



## MARCH TO THE MANGER

A special thank you to all who participated in the March to the Manger Offering. Results of the offering designations are as follows:

Connectional Giving: \$1,932  
Food Pantry: \$20  
No Designation: \$1,711  
Radio: \$410

Samaritan Fund: \$50  
TV: \$1,215  
Grand Total: \$5,338

(Tribute Listings will appear in next Focus)



## UPPER ROOM PRAYER SCHEDULE

December 26

Morning Song Service

Frank and Barbara Racy

Traditional Service

Barbara Lakey  
Stephanie Phillips

January 2

Morning Song Service

Roy and Brenda Wrather

Traditional Service

Emily Richardson  
Melissa Mitchell



A biweekly publication of  
**First United Methodist Church**  
145 W. Church Avenue  
Covington, TN 38019

476.9694 (Office); 476.5352 (fax)  
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[www.covingtonfumc.com](http://www.covingtonfumc.com)

“Leading Others to Christ,  
Learning to Be Disciples,  
Loving through Service.”

MISSION STATEMENT OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 21, 2010

the focus

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 21, 2010 ISSUE



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Musicians  
Russell Phelps,  
Pianist

Facilities  
Rebecca Paris,  
Custodian

Kenny Summers,  
Maintenance



## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

On December 12, the church celebrated the baptism of **Nathaniel Thomas Lazure**. Nate is the son of Glenn and Jenny Lazure, the brother of Drew Lazure, and the grandson of Cathy Adams. Other First UMC relatives include great-

grandparents Henry, Sr. and Gwen Glass; uncle and aunt Tim and Stephanie Pugh; great uncle and aunt Henry, Jr. and Betty Glass, and numerous cousins. Please pray for Nate that as he grows God might increase his Christian faith in mind, soul, and strength. Home address is 1028 Hall Rd., Covington.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

On December 19, the church celebrated the baptism of Whitney Gamble and her daughter Ansley Marie. Whitney professed Christ as her Savior and received the Sacrament of Baptism. Ansley then received baptism. Please pray for Whitney and Ansley as God leads them in this faith. Whitney's husband, and Ansley's dad, is Chad Gamble, who took the vows of membership and together with Whitney become professing members. Welcome Chad, Whitney and Ansley to the First United Methodist Church Family! Their Home address is 50 Becks Lane, Brighton. Photo will appear in next Focus.

## WELCOME TO JUSTIN HANSON



The Staff-Parish Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Justin Hanson as the new organist for First UMC. Justin is well-known in the Covington community for his musical talent, and he is also known in his other work as the West

Tennessee and morning traffic reporter with WMC Channel 5. Justin will begin his duties in February.

Justin previously served as organist at Somerville First UMC and at First Presbyterian in Covington. Justin is married to Amanda, and they live at 1524 Herring Dr. in Covington.





## RACHEL HARRELL TO STEP DOWN

We are saddened that after nearly two years in the position of Music Director, Rachel Harrell is announcing her resignation effective December 31 to spend more time with family. Rachel previously served for two years in this position before leaving to pursue her degree. She rejoined the First UMC staff in January of 2009.

With a wealth of talent and creativity, Rachel has overseen the Chancel Choir, Morning-Song's Praise Team, the Praise Choir, and the Hand Bells. We hope we will continue to see Rachel from time to time, as well as Bradley and Eli. Please give your thanks to her for all she has done. We will miss her. The Harrell's home address is 1792 Appling Oaks Circle, Cordova, TN 38016.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO PAULETTE PALMER

For several weeks, Ms. Paulette Palmer has played organ for First UMC. Many thanks to her as she finishes her time with us on December 26. Paulette grew up at Covington First UMC, leaving in the late 60's. It has been good to have her here with us, and we have appreciated so much her talents that she has shared. Please share with Paulette our heartfelt thanks. Her home address is 6325 Wedgewood Cv., Memphis, TN 38134.



## YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE



We have a Facebook page for the "Young Adult Sunday School Class", called "Beyond SundaySchool – First United Methodist Church Covington TN". We will be doing our Sunday school lessons on Facebook and connecting with one another no matter where we are.

We would like to invite all young adults who are in college, working, or who are just searching for a new way to study the Bible to connect with us. A new young adult class began on Sunday, September 12th, on the 2nd floor of the Fellowship hall at the regular Sunday school hour. Phillip and Angela Mathis and George Patton are the leaders and we would like to invite anyone who is in town to attend.

After you sign on to Facebook, the link is below:

[http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000670624311#!/pages/Covington-TN/Beyond-Sunday-School-First-United-Methodist-Church-Covington-TN/146319098722489?ref=sgm&\\_\\_a=5&ajaxpipe=1](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000670624311#!/pages/Covington-TN/Beyond-Sunday-School-First-United-Methodist-Church-Covington-TN/146319098722489?ref=sgm&__a=5&ajaxpipe=1)

## POINSETTIAS

### In Honor of:

1. Bob and Shirley Hensley by Jim and Beverly Smith
2. Lora F. Holland and W. E. Hughes by Carl and Connie Holland and Carl Jr. and Lora Holland
3. Kirk, Emily and Emma Richardson by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shelton



### In Memory of:

1. Wilbur Cash and Melbagene Cash by Their Children, Jean, Bill and Ann.
2. Nannie, Benton and George Calhoun from Carolyn Hall and Nancy Simpson
3. Nannie, Benton and George Calhoun from Adam and Halle Simpson and Family
4. Roy Rob Davis by Nadine Davis, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren
5. Raymond Dawson by Carl and Connie Holland
6. Kathy Holland and John Henning and Carl, Lora, and Carl Jr. Holland
7. Robert E. Klutts and Mrs. Tom Klutts by Janet Klutts
8. Jean and Bill Orton by Daniel and Beverly Orton Felts
9. Clara Jane Phelps from Russell Phelps

## CHOIR CANTATA

More than three hundred persons gathered for the two performances of Agnus Dei on December 12 at the church. The Chancel Choir performed the cantata, which was a collection of Christmas hymns featuring music by Michael W. Smith.



Joining the choir were several orchestral musicians who added their beautiful talents to the production. Special thanks to Rachel Harrell, to the choir, and to all the musicians who worked so hard to produce this blessing of music ministry.

**The cantata will be broadcast on KBJ-TV (channel 5 in the county, channel 19 in the city) at 7:00 pm on Friday, Dec. 24 and again at 9:00 am on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.**

Tune in to see and hear this beautiful musical celebration of Christ's birth presented by the FUMC Chancel Choir accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra.

## MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM TRIBUTES

1. In honor of Martha Brasfield to the Samaritan Fund by Judy Billings and Carl Perkins Angel Tree by Susan and Joel Forbess
2. In honor of Evelyn Elam to the Altar Guild by Bernie Liles and Gary Liles
3. In honor of First United Methodist Church Members to the Tribute Fund by Thad Glenn
4. In honor of George Jones' military service to the Food Pantry by Skip and Kendy Erwin
5. In honor of Velma Peeler to the Altar Guild by Bernie Liles and Gary Liles
6. In memory of Helen Bradley Blount to the Tribute fund by Linda Lee Turner and Lance Thompson
7. In memory of Gene Butler to the Memorial Fund by Julia and G.K. Butler and to the Building Fund by Waymon and Naomi McDade
8. In memory of Louise Cooley by the Memorial Fund by Herbert and Linda Ferguson and the Food Pantry by Russell and Nancy Lindsey
9. In memory of Horace and Louise Cooley to the Memorial Fund by Sara Staskiewics
10. In memory of Dwight Liles to the Altar Guild by Bernie Liles and Gary Liles
11. In memory of Tom Liles to the Altar Guild by Bernie Liles and Gary Liles
12. In memory of Geoffrey Max to the Food Pantry by Mary Max and his family
13. In memory of Marie McDivitt to the Memorial Fund by David and Jeri Lynn McDivitt and Family
14. In memory of Randy Palubicki to the Memorial Fund by The Friendship Class and the Prayer Shawl Ministry by Jane Whitaker
15. In memory of Jack Peyton to the Bereavement Fund by Robert and Joan Collier, Bob and Wanda Lakey and Steve and Kaye Smith; to the Building Fund by Jim and Nancy Hampton and Waymon and Naomi McDade; to the Food Pantry by Mermell Covington, Eddie and Carol Daniel, Russell and Nancy Lindsey, Walter and Edith McBride, Audrey Naifeh and Family, Pete McDow, Bettye Shelley, Ted and Carolyn Turner, Tim and Kathy Wallace and Don and Vickie Wilson; to the Memorial Fund by William and Margaret Dennie, Thad Glenn, Jane Whitaker and Gladys Whitley; and the Samaritan Fund by Martha Thornton.
16. In memory of Edwin and Bernice Templeton to the Building Fund by The Enjoy Class
17. In memory of Dick Timberlake to the Landscape Maintenance Fund by Tom and Shirley Bready, Food Pantry by Bill and Ann Enzor, Worship Fund by Jim and Beverly Smith, and Samaritan Fund by Martha Thornton
18. In memory of Martha Wallace to the Christian Counseling Center by Steve and Kaye Smith; to the Food Pantry by Earl and Faye Beckett, Eddie and Carol Daniel, Lynne Fisher, Russell and Nancy Lindsey, Bill and Carolynn Scruggs, Van and Pam Shelley, Houston Mize and Rodney and Patsy Waits Family, Phillip and Emily Sigler Family; Prayer Shawl Ministry by Jane Whitaker and the Samaritan Fund by Sue Jones
19. In memory of Linda Neely Wilson to the Samaritan Fund by Chad and Kim Stewart and Family

## BREAD OF LIFE FEEDING MINISTRY UPDATE

Thanks to all who have worked in the food pantry so far during December. We served 115 families at the Covington pantry the first Saturday; 85 families were served in the pouring rain at the Brighton pantry second Saturday; and 90 families were served in Covington last Saturday. Since the fourth Saturday falls on Christmas, the Brighton Pantry will be open from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23. To all who have donated plastic grocery bags and canned fruit, many thanks. We once again received an additional 24 bushels of beautiful sweet potatoes from Denard Clemons, a truck patch farmer from Drummonds.

Atoka Elementary School conducted a food drive over the past two weeks to benefit nine families they were assisting and they collected so much food, they gifted us with several hundred pounds of canned and dry food items. Thanks to Debbie Neal, Laura Thornton and Brittany Mize for making that connection for us and for transporting the food to the church.

The staff and students of Covington Integrated Arts Academy once again came through for us with 100 cans of fruit which was distributed at our Brighton food pantry last Saturday. Thanks to them! Posters expressing our thanks have been taken to both schools for display. In addition, we have received over 300 pounds of ground deer meat from Farmers and Ranchers for the Hungry thanks to Joey Caldwell and Todd Rankin. That meat is much appreciated. Also, the nursery school at Munford Methodist conducted a canned food drive for our pantry and Regions Bank made a donation of \$185 to fund the ministry this week.

Two additional freezers have been donated to the food pantry – one from Dorothea Klofenstein, mother of Paulette Palmer who has been playing our organ in recent weeks, and another commercial freezer from the Delfield Corporation. Thanks so much to them. Delfield has already provided us with two commercial refrigerators and two freezers previously. Thanks to Jay Rivers and Bubba Eaves at Delfield for making this possible and to Russell Lindsey and Waymon McDade for picking up the freezers.



Youth, Don't Forget.

December 28-31

Leave church at 7:30 a.m.

Return 6:00 p.m.





**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Join us Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. or at 10:30 p.m. for a service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion. Hear again the wonderful gospel story of God's acts of salvation and grace in human history, culminating in the Incarnation in Jesus Christ.

The worship service concludes with a candlelight singing of Silent Night, and also includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All Christians are welcome to partake of the Sacrament. The worship service is a beautiful and joyful occasion, and we sincerely invite you to be a part of this experience.



**POSITION AVAILABLE**

The position of Music Director is available. Applicants should have ability in direction of Traditional Chancel Choir and ability in leading Contemporary Praise Team. Also, Handbell direction is desired. The position would require presence on Sundays and Wednesdays. The position is part-time. Interested persons see Tim Carpenter at church to submit a resume.

**ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

December 5, 2010

MorningSong -	86
Sunday School -	147
Traditional Worship -	152
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 1,813.00
Traditional Worship-	\$ 7,389.75

December 12, 2010

MorningSong -	119
Sunday School -	129
Traditional Worship -	183
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 3,830.00
Traditonal Worship Offering -	\$ 4,572.05

December 19, 2010

MorningSong -	101
Sunday School -	135
Traditional Worship -	221
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 5,232.95
Traditonal Worship Offering	\$ 18,367.55

**MCBRIDE ANNIVERSARY**

Walter and Edith McBride will celebrate 74 years of marriage on December 24!

Congratulations on this milestone, and may God add his blessings on them for this achievement. Their home address is 983 Highway 54 East, Covington, TN 38019.



**CHILDREN'S MUSICAL**

More than 150 persons attended the children's musical on December 5. Performing for 45 minutes, the children did a wonderful job of presenting the true meaning of Christmas in a humorous play entitled "The First Leon." Special thanks to Jaime and all of her help: to Kim Stewart and Hope Turner for directing the play and teaching the kids the music; to Stephen Racine for graciously being our "director" in the play; to Susan Sampson for organizing costumes and props; to Cherri Freeman and Leigh Smith for teaching the preschool music; to Keith Phelps for setting up microphones and sound equipment and videoing; and to Rachel Harrell and Adam McDuffie for instrumentals! Merry Christmas!



**CHAPMAN RECEPTION**



A reception in honor of Ms. Evelyn Chapman's retirement was held on December 5, celebrating her many years of

service and ministry providing organ music. Beginning in 1947, and regularly in 1970, Ms. Chapman has been an important part of First UMC worship. Many thanks to Evelyn Chapman. Her home address is 293 Long Ave., Covington, TN 38109





**Wednesday, December 22, 2010**

NO Wednesday Activities

**Thursday, December 23, 2010**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
Cockrill-Gift Class1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild-Sanctuary/  
Cockrill-Gift

6-8:00 p.m. Brighton Food Pantry

6:30 p.m. ZUMBA - Sr. High Class

**Friday, December 24, 2010**

Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols,  
and Communion10:30 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols,  
and Communion**Sunday, December 26, 2010**

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

5:30 p.m. NO YOUTH

**Monday, December 27, 2010**

Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 28, 2010**

7:30 a.m. Youth leave for BreakThrough

**Wednesday, December 29, 2010**5:15 p.m. Council on Ministries in Fellowship  
Hall

NO Regular Wednesday Activities

**Thursday, December 30, 2010**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:00 a.m. NO Women's Bible Study

1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild-Sanctuary/  
Cockrill Gift**Monday, January 3**

Office Closed

**Regular Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday****COUNSELING**

Counseling is available for individuals or couples. Cindy Pease, S.,L.P.S./M.H.S.P., Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Certified, is available for appointment by contacting the FUMC office 476-9694 at ext.18.

*Fees are based on ability to pay.*

**WORSHIP BROADCASTS**

Live radio broadcast of Traditional Worship on WKBL AM 1250 @ 11:00 a.m.

Traditional service: Delayed broadcast of the on KBJ Cable TV, Channel 5 (city) and 19 (county) Sundays @ 1:00 p.m. and Tuesdays @ 12 Noon.

MorningSong on the Square: Delayed Broadcast on KBJ Cable TV, Channel 5 (city) and 19 (county) Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Also, live streaming of the traditional service is available at [www.covingtonfumc.com](http://www.covingtonfumc.com), as well as streaming of past services.

**THANK YOU MIKE AND ALICE**

A special thanks to Mike and Alice Morrison for regularly preparing the Wednesday night meals for a year and a half. In addition, they have prepared other special meals for Go Getters and UMW events. The hours of preparation and dedication to prepare most all of the food from scratch has been a labor of love. Their dedication has allowed us to enjoy the Wednesday night meals on a weekly basis at a very affordable price.

After this semester, our Wednesday meals will only be at special occasions, rather than weekly.

Mike and Alice will prepare these but are unable to continue on a weekly basis. Please give your appreciation to Mike and

**NOTE FROM PAULETTE PALMER**

I thank the church for the opportunity to help lead worship. It is very fulfilling to play the organ for worship and provide a service to the Lord and for the congregation that not many others can do. I have been richly blessed by the sermons, baptisms, choir specials, and certainly by the congregation with special thoughts and comments about my family and organ music. Best wishes to FUMC as Justin begins his music ministry with you all. Merry Christmas, Paulette

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (14TH-31ST)**

14 Sharon O'Connor  
16 Sheri Gilbreath, Spencer Steward  
17 Katelynn Aday, Dot Butler  
18 Mary Louise Ezell  
19 Jansen Hunter  
20 Nathan Burdette, Allison Phelps  
22 Ashley Frizzell  
23 Betty Glass, Keith Winberry,  
Ethan Carpenter

**NOTES OF THANKS**

From a card received from Evelyn Chapman:

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the expressions of love and gratitude showed me on December 5. The reception was nothing short of perfection in every detail—the beautiful cake, punch, flowers, and of course the gift of the beautiful brooch which will be treasured for my lifetime! I wish to extend my love and best wishes to All for a blessed holiday season and thereafter. Blessings,  
Evelyn Chapman*

From Christmas cards received at the church was these notes from a families in our community::

*"Thank you all so much for helping us (and others) this year. God bless you all!  
Love, Elizabeth and James Ervin"*

*"Thank you for your generosity and support this holiday season. May your families be as blessed as ours. From Ativa, Caleb, and Aubri Payne*

*I thank your church so very much for your food pantry. The church workers and volunteers are very kind and helpful. Shari Ann Finnie-Holley*

24 Mary Eve Dawson, Paul Pemberton, Rhonda Patton, Stephanie Pugh, Erin David  
26 Martha McDaniel, Wayne Hughey, Hannah Patton  
30 Tommy Pullen, Kinley Escue  
31 Carole Hughey, Mia Maxwell

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