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# First United Methodist Church of Bartow

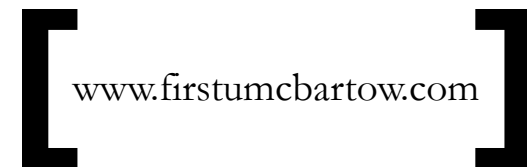
## GOOD NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830

March 2018

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### The Pastor's Perspective

#### The John Wesley Great Experiment

“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10

Do you like experiments? When I went to college back in Cuba, carrying out experiments in the lab was one of my favorite pastimes. Experiments can confirm whether theories work in real life, and they can also lead to new discoveries and theories.

In the text above, the prophet Malachi proposes an experiment for us to see how faithfulness can lead to more blessings. “Bring the tithes and the offerings,” he says, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Indeed Malachi 3:10 contains a promise that God has fulfilled to Christians of all ages. It is not a guarantee of wealth, but the assurance that God will be with us and supply to all our needs.

The “John Wesley Great Experiment” (JWGE) proposes a similar way for us to see how faithfulness and putting God first leads to spiritual growth and blessings. In addition to practicing tithing, as Malachi 3:10 suggests, the JWGE encourages the practice of a total of 5 spiritual disciplines during the course of one month, in the hopes that this will bring new habits to our Christian witness and devotion to God. The five spiritual disciplines are:

1. Bible Study and sharing in small groups;
2. personal prayer and meditation first thing every day in the morning;
3. tithing;
4. witnessing for Christ to one person a week; and
5. giving two hours time each week to serve

These five spiritual disciplines will lead to “a life that really matters” and to a vibrant church. It is explained in the book [A Life that Really Matters](#), by Rev. Danny Morris.

Our Church Council has decided to offer the JWGE during the month of September. Detailed explanations on how we will do this will be given within the next few weeks. However, by way of initial clarifications, let me say the following:

- We will need a few small group leaders who will facilitate the small group meetings. Small group leaders will receive training in the coming months
- Every person can select the leader and small group of their preference
- Each small group will select the time and place of their weekly meetings
- In due time we will provide more information, including the Scriptures to be used at small group meetings and daily devotionals.

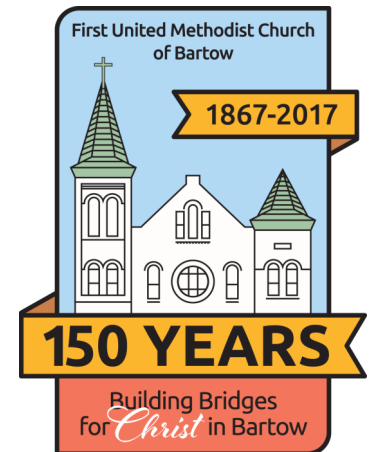
Please, contact Pastor Armando if you have suggestions or questions about this new adventure! We feel inspired by God to carry out this “experiment” as a way to bring revival to our church.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Armando

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2018



*Building bridges for Christ in Bartow*

Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 4    | 9 & 11 am Worship + Communion<br>2 - 5 pm Hess Family Zoomba Dance Fundraiser (F Hall)                        |
| Friday, March 9    | 7 - 9 pm Music Ambassadors Dance (F Hall)   |
| Sunday, March 11   | Daylight Saving Time begins<br>(Turn clocks forward one hour)<br>~12:30 pm Emmaus Luncheon & Meeting (F Hall) |
| Sunday, March 25   | Palm Sunday   |
| Thursday, March 29 | 7 pm Holy Thursday Service  |
| Friday, March 30   | Noon: Good Friday Service at Ft Blount Park   |
| Sunday, April 1    | 7 am Easter Sunrise Service at Mosaic Park<br>11 am Easter Traditional Service & Easter Egg Hunt              |



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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW**

**Choir Notes**  
*by Bonnie Allen*

We are entering a very holy time in the life of our church and in our individual lives as well. Entering into Lent: a time to focus on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us; a time that we might sacrifice something in honor of our Lord. Something that makes us realize the great gift that He gave us. Forgiveness and Amazing Love!!

I am excited to have a found a musical that our choir will present to all of you and the community if they choose to come. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

We will start on Palm Sunday in the Traditional Worship on March 25, with the first two songs narrated by John Hutto. The children's choir will sing, and we will have the presentation of the palms.

Then on Maundy Thursday, March 29, we will give most of the musical through the crucifixion. John will also narrate on this night at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Following the musical, we will have communion as Jesus did at the last supper.

Easter Sunday, April 1, will be a joyful Sunrise service at Mosaic Park Band Shell with our Praise Team leading the worship.

Our Traditional worship service will have the last two songs of the musical celebrating the Resurrection and the Glory of God! A big thank you to Sylvia Spencer for her inspirational music, and also Richard Lake and Bill Wright for their wonderful additions.

I would also like to thank Trish Pfeiffer who has always helped me get advertising out by creating beautiful posters for upcoming events. She is so very talented, and always gives her talents as an offering to God. She has also helped me find visuals for other musicals that we have done. I love you, Trish!

We are very excited to have John and Margie Anderson back in the fold. They have been music leaders in so many different ways over the years. I consider John to be the best director that I have ever studied with, and Margie is such an amazing singer and pianist. John is also an organist, and may bring his class from Polk State to see a real pipe organ in our sanctuary. They are awesome people, and I thank God to have them in our choir, and back in my life!

We are so truly blessed with the music, the people, and the love of God in this congregation. This will be my 18<sup>th</sup> year here, and I still love my job!! I

love this church, and I am praying for a revival with this Easter season. It is a HOLY time.

I have seen many miracles in my life. I thank all of you for your prayers for my family and me. I wish that everyone could know the great and wonderful power of God. As Deborah Brister so beautifully sang, Nobody Loves Us, like Jesus!!

**Education Committee**

The Education Committee met and decided to have the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter during children's church. Kaitlyn Gattie and Wendy Wright will work together on details. As it gets closer to Easter you will hear more about congregation participation. Susan Bergdoll has already started on Bible School which will be sometime in July. The date will be confirmed soon.

We are participating in the Ministry Opportunity Fair at the church on Sunday, February 18. Our table will consist of the two adult Sunday schools, youth and children. Susan will be setting up with the help of Allye Martin.

Thanks to all of the Education Committee for all your ideas and input concerning the above events. We are working together for the glory of God.

**Golden Girls**

The Golden Girls met Saturday, February 4, in Fellowship Hall for their Valentine's Day party. We had a short discussion on "love" while decorating cupcakes for the Fire Station. After having our own cupcakes, ice cream and strawberries, we delivered the cupcakes and homemade chocolates to the Fire Station with a Valentine's "thank you" card.

Our dear Mrs. Helen McMahon passed away this month. She will be missed terribly. Our love and prayers to Pat McMahon in the loss of his mother.

**Greeters**

Thank you to all who were greeters in the month of December. We appreciate your service to your church. If you are able to take a month to greet in 2018, please let the church know, or Karel Hammer at 533-9402. We have people signed up through April for the traditional service. Karel

**MARCH 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 + Daylight Savings Time Begins ~12:30 pm Emmaus Luncheon & Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	12	13	14 * 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Sweet & Sour meatballs or chicken over rice, salad Kathy Wood	15	16	17
18 +	19	20	21 * 7 am Mayor's Prayer Breakfast (Civic Center) 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Ham, sweet potato casserole, green beans, roll (Especially 4 U) Elsa Huff	22	23	24
25 + Palm Sunday	26 Spring Break	27	28 * 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Covered dish + chicken Clarice Roth	29 Holy Thursday 7 pm Holy Thursday Service	30 Good Friday Noon: Service at Ft Blount Park	31
+ = Each Sunday 9 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Disciple & Joy Adult Sunday school 11 am Traditional Worship	Most Mondays: 7 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Perkins) 8:30 am Exercise Class (Anytime Fitness)	6:30 pm Finance Committee (Library)	* = Each Wednesday 5 pm Hand Bell Practice 5:30 pm Youth Fellowship 6 pm Fellowship Dinner 7 pm Intergen! Choir 7 pm Bible Study	1 = Each Thursday 3 pm Children's Choir		3 10:30 am Memorial Service for Dorothy Partridge (Sanctuary) Reception in Fellowship Hall
4 + Communion 2-5 pm Hess Family Zoomba Dance Fund-raiser (Fellowship Hall)	5 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (780 Lila)	6	7 * 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Sweet & Sour meatballs or chicken over rice, salad Kathy Wood	8	9 7-9 pm Music Ambassadors Dance (Fellowship Hall)	10

March Birthdays

- 1 - Greg Wood, 3 - David Moore, 4 - Beverly Etheredge, 5 - Evan Presnell, 7 - Caleb Klins, 9 - Pat McMahon, 10 - Tim Brooks, 13 - Lucas Colvin, 16 - Troy Whitfield, 17 - Joanne Crum, 18 - Chad Johnson, 19 - Brady Draper, 20 - Elizabeth Roth, 23 - Phillip Petote, 24 - Shawn Fitzgerald, 27 - Amanda Bergdoll, Hunter Snell, Greg McMillin, Brandon Pickard, Cadence Van Hook, Betsy Draper, Marvin Hammer

Anniversaries

- 11 - Ken & Bonnie Allen, 14 - Bill & Pat Poe, 26 - Keith Krueger & Mary Beth Packard

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the fruit and blanket you gave me for Christmas. The Care Committee does so much good through the efforts of the church. May the year ahead be a good one. Thanks again.

Love, Adele Durrance

Thank you so much to Allye Martin, Jane Meyer and Clarice Roth for helping in the church office while I was taking care of my new grandson. You are greatly appreciated!

Love and blessings, Cynthia

DEADLINE

Please note: Information for March newsletter should be submitted by Monday, April 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

2017 Financial Review

General Fund

Summary for December: Income \$33,455.05, Expenses \$25,948.68, Net Income \$7,506.37

Summary Year to Date

Balance 12/31/16 \$9,691.39, Net Income YTD \$5,456.21, Balance YTD \$15,147.60

Building Fund

Fund Balance 12/31/16 \$26,482.52, Year to Date Income \$9,401.86, Year to Date Interest \$150.72, Year to Date Expenses \$11,463.54, Year to Date Surplus/(Deficit) \$23,571.56

Building Fund Balance 12/31/17 \$23,571.56

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 \$8.00 each.

Fill out the form below and return to church office no later than Sunday, March 25. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Night Dinners

in the Fellowship Hall

Note: Dinner Reservation Deadline: Monday Noon Wed. Mar 7 Sweet 'n sour meatballs or chicken over rice, salad

Servers: Kathy Wood

Wed. Mar 14 Covered Dish + Chicken (\$2/piece)

Servers: George & Ina Ogden

Wed. Mar 21 Ham, sweet potato casserole, Green beans, roll (Especially 4 U)

Servers: Elsa Huff

Wed. Mar 28 Covered Dish + Chicken (\$2/piece)

Servers: Clarice Roth

Hess Family Zoomba Dance Fundraiser

2-5 pm Sunday, March 4

in the fellowship hall.

Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Monday, March 5 at 870 Lila St. Soup provided; bring salad or hor dourves.

Music Ambassadors Dance

7-9 pm Friday, March 9

in the fellowship hall.

Emmaus Luncheon

~12:30 pm Sunday, March 11

in the fellowship Hall.

Finance Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, March 13 in library.

Lunch Bunch

~12:30 pm at Soul Sisters on Sunday, March 18.

Evangelism Committee

10:00 am Tuesday, March 20 in the Library.

Relay For Life Leadership Team

meeting 6 pm Tuesday, March 20 in the library.

Care Committee

6:30 pm Monday, March 20 in the fellowship hall.

Ushers for the month of arch are:

Jerry & Pat Barber, Allie Snyder, Jeremy Brister, Mary Beth Packard



Relay for Life of South Polk Friday, April 27th 4 - 11 pm @ Mosaic Park

Survivor and Caregivers Dinner 4:45-5:45 pm at Bartow Public Library Website: relayforlife.orgsouthpolk

Want to recognize someone in Honor or in Memory by submitting a picture of them to be displayed in the Luminaria Slideshow at 9:00 pm during the Luminaria Ceremony? You can print out online the Luminary slideshow form under "Forms and Documents" toward the bottom, complete it and turn into Cynthia in the church office along with a \$5 donation towards the Relay for Life Church Team. Checks are payable to: American Cancer Society.

Also if you would like to attend the Survivor and Caregivers Dinner, please register online under "Survivors and Caregivers".

If you have any questions about Relay for Life, please don't hesitate to email or call me.

Clarice Roth roth ranch@aol.com 863-258-2678



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

7am Wednesday, March 21

Bartow Civic Center

You're invited to join

Bartow City Commissioners Pat Huff and Trish Pfeiffer

for breakfast, fellowship featuring

Keynote Speaker: Howe Q. Wallace, Jr. Tickets are just \$12 and are available at the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

Doors open at 6:30 am.

For more information please contact Virginia Condello at (863) 533-7125.

*Sympathy*

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy  
to the family of  
Dorothy Pattridge  
who passed on to eternal life on February 4.  
Memorial service 10:30 am on  
Saturday, March 3.*

*to the family of  
Helen McMahan  
who passed on to eternal life on February 13*

*to the family of  
Barbara Ginther  
who passed on to eternal life on February 17*

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

**Not at home:** Laurie McCraney (L),  
Janice Warren (L)  
L = Lakeland Regional

**At home with medical issues:**

Ed & Beverly Etheredge, Buz Etheredge,  
Betty Fitzgerald, Marjorie Gay, Walt Heidel,  
Jimmy & Melissa Hicks, Marianne McMillin,  
Sylvia Mears, Bill Mills, Ann O'Berry,  
Ruth O'Berry, Sara Odom, Becky Pischke, Bill Poe,  
Carolyn Presnell, Anne Raulerson,  
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 Wil-  
liams, Pioneer Missions, Indonesia  
Cuba Covenant Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de  
Santa Cruz del Sur, Camagüey, Cuba

*Memorial Gifts*

*Gifts have been received by  
First UMC  
in memory of  
Katherine Sutherland  
by*

*John Langdale  
Mary Louise Pollock, Sharon Lee Richards,  
Rebecca Ann Benjamin, Richard E Voight, III  
Nadine Robbins  
Jonell Sutherland*

*In memory of  
Ortelle Bowden  
Nancy Burks  
Meromay Davis  
Dorothy Pattridge  
David & Kathy Sutherland  
by  
Wayne & Leah Snell*

*in memory of  
Dorothy Pattridge  
by  
Adele Durrance  
Pat & Elsa Huff  
Nadine Robbins  
John & Clarice Roth  
Bob & Faye Sarwis for Emmaus Fund*

*in memory of  
Helen McMahan  
by  
Adele Durrance  
Pat & Elsa Huff*

*in memory of  
Hardy Pickard  
by  
David & Susan Bergdoll*



*Across the Courtyard  
by Nadine Waters Robbins  
Church Historian*

One of my favorite “day trips” is to visit Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales. This time, my grandchildren enjoyed climbing on rock and logs and making “mud pies” in the Children’s Play Area. When we all trekked to the Tower, they enjoyed rolling down the hill at the top of Iron Mountain.

Our “day trip” was especially pleasant as we experienced “perfect Florida Weather”, prior to the upcoming “Brr . . .” week.

During our FUMC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events many attendees were made aware of one of our church’s Bok Tower connections. One of our exhibits displayed a photograph of “notables” at the 1943 dedication of an Acolian Pipe Organ that was a gift to our church and once was located in the estate of Edward Bok. Along with the pastor, Rev. A. A. Koestline, “notables” included former Florida Governor, Spessard L. Holland and his wife, both longtime members of our church.

The Bok organ remained in our church until 1967 when a new organ was purchased. Our present organ was financed in part from a bequest from Mrs. Solon Wilson and Mrs. Alfred I. DuPont in honor of then Senator Spessard Holland.

I recently discovered that our church had another Bok Tower connection. The January 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of The Polk County Democrat wrote that long-serving FUMC member and Bartow Community pianist, Ortelle Bowden “. . . (at) 12 was one of two selected from her sixth grade class to go to the opening dedication of Bok Tower where President Calvin Coolidge was the main speaker.”

A History of Bok Tower Gardens by Margaret Smith described some of the events of that day, February 1, 1929. “Dedication Day was a day-long event for the community . . . accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bok and other notables, they arrived at the north en-

trance of the Sanctuary at 3:45 pm. The flag was unfurled near the top of the Tower and trumpeteers from an American Legion Post in Ft. Myers sounded “To the Colors”. Anton Brees played “America” on the carillon as the Presidential party walked up the path to ‘Sunset Plateau’, the site of the glorious western view and the marble exedra given by Bok’s neighbors in Mountain Lake . . . The United Singing Societies of Polk County, a chorus of 500 voices sang, ‘The Glory of God in Nature’ . . .

The President was welcomed by the Governor of Florida . . . ‘Silent Cal’ . . . gave perhaps the longest address of his career, more than 3,000 words . . . At the end, he dedicated the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and the ‘Singing Tower’ . . . for visitation to the American people . . . The choir then sang the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ and Brees played a (dedicatory) recital.”

Sadly, less than a year after the Dedication Ceremony Edward Bok died at the age of 66. Happily, as the years went on a little 12 year old girl who witnessed that momentous dedication lived a long and faithful life. She continued to bless her family, her community and her church by sharing her love and her God-given talents.

**Bartow Chapter DAR**

DAR hosts student awards:

American History Essay Contest winner:

**Cadence Andersen**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade at First Methodist School

**Brooke Wise**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade at First Methodist School (She won state in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and was 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.)

Honored as her school’s DAR Good Citizen this year is:

**Elizabeth Roth**, Bartow Senior High School, received a \$50 check from the chapter. Her papers were forwarded to the State Good Citizen Committee Chair where she will compete to be named state winner. Congratulations!