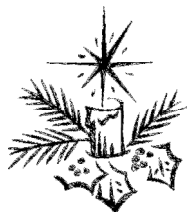


# The Witness

Volume 10, Issue 25

December 10, 2009



## SPECIAL EVENTS DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009:

11:00 A.M. – FUMC CHRISTMAS CANTATA

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009:

9:45 A.M. – JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CHILDREN.  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE INVITED TO  
JOIN THE CHILDREN.

### DECEMBER 24, 2009 – CHRISTMAS EVE:

6:00 P.M. - CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

10:00 A.M. - ONE WORSHIP SERVICE



## Jesus' Birthday Celebration

December 20<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School (9:45) at the Mattie  
St. house. All adult classes are also invited to join the children  
and youth's celebration.

## Administrative Council Meeting

The FUMC Administrative Council will meet **Monday,  
December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Richard and Lyn  
Easley, 635 Whiteoak Dr.

**Nursery for this meeting/Christmas gathering will be  
provided at the Mattie Street house.**



## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed the following days in  
celebration of Christmas: **Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>; Friday,  
December 25<sup>th</sup>; Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## Altar Flowers

The flower calendar for 2010 is now posted in the church  
office. If you wish to designate flowers for the altar in memory  
or in honor of someone, please sign the flower calendar, or  
contact Linda Heard in the church office (665-8995)

## Evangelism Committee and RETHINK EVANGELISM Follow-up

Evangelism Committee, those who attended the RETHINK  
EVANGELISM conference and anyone else with an interest in  
evangelism, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at  
the home of Betty Blackman, 26213 Whispering Pines.

## YOUNG AT HEART PROGRAM Wednesday, December 16, 2009 10:30 a.m.

Activities for Young at Heart for December will begin  
at the church sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday,  
December 16, 2009, with a luncheon to follow at Islamorada  
Restaurant at Bass Pro.

Please arrive early so we can begin on time. The  
program will consist of our regular business meeting, **special  
handbell music by Melinda McPherson**, and a devotional by  
Rev. Bob. We will leave the church at 11:00, and carpool to  
Bass Pro. The cost of the meal is \$10.00, and will be collected  
at the restaurant.

When you are called, you will select an entrée from  
the following: One Half-Rack BBQ Ribs; Steak Kabobs;  
Catfish Alfredo; Rotisserie Chicken.

We will need a count and choice of entrée by **Sunday,  
December 13<sup>th</sup>**, by those wishing to make a reservation.

## Letters from Dad

A national men's ministry is expanding into the Denham  
springs area. It's called *Letters from Dad*. It is helping fathers  
to learn to leave a legacy by saying the things they've always  
wanted to say but just didn't know how.

**Contact Billy Gibson at 791-8588 or Jamey Sandefur at  
665-9148 for more information.** All men are encouraged to  
attend the first letter writing session on **Saturday, December  
12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Mattie St. house.**

## Staff Love Offering

This year we would again like to honor the entire staff  
of FUMC for their commitment to serving this church  
throughout the year. The SPR Committee will be accepting  
monetary gifts for the annual Staff Love Offering. If you want  
to make a contribution, please mark your gift "Staff Love  
Offering" and place it in the collection plate or give it to any  
SPR member.

## Thank You!

A special 'Thanks' is extended to faculty and students at  
Denham Springs Jr. High for their generous contribution to our  
Emergency Food Pantry. Students were offered the opportunity  
to wear jeans to school one day for a \$3.00 contribution to the  
Food Pantry, and a total of \$2,139.22 was raised!! Thanks to  
Bridgette Chavers (teacher) and Jenny Barclay (principal) for  
their wisdom and encouragement for this project.

## Special Gifts

The following special gifts have been made to First United  
Methodist Church:

### In Memory of:

- **Candyce Criddle** by Dot. Wells
- **Marilyn Lobell** by Mrs. D. C. Cameron

### In Honor of:

- **Diane Boso** by Mr. & Mrs. Claud Davis



The Agape I women's circle is selling Christmas poinsettias  
(red) at \$10 per plant. You can order yours by contacting a  
member of the Agape I Circle.



**Rehearsals!!**

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> the Bells, Praise Team & children will rehearse from 9-11:30 a.m. for the Cantata. Bells should be done by 9:30; Children should be done by 10:15. Dutch treat lunch will be at 11:30 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> bells & Children rehearse at 9:45 a.m. Adults, Bells, Praise Team & Children rehearse at 10:00 a.m. Performance will be at 11:00 a.m. Children who are not in costume can wear their Christmas clothes.



**GIFT-WRAP FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat will be wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 2590 Citiplace Ct. as a fundraiser on Friday and Saturdays: Dec. 5, 6, 18, and 19 from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. If you **don't want to wrap gifts and want to help Habitat** – go to Barnes & Noble off I-10 at the College exit, right on Corporate and right on Citiplace. **Volunteer** gift-wrap helpers are still needed at some time slots. If you can help during any of this time period (even 1 hour), email Erin <[erin@habitatbrla.org](mailto:erin@habitatbrla.org)>

**90 SECONDS FROM YOU = \$1 for HABITAT**

Kohler (sinks, faucets, toilets, bathtubs) will donate \$1 to Habitat International for each person that completes the Kohler water conservation survey at <[www.SaveWaterAmerica.com](http://www.SaveWaterAmerica.com)> The survey only takes about 90 seconds to complete. Please consider taking the survey and asking friends to take it as well.

**HABITAT CHRISTMAS WISH-LIST**

Habitat needs a few items to help fulfill our mission: End Poverty Housing. If you would like to donate items to Habitat for Christmas Wish-List, contact Erin [erin@habitatbrla.org](mailto:erin@habitatbrla.org) . Thanks for your support!

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| New Paint Brushes             | Tape Measures            |
| 6 ft. Ladders                 | Extension Cords (100 ft) |
| Nail Guns                     | Skill Saws               |
| Roto Hammer                   | Digital Camera           |
| Scanner                       | Punch Bowl               |
| White Rectangular Tablecloths |                          |

**Thanks!**

Thank you to the 14 folks who so ably answered the 22 calls from 11 states during the Upper Room Prayer Line transfer to FUMCDS on December 6th, even though we had severe technical difficulties at Nashville with the transfer that decreased our call volume. You persevered and accomplished our task. Also, thanks to the 12 folks in our FUMC Upper Room Covenant Prayer Group who are now praying for the callers for the next 30 days. **Barney Babin**

**We give thanks to God with . . .**

**Our Prayers:**

**Members in Nursing Homes:** Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Fay Kling; Keith Hotchkiss; Bob Opperman

**Other Concerns:**

- |                 |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Loretta Schultz | Hilda Neal      | Shirley Callender |
| Joe Melilli     | George Smith    | John Blackman     |
| Barney Thompson | Bill Benton     | Tommy Hazleton    |
| Ben Johnson     | Shirley Hammons | Dottie Doggette   |
- Josephine Schultz, recuperating at home  
 Stephen Hackett, former Chancel Choir director  
 Melvin Myers, brain tumor, friend of Robbie Lamm  
 Hazel Creamer, cancer, Shirley Callender's sister-in-law  
 Gabe Hilliard, Hodgkins Lymphoma, son of Jeff & Jeanie Hilliard  
 Bonnie Bishop, Bob Blum's sister  
 Murphy Prejean, surgery, friend of Greg Doggette  
 Debbie Smith, back surgery, sister of Sylvia Arnold  
 Jackie Moore, friend of Dottie Doggette

**Our Presence:**

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
11/29/09	99	197
12/06/09	101	201
	* * *	

**A Record of Our Faithfulness – December 6, 2009**

<u>Operating Account</u>	
2008 YTD	\$399,102.08
2009 YTD	\$396,757.89
<u>Building Fund Contributions</u>	
Received 2009 year-to-date	\$247,990.87
Total funds available for construction	\$2,417,035.99

**Peace Amid Chaos**

**Tuesday evening December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. there will be a **service of calm contemplation** in prayer and scripture meditation to breathe the inspiration of peace into the chaotic Advent Season, as we anticipate the Prince of Peace's birth. This special worship service is a welcome pause from chaos, as Jesus' Peace enters our chaotic world.

**OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

If you are over age 70 ½, the Federal government still permits you to give up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without tax through December 31, 2009. You may benefit from this law for tax-smart giving if you:

- Do not itemize but still make gifts to your church;
- Are required to take an unneeded IRA distribution (RMD); or
- Wish to make a special gift but your major assets are in your IRA.

**Any check must be payable to FUMC-DS directly.**