

Heart

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEKALB FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2017

Back to School Blessings

It all happens Sunday August 20, 10:50 AM worship

As summer draws to a close and the dawn of a new school year approaches, four special occasions will be celebrated during morning worship Sunday August 20. See details below.

Blessing of the Backpacks: A tradition here at FUMC is to celebrate the beginning of a new school year by blessing the backpacks and children the Sunday before school starts. Grade level children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to morning worship. They will receive a special gift to be hung on their backpacks as a reminder of God's presence and the support of the church.

Promotion Sunday: We will celebrate those children who will be moving to a new Sunday school class this fall. This is an opportunity to recognize not only their growth in age but growth in faith as well.

Third Grade Bible Presentation: We will celebrate those children who will be entering the third grade with an age level Bible from the church.

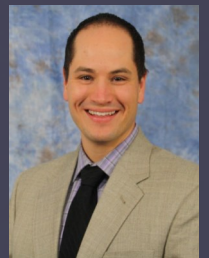
Teacher Recognition: This Sunday is also a time to celebrate those who teach our kids, both in the public school and Sunday school classrooms. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate these milestones in life and our journey of faith.



Perspectives

By Rev. Matthew B. Smith

There is a story attributed to Bill Parcells, the famous NFL football coach. He tells this story about two salesmen who were sent to Australia to sell shoes to the Aborigines. After arriving, one called back to his boss and said, "There are no opportunities here; the natives don't wear shoes." But the other called back and said to his boss, "There are a lot of opportunities here. These people don't have any shoes!"



Recently, I have been introduced to the "Fresh Expressions" movement. It's about planting new communities of faith through contextual mission. In his book *From the Steeple to the Street*, Travis Collins makes a rather grim

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New Discipleship Plan Coming!

"The problem is not a lack of people. The problem is our inability to see and reach them."

As Methodists, discipleship is as essential to our mission as peanut butter is to jelly, or gravy to biscuits, or sugar to tea. Maybe that's just my own personal preference, but there are some things that just go good together. In his short book *"Developing an Intentional Discipleship System,"* Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, an

agency of the United Methodist Church, writes that, "We have a long tradition of intentional discipleship to draw upon. The early Methodists created class meetings, bands, and select societies (the early small group structure and opportunities for spiritual formation) as their system for introducing new disciples to the faith and helping them

to grow and mature. Within this system, disciples were encouraged to participate in small groups for Christian conferencing and practicing the means of grace." Dotson further postulates that the decline in the church is a result of not being intentional about discipleship. He says, "The problem is not a lack of people. The problem is our inability to see and reach them. We have forgotten why as disciples we are called to reach out in the first place." A discipleship plan is a great way to chart your growth in faith while having a road map to help get you where you need to go.

Proverbs 22:17
"A merry heart does good like medicine"

"If you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get the church."

~Mike Breen, *Building a Discipleship Culture*

Youth Summer Camp

Youth attended a week long adventure at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, TX



Perspectives *(Continued from page 1)*

observation in the opening chapter titled, "If you're Discouraged, you're not alone." He writes, "More and more of your neighbors think less and less about your church. Some people in your community have dismissed the church because they were hurt, angered, or shamed by the church. It is just as likely, however, that people in your community are simply indifferent toward the church . . . People are so busy that they are going to invest their time only in activities they perceive to be of real benefit, and countless people simply perceive that the church offers no value to them."

When you look across the cultural landscape of today it's easy to see that the church does not play a prominent role in society. Like the story above, you can bemoan the lack of interest in the church, or you can see opportunity for new and fresh ways of being in mission to those around you with the timeless and unchangeable gospel of grace. Collins continues by saying, "The door has been opened for the Holy Spirit to blow through in a new way. If we understand ourselves to be in a missionary culture, and act accordingly, this is actually a time of great opportunity." May the Spirit of the living God inspire your hearts for fresh expressions of ministry here in our community.

Prayer List

For Those Who Mourn

Family & Friends of Jimmy Drennan

Nursing Home Residents

Mary Clawson, Ponderosa
Lynn Rains, Cornerstone
Kathleen Hopkins, Ponderosa
Iva Jean Barrett, Ponderosa
Dr. K C & Lucy Hillis, Ponderosa

For Our Members

Dale Jackson
Rac Slider
Wanda Tidwell (hip replacement surgery)
Dorothy Lee (broken hip)
Jim Fowler (knee replacement surgery)
Moeta Newman, Rehab (Reunion Plaza)
Danielle Smith
Abbi Capps
Opal Waller
Virginia Wray
Don Hodges
DeVeda Foster
Bill Lee
Lynn Davies
Laverne Cooper

For Our Family & Friends

Gloria Cunningham Chaney, Marsha Telford's sister (broken hip)
Robert Smith, Marsha Telford's brother-in-law
Chris Henderson, Becky Buttram's nephew
Lynn Barnett (cancer)
Ralph House
Lynnda Ell & Muriel Watson
Tina Petty (cancer)

Jean Phillips
Carrie Megason (cancer)
Russell Willingham (Parkinson's) Broken Bow, OK
Doug Hall, Denver, CO (cancer)
Paul Nichols (cancer)
Slade Phillips
Mike Sanders (heart surgery)
Charles McCrary, Kansas City, Missouri, brother of Mike McCrary
Tammy Matthews
Diana Melton
James Roberts
Riley Danielle Wright
Mel & Linda Swaim
Jackie Ford
Jay & Arlene Bennett, Boyce's niece
Curtis & Susan Richison
Sarah Tucker
Nikki Daniels (brain tumor)
Dwayne Whiteman (cancer)
Earnest & Kay Witmer (cancer)
Cleo Green
Shawna Rowen Claborn (cancer)
Gerald Rust (cancer)
Tommy Dudley (cancer)
Robert Hickey
Marvelle Pinkham
Barbara Mebane
Linda Coates
Elaine Sparks, cancer
Mary Holaday
Angela Tidwell, Carolyn Pirkey's cousin
Freddie Proby, (surgery)
Caleb Barksdale
Leslie Jaynes, (work accident)
Paula Tye, Richard Engle's cousin

Jenny Aaron, friend of Robby Bates
Tom Ward (liver transplant)
Max, 9 yr old (leukemia)
Jackie & Mary Ann Hawkins
Emma Jean Marrale (8 mo. old with cancer)
Patty Mitchell
Marilyn Barron (cancer)
Mari McFatridge (cancer) friend of Molly Willey
Jordan Morris, leukemia (great nephew of Molly Willey)
Nelda Hill (broken hip)
James Constantine, Jr.
Christie Howard, friend of Pam Shumake
Jennifer Quijas (cancer)
David Hawkins, friend of Harry Sanford
Dr. Paul Meriwether (heart surgery)
Nona Crane (cancer)
Danny Cowley, Dorothy Sheridan's nephew
Hazel Spradlin, LaMena Slider's sister
Larry Johnson, Walter Johnson's cousin
Jack Telford (cancer)
Perry & Gladys May, and Pam Caregivers

For Our World & Leaders & Our Servicemen & Women Serving Our Country

Roscoe Schwab, Military
Cody Dickens, Military
Michael Tucker, Military
Michael A. Hunnicutt, Military
Richard Matthews, Military
Lt. Travis Waller, Military
Jeanette Weir, Military, El Paso, TX
Robert F. Waller, Ft. Benning, GA

Reader and Scripture

August 6 — John Booth — Romans 8:18-27
August 13 — William Blackstone — Romans 8:28-30
August 20 — Lea Dooley — Romans 8:31-39
August 27 — Randy Pirkey

Attendance and Giving (July 2017)

Average Sunday School Attendance — 54
Average Worship Attendance — 104
Monthly Income Needed for Budget — \$ 19,136
Income for July — \$16,158

DeKalb Hope Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter; Canned Meats; Canned/Dry Soups; Canned Veggies; Instant Rice; Canned Fruit; Pasta; Spaghetti Sauce; Oatmeal; Cereal; Ramen Noodles; Chili; Crackers; Personal Toiletry Items

Communion Servers

August 6 — William & Dana Blackstone; Bailey Blackstone

Children's Sermon

August 6 — None
August 13 — Renau Garner
August 20 — Rev. Matthew Smith
August 27 — Lea Dooley

Children's Church

August 6 — None
August 13 — Steve & Jennifer Starrett
August 20 — Micki Usrey & Sharell Jackson
August 27 — Pam Shumake & Lisa McKinnie

Ushers

August 6 — Hawkins Family
August 13 — Thompson Family
August 20 — Dooley Family
August 27 — Usrey Family

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU to all members of DeKalb FUMC for the loving care you have expressed to me while recuperating from my fall. Your many prayers, calls, visits, and trips to doctors, grocery stores and various other places were very welcome while I was not comfortable driving my car. A church (and community) family like DeKalb, assures me that this is the place for me to be until I take up residence in the next world. I am doing well and almost back to routine life.

Walter Johnson

Dear Prayer Warriors,

How grateful and blessed we are to live in a town where fellow Christians pray for one another! You have no idea what it meant each week to get your card and to know I had been lifted up in prayer. I am improving. Thanks so much!

Joe Mac Davis

To DeKalb First United Methodist Church Prayer Breakfast:

I really appreciate your support, thoughts and especially your prayers. In April I was told I had "Interstitial Lung Disease". I had to Google it because I had never heard of it before. It doesn't take long for it to make its presence known. From seeing some of my best friends fight hard fights against other serious health problems, I knew exactly what to do – Turn it over to the Lord! I did, and He also took the worry and fear. As a bonus He gave me a support group. That's you – the Best Friends – the Christian believers in DeKalb. I'm so very blessed! Thanks again!

Tim Fletcher

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for sharing in the Baptism of Justin Wyatt. A special thanks to the Piecemakers for the lovely blanket and to Jerry Peek for the beautiful song.

Carol Ann Dickens (Rich)

I know that this is a late response, but I would like to thank each of those from the Prayer Breakfast for your prayers. I am a friend of Chuck Phillips. I know God is good and prayer works.

Again, Thanks and God Bless

Tim Michael

Thank you to all you members for the thoughts & prayers you sent. I appreciate your time & effort! I also want to thank the very talented person that handmade the beautiful shawl you sent to me. All these things mean so much & help me fight this awful CANCER! This has been a challenging time, and I appreciate you so much. You have no idea what your support has meant to me. I can never thank you enough.

Love, Nona Crane

We are both appreciative and grateful for all your thoughts and prayers during Danielle's heart procedure. Everything went great and she is on the road to recovery. Many blessings to all of you!

Matthew & Danielle Smith

FUMC Designated Giving Policy

Designated Gifts Disclaimer: The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, DeKalb, TX reserves the right to remove any designations or restrictions on gifts when it is in the best interest of the church to do so. At the point in which a designated gift fulfills its purpose any remaining amount shall be shared with the broader mission of DeKalb First United Methodist Church.

Calendar

Every Sunday

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| Coffee with the Pastor, Fellowship Hall | 9:00 am |
| Sunday School | 9:45 — 10:45 am |
| Worship | 10:50 am |

Every Tuesday

Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall — 7:00 am

Every Wednesday

Chancel Choir — 6:30 pm

Youth Coffee House — 6:00-7:00 pm (UMCF & UMYF will resume Aug. 16)

Every Thursday

"Piecemakers" Fellowship Hall — 10:00 am — 2:00 pm

Sunday, August 6

Communion Sunday, Sanctuary — 10:50 am

PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS FOR HOPE

Wednesday, August 9

Nursing Home Ministry — 2:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15

United Methodist Women Meeting at the Williams House

Wednesday, August 16

UMCF (Cubs) & UMYF (Youth) will begin meeting again: Cubs 5:30 pm and Youth 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 17

Amazing Grays, Potluck & Game Night — 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 20

Promotion Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, Third Grade Bible Presentation, and Teacher Recognition — 10:50 am, Sanctuary

THANK YOU (continued)

To the Methodist Church and all the Prayer Breakfast Team:

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers for me while I was having back problems. Through great prayer warriors like you the shots in my back have been like a miracle. I'm free of pain. I want you to know how much the card I got each week lifted my spirits. May God pour His blessings out on each of you. Love in Christ,
Pam Clack

We are grateful for each expression of Christian love extended to our family. Mother loved FUMC and was blessed with many active years of fellowship. During her six years of confinement we appreciated the outreach ministries of the delivery of the recorded sermons, the communion delivery, and the Challengers Class and Prayer Breakfast cards. Each activity, along with your personal cards and visits, kept Mother connected to her church family and dear friends.

We thank you for the peace lily, the UMW's white carnation, the family luncheon before Mother's memorial service, and each prayer spoken on our behalf.

May God Bless Each of You,
Family of Reta Howell

DeKalb First United Methodist Church

210 W Austin * P.O. Box 396 DeKalb, TX 75559

Office: (903) 667-2705 * Fax: (903) 667-5585

Parsonage: (903) 667-2338

Church Email: dekalbsecretary@aol.com

Pastor's Email: dekalbpreacher@aol.com

www.dekalbmethodist.org