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First United Methodist Church of Bartow

GOOD NEWS

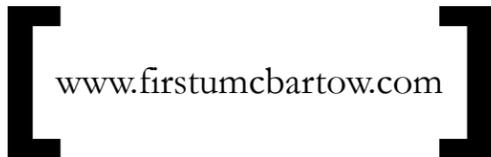
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
BARTOW, FLORIDA

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April 2019

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Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday April 7 9 & 11 am Worship Services + Communion
- Sat. Apr. 13 9 am—1 pm Church & Leadership Retreat, Roth Ranch
- Sunday April 14 9 & 11 am Palm Sunday**
- Thursday, April 18 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service** (Fellowship Hall)
Soup, Salad, dessert, Communion
- Fri. April 19 Noon—Crosswalk** (downtown Bartow)
7 pm Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)
- Sunday, April 21 Easter - He Is Risen!**
7 am Sunrise Service (Mosaic Park)
11 am Blended Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- Sunday, April 28 9 & 11 am Worship Services



The Pastor's Perspective

Once Again, God Provides

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

God's love for God's people is so amazing!! It is with great joy that we announce that First United Methodist Church in Bartow has been the recipient of a loving bequest. The Lord worked through the generosity of George Earnest Williams and Muriel Theodorsen Williams, husband and wife, who remembered First UMC-Bartow in their will. Mr. and Mrs. Williams made arrangements for our church to receive the sum of \$100,000 from their estate. George's brother Frank D. Williams, MD, together with wife Jackie and their son Andrew, brought the gracious check to our church on Sunday, March 24, during the traditional worship service. We are forever grateful to the Williams family for their loving kindness.

Since many current members of our church did not know the Williams, it is only fitting that we share some info on their lives. Mr. Pat Huff inquired about them in conversations with Mrs. Adele Durrance and with Mr. Kenneth Laurent. Below we will reproduce Mr. Huff's report in its entirety. Let me first just say that, for several years, our Board of Trustees have been trying to refurbish the basement and construct an elevator at our sanctuary-annex. This bequest from the Williams estate will allow us to begin work on this urgent project. We have a need, and God has provided. As the apostle Paul said, "God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Our gratitude to Mr. Frank Williams, wife Jackie, and son Andrew for delivering this gift. Following is Mr. Huff's report:

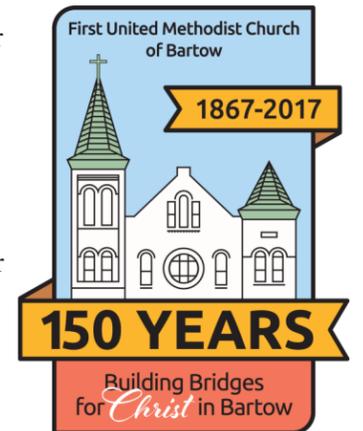
Memories of George Earnest Williams

Today we would like to express our gratitude to George and Muriel Williams for their generous gifts to the First United Methodist Church of Bartow. George and his family were active members of this Church when he was growing up here in Bartow, and in view of his generosity he must have felt that the Church was a significant influence on his life.

George would be 95 years old this year, so there are few people left who knew and remembered him from those early days. The oldest member of our Church, Mrs. Adele Durrance who is 101 years old, remembers the family as very devout Christians who were active in Church work. The parents, E. R. "Dutch" and Ruby were remembered especially for visiting the sick and shut-ins in the congregation. The children, George, Larry, Frank, and Mary Margaret, were remembered as being active in the Youth Group. Mrs. Durrance also remembers George as being a brilliant young man. We were also able to talk to Mr. Kenneth Laurent, age 96, who was a close boyhood friend of George's and remained in touch with him later in life. They were good friends in high school at Summerlin Institute, where George was an outstanding student. They were members of the same Boy Scout troop where Ken admired George as an over achiever who earned many more Scout merit badges than were needed to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Ken remembered that there were 21 Eagle Scouts, including he and

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APRIL 2019



Building bridges for Christ in Bartow

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

*Choir Notes
by Bonnie Allen*

Every month seems to get better and better. Starting with Christmas and all the joy that brings; then the New Year with all the hopes and dreams, February, the month of LOVE, March with Lent and preparation and The Cleveland Family at Homeland, and April with the glorious Holy Week!

Your choir has been giving extra time to rehearse for all the special events coming up. We are excited to do a Tenebrae service for the first time on Good Friday. Pastor Armando will be the narrator for this musical entitled, "It Is Finished". "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "shadows" or "darkness," so it is a service of shadows. The Tenebrae service makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of Holy Week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. We will be remembering and honoring the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior.

Holy Week will start with Palm Sunday and a procession of Palm branches waving to remember that day that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. A different kind of King. Maundy Thursday will be remembering the Last Supper in the fellowship hall with communion following the meal. On Good Friday, the cross walk will be held at noon and is always a beautiful service with lots of people carrying crosses from the east, west, south and north. All will gather at Fort Blount park for a service. That evening at 7 p.m., our choir and pastor will present the Tenebrae service, "It Is Finished". This will be a somber event, and given to emphasize the extraordinary suffering that Jesus experienced. We will leave quietly and hopefully fully cognizant of the price that was paid for our sins.

Then comes the glorious day of Resurrection! I always think about my daughter, Kim, and how I would feel if she came back to life. I can imagine the unspeakable joy that the disciples must have felt. The power they received as they one by one saw him, touched him, listened to him and were 100% convinced that He was the Son of God!!

What happened next is the reason that we are believers today. They went out with the power of the Holy Spirit, and spread the Good News!! May we be so inspired to live as His disciples today! Happy Easter!!

April Menu for 6 pm Wednesday Fellowship Dinners:

3—Covered dish + chicken (\$2/piece)
Servers: Lee, Tucker
Guest Speaker: Bill Porter from Big G Little C

10—Honoring our Homebound (Bingo game during dinner)
Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, assorted fruit salads
Servers: Presnell

17—No Dinner tonight, on Thursday
Soup, salad, Communion

24—Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits
Servers: Layton, Presnell, Roth

Pastor's Perspective continued from page 1:

George, in the three Boy Scout troops in Bartow which was a very large number. They both attributed their success in Scouting to the encouragement and support of Mr. E. A. Bosarge, a Boy Scout volunteer official who was a mentor to the boys.

The Boy Scouts later formed a Sea Scout troop, emphasizing boating and navigation, which George and Ken greatly enjoyed. This experience may possibly have influenced George's choice of the US Coast Guard Academy and the US Navy in World War II. Ken remembers many exciting adventures they had in the Sea Scouts. In 1939 they took a boat trip to Cuba from Ft. Lauderdale to Havana for a ten-day visit. The Cuban Boy Scouts were their hosts and they stayed in a dormitory. They toured Havana and the surrounding area, and the high light of the trip was a visit to the home of the President of Cuba where they met President Fulgencio Batista.

Ken and George stayed in touch after they both joined military services in World War II and later as they progressed in their careers. After George and Muriel moved to Naples, FL, Ken and his wife Martha visited them several times. Ken remembers one notable and very enjoyable trip when George took them boating on the inland waterways in his 52-foot Hatteras motor yacht. Ken has many fond memories of George and Muriel.

□



APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
+ = Each Sunday 9 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Disciple & Joy Adult Sunday school 11 am Traditional Worship Children's Church	1 Most Mondays Bible Study & Breakfast (Perkins) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (870 Lila)	2 Bartow City Election	3 9:30, 10, 10:30 am FMS Chapel Services * = Each Wednesday 5 pm Hand Bells 5:30 pm Youth Fellowship 6 pm Fellowship Dinner: Covered dish + chicken Servers: Lee, Tucker 7 pm Intergen'l Choir 7 pm Bible Study	4	5 Wedding Rehearsal: Wanda Harris & Steve Steiner	6 9 am Mission Helpers at Alvena Newport's home 11 am Golden Girls 1 pm Wedding: Harris & Steiner
7 + Communion	8	9 6:30 pm Finance Meeting (Library)	10 * 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, as-sorted fruit salads Servers: Presnell	11	12	13 9 am—1 pm Church Leadership Retreat at Roth home
14 + Palm Sunday	15 FMS Book Fair	16 FMS Book Fair + Family Night 5 pm	17 * FMS Book Fair	18 FMS Book Fair 7 pm Holy Thursday Service (F Hall) Soup, salad, dessert Communion	19 Noon: Crosswalk 7 pm Tenebrae Service "It is Finished"	20
21 Easter 7 am Sunrise Service at Mosaic Park with Pastor Shirley Williams 11 am Blended Worship	22	23 7 pm First Methodist School Board Meeting (Library)	24 * 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits Servers: Layton, Presnell, Roth	25	26 6-9 pm Friday Fest	27
28 + FMS children sing ~12:30 pm Lunch Bunch meet at El Ranchito	29 10 am Evangelism Meeting (Library)	30				

April Birthdays

- 1—Jessalyn Cardosa 14—Kai Sutherland
2—Kelly Ziefel 15—Cody Vaughn
Clarice Roth 16—Melanie Chancey
3—Sara Odom 18—Kristopher Chancey
4—Ted Wright Garry Lingle
6—Connor Johnson 24—Chris Snell
Gene Dolan Courtney Chance
9—Nathan Presnell 27—Garrick Neely
Ethan Hartsaw 28—Cheryl Layton
12—Wayne Snell 30—Cliff Daniels
13—Kaylee Coil

April Anniversaries

- 2—Cliff & Jennifer Daniels
15— Tim & Marcia Brooks
17—Shawn & Amy Fitzgerald

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please contact the church office to let us know so you can be included.

Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of John Deskiewicz who passed on to eternal life on March 7.

Following the Example of Jesus in Giving to Others From the American Spiritual (UM Hymnal, page 401) are the words: "Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart" showing compassion to those in need, doing unto others as we would wish to be considered in similar situations. Like Jesus, showing love and concern for others. We at First UMC have the opportunity to share our love and concerns for others by donating nonperishable food items, or other needs to the Church Service Center who provide assistance, and work with those in need in Bartow and the surrounding area.

Most needed items for this month, requested by the CSC Director: diapers, sizes 4, 5, and 6, children and men's clothing (all sizes), including shoes and hygiene products.

Please consider contributing to the "Blue Container" at the Sanctuary Doors on Sundays or the Large Corrugated Box outside the Church Office in the Education Building. Consider a donated item every quarter of the year as you are able. Consider being a regular contributor every month.

Consider and meditate on Matthew 25:40. Additional stanzas from the quoted hymn: "Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart."

Bill Wright, Missions

Meetings & Events

Golden Girls

Fifteen ladies met at Asbury to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and decorate cupcakes and cookies for the Fire Station. It was nice having a relaxing time to chat and decorate at the same time. Several Golden Girls delivered the goodies to the firemen.

We will meet next month on Saturday, April 6 and eat out in Bartow. (We have not decided where yet.) May 4 we have reservations for the Twisted Teapot in Winter Haven. Come join us, we have a wonderful time of fellowship. Karel Hammer

Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Monday, April 4 at 870 Lila St. Bring an hors d'oeuvre, salad or dessert. Soup provided. Come enjoy the fellowship.

Finance Committee

meeting 6:30 pm Tuesday, April 9 in the Library.

Church Leadership Retreat Sat. April 13 9 am to 1 pm at Roth home.

Evangelism Committee

will meet 10 am on Tuesday, April 30 in Library.

Special Offering for Annual Conference 2019

The Bishop's Offering for Annual Conference 2019 will be divided evenly between a restart of the FAMU Wesley Foundation and planting a new church in Lowell Women's Prison in Reddick, Florida.

The Conference is joining a trend in the US by placing a Methodist church inside a state prison. A pastor will be assigned to serve at Lowell Correctional Institution for women in Reddick, FL. The idea to partner with Prison Congregations of America, a consulting group that helps denominations establish worshipping congregations in prisons, came after Bishop Carter heard about a church based in a prison in Tennessee. Currently there are 34 prison-based churches in the US, including two UMC prison churches in TN and Iowa. Conference officials chose Lowell because it houses the most women (3,054) in a correctional institution in the US, including three on death row.

Easter Lilies

Our Sanctuary will once again be decorated with lilies for our Easter Sunday Worship Celebration. These plants will be florist quality, 6" pots with 3 - 5 blooms at a cost of \$7.00 each.

If you would like to provide one of these plants simply fill out the information below and enclose it along with \$7.00 in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office no later than Sunday, April 14. Please be sure to print your name and designate if the lilies are given "to the glory of God" or "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone. (Note: please print all names as you would like them to appear in the bulletin.)

All who donate lilies may take them home to enjoy after our Easter Sunday Service.

NAME OF DONOR _____

EASTER LILY TO BE PRESENTED:

_____ TO THE GLORY OF GOD

_____ IN MEMORY OF _____

_____ IN HONOR OF _____

NAME OF DONOR _____

_____ TO THE GLORY OF GOD

_____ IN MEMORY OF _____

_____ IN HONOR OF _____

Place in offering plate or send to office by Sunday, April 14.

2019 February Finance Report

General Fund

Summary for February
Income \$13,812.16
Expenses \$18,806.29
Net Income (\$ 4,994.13)
Summary Year to Date
Balance 12/31/18 \$14,844.34
Net Income YTD \$4,797.05
Balance YTD \$19,641.39

Apportionments 2018 \$24,711.00

Building Fund

Balance 12/31/18 \$26,613.40
Income \$ 2,089.00
Expenses (\$ 62.43)
Interest
Balance Building Fund \$28,639.97

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

Please remember these in your prayers, visits and other expressions of Christian love.

Not at home: Mary Grose (New Horizon Assisted Living, 2100 St Rd 540W, Winter Haven 33880) Robert Garner (Highland Regional MC)

At home with medical issues: Mark Ambrose, John Anderson, Pat Barber, Adele Durrance, Ed & Beverly Etheredge, Marjorie Gay, Pastor Jim Hatch, Walt Heidel, Brandon Hess, Marianne McMillin, Sylvia Mears, Ann O'Berry, Rob O'Berry, Ruth O'Berry, Sara Odom, Bill Poe, Carolyn Presnell, Janie Robinson, Steve Richardson, Bob Sarvis, Lee & Louise Taylor, Ed & Eldora Thorn, Mary Tomlinson, Jean Thompson, Donna Wagner, Roger Waters, Chuck & Barbara Weaver, Kathy Wood, Pat Wright

In military: Chris Brooks, Victor Orem

Needing prayers: Pastor & Staff, District Supt. Candace Lewis, Bishop Ken Carter, Christian, Dawn & Joshua Williams, Pioneer Missions, Indonesia
Cuba Covenant Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz del Sur, Camagüey, Cuba

Team Mission Thank You

God sent sixteen "Team Mission" angels to my house to minister to me on Saturday, March 2, as worked to honor God.

Bill Wright, Clarice Roth, Elizabeth Roth, Jessica Hamer, Carolyn Presnell, Francisco Bocalandro, Dasmari Bocalandro, Leeann Layton, Cheryl Layton, David Brooks, Greg McMillin, and Sylvia Spencer removed decorations and moved furniture to paint my living room and hall walls, pressure washed the house, weeded the flower bed and planted flowers, trimmed the azaleas and camellias, shoveled dirt into ruts, loaded the dishwasher and installed lightbulbs.

The food for the workers was prepared by Joan Wright, Linda Hutto, Karel Hammer and Bonnie Allen. A special meal was prepared just for me.

On Sunday, Clarice, Elizabeth, Jessica, Carolyn and Cheryl returned to put a second coat of paint on the walls. Returning the decorations and furniture could not be done until the paint dried, so Clarice and Elizabeth came back on Tuesday to finish the job.

These angels all did a professional job working together. Well done, good and faithful servants! Thank you God for this blessing; to You goes the glory, amen. Thank you to team for a job well done.
Dorothy Tucker



Mission Project

I would like to say "Thank You" to all those wonderful people who came out to help with our first **mission project** at Dorothy Tucker's house and to those that brought food. We got a lot accomplished with so many hands and really appreciated the wonderful lunch. I know Dorothy was so very grateful.

Our next mission project will be at Alvena Newport's on Saturday, April 6th at 9:00 am. Alvena is 98 years old and her granddaughter lives with her. She is in desperate need of help with trimming back and hedging bushes through out her yard. She has a lot of scrubs and potted plants that need attention. We will also be cleaning out her carport area which just needs some tender love and care. Youth, need community service hours? This would be a great project for you. Please let me know if you will be able to help on this day either by being there physically or bringing food for workers or food for Alvena. You can email me at rothbranch@aol.com or call me at 863-258-2678.

Blessings,
Clarice Roth

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller

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Across the Courtyard by Nadine Waters Robbins Church Historian

Last year Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day "collided" for the first time since 1956. Protestors demonstrated their disapproval of this "clash" by announcing "We need the world to know that Easter is a serious holiday, not a joke." It was reported that Pope Francis "canceled" April Fool's Day because it fell on this Holiest of Days. He proposed to come up with a new Christian calendar to avoid any future "calendar calamities" between these two differing days "... April Fool's is a Day of Mockery and we must show that we will not be mocked."

Although there are many theories as to the origin of April Fool's Day it seems to be tied to the Vernal Equinox, the first day of Spring in the Western Hemisphere when "Mother Nature" "fools" Mankind with changing unpredictable weather.

Over the years many churches have chosen creative ways to deal with April Fool's Day/Sunday occurrences.

In 2001 April 1st not only fell on a Sunday, but it was also the beginning of the year's Daylight Saving Time (yawn!)

In anticipation of this "untypical" Sunday some FUMC "geniuses" planned "April Fool's For Christ Talent Follies." This event was to begin at 5:41 pm (41 for 4/1 - April 1). The program that evening consisted of Emcee Ted (Heaven help us if he's) Wright and the following performers:
Youth Praise Band - "Pharoah, Pharoah,"
Christ Snell and Sara Wyant - "Do You Love Me."
Jennifer Boerger - "Maybe This Time,"
Joan and Bill Wright - "The Lonely Goatherd and Edelweiss,"
Morgan Pickard and Amanda Wyant - "Trashing the Camp" (dance),
Dorothy Hernandez - "A Bit of Humor,"
Wendell Waters - "Something Different II,"
Bryon Clinger - "Something Funny,"
Roy Lowe - "The Pelican Moon Song" (Don't ask!), and a skit by the UMYF - "Is It Time Yet?"

Note: There were more acts after a brief intermission where delicious refreshments were served. However,

in true April Fool's form I am missing a copy of the post intermission program. Oh well! "We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! . . ." 1 Corinthians 4:10 (NIV)

Re: Last month's ATC: Also in 2001, FUMC's own John Hutto was "getting the ball rolling" for Bartow's Annual Relay For Life events. His influence and involvement have continued over the years as he remained an active advocate for what has now morphed into next month's South Polk Relay For Life. (Friday, May 3rd) . . . and that's NO FOOLIN' . . .

Thank you!

The Church Service Center appreciates the generous donation of 9,348 pounds of food given during the holidays. Many families were blessed. We appreciate your support. The Lord richly bless you all.

Rusty Music
Executive Director

Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated! Your kindness and love were appreciated during my recent illness. Thanks. You are good!!
Love, Mary Tomlinson

Thank you to Allysie Martin, Jane Meyer, Clarice Roth and Wendy Wright for helping in the church office while we were gone north to be with daughter and her family. I really appreciate all of you!
Cynthia Lee

Please note: Information for May newsletter should be submitted by **Monday, April 15th**. Thank You for helping us send out the Good News in a timely manner. The Good News is published monthly by First United Methodist Church of Bartow, 455 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow, Florida 33830