

Messenger

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FLORENCE, ALABAMA

“Hope for Honduras” Benefit Dinner

Thursday, January 28, 2010

6:00 p.m. in McDowell Hall

The Honduras Mission Team of FUMC - Florence is hosting a Gourmet Dinner to aid the Children of Roatan, Honduras. Prepared by the Award-Winning Florence High School Culinary Arts Program, the menu will include: Strawberry vinaigrette salad, twice baked potato casserole, stir-fried sugar snaps with garlic, lemon chicken, and strawberry cannoli. Purchase tickets, \$25 per person, in advance through FUMC Office (764-5072), checks payable to FUMC Honduras Mission. Entertainment by Danita Luna, soloist. Door prizes! Contact FUMC office, 764-5072. Limited seating



“Score for Missions” Super Bowl Chili Sale

Delicious (frozen) Homemade Chili - \$10.00 per quart

Available January 31, 2010. Call FUMC office to place orders for your Super Bowl Chili, 764-5072, or email rpnriv@comcast.net.

Oops! Did you FORGET...

To register for the Church Retreat? Call Joy in the church office today to see if space is still available! Registered, but forgot to pick-up your book? Get your copy of Francis Chan's *Crazy Love* in the church office and begin reading today.



Behold 2010

Youth - Behold 2010

We are so very proud of our youth. We wanted to share the group that went to the Behold retreat this past weekend with you. They are on the stage in Hutto at Camp Sumatanga.

We had a wonderful weekend, 5 students gave their lives to Christ during an altar call, and 3 made a commitment to fulltime Christian Service.

Please pray for all our youth, it takes the entire Church to raise these youth in Christian Love.

KNOWN MEMBERS IN HOSPITALS:
SHOALS HOSPITAL - Mary Ethel Patrick
Recently Dismissed - Bret Smith, Walter Urben

Please Help Us

Please call the church office (764-5072) or Congregational Care (764-7813) if you know of anyone in the hospital. Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

Noah Stanley Elkins
January 15, 2010

Reding/Chappell Lenten Bible Study

at the home of Mary & Seaborn Chappell, 113 Ivy Lane begins Monday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Six sessions led by Rev. Billy Reding. Everyone is welcome to join us for an enriching experience, please bring your Bible. If you will be a new participant, please let the Chappells know.

Church Office will close
at noon on Fridays.



As we look to the future, it is so important and helpful to have the guidance of others in the church at large. We have received the initial feedback form our church consultant, Conrad Lowe, who is working with us directly as well as through our District Superintendent. These reports are in the church office for any of you who have not seen one yet.

Our core leadership team made up of laity, staff and ministers will seek to address a process that will move us from where we are, to break the 500 barrier in worship on Sunday mornings, and on to being a church thinking and acting like a church of a thousand. How exciting is that?

We have been directed to focus as a first priority on worship, then evangelism and assimilation. We are in a great place as we launch into this exciting venture. I'm enthusiastic, not because we are being exposed to some great guidance, but because I am convinced it is God's will for our church to grow. Secondly, I've been talking to so many of you who genuinely want our church to grow, fulfilling the great commission Jesus gave his church. One of the catch phrases I like regarding this obvious desire and commitment to grow is, "whatever it takes!"

We will be initiating some of our first moves soon, particularly in worship with the goal of having the best Traditional and Contemporary worship service we can possibly

M.O.S.T. (Many Opportunities
to
Share Together)

**Wed., Jan. 27 McDowell Hall
Meal (5:00 - 6:00 p.m.)**

Menu: Chicken tenders, baked potato, salad, & dessert
Meal prices: \$5.00 - Adult; \$3.00 - Children ages 6-12;
Free for Children age 5 & under (\$15.00 maximum per family)
Please mark the registration pad or call 764-5072, to make your reservations! Nursery will be provided.

Caring & Planning Class

Wed., Jan. 27 - Hospice Care with Le Traylor

Beth Moore Study (Breaking Free)

will begin in February at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
with Dr. Erika Crenshaw

Disciple Bible Study

Grow closer to God and your brothers and sisters in Christ as you dig deep in Disciple Bible Study. In this 32 week small group facilitators Rev. Gary Formby and Dr. Steve White will guide you through an in-depth study of scripture, insightful group discussion, and transformative prayer. The facilitators are open to lead the section of Disciple Bible Study that appeals to the most participants. Classes will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3rd. Twelve participants must register for the class to meet. Please RSVP now in the church office, marking which section you are interested in completely.

The Pastor's Part

have. Our aim is not simply more inspiring worship but truly connecting with God, with emphasis on helping un-churched and de-churched people make that vital life-giving connection to Jesus Christ.

I truly believe we can break the 500 barrier, a consistent worshipping congregation of 500, very soon. One reason is, a number of you have already committed to more regular worship attendance, which creates that necessary crowd, which communicates that we are a very alive church to newcomers, and it goes on from there. Since we already have six to seven hundred regular attendees, even if only occasionally in worship, a mere commitment to be in worship weekly for a while would bring dramatic differences immediately. This will become one of our emphasis for Lent this year. All will be encouraged to commit to worship our great God every week. So you have a chance to be one who stirs the fire God is building under our great church to be the model church he created us and bless us beyond measure to be.

Your commitment to serve God with your presence will be our "jumpstart" on breaking that puny 500 barrier, certainly puny for a church like Florence First. Encourage everyone you know to join you in regular worship between now and Easter. ~Gary

Memorials & Honorariums

Designated Memorial Funds: General Memorials, Building, Library, Local Missions, Pianos, New Church Van, Pastor's Discretionary, Fellowship Hall Kitchen & The Garden

Gifts to the Building Fund

In memory of **Stanley Elkins** by C.H. Lawrence, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Armfield; Maurice Cox; Loeita Young; Kathy & Jim Bragwell; Sybil & Roy Stevens; Eira & David Dison

In memory of **Frank Sessions** by Betty & Frank Achorn; Eira & David Dison

In memory of **Robert Nabors** by Lou & Bill Batson

Gifts to the Library Fund

A book, "*Going Rogue, An American Life*" by Sarah Palin, has been given in memory of **Elizabeth Gerber** by Dr. & Mrs. John Musgrove and family

January 17, 2010

Stewardship of Presence

Church School	308
Worship, 8:30	91
"The Bridge", 10:45	104
Worship, 11:00	241
Total in Worship	436

Stewardship of Gifts

2010 Ministry Fund

2009 Ministry Budget	\$1,136,978.00
Weekly Budget Needs	\$21,864.97
Received this Week	\$13,863.06
Needed to Date	\$65,594.91
Received to Date	\$111,545.04

2010 Building Fund

Current Loan Balance	\$2,293,978.75
Interest Pd. 2010	\$9,110.28
Needed Each Week	\$6,432.98
Received this Week	\$1,725.00
Needed to Date	\$19,298.94
Received to Date	\$38,125.00

1/20/10

Haiti Emergency Relief

1. Health Kits: Follow the instructions at <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/> . Drop-off kits at 1st UMC or Brandon Center.
2. Financial Donations: Please make checks payable to Florence First UMC and mark "Haiti Emergency Advance #418325." Or donate on-line at www.umcorhaiti.org.
3. Volunteer: Prepare now to volunteer as a mission worker in the coming months by visiting www.umvim.org/haiti.

"First Sunday" Service

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Covered Dish Supper - 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

First Sunday Service - 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A covered dish supper will start at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, then we will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. for worship and celebration. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

HABITAT'S RESTORE

Time to clean out your storage areas. Habitat's Restore wants appliances, furniture, etc. to sell to finance the Habitat houses. Call 764-4494 for pick ups.

Youth News

DISCOVERY Is Coming - March 5-7!!!

We have a wonderful opportunity to reach our youth in a very special way for Christ. This opportunity is called "Discovery". Discovery is a weekend where youth will have the opportunity to experience the love of God in a special way. We begin on Friday night and are at the Church through Sunday afternoon. We ask the church to help as they work through tough faith issues and seek to understand what their relationship with Christ should be. We believe that Discovery helps transform the lives of individuals as well as the life of our church. Discovery invites the entire church family to live out its Baptismal covenant of surrounding these children with a community of love and forgiveness so they may be established in the faith, and confirmed in strengthen in the ways that lead to life eternal. We invite you to join us as we all discover what God has in store for our church through a Discovery Weekend. This Sunday you will have the opportunity to take the name of one of our youth and pray for them during the coming weeks of preparation for this Spiritual Weekend. Whether your teen has been active or not, we want them to be included in this weekend of Discovery. Everyone is invited to experience the love of God and find out how much God has to offer our youth and our church.

Schedule of Activities

Sunday, January 24

Worship in Sanctuary	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Communion in Chapel	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Choir rehearsal	10:30 a.m.
“The Bridge”, McDowell Hall	10:45 a.m.
Discovery Meeting, Fellowship Hall	2:00 p.m.
Confirmation Class, N306	4:00 p.m.
Youth UMYF	5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 25

Missions Committee, History Room	4:30 p.m.
Brownie Troop, Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 26

Aerobics, McDowell Hall	9:30 a.m.
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Wednesday, January 27

Men’s Coffee, Lounge	10:00 a.m.
Joyful Ringers Choir	3:30 p.m.
Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal	4:15 p.m.
Cherub Choir rehearsal	5:00 p.m.
M.O.S.T. Supper, McDowell Hall	5:00 p.m.
Nursery Available	5:00 p.m.
Children’s Supervised Gameroom	5:00 p.m.
Children (3 & 4 year olds), N123	5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 27 continued

Wesley Ringers rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
Youth UMYF	5:30 p.m.
Kidz Makit Happen (K-1st)	6:00 p.m.
Adult Choir rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Team J.U.M.P. (Grades 5th & 6th)	6:00 p.m.
L.E.A.P. F.R.O.G. (Grades 2-4)	6:00 p.m.
Dancing with the Lord of the Dance, Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.
Caring & Planning, Hospice Care with Le Traylor, N307	6:00 p.m.
Playtime (3 & 4 year olds)	6:30 p.m.
Gym Time (Grades 2nd-6th)	7:00 p.m.
Computers/Playground/Movie Time, (K-1st Grade)	7:00 p.m.
Movie Room, 2r (3 & 4 year olds)	7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 28

Aerobics, McDowell Hall	9:30 a.m.
First Place 4 Health, History Room	10:00 a.m.
Honduras Dinner, McDowell Hall	6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 29

Confirmation Retreat to Sumatanga	3:30 p.m.
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SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar will be in honor of
Marilyn Mager
for her 90th birthday
on January 28, 2010
by Rob, Patsy, and Katie Mager

*Kneeling Room
Only*

pray for Florence FUMC 11:30 a.m. - Wednes-
days
Prayer & holy communion in Rogers Chapel
(or wherever you are).

Sunday Worship Service

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Gary Formby
“Living Wise, Living Well: Financially”
 Proverbs 23:4-5, 19:17, 3:9-10, 11:25
 8:30 a.m. - Chancel Choir
 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Choir

10:45 a.m. Rev. Joy Morgan
**“When Christians Get It Wrong:
 In Divorcing Science & Marrying Politics”**
 Genesis 1:1-8; Matthew 22:16-21
 The Bridge Band

Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor
or in memory of loved ones, please call the church of-
fice, 764-5072, to reserve one of the following Sundays:

February 28 March 7, 14

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