



The Spirit



Pastors: James E. Whedbee, Donald R. Hanshew Jr., Melissa R. Smith

Fountain City UMC Music Ministry presents "Sing We Now of Christmas"

December 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m.

This year's Christmas music program is made up of wonderful Christmas anthems old and new, including some brand-new texts by our own Dr. Bill Cloud and Sarah Trotter, set to music by Andrew Duncan. The Chancel Choir will also be joined by the Youth Choir, Children's Choir, and adult handbell choir for some of the selections.

WBIR will be videotaping the program on Monday night, and it will be televised on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. and again on Christmas Day at noon. Please come and show your support for our hard-working members of the music ministry as they present this beautiful gift of music to our church and our community. For more information, contact Andrew Duncan at 689-5175 or aduncan@fountaincityumc.org. Childcare is provided.

December Salt & Light Giving Focus

Fountain City Ministry Center - A joint effort of 11 churches in the Fountain City area. The Ministry Center operates a food pantry which offers emergency food to the needy. A clothing closet is available for infants and young children. Our Salt & Light gifts will enable the Ministry Center to reach out to more families that need assistance. Volunteers are also needed each week to help with the Ministry Center outreach ministries.

2009 New Saints Celebration Sunday

Each November on All Saints Sunday we remember those church members who have died during the year. What we affectionately call "Baby Sunday" is a partner to All Saints Sunday and is the day Fountain City United Methodist celebrates all of the new babies born into our church family during the year. On January 10, 2010, we will celebrate in all three worship services with 11 families who have welcomed new members into their families in 2009. Yes, that means 11 new babies were born into our church family in 2009. This affirms that God recognizes that Fountain City United Methodist loves and nurtures young children and their families.

Each family will receive a letter with more specifics about their participation in the worship services and how to send in photographs for a "baby" slideshow. We hope and pray that you will all celebrate these wonderful gifts from God with us on this special Sunday. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Smiddy, ext 115.

Worship With Us!

December 13, 2009

Traditional Services (8:30 & 11:00)

"Is There Room – for Joy?"

Philippians 4:4-7, Isaiah 40:1-7,
Luke 2:8-12

Sermon by Jim Whedbee

Contemporary Service (11:00)

**the
Journey**

"Is There Room – for Joy?"

Luke 1: 39-56

Sermon by Melissa Smith

Wednesday Fellowship

December 16, 2009

Fellowship Meal Menu (5:30)

Roast Pork Loin, Escalloped Potatoes, Pea and Carrot Casserole, Vegetable Salad, Rolls, Cranberry and Orange Cake

On the light side: Pork Loin, Peas and Carrots

Kid's Menu: Chicken Nuggets and Tots, Reindeer Cupcakes, Fresh Fruit, Fresh Veggies & Dip

Adults \$6, Children (5th grade and under) \$3; Families of 3 or more \$16, Seniors (65+) \$5

Make your reservations online, on the worship attendance card, or call the church office before noon on Tuesday, December 15.

PASTOR CORNERED

The newspapers are filled with reminders: “Christmas is only 18 days away!” The radio waves carry the message loud and clear: “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” Even the church Christian calendar seems to remind us of what’s coming by pointing to the fact that we’re approaching the third Sunday of Advent. All the signs seem to be saying the same thing - Christmas is almost here!

But I’m not sure if it feels like Christmas for me yet and I’m certainly not prepared for all the gift-giving and holiday cheer that seems to surround this season. Christmas certainly seems different this year! My excitement is not centered on the buying and giving of gifts and the hustle and bustle of the holiday season but rather my heart is still in Southern Sudan and the friends that I have left behind. My experience in Sudan has allowed me to learn a lot about myself (and it’s not all good). I have seen how I can easily get caught up in the busyness of life and forget about the things that really matter. I have been reminded of the fact that I become distracted by all the struggles that I may have and wonder why God does not hear my prayers. And I have realized how consumed I can get with obtaining the possessions that I feel like I absolutely need.

And then I think about my friends in Sudan. They have lost almost everything that they have as a result of civil wars, relocation as refugees, and struggle with everyday basic survival. They have so much reason to be in despair – and yet they are not. Their lives are filled with so much hope and joy that they are contagious. Instead of being concerned with only themselves, they continually practice peace and love to those around them. I’ve been a witness to their unconditional love and acceptance and yet I still don’t understand it. How can their lives be filled with so much hope, peace, joy, and love that rise above their

circumstances? Because they hold tight to the presence of God in their lives and the promises that God has for them. They find their strength in the hope, peace, joy and love that God offers them, the kind that is unconditional and eternal.

During this Advent season at Fountain City United Methodist Church, we have focused our Advent season on “making room for” hope, peace, joy and love. I have not only preached this theme but I have tried to take it to heart. I have been challenged to consider where my true hope, peace, joy, and love are found. They are found within a growing relationship with God or are they placed in the things in this life that can easily disappear?

I challenge you to use this season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation, as a time that God can do a new work in your heart and life. As you prepare for this Christmas season of gift-giving and celebration, may you also prepare your hearts to receive the gift that God has given to the world, the gift of his son Jesus. May this Advent season be a time that you receive for yourself God’s gift of hope, peace, joy and love. Happy Advent – and Merry Christmas!

- *Melissa*



The Ultimate Gift for Christmas

Looking for the gift that fits every person? Invest in a gift card that supports missions here and across the world. You choose the amount and the mission agency – Fountain City Ministry Center, Jubilee Project, or Clean Water for Sudan. We will supply you with the gift card that you can mail out. Invest this year in the gift that keeps on giving! Gift cards will be available outside the Welcome Center and in the Journey service.

REMINDER

The Spirit will not be published on December 23 due to the Christmas holidays. Please have any articles submitted by Monday, December 14. You can also submit articles on the website by clicking on “FORMS” at the top of the page, look for the communications sections.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Advent Devotional

Are you looking for a way to prepare yourself spiritually beyond the Sunday morning worship this Advent? MAPS can be a tool which helps you find your path. MAPS (Ministry, Attitude, Prayer, Study) is a weekly devotional guide that can help you prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent season. The devotional guide may be downloaded from the church website or picked up in The Journey contemporary worship service. We encourage you to take time to read, study and pray during this Advent season.

Worship with Our Wee Ones In 2010

WEE Worship is worship for infants through children in three year old Sunday school and takes place during the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Teams of volunteers partner with ECM staff to care and worship with these children. Several teams have openings and need new members. If you can serve during one worship service once every six weeks, please contact Jennifer Smiddy at ext. 115 to find out more.

Great Christian Works Study

On December 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room, we will study: New Monasticism - How do we live the gospel of God's Kingdom that Jesus taught and practiced at this moment? Come journey into New Monasticism as we look at this radical movement that is spreading across the United States and into other countries. Michael Swanger, who has participated in a weekend retreat with some New Monastics, will led us in this study. Come examine and rediscover how we can return back to loving our neighbors and practicing the gospel of God's Kingdom each and every day.

Nooma Study Series to Begin on December 13

The Four Corners class, which meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in room B17, located downstairs and near the choir room, will begin the Nooma Study Series (nooma.com) for the next few weeks. All who want to explore Christianity and learn through dialogue will feel welcomed. Contact the facilitator, John Dupree, for more information: john.dupree@knoxtnlaw.com, 688-5619.

Youth Happenings

December 20 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Wesley Hall: Youth Christmas Party. Bring a "White Elephant" gift under \$5, favorite Christmas snack food, and canned goods for the Fountain City Ministry Center.

January 3, 6:00 p.m., Wesley Hall: Youth Parent Meeting. Turn in Resurrection registrations, get your 2010 Medical Release Form notarized, come see where your help is needed, and get calendar dates for the coming semester.

Resurrection 2010 Information

December 20: Early Registration ends (\$65)

January 3: Regular Registration ends (\$75)

After January 3: Late Registration (\$85)

(must have registration and fee turned in at the same time)

Financial assistance available, contact Coop for more information. Registrations can be found on the church website and the Youth info board across from the youth room.

January 15-17: Resurrection 2010 - High School

January 22-24: Resurrection 2010 - Middle School

February 20 – 21, Winter Place, WV: Ski Get-A-Way Weekend. Cost includes lift tickets, ski rentals, lodging, and breakfast. Snowboard and non-ski rental packages available.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

IN MEMORY OF

Claude Adams
Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Adams
by Betty Adams

Mildred Bass
by Jackie Cook

Bill Bird
by Norma, Gaye & Emily

Mr. & Mrs. E.O. Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Peters
by Bob & Ruth Bryan

Jeanette Condon
by Bill, Carol & Erin Sewell

Robert & Janet Condon
by Bill, Carol & Erin Sewell

Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Dobbins
by Sharon Dobbins, Jean & Gene
Payne

Bill English
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. English
Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Crowell
by Mac English

Mickey Foster
by Dick Foster

Tim Fox
by Mom, Dad, Holly & Jon

Granny Gadd
by Grace, Finley, Sarah, Brian & Jenny
Cook

Faye Gadd
by John & Karen Needy

Buck Graves
by Jeff, Leslie, Todd & Claire Graves

Roy Hill
by Jeff, Leslie, Todd & Claire Graves

Vernon Hueser
by Betty Adams



Vernon Hueser
by Mike & Julie Hueser

Mom (Pattie Jeffers)
by Steph & Rich

Dick Whittaker
Mako & Betty Loy
by Tom & Linda Whittaker

Druella McBee
Shelby McBee
by Rudy & Carol McBee

Bill & Dot Mitchell
by Stuart Mitchell

C.A. & Mittie Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Callaway A. Moore, Sr.
by Phil, Beth & Sharon Ellis

Glenn Musgraves
by Charlotte Musgraves

Paul & Billie Sue Ousley
by Eddie & Steve

Von Foster Ousley
by Eddie & Steve

Bill Parker
by Dottie Parker & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Petree
Mr. & Mrs. Everett M. Smith, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Everett M. Smith, Sr.

Estelle Salyer, Jim Lawson,
Dorothy Simpson, Edna Smith,
David F. Smith
by Charles E. Smith

Oscar Phillips
by Dot Phillips

Bill Pratt, Wilma Pratt DeWine
Thelma Pratt Solomon
by Betty Adams

Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Pratt, Sr.
C.L. Pratt, Jr.
by Betty Adams

"Papaw Joe" Searcy
by Maria, Dalton, Corbyn, Carlton &
Kayla

Betty & J.W. Settle
by Mark, Julie, Anna & Sydney Settle

George H. & Katherine Sewell
by Bill, Carol & Erin Sewell

Jim Smith
by Dolores Smith

Mary Margret Suddath
by Mike & Julie Hueser

Martha Dean Tarwater
by Alice & Eddie Green

Rev. O.R. Tarwater, Jr.
by Alice & Eddie Green

Calvin Taylor, Jr.
by Jeanie & Steve Fox

Calvin & Ellen Jean Taylor
by Jeanie & Steve Fox

June Vannoy
by Norma, Gaye & Emily

Eloisa Vela
by Amie Kitts

Ozella Vines
by Susan Vines

Charlie Wildman
by Betty Wildman

Charlie Wildman
John B. Shipman, Jr.
by Doug, Susan, Sarah, Molly &
Rachel Shipman

Mr. & Mrs. T.M. Williamson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Clift
by Joe & Gail Clift

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

IN HONOR OF

Perry & Jackie Benshoof

by Haleigh Cardwell, Dustin,
Heather, Emalee & Turner Shultz

Liz Brown

by David & Lucy Smith

Joseph Nash Dorian (Grandson)

by Joe & Gail Clift

Nancy & Herman Gettelfinger

by Mark, Julie, Anna & Sydney Settle

Judy Graves

by Jeff, Leslie, Todd & Claire Graves

Pop & Nonie Griffey

by Ethan, Katie, Will & Anna

Edna Hueser

by Betty Hueser

Edna Hueser

by Mike & Julie Hueser



Lee & Granzi Iglehart

by Max & Anna Lee Castleberry

Lee & Susan Iglehart

by Chris & Betsy Castleberry

John & Karen Needy

by Grace, Finley, Sarah, Brian &
Jenny Cook

Jerry & Doris Richardson

by Jeff, Leslie, Todd & Claire Graves

Jane & Richard Sawyer

by Kevin, Christa, Tyler & Hayley
Edwards

Jackson & Spencer Lore

by Ed & Joanne Owens

Margaret & Fran Schantz

by David & Lucy Smith

"Mamaw Bobbie" Searcy

by Maria, Dalton, Corbyn, Carlton &
Kayla

Susan & Doug Shipman

by Betty Wildman

Jon Tyler Slack (First Christmas)

by Mary & Bob Slack

Elizabeth Smiddy

by Your Secret Prayer Partner

Dorothy Stuart

by Phil, Beth & Sharon Ellis

Bill & Naomi Vines

by Susan Vines

***Betty Wildman
Evelyn Shipman***

by Doug, Susan, Sarah, Molly &
Rachel Shipman

Upcoming Christmas Events

December 12: Jubilee Project Christmas Celebration, Sneedville, TN.

December 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m.: "Sing We Now of Christmas" - Choir & Orchestra Christmas Program, childcare provided

December 16, 5:00 PM: Pickup costumes for Fountain City Parade outside Wesley Hall.

December 19, 9:00 a.m., CiCi's Pizza parking lot: Fountain City Parade

December 20, during Sunday School, in the Gym: Baby Shower for Jesus, bring baby items to be donated to the Hope Resource Center

December 20, 3:00 p.m., meet in Choir Room: Christmas Caroling

December 20, 6:00 p.m.: Youth Christmas Party

Christmas Eve Holy Communion Services—December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Nativity service

7:00 p.m. Contemporary service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Choir and Candlelight service

Sunday Worship Schedule—December 27

9:15 a.m. Time of refreshments and fellowship

10:00 a.m. One worship service in the sanctuary

CHURCH CALENDAR - DECEMBER 11-19

Friday, December 11

- 11:15 AM Joy Club (Wesley Hall)
- 7:00 PM High School Girls Growth Group (Offsite)
- 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room)

Saturday, December 12

- 9:00 AM Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)*
- 10:00 AM Basketball (Gencay) (Gym)
- 3:00 PM Jubilee Project Christmas Dinner (Offsite)

Sunday, December 13

- 8:30 AM Worship (Sanctuary)+
- 9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages (Church-wide)
- Getting to Know Us (Room 136)
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship+
The Journey Contemporary Worship (Gym)+
- 4:00 PM Disciple I Bible Study (Room 208)
- 5:00 PM OffeRing Youth Handbell (Bell Room)
- 6:00 PM Youth Growth Groups (Various Rooms)*
- 7:30 PM "Sing We Now of Christmas"*

Monday, December 14

- 8:30 AM Preschool (M-F) (Preschool Hallway)
- 9:00 AM Aerobics (M,W,F) (Gym)
- 3:30 PM The Net (M-F) (The Net Room)
- 4:30 PM Dance For Joy (M, T, Th) (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 PM Weight Watchers (Choir Room)
- 7:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings (Gym)
- 7:30 PM "Sing We Now of Christmas"*
- 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room)
- 8:30 PM Men's 40 Plus Basketball (Gym)
- 9:00 PM Choir Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 15

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Room 137)
- 10:00 AM Bridge (Room 135)
- 4:00 PM OffeRing 2 Youth Handbell (Bell Room)
- 6:00 PM Permanent Endowment (Room 138)
- 7:00 PM Women's Ministry Leadership Team (Room 137)

Wednesday, December 16

- 4:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 5:00 PM *Genesis* Children's Handchimes (Bell Room)
- 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Gym)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Live Children's Activities:
various rooms, activities provided for children from birth through 5th grade Sunday school
Middle School Youth Group (Youth Room)
High School Youth Group (Net Room)
Parenting Partners -The Love Dare (Room 201)
Pastor's Bible Study (Room 137)
Advent Study (Room 138)

Wednesday, continued

- Great Christian Works (Choir Room)
- Tollers Adult Handbell Rehearsal (Bell Room)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)*
- 7:45 PM *The Journey* Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)*
- 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room)

Thursday, December 17

- 4:30 PM Yoga- Children (Gym)
- 5:00 PM Christian Fellowship Class
Christmas Party (Wesley Hall)
- 6:00 PM Yoga- Adult (Gym)
- 6:30 PM Bariatric Support Group (Choir Room)
Special Needs Ministry (Room 137)*
Mother/Daughter Bible Study (Offsite)
- 7:30 PM Volleyball (Gym)
- 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room)

Friday, December 18

- 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room)

Saturday, December 19

- 9:00 AM Meet at CiCi's to ride parade float
- 10:00 AM Fountain City Parade
Basketball (Gencay) (Gym)

* Childcare provided for children from birth to fifth grade if previously arranged

Do you know

What should you go tell on a mountain according to the song?

Know the answer? Email your answer to spirit@fountaincityumc.org

Last Week's Answer: Gabriel told Mary to prepare for Jesus' birth.

+ Activities provided for children from birth through 3-year-old Sunday school

Oops – Pardon My Sermon (or Part of It)

Those of you who were in the 8:30 service Sunday and were awake about 2/3's of the way through my sermon might have been surprised to hear me say that the \$1.3 billion used to build a football stadium in Dallas, Texas, could almost eradicate peace in the United States. I didn't catch myself on that one but was questioned about it after the service. Fortunately, I got it right at 11:00: "That \$1.3 billion could almost eradicate hunger in the United States." That sounds like a much better choice to me. And my apologies! At least I know some of you were listening.

Emergency On Call - December 4– 6

Don Hanshew

December Drivers

Morning: Brent Eldridge:

After Church: Driver Needed, call Harry McLeod

Medical Transportation: Jean Payne

Stephen Ministry: Gail Clift

Intercessory Prayer

Mary Bolton; Tom Harrington

MISSIONS

Bring out the mittens!

The Children's Ministry Team has expanded the mitten tree to include other items of need for the families at Jubilee. Beginning December 1 the tree will be located in the main hallway outside of Wesley Hall. Everyone is encouraged to honor their teachers with gifts on the tree. We are collecting new items for children and adults. Place hats, socks, and mittens on the tree and underwear in the giant Christmas boxes. It's a great way to honor your teachers and others who serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

(The red paper mittens on the tree are for writing the name of the person or people you are honoring with your gift. You may clothespin the mitten to the tree or give the mitten to the person you are honoring.)

Celebrate Jesus in the Fountain City Christmas Parade

On Saturday, December 19, we want all of Fountain City to know that at Fountain City United Methodist Church our holiday focus is the birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone is invited to wear something red and walk or ride with us as a huge representation of our church and community. Let's make a difference in Fountain City!

For children who would like to dress in Nativity costumes, our Children's Ministry Team will be handing out costumes during the Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on December 16, from 5:00— 6:00 p.m.

We will gather at our parade float in CiCi's pizza parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19. The parade route moves north on Broadway through Fountain City and begins at 10:00 a.m. Wear your scarves and mittens as we celebrate and share the good news of Jesus in our community! For more information call Sherri Smith, ext 117.

Baby Shower for Jesus!

All children are invited to come celebrate Jesus' birthday on Sunday, December 20. Children should meet at 9:45 in their regular classrooms and The Gathering. We will share a time of worship in the gym. Two year olds through Kindergarten will return to their classrooms for a snack. First through fifth grades will remain in the gym for snack and dismissal. If you are new to our church, or have children who are not attending Sunday School, they are welcome to join us for this special celebration. (Moms and Dads may also attend if this will make your child more comfortable.)

Honor this special baby by bringing a baby item (diapers, wipes, clothes, toiletries, pacifiers) to be donated to the Hope Resource Center.

IN MEMORY AND HONOR



General Fund: In Memory Of: *Allen Chamberlain, Betty Ahrens* by Guy & Mary Frances Tucker

Betty Ahrens by Pairs & Spares Class



Fountain City Ministry Center: In Memory Of: *Frank Van Meter* by Sherry Van Meter

Betty Ahrens by Jack & Nancy Hamilton



Sound & Tape Ministry: In Honor Of: *Those who serve in this ministry* by John & Karen Needy



Mission Fund: In Memory Of: *Allen Chamberlain* by Dr. & Mrs. John Bledsoe



Melton Scholarship Fund: In Memory Of: *Allen Chamberlain* by Sonny & Carol Melton



Choir Fund: In Honor of: *The Choir* by Carol Chamberlain & Family

SYMPATHY



Our sympathy is extended to Chuck Brooks in the death of his mother, Mari Dell Jackson, on December 1.

Need To Get In Financial Shape Next Year?

Join us for Financial Peace University. FPU is a biblically based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth, make a budget that you will understand and use, communicate with your spouse about finances. Change your financial future now! Free preview coming Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m. Contact Kelley Flatford (kflatford@fountaincityumc.org or 660-5868) or check out the church web site for more information.

THE SPIRIT

Fountain City United Methodist Church
212 Hotel Road
Knoxville, TN 37918-3296
(865) 689-5175/FAX (865) 689-4693
Web: www.fountaincityumc.org
Email: fcumc@fountaincityumc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR PRAYERS

Members in the Hospital as of December 8
(removed for privacy)

Members Recently Discharged from the Hospital
(removed for privacy)

OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, December 6, 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 491 |
| 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship | 205 |
| 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship | 298 |
| 11:00 a.m. <i>The Journey</i> | 89 |
| WEE Worship (8:30 & 11:00) | 46 |
| Total Morning Worship | 638 |
| Wednesday Night Meal | 160 |

OUR GIFTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| General Fund | |
| Received 11/30 –12/7 | \$40,790.27 |
| Year to Date | \$1,238,705.14 |
| Expenses to Date | \$1,246,726.77 |
| Difference | (-\$8,021.63) |
| Salt & Light (MTD—December) | \$23.00 |

OUR SERVICE

December 8:30 Ushers: Charles & Celia Thompson, Head Ushers; Lee & Susan Iglehart, Ed & Joanne Owens

December 11:00 Ushers: Al Debusk, John G. Shipman, Head Ushers; Melissa Shipman, Paul & Michele Koontz, Neal Cook, John McTeer, Rachael Hedgepeth, Bob Chandler, Bill Reseigh, Tyler Slack

December Journey Ushers: Missy Adams, Pam Stewart, Kelsi Malone, Kelsey Stewart, Alyssa Stewart

December Greeters: Mary Simpson, Chris, Anne Marie & Maria Hurst, Jerry & Joan Griffey, Mary Emma Scott, Betty Hicks, Lili Holbert

Oops—We made an error!

Our Year to Date receiving and expenses were reported incorrectly last week. The correction is reflected in this week’s budget update.