

The First Epistle

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

900 Spring Street ~ Johnson City TN 37604
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June 2013



Kellie, Joshua, Tim & Hannah Bracken



I love the song 'To God be the Glory' written by Fanny Crosby. Basically the song is in praise to God for His saving acts through Jesus. But as I prepared my last sermon that I will preach at First, I have been thinking of that line - To God be the Glory - in a different way. I give thanks to God that he sent us to First. What a

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

great church with great people and opportunities. I am so thankful to have served you for six years. I have made my fair share of mistakes but through it all you have been gracious and loving. In some ways it has been a hard six years because there has been a lot of change and change is hard - on everybody. However, I believe that God has been acting in new and awesome ways in all of our lives. Isn't it great to be on this side of the change and know it is where God wants us to be? I encourage you to keep on reaching out to the Tree Streets....they need you to get to Jesus. Reach out to them and reach deeper for Jesus. To God be the Glory!

I thank you for the love you have shown my family. While we have been at First, Joshua found his niche

(or, as he rightly says, 'the organ found me'). Hannah answered a call to missionary service. And you have loved Kellie as I knew you would (I told you in my first sermon that you would let me leave but would want to keep Kellie - I'm right, too?). First will always hold a very special place in our hearts. To God be the Glory!

We will continue to pray for you and I hope you will for us. You will love Jane and I know that you will support and encourage her just as you have the Bracken family. Thank you for six wonderful years - we love you First. 'To God be the glory great things He as done' - and continues to do!

Rev. Tim Bracken

Email: tbracken@charter.net
twitter: @revbracken64
blog: <http://colossians1nine.wordpress.com/>
phone: 423.928.9222, ext. 2

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to have been appointed as your next pastor at First UMC and know that we are going to have a wonderful time together. I am very grateful for all who



Reverend Jane Taylor

have contacted me in this last month, helping to arrange the move, offering prayers and support during this transitional time. I am so happy that I am reconnecting with people that my life has crossed in the past. I truly believe God is at work in this!

I grew up in Bristol TN, graduated from East Tennessee State University, and then received an M.A from the

University of Tennessee. I have always loved the church and began exploring a call to ministry long before I finally said YES to God and pursued seminary with a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1999.

My mother grew up in the Southside School neighborhood and graduated from Science Hill. Both of my parents graduated from ETSU and my son, Andy Nelson, is an ETSU graduate. Andy and his wife, Bree, live in Johnson City with their two daughters, Avery (age 5) and Ellie (age 2). Ellie attends Early Learning Center. :)

My daughter, Katie Nelson, is a PhD candidate at the University of CA at Riverside. She is currently writing her dissertation and hopeful to find employment east of the Mississippi after graduation.

I served Pleasant Grove/Clear Springs from 1998-99 while I was in seminary. Upon graduation, I was appointed as Associate Pastor at State Street UMC in Bristol, VA, and subsequently served Boones Creek UMC (Johnson City) and Gatlinburg First UMC from 2007-2013.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at First UMC and truly am humbled and feel privileged to be your pastor. My prayer is that we will work together to impact God's kingdom in a wonderful way. Please feel free to e-mail me at: revjetaylor@gmail.com or call my cell phone (at least until June 25 when I hope to get a local number) at 865-414-0064.

The church, the church staff, and all the people of First UMC are in my prayers!

Blessings,
Jane

FOOD PANTRY MISSION REPORT

Since we began our Food Pantry Mission in March, 2012, we have been very busy learning how to run our pantry efficiently and meet the needs of those in our community in dire need of food. We have seen many very desperate needs and have strived to fulfill them as best we could.



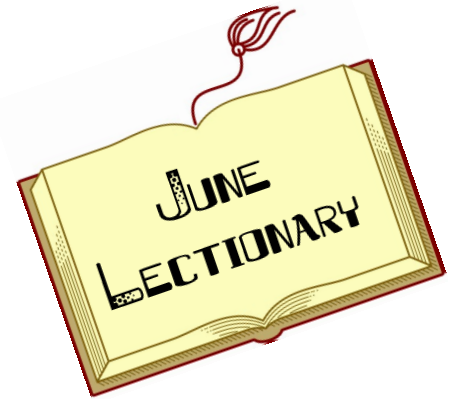
We feel that we have a very good system in place now and learn better ways to do our job as time goes by. The volunteer response has been wonderful with 30-40 responding each time we have our pantry distribution day. I know that each one receives a blessing just being there through sun, rain, snow and ice. Prior to distribution day, our shoppers have been there to do the heavy work and take their time once or twice a month to assure we have what we need, boxes are made and ready for packing and the preparation of all the paperwork for the necessary reports is done to be ready for the big day.

We have acquired and provided a variety of canned foods, cereal, pastas, peanut butter, soups, some dessert items and much more. We usually have fresh potatoes or sweet potatoes and bread. We get some donated items that have been collected in the community for Second Harvest. We also have donated items from our church members such as canned foods, tooth brushes, paste, personal items, diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc. Our total pounds of food and other products acquired and given out is **35,094 pounds.** 😊

If anyone has a freezer in good condition that is no longer being used, we could use another one since we are now approved for USDA items. That would allow us to get more frozen items that are available to us and a larger quantity of frozen meat. At this time we have no more space when we get the 320 lbs of leg quarters (64 - 5 lb bags of the leg quarters).

Thanks to the church body that have supported this Mission with money, donations and many prayers. You have helped make this Mission a big success and you are helping bless those in need and GOD will bless you in return.

Peggy Humphreys, Polly Crowder, Serena Crowder



June 16, 2013

4th Sunday After Pentecost

1 Kings 21:1-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36—8:3

June 23, 2013

5th Sunday After Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-15a
Psalm 42
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 30, 2013

6th Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-72

CONGRATULATIONS



Kathy Feagins

At ETSU's Spring Gathering in April, it was announced that the 2013 winner of the Bert Bach Servant Leadership Award was Kathy Feagins, director of the scholarship office, who received the keys to a 2013 Honda Civic to drive for two years. "I'm a little overcome. It's a wonderful feeling," Feagins said after receiving the award. "I will have been at ETSU 30 years in the fall, so it has been

a huge part of my life. I think it's a wonderful university. I think we have the best students in the state. It's been a real pleasure to work with the students through the years and help them complete their education." Kathy is an active member of First UMC and a faithful member of the Chancel Choir.

Milligan College recognized 13 local leaders who have demonstrated servant leadership in their careers and community at the college's annual Leaders in Christian Service program held April 2. Jim Heaton, who is an active member of First UMC and retired from Johnson City Schools, was one of

the recipients of this award. "The purpose of this program is to provide examples of people who are doing an outstanding job of integrating their faith with their profession," said Milligan President Bill Greer. "We see in these individuals wonderful examples of what servant leadership is all about, and what it can look like on a daily basis in a variety of professions."



Jim and Pam Heaton

THANK YOU

OUR Church Family,

We would like to thank each of you who have given so generously last Sunday towards our 'going away' gift. What a true outpouring of love and support. We will miss all of you but we are so very grateful for the time we have had together...what a blessing it has been for all of us!! We love all of you and pray that God will continue to bless, grow and challenge you in the future. He is Good!!

Love,
Tim, Kellie, Joshua, Hannah

I want to extend my thanks and affection to my church family for the many prayers of healing and the thoughtful acts of love you extended to Cathie and me during my time of healing and recovery. Many of us think that the "spiritual gift of healing" that Paul writes about in I Corinthians 12:9 is something special that most of us don't possess. We tend to think of it as performing miraculous forms of healing that we only read about or hear of in Pentecostal tent services. In other words we tend to glorify the spiritual gift of healing as something limited to a few select people.

I suggest to you that God grants this gift of the spirit to many, and to many who are unaware they have such a gift. During my recovery, your cards, letters, phone calls, visits, the food you brought and gifts you sent, the rides you provided and of course the prayers you offered; they all meant so much to my healing process. Through the Body of Christ, the power of your actions and expressions of Christian love have had more to do with my healing than anything else.

Thank you! You have helped me see that often we take God's spiritual gifts for granted. I pray that we each discover God's grace in our lives and the gifts (sometimes unknown) that He calls us to use in His plan and daily work. We are forever thankful for your love in Christ and sharing it with us.

Brian & Cathie Rosecrance

Troop 36 thanks First United Methodist Church for their support of our annual plant and flower sale. We raised \$542, which is an increase of \$150 from last year.

A Note from Girl Scout Troop 190 after serving IHN at FUMC

I just want to let you know that I appreciate you letting us do this. Last night I left the church in tears... it was not bad tears but good tears. The families this time were so nice and opened up to us. All but one of the families sat and spoke with us while the kids played games. It was just a refreshing night. I hope that the families enjoyed it as much as we did.

I pray that the kids get as much out of serving the IHN families as I do. I tell my kids all the time never to judge, and last night coming home my oldest who is 14 said that she had talked with one of the families or kids and she said, "Mom, they had two working parents just like us and that different circumstances happened to them and now they are a IHN family with no home of their own." She said, "You know that could happen to us at anytime." I have tried to raise my kids and my girl scouts to have a giving heart to anyone. I am so blessed that we can be a part of First UMC and IHN. What you are allowing us to teach the kids in Girl Scouts is amazing and life changing.

Thanks
Kristy Davenport
Girl Scout Troop 190 Leader

Dear First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the patrons, staff, and volunteers at the Johnson City Downtown Day Center, I would like to say "Thank you very much" for your contribution to our shoe and clothing drive. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity which has helped us better meet the needs of the homeless that reside within our community.

Kindest Regards,
Torria & Carie
J.C. Downtown Day Center

Thank you to everyone who supplied cookies and chips for VBS. Special thanks to Nancy Honeycutt, who completed our supply of needed donations on behalf of the Friendship Class and to Calvin McMann, who shared a slide presentation from he & his wife, Nancy's, safari to Africa. The children studied Zimbabwe as part of their VBS theme and the McMann's visited there.

The Outreach Pillar

First Church Picnic with our Tree Streets Neighbors Wednesday Niter, May 15

Hot dogs, games, a visit by the Batmobile, courtesy of one of our neighbors - lots of fun and fellowship!



CHILDREN'S NEWS

Fun Family Night

July 26 ~ 7:30pm

A bi-monthly Fun Family Night for children and their loved ones is in the works. This is a spinoff of Parents Night Out, a way for the children to still fellowship with their church friends but have an adult with them.

The first Fun Family Night will be on Friday, July 26. A movie night with creative art activities prior to the movie is planned. Kids and their parents will make box cars for them to sit in while watching the movie. There will be popcorn and drinks for all. We hope to watch the movie outside. Parents may want to bring along blankets or low chairs for their comfort. We will gather in the church pavilion at 7:30pm. The movie will begin at 9:00pm.



Day Camp at F1RST

Plans are in the works for a week-long Day Camp from July 22nd thru July 26th.

WATCH for more info as plans are finalized!

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

Email: children.fumc@charter.net

Office: 423-928-9222, ext. 7

Cell: 423-483-2980



Pillar Chair Meeting: Tues., June 18, at 7:00pm—Conference Room

Stewardship Meeting: Wed., June 19, from 7:00-8:00pm—Conference Room

Community Mission Food Distribution
Sat., June 22 and July 27 from 10:00am-12:00pm at First UMC Neighborhood Center

Czech Mission Fundraiser

Spaghetti Dinner: Sun., June 23, following worship

Menu: spaghetti, green beans, salad, garlic bread and dessert—TO Go orders can be picked up after Sunday School

Help send five folks to the Czech Republic this summer. Scott Huff, Jeff and Serena Crowder and Kellie and Hannah Bracken will be assisting with Softball Camp in Vimperk from July 19-27.

5th Sunday Fellowship: June 30 at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share. All adult Sunday School classes are invited.

Reception to Honor our New Pastor:
Rev. Jane Taylor's first day in the pulpit will be Sun., June 30. A reception in her honor will be held immediately following worship in the parlor.

Trustees Committee Meeting: Tues., July 2, at 7:00pm—Conference Room

Church Council Meeting: Tues., July 9, at 7:00pm—Conference Room

Intercessory Prayer Ministry "Praying for Others": Wed., July 10, at 9:00am—Chapel

Finance Committee: Thursday, July 11, from 8:00-9:00am—Conference Room (Please note schedule change due to July 4th)

Communication Pillar Meeting: Tues., July 16, at 7:00pm—Conference Room

Save the Date: Tues., July 30—The 2013 Johnson City Cardinal Family Night sponsored by FUMC.

CONGRATULATIONS



Kat Kleven, daughter of Lisa & Jeff Kleven, has been selected to be a drum major for Science Hill High School's 2013-14 season.



FIRST UMC Hosting IHN Families July 7—July 14

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 6:00pm),

Dinner hosts
(serve & eat w/guests 5:30-8:30pm),

Overnight host
(one night 8:30pm—7:00am),

Set-up
(1st Sunday at 12:00pm),

Take down
(2nd Sunday at 6:15am),

Transportation
(weekday mornings and/or afternoons),

or Cash Donations.

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



Chris & Misty Davis welcomed daughter, Savannah Grace, to the world on February 12, 2013.

Savannah was baptized at First UMC on Sunday, May 19.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gifts have been given in memory of

Reba Akers Harrison by:

David Story; Helen D. McCrary; Sidney Smallwood; Elizabeth Bailey; Jean Akers Ellis; Elizabeth Wells; Ellen Ferguson; John, Janice & Lindsay Moore; UMW Circle 1; Roger W. Bodo; Danny (Pat) Story; Mr. & Mrs. William E. Wood; The Wesley Class of First UMC; Jerry & Sandra Deakins; Bill & Robin Potter; Kathie & Fred Tucker; Ernest & Nancy Campbell; and, Gary Story.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Ida Belle Fox and **Rose Mary Jones**

by Sue McGaha.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Eileen Johnson by:

Virginia P. Clark; Rebecca Craven Wills; Elizabeth Wells; Ellen Ferguson; Beth, Herb, Abigail & Matt Patterson; Roy & Rita Williford; Jessie J. Day; Sonja Fox; Mr. & Mrs. William E. Wood; Gloria S. Witherspoon; Mildred Y. Cooper; and, Barbara & Bob Treadway.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Lydia Johnson by:

Ellen Ferguson; Elizabeth Wells; Ernest & Nancy Campbell; Appalachian Christian Village; and, Mr. & Mrs. William E. Wood.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Edna Curtis Purvis by:

Scripture Study Class of FUMC; Dan & Katie Mahoney; Nancy & Calvin McMann; and, Elizabeth Wells.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Lee Archer and **Don Boarman**

by Bill & Robin Potter.

A gift has been given in memory of

Bob & Connie Wood's

anniversary (June 8, 1940)

by Becky Wood McConkey and family.

A grand piano floor lamp has been

purchased and given to the church

in honor of **Susan Fields**.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Tom & Irene Hager by:

Bill & Robin Potter; Tom & Harriett Hager; and, Merri Paige & Nicholas Paque.

A gift has been given in memory of

Nancy Harrod,

mother of Deborah Grant,

by Dan & Katie Mahoney.

A gift has been given in honor of

Mary McClellan by her daughters,

Nancy Morrison, Katie McClellan and

Debbie Dills, in celebration of Mother's

Day.

Gifts have been given in memory of

Martha Miller Sudderth by:

Bill & Brenda Sudderth; Sue McGaha;

Ann Frogge; William M. Pickel; Ann

Lawrence Smith; Coolidge & Edna

Johnson; Robert & Sherry Bingham;

Thomas & Judy Childers; Dan & Katie

Mahoney; Betty W. Anderson; Mr. &

Mrs. William E. Wood; Hal & Clara

McHorris; Elizabeth Bailey; Chuck &

Susan Hawk; and, Robert Sudderth Jr.

Gifts have been given in memory of

C.T. Shipley by:

Bobby & Helen (Mills) Pleasant;

Elizabeth Bailey; Jane S. Padgett; Joyce

Ottinger; Velma Simerly; Fred & Kathie

Tucker; Rita & Norm Minton; and,

Ellen Ferguson.

A gift has been given in memory of

Robert Harmon, Jr., by:

Elizabeth Bailey.

Fred & Kathie Tucker

have given gifts, as follows:

in honor of **Serena Crowder;**

in memory of **Dr. William P. Bailey;**

in memory of

Worley & Novella Webb;

in honor of **Belle Crowder;** and,

in honor of the

50th wedding anniversary of

Finley & Judy Cook.

A gift to Capital Funds has been given

by Doug Brobeck, Jean Brobeck and

Vicki & Ron Bacon in memory of

C.T. Shipley and **Paul Brobeck,** who

passed away in 1963. C.T. and Paul

were life-long friends who are joyfully

together again in heaven. This gift is

also given in honor of the Shipley and

Brobeck families.

IN SYMPATHY



Jan Gentry, Kathy Deakins and their family and friends in the death of their mother, **Reba Akers Harrison**, 91, who passed away on Tuesday, January 29;

Dwight Cope and family in the death of his wife, **Doris Cope**, 80, who passed away on Tuesday, March 12;

the family & friends of **Ida Belle Fox**, 92, who passed away on Sunday, April 7;

the family & friends of **Margaret Lowe**, 92, of East Norriton, PA, who passed away on Sunday, April 7;

the family & friends of **Rose Mary Jones**, 89, who passed away on Monday, April 15;

Jim Pollock and family in the death of his brother, **Rev. Henry M. Pollock;**

Jean & Garland Thayer in the death of Jean's sister, **Edna Curtis Purvis**, who passed away on April 27;

Athena Peebles and family in the death of her uncle, **Isaac "Buddy" Wills**, who passed away on Friday, May 10, in Lynchburg, VA;

the family and friends of **Martha Miller Sudderth**, who passed away on Saturday, May 11, at the age of 100. She was a FUMC member for 60 years; and,

Vivian Eckerson and her husband, Art, Jane Shipley, Catherine Cartus and their families in the death of **C.T. Shipley**, 94, who passed away on Saturday, May 18.

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

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"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SUNDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

7:30pm Chancel Choir
(Wednesday Niters will resume in the fall)

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

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 of Hope:

Tuesday, June 25, at 6:00pm
Picnic hosted by Janice Moore

Circle 2:

No July Meeting

Circle 1:

Thursday, July 11, at 10:00am
Elizabeth Wells, hostess

Circle of Friends:

Friday, July 12, at 6:30pm
Ruth Facun, hostess
Church Parlor



The UMW District Retreat
will be held in the Fellowship Hall
of
First UMC
on Saturday, August 3,
from 10:00am—12:30pm.

At our first UMW meeting of 2013, held on February 7, we approved two important additions in the UMW programming:

1. A new online circle is being organized. In order to receive bi-monthly mailings of UMW News, give your e-mail address to either Helen Mills, Judy Story, or Connie Shorter. Online members will be invited to participate in all projects of UMW First UMC and are also welcome to attend any/all meetings of the local unit, especially the Christmas dinner and other festive events.

2. Second Harvest will be the community-oriented project of the UMW at First UMC. You may still contribute toilet paper for the February drive. The revised list for the remaining meetings are as follows:

August: toilet paper
October: personal grooming
products and soap
December: toilet paper

Helen Mills
UMW Chair