

# the focus

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MARCH 7, 2012 ISSUE



## Ministry Staff

Tim Carpenter,  
Senior Pastor

Tcarpenter\_fumc@bellsouthnet

Grace Phelps,  
Outreach and Program  
Ministries

Gphelps\_fumc@bellsouth.net

Bill Face,  
Congregational Care

Bface\_fumc@bellsouth.net

Charlotte Quinley  
Children and Nursery Ministries

Cquinley\_fumc@bellsouth.net

Jason Smith,  
Youth Ministries

Jsmith\_fumc@bellsouth.net

Janet Kinney  
Director of Music

Jkinney\_fumc@bellsouth.net

## Office Support Staff

Holley Mills Morris,  
Admin. & Financial Secretary

Hmorris\_fumc@bellsouth.net

Peggy Miller,  
Printing Secretary/Reception

Pmiller\_fumc@bellsouth.net

## Musicians

Justin Hanson, Organist  
Russell Phelps, Pianist

## Facilities

Rebecca Paris,  
Custodian

Kenny Summers,  
Maintenance



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11.** Remember to turn your clock forward one hour.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS RETIRE** - Recently, Mrs. Faye Hughes, Mrs. Nancy Simpson and Mrs. Carolyn Turner retired from teaching Sunday School at FUMC. Collectively, they have taught FUMC children for nearly 150 years. We pay special tribute and thank them for their dedicated service.

- ◇ Faye Hughes - replaced and worked with Grace Jeter and Mary Tom Smith. She started with 1st grade and then taught 2nd-3rd grades. She taught for 54 years.
- ◇ Nancy Simpson - started with 1st grade and moved to 2nd and 3rd grade when the need was required. She taught for nearly 50 years.
- ◇ Carolyn Turner - her creative skills enlightened the children, like when she brought plaster-of-paris hand print to our 6 year olds. She was in our children's Sunday School rooms for 41 years.

All three teachers have worked together for many years, and have been essential in providing many of us, and our children, with the foundations of our Christian faith. We are profoundly grateful!

## EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Easter lilies can be purchased to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter morning worship service, Sunday, April 8.

**Deadline to order is Sunday, April 1**

Cost is \$15.00 each



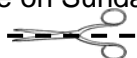
In Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Place this form in the offering plate or give to an usher.*

You are encouraged to take the lily with you after Easter service on Sunday.



## WHY WE GIVE

### A Message From the Finance & Stewardship Committee

Christians give through their church for many reasons, including---but not limited to---the following:

- We give because God first gave to us.
- We give because we love God.
- We give because it is what Christians do.
- We give because it is what United Methodists do.
- We give to make ministry and mission happen.

We give because, together, we can do what no one individual or congregation can do separately.

*“Giving is from the heart. Your first fruits go to God. When I was laid off from my job from June 2002 until September 2003, I never missed a Sunday of tithing....I tithe to support my church; that is, the administrative side and any outreach efforts. My giving has never caused me to go without; and yes, there were times it was returned many times over.”*

---Audrey Dowlen, Banks Chapel United Methodist Church, Springfield, TN.”

Taken from “WHY WE GIVE” United Methodist communications.



**FUMC YOUTH** will travel to Cordova for a pizza outing on Saturday, March 10. They will depart from the church at noon and return to the church at 4:00 p.m. Each youth will need \$15.00. For more information please contact our Youth Director, Jason Smith at (205) 542-2281.

**THE REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE** wishes to remind everyone that the refreshments which are provided during Morning Song and Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall are funded by financial gifts from individuals and the Sunday School classes. Please remember to forward your gifts timely. The cost of donuts each week is \$31.00. We are bringing this to your attention because the 2011 refreshment budget was overdrawn by \$327.38; which represents approximately 10 weeks of refreshments. Thank you for your continued assistance with this program.



## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

### February 26, 2012

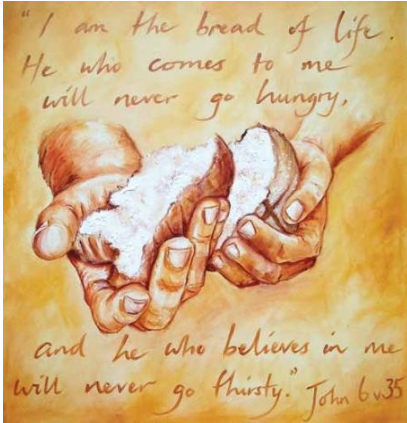
MorningSong -	116
Sunday School -	142
Traditional Worship -	180
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 1,502.00
Traditional Worship Offering-	\$ 7,530.78

### March 4, 2012

MorningSong -	87
Sunday School -	143
Traditional Worship -	171
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 3,845.64
Traditional Worship Offering-	\$ 22,926.48

# Bread of Life Feeding Ministry Update

## February 2012



Thanks to everyone who served and donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry during February! For the first time since we opened, the Brighton pantry served more families and individuals in February than the Covington pantry. Our thanks to Trust Company Bank in Brighton for continuing to allow us to use their facility to house our Brighton pantry location.

In April, we will begin offering a 20 minute time of worship for food pantry patrons and volunteers each Saturday immediately before the food pantry opens. The service will include singing, a time of prayer, and a short devotional in which we celebrate the living Christ who guides our steps in this ministry.

	<u>February 2012</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Households served:	154 (Covington) 172 (Brighton) <b>326 (Total)</b>	232 (Covington) 237 (Brighton) <b>469 (Total) *</b>
Individuals served:	545 (Covington) 526 (Brighton) <b>1,152 (Total)</b>	646 (Covington) 727 (Brighton) <b>1,373 (Total) *</b>
Volunteers serving:	175 persons served at least once	
Pounds of food:	9,979 (Mid-South Food Bank) 35 (Save-A-Lot) 117 (Kroger meat) <b>10,131 (Total) – 5.0 tons</b>	26,722 (Mid-South Food Bank) 658 (Save-A-Lot) 482 (Kroger) 400 (purchased) <b>28,262 (YTD Total) – 14.1 tons</b>
Cost of food:	\$ 866.89	\$2,453.58
Cost per pound:	8.5 cents	8.7 cents

Average cost per household: **\$2.65 (for a distribution of food in February)**

*\* These are distinct families and individuals who were served at least once during the year – some on a monthly basis.*

## SAMARITAN FUND -

### January 25 through March 2, 2012:

- 1 individual received \$15.00 in groceries (paid to the vendor).
- 1 individual received two nights lodging totaling \$64.00 (paid to vendor).
- 1 households received utility assistance totaling \$50.00 (paid to vendor).
- 1 individual received vehicular gas totaling \$25.00 (paid to vendor).

### Year-To-Date Totals January 1, 2011 through today's date:

- 3 individual received \$45.00 total in groceries (paid to vendor).
- 14 individuals received \$692.00 for lodging (paid to vendor).
- 1 individual received \$50.00 for miscellaneous assistance (paid to the vendor).
- 1 individual received \$7.50 for prescriptions (paid to vendor).
- 5 households received \$250.00 in rent assistance (paid to vendor).
- 50 households received \$3,821.73 for utilities (paid to vendor)
- 10 household received 265.00 for vehicular gas (paid to vendor).

Total households assisted: 84  
Total amount expended: \$5,131.23

The current balance of the Samaritan Fund is \$722.22

### Stories of Interest:

- A follow up about the bed frames, mattresses and bedding which were made available to a family the week of February 20: The mother and her three **smiling** children came by the office this week. The mother wanted to introduce her children to Grace and express again her appreciation to everyone for the prayers and bedding gifts. The children have been returned to their mother and DCS was very pleased with the sleeping arrangements. Grace was not available when they visited, but Mom promised to return. Once again, thank you to the families who made the items available and provided the transportation from the donor's home to the recipient's home and to everyone for your prayers.
- Kenny, the FUMC maintenance gentleman brought a 30ish man to my office this morning. It was apparent the visitor was in distress. The visitor stated he was hungry and could not wait until the food pantry distribution the following day. We offered him left over muffins, a power bar and a soda. He inhaled the food. When offered a seat in the office he refused, saying he was too dirty and would prefer to sit on the floor. Finally we compromised on a folding chair. The visitor states he has been on the streets since FUMC provided lodging on February 4. Information was provided about a men's shelter in Memphis, two nights at the local hotel and additional food to our guest. When documenting this award to Grace, she stated the visitor has family in the area who apparently will not help him. Please be in prayer for this situation.

**PROJECT 20/20** - Sunday's communion offering netted \$211 for Project 20/20 which is a human services program that protects and improves vision for disadvantaged persons of all faiths. In addition to the offering, FUMC is collecting eye glasses and sunglasses for this program. Please bring in any unnecessary glasses you may have and deposit into the purple boxes. The collection boxes will be available for your donation until Sunday, March 18.

<http://www.covingtonfumc.com/Project%2020/20>



**MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTES...**

In Memory of **Carole Barham**

Samaritan Fund by Barbara Lakey

In Memory of **Margaritte Gray, Mike Gray and Jane Gray Brock**

Choir and Worship Fund by Doris Ann Gray

In Honor of **Holley Morris's 50th Birthday**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin.

In Honor of **Catherine Phelps**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin



**YOUTH CALENDAR**

March

Mar 7	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Mar 10	Sat.	Fun Day - Pizza	12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Mar 11	Sun.	Youth Group	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Mar 14	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Mar 18	Sun.	Confirmation/Youth	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Mar 21	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Mar 25	Sun.	Youth Group	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Mar 28	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



April

Apr 1	Sun.	Confirmation/Youth	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Apr 4	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Apr 8	Easter	-no Youth	
Apr 11	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Apr 13-15	Fri.-Sun.	Confirmation Retreat	
Apr 15	Sun.	Youth Group	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Apr 18	Wed.	Youth Group	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Spring Break

TRA	March 12 - 16
Tipton County	March 26 - 30

**WORSHIP BROADCASTS**



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

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

MorningSong on the Square: Delayed Broadcast on KBJ Cable TV, Channel 5 (city) and Channel 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, at any time.



There is a big difference between the tasks of a caregiver and the feelings of a caregiver. If caregiving could be done without any emotional attachment, caregivers would not experience the stress and frustration that often accompanies family caregiving.

Laundry, meal preparation, shopping and bill paying can be pretty humdrum. These routine jobs may be done with little if any emotional energy. Taking care of the physical needs of your aging parent or other loved one is not all there is to being a caregiver.

The real challenge of being a good caregiver is the emotional support you provide as they struggle with the adverse changes in this tough part of an elder's life. Facing the end of life "as we have known it" is a multi-faceted process. Most often we do not recognize the changes aging brings until we experience a personal trauma such as death of a loved one or diagnosis of illness. Aging parents, especially, may put up a brave front for children and grandchildren even as they experience a wide range of emotions.

Caregivers grieve the loss of the parent who was always there when needed and who now has become dependent on others for daily assistance. How we feel about ourselves and our loved ones will have a direct effect on how we go about the job of caregiving. Two of the most common emotions associated with caring for the elderly are pity and compassion.

Pity is a 'sedentary' emotion. It bogs us down in sadness, resentment and frustration. The action emotion that keeps us from looking at an elderly parent and saying, "that's a shame" is compassion. Compassion says, "There is a need. What can I do about it?" So, then, compassion is the genuine emotion of a caregiver.

Three key tips to keep in mind to help manage emotions and how we react to them are:

1. Focus concerns on the one you are caring for, not on yourself. Focusing on yourself breeds self pity and resentment.
2. Focus on a solution to the problem, not its effects. Sometimes a caregiver might need to step away for a time to get a better view of the situation.
3. Focus on the good things that happen each day. Look for the joys of caregiving. They may be hard to recognize but they will be wonderful memories.

Above all, caregivers need to take time for themselves. If we are totally focused on care-giving we fail to see the real person we care for and we miss the opportunity for great memories.



coat

## Share the Warmth Coat Closet Report

Those receiving coats from Nov. 5 – Feb. 28:

Households:	222 families
Adults:	291
Children:	264
Total:	555

Coats still on hand:	351
Total coats donated:	906

## Operation Round-Up Utility Assistance Report


Both utilities began “rounding up” utility bills to the nearest even amount in October 2011. Interviews for Round-Up utility assistance are done currently once a month on the third Tuesday evening of the month here at the church. The first interviews were November 15 and we interviewed again on December 20, January 17, and February 21. Ten persons are trained to work as Round-Up interviewers.



Funds received from Round-Up proceeds YTD:	\$14,479.65
From Covington Electric:	\$7,323.23
From Covington Gas & Water:	\$5,804.01
From People Helping People:	\$1,352.41
Funds dispersed from Round-Up proceeds YTD:	\$2,716.27
To Covington Electric:	\$1,590.18
To Covington Gas & Water:	\$1,126.09
Current balance of Round-Up proceeds:	\$11,763.38

Households applying for Round-Up funds:	27
Those approved:	19
Those declined:	8

## FUMC CHILDREN'S NEWS -

Palm Sunday, April 1 - Children participate in Worship Service  
 - Easter Egg Hunt 

Sunday, April 22 Botanical Gardens Outing - Memphis

Sunday, April 29 Children sing at MorningSong and Traditional services



### REMINDER...

Children are requested to bring their Bibles to Sunday School. They will be used in the new Rotation Schedule each Sunday.



*March 16-*

*March 31*



Mar 16	Elaine Crown	Mar 26	Cody Erwin
	Jodi Turner	Mar 28	Jeffery Glass
Mar 17	Jeff Mitchell	Mar 29	Brittany Mize
Mar 18	Joey Caldwell		Kirl Winberry
Mar 21	Jonathan McDaniel	Mar 30	Tom Bready
Mar 22	Rachel Harrell		June Whitley
Mar 25	Jared Burdette	Mar 31	Cameron Kasmal
	Andi Katherine		
	Delashmit		
	Katie Hart		
	Cameron Ray		
	Eddie Twohig		

*Thank you...*

*"I would like to thank everyone in the church for all the calls, cards, prayers, and visits during my recent illness. I'm especially grateful to Pastor Tim and Dawn for taking time to visit me in the hospital. I am home and doing well."*

Pete McDow

**MEN'S PRAYER  
BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAYS  
7:00 A.M.**

**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**ONLY \$3.00**





**FUMC CALENDAR MARCH 7, 2012 - MARCH 20, 2012**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

6:00 p.m. Bible Studies  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl - Go Classroom  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

(Pastor's bible study resumes Mar 14.)

Thursday, March 8, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study-New Beg. Rm.  
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

Saturday, March 10, 2012

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry, Trust Co. Bank,  
 - Brighton  
 12-4:00 p.m. Youth - Pizza Outing, Cordova, TN

Sunday, March 11, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship (Children Sing)  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Children Sing)  
 9:45 a.m. UMW Hope Circle - Hope Classroom  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
 12:00 p.m. Emergency Response Equipment  
 Meeting - New Beginnings Room  
 4-6:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group

Monday, March 12, 2012

12:00 p.m. UMW Ruth Circle - Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. UMW Martha - Rebekah Circle  
 - Yvonne Bryant home

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

9:30 a.m. UMW Adah-Mary Circle  
 -New Beginnings  
 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting  
 -Friendship Classroom  
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.  
 7:00 p.m. Administrative Board Meeting  
 -New Beginnings

Wednesday, March 15, 2012

6:00 p.m. Bible Studies  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl - Go Classroom  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, March 16, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study-New Beg. Rm.  
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

Saturday, March 17, 2012

9:00 p.m. Food Pantry - Covington

Sunday, March 18, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
 4-6:00 p.m. Youth Group/Confirmation

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

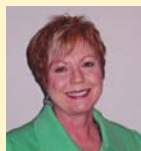
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.  
 7:00 p.m. Trustee's Meeting - New Beginnings

**FUMC Regular Office Hours:  
 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday**

**COUNSELING**

Counseling is available for individuals or couples. *Fees are based on ability to pay.*

**Dr. Faye Beckett, D.C.C.**  
 Doctorate in Christian Counseling,  
 Master of Science in Psychology.  
 For an appointment call the FUMC  
 office 476-9694, ext. 19.



**Cindy Pease, M.H.S.P.,**  
 Licensed Professional Counselor,  
 Nationally Certified. For an  
 appointment call the FUMC office  
 476-9694, ext.18.





UPPER ROOM PRAYER SCHEDULE



**March 11**  
**MorningSong Service**  
 Wanda Lakey, Elizabeth Posey  
 And Kathy Wallace

**Traditional Service**  
 John Wallace

**March 18**  
**MorningSong Service**  
 Ray and Janice Newbill

**Traditional Service**  
 Rhonda Patton and Nancy Peeler

**March 25**  
**MorningSong Service**  
 Frank and Barbra Racy

**Traditional Service**  
 Mike and Alice Morrison

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

**MISSION STATEMENT OF  
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
 CHURCH**

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 145 CHURCH ST.  
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 (901) 476-9694

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