - Undergrad

Pennsylvania College of Technology
Associates of Applied Science (A.A.S.)

Rachel Miller

High School, Cumberland Valley
Attending: King's College - Wilkes Barre
Physician Assistant

Janelle Almond

Undergrad
Geneva College
BA Community Development

Hannah Holloway

Masters
George Washington University
MA Higher Education Administration

Caryn Knott

High School, Mechanicsburg
Attending: West Chester University
Athletic Training

Jim Robinson

Certification
HACC
Certificate in Carpentry

Franklin Helm

Undergrad
Harrisburg University
BS Computer & Information Security

Ronald K. Guyer

Undergrad
Strayer University
BS Information Systems
Information Security Officer

Brienne L. Wickenheiser

Undergrad
Messiah College
BS Applied Health Science
Attending: East Stroudsburg University, MS
Clinical Exercise Physiology

Lynn Rapp

Certification
Messiah College
Certificate in Youth Ministry

Kyle Wickenheiser

High School, Homeschool
Attending: Messiah College
Undeclared/ Baseball

Kylie Peters

High School, Mechanicsburg
Attending: Lynchburg College
Political Science/ Soccer

Evan Bourgeois

Undergrad
Penn State
BA Secondary Ed (Social Studies)

Matt Herring

Undergrad
West Chester University
BS Marketing

Ashley Baldwin

High School, Cumberland Valley
Attending: Temple University

We apologize if we missed recognizing anyone for their accomplishment. Please fill out a "graduation information" form found at the welcome desk and turn it in by June 15 to Lisa Aronson to have your information included in July's newsletter.

Health & Wellness

Your Health. Your Future

2 out of every 3 stroke victims have **NO** symptoms or warning....

Our committee is please to announce that **Prevention Health Screenings** in coming again to our church on **Saturday, June 6**. They will offer **8** different painless non-invasive screening test including a new one called a Heart Disease Risk Screen, which can screen for the underlying cause of heart attack and stroke—atherosclerosis. Doctors cannot order ultrasound tests unless you have symptoms. That makes preventative screenings critically important for you.

Other offered screening tests will include Stroke/Carotid Artery, Thyroid, Abdominal Aortic Aneuysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Artrial Fibrillation Heart Rhythm, Pulmonary Function and Bone Density-Osteoporosis. With early detection and proper follow-up, these conditions can be treated and possibly save your life.

There are package prices available or you may register for just one test. Preregistration is required. Please call 1-800-257-3516 to ask questions and to register.

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood!

Here are the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank blood drive donations for June:

June 3, 2-5:30pm	Pinnacle Health Dillsburg	I Trinity Dr., East, Dillsburg
June 4, 8am-4pm	Technology Park Blood Drive	2020 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg
June 8, 8am-4pm	Applebee's	6055 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
June 13, 9am-12pm	Grace UMC	216 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg
June 14, 7:30am-1pm	St. Joseph's Catholic Church	410 E. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg
June 20, 12-6pm	Appalachian Harley Davidson	6695 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
June 26, 8am-7pm	Fox Center	120 S. Filbert Street, Mechanicsburg
June 28, 7:30am-12:30pm	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton	310 Hertzler Road, Mechanicsburg
June 30, 10am-2pm	Health South Rehab	175 Lancaster Blvd, Mechanicsburg



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554

UMW 2015 Calendar

All women are invited to join any of these events!

June 19	Lunch and Learn Financial Seminar for Women 11:30, Guyer Classroom
July 9	Mission u Sampler Day
July 10-12	Mission u at Bucknell University. Social Issue: the Church and People with Disabilities. Contact Lori Hoffnagle for brochure.
August 15	Yard, Book and Bake Sale, church parking lot
October 3	Harrisburg District Annual Day, Tower City
October 17	Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Kingston
November 22	World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

Please contact Lori Hoffnagle with any questions about the above events.

UMW

UMW Lunch and Learn - Managing Your Personal Finances

All women are invited to a **free** Lunch and Learn on Friday, June 19 in the Guyer Classroom from 11:30 to 12:30. Join Denise Swank and Mary Ann Herrmann of Prudential for an opportunity to chat in a safe, comfortable environment about the financial challenges that may keep you up at night, the information you need to become more educated and how we can help each other navigate the complex topic of personal finance. **Due to limited space, please RSVP to Lori Hoffnagle at 215-5600 or l.hoffnagle@yahoo.com by June 12.** This event is open to women of all ages and feel free to invite a friend! Sponsored by the United Methodist Women Circles.

Facilities

This may sound like a broken record, but it's been another busy month for maintaining and improving First Church's facilities. Much of the Trustees efforts in the past month have been focused on readying the new parsonage for the arrival of Rev. Dennis Keller and his wife Betsy in early June prior to assuming his duties as senior pastor of First Church on 1 July. The parsonage search committee, headed by Amy Erno (President of the Board of Trustees), found a great house at 524 Colony Road in Camp Hill that met the bulk of the Conference's parsonage recommendations at what we felt was a reasonable price. So funds were borrowed from the Conference Loan Fund to make the purchase, and now the hard work is underway to turn that house into a home before Rev. and Mrs. Keller's arrival. Thanks to everyone who is assisting in the process, with a special shout out to Judi Buddenbaum and Marcia Espenshade for their tireless painting efforts.

Wouldn't it be great if that was the only project in our hopper this month? Sure would, but then my life wouldn't be nearly as interesting as it proves to be on an ongoing basis. We had a great turnout for our work day at the end of April spreading mulch in our flower beds and cleaning up around the exterior of our property. Many hands did make light work of that project! Thank you! Painting of the alley stairwell from the main floor down to Fellowship Hall was completed. New casters were installed on the large prep tables in the kitchen to provide for easier reconfiguring of the table alignment to meet user needs and facilitate post-event cleanup. The stump of the diseased weeping cherry tree along Frederick Street near King Alley that we cut down in April was recently ground out and the three overgrown yews that surrounded the tree were removed. We are looking to re-landscape that area in conjunction with an Eagle Scout project being developed by Matt Canonizado, and will keep you posted as that effort progresses.

There are quite a few projects on our near term "to do" list including paving, sealing and restriping of our parking lots, replacing the spotlights high above the choir loft, repairs to our storage shed and the stone wall around the playground area, replacing the rooftop exhaust fan servicing the Education wing restrooms, renovating the women's restroom on the second floor of the Education wing (on hold until the fall when Bill Seig will be available to assist), and painting in the Frederick Street stairwell (main floor to balcony) and the senior pastor's office. A contract was recently signed for asbestos remediation and restoration work in the lower level resulting from last year's sewage pump malfunction, so that work should be happening soon. I am also taking a hard look at the control systems for all of our HVAC equipment in an attempt to take advantage of today's technology to improve operations and reduce our energy costs.

Please be sure let me know if you see something broken or have an idea for improving our church facility. I greatly appreciate your help in identifying problems as they occur so they can be addressed before they become major issues. Thank you.

Roger Walton, Facilities Manager

Scholarships 2015-1026

The Board of Trustees is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2015-2016 academic year. First Church has three scholarship funds: **Comfort Education Fund** for students who are approved candidates for pastoral ministry; **Brandt Scholarship Fund** for students with disabilities, and **Zimmerman Youth Scholarship Fund** for students who have been active participants in FUMC's youth department. Complete the application and return it to Cheryl Mengle, Board of Trustees by June 30, by putting it in her mailbox or emailing it to cmengle1@verizon.net. Scholarship awards will be paid directly to the school for tuition only. See Cheryl or Lisa Aronson for an application.

Library

It is finally spring/summer, and I am really enjoying it. Yesterday was Mother's day so I am in a sentimental mood. As many of you may remember, I had often said I wanted to open this type of church library for my children because they loved to read so much and there wasn't Christian fiction available at the public library. Unfortunately, it never happened while they were teenagers, but it still pleases me to be able to offer the best Christian fiction to all of you: a seed planted and harvested years later. It is even better when one of my daughters will say, "I came across a great series—you should get it for the library". I hope you like this new series as much as my daughter Kris and I do. Oh, yes, need I mention it is a romantic suspense series?

Patricia Bradley is making her debut as a Christian writer. **Shadows of the Past** is the first book in the *Logan Point series*. Taylor Martin, criminal profiler and psychology professor prides herself on being able to solve any crime except her own family mystery. Her father vanished twenty years ago without a trace. When Taylor finally gets her first lead on him, she returns home to Logan's Point, Mississippi to follow up on her clue. But the closer she gets, the more obvious it is that someone else doesn't want her to find her father. Nick Sinclair, a mystery writer, is in Logan's Point in search of his long lost brother. After meeting up with Taylor and joining forces with her, all he seems to find is trouble. Join in their chase to see if they can unlock their secrets and have a future together!!

The second book, **A Promise to Protect**, stars the sheriff of Logan's Point, Ben Logan. Leigh Somorall is Ben's old flame from ten years ago and time has not erased Ben's interest in her. When she calls him out of the blue and begs him to protect her brother Tony, little does Ben know he will soon be protecting Leigh from the thugs that are after her brother. This is a suspenseful mystery filled with mistakes, revenge and danger, but also the redeeming wonder of faith and love. It will leave you tapping your toe waiting for **Gone without a Trace** that is coming the end of June.

If you want something lighter—something you can read easily on the back porch while sipping an iced latté, **A Chance of Loving You** might just be a great read for you. It contains three novellas written by top writers: Terri Blackstock, Candace Calvert, and Susan May Warren. Each romance centers around the main character entering a competition—from the lottery to baking to a fishing competition. I will let you find out if love is the winning prize for each of these women. From the reviews I have seen, this book delivers all that is promised as a romance. As an added bonus each author has included a recipe from the story. Win-Win!

If none of these books appeal to you, stop by and see what else the library has to offer. It is a treasure trove given to you by the church—don't miss it.

The library will be having their annual book sale August 15. We will be accepting gently used books, CD, puzzles and DVDs. Leave them in our green bin outside the library (better attach a note so they are not mistake for something else) or see us on Sunday morning about a drop off. Thank you in advance and plan to be at our sale to stock your own shelves.

See you in the library!

Pam and Donna

Church News and Notes

Thank you...

Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my chemotherapy treatments.

Rev. Buddy Miller

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Darryl Small's mother, Lucille Small, on April 27, 2015.

to the family upon the death of Cliff Brown on May 12, 2015

Special Birthdays

Charlie Ryder.....June 1
 Bill Morland.....June 6
 Thomas HartsockJune 14
 Joe MoomawJune 14
 Dolly SchollJune 16
 June HenschkeJune 17
 Joanne Reed.....June 23
 Romaine Lehman.....June 24
 Beryl Morgan.....June 30
 Bernadine Florey.....July 2
 Bill Kelly.....July 3
 Mildred NeagleyJuly 6
 Veloice WashburnJuly 6
 Glenn Heller.....July 7
 Gladys PeckJuly 14
 Ruth Birbeck.....July 19
 Jack Koser.....July 22
 Harry WoodsJuly 27
 Jean Adams.....July 28
 Lincoln WashburnJuly 29
 Betty Etter.....July 30

Special Anniversaries

♥ Gerry & Darlis Aumiller married 57 years on June 7
 ♥ Jim & Shirley Russell married 51 years on June 7
 ♥ Dave & Sandy Coover married 57 years on June 14
 ♥ Paul & Liz Nesmith married 60 years on June 19
 ♥ Jack & Grace Koser married 62 years on June 20
 ♥ Ron & Jane Handwerk married 54 years on July 8
 ♥ George & Jayne Carpenter married 57 years on July 19
 ♥ Ben & Carol Miller married 57 years on July 20
 ♥ Gary & Bonnie Klinger married 50 years on July 24

New Members

We are excited to welcome the newest member of the First Church family:

Laura Rickards

Michael Myers

2015 Confirmation Class

Jordan Brymesser

Tyler Johnson

Aubree Canonizado

Alison Miller

Emma Cornelius

Kalie Nuss

Kayleigh DeWalt

Abigail Wertz

Catherine Farber

Victoria Yother

Kylee Fisher

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **July** newsletter deadline is **June 15**.

All submissions should be received in the church office
on or **before** this date.

Early submissions are always welcome!