

The Witness

Volume 11, Issue 3

February 4, 2010

Rebuilding Update

After months of work by our Building Committee and Alvin Fairburn Associates, we received and opened bids for our new building. On Sunday, January 24 a Charge Conference voted unanimously to adopt our final building and financial plans. We are now drawing up contract documents with John Blount, who submitted the low bid on our project. We hope to see actual work begin in the next few weeks and anticipate completion within twelve months. Below is a summary of the financial plan. It is important to note that all of the funds listed below are not in hand, but are anticipated to come in over the next two years.

The months of labor and time of waiting has been to our great benefit, as the bids came in within our projected assets. We have much to be thankful for, both to our faithful servant-leaders and to our Lord!

Income

Insurance funds on hand	1,998,095
Building Fund contributions on hand	439,070
Total Currently on Hand	2,437,165
Recoverable depreciation on building forthcoming	486,728
Recoverable depreciation on contents forthcoming	239,903
Unpaid pledges (on 3-year program of April 2009)	521,823
GRAND TOTAL EXPECTED BY APRIL 2012	3,685,619

Expenses

Bid from general contractor	2,544,200
Landscaping	25,000
Furnishings	200,000
Sub-total	2,769,200
10% contingency	276,920
Remaining parking lot not included in base bid	50,000
TOTAL PROJECTED COST OF PROJECT	3,096,120



Men of First UMC: Please mark your calendars. United Methodist Men will hold our regular monthly meeting/breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on **Saturday, Feb. 13**, at the Mattie St. house.

Our March meeting will be held on March 13 and will be a combined UMM/Letters from Dad session. We will cover some UMM business, discuss our efforts from our previous two LFD sessions and then focus on composing a legacy letter. All Dads are invited to participate, whether or not you've attended any of the earlier programs.

Our April UMM meeting will be held on April 17; we've moved the meeting back a week to accommodate the church retreat that weekend. This will be our final combined UMM/LFD meeting where we'll prepare a letter of blessing, love and appreciation to our parents. Please call Billy Gibson at 405-4910 for more information.

SPECIAL GIFTS

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

In Memory of:

Loretta Schultz by Mrs. D. C. Cameron; Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Hazleton; Mr. & Mrs. Abner Cook; Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Davis; Jeannette Pickens.

Marguerite Benton by Gregg & Jeanne Moore

In Honor of:

Bobby & Tina Annison on their 25th anniversary by Jana Landry.

ONE MONTH TO LIVE

THE 30-DAY CHALLENGE:

1. Ask yourself the question, "What would I do if I had one month to live?"
2. Get into a small group (Sunday School class or home study group) to share your reflections and experiences from reading the book. Group leaders are needed – sign up today!
3. Read a chapter a day in the book *One Month to Live*, beginning February 21. Note: the book is written in 30 chapters to be read as a daily devotional guide for your "30-day journey."

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at FUMC, and several study group opportunities will be made available. Adult and Youth Sunday school classes are also encouraged to consider this as their study for Lent.

GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

Our hope is that everyone in our congregation would take the 30-day challenge. One dimension of the challenge is to take part in a small discussion group during the 30-day reading of the book. This will be a time to share insights and personal experiences.

To make it possible for all to take part in a group, we would like to have multiple groups meetings throughout the week.

If you would be willing to lead a group in your home, please sign up today by writing "group leader" on the attendance pad next to your name. All materials and training will be provided.

YOUNG AT HEART

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Activities for Young at Heart will begin at the church sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, with a luncheon to follow at Brunet'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 by Claud and Dot Davis, and a devotional by Rev. Bob.

We will leave the church and carpool to the restaurant. 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:

- Catfish/Shrimp Combo
- Grilled Tilapia
- Shrimp Fettuccini
- Chicken.

We will need a count and choice of entrée by those wishing to make a reservation by Sunday, February 14th.

Children's Choir

Children from Pre-K to 6th grade: We will be starting a choir program on February 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the church. There will be more information coming your way very soon.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

December 2009

During December, the Emergency Food Pantry distributed food to 69 families (assisting approximately 240 individuals) and handed out 15 Bibles.

2009 Year End Summary

During 2009, the Emergency Food Pantry distributed food to 871 families (assisting approximately 3,022 individuals). This number is up from 623 families in 2008. In addition, 232 Bibles were provided.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

February 7 – Kickoff to THE LIVING LAST SUPPER
 Covered dish luncheon after the 11:00 a.m. service, and rehearsal will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. or before. GEAUX SAINTS!!!!

February 17 – Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 p.m. and rehearsal after the service.

March 21 – Rehearsal 2-4:00 p.m.

March 31 – Dress Rehearsal with orchestra 6:00 p.m. until----

April 1 – LIVING LAST SUPPER at 7:00 p.m. We need to be in our seats at 6:00 p.m.

April 4 – Easter Sunday



Our new church pictorial directories have arrived. They will be available for pickup in the church narthex on Sundays February 7th, 14th and 21st. They will be organized alphabetically by last names.

If you would like to have a directory, but did not choose to be photographed for it, you may purchase a directory for a donation of \$5.00, to cover the cost of printing.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who prayed for Loretta the past 13 years. Every prayer was appreciated by her and the family. She will be missed, but she won't have to take Chemo anymore. Thanks to Rev. Rita Chiasson for attending the beautiful memorial service.

Thanks to everyone for their cards and phone calls. What a great church family I have!

God bless you,
Jo Schultz

Our newsletter is on our website: <http://www.fumc-ds.org/newsletter.html>. Select date, to view. Contact Linda Heard 225-665-8995 or office@fumc-ds.org, if you prefer the online option to save our church postage, paper, ink and other copy costs.

We give thanks to God with . . .

Our Prayers:

Members in Nursing Homes: Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Fay Kling

Members in Hospital: OLOL- Jo Roberts; Baton Rouge General/Bluebonnet – Shirley Callender

Other Concerns:
 Bill Benton Hilda Neal Margarine Smith
 Josephine Schultz George Smith John Blackman
 Ray Foster, form of Leukemia
 Becky Lambert, at home recovering from double knee surgery
 Willie Mae Easterly, heart problems, Ernestine Hood's sister
 Vanora F. Nelson, back problems, Ernestine Hood's sister
 Ermalee Eller, stroke, Ernestine Hood's sister
 Betty Mae Street, heart problems, Ernestine Hood's sister
 Hazel Creamer, cancer, Shirley Callender's sister-in-law
 Gabe Hilliard, Hodgkins Lymphoma, son of Jeff & Jeanie Hilliard
 Mrs. Willie McMurray, amputation of legs, Marguerite Cameron's friend
 John Page, neurological test, Wesley Page's father
 Byron Graham, prostate cancer, cousin of Debbie Webb
 Evelyn Vicknair, stroke, friend of Debbie Webb
 Liz Perrin, leukemia, mother of Kellen Perrin, fiancé of David Waldrep

Our Sympathy:

Our sympathy is expressed to **Jamey Sandefur and family at the death of his aunt.**
 Our sympathy is expressed to **Jean Hotchkiss and family at the death of Keith Hotchkiss.**

Our Presence:

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
1/24/2010	82	201
1/31/2010	84	220

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A Record of Our Faithfulness – January 31, 2010

<u>Operating Account</u>	
2009 YTD	\$29,640.25
2010 YTD	\$35,338.02
<u>Building Fund Contributions</u>	
Received 2010 year-to-date	\$13,278.00
Total funds available for construction	\$2,461,391.40

LIVING LAST SUPPER

April 1st is Maundy Thursday, and the choir will present the "Living Last Supper". If you would like to be a part of the choir please let Diane Boso know. We have CDs with the voice parts on it that you can practice at home, and it will not require a lot of rehearsals.