

# The First Epistle

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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January 2013



2013

What will 2013 be like for you? For First Church? Often times we look more at the obstacles that we think we need to overcome rather than the possibilities that are available to us through the power of God. We think too much about what we can do rather than what He can do. Do we think that nothing will change....so why bother, or do we believe that God wants to do something amazing....so let's go?

I believe that God is wanting to do amazing things in and through First Church in 2013. Do you believe that? I hope you do! God has a purpose, a future and a hope for First Church and I believe we are poised to claim God's promises for First Church in 2013. Of course there are obstacles, but I believe we also have momentum that can carry us through to God's intended future for First Church. We do however, need to allow Him to work in us personally and we need

to allow Him to have His way among us.

I rejoice in the Reach ministry of our Food Pantry. We have helped sustain families through tough times with the food that they need. We have provided meals, Christmas gifts and genuine love and relationships to those who do not know the love and grace of God. I believe that 2013 will be the year of the Tree Streets, a year when God transforms our neighborhood and our church through the power of the gospel.

*'....make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ' for the transformation of the world!'*

God is asking for our faithfulness and our fruitfulness. Will we be the people God has called us to be and will we do the work God has called us to do? We are told in John 15:5 that we can produce much fruit but only if we stay close to Jesus. So are you going to stay close to Jesus? Are we as a church going to remain close to Jesus? If we expect fruit in our lives and in the life of our church, we have to stay close to Jesus in 2013 and beyond.

So will this be the year? It can be if we abide in Him.

Rev. Tim Bracken

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## Missions Conference 2013

February 1-3, 2013

*"Given Grace....Being Sent to Change Lives"*

Isaiah 61:1

Come join us for a great weekend of learning about what God is doing all over the world. It promises to be a wonderful weekend as we get to know new missionaries and welcome back some from previous conferences. As always, we will be doing service projects Saturday morning and early afternoon. Make plans to attend!

### Weekend schedule

Friday, February 1, 6:30pm:

Everyone will meet at the church for time with our missionaries and then dessert and coffee

Saturday, February 2, 10:30am:

breakfast together; sharing from our missionaries.

The rest of the day will be spent doing our service projects:

Putting together UMCOR Health Kits; Projects around the church and in the neighborhood.

Sunday, February 3:

9:15am Missionaries to speak in Sunday School classes

10:30am Combined Worship

11:30am Potluck Lunch

### HEALTH KITS

We are once again putting together health kits for our missions conference. This year we have decided to order all of the items needed to fill the kits. This means we will have exactly enough of everything. As before, we will meet the Saturday of Missions Conference to put these kits together.

*Continued on next page:*

In addition to servant volunteers, monetary donations for the items we are ordering are needed. Would your Sunday School class consider sponsoring an item? Or as an individual would you help to offset these costs with a donation? If you are able to do this, then please write a check and put in the offering plate with a designation of Health Kits. If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Bracken (423-929-3137).

### **ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE MISSIONARIES**

#### **Jonathan and Corinne Long**

Jonathan and Corinne served for two years in Budapest, Hungary, where they ministered to young adults through discipleship and small group ministries. They have a passion to share with others the impact God has made on their own lives through building relationships and various outreach opportunities. Corinne also served as field treasurer. In the fall of 2011, they returned to the United States due to their youngest son's medical needs. Jonathan currently works at OMS World Headquarters in leadership development, and they plan to return to Eastern Europe in the near future. They have three children: Carter, born in 2005; Grant, born in 2008; and Noémi, born in March 2012.

#### **Michael & Claire Mozley**

Having served 11 years as missionaries in West Africa, Michael and Claire are now embracing a global calling. Michael serves as the Senior Director of International Mobilization for The Mission Society's home office, and will continue in his role as African Regional Coordinator. His passion is to train indigenous leaders around the world to have a mission vision in their personal lives, as well as in their churches. Claire will continue to be involved in ministries in Ghana and volunteer with The Mission Society's Missionary Care team.

#### **Sam Laird**

Sam currently serves as a gift officer for OMS, working to build strong relationships with supporters and presenting to them the specific needs from the mission fields for which they have a passion. She seeks those who have a heart for the Lord, builds a relationship with them that is mutually beneficial, shares the work God is accomplishing through OMS and asks them to join in that work around the world. Sam's work focuses on support for the training of new pastors and lay people to lead new believers and national churches.

Another focus for Sam is OMS' newest ministry, Dynamic Women in Missions. She has the great privilege of meeting women from many different churches and organizations and helping plan events that highlight and focus on women on the mission field.

#### **Marta Cogburn**

In 1994, Marta Cogburn went on her first trip with the Mexico Medical Mission. She has returned almost every year, taking time off only for graduations, weddings and her grandbaby. Last year, she assumed the role of coordinator and now assists the team directors, Rev. Dr. James Dougherty and Dr. Paul Brown, in making preparations for the annual event. Marta's first calling was to health care as a family nurse practitioner. For that career, she graduated from UTK with a BSN and from University of Rochester with her MSN. After working for 27 years at Rural Medical Services in Parrottsville, TN, the Lord led her in another direction. She was appointed and licensed as a local pastor in 2006 and currently serves as Minister of Outreach at First United Methodist Church in Newport, Tennessee. Marta and her husband Paul have shared life together for 32 years. They live in Parrottsville, where they thank God for all their blessings including farm living and spending time with their family: their son Daniel, daughter Jennie, son-in-law James and their precious granddaughter Abigail.



#### **January 13, 2012**

##### **Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)  
Acts 8:14-47  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### **January 20, 2012**

##### **2nd Sunday After the Epiphany**

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10 (UMH 771)  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

#### **January 27, 2012**

##### **3rd Sunday After the Epiphany**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)  
1 Corinthians 12;12-31a  
Luke 4: 14-21

### **In Sympathy**

Sympathy is extended to:

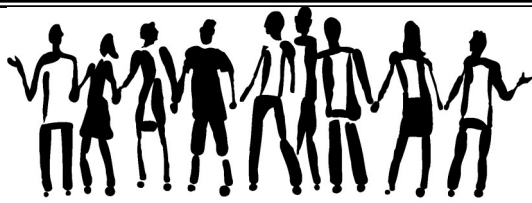
the family & friends of Lydia Cattell Johnson, who passed away on January 1, 2013;

David Johnson & family in the death of wife, Eileen Jayne Johnson, who passed away on December 31, 2013;

Kathy Bradshaw & family in the death of husband, Joe Bradshaw, who passed away on Friday, December 28, 2012;

Rockne Stump & family in the death of his mother, June Stump Campbell, who passed away on December 15, 2012;

the family & friends of Mary Nell Kegley, who passed away on December 4, 2012.



# YOUTH

Upcoming Events and News:

## Resurrection 2013

One of our biggest events of the year is almost here: Resurrection 2013! Resurrection is a gathering of all the youth groups in the United Methodist Holston Annual Conference (898 congregations from Southwest VA to Northern GA) and is the single-largest gathering of United Methodist Youth in the world. It's a great weekend of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth!

There will be an **informational meeting** for *both parents and youth* at **4:30pm** in the **Fellowship Hall** on **Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>**. All parents and youth are asked to be in attendance. All youth are asked to stay after the meeting for UMYF where we will be further discussing Resurrection, rooming situations, and how we will live in community with one another over the weekend.

## Evening on Spring Street (on Main St.)

Our annual fundraising dinner, **Evening on Spring St.**, will be held at The Charles on **February 16<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets will go on sale January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Wednesday Niter and will be available until February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS!!!

The hectic schedules during the Advent and Christmas season have finally past, and we can begin to get back on our regular rotation. If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, you must notify Kathy Tidwell or John Rowe so that alternate plans can be made prior to Sunday. Having to scramble before worship to find someone who hasn't served in the past few weeks is chaotic!

## UMYF Sunday Discussion: Relate

The Sundays leading up to Resurrection we are spending time talking about the purpose for which we were created: relationships. God created us to be in relationship with Him and each other.

Our relationship with God comes through the faith that we have in Jesus Christ and His death and Resurrection that brings us back to the God who created and loves us. Our response to that great Love and grace is to die to our own wants and desires, and find ourselves alive in His love and purpose.

## Sunday Servants

### January 13

Crucifer: Brandon Jung  
Acolytes: Kelsey Jung and Abigail Robinson

**Snack Supper Host:**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### January 20

Crucifer: Nate Berning  
Acolytes: Emma Berning  
Snack Supper Host: NO YOUTH - (RESURRECTION)

### January 27

Crucifer: Leah Eddy  
Acolytes: Martha Campbell & Marcus Grant

**Snack Supper Host:**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### February 3

Crucifer: Ethan Morelock  
Acolytes: E.J. Bailey

**Snack Supper Host:**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### February 10

Crucifer: Frankie Cradic  
Acolyte: Chloe Cradic

**Snack Supper Host:**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Grace & Peace,  
*John Rowe*

Director of Youth Ministries  
(423) 928-9222 ext. 6  
Email: [jrowe.fumc@charter.net](mailto:jrowe.fumc@charter.net)

Check out FUMC Youth on Facebook!  
<http://www.facebook.com/FirstUMC.Youth>

## Worship Servants

### January 13

Nursery:

Greeters—8:30: Brian & Cathie Rosecrance

Greeters—10:30: Karen & Dale Schmitt,  
Janice Williams and Mike Hopson

Prayer: Finley Cook

Nursery: Jamee Roberts

Children's Message: Miriam Robinson

King's Kids: Lisa Reis

### January 20

Nursery:

Greeters—8:30: Jamee Roberts

Greeters—10:30: Drew & Sharon Cradic,  
Ernie & Jo Cross and Bonnie Sampson

Prayer: Kathie Tucker

Nursery: Amanda Forbes

Children's Message: Kathy Feagins

King's Kids: Kati Uelhof & Kathy Huff

### January 27

Nursery:

Greeters—8:30: Kent & Midge Merrill

Greeters—10:30: Dale & Karen Schmitt,  
Judy Cook and Nathan Uelhof

Prayer: Novice Gross

Nursery: Kathy & Scott Huff

Children's Message: Kathy Huff

King's Kids: Mike Scott

We need people to serve! If you would be willing to serve in any of these important functions on Sunday morning, please call the church office.

## Chancel Flowers

With the new year, we are beginning a new chancel flower schedule. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, please call the church office at 423-928-9222, ext. 1, or email [kathy.fumc@charter.net](mailto:kathy.fumc@charter.net) to reserve a Sunday.

# CHILDREN'S NEWS

## King's Kids Mission Day

King's Kids will resume on January 13. King's Kids mission day will also be on the 13th following worship. Please bring \$1 for each person eating to help cover food expense.



## PTJ

(Pathway to Jesus)

PTJ will meet on Jan. 6 and 20 at 4:30pm.

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited.

Servants are always needed for the nursery, Sunday school, and Wednesday Niter. If you would like to serve, contact Brandy Robinson.

Contact information for Brandy Robinson, Director of Children's Ministries:

Email: [children.fumc@charter.net](mailto:children.fumc@charter.net)

Office: 423-928-9222, ext. 7

Cell: 423-483-2980

## Announcements

### Prayer & Devotions Committee

Sunday, January 13, at 4:00pm  
Chapel

### Outreach Pillar Meeting

Sunday, January 13, at 4:00pm

### ELC Board Meeting

Thursday, January 24, at 5:30pm

### Community Mission Food Distribution

Saturday, January 26  
10:00am—12:00pm  
First Church Neighborhood Center

(Meetings will be held in Conference Room unless otherwise stated.)



## Operation Christmas Child Update

The OCC gift boxes from FUMC this year went to Zimbabwe, India, the Dominican Republic, and Ghana. These gifts are often the first step on a child's journey to faith in Jesus Christ. After receiving the boxes, the children are invited to participate in a voluntary Bible study course produced by Samaritan's Purse.

Please remember to pray for the children receiving your gifts. Thank you for your generous support this year!

## Congratulations

David Southerland Williams and Lisa Arney Ray were married on December 22, 2012, in Morganton, North Carolina.



Join the Young at Heart on **Thursday, January 24th, at 12:30pm, for lunch at Mona Lisa's Gelato & Cafe'** (305 W Oakland Ave)

The bus will leave the Pine Street parking lot at 12:30pm.

Call the church office to make reservations.



## Shop at Kroger and/or Food City??

If you use gift cards purchased from ELC, the playground fund will get 5% of all your purchases! The cards can be used for food, gas or prescriptions. Cards are available for purchase in the narthex on Sunday mornings or, for more information, contact Kathie Battista at 423-926-0700.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Elisa Wardeska & Dan McGuire welcomed daughter, Madelyn Grace Wardeska McGuire, on November 26, 2012. Madelyn's proud grandparents are: Brenda & Jeff Wardeska and Bob & Jeri McGuire.



Everyone is invited to a drop-in baby shower for Chris and Misty Davis on Sunday, January 13 from 1:00-3:00pm.

They are expecting a girl in February and are registered at Target and Babies-R-Us.

## COMMUNITY NEED

A couple who moved to Johnson City recently from Florida has found housing but it is unfurnished and they are in need of furniture, a refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer. If you have items to donate, please call the church office at 423-928-9222, ext. 1.

## GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gifts have been given in memory of Eileen Johnson by: The Wesley Class; Virginia Freeman; Nola Johnson; Betty McGaha; Elizabeth Bailey; Coolidge & Edna Johnson; Guy & Ruth Johnson.

Gifts have been given in memory of Lydia Johnson by: The Wesley Class; Coolidge & Edna Johnson; Elizabeth Bailey.

Gifts have been given in memory of Lee Archer by: Dan & Katie Mahoney, to the Music Department; Dr. & Mrs. John R. Esther; the Southeast District of the United Methodist Church; Sue McGaha to the Capital Funds Campaign; Merry J. Jennings; Mr. & Mrs. William Wood; Sigrid & Gary Beecher; Mary & William Cheek; C.E. Parker; Archie Moran; Sally Gerhardt; Elizabeth Bailey; Joan Warden; Elizabeth Wells; Ellen Campbell; the faculty and staff of East Tennessee State University.

The family of Butch Farr has given a gift to the Butch Farr Memorial Fund in honor of Virginia Hilton and family.

Judy Story has given gifts to the Building Fund in memory of: Ed Feagins, Lee Archer, Vivian Smith, and Carl Rinker.

A gift has been given in memory of Katherine & Kenneth Wilhoit by Clayton, Roper & Marshall, Inc.

Calvin & Nancy McMann have given gifts toward purchase of kitchen warmer in memory of Vivian Smith and Texie Fields.

Gifts have been given toward kitchen warmer purchase in memory of Kenneth Gross by: Janice & John Moore; Scripture Study Class; Calvin & Nancy McMann.

Duffie Jones has given gifts to the Building Fund in memory of: Lee Archer, Kenneth Gross, Edith Keys, Connie Wood and Kenneth & Katherine Wilhoit

A gift has been given in memory of Tom Caudle by T. Gaile Caudle.

Pat Faber has given a gift toward kitchen warmer purchase in honor of the Circle of Hope.

The Young at Heart of First UMC has given a gift to the Building Fund in honor of Bob & Athena Peebles and Kathy Tidwell for their time and planning of Young at Heart activities.

A gift has been given in memory of Carl "Peachie" Rinker toward purchase of kitchen warmer by Calvin & Nancy McMann.

### Mission Tree Gifts

#### Food Pantry:

Ernest & Nancy Campbell in honor of their children;  
Ernest Campbell in honor of his wife, Nancy;  
Deborah Grant, in memory of her parents, Jim & Nancy;  
Dale & Karen Schmitt, in memory of Maude Hyder;  
Judy Story, in memory of Charles Story;  
Joette Street;  
Joyce Ottinger, in honor of her family.

#### Missions Conference Health Kits:

Dale & Karen Schmitt, in memory of Joseph & Vera Schmitt;  
Karl & Anna Kapoor, in honor of Bob & Athena Peebles;  
Mike & Lana Scott, in honor of Missions.

#### Financial Assistance Fund:

Dale & Karen Schmitt, in honor of Ellen Ferguson and in memory of Lydia Johnson;  
Janice Williams, in memory of Dr. Rollin Williams;  
Joyce Ottinger, in honor of her family.

#### Imagine No Malaria:

The Campbell Family, in honor of The Wesley Foundation at ETSU;  
Karl & Anna Kapoor, in honor of the ETSU Wesley Foundation students;  
Joyce Ottinger, in honor of her family;  
Pat Faber, in honor of Betty Spear;  
Fran & Carrol Waterbury.

## THANK YOU

Our Children's Shopping Day was a great success! Approximately 30 excited children shopped and went home with wrapped gifts for their loved ones and...huge smiles! Thanks so much to all of those who donated items and volunteered their time to the event! In addition to letting the children experience the joy of giving, we also raised \$186.00 for the Children's Department! Thanks again to all involved!

Thank you for the dinner you took to my uncle, Robert Harmon, Jr. May God bless you in the things you do for others.

*Sonia Crumley*

## Johnson City DISTRICT DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP Sunday, February 10 2:30—4:00pm

Church Leaders are encouraged to attend! You will benefit from the workshops offered. Registration forms are available in the church office.

The workshops will cover:

Inviting and Inspiring Worship,  
Equipping Laity,  
Missions,  
Emphasis on Small Groups,  
Emphasis on Children,  
Emphasis on Youth.

The District Superintendent will also lead a training session for S/PPR Chairs and Committee Members.



### FIRST UMC Hosting IHN Families August 26th— September 1st

Please prayerfully consider how you and your family can best help us serve these families during their stay with us.

Help is needed with:

Dinner preparation (bring food to the church by 6pm),  
Dinner hosts (serve & eat w/guests 5:30-8:30pm),  
Overnight host (one night 8:30 p.m. to 7:00am),  
Set-up (1st Sunday at 12:00pm),  
Take down (2nd Sunday at 6:15am),  
Transportation (weekday mornings and/or afternoons),  
Cash Donations.

If you are willing to serve, please call the church office at 423-928-9222, ext. 1.

### Snow Policy

Sunday Mornings: When the roads are obviously snowy and/or icy, there will be no Morning Praise Service or Sunday School. The 10:30am worship service will be held for those who are able to make it to church.

Wednesday Evenings: In the event of inclement weather, please check the news to see if Johnson City Schools are closed. If so, all Wednesday Niter programming at First Church on that date will be cancelled, with no exceptions.

**In all cases, please use the utmost caution in driving and when entering and exiting the church.**

First United Methodist Church  
900 Spring Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Non-Profit Organization  
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Johnson City, TN 37604

"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

**SUNDAYS:**

8:15am Early Service  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Combined Worship Service  
5:30pm Youth Snack Supper  
6:00pm UMYF

**WEDNESDAYS:**

5:30pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30pm FUMC University  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday—Thursday:**

9:00—11:00 a.m.

2:00—4:00 p.m.

**Friday: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

**VISIT THE CHURCH  
WEBSITE**

at

**[www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org)**

**Soup Labels & Box Tops Needed!**

The UMW requests your help in collecting Campbell's soup labels and General Mills box tops (for education) for our missions at Red Bird Mission School. For soup labels, clip only the UPC label, please be sure that the complete barcode and the "Labels for Education" trademark remains intact, and place labels and box tops in one of the collection containers, which have been placed around the church for your convenience.

**United Methodist Women**

**Circle 1:**

Thursday, January 10, at 10:00am  
Jane Childers, hostess

**Circle 2:**

Thursday, January 10, at 10:00am  
Janet Mentgen, hostess

**Circle of Hope:**

Tuesday, January 22, 7:00pm  
Pat Faber, hostess



**Purpose of United Methodist Women**

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Our United Methodist Women have demonstrated their commitment to helping others locally and throughout the world with their contributions to Mission work. This summer FUMC's UMW women have made donations to the Second Harvest Food Bank for the Food for Kids Backpack program; our area Church Women United; the Sneedville, TN Jubilee Project; the Southeastern, KY Red Bird Mission; the National Children's Defense Fund; the Good Samaritan Melting Pot; and throughout the US and globally with our significant gifts to UMW Holston Conference Missions. All women in the Church are welcome to be part of this dedicated caring group of women, join with us in our commitment to helping God with His work by helping others.