

The Witness

Volume 10, Issue 19

September 3, 2009

YOUNG AT HEART PROGRAM Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Activities for Young at Heart will begin in the church sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, with a luncheon to follow at Mike Anderson's restaurant.

Please arrive at the church early so we can begin on time. The program will consist of our regular business meeting, special music and a devotional.

When you are called, you will select an entrée from the following:

- Fried Catfish
- Fried Shrimp
- Marinated Chicken Breast
- Fried Fish topped with Shrimp Etouffee

We will need a count and choice of entrée by Sunday, September 13th.

Something New

It has been suggested that the church could save money by printing and mailing out fewer copies. An option would be receiving publications by email. Please notify the church office at office@fumc-ds.org if you would prefer to receive your *Witness* newsletter by email instead of by U.S. Mail.

We would still provide regular mail service to those wishing to continue it.

Thank You

Dear Friends,
I would like to thank the members of my church who have been so thoughtful to me during my recent surgery and recuperation: those who came for a visit, called, sent cards and brought the church flowers; to Rev. Ginny Allen for her visit just before surgery.

Love,
Dot. Wells

Do You Hear Bells Ringing?



Bell rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 9th at 5:45 p.m.** Notice the **change of day!!!** We have only one hour before Chancel Choir begins at 7:00 p.m.

SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNICATION

If you would like information submitted for the **Order of Worship announcements (weekly) or for the newsletter (bi-weekly)**, please submit your information (preferably) by email or by hard copy at the church office to Linda Heard at office@fumc-ds.org.

Please submit instead to Rev. Ginny Allen at revginny@gmail.com or in hard copy in the office, any news related to these areas:

- 8:30 worship service**
- Praise Team**
- Evangelism**
- Outreach**
- Discipleship & Study**
- Christian Education & Sunday School**
- Missions**
- Prayer Ministry**

NEWS: OUTREACH & EVANGELISM Results of meeting Tuesday, 08/31/09

Welcome 1st Time Visitors- at-home delivery within 24 hrs of the first visit. Visitation Deliverers will leave a prepared gift bag with a church brochure & furnished ½ dozen homemade cookies. Just a quick, friendly welcome at the door, or a drop off.

Contact John Blackman <jbblackman36@msn.com> or **225-667-7509** if you would like to help with deliveries when needed.

Contact Ginny Allen <revginny@gmail.com> or **225-772-6681 (text or voice)** if you would like to bake cookies in advance to be frozen until needed.

SHUT-INS, HOMEBOUND, INACTIVES - visits to these important people that we do not want to feel forgotten.

Contact Caroline Hutchinson hcaehutch@cox.net or **225-664-2724**, if you would like to help with this ministry.

BABY INFO. One (1) volunteer needed: Watch the local paper for newborn babies. Submit information from paper to Ginny. We will follow up with a personal letter to encourage new parents to bring their child to church.

Membership Orientation Class & New Member Social – introduce to church leadership, find out how new members came to our church and what drew them, help them connect in service and mission. **If you have not joined the church but would be interested in knowing more about being a follower of Jesus Christ, being a United Methodist, or joining our church, contact Rev. Ginny Allen at 225-772-6681 (call or text) or <revginny@gmail.com>.**

Gifts of Grace - to our community:

Offer the community a gift of thoughtful kindness, emphasis on the church giving, not asking.

Hand out seedling plants in front of Wal-Mart on Earth Day – "Remember our Creator, the God of Life"

Hand out a first class stamp on April 15th Tax Day in front of USPO "Give what the IRS requires, give God what He deserves - all of you."

Hand out bottled water on a hot summer day: "Jesus satisfies thirsts with LIVING water."

Other creative ideas welcome?

If you would like to coordinate, participate in this ministry - contact Rev. Ginny Allen at 225-772-6681 (call or text) or revginny@gmail.com>

Love Our Neighbors - To our vicinity neighbors

Go out in 2's. Introduce by first names. Apologize for not having been a good neighbor or not being aware of their needs. Make amends with offer to be more aware and more active in caring for them as our neighbor. Tell us where you have a need that we might be able to help. We also care about you spiritually. We believe God answers prayer and meets needs. How can we pray for you? Leave them with a church brochure with service times and programming schedule: SS offerings, children/youth, circles, music, UMM; UM "What we believe" brochure. Follow-up visit – every 3 months.

If you are interested in participating or coordinating this ministry, contact Ginny at <revginny@gmail.com> or 225-772-6681 (text or voice).

DON'T MISS THE "RETHINK EVANGELISM"

Seminar for those interested in revitalizing the outreach and membership of your church drawing others into following Jesus. It is Nov 14th in Alexandria with the dynamic, Tony Campolo. **Register at www.rethinkevangelism.org by 9/15 = \$20; after 9/15 = \$25, at door = \$30 (lunch included in price.)**

Rev. Ginny Allen
First United Methodist Church of Denham Springs, LA
<http://www.fumc-ds.org/>
revginny@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

Giving flowers is a special way to honor or remember a loved one. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar at Sunday worship services, call the church office (665-8995) to make arrangements. Cost is \$45 per Sunday. Available dates in 2009 are the following: **September 13 & 27; October 4, 11, 18, & 25; November 29; December 6, 13, & 20.**

Nominations Time!!!

The Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee is meeting to deliberate on officers for the year 2010. If you are interested in serving the church in a particular area or committee for the year 2010, please contact Rev. Bob or one of the following committee members: Don Prestridge, Michelle Denton, Curt Shrewsbury, Peggy Hoover, Jim DeLaune, Greg Komendanchik, PeeWee Day, Clyde Ellis, Jan Allen.

Missions Endowment Fund

In case you didn't know, we have a Missions Endowment Fund at FUMC. It began with the intent to fund missions over and above our regular giving to missions. Here's how it would work: The fund would grow by designated gifts and memorials to a goal of \$10,000. At that time, the capital would be invested and 75-80% of the interest would be made available for missions, while the remaining interest would return to grow the fund, with the capital never being touched.

Our little-known Mission Endowment Fund is now at \$8490.00. With a relatively small effort we can reach that initial goal of \$10,000. What better way to touch lives for Christ, now and for years and years to come!

If you would like to be a part of this way of spreading God's love, designate your gift to "Missions Endowment," and place it in the offering or mail, or bring it by the church office.

Missions Endowment Fund Report	9/30/2009
Goal	\$10,000.00
Received last week	\$ 150.00
Current Balance	\$ 8,490.00

Christmas Music

You are invited to participate in the Christmas Cantata, to be presented on December 13th. The music will be introduced at a special rehearsal on September 27th from 1-4:00 p.m.

Perhaps your schedule does not allow you to be in choir every week, but you would like to be a part of the Christmas Music -- *then come and sing!*

Dates to remember:

- November 29th at 6:00 p.m. – Hanging of the Greens
- December 13th at 11:00 a.m. – Christmas Cantata

We give thanks to God with . . .

Our Prayers:

In Nursing Homes: Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Marilyn Lobell; Fay Kling

Other Concerns:

Wayne Brackin	Loretta Schultz	Hilda Neal
Shirley Callender	Jerry Pratt	Jane Crawford
George Smith	Ken Bolwin	Sonny Bell
Barney Thompson	Chuck Marten	Wilbert Hutchinson
Shannon Tanner	Lois Peairs	Joyce Ogea
Minnie Allen	Joe Melilli	Cookie Packson
Bill Benton	Jimmy Bamber	Duane Amacker
Ben Johnson	Shirley Hammons	Greg Doggette
Katherine Wool	Jerry Delrie	Gloria Phillips
Hugh Page Underwood	Kevin Monceaux	Tristen Pickens
Allan Darouse	Chesney Varnado	Padd Holdimon

Hazel Creamer, cancer, Shirley Callender's sister-in-law
 Betty Soulier, eye surgery, & Gerald Soulier, OLOL, Wendy Gibson's parents
 Tommy Ray's father, liver cancer, new treatment
 Elaine Day's brother, cancer surgery recovery
 Jean Balkenheimer, injuries from in wreck, husband killed, Sam Delrie's sister
 Brian Watson's father, cracked sternum from fall
 Louis Moore, OLOL, treated for Guillane Barr disease
 Gene & Karen Davis, Diane Boso's brother & sister-in-law in W.VA
 Lydia McCardle's father, stroke
 Sabrina Sisk, brain tumor

Prayer Pager: (225) 378-4073 – Wendy Gibson's parents

Pray for the Gibsons, then call the pager. After 4 beeps, enter your numeric zip code and the # sign. The Gibson's pager will buzz with your zip code, so they can see where prayers originate and know how often they are being prayed for. This is an encouragement to the family.

PRAYER NEWS: We now have an online prayer request page link at the top of our home page: www.fumc-ds.org <<http://www.fumc-ds.org/>>

Our Sympathy:

Our sympathy is expressed to the following individuals:

- **Jeannette Pickens** at the death of her brother, **Kenneth Webb.**
- **Dot. Wells** at the death of her sister, **Anna Boyd.**

Our Presence:

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
August 30, 2009	83	228

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A Record of Our Faithfulness – August 30, 2009

<u>Operating Account</u>	
2008 YTD	\$287,435.03
2009 YTD	\$270,402.57
<u>Building Fund Contributions</u>	
Received 2009 year-to-date	\$181,481.87
Total funds available for construction	\$2,340,095.50

PRAISE TEAM NEEDS:

1-2 more male vocalists 1 electric guitar player.
 If interested, contact Ginny revginny@gmail.com or 225-771-6681 (text or voice).