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***T H E G O O D N E W S L E T T E R***

**First United Methodist Church**

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

 

 **February 2016**

 Paul and Timothy wrote these words to the church in Philippi, “We greet you with the grace and peace that comes from God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ.  Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God’s Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.” (Phil 1:2-6, MSG)

During one of my recent devotional times, I ran across this text and immediately you crossed my mind!  This church family continues to shower me and my family with blessings and for that, we are eternally grateful. Your Christmas ‘bonus’ to us was a welcome sight and an answer to prayer.  Denise, Kaelin, Ali Grace and I truly give thanks for you and constantly remember you in our prayers!  Your love and support drives us to give our very best!

I continue to believe that “our best days lie ahead of us” and together, with the help of Christ, WE CAN DO ANYTHING!  God has indeed begun a great work in us!

Thankful for the opportunity to be your pastor and parsonage family,

Ali Grace, Kaelin, Denise & Br Scott

 Rev. Dr. D. Scott Wright, Pastor

Kosciusko First United Methodist Church

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUNDS: Please watch your mailbox for a letter from the “Endowment Fund Committee” that will be coming soon!

 A View from the Pew by Peggy Keady January/February 2016

 Who Are We?

 In Genesis 2:7 we read “and the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

 Dear friends, that means that you and I are spirits who have been given physical bodies in which to dwell during our earthly sojourn. Further, through the death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior we have been indwelt with the Holy Spirit. We are now the living embodiment of Jesus Christ in this world.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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**Youth News:** A youth council of parents and youth has been formed and plans are being made for various activities according to Dustin Horne, the Youth directory. Many of our youth participated in the recent “D Now” sponsored by the Baptist Church, and are now busy making plans to attend “The Gathering” on February 26-28, which is held at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. Last year there were about 1200 students from all over Mississippi at this event. One of their summer trips will be to “Big Stuff” in Panama City Beach, Florida, July 8-11. The cost of this trip will be $320 per student and will include 8 meals and 3 nights of lodging. There are several fund raisers planned to help defer costs for these events.

 Be sure and make plans to come to the **“Chili” luncheon** on **February** **7th**, immediately following worship and also purchase snacks to enjoy while watching the Super Bowl that night. Jenny Cook and Angie Lacey are coordinating and welcome donations of chili and snacks.

**Children News:** Have you noticed the many children that have been present for Children Message on Sunday mornings? Also on Wednesday nights, often there as many as 12 in attendance so if you would like to add more excitement to your lives, come join them. Valentines are being made to distribute with cookies to nursing homes on Saturday 13. Everyone is invited to come to the Kosciusko square on February 6, to watch the Mardi Gras parade. Be sure to look for the FUMC float with all the children.

**Started Wednesday, January 13, for grades 6 and above.** 

**Nursery:** Nancy Josey, who is our very faithful worker, is going to need more help with the birth of new babies in our congregation, like the newest arrival of **Sawyer King Alford** **on January 25, son of John Paul and Jana Alford**. If you are not already involved, please call Terry and add your name to the volunteer list.

Ash Wednesday will be observed at 6:00 pm immediately following the Wednesday night meal. Everyone is invited to attend. Watch the weekly bulletin and calendar for other events for February.

*His Last His Last Days: The Passion Play*

 *March 24-26*

The Passion Play is early this year!  Plans began well before Christmas to coordinate this 2016, production of *His Last Days: The Passion Play*.  The cast and crew, which numbers well over 100, are all focusing on these coming three performance dates. A special "thank you" is extended to all those cast and crew who will perform and provide the backbone of this production.  If you are the head of a committee, please begin making plans for your work area.

Thank you

 “The family of James E. “Dick” Richards would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the love, support, many cards and letters, and extra help of our church family over the many years of Dick’s illness and passing. Thanks to the “Wild Bunch” and the E. L. Therrell class for all the support. Communion brought to us meant so much also. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful caring church. A special thanks to Br. Scott for his presence and comforting words.

Mary Richards.”

“Dear Church Family,

 Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. This Christmas season was one of the most joyous celebrations we’ve ever had; thanks tour leaders and our church family.

 Blessings about at FUMC and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

Much Love,

Ann Carter”

“Our church has always been a very important part of the Gressett family for over forty years. During this time we have been loved and supported in many ways, but in the last few months, this love has been over and abundant. The many cards, food, and most of all the prayers sent for us are appreciated in more ways than you will ever know. We are so proud to be members of such a loving and caring church. Thank you all so much.”

Bobbie and Vic Gressett

**“Dear Church Family,**

**Thank you for the Christmas stocking.  What a nice surprise and** **such useful goodies in the stocking. We have such a caring church!** **I deeply appreciate your acts of kindness shown to me after the recent deaths** **of my niece and sister which were just two weeks apart.**

**I have such a grateful heart for all of you.**

 **God bless you!**

 **Linda Milner”**

The New Generation Class

Cordially invites the congregation of FUMC

To celebrate Valentine Day

February 13 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

For Mission Shares

“Italian Feast”

Ziti Alforno

(Rich pasta dish with chicken and shrimp in Alfredo sauce)

Green salad

Italian Bread

Lemon delight

 (Reservations by February 10)

There are many ministries of First United Methodist Church, such as Passion play, Youth and children events, evangelism, teaching, small group studies, both younger and older activities, Bible studies, choir, musical quartets, various meal preparations and other events. There is a place for everyone.

 God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

 Have you found your place today? There is one available.