

# The Chimes

## Dates to re-member:

- Children's Ministry Vision Event, Feb 12
- South Carolina Trip, Jun 9-18

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February 2017

## HOW TO OVERCOME 'APATHY' IN THE CHURCH by Pastor Gary Lewis

At a recent "Overcoming Challenges" small group meeting, I asked the group to name some of the challenges we face as a congregation. One challenge that seemed to impact all of the 12 we listed was "apathy." Apathy is a lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern. When it comes to our church, the participant felt our church had far too many people apathetic about our mission.

The mission of our church is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In order to achieve that mission, and achieve our vision for the future, our church family needs to be engaged.

We have many, many wonderful, spiritually-committed, hard-working people in our church who are serving in various ways to fulfill our mission. It is a pleasure to be around people in our church family who are so willing to give of their talent, time and treasure.

The reality of life, though, is that it is not easy to remain committed to our cause when there is so much going on in the world that pulls us away from the mission. We have our own needs, the needs of family members and even the needs of our community that can take our time away.

In the 1700s, an Anglican pastor by the name of John Wesley established in England the "Methodist movement." The movement caught on and eventually came to the United States. As the western frontier began to emerge, so did the Methodists who established churches to minister to the spiritual needs of the people. Even then, in the midst of striking spiritual growth, Wesley knew severe challenges would emerge.

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

The best way to grow in our faith is to be part of a small group. Why is that true? Why can't I come to worship on Sunday morning and live out my faith on my own terms? Well, you can, but you will not become all that God wants you to become.

Personal discovery happens in small groups better than large groups. You can learn, ask questions, involve yourself in the lives of others, and generally make yourself vulnerable among other people who are doing the same.

Spiritual growth happens better with others, in community, with open lines of communication and freedom to speak into one another's lives. You are more likely to open up about your struggles and sins in a small group.

This is the path we need to take as a church to avoid becoming, in Wesley's words, "a dead sect."

## Our Mission Statement:

To make  
Disciples of  
Jesus Christ  
for the  
transfor-  
mation of  
the world

### Food for the FISH Pantry Current Needs:

Cereal  
Boxed Meals  
Canned fruit  
Canned veggies  
Paper products

Donations can  
be left at any of  
the FISH Food  
containers or  
grocery carts  
throughout the  
church.

Thank you for  
your generosity!

## PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

### Prayer Makes A Difference!

Please remember to pray:

- For all connected to our church who are confined to their home or nursing homes
- For our TV Audience (9 am Worship)
- For veterans, public servants, police/fire/medical personnel
- For the Rainbows & Rhymes Preschool families
- For our nation, Christ's Church universal, the United Methodist Church, the Sugar Creek Cluster, our congregation, our pastor and staff

**Prayer concerns:** Ruby Headrick, Kaleb Barker-Switzer, Dallas Meador, Judy Jones, Jo Anderson, Barbara Odle, Terrie Colosino, Melba Rivenbark, Pierce Green, **Our missionaries:** Chris & Anna Pratt, Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) in Orlando, FL

## MISSIONS GIVING

Last year our church gave \$63,066.48 to support various missions in our community, state and overseas. This money came from our Missions Endowment, Special Offerings and donations. Last year we gave to: *Montgomery County Free Clinic, FISH Financial, FISH Food, Trinity Life Ministries, Discretionary Fund, SC Mission Trip, Heifer, Rural Mission, Food Back Packs, No Malaria, Cru, Africa University, New Day Charities, Half Way Home, Fletcher, Place, Table of Grace, UMYF Missions, Coins for Camp, Brightwood Community, Back to School Backpacks, Rainbows & Rhymes, Midwest Mission, Lucille Raines Home, UM Children's Home, VBS, Abby Twarek, Women's Resource Center, UMCOR, Volunteers in Mental Health and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.* Thank YOU for your generosity last year!

So far in 2017, we have given **\$4,955.00** towards missions. These include: *Montgomery County Free Clinic, FISH Financial, FISH Food, Trinity Life Ministries, Discretionary Fund, SC Mission Trip, Heifer, Rural Mission, Food Back Packs, No Malaria, Cru, Africa University, New Day Charities, Half Way Home, Joy in the Harvest, Achaius Ranch and Human Relations Day.*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

The children's ministry search team is still in the process of searching for qualified candidates. We will not give up on our task of finding someone to work with us in our children's ministry. God has not revealed our person to us yet. Keep praying for us and where you can help in this ministry.



Hello from Rainbows & Rhymes Preschool!! We have had quite the start to 2017! Both classrooms have shared the flu bug with each other. While we always encourage sharing with our friends, this is one thing that we can make an exception for! Our wonderful teachers have been able to work with the students on proper hand washing techniques, so it appears that we are all on the mend.

Our students are currently collecting items for the Rack Pack program. Donations in the form of travel size hygiene items, small bath towels, and bottled water/ small snacks will all be collected for the Marines who will be coming home from deployment, without any family or friends nearby. We have a collection box in each classroom!

We will be preparing for our Spring Program soon! This is always an exciting time for our preschoolers. More information will be available closer to the program date.

It has been an absolute joy to join the Rainbows & Rhymes team as Interim Director. What a great honor to be apart of such a special program!

Lyndsey Sparrow

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED? by Pastor Patty

Have you ever wondered how sea shells are formed or where sea shells come from? Some of you know that I have been on vacation and have seen a lot of sea shells these last few weeks. I have been collecting shells of all sizes for a long time and use them as decorations. Most of you recognize the tongue twister, "She sells sea shells by the sea shore". It can be difficult to say these words several times. Try it!

I have had the privilege for several weeks to stroll leisurely in several areas of Florida. God has made a beautiful world and a lot of sand with sea shells washed upon it is certainly beauty to me. The shells are empty because the small animal has died and the soft parts have been eaten by another animal or have rotted out. Most shells (not all) are the shells of marine mollusks due to they can endure better than other sea shells.

Throughout the Bible we are constantly reminded of our need for revival. The 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm is full of truth about our needs to be revived or restored. It also speaks of prayer, praise and commitment to God's law. Recognizing we sometimes are living a life of discontent or frustration is a great step toward accepting the life Jesus wants to give us. John 10:10b states, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly". This is a characteristic statement of Jesus' mission as John presents it.

Many people love checking out the many empty shells along the water but it also reminds me I do not want to be an empty shell left along the beach. I want to keep on filling up by spending time with our Lord. Let's face it...if we want revival we need a deep honest relationship with Him. God is always waiting to meet us where we are. Turn to Him, talk to Him, pour out your concerns and your confessions to Him and watch Him fill you up with goodness and revive your heart.

As I return to our church from vacation I have new shells but more importantly I am energized and ready to continue to serve our Lord. Let us keep on marching forward together as a whole church. Blessings to all of you.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP AT WNL

**FEBRUARY 1**  
**FEBRUARY 15**  
**MARCH 1**  
**MARCH 15**

5-6 PM

ADULTS \$4  
CHILDREN \$3

EVERYONE IS INVITED!



Love ever gives,  
forgives, out-  
lives, and ever  
stands with  
open hands.  
And while it  
lives, it gives.  
For this is love's  
prerogative—to  
give, and give  
and give.

John Oxenham

**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Gary Lewis, Sr Pastor  
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Lyndsey Sparrow,  
Dir of Rainbows & Rhymes

Sherrie Lacy, Admin Assistant  
[slacy@cvfumc.org](mailto:slacy@cvfumc.org)

Marsha Smith, Choir Director  
Cindy McCormick, Organist  
Randy Neideffer, Maint

## Service Times

**9:00 a.m.**  
**Traditional Worship**  
**in the Sanctuary**  
&  
**11:10 a.m.**  
**The Gathering in the**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School with**  
**classes for all ages!**

**9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Take-Up-A-Cup in the**  
**Library & Narthex**

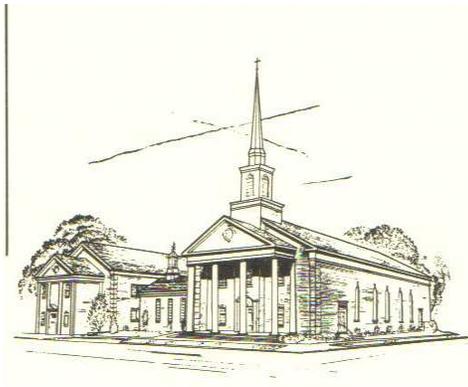
**The Chimes**

**February 2017**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN**

**DATED MATERIAL**



## **30th SOUTH CAROLINA MISSION TRIP**

**Calling willing hands and servant's hearts.**

Please prayerfully consider joining our South Carolina mission team to change lives through housing improvements and relationships. This year marks our 30th trip to the sea islands of Charleston County. Will you join us June 9 - 18 for a life changing week? Registration is just \$25 per person and additional expenses are minimal. We promise sunshine, warm weather, great food, the chance to get dirty, a black Methodist worship service, team bonding, tutoring for any needed skills, and special memories to last a lifetime. Well over 200 people from within and outside our church have joined us over the years, making this the largest "small group" at FUMC.

Youth 14 and 15 may attend with a parent; persons 16-89 may attend solo. (Team members 90 and over will be assigned a buddy to help carry heavy bags). There are tasks for workers of all ages and skill levels.

Watch for an organizational meeting in late March where registration begins. Questions? More information? Please contact Cynda Mellish (376-2025) or [clmellish@gmail.com](mailto:clmellish@gmail.com) or any member of our South Carolina family!