



The Good News

December 2015



Your Church Staff. . .

*. . .wishes to express our Thanks to our Church Family!
We all feel very fortunate to serve a Congregation
of those who so graciously give of their time,
their talent, and their support to us.
Thank You, and have a blessed holiday!*

Keep Christ in Your Christmas...Gather with family & friends

Nov 29 Advent Begins

Nov 30, 9:00am "Deck the Halls" ~ all church

Dec 2, 11:45am UMW Luncheon, Becker Hall

Dec 7, 5:30pm Nativity Walk, Becker Hall

Dec 9, 6:30pm UMM Dinner, Becker Hall

Dec 12, 7:00pm UARKETTES Christmas Program

Dec 13, 8:00am & 10:45am Christmas Cantata, Sanctuary

Dec 17, 11:15am Cooper School program, Sanctuary

Dec 20, 9:30am The Praise Team Christmas Music~BH

All services Children & Youth Christmas Play

6:00pm Longest Night Service, Sanctuary

Dec 24, Christmas Eve Carols, Communion, Candlelight

Noon Midday at the Manger

5:00pm Contemporary Blend

7:30pm Traditional Service

Dec 25, 11:30am Christmas Pot-luck

Dec 27, 10:00am One Combined Service





FAITH WALK

with Brother Jaimie J. Alexander, Senior Pastor

*So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course.
Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven.
The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light"*
(James 1:17, Message)

It is the time of year that we are asked what would you like for Christmas and you ask people what they would like for Christmas. As this annual December series of questioning begins, how would you answer the question "All I want is _____?". Would you answer the question with something that is purchased online or in a store? Would you answer it with something that is made by a skilled crafts person, or give a sarcastic answer? Would you answer the question with something that is character or faith strengthening? During advent we will be both asking and answering the question through the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and also the Magi and the Shepherds. We will think about Zechariah's change from mistrust to trust, Elizabeth's experience of unfairness to gratitude, Mary's journey from tragedy to resilience, and the Magi's move from disappointment to the true treasure. As you think about what each of these persons wanted, you may discover how you will answer the question "All I want is _____?" this Advent season.

Recent Staff Changes

Brenda Wideman ~ new title is *Minister of Congregational Care and Grief Support*

Amy Gilmore ~ new position as *Director of Community Life and Connections*

We welcome Brenda and Amy in their new ministry leadership roles upon the retirement of Jan Lowe. Brenda and Amy are working together to compliment each other in these new positions. Brenda will assume great responsibilities for congregational care and continues to expand the Grief Care Ministry. Amy will be directing "Every One In Ministry", volunteers, and helping people to make connections, among many other things. Let's give them our full support!



Stewardship News

As of November 22, the total amount pledged to date is: \$438,686 which consists of 186 pledges. Last year we finished strong with 210 pledges for a total of \$525,131. In order to meet the 2016 budget for the amount that has been requested for budget purposes for 2016, we need at least \$76,000 more. There are no raises being given to the staff and 2016 budget requests are very similar to last year. There are still pledges that we expect to receive that will support the 2016 budget. We encourage you to turn in your pledge card if you have not done so yet.

Thank you for your faithfulness in tithing and your support of the mission and ministry of FUMCBV in 2015! Please help us prepare for a new year of ministry in 2016.

Have a Merry Christmas,

God is faithful!

Bro. Jaimie

Don't just come to church, Be the Church!



Listening with Ears of the Heart

Rev. Judy Rudd-Platt, Associate Pastor

It was the first week of November, and there he was - a Salvation Army bell ringer - standing in front of my local Wal-Mart. I actually heard the peculiar sound of the bell before I saw the young man wrapped in his red apron, swinging away. After all, it was the first weekend in November! We had not even celebrated Thanksgiving!

I'm embarrassed to admit that my first reaction was a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach as I anticipated the awkwardness of passing the Salvation Army volunteers in front of the local merchants this holiday season. I'm either irritated at the inconvenience of digging for \$1 bills to slide into the red bucket, or worse, I fidget with guilt as I walk by the cheerful bell ringer without dropping in a dime.

Really? I couldn't believe it. Was I really feeling this way? Here I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and a pastor, and I'm having *these* feelings? I was ashamed! Were *irritation* or *guilt* really the first feelings I mustered up as I encountered one of God's precious children seeking donations to support people in need of extra help in their lives?! I had already begun to think about Christmas gatherings and gifts. Why had I not begun to consider the ways I would extend the love of Christ to those who are in need of my financial and physical resources?

A couple of years ago, Dixon and I accepted a challenge that he offered his church at Elm Springs. Along with many in the congregation, we decided to spend as much on people in need as we did on our own family for Christmas. The challenge helped us discover two things. First, we discovered how much we overspent on family and friends who already possessed more than they could use. Second, we discovered how oblivious we had become to people in our very midst who, for one reason or another, were unable to regularly secure the basic necessities of life. The experience has progressively changed our focus and actions each Christmas since that time.

Christmas is not about finding the perfect present for our spouse, child, grandchild or sibling. Christmas is not about finding the best bargains for that item we've been waiting for all year. Christmas isn't even about a festive, delectable banquet table filled with holiday favorites. Christmas is about the present we did not earn, we can't buy and we don't deserve. Christmas is about the birth of a baby to an impoverished family in Judea who celebrated his arrival with the poorest of the poor and the richest of the rich. Christmas is about a Savior who ministered to and loved people who were considered by society to be the least, the last and the lost and who invites us to do the same.

In the words of a recent television advertisement: "What if the four letter word that defined the season was L-O-V-E and not S-A-L-E?" How will you spread the Love and Hope of the Christ Child this season?

Pastor Judy

You are invited for

"Lunch with The Pastors"

An informal gathering to celebrate New Members and Persons who are interested in Membership at First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista

Sunday, December 6th ~ 12:15pm ~ In our Chapel

For more information or to let us know you will be attending, please contact the Church office.

Childcare Available
by arrangement

RSVP 855-1158



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Brenda Wideman, Minister of Congregational Care & Grief Support

Expect the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

The holidays have arrived; amidst the crises of the world, amidst our busy-ness to get it all done, amidst the day to day ordinary happenings, once again, the holidays have arrived. Those days two thousand years ago were also filled with a mixture of crises and busy-ness and day-to-day ordinary – ordinary shepherds taking care of sheep, an ordinary carpenter and his soon-to-be wife, an unimportant birth to just another couple amongst the many pilgrims travelling for the taxation, and the birth taking place in an ordinary stable with ordinary animals. The holidays arrived then, too. Did you ever think why we call them “holidays”? It’s really not because they are filled with family, fun, food, and fellowship. It’s because they are holy days. They are sacred days when we commemorate and remember when God came to live among us, when God ate with us, laughed with us, cried with us, calmed the storms around us, healed our broken bodies and broken spirits, set us free, and taught us how to live life abundantly.

Our God broke through the day-to-day ordinary lives people led and brought something extraordinary. He brought the sacred, the holy; he brought himself. We remember by retelling the story, by lighting the candles, by singing the hymns. But is remembering all we can do? Did that holiness only happen long ago? God breaks through in many mysterious ways even today. To experience it, we just have to look for it to happen. May you catch a glimpse of our God during these holy days of 2015. May you experience God’s closeness; see God in your ordinary day-to-day happenings, and know that something extraordinary has just happened. For with God, miracles do happen, the light does break through the darkness, the divine does appear, the ordinary does become the extraordinary.

“There were ordinary shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce an extraordinary and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed.”

Luke 2:8-16 The Message

Blessings for seeing and believing in these Holy Days, *Brenda*

Wellness Seminar

brought to you by Caregivers Support Group and Congregational Care

Presentation made by Dr. Cory Oldham ~ Monday, December 14th 9 a.m. in the Chapel

STRESS is known as the “silent killer.” It is a major trigger of heart attacks. In one way or another, everyone is susceptible to increased levels of stress. Research validates that the aging process alone causes elevated levels of stress hormones to be circulating in our bodies. Most of us will be at least informal caregivers at some point during our lives. Caring for an individual with a disability is stressful and contributes to physical and mental morbidity. This informative seminar will provide important information on reducing stress at any age for any reason! A Continental Breakfast will be served. This presentation is free and open to anyone needing ways to de-stress.

Reservation Required: Call the church office (855-1158) no later than Wednesday, December 9th



VISTA KIDS

with Kristen Crider, Director of Children's Ministries

Thankfulness has been on our lips, in our Facebook news feeds and on the shelves of the markets as we march through the Season of Thanksgiving and into Advent. Each year, I hope I can do a bit better than the year before – allow my Thanksgiving to actually affect my daily gratitude and allow Advent to be my Christmas guide, rather than the scores of Christmas messages in my inbox and mailbox each day. Also, as I look into my children's eyes, I search for their recognition of a thankful spirit and an Advent faith in their actions. Just as when I examine myself, I see both good and bad. Of course, I love them just the same and know that they are taking their part in the human endeavor to balance this world with God's Kingdom.

What traditions or resources do you have that help you to experience Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas in a way that reflects a thankful spirit and an Advent faith? Some of the most simple additions to our life can make a big difference! Some of you experienced the joy the children brought to decorating Christmas cards for service men & women overseas to include in our Shoebox Ministry shipment. I was amazed at how much love and thoughtfulness crayons, construction paper and glue could relay! Recently, we began an Advent Study on Sunday Mornings during the 10:45 service downstairs. If you haven't come, please do...even the opportunity to gather and share with old and new friends may help your season of Advent more meaningful. The children are engaged in their own learning as well, so you will have common ground to share with them during the week. Also, our children have been asked to present a short Christmas program in all three services on Dec. 20! We have plenty of roles, most of them non-speaking, and are looking for families to sign up for 1 or 2 services on that day to share the Christmas Story with our congregation. Because of the scheduling, it would mean that you would come a little earlier or stay a little later that day. Allowing our children to participate in a shared worship time with the congregation is a great opportunity for everyone to celebrate Christmas as a church family.

Finally, with 2016 on our front doorstep, this is the time to be looking for more ways to love God, learn and lead WITH our children by our side! Come be a part of this ministry and let's find more opportunities together to allow our children to grow in God's grace, love and service. *Kristin*





YOUTH LIFE

with David Hanson, Director of Youth Ministries



Brokenness

As I approach this time every year I think to myself, “what is the meaning of the holiday season.” As a child I have fond holiday memories. Deer hunting, cooking, baking, gifts, laughter, and brokenness. You’re probably wondering why I say brokenness, and to say that after so many positive moments. This time of year can be very broken for many. Some people lose loved ones; struggle to have food on the table, to have gifts for their children and much more. I think we put too much emphasis on making these holidays perfect. Have you ever wondered why Thanksgiving is a month away from Christmas, or why are these two most sensitive, precious holidays so close together and at the end of the year. I look at Thanksgiving as a time to start being thankful for all that I’ve had throughout the year. When I start to be thankful for all I have it leads me into being humble and more focused on what God has given me. Christmas is a time to remember what God has given us. This wonderful time comes right at the end of the year. I like to think we need it to be at this time to have strong faith and remembrance of our purpose and to be equipped for what is to come in the next year. We all have those years that you can say “that is a year to forget.” Parts of 2015 would be considered one of those years for me. A broken water pipe, broken air conditioner, and broken car are just a few of the challenges that have hit my family this year. The hardest part is that all this has just happened in the past 2 months. I would be lying if I said, “all will be ok and this will pass.” Truth is it has stressed my wife and me a lot. Brokenness is always going to be part of life. It was our brokenness that brought us Jesus and later allowed Jesus to give his life for our brokenness. This year is a year I don’t want to forget. It is a year I want to be thankful for. I am thankful for all the brokenness I have been through. For it is the brokenness that has made me stronger in faith and has made me humble again. It also allowed me to open my eyes to all the wonderful things God has blessed me with. I will take what I have learned in 2015 and build upon it in 2016. 2016 will have its share of brokenness, but it will also be what makes me a faithful child of God. I wish you all a blessed holiday season. I am truly thankful and humbled to be part of this church. *David*

The Youth would like to send everyone a message. They have had their share of brokenness this past year and they are growing in faith, thanks to you all.

The church has given my family and I life! I am so thankful to walk in every Sunday and Wednesday and feel consumed with love. To know that I have a strong church family to rely on for all kinds of support is phenomenal. This church is a true blessing. Thank you and I hope everyone has a wonderful and cheerful holiday season! -

Tiffany

I am very thankful for this church. It’s so nice to come to a place where you feel welcomed by the entire congregation. I want to wish the congregation a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving; may many beautiful memories be made. - **Dalton**

I’m very thankful for this church. I love to walk in and feel like I belong with everyone’s love. Thank you so much for making this church a fun and safe environment for my family! Have safe holidays! - **Brittany**

I’m most thankful for this church because of how much of a welcoming feeling there is and how kind the hearts of the congregation are. I recently moved back after three years of being in South Carolina. Having attended this church before, I was still nervous about blending back in as a fellow follower. I was amazed, however, with the amount of greetings and joyfulness my family and I received. I wish everyone a happy holiday; you deserve it! - **Alec**

I am so thankful for the compassion and the acceptance the church has. Being someone who can’t always make it every Sunday, I still feel as if I am apart of the church. Thank you. I hope everyone has a safe Thanksgiving..- **Roman**

I am thankful for being able to come to this church and learn the word of God. I feel very welcomed here. Coming to youth almost every Sunday is something that I look forward to! I am thankful for my supportive family and them introducing me to this church. I pray everyone has safe travels during this holiday season. Thank you. - **Jamison**

I am thankful for being able to come to youth every Sunday and worship with my peers. I love how it is a fun environment and how joyful and welcoming the congregation is. I am also thankful for getting to share my love for God with others. Lastly, I hope that everyone has a fun and safe holiday with their families. - **Alyssa**



OUR FAMILY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 George & Pat Brannon (70)
- 10 John & Carol Zurn
- 11 Jerry & Cindy Snow
- 16 David & Carol Stanley
- 21 Tim & Jeanette Van Allen
- 22 Harris & Charlotte Manuel
- 24 Bob & Betty Reynolds
- 24 Bob & Joy Walker
- 27 Glen & Martha Hogue (65)
- 29 Chris & John Rice
- 29 Dixon & Judy R. Platt

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jo Ann Handel
- 1 Joe McGee
- 2 Ron Buker
- 2 Doug Grant
- 2 Kathy Jones
- 2 Brittany May
- 3 David Hanson
- 6 Margie Bowen
- 6 Sarah Lucht
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza
- 8 Jim Hudson
- 8 Kelly Parham
- 8 Pat Wolter



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

- 9 Madge Garrison
- 9 Heath Lehmann
- 12 Eleanor Dunsmoor
- 13 Tristen Knannichfield
- 14 Jean Nordmeyer
- 16 Melba Brown
- 17 Jon Mendoza
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 19 Dorene Van Fleet
- 21 Wayne Calhoun (99)
- 21 Donna Etheredge
- 21 Emma Kell
- 22 Joe Bowen
- 22 Blake Roath
- 22 Gil Temple
- 23 Martha Hogue
- 24 Zachary Knannichfeld
- 26 Diane Cox
- 27 Ruth Ireland
- 29 Everly Hickman
- 29 Rose Jones
- 29 Brynn Hanson
- 29 Sawyer Hanson
- 31 Carly Engle
- 31 Journey Marquez



OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to me, Brenda Wideman, Minister of Congregational Care & Grief Support at brenda@lovelearnlead.com, or call 855-1158.

NEW MEMBERS

Harry and Kandi Mount

are back! After having served in another church in the area for more than 10 years, they have returned to FUMC.

Harry is from Morrisville, PA and Kandi hales from Oklahoma City, OK. Harry has a military background, serving more than 20 years. He was Director of Quality Control for at facilities in Okla. City for the next 12 years, and finished his career at XNA Airport.

Kandi was a homemaker before becoming Manager of Family Practice and OT/PT clinics in Okla. City for 12 years. She worked as secretary at BV FUMC from 1999 to 2005, and then served as a Chaplain for Mercy Medical Centers for the past 10 years. She became a United Methodist Deaconess in 2008.

The Mount's have marched to the beat of God's drum. It was a God thing that brought them to Bella Vista in 1998, and a God thing that brought them to BV FUMC not once, but twice. They are thrilled to be back among their friends again.



Now that they are retired, Harry and Kandi just try to take life a day at a time, or at least a season at a time. Sitting at home with a good book or trekking the craft fairs works for the fall and winter days, but outdoors for family fun and lake activities in the warmer seasons.

The Mount's have 3 children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren.

Kandi provided grief support for many members of our church during the time she was here. It will be exciting to see how God is calling her to serve in our church now. The Mounts are back in the "One" Shepherd Group. They opted to not have "First Friends" since they are back home.

Welcome, Harry and Kandi. We are delighted you are back!

Megan LaRue Osborne

calls Bella Vista home. Specifically, home is Oasis, and our church—FUMC, BV. She became a member her on Nov. 1, 2015. She grew up in Houston TX, learned drafting, and after a series of jobs, she landed a job in mapping. After a dark time in her life, Megan is finally turning her life around through Oasis and this church.

Megan is an artist, loves to go camping, hiking, biking and any watersports, especially swimming. She enjoys reading self-help books, native American, and some fiction.

Much of Megan's free time is spent resting, writing, and reading. She loves to go on roadtrips, especially with her family.

Megan's "First Friend" is Deb Saalfeld. She is a member of the Believers Shepherd Group. I pray that we can be the family you need at this time in your life. Welcome, Megan.





OUR FAMILY



Dena Bratten and son, Journey Marquez, became members of FUMC on November 1st.

Dena joined Oasis to find a better way of life for herself and her son.

Dena and son are soccer fans. All of Dena's free time is spent with her son. She does work in the community.

We are so glad that Dena and Journey chose to call First United Methodist

Church home. We are here for you Dena. Welcome.

Kaela Hickman, and daughter, Everly Seraphina, became members at FUMC on November 1. They attend The Well contemporary service. Kaela has transferred here from another denomination.

Her First Friend is Janelle Engle, and she is a member of the Believers Shepherd Group.

Kaela is from Mountain Home, AR but calls Bella Vista home. She attends school at NWACC. She loves to sing, share her testimony, and spend time with her baby, Everly. She is very much involved in Oasis activities. She also makes jewelry and writes poetry.

Kaela, we are pleased that you are spending this important part of your and your baby's life right here with us at FUMC. Welcome.



EVERY ONE IN MINISTRY (EOIM)

We are preparing the schedule for all of those who signed up for Sunday ministries in 2016. Our goal is to have the Sunday schedules to participants by early in December. If you have not yet signed up or have questions or concerns, please contact Amy Gilmore at the church, 855-1158, or amy@lovelearnlead.com.

DEATHS

Ara Mae Calhoun passed away on November 9th at the age of 96. under the care of doctors at Mercy Hospital while she was recuperating from a fall weeks earlier. Ara Mae and husband, Wayne, are charter members of our church. She and Wayne would have been married 79 years on November 14th. A service to celebrate her life was held on Sunday, November 22 in our sanctuary.



SANCTIFIED CLASSIFIEDS

Sunday Morning Office Angels - Are you able to volunteer at the Reception Desk in the Office on Sunday mornings, addressing the needs of members and guests? You will greet with a warm smile and a willing attitude those who come in, answer questions, sign people up for various happenings at the church.

7:30—8am **Arlene Alford** 9—9:30 **Darleen O'Brien**
10—10:45am 11:45—12:15pm

Please contact Amy Gilmore

Be on the lookout in January 2016!

Wednesday Nights are going to be awesome!

Join us at the church for small group studies for adults and youth

Activities for families and children

Meal will be offered!

You won't want to miss this!

Contact Pastor Judy with your ideas for group studies or activities!



MISSIONS

PAK A SAK

Our December collection of food will be delivered to two residential facilities in Benton County that always need help with non-perishable food, especially during the holiday season when the children are on Christmas break. They are in need of soups, pasta, sauces, mac & cheese, peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, fruit, and vegetables. During this time, let us all help as we can to allow the residents of these facilities have a Joyful Christmas Season.



SHOEBOX MINISTRY

On November 5th, Cheryl Campbell, Shirley Weed, Co Ellen Sterwald, Angie Jones, Karen Dove, Vicki Hoye, Diane Verville, Florence Hill and Karen Roenfeld packed boy's and girl's shoeboxes. Our shelves were empty so we are now ready for deliveries.

Trunk or Treat Donations

We received much needed socks of all sizes and other items from those attending Trunk or Treat. It was definitely "treat time" for us. Thank you Thank you!

Sunshine Sacks

Martha Circle packed 80 sunshine Sacks bound for Cooper Elementary School. This will be the last pack and delivery until January. Thank you, ladies.

Needs

We are still in need of socks of all sizes but mostly men's and women's.

We wish all of you and your families a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. All of us here on this soil of the most wonderful country in the world are already blessed.

As always in his service,

*The Shoebox
Team Leaders*



Helping Hands Report

Our church's turn for Saturday Work Day went very well on October 24th, THANKS to the diligent efforts of a faithful group consisting of Dennis Reed, George Brannon and Darrell Bottjen in the morning and Keith & Lynn Prueitt, Chet & Cheryl Campbell, James & Vicki Forrest, Co Ellen Sterwald, Sue Nebrig, Mabel Ashline, and Maryann Johnson in the afternoon. It turned out to be a fairly slow day which is nice sometimes to give us all a chance to visit amongst ourselves as well as with the customers. A bonus for that time of the year for the cashiers and baggers is to see what everyone is buying for their Halloween costumes. The store maintains its neat appearance with those of us who "police" the floor to pick up stray items & put things in place (and do a little shopping at the same time?). You never know what a deal you might find! We haven't received our work times for next year yet, but be watching the newsletters so you can join us in this very worthy "hands on" activity. Any questions, just ask.

Verna Bottjen & Shirley Wenger

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM)

Camp Tomah Shinga in Junction City, KS, will be implementing Disaster Response TeenCorps during the weeks of 6/5-10 and 6/19-24. FUMCBV youth are welcome to sign up. See Hal Shope & Marianne Zotti for more information.

AR-UMCOR is signing up teams for disaster recovery in South Carolina, but South Carolina is not yet ready for teams. However, a VIM team is beginning to form for a Mission Journey to assist in Oklahoma. We need some more team members. Contact Byron at vim@arumc.org if you can participate. A team leader has stepped forward and it looks like December 9-13 or 15-20 will be the dates for the Oklahoma team trip.





MISSIONS

MISSION OF THE MONTH SOULS HARBOR



Souls Harbor is a faith-based transitional living facility dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men with dignity and respect for each individual. Structured programs encourage positive life changes with a focus on spiritual growth, continuing education, sustainable employment and life management (including recovery from substance abuse). Together, men can find a new way of life and restoration as productive members of the community.

Since 1988, Souls Harbor has been reaching out to men who are hungry, homeless, hurting and struggling to meet their basic needs. We provide food, lodging, clothing, household goods, recovery programs, education, job training, counseling and spiritual guidance. All of this is provided in a safe and supportive environment, every day of the year. They are the only transitional men's shelter in the state of Arkansas.

All residents must be either employed or in school. The Harbor builds job skills through programs allowing residents to work through Hire at the Harbor. An urban garden supplies fresh vegetables not only for their own needs but also as a benefit to the community. Exciting things are happening at Souls Harbor.

Regular needs include:
20 gallons of milk and 15 dozen eggs per week
Fresh fruit
Cleaning and laundry supplies

FEED THE FUNNEL PARTY

JANUARY 30 ~ BECKER HALL

Mark your calendar now to attend the Feed the Funnel Party on January 30, 2016. Our goal is to pack 10,000 meals to be shared with the Methodist Food Pantries in Decatur, Centerton, Bentonville and Rogers.

Each meal cost one quarter. To help reach our goal of \$2,500 the Goat Banks will be out beginning the first of December. **Feed the Goat Banks to Feed the Funnel to Feed the Hungry in our community!**



PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls provide warmth and comfort for those in distress or hurting. Now we have additional ways to be wrapped in prayer. A few months ago the group began knitting **Prayer Coverlets** to be given to newborns or children who are seriously ill. **Prayer Cloths** are being made, prayed over, and blessed, to be given to those who have a serious circumstance but have already received a prayer shawl. The Prayer Cloths are 4 or 5 inches by 5 or 6 inches. **Prayer Squares**, a smaller version of the Prayer Cloth, are being made, prayed over and blessed and put in baskets at various places in the church that anyone can pick up for themselves or to give to others when there is a particular prayer need. Initially, the Prayer Squares will be in a basket in the Narthex. As more squares are knitted, baskets will be placed in Becker Hall and the Chapel.



It's that time of year again. We have the opportunity to show our staff how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. The SPR committee invites you to contribute to the holiday love offering for our staff members. The love offering will be collected through the last Sunday of the year.

Simply mark your offering envelope or check "STAFF LOVE OFFERING" to make sure it is set aside for that purpose. SPRC would also like to remind you that, if necessary for budgeting reasons, you can contribute to the holiday love offering throughout the year. These funds will be accumulated until the end of the year. Of course, donations given during the year will also need to be marked "STAFF LOVE OFFERING".

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We have a wonderful staff here at FUMC Bella Vista and this is one way we can show them how much they are appreciated.

SPR Committee members



We welcome all UMM members and non members to attend our December 9th dinner meeting at 6:30pm in Becker Hall. Our speaker will be Mr. Kenny Butts. A few years ago Mr. Butts suffered a horrific accident and due to the major injuries he sustained he was pronounced dead. After about fifteen minutes of no vital signs, life was restored to Mr. Butts. Come listen to Kenny as he talks about his near death experience and his wonderful and serene time he spent in Heaven. Question and answer period following Kenny's presentation.

Dinner menu will consist of Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn and Salad, catered by Papa Mike's. Reservations need to be made either by phone tree or with Jim Belcoff (616-6738) no later than Sunday, December 6. Hope to see you there.

EVERYONE IS INVITED. . . .

. . . to the **UMW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** held on Wednesday,

December 2nd at 11:45 a.m. in Becker

Hall, beginning with quiet time. The Women's Chorus, directed by Dr. Larry Zehring, will bring music of the season, and installation of officers for 2016 will be held. Cost for lunch is \$7.00, and the deadline for making reservations is Sunday, November 29th (through your Circle or the church office)

Everyone in our church & **guests** are welcome. Yes, men, this means you, too! What a great way to begin our Christmas Season at Church!



2 SERVE SHEPHERD GROUP will gather at the home of Bryan & Carrie Roath for a Christmas get-together on Saturday, December 12th at noon. Those of you who have not confirmed yet, please let the Andersens know by Thursday, December 10 whether you will attend or not. Also please let them know what dish you will bring to share.



BOOK NOOK

SOARING SOLOS

BOOKS IN SERIES:

Prairie State Friends by Wanda Brunstetter

Book 1: THE DECISION

Book 2: THE GIFT

NON-FICTION:

SECRETS TO EXCEPTIONAL LIVING by Joyce Meyer (248)

Transforming your life through the fruit of the Spirit.

LARGE-PRINT FICTION:

SEE ME by Nicholas Sparks

Rich in emotion and fueled with suspense, this book reminds us that love is sometimes forged in the crisis that threatens to shatter us.


Changes are under way for the Solo's group. Karen Roenfeld and Maryann Johnson will serve as Co-Chairs for the group that meets about twice a month. They will be asking group members to take a turn once or twice a year to schedule an event or accept reservations so that no one has to do too much.

Watch Sunday bulletins to see what is coming up next.

If you are a senior single, you can be added to the Solo Roster by contacting Karen or Maryann. Get added to the e-mail list for notification of upcoming activities and events. Church members are encouraged to invite others to join in our activities. You don't have to be a member of our church to participate in outings, just single.



On Monday, November 2nd, four of FUMCBV's finest duffers won the 2015 Bella Vista Chairman's Cup Championship Tournament. The team of Chet Campbell, James Forrest, Jack Dunn, and Ted Ivy bested 27 other teams, made up of men & women who have played consistently all summer, to come out on top of the heap. Congratulations, fellows! Great job. . . .



Nativity Display and Soup Supper
Monday, December 7
5:30 p.m.
Becker Hall

Come and see nativity sets from around the world in amazing variety and beauty. Display your own nativity set with the others. You may set up your display between 3 and 5 p.m. Then stay for soup, cornbread and dessert. A freewill offering will be taken to cover the cost of food expenses, with profits donated to an area charity. Plan now to make this part of your family's holiday observance. Sponsored by the Metfield Methodist and Sunrise Shepherd Groups. Call Vicki Forest or Jean Justice for more information.

Merry Christmas!

Bella Vista Men's Chorus
PRESENTS
"Home for the Holidays"
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015
3 PM
BELLA VISTA COMMUNITY CHURCH
75 E. LANCASHIRE BLVD.
OUR GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY



THANK YOU

I will never forget the wonderful service that Bro. Jaimie gave at the Memorial for Ara Mae. Also, all of the letters, cards, phone calls we have received this past year of Ara Mae's life to our home and at the hospital. It has given me even more love to you, our church. They seem to take care of all members who have burdens. Our staff works hard to carry out our church's desires. I am an old man, but our church was organized in 1976 for the same reason you have shown my family today and to Ara Mae and me this past year. Again, thank you for doing your part to make our church so great in this caring of all our members. I send you my love,

Wayne Calhoun

Troop Christmas Boxes

Thank you for all the wonderful contributions for the boxes for the troops. The children from Children's Ministry made beautiful picture cards on construction paper to with Merry Christmas written on them. We would like to thank Kristin Crider for making it possible to include the most special part of these boxes. God is truly present in this place! We sent all FIVE boxes on November 18th. They are filled with all kinds of goodies plus necessities that are easily carried in their pockets. This will give the boxes five weeks to arrive.



Angel Tree



Thank you to everyone who took a name and filled a Christmas wish for a child on our Angel tree!
Please remember to return your items to the church
no later than Sunday, December 6.

OCTOBER 2015 FINANCIAL DATA

		* = -Endowment	2015 Budget	Compare 2014
Month to date (as of 10/31/15)	Actual Receipts	*\$49,264	*\$52,924	*\$53,794
Month to date (as of 10/30/15)	Actual Expenses	\$56,122	\$52,924	\$53,890
	Month of OCT	(\$6,858)		(\$96)
Year to date	Actual Receipts	*\$549,681	*\$529,240	*\$528,428
Year to date	Actual Expenses	\$538,158	\$529,240	\$536,501
	YTD	\$ 11,523		(\$8,073)

Operating Account Balance 10/31/15 **(\$28,513)**

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:15 Golf-Highlands 4:30 Oasis Grief Group	7:30 Men's Emmaus 8:30 Bible Study 9:00 Disciple IV 9:00 Quilters 11:45 UMW Luncheon 2:30 Disciple II 3:15 Chancel Bells 5:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Youth Life	11:06 Golf-Highlands 5:30 Community AA 7:00 Living Sober AA	8:30 Believers Disciple	8:30 Young at Heart 9:00 Amp Big Book
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BP✓ between services 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 10:45 <i>SENT</i> 12:15 Lunch w/Pastors	10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 PEO-CD 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Calico Brd Mtng 5:30 MM Nativity Walk 6:00 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	9:00 PEO-BR 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:00 Naomi Circle 11:40 Golf-Berksdale 1:00 Sarah Circle 1:30 Member Meeting 4:30 Oasis Grief Grp	7:30 Men's Emmaus 8:30 Bible Study 9:00 Disciple IV 9:00 Quilters 9:30 Mission Meeting 2:30 Disciple II 3:15 Chancel Bells 5:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 UMM Dinner 7:00 Youth Life	11:06 Golf-BVCC 1:00 HOPE Circle 6:30 Evening Circle 7:00 Living Sober AA	8:30 Believers Disciple 11:30 PreSchool Brd Mtng	9:00 Amp Big Book 7:00 UARKETTES
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CANTATA 7:05 Handbell Rehrl 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 10:45 <i>SENT</i> 2:30 Calhoun Recitals	9:00 Caregivers Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Calico Cut-ups Brd 12:45 Women's Chorus 4:00 Guest Follow-up 6:00 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:15 Golf-Kingswood 11:30 Moving Forward 1:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 BV Book Club 4:30 Oasis Grief Grp	7:30 Men's Emmaus 8:30 Bible Study 9:00 Disciple IV 9:00 Quilters 2:30 Disciple II 3:15 Chancel Bells 5:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Youth Life	11:06 Golf-Kingswood 7:00 Living Sober AA	8:30 Believers Disciple	9:00 Amp Big Book
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
PAK A SAK 7:05 Handbls Practice 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 10:45 <i>SENT</i> 6:00 Longest Night Serv	9:00 Martha Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:00 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:40 Golf-Brittany 3:30 BV Library Brd 4:30 Oasis Grief Grp	7:30 Men's Emmaus 8:30 Bible Study 8:30 Disciple IV 2:30 Disciple II 3:15 Chancel Bells 5:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Youth Life	11:06 Golf - Dogwood	CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH CLOSED 11:30 Potluck 	9:00 Amp Big Book
27	28	29	30	31		
10:00 Combined Services	9:00 Caregivers Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:00 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:40 Golf-Kingswood 4:30 Oasis Grief Grp	7:30 Men's Emmaus 8:30 Disciple IV 2:30 Disciple II 3:15 Chancel Bells 5:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Youth Life	11:06 Golf-Kingswood		

First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715
(479)855-1158 www.LoveLearnLead.com

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 176
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

Return service requested



We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Brother Jaimie J. Alexander
Associate Pastor - Rev. Judy Rudd-Platt
Minister of Congregational Care - Brenda Wildman
Director of Community Life & Connections - Amy Gilmore
Director of Children's Ministry - Kristin Crider
Director of Youth Ministry - David Hansen
Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Director of Media Ministries - Troy Jorgensen
Coordinator of Sound/Visual Arts - Alan Yount
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite
Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker
Worship Leader - Garrett Greer
Financial Secretary - Marge Smith
Treasurer - Patsy Attaway
Secretary - Janet Walton

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

To the Home of ...



Place your Poinsettia order today!

Poinsettias will be available for decorating the church
this Christmas season for you to order
"in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one.

The cost is \$10. You can stop by the church office to place your order.

Please fill out a separate order form so that we have your correct information.
We will print a special recognition insert for the December 20th bulletin with the
information you give us. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home.

We ordered our poinsettias through the Bella Vista Kiwanis
Club this year. They are purchasing their plants from
Matkins Nursery in Bentonville.

100% of their profit goes back to the children of Bella Vista.

