



## **First United Methodist Newsletter ~ Starke, FL**

**June, 2017**

*Welcome! This monthly newsletter will help keep you informed about the exciting things happening at our church. For a mailed copy, please call the church office. (904) 964-6864*

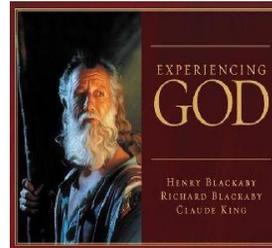
### **A WORD FROM PASTOR MIKE**

"We're back!" June 30th is moving day for all United Methodist Pastors. The long tradition was to move on the same day. Years ago, pastors went to the Annual Conference with the car loaded. In those days pastors knew you moved every year. You didn't own any furniture because you couldn't. At the end of the conference your name and the name of your new church was called. The church furnished the home (parsonage) for the pastor. You slept in a bed that other pastors before you had slept in, ate at the same tables they had dined on, and gathered with family on the same couches as theirs. The furnishings were as old as the hills. You left your current pulpit one Sunday and had a new one the following Sunday.

Some things have changed. Now pastors know of a move months in advance and can stay at a church for years. We now own our home furnishings. What is the same, however, is the full refrigerator of food and a hearty welcome from the congregation.

First Starke was my first move and I hope it's my last. I am celebrating the 9 years and five months I've spent with you. I am happy to say that I'm back for another year as your pastor. No move for my wonderful wife Debbie and me. We are staying!! I thank you for loving me and for the honor of being your pastor. I pray you know how much I love you all. I am always available to meet and talk with you about anything you want to talk about.

Pray this year we grow even closer together as we build the Kingdom of God for our Lord Jesus Christ.



You're invited to our Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study. It's not too late to join us on a Tuesday. The study will be "Experiencing God" and will be offered from 11:00 -12:30 each week. So bring your lunch and join us for Bible study.

We are looking forward to our **PENTACOST SUNDAY** as we celebrate the birthday of the church. Children and adults are asked to wear red. There will **one service at 10:00** and afterward a birthday cake will be served in the Firehouse. A chest will be set up at the altar and we hope you'll plan to bring a gift. Canned food for the Food Pantry or gift cards for food or gas would be helpful. The Pastor uses the gift and gas cards to help people who come to him with needs. If you speak a foreign language, you are asked to call the church office in order to help with the service.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- June 4**            **Pentecost Sunday**
- June 18**           **Father's Day**
- June 26 – 29**   **Vacation Bible School**  
*\* FYI - Date change from May newsletter*
- July 24-28**       **Confirmation Week for**  
                         **rising 6th graders and above**
- August 4-5**      **UMW Rummage Sale**



## **NO WED Night Activities in JUNE**

We're taking a **Summer Break**. Our regular schedule will resume on July 5th.



Our theme for this year's VBS is "Maker Fun Factory - Created by God, Built for a Purpose". It will take place June 26-June 29,

from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm nightly. VBS is for children aged 4-11 years old (11 year olds must currently be in 5th grade). For more information please contact Shannon Whitaker.

## **GREETER MINISTRY**

The Greeter Ministry is the first line in welcoming guests into our church community and to Sunday worship. Creating a welcoming and hospitable climate begins at the parking lot, continues into the heart of worship, and throughout the week. The ministry of welcoming is the responsibility of the entire church family and we at FUMC do a great job!

We thank Josh for recently providing a training session for the greeters and we are ready to begin each Sunday with a Big Smile! **We still need more greeters for our 9:45 service.**

Christ calls every member of the church into ministry. A guest will forget the sermon. A guest will forget the music. But they will never forget how the congregation made them feel when they came to our church. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Josh, Cindy Futch, or Melba Johnson. **Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God. Romans 15:7**

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

The final opportunity to have your picture taken to be included in the new church directory will on June 4, before and after the service. There will just be **one service at 10:00** that morning.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, from 4- 6:30 PM kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to the McRae's home for swimming, games, and a cookout. More details will be provided to families.

**JULY PREVIEW** – There's going to be an "send-off outing" for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Get AIR in Gainesville, a trampoline park. It's going to be a great summer.



*Congratulations to our 2017 High School Graduates*

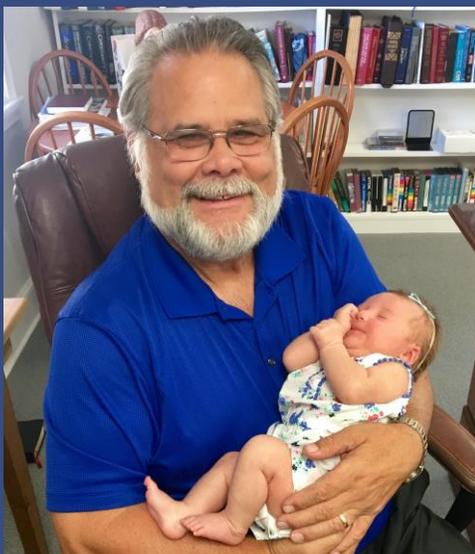
- **McKenzie Dougherty (BHS)**
- **Ty Hamilton (UCHS)**
- **Pierson Lewis (KHHS)**
- **Maddie Miller (BHS)**
- **Kassady Perkinson (BHS)**
- **John Propes (BHS)**
- **Tessa Ricker (Eastside HS)**
- **Elizabeth Whitaker (Homeschool HS Program & Santa Fe College)**

*“The sound of a baby crying during the service, is the sign of a growing church.” Mike Moore*



*Heidi Lynn O’Neal was baptized on April 30th. She is the daughter of Darrell and Susan O’Neal.*

*Pastor meets Noa Reinken.*



## GET CONNECTED

Would you like to receive important church information quickly? We are so appreciative of the church **robo-call** service notifying us when programs are cancelled, such as last Wed. night due to the tornado watch in our area. If you did not receive the **robo-call** from the church and would like to be added to the list, please call Latanya in the church office.

The church also offers an inspirational daily devotion via email. These are short and quite uplifting. Call the church office to get signed up.

The Firehouse Cafe’ is the place to go before and after both services on Sunday. [The refreshments for the Firehouse Cafe’ have been terrific, and we always need more volunteers to help provide snacks and assist before and after the Sunday services.](#) If you can help, please contact Tina McRae or call the church office.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>,**  
will be a celebration of our United Methodist



Women. There will be **one service at 10:30** and UMW ladies will be assisting the pastor, ushers, and greeters. You’ll learn about the mission contributions locally and world-wide made by our UMW.

Your are cordially invited to a **CHURCH-WIDE COVERED DISH LUNCH** immediately after the service. Please bring a side dish and join the fellowship. Meat will be provided by the UMW. All UMW members are encouraged to wear **RED** that Sunday.



In football, the phrase "stack the box" is used when the defense puts its players in a rectangular formation ("in the box") to stop the offensive team's rush in its tracks. Traffickers run a game on the vulnerable and UMW aimed to stack the box against them, to intercept their game and to box 'em up for prosecution through the 2017 annual awareness campaign. After the 1<sup>st</sup> campaign in 2016, a woman e-mailed the national office who had helped a trafficking survivor; at first she didn't know what to do, then she remembered that United Methodist Women has resources for prevention, protection and prosecution which she would not have known except through the initiative during the Super Bowl.

### *Did you know?*

Starke UMW group contributes to missions locally, as well as national and world-wide. The ladies often refer to themselves as "mission mamas" because they place missions as their heartfelt priority.

Each fall the women sponsor a Craft Bazaar. Proceeds this year were donated to support:

- The Well Project – Gina's Blessings (\$850)
- Girl's school in Malawi – (\$225) (paid for a desk, bench, and annual tuition to school for one girl)

- Additional funds are divided among the following:  
Family Promise, Fla Children's Home UMCOR, & Red Bird Mission Conference, Bradford Food Pantry & Bradford Beyond Borders (Special Needs Young at the Bradford Career Technical Center)

### **UMW READING PROGRAM**

Each year women are challenged to read books selected in the areas of Leadership, Missions, Spirituality, Social Action, and Community Involvement.

***Our church has these books available*** for check-out in our Conference Room. The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

From the 2014 list, this is a book read by Jewell Hilliard.

**Women,**  
**Spirituality and**  
**Transformative**  
**Leadership:**  
**Where Grace**  
**Meets Power**



by Kathe Schaaf, Kay Lindahl, Kathleen Hurty, & Guo Cheen

To learn more visit:

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram)

## **GINA'S BLESSINGS UPDATE**

We're excited to announce that we have reached our goal for the Gina's Blessings Well Project and the contract has been signed for the completion of the Well with solar power. We believe we have the funds necessary to complete the project by late June. We are so appreciative of our church for providing continued support. Many of you contributed to this project. We all should feel blessed to be a part of providing clean water for up to 10,000 people in the community of Mausa and the surrounding countryside in remote SW Kenya.

A trip is being planned to Kenya to see all 80 of the sponsored Gina's Blessings children and to celebrate the opening of the Well. If you are a sponsor, we encourage you to share a new picture(s) of you to share with your sponsored child on our trip. We hope to take a picture of our congregation on Pentecost Sun. June 4.

Please send your pictures to Bill McRae as soon as possible. All of Bill and Tina's family, including Gina's children Morgann and Colton, will be traveling to the area in July. Trip costs are mounting for such a large group, and if you feel so led, any assistance with the costs of the trip would be appreciated. Follow progress on the Well Project on our Facebook page.

[www.GinasBlessings.org](http://www.GinasBlessings.org)



*Here you see a picture of a woman in Mausa filling her jugs with dirty water after a 4 hour walk.*

*Below is the drilling rig as it arrived at the Well location.*



***Would you like to make a submission to this monthly newsletter? Please contact LaTanya by phone or email and she will notify the Newsletter Team. We***

***ask that you try to do this by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.***



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