

## **THE GOODNEWS LETTER**

### **First United Methodist Church**

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**Learn the story. Live the story. Tell the story.**



March, 2015

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### **DOC'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK**

As I announced a few weeks ago at Sunday morning worship, I have requested a change in appointment for this coming appointment year beginning the latter part of June 2015. There are two primary reasons for this request: 1) Taking several factors into consideration, this is a good year for our family to make a move, and 2) This is a very good year for First Church to be receiving a newly appointed pastor.

The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has the 2nd largest number of returning, seminary-trained, young and energetic pastors of all the annual conferences in the nation. Couple this with the shortage of wonderful appointments, such as Kosciusko First UMC, and the possibility of our congregation receiving a young, bright, energetic pastor with a family to occupy our spacious parsonage is increased substantially. Of course there are no guarantees regarding the profile of the newly appointed pastor, but we believe that God works through the appointment process for the fulfillment of his will.

I have spent many hours in discussion with Dr. Embra Jackson, our district superintendent, regarding the character of our congregation. Let me assure you that the Bishop and his Cabinet are well aware of our strengths as well as our limitations. They are also acutely aware of the specific needs of both this church and the community and are at work to meet these needs with skilled and able pastoral leadership.

The Bishop and his Cabinet will meet together March 16-20 for the first round of local church appointment-making. Many of you are aware that several superintendent and conference staff positions have already been announced. These appointments are typically made well in advance of local church appointments and are announced accordingly. Churches and pastors, however will not receive information regarding changes in appointment until the end of March or the beginning of April.

I know this is an anxious time for all of us. Please know that informed and caring persons are looking out for the best interests of First United Methodist Church, Kosciusko.

Let us move together these next few months with patience and mutual support of one another as we anticipate the next round of adventure for our ministries.

## **A VIEW FROM THE PEW**

by Peggy A. Keady

### ***Progressive Transfiguration***

I recently observed a young child running up and down the aisles of a Dollar Store shouting “**mine**” over and over again as she clutched a chosen item in her hands. Her mother went in pursuit to catch and quiet her, returning the item that the little girl had grabbed.

Seeing this caused me to recall how I must have been like that as a child until I learned that everything wasn’t about me and what I wanted. *Enter Lesson One in Transfiguration.*

Then comes the concept of this is “**yours**”, not mine. Learning that others have needs and desires is an important discovery. Demonstrating respect for other people’s boundaries is *Lesson Two in Transfiguration.*

*Lesson Three in Transfiguration* occurs when we grasp the idea of “**ours**”. It is no longer just *me* or just *you* but now it’s *me and you*. We are in this thing together; in this family, on this team, in this choir, in this church, in this school, in this town. Our victories and our losses are shared experiences.

The progression looks like this: **ME-YOU-US** or **MINE-YOURS-OURS**.

Jesus was adamant that **we** must love God with all that **we** possess and love **our** neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:27-30) The only way we can do this is to be transfigured by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The wonder of this process is that the changing occurs first inside of us and then manifests outwardly.

Where are you in this progression?

## **WASSON CHAPEL**

Reverend Alton and Mrs. Marcia Wasson were two very special and important people in the life of First United Methodist Church and across the MS United Methodist Annual Conference. A gift has been given to honor their memory. When you are able, stop by the Wasson Chapel (near the church parlor) to view the canvas portrait of Brother Alton and Mrs. Marcia.

Thank you to the anonymous donors for this great gift.

Be sure to make your meal reservation by noon

each Tuesday for the **First Family Fellowship (FFF)** meal.

### ***THE UPPER ROOM***

The March/April, 2015 issue of ***THE UPPER ROOM*** is in. You may pick one up at each of the three entrances/exits to the sanctuary to use as a devotional guide during your daily quiet time.

**What is *THE UPPER ROOM* daily devotional guide?** It is a booklet that contains meditations that show real people struggling to live faithfully in real-life situations, with the Bible as the touchstone for and measure of faithful living. The writers of the daily meditations are both laity and clergy from around the world. All in some way reflect that God calls us to lives of love, forgiveness, and service to others, according to the example of Christ.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets each Thursday  
at 10 a.m. in the conference room.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins March 8.  
“Spring” your clocks forward one hour.

The deadline to submit information to be included in the April, 2015  
***GOODNEWS LETTER*** is Monday, March 16.

### ***PALM SUNDAY COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION***

The Attala United Ministerial Association is sponsoring a third community-wide Palm Sunday Celebration on Sunday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Plan now to attend and bring a friend.

### **“ . . . WAVING THE BRANCH OF THE PALM TREE . . . ”**

On Palm Sunday, March 29, ALL CHILDREN are encouraged to participate in the Palm Sunday procession during the 10:55 morning worship service. Children will enter the sanctuary prior to worship waving palm branches (they will be provided).

Children will meet downstairs in the 3 and 4 year Sunday School class room at 10:40 a.m. At the designated time, adults will usher the children into the sanctuary. They will place their palms around the altar, and then go sit with their parents or grandparents. If you have questions or need more information, contact Terri Patterson.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our ALIVE student ministry will host an Easter egg hunt for children on Saturday, April 4. Children need to bring their own Easter basket.

Watch the church bulletin for the time, location and more details.

## **LILIES**

On Easter Sunday, April 5, lilies will beautify our sanctuary. You may purchase a lily "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. Florists should be asked to use gold foil for the outside and white for the ribbon.

If you choose to place a lily in the sanctuary, please notify the church office in writing by Tuesday, March 31 in order that "honor and/or memory" information can be in the church bulletin. If you have questions about this, please contact Trish Cullen.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Plans are underway for our summer VBS ministry. The theme for this year is **G-Force: God's Love in Action**. Begin praying now about how you will use your **TAGS** (Talents, Abilities, Gifts, and Skills) to help.

## **SUMMER CHURCH CAMP**

Can you believe it!! Summer is just a few months away - so it's time to think about summer camp. Our conference offers great summer camp ministries for youth and children. On-line registration is available. Hard copies of registration forms will be available soon in the church office. If they helped with the Super Bowl Sunday fundraiser, they are eligible for scholarship funds.

Camps have an early bird rate, which offers a lower rate for camps if you register on or before March 27, 2015. See Terri Patterson for more information.

## **FUMC ENFDOWMENT FUND: BALANCES AS OF 12/31/2014:**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$31,371.48	\$47,809.75

EARNED INCOME	\$ 2,438.96	\$ 3,202.27
DISBURSEMENTS	-0-	-0-
EDUCATIONAL FUND	-0-	-0-
MISSIONS FUND	-0-	-0-

## How will you use your **Talents, Abilities, Gifts, and Skills (TAGS)** to serve God?

### **LEARN! LIVE! TELL!**

As part of our **FUMC TELLING the story of Jesus**, the following members assisted with two of our community outreach ministries in Kosciusko.

FUMC members who helped at **Helping Hands Ministries** during January, 2015 were: Cliff Davidson, Mary Davidson, Doris Flint, Carolyn Mitchell, Bill Musselwhite, Virginia Oliver, and Marianna Sistrunk

FUMC members who helped at the **Natchez Trace Visitors Center** during January, 2015 were: Bobbie Gressett, Bill Musselwhite, Virginia Oliver, Roy Oliver, Maudie Smith, and June Stokes.

### **FUMC WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

9 a.m.	Early Worship
10:55 a.m.	Worship
5 p.m.	Vespers

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, or is in need of a pastoral phone call or visit, please contact the pastor or the church office and let us know. We would rather have NUMEROUS calls about a situation, than for "everyone" to assume "someone" has called.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much from my heart to yours for the greatest gift of all. I love working around all my brothers and sisters and preacher of the church and the rest of the staff and congregation. I am truly blessed.

Love,

Nancy Josey

Thank you to all of you that have been so thoughtful and checked on me since I moved to Atwood. I want to especially thank Gwen Crout.

Love,

Vivian Tyler

### **THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY!**

We want to give a massive thanks to everyone that helped make our Chili Lunch / Snack Sale and Valentine Dinner & Show fundraisers successful!

A few to mention are the kitchen helpers, Trish and Bill Cullen, Bobbie Gressett, Betsy Hutchison, Henry, Terry, and Hank Jones, Lynn and John Wiggers, and Oleta Scarborough for the Valentine Dinner. By coming, dining, and watching the movie, you helped raise \$848.00 for summer student ministries.

Also, Evelyn Cayson, Randolph and Christy Cheek, Art and Jenny Cook, Roberta Duarte, Angie Lacey, Don and Terri Patterson, Nancy Josey, and for contributing food items and kitchen assistance for the Chili Lunch. Thank you as well to everyone who donated snacks for the Snack Sale. You helped raise \$709.50 at the chili lunch and super bowl snacks fundraiser. Proceeds from this are two-fold: half will go toward summer ministries for youth. The other half will go toward scholarship funds for children and youth to attend summer church camp.

Thank you for supporting our ALIVE students and children's ministries so generously!

## **HIS LAST DAYS: The Passion Play**

**April 2, 3, 4, 2015**

**8:00 p.m.**

A special "thank you" is extended to all those who will perform and provide the backbone of this production. If you are head of a committee, please begin making plans for your work area. Persons who have not been contacted and are interested in participating, we welcome your involvement! Contact Diane Grey, 582-0276, to become part of this wonderful ministry.

### **PASSION PLAY GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN**

If you plan for your children to participate in scenes which include children, please refer to the following guidelines:

- Only children currently in grades 1-6 may participate in these scenes.
- Children are required to attend both Monday and Tuesday night rehearsals.

- Parents must provide supervision for their children not only for rehearsals, but also for performances.
- It is the responsibility of parents to provide costumes for their children. You may contact Terry Jones, 289-2335, or Diane Grey, 582-0276, for additional information.

### FOOD ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE PASSION PLAY

Terry Culpepper has offered to provide pulled pork for Saturday night of the Passion Play. The class assigned to Saturday night should provide sides, buns, and desserts. Meal suggestions are sandwiches, snacks, chips and dips, and desserts. Plates, cups, napkins, and utensils will be provided.

MONDAY	MARCH 30	MRS. WALTER V. DAVIS
TUESDAY	MARCH 31	BOB WISEMAN AND THE LEARNERS
THURSDAY	APRIL 2	FOLLOW THE WORD
FRIDAY	APRIL 3	NEW GENERATION
SATURDAY	APRIL 4	E. L. THERRELL
DRINKS FOR THE WEEK		MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF DESIGNATED CLASSES

- Prepare to serve food at 6:00 p.m.
- Prepare enough food to serve 100 people (cast and crew).
- Bring and put out food to be served buffet style.
- Make tea and coffee.
- Clean up kitchen and tables in the fellowship hall.
- Cover and properly store any leftover food in the refrigerator.
- Label and date the leftover items.

Please call if you have any questions or need more information concerning food for the Passion Play. If you are not a member of a Sunday school class, you are encouraged to assist with food. Choose a night that would be good for you to help, and contact a Sunday school class. They will welcome your assistance! Contact Terry Jones, 289-2335, for additional information.

### SET CONSTRUCTION

Sunday	March 22, 2015	2:00 P.M.
Monday	March 23, 2015	5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	March 24, 2015	5:30 P.M.

### SCAFFOLDING SET-UP

Saturday	March 28, 2015	9:00 A.M.
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All able-bodied persons are needed for as many of these days as you can volunteer. We will meet outside the church office entrance. Whether you can come every day or only one day, you are all needed! "Many hands make light work." Contact David Casteel, 662-582-4554, for additional information.

### MEALS AND NURSERY

Meals are prepared and served in the Fellowship Hall for both Monday and Tuesday night rehearsals as well as for each performance. Arrive in enough time to eat and then help outside with set work. A nursery will not be provided for the Sunday afternoon rehearsal but will be provided for other rehearsals and for all performances. Contact Terri Patterson, 662-289-1412, for additional nursery information.

### REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sunday	March 29, 2015	2:00 P.M.	Meet on the steps in front of the Upper Room
Monday	March 30, 2015	6:00 P.M.	Arrive for meal and set up -- no costumes or make-up
		8:00 P.M.	Rehearsal with props
Tuesday	March 31, 2015	6:00 P.M.	Arrive for meal, set up, and costumes - no make-up
		8:00 P.M.	Rehearsal with costumes and props

### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thursday	April 2, 2015	5:30 P.M.	Arrive for meal, set up, costume, and make-up
		8:00 P.M.	Performance
Friday	April 3, 2015	5:30 P.M.	Arrive for meal, set-up, costumes, and make-up
		8:00 P.M.	Performance



Saturday	April 4, 2015	5:30 P.M.	Arrive for meal, set-up, costumes, and make-up
		8:00 P.M.	Performance

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE! \*\*\*\*\*

After each rehearsal and performance, we will all gather in the Fellowship Hall for a very brief meeting. Following the meeting, all able-bodied persons are needed outside to assist with taking down and securing lighting, sound equipment, etc. This is a large undertaking. It is extremely important that as many people as possible assist!

## March 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:00 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship & Communion 5:30 Vespers 6:00 Alive Students	<b>2</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> 10:30 A Stitch in Time 5:30 Board of Trustees	<b>4</b> 5:30 FFF Meal 6:00 FFF Classes 7:00 Choir	<b>5</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 5:00 Vespers 6:00 Alive Students	<b>9 Spring Break</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Cluster Prayers @ FUMC	<b>10</b> 10:30 A Stitch in Time 7:00 New Century Club Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:30 FFF Meal 6:00 FFF Classes 7:00 Choir	<b>12</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>15</b> 9:00 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 5:00 Vespers 5:30 Alive Students	<b>16</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting  10:30 Cluster Prayers @ FUMC  5:30 Finance Meeting	<b>17</b> 10:30 A Stitch in Time  6:30 Emmaus	<b>18</b>  5:30 FFF Meal 6:00 FFF Classes 7:00 Choir	<b>19</b>  10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 5:00 Children's Easter Program 5:30 Alive Students	<b>23</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting  10:30 Cluster Prayers @ FUMC	<b>24</b> 10:30 A Stitch in Time	<b>25</b>  5:30 FFF Meal 6:00 FFF Classes 7:00 Choir	<b>26</b>  10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday 10:55 Worship 2:00 Passion Play Rehearsal No Vespers 6:00 Palm Service @ 1 <sup>st</sup> . Presbyterian Church	<b>30</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting  10:30 Cluster Prayers @ FUMC	<b>31</b>				

*If your Birthday/Anniversary is not on the BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR, it is because we do not have it on file in the office. Please call the church office with the information.*

## March 2014 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 1- Katie Jackson
- 2- Austin Flint
- 4- Charlie Burchfield, John Sorrells
- 5- Karen Fulton
- 7- John Ed Skeen
- 8- Brent Davis, Nadine Bain

9- Vivian Tyler  
 10-Charlene Gressett  
 11-Draven Maddox  
 14-Sara Cummins, Jennie Cook  
 15-Sarah Cheek, Dustin Horne  
 19-Hunter Clark  
 20-Beth Hartness  
 21-Dr. Rick Carter, Gauge Brantley  
 24-Ginger Alexander  
 25-Georgia Cade  
     29-Kim Wiggers  
 30-Beatrice Ables  
 31-Sarah & Hollis Cheek

**EVERY SUNDAY**

9:00a Early Service with Communion  
 9:45a Sunday School  
 10:55a Worship  
 5:00p Vespers  
 6:00p UMYF

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

5:30p Fellowship Supper  
 6:00p Bible Study  
     Children & Youth Activities  
 7:00p Choir Practice

**SUNDAY USHERS**

1st Todd Ables, Art Cook, Scott Garrett, John Wiggers  
 2nd Gary Cheek, Roy Oliver, John Morris Ward, Gene Windham  
 3rd Eddie Fenwick, Marvin Lawrence, Julius Tyler, Tom Wasson  
 4th Kailey Burroughs, Thad Harrell, Dr. Bob Gilliland, Jonathan McKinnon  
 5th Robert Black, Jonathan Carnes, Vic Gressett, Bill Roberts

*March 2015 FUMC PRAYER LIST*

*Peace, our world leaders, our church, and our pastor and his family.*  
*Praise to God for answered Prayers & His loving Kindness.*

*Church Members*

Bain, Nadine  
 Boswell, Bonnie  
 Cullen, Bill  
 Fielder, Joanne  
 Harmond, Joseph  
 McDonald, Mary Frances  
 Nelson, Jill  
 Patterson, Bettie  
 Smith, Maudie  
 Wasson, Barbara

*Family and Friends*

Ables, Beatrice  
 Anderson, Patty  
 Barton, J. T. & Claire  
 Bell, Beth  
 Benton, Mary Frances Hillman  
 Bryant, Marvin L  
 Day, Bettye  
 Dickerson, Kenneth  
 Dorsey, Orman  
 Family of Dr. Wayne Webster

**Family of Martha Williams**

**Jordan, Jane  
Rhodes, Jonathan  
Rigby, Cindi  
Rigby, Farrell  
Riley, Linda Vance  
Tolbert, Tracie  
White, John**

*Active Military &/ or Called into Action*

*Long Term*

**Ables, Syndey  
Austin, Don  
Austin, Liz  
Benham, William T. Sr.  
Blaylock, Sylvia  
Brown, L. R.  
Cain, Johnnie  
Carballo, Dot  
Dorsey, Charlotte  
Flint, Mr. & Mrs. Hilmon  
Purcell, Lewis  
Skelton, Cory  
Tyler, Cory  
Tyler, Kelly**

**Gibson, Kay  
Giles, Marlin  
Harris, Wilma  
Hillman, Sara  
Huston, Janice  
Jordan, Noni  
Kayton, Mary Jill  
Lamberth, Anna  
Lattimore, Stella  
Lepard, Susan  
Morgan, Cindi  
Morgan, April  
Nail, Tim  
Nelson, Kent  
Pee, Linda  
Pigg, Robbie  
Richards, Dick  
Rhines, Bernard  
Robertson, Mary Pearl  
Self, Larry  
Skaggs, Dawn  
Stewart, Inez  
Taylor, Charles  
Wasson, Tim**

**Our Christian Sympathy to the families of Hart Pettit on the death of his Grandmother, Sue Pettit and to Gwen Crout on the death of her Uncle and to Pop Lawrence on the death of his Sister-in-Law.**