

Serve

Faith Promise Update

Thanks to God's grace at work through your generous giving, we have been able to give substantial support to our partners in mission throughout the fall! September and October Faith Promise allocations:

• **\$9,300 - John & Katheryn Heinz Ministry in Downtown Lexington** This fulfilled our \$24,000 support pledged for the Heinzes in 2008. Their ministry continues to reach out into the culture and community of Lexington's downtown while teaching 1st UMC members how to live as missionaries in their own contexts.

• **\$1,000 - Nabil Samara Ministry in Nazareth** This support money was sent with our Nazareth team to provide support for Nabil's Olive Branch teaching and preaching ministry.

• **\$600 - Step By Step** Paid for cost of two meals for 80 women, cooked by 1st UMC members. Step by Step is a Christ-centered ministry to young women during and after pregnancy.

• **\$406 - God's Table** Supplies for the monthly community meal.

• **\$300 - Viitka, Estonia** Support money for Tea Land to continue English language courses. We have previously supported Grete Lepa in language classes, allowing her to translate English curriculum for the Estonian church.

• **\$150 - Room in the Inn** Supplies for the weekly ministry providing winter shelter for homeless men in the area.

To give to the Faith Promise fund, simply note "Faith Promise" on any offering you give.

Methodist Mountain Mission donations pick up—November 23

If you would like to donate to this mission, please bring items to our downtown campus and place them in the closet of room 13. Due to fire hazard, please DO NOT leave items in the stairwell.

Items desperately needed right now:

- Dishes, Silverware, Pots and Pans, Linens, Small Kitchen Appliances
- Cleaning Supplies, Mops, Brooms, Toiletries
- Furniture—Good and Usable

The Mountain Mission provides affordable, good, usable clothing and household items to people in areas of need through stores located in Barbourville, Burkesville, Harlan, Hazard, Irvine, Jackson, Martin, Pineville, and West Liberty. They also provide employment for people in the areas, and assist victims of disaster.

Room in the Inn

Room In the Inn, our winter ministry that houses, feeds and welcomes homeless men into our church home, is gearing up for a fabulous seventh season. In order for this ministry to be effective, we need hundreds of volunteers. Specifically, there is need for Captains to recruit a team to run a night of RITI. If you are interested or have questions, please email or call Kelly Svec, kabone30@yahoo.com, 277-6437, 221-9560.

God's Table

Our next God's Table evening is Tuesday, November 17. Please contact Kelly Svec, 277-6437, kabone30@yahoo.com if you would like to be a part of this outreach ministry. We are always need of more volunteers!

Check out our web site!

Want to get connected at First Church? Would you like to learn about how First Church is involved in serving through missions? Pick up one of our missions brochures or visit us at www.1stumc.org, and click on Missions. For additional information, call Teddy Ray, 233-0545, or teddy@1stumc.org.



Sunday Worship, downtown

8:30 & 11:00 a.m., Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m., Offerings Contemporary Worship Service
Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.



Sunday Worship, Andover

11:00 a.m., Worship Service, Sanctuary
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Our Mission: To invite, equip and deploy faithful followers of Jesus Christ. As faithful followers, we worship, grow and serve together.

Two Locations. One Firm Foundation.

The church offices downtown and at Andover will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. Also there are no church activities on November 25.

Lexington Rescue Mission

The Lexington Rescue Mission is preparing for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Wednesday, November 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church. This free dinner is open to everyone, and over 500 people are expected to attend. Although there are enough volunteers to serve, they are still in need of 1,000 dinner rolls, 100 lbs. fresh potatoes, lemonade mix, and 25 lbs. margarine.

There is also a need of volunteers to serve at their thrift stores, sorting donations, stocking shelves, organizing merchandise, etc. This is a great opportunity for individuals and small groups to serve, and the hours are flexible. The LRM can use volunteers whenever the store is open, which is Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer or know of anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact Natalie Cunningham at 859-381-9600, ext. 224.

The LRM is also looking for Christmas gifts for teenage boys. Items needed are: candy/gum, books/devotionals, small games/cards, art supplies, sports stuff, notebooks, pens/pencils, Christian teen magazines, Christian music, socks & underwear, hats, gloves, scarves, shampoo, deodorant, soap, razors/shaving cream, cologne. There will be a marked container in the Gathering Hall downtown if you would like to donate, through December 13.

Planning a 2010 Wedding?

Non-members have requested the following dates: March 5, 2010.

Circuit Rider deadlines...

- December 13, 2009
- January 10, 2010

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Giving and Receiving Christmas Presence Advent Sermon Series Downtown 2009

For as long as I can remember, I've heard people complain that Christmas is too commercial. Even in the movie "A Miracle on 34th Street", which was filmed more than 50 years ago, one of the characters complains that most people are too caught up in the material aspect of the holiday. It has probably always been this way. As long as Christmas has been celebrated, I'm sure there have been people warning us about the dangers of it becoming too self-serving.

When did Christmas become all about us? Jesus didn't even make Christmas about him. He made it about giving his life for the world God loves. And as you look at the story of how God entered this world, the stark reality of what Christ's birth was like stands in contrast to the Madison Avenue version with angels, glitter and gold, and cheap plastic Santas and snowmen.

This Advent series will try to get us past that. Over these weeks, we're going to look at ways we can make this a Christ-centered Christmas—one in which we grow closer to him and connect with our loved ones on a deeper level; one in which we learn to avoid the craziness that often plagues our lives in December, and in which we discover, in the process, what Christmas is really all about. And maybe, in doing so, we can really get in touch with the priority of what God wants to do in the world and in our lives.

November 29: Let Him Into Your Gift Giving (Luke 1:46-55)
December 6: Gifts That Money Can't Buy (I Thessalonians 3:9-13)
December 13: When We Don't Get What We Want (Luke 7:18-28)
December 20: Finding the Gift of Christmas (Matthew 1:18-25)
Christmas Eve (5:30 and 7 p.m.): Gifts—Images of God's Provision (Matthew 2:1-12)

Wednesday, December 2, 9 and 16

6:00 p.m. in West Chapel
Rev. Dr. Ben Witherington, III, always with a fresh and insightful perspective, presents "Christmas, Dark and Dangerous" on three Wednesdays in December. Plan now to join us for our Fellowship meal (by reservation) at 5:00 p.m., and this Advent study to help us journey through the season of our Lord's birth.

Sunday, December 6

3:30 p.m.
Gingerbread House Build by reservation (\$15 per house)
Sign-ups in the Gathering Hall & at Andover

5:30—7 p.m.
Family Christmas Craft Night
Snack Supper—The Christmas Story

Advent Sermon Series—Andover and Offerings

Andover Campus

The Places He's Been

Rev. J. Todd Nelson, preaching

First century Israel is a world apart from our Twenty-First century society. The places that Jesus ministered, taught, and lived may have looked different, but the lessons are as true for us today as ever. These important settings offer insight into real world issues such as hometown rejection, foreign land forgiveness, capitol city critics, and birthplace wonder. Join us as we spend Advent following in Jesus' footsteps.

November 29: *Nazareth*
(Luke 4:16-31) Hometown Rejection

December 6: *Samaria*
(John 4:7-26) Foreign Land Forgiveness

December 13: Christmas Music Sunday

December 20: *Jerusalem*
(Luke 19:28-40) Capitol City Critics

Christmas Eve (5:30 pm): *Bethlehem*
(Luke 2:1-20) Birthplace Wonder



Advent and Christmas Music Highlights—Downtown

The Children's Choirs of First Church will lead in worship on Sunday, December 6, as a part of the traditional Christmas Pageant. Also included in the morning services will be the Chancel Choir's presentation of the beloved motet *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* and John Ferguson's setting of *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* for choir and handbells.

On Sunday, December 13, our Chancel Choir and members of the Lexington Philharmonic will celebrate the Advent season during the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Musical selections include settings of *Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn* and *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* by Mack Wilberg, a festival setting of the traditional *Personent Hodie* by Lara Hoggard, and *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth* from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Christus*. One of the highlights of the morning services will be the presentation of Randol Alan Bass's *Gloria* for chorus, organ, brass and percussion.

Our musical celebration of the Advent season continues on December 20 with the Chancel Choir and soloists presenting selections from the Christmas portion of George Frederick Handel's *Messiah*.

Members of the Lexington Philharmonic return to our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. as the choir and orchestra share such beloved Christmas favorites as John Rutter's *Candlelight Carol*, *Angels We Have Heard on High* arranged by Mack Wilberg, more selections from Handel's *Messiah* and a setting of *O Holy Night* for soloist, chorus and orchestra.

Offerings

Isaiah's Advent

Teddy Ray and Jason Jackson, preaching

The season of Advent is often described as a time of preparation, anticipation, and hope. Historically, the Church has read selections from the book of Isaiah, in which the prophet calls Israel to prepare, anticipate, and hope for a time when God will restore His people through the work of an anointed, messianic king, who God will rise up from the line of Judah. This Advent in Offerings we will take a look at four passages that depict key components of Isaiah's expectations.

November 29:
The Advent of the Spirit (Isaiah 61)

December 6:
The Advent of the King (Isaiah 9)

December 13:
The Advent of the Word (Isaiah 2)

December 20:
The Advent of Peace (Isaiah 11)

Our Church Family

Thank You, Marsha Berry...

...for five years of loyal service! Marsha has resigned her position as Director of Equipping Ministries at First Church. Marsha and her husband, Ron, will be transitioning to Northern Kentucky as part of their retirement plan to be closer to their children and grandchildren. We will show our gratitude for Marsha's inspiring years at First Church with a reception following the 8:30 a.m. worship service on November 22. We wish Marsha and her family many blessings in the years to come.

Craig Olive—SPRC Chair

Scholarships Available

First United Methodist Church Endowment Foundation will award four (4) Christian Scholarships of \$500 each for the 2010-2011 academic year. Entering freshmen (current high school seniors) and rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors attending Kentucky colleges or universities are eligible. Applications are available in the church office. Deadline for application is December 20, 2009. For more information, contact Foster Ockerman, Jr., 268-8102.

Thanksgiving Lunch

If you are in town for Thanksgiving, come join our church family for

Thanksgiving lunch!
Thursday, November 25, 2009
1:00 p.m., Andover Campus
4131 Todds Rd.

Turkey and Dressing, Iced Tea and Coffee provided
Please bring a side dish or dessert

RSVP to Lisa Michelle Wilson
lisa@1stumc.org or 859-797-2651

Fall Sermon Series

Offerings Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m., West Chapel
Teddy Ray, Pastor

November 15

Stewardship: Simplicity & Generosity

November 22

Christ the King Sunday: Waiting for

First Church in Nazareth

For eleven days in October, four members of First Church were sent to Nazareth, Israel, to experience and support the ministerial work of the Rev. Dr. Nabil Samara. Kevin and Carolyn Hale, Marlie McRoberts, and Jimmy Orr visited five churches and two Bible colleges, attended a monthly prayer meeting of the Christian leaders in Galilee, observed Nabil teach several classes to both church leaders and new Christians, and met with many groups of Nabil's friends and family.

Nabil, who is a Palestinian Arab, an Israeli citizen, and a devout Christian, has a great vision for the future of his ministry in Israel. The team is eager to share that vision with FUMC and ways the church can continue to support and encourage his unique ministry. They spoke about their experience last Wednesday in chapel service and will be sharing testimony in worship and other brief accounts in upcoming Circuit Riders and Centennial Gazettes. Please talk to any of these team members if you are interested in learning more!

Grow

Wednesday Chapel Service

6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
West Chapel, Downtown

November 18

Our Ministry with the Homeless in Lexington
Kelly Svec will be sharing about our homeless ministries—Room in the Inn and God's Table.

Women's Bible Study

New Study! The Book of Galatians

Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

Room 111, downtown

Led by Bekah Thompson

Minister to Children and Families

Please pray for our Andover pastor, Rev. Todd Nelson, and his wife, Susan, as they travel to the Holy Land, December 1—10, on a trip led by Bishop Lindsey Davis. God speed!

In Memoriam

Donations have been received by these generous contributors in memory of:

George Denmark
Mr. David Bratcher

Daisy Nell Hornback
Mr. Warren W. Rosenthal

Wanda Long
Hapco/Am Flagpole Group
Mr. John W. Hund

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Ms. Charlotte Anton
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Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wise
C. & D. Woods
Ms. Linda Woodworth

**Donations were made to UMCOR through FUMC*

Donations have been made by the Seekers Sunday School Class in memory of...

Joyce Chrabowski, Jeanette Campbell, Dick Muse, David Whitlock, & Beulah Lail

Thank you all...

The family of John K. Moore sincerely thanks the church family for the prayer support, the many calls from all the pastors, the numerous expressions of concern and love extended to us during John's hospitalization and following his death.

With appreciation,
Betty Moore

Thank you so much for your prayers, visiting Momma in the hospital and the beautiful flowers. She loved your visits so much. I am so blessed to have such wonderful people in my life.

Paula & Phil Stumbo

Dear First Church, I truly don't know where to begin—you were such a blessing to Mom and to our family. She received so many cards from your church family (too many to count!). We couldn't wait to get the mail to see how many "blessings" we got that day. She loved them! She also loved working at First Church. It was more than a job to her it was her ministry. The amazing meal you blessed us with after Mom's funeral was delicious! You were so gracious to us. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Trusting Him,

Cindy Long Spivey

(Daughter of Wanda Long)

Endowment Corner

Do you have a paid up life insurance policy? It could make a wonderful gift to the FUMC Endowment Foundation.

From your First Church Endowment Board of Stewards