



First News First

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DECEMBER 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

From the Pastor

"How Will You Get to Bethlehem"

It was 1865. The Civil War had just ended. President Lincoln had been assassinated. A young Episcopal priest from Philadelphia was exhausted. He was just 30 years old, but serving the church through the tumultuous years of the war had taken a terrible toll on him. Members of his church had lost husbands, fathers, and sons in battle. Others had returned from war with physical and emotional scars.

Totally exhausted, the priest was granted a sabbatical by his congregation. During the fall of 1865 he traveled through Europe. In December he arrived in the Holy Land. Day after day, his soul was refreshed as he visited the places where Jesus had spent his earthly ministry.

Then, on Christmas Eve, he had an experience that would forever change his life. He rode all the way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on horseback, a six mile journey. At dusk, in the dim light of the early evening, he approached the town where, long before, the Christ Child was born. Looking out over the City of David, he imagined what it was like for those whose faces shone around the manger on the night of our Savior's birth. Soaking in the whole scene, the young priest penned a poem in his journal.

The priest's name was Philips Brooks. A few years later his poem was put to music. It is now a favorite Christmas carol.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

A journey to Bethlehem on horseback changed the life of Philips Brooks. There, in the presence of Christ, he had a spiritual awakening. He returned to Philadelphia with new joy and enthusiasm for ministry.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, as you celebrate Christmas this year I want to ask you: **How will you get to Bethlehem?** I am not suggesting that you literally take a trip to the Holy Land, although that would be a great spiritual pilgrimage. I am asking how you will get to that place in your life where you behold the everlasting light that still shines amid the world's darkness.

My prayer is that during Advent and Christmas, you will journey to that place where you can step back, take a deep breath, and remember the reason for the season. Bethlehem can be a space in your home where you have devotions. It can be an event at the church, like the Journey to Bethlehem led by our children's department, or a gathering with Christian friends. It can also be a service of

Dates to Remember

- Dec 6.....Health Lecture
Service of Remembrance
- Dec 10.....LFNS Christmas Program
- Dec 11.....Newsletter Deadline
- Dec 13.....Night in Bethlehem
- Dec 15.....Senior Fellowship
- Dec 16.....Grocery Bagging
- Dec 19.....Cookie Walk & Marketplace of Miracles
- Dec 20.....Caroling
- Dec 27.....Rejoicing Spirits

Inside this issue:

Finance	2
Endowment	3
Worship/Music	4
Advent/Christmas	5
Friends at Home	6
Congregational Care	7
Adult Ministry	8
Health & Wellness	9
Library/Men's Ministry	10
Women's Ministry	11
UMW	12
Facilities	13
News & Notes	14
Church Staff	15

(Continued from page 1)

worship. This season is filled with special opportunities to worship the Holy Child of Bethlehem, who still desires to enter into our hearts. I pray that, like Philips Brooks long ago, you will experience the Wondrous Gift given to us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem. He still brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all who humbly seek him.

May you have a most blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Denny

Finance

Through October 31, 2015		Legacy Campaign
83% of year		\$ 3,340
General Fund		
2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 726,250	
Actual income	\$ 688,402 (79% of budget)	
Deficit	\$ 37,848	
Actual expenses	\$ 669,792	
Building Fund	\$ 7,457	

For most of the year, income has been lagging behind what we need to provide all the ministries we planned for 2016. On November 15, we had the culmination of the New Consecration program we have undertaken. We pray for a very positive response as well as a strong finish to the year.

During October, \$3,000 was paid on our debt from the Building Fund. Also, interest in

From the desk of the Finance Director:

All 2015 offering must be received in the church office by **Thursday, December 31 2015 at 10:00 a. m.** in order to be credited to 2015's offering statement.

All bills to be paid against the 2015 budget must be received in the church office **no later than Sunday, January 10, 2016.**

First Church Receives Second Grant for Day of Pampering

Special thanks to the Mechanicsburg Area Foundation (MAF) for providing a \$600 grant for the 2016 Day of Pampering!

Established in 1986, MAF creates permanent endowments with proceeds funding local programs to benefit the residents of the greater Mechanicsburg area. MAF is affiliated as a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, formerly The Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

The grant will help offset the costs of holding the Day of Pampering.

Endowment

Paul Cramer Leaves Legacy of Service, Giving

If you have ever visited or read books from the First Church Library, then you have experienced the generosity of the late Paul Leroy Cramer and his very dedicated service to our congregation.

An avid reader, Paul started the First Church library from the ground up and served as the librarian for 32 years.

“Paul liked to read and he liked books about religion, so he started the library,” said First Church member John Behel. “He purchased all the books in the beginning, for others to read.”

John and his wife, Jeannette, were close friends with Paul and provided care to him later in his life.

Sadly, Paul passed away in June at the age of 94. But Paul’s faithful support of First Church will carry on long after him. Paul made a provision in his will to make contributions to both the Endowment Fund and the Building Fund through his estate.

Paul, a Mechanicsburg native, began attending First Church when he was in sixth grade. He formally accepted Christ at the age of 13, when he answered an altar call during a worship service. Paul’s younger brother and sister followed him to the altar, and accepted Christ that day as well.

After high school, Paul joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served on the European front during World War II. He received training as nose gunner for the Boeing B-17 bomber aircraft, and participated in at least 50 missions over Germany.

During the war, Paul prayed to God for protection and promised that if he made it home safely, he would dedicate his life to God. After four years of service, Paul did arrive home safely, and the rest of his life was based on keeping that promise.

Paul returned to his work as a barber. He opened a shop on South Market Street in Mechanicsburg, and operated it successfully for over half a century.

Paul also returned to First Church, where he gave generously of his time and talents.

Paul was a faithful member of the Guyer Sunday School class, and involved in many prayer groups and Bible studies over the years. Blessed with musical talent, he sang with the church’s Adult Choir for 70 years! He also played the violin in the former Sunday School orchestra.

Paul was a man of humble means, but very generous in giving of both his talents and his resources.

When Rev. Shover, a former First Church pastor, heard of a wonderful new youth program, Paul financed the pastor’s way to attend a workshop on it. The program was launched and became known as Wonderful Wednesday, a program that still runs today and has touched the lives of countless children.

Paul also inspired others to give. In 1962, the church’s education wing was added and the kitchen was enlarged. Paul proposed to the Guyer Class that they furnish the new kitchen, borrowing the \$2,500 in funds if necessary. Instead, the class decided to raise the money by serving banquets for wedding receptions, church functions and other events. In total, their efforts raised \$5,000 for the kitchen.

According to John and Jeanette, regardless of what service or task Paul was completing for First Church, he never thought of it as a chore. He served cheerfully, and saw his work in the church as “joyful days.”

Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services

8:15 am &
10:45 am

Sunday School
9:30 am



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

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

Holy Communion

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.

Music

Music Notes

'Tis the season to be busy! Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

December 14
December 15
December 20.



On Monday, December 14 at 7:00 pm you'll want to come hear the bell choir at the Frederickson Library (100 N. 19th St.) in Camp Hill. The bell choir will play some traditional carols and some secular music for the Christmas Season. This is their 12th year for this concert – come early for a seat!

On Tuesday, December 15, the bell choirs' "eat out night" will be at Arooga's, 4713 Carlisle Pike. Remember, you must have a voucher with you before going to the restaurant for the choir to get its donations. We're working on Olive Garden for our "eat out night" in January - watch for date!

Sunday, December 20 at both morning services, The Sounds of Worship and the Sanctuary Choirs will combine to sing the cantata "**Darkness into Light**" by Mary McDonald. The choir will be accompanied by an orchestra. Come hear the story as Christ's light is brought into the world. You won't want to miss this beautiful and moving music.

Join us Christmas Eve for worship as different choirs provide music for each service. The Junior and Children's choirs will sing at 5:00 pm. The 8:00 pm service will be a more quiet traditional service, and the Sounds of Worship and Sanctuary choirs will lead a joyful service at 11:00 pm.

On another note, the Music Department is pleased to announce that Kathie Bittenbender has been selected to direct the 2016 Mechanicsburg Ecumenical Choir. Rehearsal for the Sunday, May 15, 2016, concert begins on Sunday, January 17 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 2:00 p. m. If you are interested in singing, please see Kathie for more information.



Advent | Christmas

November 29 1st Sunday in Advent:

Worship, Holy Communion 8:15 & 10:45 am

December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent:

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Dealing with Holiday Stress Lecture 9:30am
Service of Remembrance 7 pm

December 10

Little Friend's Nursery School
Christmas Program 9:15 am

December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Night in Bethlehem 5:15 pm

December 20 4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Cantata 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Christmas Caroling 5pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

5 pm

Family Service

Designed for families of all ages, but especially sensitive to families with young children. Will conclude with candle lighting.

8 pm

Service of Christmas Eve Simplicity

Designed as a quiet, prayerful service for individuals and families. Simplicity marks this service with instrumental music, Communion, Prayer Time and a brief candle lighting service.

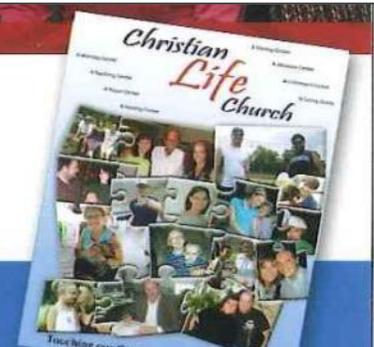
11 pm

Festival Service of Light and Wonder

Includes Holy Communion, lessons and carols, music by our choirs, and candle-lighting.

Church Directory

Have you signed up to have your picture taken? There is still time! No purchase necessary and you will receive a free 8 x 10 photograph. Our directory won't be complete without you!



Photography Dates/Times are

Thursday, December 17, 2-8:30 pm

Friday, December 18, 2-8:30 pm

Saturday, December 19, 10:30 am—5pm

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **pa658** in the Church Code field and enter **first** the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. **If you have 5 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots.** The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

Congregational Care

Addresses for Our First Church Friends at Home

Don Adams

c/o Jennifer Brillhart
417 Valley Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Ida Bardell

65 Sussex Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Art & Fran Davis

Catherine Mader
6 Jasper Lane
Christiana, PA 17509

Milt & Tammy

Dougherty
220 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Paul & Janet

Fertenbaugh
222 S. York Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Bill & June Henschke

607 Allison Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Bill & Lois Morland

26 Kensington Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Art Murray

Elmcroft of Dillsburg-
#226
153 Logan Road
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Mildred Neagley

303 E. Coover Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Elaine O'Hara

Messiah Village-Rm 431
100 Mt. Allen Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Jim & Joyce Parfet

819 Green Acres Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

David Richards

PO Box 145
Fair Haven, NY 13064

Doris Sweger

115 N. Market Street
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Lincoln & Veloice

Washburn
62 Audubon Park
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Doris Zimmerman

36 Greenspring Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

BETHANY VILLAGE

West Apartment

Nancy Bomboy

5225 Wilson Lane,
Apt. 2122
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Barb & Don Shover

5225 Wilson Lane
Apt 2106
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Bill & Helen Kelly

5225 Wilson Lane
Apt 2101
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Court Apartments

Pat Marr

325 Wesley Drive
Apt. 3109
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Maplewood

Bernadine Florey

Room 232 Maplewood
5225 Wesley Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

The Oaks

5225 Wilson Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Betty Fribance

The Oaks—Room 4

BRIDGES AT BENT

CREEK

2100 Bent Creek Blvd
Mechanicsburg, PA
17050

Lil Thomas

Room 178

CHAPEL POINTE

Romaine Lehman

Chapel Pointe, Room 4
770 South Hanover St
Carlisle, PA 17013

CLAREMONT

Claremont Nursing Home

1000 Claremont Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

Dolly Dougherty

Room 226

Winifred Prowell

Room 123

MANOR CARE

1700 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Jim & Shirley Russell

Room 221

THORNWALD MANOR

Les & Ruth Reed

Rms. L1 & L2
442 Walnut Bottom Rd
Carlisle, PA 17013

VIBRALIFE

707 Shepherdstown
Road
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055

Bill & Betty Etter

Room 607/609

Congregational Care

Service of Remembrance and Hope – Sunday, December 6th at 7 pm

We would like to invite those who are missing their loved ones this holiday season to join us for a special Sunday evening service during which we will gather to remember and honor the memory of our cherished family and friends. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, December 15th 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come enjoy a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. First Church's musical ensemble, 'Women of Light' will treat us to some special music!

Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

Christmas Caroling – Sunday, December 20th

Calling Christmas Carolers of all ages! We invite you to enjoy a covered dish dinner (5 pm) in Fellowship Hall before venturing out in groups (5:45 pm) to share Christmas carols with our First Church members at home. No singing experience or talent necessary, just a desire to have fun while spreading some Christmas cheer! Treat yourself to cookies and hot cocoa in Fellowship Hall upon your return.

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

Time for Cookies!

If you enjoy baking and would consider sharing some cookies, we are looking for donations of cookies to serve both for the Service of Remembrance on December 6th and for Christmas Caroling on December 20th. Cookies can be brought to the kitchen anytime during the month of December. Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) if you are dropping off cookies.

Small Holiday Gift Bags Needed

If you have any extra gift bags you need to clean-out, please consider donating them in the collection basket placed in the tower entrance hallway. Thank you!

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 December 16 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.



Adult Ministry

Reflections for Lent—2016

If you have been studying “A Disciple’s Path” with your Sunday School class or small group you have encountered the SOAP (also called SOAPY) method of scripture study and prayer. In 2016 we are going to apply this method to our annual “Reflections for Lent” devotional booklet. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer (in which you Yield to God’s will). Here’s how it works:

- **Scripture:** Write down the scripture you have chosen to reflect on for the day.
- **Observation:** Write down what you believe the scripture says to you. What has the Lord impressed on you as a lesson?
- **Application:** Reflect on your observation and write what God has revealed to you personally about how this lesson applies to your life.
- **Prayer:** Write a prayer to God concerning this lesson and your life. Also write what you must yield in your life for this lesson to take hold in your life.

Here is an example (taken from “A Disciple’s Path” workbook):

- **Scripture:** Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Luke 11:34
- **Observation:** What I read determines the kind of light or darkness which will fill my mind and my body. I become what I think.
- **Application:** As I read this I became more aware that starting each day with scripture is important for me. If I begin my day with reading God’s Word then my life will be changed to become more like Jesus as the readings shape my heart. If I miss a morning I feel a loss and a small amount of darkness comes into my life. The Word of God brings light into my life and makes me more useful to God.
- **Prayer:** Father, thank you for the gift of your Word. Thank you also for the light it brings into my mind and body as you teach and encourage me each day. I will not skip a day of this discipline because I need your light in my heart, mind and body. Amen.

We welcome your participation with gratitude! Your reflection will strengthen your faith and the faith of others, plus it will bring glory to God! Please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611 to sign up. You can also write your name on the sign-up sheet located in the main lobby on the Adult Ministries table.

The format of your personal devotional should be:

1. Brief Title
2. Scripture – Just a short passage
3. Observation – 2 or 3 sentences
4. Application – about 5 sentences
5. Prayer – 2 or 3 sentences
6. Your Name

Reflections are due by Sunday, January 10, 2016. Please email your document to adultministry@fumchurch.com. If you do not have access to email, please place a hard copy of your reflection in an envelope marked “Reflection for Lent” and place it in Tina Eaton’s mailbox.

Youth

The **Youth** of First Church will hold their annual **Cookie Walk December 19** where shoppers can walk around a table of delicious homemade cookies and customize a box for just \$10.

Proceeds benefit Youth Mission Trips.

Bring your children to the Cookie Decorating Station!



Health & Wellness

"Holiday Blues & Stress" Health Lecture December 6

Holidays create a unique set of challenges. Explore some of the challenges of the traditional holiday season and discuss some tips for coping. Discover the benefits of involving family members as much as possible with a goal of maximizing the joy while minimizing the stress.

Come to this very helpful health lecture on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. Guest Speaker will be Theresa Sellers from Pinnacle Health.

December Blood Drives

December and January are critical months for the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank. Typically there is a greater need for blood but it is more difficult to get donors due to weather and the holidays. The Health and Wellness committee wants to spread the word by sharing the area December Blood Drive locations. Please consider being a donor! What a great gift to share with someone in need!

December 1	3pm-7pm	Denny's Restaurant, Carlisle Pike
December 3	8am-4pm	Technology Parkway, Patriot News Building, 2020 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg
December 5	9am-12pm	Grace UMC, 216 Market St, Mechanicsburg
December 9	3pm-7pm	Century 21 Realty Services, 3315 Market St, Camp Hill
December 11	8am-7pm	Fox Center, 120 S Filbert St, Mechanicsburg
December 13	7:30am-12:30pm	Weis Markets, 2150 Bumble Bee Hollow Rd, Mechanicsburg
December 15	9am-12pm	Drayer Physical Therapy, 5108 Trindle Rd, Mechanicsburg
December 21	3pm-7pm	Park Inn 5401 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
December 22	3pm-7pm	Range End Golf Course, 303 Golf Club Ave, Dillsburg
December 28	3:30pm-8pm	Applebee's Restaurant, 6055 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
December 31	4:30pm-8pm	Dillsburg Pickle Committee New Year's Eve Drive @ Citizen's Hose Fire Company, 151 S Baltimore St, Dillsburg

Library

It is a beautiful Indian summer day in November, and I was having some trouble believing Christmas is just a few short weeks away. After staring at the computer and hoping for divine intervention, I listened to some Christmas carols which put a smile on my face and made me eager to tell you about all the new Christmas books in the library ready for you to read now.

Every holiday there are authors that write novellas not only to celebrate the season, but also to give their readers shorter books to read during a busy season. Melody Carlson is always a favorite at Christmas because she writes with humor and poignancy. In **The Christmas Joy Ride**, eighty-five-year-old Joy has decided to sell her home and move into an assisted living facility near her sons in Arizona. When explaining this to her young neighbor Miranda, Joy mentions she is decking out her old RV in Christmas decorations and driving herself from Chicago to Phoenix. Unemployed and facing foreclosure on her home, Miranda decides to pack a bag and go along on Joy's adventure. Even though there are some twists and turn on this trip, Ms. Carlson manages to make this an uplifting and inspirational read. Squeeze this book onto your Christmas to-do list.

The Amish embrace Christmas fiction with gusto. Barbara Cameron's **Twice Blessed** is two novellas. The first story, **Her Sister's Shadow**, identical twins Rosie and Katie Stolfus work in an Amish business together and also own their own business preserving and selling food. From the outside the women seem equal partners in every way, but Rosie has always felt like the lesser of the two sisters. It will take a special man and a special business opportunity for Rosie to be the woman God has meant her to be. The second novella follows the twins theme with Mark and Ben Fisher, in **His Brother's Keeper**. Both men love the same woman, but it is Mark who wins her heart. A freak accident on Christmas Eve opens the door for Ben to become Mark and wed Rachel. Is making all his dreams come true enough incentive to become a man that deceives his wife and family? I won't spoil the ending for you.

I have only mentioned two of the new Christmas fiction books in the library, but in December all of the library's Christmas books will be displayed for your enjoyment. The library also has many Christmas books containing true and inspirational writing from leading Biblical scholars.

Thanks to everyone that supported our mini book sale in November with either donations or purchases. Watch for new books purchased from the profits in 2016.

See you in the library.

Pam & Donna

Men's Ministry

Save the Date

Men's Retreat for 2016 is scheduled for March 4-6th and we'd like for you to put it on your calendar. Consider joining us at Wesley Forest this year for what is always a valuable time away. The beautiful camp is the perfect place to seek rest and build relationships with the men you see in church each Sunday, but haven't really gotten to know. There is so much more to gain in our faith walk by getting away for these 2 nights and I encourage each man who's reading this to seek more than what you have right now.

Reverend Ed Zeiders will be our facilitator and we are excited to welcome new men to this annual tradition that enjoys a rich history at FUMC. Be a part of it and you'll be glad you were. Contact John Bowen with any questions at 796-0809 or bowenhome720@gmail.com.

Women's Ministry

2016 Women's Retreat February 5-7

“Come to Our Senses: Fully Engaged
in Our Pursuit of Christ”

Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship,
fun, food and faith!
Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on
Sunday at noon.
Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals included.
Facilitators include Juanita Guise and Lisa Aronson



Please make checks payable to **FUMC** with 'women's retreat' in the memo section. Registrations may be mailed to Patti Herring at 613 Lavina Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055 or can be placed in the **Scrip Box** near the coffee area. (Please do not place checks in her mailbox). Questions, call Patti Herring at 795-9721 or email at familyzeke@verizon.net. Details will be sent closer to the retreat date.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Allergies or diet restrictions _____

Medications _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Early Bird Registration by **12/31/15** is \$110. After that date, the fee will be \$125. Fees include two-night stay (3 to 4 per room) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. **All registrations are due by 1/17/2016.**

_____ \$110 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/15)

_____ \$125 registration enclosed (if paying after 12/31/15)

Is this your first retreat? Yes ___ No ___ Special Concerns _____

A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Patti Herring for more information

Have you tried the SCRIP program yet? Would you also like to support the Women's Ministries of First Church and the Women's Retreat? From October through January some of the proceeds from the SCRIP program will go to support the 2016 Women's Retreat. If you purchase gift cards from Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, or TGI Friday's, the proceeds will directly benefit the Women's Retreat. Please check out all of the great restaurants, retail stores, hotels, etc that SCRIP offers. The SCRIP box and order forms are located at the end of the main entrance hallway, to the right. Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at 795-9721 or familyzeke@verizon.net.



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net
meets the 2nd Tuesday
of the month

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233
meets the 1st Tuesday
of the month

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com
meets the 4th Monday
of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554
meets the 1st
Wednesday of the
month

2016 Events:

February 5 to 7	Women's Retreat, Mt. Asbury Retreat Center
April 9	UMW Baby Shower
May 7	Bike Extravaganza
June	Lunch and Learn
August 20	Bake Sale and Yard Sale
November 20	World Thank Offering



Marketplace of Miracles

A Shopping Event Like No Other!
Shop, Learn and Support Great Causes
Saturday, December 19
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
Sponsored by the United Methodist Women



Your purchases really can make a difference!

WAR (Women at Risk) and She's Somebody's Daughter
will have beautifully handcrafted jewelry for sale.

Change Purse will have new or gently-used
purses for sale, starting at just \$1!

*These organizations are dedicated to the education and
prevention of human trafficking. All proceeds benefit the organizations.*

Ten Thousand Villages will also have Fair Trade items for sale.



Don't forget to drop your unwanted clothing and shoes in the Community Aid bin.

Money raised from your donations helps local schools, churches and other non profit charitable organizations, as well as FUMC's UMW.

Facilities

Can you believe it? We're rapidly closing in on the end of 2015. Where has this year gone? It seems like just yesterday that I was writing about the Trustees exploring options regarding the sewage pumps that had malfunctioned at the end of September 2014, my hopes for completing the stair tread replacement project, our plans for updating the Education wing restrooms, issues with our heating system and the south parking lot, and a desire to replace the reach-in refrigerator in the church kitchen. Yes, it has been a busy year as we have attacked all of those issues and lots more in our efforts to maintain and improve the First Church facility.

First off, I wanted to provide an update on the plumbing issue on the lower level that arose just as I was writing the Facilities article for the November newsletter. As I suspected, it did turn out to be a clogged drain line between the restrooms near the kitchen and the sewage pit. The plumbers were able to resolve that issue and everything appears to be running smoothly for now.

Thank you to Jim Van Kirk for his assistance in installing Nightlock Lockdown devices on the classroom doors of the first floor of the Education wing. Little Friends purchased these devices, which are designed to allow the teachers to secure their doors in the event of an intruder in the building. We still have a couple of the devices to install on the classroom doors used by Little Friends on the second floor, and hope to have them completed by the time you read this.

Thank you also to Don Karns for installing a pane of Plexiglas in the door leading from the Youth lounge into the Faithful Families classroom area. Adding Plexiglas to that door enables our Youth Department to use that room for their Sunday evening 4G small group discussions in compliance with our Safe Sanctuaries policy.

I am pleased to report that the really large curbside tree in front of the church parsonage on Colony Road was successfully removed without causing any property damage. The timing of the tree removal was perfect, as it came down just before all of its remaining leaves started to fall, saving Pastor Keller and his wife Betsy from a lot of backbreaking work. Special thanks also go out to Tracy and Bob Wertz, Jr. for their efforts in landscape plantings around the parsonage. Very attractive!

Charlie Ryder's health has improved to the point that he is able to work with Matthew Canonizado in constructing a wooden cross to put the finishing touches on the prayer garden Matthew is creating on the Frederick Street side of the church near King Alley for his Eagle Scout project. Matthew still hopes to complete his project this fall before cold weather sets in.

I wish I could report that I've been able to cross off everything on my "to do" list but, surprise surprise, that isn't the case. There are still repairs to be made to the Frederick Street wall in the area above the balcony, so that area remains cordoned off for now. One of the spotlights above the choir loft still needs to be replaced. We need to get snow shovels and ice melt stationed by the church entrances as winter approaches, and also make sure all of the hand sanitizing units by our entrances are working properly. And I haven't made nearly enough progress on our initiative to modernize the control system for our 8 rooftop HVAC units.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to alert me if you see something amiss or in need of our attention around the First Church facility. It's a big building and we can't be everywhere all of the time, so your eyes really help us in our efforts to be faithful stewards of this awesome place. Thank you.

Roger Walton
Facilities Manager

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Brandy Zimmerman's grandmother, Margaret Crozier, on October 18.

to the family upon the death of Glenn Heller's sister, Doris Keller, on October 18.

to the family upon the death of Jill Torquato's father, Joseph Barron, on October 19.

to the family upon the death of Tracy Holliday's mother, Donna Callward, on October 25.

to the family upon the death of Rev. Don Ciampa on November 15, 2015.

Thank you...

Dear Church Family,

"How we have appreciated your care, concerns and love towards us in the last year!! We are improving and hope to join you soon!"

Lincoln & Veloice

Dear Pastor and members of First UMC,

It is a privilege to write and tank you for your continued support of the Conference retreat and camping program. First continues to be one of our top supporters. Thank you for allowing us to "care and feed your children. We strive to partner with your leaders to develop the next generation of Christians.

I pray you give some of them a chance to share their experiences during a church service. Continue to be a blessing.

Jean Cox, Member Camping Board

To the Pastor, Staff & Congregation,

Please accept my sincere appreciation and humble "thanks!" for hosting a wonderful memorial service for aster Diver, Master Chief Jim Mariano.

Jim was a great teammate and friend and mentor of mine; it was wonderful to send him off to his father and remember Jim's life with the ceremony at your church.

Thank you for such a beautiful day!

Sincerely,

Jeff McCauley, Capt., USN

Special Birthdays

Bill Henschke.....	January 1
Joyce Woods.....	December 1
Winnie Prowell.....	January 7
Jo Nye.....	December 13
Ruth Reed.....	January 15
Helen Ritter.....	December 13
Richard Reed.....	January 15
Dolores Shell.....	December 13
David Coover.....	January 16
Joan Buechel.....	December 17
Charles Glessner.....	January 16
Elaine O'Hara.....	December 26
Ida Bardell.....	January 21
Dolly Dougherty.....	December 27
Leta Rohlmeier.....	January 23
Jim Parfet.....	December 30
Dot Souder.....	January 27
Margaret Baker.....	January 30

Addresses of these members can be found in the Church Directory.

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 55 years on December 10
- ♥ Wesley & Irene Fetrow married 56 years on January 7

Bible Reading

Start the New Year in the Word

There is no better way to begin our year than rededicating ourselves to the Word of the Lord and to treasure it in our hearts.

When the Book of the Law was found in the rumble of the temple, King Josiah gathered all the Israelites to hear the reading of this forgotten Word (2 Chronicles 34:30). Similarly, Nehemiah read the Word after the rebuilding of the wall and in celebration of their recreated city (Nehemiah 8:2-3). Ezra did the same: *“Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God.” – Nehemiah 8:18*

Just as the people in the Biblical time gathered to hear the reading of God’s Word from start to finish so can we! Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and in the narthex.

Church Staff

PASTOR	OFFICE MANAGER	ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR*
Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller	Kristin Brown	Gail Leinhos
ASSOCIATE PASTOR*	FACILITIES COORDINATOR*	BELL CHOIRS*
Rev. Dr. David Reed	Roger Walton	Kathie Bittenbender
YOUTH PASTOR	CUSTODIANS*	INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR*
Lisa Aronson	George Canonizado	Allison Ometz
ADULT MINISTRIES*	Matthew Miller	CHILDREN’S CHOIRS*
Tina Eaton	FINANCE DIRECTOR*	Lorette Cale
DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRY*	Nancy Robinson	<small>*PART-TIME</small>
Dawn Fisher	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ SANCTUARYCHOIR*	
George Canonizado	Jody Brinley	
CONGREGATIONAL CARE*	ORGANIST*	
Janice Bowen	Nicholas Werner	

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **January and February** issues of First News First will be combined.

The **deadline** for submitting articles for this combined issue is **December 11**.

Wanted:

Editor for the monthly edition of First News First. Only qualification is knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher. Contact Kristin Brown if interested.

A very blessed Christmas to all!
A very blessed Christmas to all!

