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First United Methodist Church of Bartow

GOOD NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
BARTOW, FLORIDA

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Bartow, FL 33830

July 2018

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, July 1 9 & 11 am Worship + Communion

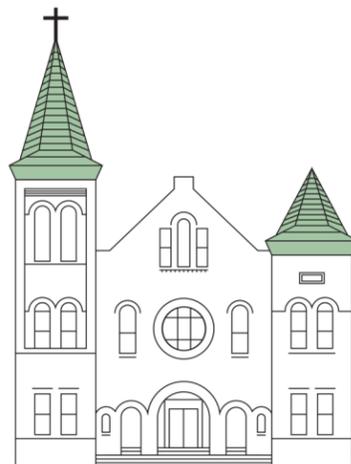
Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day

Monday—Friday, July 9—13

8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School

Surf Shack: Catching the Wave of God's Amazing Love

Sunday, July 15, 22, 29 9 & 11 am Worship



The Pastor's Perspective

Supporting our Connectional Church

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

With the help of our great Lord, finances at First United Methodist Church have improved in comparison to what we were three years ago. For two years in a row, we have been able to finish the year with a positive balance. We appreciate all members and constituents of our church who are so generous in their support of our church's mission. May God continue to bless us individually and as a church as we press on working for His Kingdom.

There is, however, an area in which we need more improvement. This is the fulfillment of our conference liabilities, also known as apportionments. Here, too, we have made progress: in 2015 we only paid about 25% of our apportionments, while in 2016 and 2017 we grew to 50% and 70%, respectively. The Finance Committee wants to continue this upward trend: we have set a goal of paying 100% in 2018. Will this be possible?

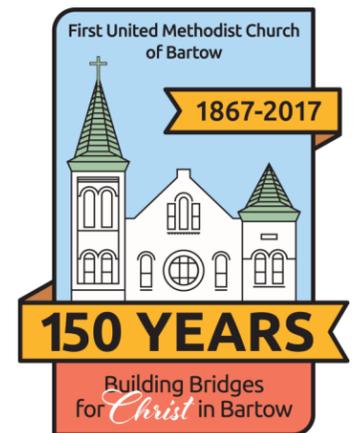
With the help of God and your sacrificial giving, we believe so. A push similar to what we did last year, and taking advantage of the fact that the total apportionment we need to send decreased from \$26,000 in 2017 to around \$23,000 in 2018, will allow us to return to 100% fulfillment. This was our practice several years ago, and we would like to return to it ASAP.

Maybe the best kept secret in our U. Methodist connection is that a sizeable percentage of our conference liabilities are not used for administrative purposes, but strictly for fruitful mission. Let me list here several goals we accomplish with the help of apportionments:

1. Open new churches and missions and support them for about 3 years until they are self-sustainable
2. Pay "equitable compensation," or salaries for pastors whose churches are vibrant yet small or in poor neighborhoods
3. Grant scholarships for mission-trip members, such as the trip we are about to take to Cuba in October
4. Provide aid for the "Church World Service," which is similar to the Church Service Center in Bartow but at a world level scale.
5. Provide financial support to Florida U. Methodist Colleges FSC and Bethune-Cookman University

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 7

JULY 2018



Building bridges for Christ in Bartow

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

**Choir Notes
by Bonnie Allen**

The choir is enjoying a nice break from weekly rehearsals this month. We are so fortunate to have so many soloists in our midst.

The lineup for this month is:

- July 1 - Deborah Brister
- July 8 - Ina Ogden Thompson
- July 15 - Margie and John Anderson
- July 22 - Olivia Chancey
- July 29 - Molly-Grace Moore

I want to thank Kathy Wood for her beautiful solo during the month of June, and I want to thank our choir for their beautiful and inspiring music throughout the year. I have said it many times, but it is worth repeating, we are so truly blessed with music in this church.

It was such a joy to hear the Youth choir from St. Mark's Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The 50 voice choir sang, played flute, violin, piano, and hand bells as well as sang and danced. They were so well trained, and so dedicated. If you missed it, I am so sorry. It lights a fire inside of me to start something for our youth. I know a lot of the young people upstairs, and I know the talent that exists there. Help me pray about our children's choir and a youth choir.

Sylvia and Bill keep thrilling us with their music, and we are so grateful for their talent and spirituality.

Cynthia Lee goes about her every day help for this church, so quietly and unassuming. I thank God for her and her dedication to our church! She has been a tremendous help to me.

I guess this is my time to thank everyone. We so often forget all the hands and hearts that make this bride of Christ run smoothly. I thank the ushers, the greeters, David Brooks and Marvin Hammer for all that they do, the Praise Team, Shawn and Amy Fitzgerald for their love and dedication to the youth, and to the Praise Service. Wendy Wright who goes beyond caring for our nursery. Kathy Wood, Elsa Huff, and all who make the Wednesday night dinners successful. The one you never see is Pat Huff who diligently keeps the records, and Chad Johnson and all who run the finance department. Karel Hammer, Allye Martin and all for honoring our Golden Girls, and also for flowers and keeping the sanctuary orderly. For Linda Hutto and Dorothy Tucker for their evangelism and care committee, Sylvia and her grandson who keep everything spotless, Walt Hause

and Bruce Lee for our lay-leadership, Deborah, Margie, and Ina for leading the hymns, Susan and David Bergdoll for making Bible school the best ever, and for our Beloved pastor and Icel who hold us together with God's amazing love. Even with all above, I have probably forgotten someone that you never see going about God's work with no thank you's or recognition.

It is clear to me that the body of Christ is functioning in this His church!! We must always remember that every part is important to the whole.

Sending love to you all and praying for God's mercy and grace in your lives.

Lost

We have in the church office a watch (fitbit?), a pair of sunglasses and a pair of prescription glasses. Please stop in the church office to identify them.

Thank You!

Thank you FUMC for all the food and help at the memorial luncheon for Sue Hutto Spokas Smith (John and Linda Hutto's aunt).

Kathy Wood is in need of plastic containers.

Save the Date:
Health Fair on October 6, 10am - 1pm
We need to acquire rectangular tables at \$80

**John Wesley Great Experiment
Coming In September**

Spiritual Disciplines:
 Bible Study and sharing in small groups.
 Start day with morning personal prayer and meditation.
 Give two hours time each week for a special project.
 Give tithe.
 Witness about Jesus once a week.

JULY 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 + = Each Sunday Communion 9 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Disciple & Joy Adult Sunday school 11 am Traditional Worship Children's Church	2 Most Mondays 7 am Prayer Breakfast (Perkins) 8:30 am Exercise Class (Anytime Fitness) 1 pm Puppets Practice (1st grade classroom) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (870 Lila)	3	4 Independence Day Holiday	5	6	7 9 am decorate rooms For VBS	
8 + 2 pm decorate rooms for Vacation Bible School	9 8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School	10 8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School	11 8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School	12 8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School	13 8:45 am—Noon Vacation Bible School	14	
15 + VBS kids sing	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 +	23	24 7 pm First Methodist School Board Meeting (Library)	25	26	27	28	
29 + Special Offering for FL UM Children's Home	30	31					

July Birthdays

- 3 –Kaitlyn Gattie 16 –Nolan Hartsaw
- 4 –Molly-Grace Moore 17 –Bill Meyer
- 5 –Jeff Moss 19 –Betty Wetherington
- 6 - Kiersten Hart 20 –Tracy Snell
- Jacob Klins 21 –Mary Wyant
- Inez McMillin 23 –Ann Plunkett
- Leah Snell 25 –Renee Whitehead
- 9 –Jack Wyant John Wright
- 11 –Jeff Agnew 26 –Diane Bruns
- Emily Hughes 29 –Anne Raulerson
- 13 –Grady Daniels
- Mason Daniels

♥ **July Anniversaries** ♥

- 5 -Armando & Icel Rodriguez
- 7 -Greg & Maegan Neely
- 8 –Mark & Jana Billman
- 10 -Josh & Renee Whitehead
- 10 -Ralph & Janet Young
- 23 -Greg & Kathy Wood
- 26 –Mike & Diane Bruns
- 27 –Dennis & Andrea Croom

- 6. Support our campus ministries (“Wesley Foundations”) in colleges throughout Florida, such as FSU, UF, USF, UNF and others
- 7. Provide scholarships for seminary students such as Bailey Schreiner, who will receive tuition remission to study at Duke University.
- 8. Provide financial support for international charitable organizations, such as Africa University, a U. Methodist University in Zimbabwe, Africa.

This list is “big” in more than one way, and I might be forgetting other missions that our apportionment dollars support. It builds the Kingdom to pay apportionments!

In the spirit that Paul proposed to the church in Corinth, I would like to invite our church to fulfill all our financial liabilities: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Please, consider tithing to our church and grow in your generosity so that 2018 will be a fruitful and blessed year. If you have any questions about the way that FUMC-Bartow handles our finances, do not hesitate to ask the pastor or any member of the Finance committee. We will be glad to answer all your questions!

May God give you a blessed Fourth of July!

Pastor Armando

DEADLINE

Please note: Information for August newsletter should be submitted by **Monday, July 16th**. Thank You for helping us in 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

2018 May Finance Report	
General Fund	
Summary for May	
Income	\$18,724.13
Expenses	\$17,334.56
Net Income	\$1,389.57
Summary Year to Date	
Balance 12/31/17	\$15,147.60
Net Income YTD	(\$2,755.12)
Balance YTD	\$12,392.48
Apportionments 2018	\$22,994.00
Paid as of July 1	\$4,012.00
Building Fund	
Balance 12/31/17	\$23,571.56
Income	\$ 6,279.00
Expenses	\$ 2,900.00
Interest	\$ 37.56
Balance Building Fund	\$26,988.12

**“Annual Conference”
Florida Southern College
Branscomb Auditorium**

By Pat and Elsa Huff

Thank you First United Methodist church for asking us to be the lay delegate for our church and the lay delegate for our district-Gulf Central at Annual Conference.

Our conference experience began the day after our trip from New York City on June 7th. We were tired to begin with, but quickly got excited and energized by the plenary sessions and worship.

Our first session was on Thursday afternoon. We heard talks on disaster recovery relief. This relief effort was led by Reverend Pam Carter, wife of our bishop, Ken Carter. Molly McEntire was in charge of getting volunteer teams to help with hurricane Irma and Maria. They have all the equipment and all they need are volunteers.

Another topic was on United Methodist Men. They are meeting and trying to guide young men away from domestic violence. The goal is to catch them while they are young. In order to do that they are joining Chirros prison ministry to worship with them while they are young.

The next main goal is inviting and inspiring worship. Engaged disciples in mission and outreach. Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership and effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership. These things are needed for successful ministry. Also small group ministries and strong children and youth ministries.

We were blessed by the United Methodist Church of Lakeland’s children singing Go Down Moses and Amazing Grace.

Friday, June 8th, we went to the next plenary session. Dr. Paul Chilcote, professor of Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando spoke on the vital church. He told a story about his mom who was upset about the youth leader in her church. He wore no coat on Sundays and used lots of ‘hair gel’. She asked her son what should I do about this. He said, “Buy him some hair gel”. She did and she grew to like him. We need to not judge but love our brethren. He also mentioned how Prince Harry and Meghan had an area at their wedding for people who were volunteers. We need to go from the inside to the outside. Remember who we are: Followers of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus ate with sinners and in Isaiah it says that Jesus is the light inside of us. We need to go out and share it.

2. Example of fresh expressions, which is the church meeting people where they are, with activities such as dinner churches, and the front parlor of a tattoo parlor for church and kayaking with Jesus.

A sad part of the conference is the closing of churches. This year there were twelve churches closed due to low attendance and lack of money. We as delegates have to vote on these resolutions.

At 10:30 there was the memorial for ministers and their spouses passing into heaven. This was very touching and special to Pat and I. Dan Wunderlich, Roy Lowe’s son-in-law, read a poem. All were to stand when anyone who had touched our lives name was read. Many stood for Roy Lowe and Paul Bauer when their names were read. Evelyn Short, wife of Booker Short, had passed. Her husband was Booker Short who is still living.

We were so blessed by Reverend Geraldine McClellan and her sermon on “Don’t Forget to Remember”, a touching sermon on loss and how to cope.

On Friday afternoon, the anniversary celebration and retirement recognition service was held.

That evening, we had revival worship. Bishop Gregory Palmer did a wonderful sermon on “Remember and Remind”. We should remember the past and remind others where we have come from. He raised issues of race and gender. He reminded us God tells us to Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you. There was an altar call that many came to pray.

Saturday, June 8th was our last day. Pat was tired so I went and got to vote on the resolution about not discriminating against women in any way in our conference. This resolution had already been passed in 2017 but the wording needed changing.

It was stated that 1/2 of the annual conference offerings will be directed to each initiative listed below.

- 1. ZOE-ministries-empowering children and youth to become self-reliant and able to give back to their communities and churches.
 - 2. Training young laity and clergy.
- Remember, Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Luke 6:31 and always be humble and kind.



**Youth Choir from St Mark UMC
Birmingham, AL
Performed a concert on June 12 in our sanctuary.**

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

At home with medical issues:

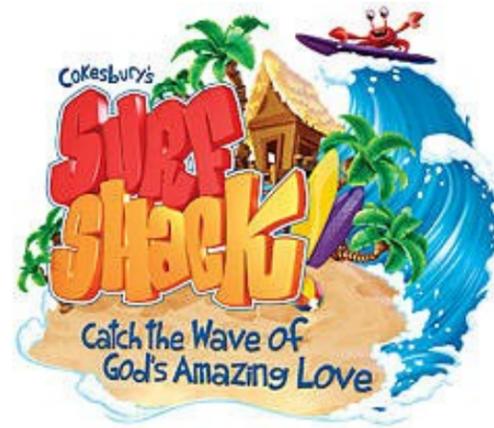
Ed & Beverly Etheredge, Buz Etheredge,
Marjorie Gay, Karel Hammer, Walt Heidel,
Melissa Hicks, Bruce Lee, Marianne McMillin,
Sylvia Mears, Nikki Moon, Ann O'Berry,
Ruth O'Berry, Sara Odom, Heath Petersen,
Bob Phillips, Becky Pischke, Bill Poe,
Carolyn Presnell, Anne Raulerson, Bud Spicer,
Holly Sutherland, Janice Warren, Roger Waters,
Chuck & Barbara Weaver, Bob Wilson,
John & Pat Wright

In military: Chris Brooks, Victor Orem

Needing prayers: Melanie Hardin, 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

Snacks needed for VBS:

Cash for fresh fruit
Thank you for your generous donations for the
children.



**CAN YOU SPARE ONE MORNING
TO HELP CHILDREN
FOLLOW JESUS?**

We have been given an opportunity to show how much Jesus helps us live through adversity and challenge in our lives. This summer the week of **July 9-13** our Vacation Bible school is all about how our lives are changed through our faith in Jesus Christ!

We will have:

FUN, SCRIPTURE, MUSIC, SCIENCE, GAMES, PRAYER and of course, SNACKS, every day that week from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We need help to do this mission and I am calling on everyone to look and find ONE MORNING OR A PART OF ONE MORNING to join my team. "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love" has a separate theme and fully scripted program for each day so you only have to follow the script for your section. The children will be divided into small teams and will have a youth leader for each group. There is a need for adults to lead Bible study, crafts, recreation, reflections, imagination station (science) and our snack time. We will also have fun decorating beach scenes and surf boards. If you want to do the whole week or something every day I will be ecstatic to talk to you about those needs!!!

Remember we truly can use any of your valuable time to make a difference in a child's life. They will always remember this experience and we want Jesus to become a part of their life everyday. They need us to show them how much the Lord can change your life and give them the promise of eternity. I am available after church services and also please feel free to call me.

Susan Bergdoll, VBS Director 863-602-7310



Across the Courtyard
by Nadine Waters Robbins
Church Historian

Summertime at most churches, including our own, is a time for Vacation Bible School. The Lakeland Ledger's "2018 Bible School Calendar" listed catchy titles such as "Shipwrecked", "Games On", "Time Lab", "Space Probe", "Hero Central", and "Jungle River Adventure." These, along with FUMC's own Bible School "Surf Shack", are designed to stimulate the imagination of potential attendees as they anticipate enjoying games, puppets, crafts, snacks, worship, etc. in a "child friendly" Christian environment.

Back in "the old days" when local Sunday school and Children's church attendance was "bursting at the seams" the majority of Vacation Bible School enrollees usually consisted of children from the host church. Over the years, as regular Sunday attendance by "the younger set" declined, mainstream churches began a mission of unity, designed to attract not only the "churched" but the "un-churched" children in the community.

In the early years Vacation Bible School frequently was a week-long adventure usually held during the morning hours. Over time, VBS dates and hours varied greatly. Twenty years ago a Vacation Bible School Experience at FUMC included an "overnight camp-out" in tents in a "Bible Town" on the grounds of our church.

Beginning in the 1990's FUMC Vacation Bible School nomenclature included "Kingdom of the Son, a Prayer Safari", "Celebrate Jesus", and "Story-Telling Tree".

As the new millennium approached, Bible School at FUMC touted names such as "Good News at Gospel Rock", "Hollywood Studios", "Beach Trek", "Lighthouse Kids", "Galactic Blast", and "Shake It Up Café".

Just as many "As Seen on TV" ads are designed to entice consumers to try an "exciting" new product some of the imaginative VBS Descriptors may have allured some of our youngest consumers to try a "thrilling" Vacation Bible School "Product" . . .

But Wait There's More! . . .

The Vacation Bible School "Product" won't rip, tear, or fall apart. The Vacation Bible School "Product" May Last Forever!

Sympathy

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy
to the family of
Cameron Chamberlain
who passed on to eternal life on May 9.*

*and to the family of
Richard Kehoe
who passed on to eternal life on June 24.*

Memorial Gifts

*Gifts have been received by
First UMC*

in memory of

*Sue Hutto Spokas
by*

*Adolph & Cindy Spokas
for Apportionments*

in memory of

*Cameron Chamberlain
by*

Alan & Sherry Keller

in memory of

*Katherine Sutherland
by*

William & Lucy Vance

in memory of

Roy Lowe

by

*Betty Phelps
for Warren Willis Camp*

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves
for they shall never cease to be amused.

We are not called to shine our own light;
we are called to reflect His.