

First United Methodist Church, Murray, KY

FIRST WORDS

FEBRUARY 2012

Setting Priorities . . .

January is about to end and the second month of a new year to begin. Most of us by this time have probably failed at most of our resolutions and good intentions of the New Year. It can be a bit depressing to think that we fail so quickly. However, I believe that we still have time to make those wise choices we need to make.

The mistake that most of us make is trying to go from one extreme to the other. We all need to eat better, so we put ourselves on diets that are almost impossible to keep and are totally tasteless. We need to exercise more, so we attempt to run marathons the first week. We set ourselves up for failure and we succeed.

Almost every day I get requests for help. All of the causes are worthy and do deserve attention. But I have learned that you can't do everything for everyone. If we took a special offering for every request we receive, we would take one every Sunday and sometimes we would take two!

February would be a good month to step back and go at this resolution thing again. This time, we need to work at setting priorities instead of making resolutions. We are constantly bombarded by requests, information, and issues, that we feel the need to address. It is useful to put these items into one of several categories; crucial, important, needed, interesting or trivial.

If you are like me, you may quickly discover that you spend a lot of time dealing with interesting or trivial issues and often we let the crucial or important issues slide. We all need to learn how to look at the demands on our lives and deal with the most crucial or important issues first.

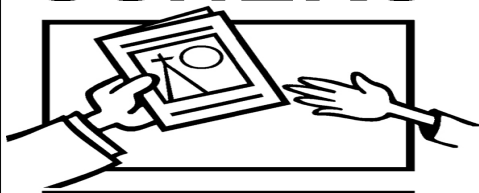
Sometimes we disagree over an issues category. What may be trivial for me may be important or crucial to you and vice-versa. Ultimately, we are the ones that must decide the issues we will address. So, how would you rank the following issues: your health, family relationships, ability to meet financial obligations, your Christian discipleship, politics, vacation time, gossip about others, what others do, God's plan for you?

Setting the right priorities can help us reach our goals and be a better witness and influence for others. Let's take care of those most crucial and important items in our life first.

Grace & Peace,

Bro. Rick

Love God...Serve Christ...Love Neighbors...Share Christ

USHERS**EARLY LIGHT****February 5: Joann Schroader Team**

Beth Buchanan

Vita Dalton Don Leet

February 12: Scott Sivills Team

Al Misker Chris Misker

Patricia Parrish Mike Wicker

February 19: Kay Wand Team

Joe Dick Lois Keller

Donna Miller Tom Schwettman

John Wand Kay Wand

February 26: Tim Tidwell Team

Vicky Crafton Ron Foster

Karen Guthrie Dennis Sanders

Georgeann Sanders

TRADITIONAL**February 5: David Graham Team**

Joe Ben Bogle Jim Green

Tony Page Ronnie Pool

Joe Ward

February 12: John Yates Team

Jennifer Bryson Jeanne Carroll

Everett Craig Hal Kemp

Dan McNutt Don Robertson

Gene Schanbacher Scott Watson

February 19: Jerry Gupton Team

Stuart Alexander Bob Dunn

Melissa Easley Gary Haverstock

February SermonsFEBRUARY 5
(5TH Sunday after Epiphany)**STAND BY ME**
*Mark 1:29-39*FEBRUARY 12
(6TH Sunday after Epiphany)**GRACE'S TOUCH**
Mark 1:40-45FEBRUARY 19
(Last Sunday after Epiphany)**SEEING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS**
Mark 9:2-9FEBRUARY 22
(Ash Wednesday)**SECRETS MADE**
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21FEBRUARY 26 UMW Sunday
(1st Sunday of Lent)

Katie Heierman—Early Light

Doris Frazer—Traditional

FINANCIAL REPORT as of 1/22/12**Receipts YTD: \$ 56,861.57****Average Receipts YTD (previous 3 years) : \$58,891.89****Budget YTD: \$61,644.00***The January Communion Offering received for our H.E.L.P. Ministry was \$308.00.**The February Communion Offering will go to Kids Against Hunger.***Bus Ministry-Drivers for DECEMBER****February 5 Dennis Sanders & Margaret Fritts****February 12 Mike & Kathie Pierce****February 19 Daryl and Dee Keezer****February 26 Harold & Kelly Doran**

If you need transportation for the Sunday Worship services, contact Margaret Fritts at 759-3950.

The First United Methodist Church Bus Ministry is thankful to God for providing wonderful persons who pickup and drop off people who want to attend our Traditional Service. They give of their time to drive and assist anyone who does not have transportation to

Christian Sympathy

- With the family of Ila Nell Allbritten in her death on Jan. 5.
- With the family of Jerry Gupton in the death of his cousin, Glenn, on Jan. 8.
- With the family of Tom Lough in the death of his mother, Alice "Bunny" Lough, on Jan. 9.
- With the family of Lois Shotwell in her death on Jan. 11.
- With Dewey Dean and family in the death of his mother, Barbara, on Jan. 13.
- With Tom Hoffacker and family in the death of his

Current Concerns as of January 23

Hospital: Mary Beth Harp

Special Prayers: Marilyn Burklow, Mrs. Burpoe (Marcia Koenecke's mother), Ella May Colister, Mary Jo Critfield (niece of Jill Anderson), Jennifer Embry (Freda Lovett's daughter), Jenny Engh (sister of Betsy Trevathan), Elaine Fox, Joan Hayman, Lanette Hunt, Celina Hutson, Linda Hutson, Judith Imes, Loretta Jobs, Katie & Henley Newman (Justin Newman's sister-in-law and niece), Betty Polak (Gloria Alverio's mother), Lucinda Ragland (Mona Bolin's sister), Katherine Robinson, Georgeann Sanders, Kendra Schwepker, Inez Shinstine, Linda Short, Virginia Smith (Amber Meadows' grandmother), Buel Stalls, Shelby Suiter (Craig Suiter's mother), Joetta Tibbits, Blanche Titsworth

Military Overseas: Georgi Hernandez, brother of Pedro Alverio (USMC); Bryan Pierce, nephew of Gwen Lovett & cousin of Kathy Erwin (Afghanistan)

APPALACHIAN MISSION TRIP SET

The 8th annual mission trip to Appalachia is set for **April 19th - 22nd**. During past years the team has worked with the St. Vincent Mission in David, Kentucky, involving itself in home repair activity to needy residents in the area. This year the team will be going to **Henderson Settlement, a United Methodist Church supported ministry in Frakes, Kentucky**, located near the Tennessee border. In addition to home repair, work opportunities will be available for some who might be interested in greenhouse, thrift store, craft store, or library work.

The team will travel on Thursday (19th), work on Friday (20th) and Saturday (21st), and return to Murray on Sunday (22nd). It is suggested that team members contribute \$100 each, for lodging and meal expenses.

UMKids Corner:

FIRST LOOK PRESCHOOL

Sunday School 9:50-10:40 and
Wednesday nights from 5-7PM

252 BASICS



Parent Supports:

www.orangeparents.org

www.studio252.tv

Smartphone App:

“Parent Cue”

www.murrayfirst.com

For Kindergarten-6th Grade

Sun-

Encourage your kids to earn Bonus Bucks and help other kids around the world!

30 = 1 fruit tree

40 = 1 duck

110 = 1 pack of seeds

550 = 1 bicycle

THEMES THIS FEBRUARY:

First Look:

Love: Love God with all your Heart!

252 Basics:

Honor: Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH
PREPARATIONS ARE
UNDERWAY!

There are over 45 spots available for children who want to be involved in Children's Sabbath on March 11. If a child doesn't wish to have a specific part, he/she is still needed to sing with the group. All who attend UMK have a special role.


Planning Ahead:

March 11: Children's Sabbath

April 1: Easter Egg Hunt, 2PM









Feb. 24-26
\$30

UMY will be heading to Lakeshore UMA to participate in this international youth movement to fight hunger sponsored by World Vision. It will bring our youth group closer to each other and closer to God, feed hungry children, and change our world.

See Amanda to sign up, or to make a donation to World Vision.



HUNGRY FOR MORE




UMY

Sunday Night Schedule

4:00-5:30—Fusion (LTW/Praise Band)
5:30—Dinner in the CLC
6:00—Fellowship/games
6:20-7:15—Worship & program

iD Bible Study



Wednesday Night Schedule

5:00-6:00—HW/Hang out time/
Outreach group
6:00—Dinner in social hall
6:30-8:00—MS/HS small group
*Bus rides available if needed



Each Tuesday, all youth are invited to join us for our Prayer Breakfast with Jesus (PB w/J). We will meet at 7:15 am for a time of breakfast, prayer, and devotion. You are responsible for the cost of your own breakfast.

Feb. 7th—Sammons

Feb. 14th—FUMC

Feb. 21st—McDonalds



Parents' Night Out
Friday, February
10th
5-10pm
All Proceeds go to

CHANGE for CHANGE

Don't forget to be collecting change for our CHANGE for CHANGE mission fundraiser!!





Primetimers News & Notes

Our February luncheon is Friday, February 10, 2012, at 11:30 am in the Social Hall. Katie Heierman will present a SIGNING program for us. If you have not had the opportunity of seeing her perform in one of our worship services, you will really enjoy her inspirational signings. ON THE MENU: Stuffed chicken breasts, wild rice, steamed green beans, spinach orange salad, rolls, cheesecake with cherry topping. Cost: \$7.50. Please sign up in the office by Tuesday, February 6, 2012.

Join the fun with an evening at MSU with **James Carvel** and **Mary Maitlain** on Monday, February 13, 2012. We will leave the church parking lot at 6:15 pm and go to the campus. It's FREE!! Please sign up in the church office by Friday, Feb 10, 2012.

On Friday, February 24, we will be going to Wrather Museum for the Journeys Stories exhibit. We will leave the church at 10:00am. After the museum, we will have lunch at the August Moon. We should be back at church around 2:00pm or so. Cost: your lunch; the museum is free. Please sign up by Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the office.

We had a great time at the Reelfoot Ministries on January 10. Vicky Crafton, Jim Harris, Daryl Keezer, David Buchanan, Harold Finn, and Gene Wimberley worked in the pantry

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Regular meetings for United Methodist Women

FRIENDSHIP-HANNAH CIRCLE

7 PM 3rd Monday in the Social Hall
Faye Rogers—753-7743

TUCKER-FROST CIRCLE

9:30 AM 2nd Tuesday in CLC Con. Rm.
Margaret Fritts—759-3950
m.fritts@bellsouth.net
Donna Toler—489-6232

RUTH WILSON CIRCLE

1:30 PM 2nd Monday in CLC Con. Rm.
Linda Burgess — 293—6435
Bobbie Waters — 753 —6856

WESLEYAN CIRCLE

9:30 AM 3rd Monday in CLC Con. Rm.
Carol Wimberley—759-3073
carogenew@newwavecomm.net

Any woman, teenager and up, is warmly welcome to UMW. We, in United Methodist Women, have a wonderful bond of love and friendship! Please join us!

WESLEYAN CIRCLE NEEDS YOUR USED GREETING CARDS

Wesleyan Circle continues to collect old greeting cards for St. Jude's Children's Ranch. So don't just throw out your greeting cards. Leave them in the office and we will bundle and mail them for you. It's a great way to recycle and help the kids.

UMW FEBRUARY MISSION STUDY

On Saturday, February 11 from 9:00am—2:00 p.m. there will be a United Methodist Women's Mission Study at Trezevent United Methodist Church, in Trezevent, TN.. The topic is ***"The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation"***. It will be lead by Rev. Sharon Lewis-Karamoka from the Jackson District. This study will intertwine stories from the Bible and recent history to illustrate the redemptive

4th Monday Book Club

Monday, February 27, 2012 5:00 – 6:15PM (CLC 2nd Floor)

Book Selection: *The Robe*, by Lloyd C. Douglas (1942)

"Marcellus, head of the group assigned to crucify Jesus, and some other soldiers throw dice to see who will take Jesus' seamless robe. Marcellus wins!! Following the crucifixion, Marcellus takes part in a banquet attended by Pontius Pilate. During the banquet, a drunken centurion insists that Marcellus wear the robe. Reluctantly wearing the garment, Marcellus suffers a nervous breakdown, and is returned to Rome. Marcellus

Ministry in Action

Special Events and Happenings in our Church Family

Paris District Faith Sharing Training Event

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Faith Sharing Training Event for clergy and laity serving churches in Calloway County is nearing. It will be held Saturday, **February 11th, beginning at 8:30 A.M. and continuing to 2:30 P.M.** We will begin promptly that morning with registration, refreshments and the sharing of materials. It is imperative that participants arrive at 8:30 A.M. in order to be together, settled and prepared for the workshop that will start at 9:00 A.M. We will meet in the Social Hall of the First United Methodist Church of Murray.

Have you registered? Have you promoted the training? Have you distributed flyers, helped your laity to register and collected the registration fees to send to the District Office? **Remember, the deadline for registration is February 3rd.**

We will learn practical ways to share our faith in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our goal is simple. We desire to see increasing numbers of people coming to have faith in our Lord. Over time and through faith sharing we can expect to see professions of faith increase in Calloway County.

Although flyers were mailed to lay leaders, Church Council Chairpersons and Evangelism Chairpersons of record, the event is open to **any** lay person who would like to have this training. Additional flyers are available at the District Office should you need them.

The cost is **\$10.00 per person** and needs to be submitted to the District Office with each completed registration form. Checks should be made out to Paris District UMC and designated for "faith sharing workshop."

We will be using materials developed by World Methodist Evangelism and authored by Dr. George Morris and Dr. Eddie Fox. Each participant will receive a "Faith-Sharing New Testament with the Psalms". Each registrant will also receive a workbook. Refreshments and lunch will be provided....so....that is why we must insist on registrations so that we can provide adequate seating, all materials and meals.

First United Methodist Church
503 Maple Street
Murray, KY 42071

Worship Services: 8:45 AM & 11 AM

Sunday School: 9:40 AM

Church Office Hours: 8:30—4, M-F

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web: murrayfirst.com

A WORD OF THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF FIRST METHODIST

We ended the year 2011 in excellent financial shape as the congregation of First Methodist once again faithfully supported our budget for mission and ministry.

We ended 2011 with all budget needs covered, including paying 100% of our United Methodist apportionments, and we entered 2012 with a surplus!

Our 2011 year-end financial figures are as follows:

2011 Receipts: \$830,991.40

2011 Expenses: \$785,127.97 **2011 Budget: \$793,570.00**