



A Community of Believers Seeking to
Transform Lives
through Jesus Christ

First United
Methodist Church

2200 3rd Ave. North, Pell City, AL 35125
205-338-3374; www.pellcityfumc.org

Pastors:

Rev. Sam Huffstutler, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Nathan Carden, Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Ava Rozelle, Assoc. Pastor

FAX (205) 338-0025

FEBRUARY 23RD, 2011



SUNDAY,

FEBRUARY 27TH

Early Worship 8:30a

Rev. Nathan Carden

"A Peculiar Bunch of Folks"

Sunday School 9:15

Sanctuary Worship 10:30a

Rev. Nathan Carden

"A Peculiar Bunch of Folks"

Wide-Open Worship 10:30a

Rev. Sam Huffstutler

"The gods are not angry!"

SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH

Early Worship 8:30a

Rev. Sam Huffstutler

"24 Hours-The Last Supper"

Sunday School 9:15

Sanctuary Worship 10:30a

Rev. Sam Huffstutler

"24 Hours-The Last Supper"

Wide-Open Worship 10:30a

Rev. Nathan Carden

"Sanctifying Grace: A Kingdom People"



This year, churches in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church will join together by

receiving an offering at Ash Wednesday services benefiting the following mission agencies. Offerings will also be received on March 13th.

Community Church Without Walls is a network of house churches with and among the poor in Birmingham's West End neighborhood. By not having a building, we are able to use more of our time, energy, and resources on direct hands-on ministry to the community. We empower youth to finish high school, get their GED, and go to college. We maintain a community garden that provides access to fresh produce to the community. We welcome people from any walk of life to journey with us in our congregation.

Community Enabler Developer is a part of the Community Developers Program (CDP), an initiative administered by the General Board of Global Ministries for The United Methodist Church since 1972. The Community Developers Program gives seniors, children, teens, and anyone in need, such as the residents of Calhoun County, a way to improve their social and economic situations through services and support.

The mission of the **Kairos Prison Ministry** is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

At the **McCoy Adult Day Care Center** we provide a safe, protective environment for frail adults who need supervised care. Therapeutic activities, lunch, snacks, and socialization are provided in a loving setting.

P.E.E.R., Inc. (Promoting Empowerment and Enrichment Resources) is a community

development group in the eastern area of Birmingham that focuses on promoting health, education, and economic development through a seasonal farmers market, an after-school program, health programs, and more. P.E.E.R., Inc. works with people of all ages to strengthen and empower our community.

The **Society of St. Andrew** is a grassroots, faith-based, hunger relief nonprofit organization working with all denominations to bridge the hunger gap between 96 billion pounds of food wasted every year in this country, and the nearly 40 million Americans who live in poverty. We rely on support from donors, volunteers, and farmers as we glean nutritious excess produce from farmers' fields and orchards after harvest and deliver it to people in need across the United States.

Upper Sand Mountain Parish is a cooperative parish of United Methodist churches, serving 1,000 square miles of Jackson and DeKalb Counties in Alabama. We have actively been "Living the Gospel: Making Possible the Impossible" in our area through various missions designed to reach out with a hand up to those in need. Programs like our Heart and Hand Housing, Gardens of Plenty, and Manna on the Mountain Backpack are examples of our service in action. We provide emergency and family care services four days each week- providing food, utility or rental assistance, medical care and prescription assistance, school supplies, clothing, and other needs that may be raised by those we serve.

The mission of **Urban Ministry Inc.** is to bring compassion and wholeness to the urban poor of Birmingham. We carry out our mission in a variety of ways. Through Assistance Ministries we operate a daily feeding program, distribute food boxes, and provide financial assistance in meeting the costs of utilities and housing. Through our Children's Program we offer after-school care and a summer day camp for children in third through eighth grades. Through our Joe Rush Center for Urban Mission we do exterior house painting for low-income elderly and disabled persons. In partnership with Kairos Prison Ministry we work in a maximum security prison of the State of Alabama (Donaldson Correctional Facility) with men on death row. WE (West End) Community Gardens is a joint program of Urban and Community Church without Walls, which provides a community garden for the people of the West End Community, including organic gardening opportunities, classes on healthy living and cooking nutrition, and exercise.



Last Call for Belarus Contributions

The mission team is making final preparations for the mission trip to Belarus. Thanks to all in our congregation who have so generously supported this project over the years! If you are sponsoring one of the children in the orphanage and you haven't yet turned them in, they are passed due. **Please return them ASAP!** There is still time to make designated contributions to help pay for mission projects, but we need these contributions by this Sunday, February 27th. Thanks again for your support of this ministry.

Service Opportunity

Each month the Missions Team plans a one-day service opportunity open for all to participate. This month we will be preparing and serving breakfast at Highlands United Methodist Church in Birmingham for the homeless and indigent. We will meet in the upper parking lot at 7:15a on **Saturday, February 26**. We should be back in Pell City about 11:00 a.m.

Society of St. Andrew Update

Greetings everyone, thanks for your excellent and generous response with your Advent offering! Together we donated \$734.47 to the Society of St. Andrew. This money will be used to provide nutritious food to low income folks in North Alabama. Our church supports the SOSA year 'round with our loose change offering boxes and various other projects. Be watching the newsletter for ways you can help this mission as spring and summer approach. —Debbie James, Missions Committee

24 Hours That Changed the World

I've been reading Adam Hamilton's book, "24 Hours That Changed the World". No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In his book Adam walks us through the final 24 hours of Jesus' life, experiencing the events of Jesus' suffering and death in a way we have never done before. On **March 6th** our Sanctuary worship services will begin to focus on these 24 Hours. Each Sunday we will examine one of those key events in the last hours of his life. Holy week will highlight even more of those moments that will bring us to Good Friday - the Crucifixion. Our hope is to see these events in new ways. Whether you are a long-time Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you will find this series a powerful reminder of the 24 Hours That Changed the World.

—Pastor Sam



FEBRUARY 13TH
Sunday School: 180
8:30 Worship: 46
10:30 Sanctuary: 147
10:30 Wide Open: 142

FEBRUARY 20TH: Sunday School: 178 8:30 Worship: 52
 10:30 Worship: 119 10:30 Wide Open: 109

Staff Parish Relations News

It is with a real sense of sadness that I must announce the resignation of Alice Hestley from our church staff. Alice has chosen to resign her position as Church Administrator so that she can spend more time with her husband and pastor Russell - at Wedowee FUMC - to be more involved in the church there - and look for other employment closer to home.

Alice has been on staff at Pell City for 10 years. Before that she served as a member in various volunteer positions. She has helped to bring much growth to the congregation as the Director of the Day Care and After School program, Financial Assistant and Administrator of the church. We will miss her. While her resignation date has been set at March 15th, Alice has agreed to remain at her position while we work to find a Director for the Day Care program and someone to help with the Financial Accounting for the church. We will share more about Alice and the Church's plan over the next few weeks. Meanwhile, keep Alice, the Staff Parish Relations Team, and the Day Care in your prayers. —*In Christ, Sam Huffstutler*

Your Yearly Spiritual Check-Up

Ash Wednesday, a day Christians are marked with a very visible sign of repentance and promise. That sign is the "imposition of ashes" and though the ashes are soon washed away, the spirit of penance and preparation continues to be observed throughout the days of Lent. Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days in preparation for his journey to the Cross and Resurrection. Ash Wednesday begins our journey toward the celebration of Easter and reminds us of the cross and tomb. This year Ash Wednesday will take on a different look. On Wednesday, **March 9th** you will have multiple opportunities to prepare for the season of Lent. 30 minute intervals for spiritual reflection will be held at the following times: **6 am, 9 am, 12 noon, and 3 pm**. Come to any one of these time slots and sit quietly in the sanctuary reading and meditating on selected hymns, scriptures passages, and prayers. Then when you are ready, slip forward to the communion railing to receive the elements of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes by one of our pastors, before departing in silence.

Loaves & Fishes Mission Program



On **March 15th**, we will begin our ninth year of providing free meals to low income, elderly, and physically or mentally challenged people of Pell City. To date we have provided over 32,000 free meals. We need your help to continue providing this service. Loaves and Fishes is not a part of the church's budget; we operate totally on monetary contributions and with the help of volunteers. We currently have sufficient funds for only 2 1/2 months and need funds for free meals through mid-November.

I hope you will join us in helping the Loaves and Fishes Mission continue. Monetary contributions should be given to FUMC-Loaves and Fishes Mission Program. If you would like to volunteer and help with cooking, serving, and/or delivering meals, please call Cindy Hallmark (814-1133) or Dorothy Miller (338-0765). —*Thank You, Loaves & Fishes Volunteers*

Ageless Wonders please take note! Due to a mix-up in dates, we will not be able to serve at Glen Addie in March. We'll try for another time in the summer. —*Don't forget that we will meet at the Steakhouse at 11:00a on Monday, Feb. 28th for our regular monthly meeting.*



We on the third floor have been sharing some serious questions. While I believe that the most appropriate way to follow Jesus is to start with good questions, I also know from experience that this method is neither widely used nor popular. Recently, I shared a story with the youth about a man in the distant future (when the Faith has become illegal) that has charges of being “Christian” brought against him and has to appear before a judge. After listing the evidence brought against the man (his Bible, video and audio evidence of him attending church and talking like a Christian, etc.) the judge announces that he is “not guilty”. Even though the man knows that a “guilty” charge will mean death row, he becomes indignant in a moment of irrational rage. *“How am I not a Christian? I’ve gone to church, tithed, read my Bible.....”*

The judge replies, *“Your religion, sir, is no threat to society. As far as I can tell, you have a book you like to read, and certain ways you like to talk about reality. No, we’re hunting for followers of Jesus of Nazareth – they refuse to allow personal wealth to define them, take care of the sick and the poor on their own, share all they have according to the needs of all and refuse to put their trust in the power of the State. They won’t even take up arms against us – when we find and capture them, they smile all the way to prison. They make no sense to this world and that’s a real threat. You, on the other hand, are free to speak freely of your religion as long as you continue living as you always have – taking care of number one, buying what we tell you to by, voting how we tell you to, keeping your faith separate from your social and civil life. You may go, sir.”*

When I heard this story, I cringed. I knew where I fit in the story. It has been bothering me ever since and I’m trying to get the youth to be bothered as well. Does Jesus of Nazareth really intend to invade my life in such a way that I can’t even buy coffee without asking how it affects the farmers who grew it? Does he care more about how I treat the lowly than what I say to others about how deeply I believe God? That seems like a bit much, right? We in the youth group don’t have any easy answers for these kinds of questions, but we’re letting them bother us for the time being. More than the cute story above, it is Jesus who has bothered us the most with his words in Matthew 25:31-46. You can read it if you like, but beware: it will raise uncomfortable questions. It will *bother* you. Please pray for us as we try to learn together what it means to follow Jesus – and as for that Gospel text, proceed with caution and consider yourself warned. Amen. —*Chance*

Dear First Methodist Friends,

Thank You! Thank you so much for your visits, thoughts, prayers, kind words, gifts, flowers and wonderful food we receive during Barbara’s illness and after our loss and time of sadness. Barbara Benson was our mentor, friend, grandmother, and Mom and will always be missed and remembered by those who knew her. She lived a life full of joy, positive attitude, doing for others, and with faith, hope and love. Her spirit and life examples will live among all who knew her for the rest of our lives. I am forever grateful and proud to be known as her son, and Bridget as “Barbara’s granddaughter”.

—With respect and thanks, Greg & Bridget Benson

—A very special and overdue “thank you” to three women who diligently work every two weeks to ensure you receive your newsletter. Thank you to Millie Dillon, Bonnie McCoy and Dorothy Miller.

—Also, “thank you” to Dan Carpenter, Dick Franke, and Jack Lincoln for spending their Friday installing the new flat screen TVs around the church. All of our volunteers are greatly appreciated!



You're Invited!

Everyone is invited to a birthday celebration for Ms. Kitty Adams on Sunday, February 27th, between Sunday School and Church (in the Fellowship Hall). Kitty has been a valued member of our church for 73 years. She taught Children’s Sunday School; sang in our Choir; and volunteered in the Church office for many years. Please joins us as we honor Kitty.



Congratulations to Bobby Ray Wright and Nina Gordon who were married in the Sanctuary on February 12th!


Employment Opportunity

Employees are needed to staff our **Nursery**. The hours are Sundays from 8:00a-noon; Wednesday nights from 5:30p-7:30p and events as necessary. Pays \$10 per hour. Contact Pastor Nathan for more information.



Christian Love Pantry

The Christian Love Pantry needs volunteers to fill three staff positions: **Secretary**—Job takes about 5 hours per week; **Food Coordinator**—Job takes about 9 hours per week, and these hours may be reduced if we get someone to alternate stocking days; **Assistant Director**—Takes about 5 hours per week. Please pray about these positions and contact Mike Carr (763-1000) or Sandra Mullinax (338-6789) for more information.



Our sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Alan Eubanks.

Prayer Requests



Family of Alan Eubanks, Joy Ray, Brett Dexter, Bladeras Family, Tracy Knoll, Joyce Rogers, Christy Bowman, Teresa Ellerson, Jane Hays, June Helton, Jean Mitchell, Doris Blake, Marcelle Bell, Wanda & Hugh Harkins, John Smitherman, Curtis Capps, Frank Grammer, Preston Thompson, Jim Broadwater, John Hassell III, Ray Cooper, Jim Dargan, Jewell Burns, Ronnie Ensley, Joan Phillips, Joan Wallace, Mitchell McEver, Rosemary Carter, Gilbert Vaughn, Judy Shute, Gary Evans, Jimmy Isbell, Ray Cooper, Dick Whatley, Joe LaVerte, Sonny Thompson, T. J. Cook, Martha Davis, Jessica Martin, Marilyn Rawlins Sweet, Renee Palmer, Beth DeLage, Samuel Rankin, Helen Garrett, Audie Tollison, Dana Grammer, Betty Hughes, Randine Johnson, Jean Quick, Jean Lawrence, Joe Yates, Scott Elliott, Margaret Atkinson, Kathie Eubanks, Chuck Carter, Jason Martin, Ben Hestley, Ann Self, Louise Meehan, Bob Stewart, Sug Martin, Kitty Adams, Varona Perry, Alice Reid, Edna Aldridge, Judy Carleton, and Charlene DeShazer
(Note: Names in bold indicate new concerns)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

1:00p Christian Outreach-*Conf. Room*
6:00p Gateway Group-*New Covenant Class*
6:00p Trustees Meeting-*Conf. Room*
8:00p Men's Group-*Summit*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

7:30a Exercise Group-*Civic Center*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

6:30a Gideon's-*Fellowship Hall*
11:00a Tablescapes Luncheon-*Beacon*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

7:30a Men's Breakfast-*Garner Room*
8:30a Early Worship-*Sanctuary*
9:15a-Sunday School
Between SS & Church-Birthday
Party for Ms. Kitty Adams-
Fellowship Hall
10:30a Sanctuary Worship
10:30a Wide Open Worship-*Beacon*
11:30a Wide Open Design Team-*Beacon*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

7:30a Exercise Group-*Civic Center*
10:00a Christian Outreach Quilters
11:00a Ageless Wonders Lunch-*Steakhouse*
12:30a Staff Meeting-*Conference Rm.*
5:00p Weight Watchers
5:30p Missions Meeting-*Library*

TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST

6:00a Men's Bible Study-*Conference Room*
10:30a Women's Bible Study-*Conf. Rm.*
6:30p Cub Scouts

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND

7:30a Exercise Group-*Civic Center*
8:30a Yahweh Yoga-*Seeker's Class*
11:30a Gleaner's Circle-*Fellowship Hall*
5:30p Fellowship Supper-*Beacon*
5:30p Youth Meal/Worship —*continued*

-continued WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND

6:30p Small Group Studies
7:00p Choir Practice-*Sanctuary*
7:30p Wide Open Praise Band
Rehearsal-*Beacon*
9:00a Amazin Grace Reunion Group-
Conference Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD

10:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00a Church History Team-*Library*
6:00p Gateway Group-*New Covenant Class*
8:00p Men's Group-*Summit*

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH

7:30a Exercise Group-*Civic Center.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH

6:30a Gideon's-*Fellowship Hall*
8:00a Community Art Class-*Garner Room*

SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH

8:30a Early Worship-*Sanctuary*
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Sanctuary Worship
10:30a Wide Open Worship-*Beacon*
4:00p Financial Peace Univ.-*Conf. Rm.*

MONDAY, MARCH 7TH

7:30a Exercise Group-*Civic Center*
10:00a Christian Outreach Quilters
12:30p Staff Meeting-*Conf. Room*
5:00p Weight Watchers
6:30p Men's Emmaus Reunion Group-
Serendipity Class

TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH

6:00a Men's Bible Study-*Conference Room*
10:30a Women's Bible Study-*Conf. Rm.*
11:30a Agape Circle-*Fellowship Hall*
6:00p Habitat Board Meeting-*Conf. Rm.*
6:30p Cub Scouts

March Birthdays

- 3/1: Drew Alexander
- 3/5: Kathie Eubanks
- 3/6: Beth DeLage, Ian Johnson, Jack Lincoln
- 3/7: David Abbott
- 3/8: Dan Carpenter, Benjamin Hayes, Ruth Keener, Shirley Mercer, Elise Robinson
- 3/9: Lynda Ramsey, Barbara Ross
- 3/10: Tommy Guinn, John Lawrence
- 3/11: Claire Grice, Arvilla Mullins
- 3/13: Carla Kimberly, Anne Simmons, James Wansart
- 3/14: Seana Alexander, Norma Morris
- 3/16: Julia Allred, Andrew Knepper
- 3/17: Alexis Bain, Curtis Capps, Lee Overton
- 3/19: Sandy Dorough, Lee James, Bobby Wright
- 3/20: Tara Hatcher, Betty Smith, Jacob West
- 3/22: Emma Helms
- 3/24: Adam Bain, Billy Jordan, Dean Staples
- 3/25: Rodney Alverson
- 3/26: David Gaston, Joseph Gissendaner, M.C. Woosley
- 3/31: James Meyer, Kameron Carden

**Next Newsletter Mailing:
March 9th**

Website:
www.pellcityfumc.org



Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm