

# First United Methodist Church Messenger

drawing near to the heart of Christ

Newsletter - July 2011

**Being formed by the Spirit of God into the persons and community God created us to be is a significant part of our life together as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

How can we know what God is calling us to be and to become if we do not have *consistent, intentional opportunities to listen for God...* through scripture and through the voices of brothers and sisters?



DISCIPLE Bible Study gives us that opportunity. DISCIPLE is a 34-week in-depth, intentional journey with brothers and sisters into scripture. Last year, we had 45 people who were part of a DISCIPLE Bible Study. Here is what a few of them said:

*DISCIPLE is worth the time you put in because you get so much out of it—not only the materials, but the relationships.*

*The most rewarding part was the wonderful journey through the scriptures and the loving and caring new friends.*

*Life-changing. Wonderful.*

*An awakening.*

Are *you* ready to go deeper in your faith? Are *you* ready to be intentional in listening for the voice of God in your life? Are *you* ready for a change? DISCIPLE Bible Study may just be the door that God is opening for you this fall.

**DISCIPLE ONE** is for those who have never been part of a DISCIPLE group before (or for those who have but want a re-fresher course). Take a look at the insert in the Messenger to learn more.

If you have participated in a DISCIPLE ONE class before, there are many opportunities for you to go deeper. There is an insert in the Messenger this month that describes each of the studies.

If we allow God's Spirit to speak into our lives, he will author a new story for our future. We will be formed and transformed, as Paul says, "by the renewing of our minds."

Are [you](#) ready for the Journey under the Dome of God's watchfulness and care?

**The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 4th**



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# Worship - Formation - Service

*under the Dome of God's watchfulness & care*

## Formation and Service - *Chris Ray*

There are many things going on in the life of the church concerning formation and service.

### Formation:

We just finished Discover 1<sup>st</sup>: A 4-week class for any and all who would like to know who we are as a community of faith.

### Upcoming:

Starting July 3<sup>rd</sup> a new free form discussion group will start meeting in the fellowship hall. We will not follow a curriculum, but will engage in conversation. This is a great opportunity for those who are not connected with a Sunday Morning Journey group, anyone visiting, and traveling members of our congregation. We will journey together as we continue to grow closer to the heart of Christ. See Jenny Ray for more information.

Starting in July a new Sunday Morning Journey Group will start in room 1. This class is designed for parents and children. It will be a discussion/support group. This idea is for parents to bring their infants to this journey group with them and help each other move closer to the heart of Christ. See Geneva Dummer for more information.

Starting in the fall there will be multiple short-term and long-term journey groups offered. More information will be coming soon!

### Service:

Feed My Sheep: This is an ongoing ministry to help feed those that need food. We provide a sack lunch on the third Sunday of every month. Individuals and groups are welcome. See Chris Ray for more information.

We are looking into a mission trip to help with disaster relief in Louisiana from the flooding of the Mississippi River. More information to come soon!

Homeless Day Shelter: There is a great need for those who are less fortunate to have a place to get out of the heat. We are looking into opening our church up, one day a week, as a place for these people to come and get out of the heat and or rain. We are in the very early stages of planning this; if you are interested in being part of the service pillar in this capacity, please see Chris Ray or Roger or Rebecca Brunell.

There is a lot going on in the life of our church right now, all are invited and I encourage you to be part of the Formation and Service Pillars. If you have any questions please call Chris Ray 863-0047 or email him at [chris@fumc-gulfport.org](mailto:chris@fumc-gulfport.org)

### Friends of Mary

The Friends of Mary will meet Tuesday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor, lower level of sanctuary. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.



### Sisters in Service

Sisters in service group will meet July 12 at noon at Diane Miller's home in Long Beach. This group of women are focused on local church and community projects. All women of the church are invited. Please contact Diane if you plan on attending, 867-1244.

### Our Christian Sympathy...

...to Linda Raines and family in the death of her uncle, James E. Cranford, Jr.

...Barbara Loechele and family in the death of her sister, Gertrude.

### Gifts Given

In loving memory of James. E. Cranford, Jr.

Given by Linda and Oney Raines

In loving memory of W.H. Meek

Given by James Meek

In honor of Margaret Jackson

Given by Betty Brown, Barby White and Laurel Dover White

**Needed: Donations for WI Smith Fund.** The service pillar is in need of donations for the WI Smith fund to help those with assistance. Also: Servants wanted! When we have enough funds, we would love to have someone willing to come in and help with assistance on Tuesday's and Thursday's. Questions, please see Chris Ray.



## drawing near to the heart of Christ

### Minister to Families with Children and Youth

- Ryan George

I wanted to continue with the philosophy I started last month. Parents/guardians are the number one influence on a child or teens life. But what happens when the parent/guardian isn't what is wanted? There are times when specifically because you're you, you won't be included in parts of their life. Because you make the rules, because it's your opinion that counts, because you are who you are in their life, you will be excluded from weighing in.

Bad idea #1: You can try to make them.

Bad idea #2: You can abandon the rule-making and be their "friend" and not their parent.

But what if you nudged them to someone who was acceptable to both you (the authority) and them (the participant). What if you had another trusted adult, who viewed them in love, you with respect, and their relationship with Christ as paramount in importance... BUT DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES.

Let me go ahead and say up front: I'm not asking for that job for every child/teen in the church. What I am saying is you will want someone to be that person for your family. How are you seeking them out? Bonus question: are you looking to be that person for someone else?

In a community that says children and teens are important, we have to look out for more than our own kids. We have to consider those coming behind. We have to elevate the community and provide time for inter-generational connections, providing space and time to build relationships that mentor, shape, and aim the younger (and older) participant to Jesus. That starts with small shifts, like making time for your child to be molded by someone you'd trust and doing the same for others.



#### Please Pray for....

...David Bittle, nephew of David and Barbara Powell, who is in Afghanistan.

...Lee Farley, grandson of Sharon Olson, who is in the Marines.

...Tyler Schultz, grandson of Gene and Betty Schultz, who is in the U.S. Air Force.

...Brister Bishop, son of Wade and Ruth Bishop, who is in the U.S. Navy.

#### ***Project: Safe Space***

Below is a list of items that Safe Space could use this month. Any assistance would be appreciated.

Thank you, Paige Swaim-Presley

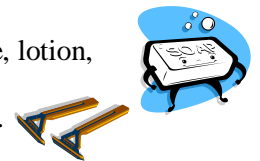
#### **Clothing:**

Men's underwear (M, L, XL especially)  
Men's socks (crew white, short white)  
Men's athletic shoes (all sizes)  
Women's underwear (6, 7, 8 especially)  
Women's sports bras (34, 36, 38 especially)  
Women's socks  
Jeans (all sizes, especially men's 30-38)  
Reading glasses



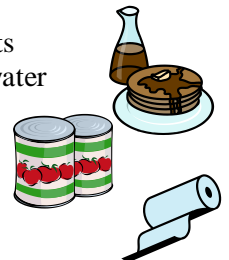
#### **Toiletries**

Travel size toothpaste, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.  
Plastic razors



#### **Food and Kitchen:**

Large bags of instant grits  
Large bags of just-add-water pancake mix  
Large cans of vegetables  
Napkins/Paper Towels



The Messenger  
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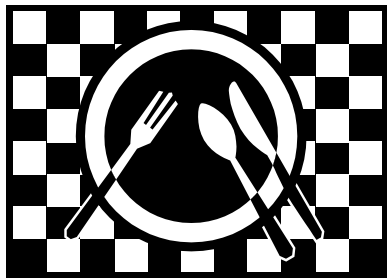
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Hope Morgan Ward – Bishop  
William T. McAlilly – District Superintendent  
Andy Johnson – Pastor

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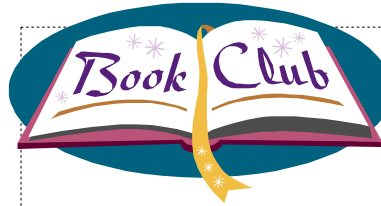
### Seniors 2011

SENIORS 2011 IS PLANNED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 28TH at 2:00 p.m. at Handsboro Community Center with Pat Harvey discussing the things available for seniors from TRIAD, a program that the law enforcement agencies offer. Jim Trease, the Amazing Musician, has been invited to entertain the seniors. Sponsored by Garden Park Medical Center, the program is hosted by Ada Reid. All seniors and others interested are welcomed. There will be free refreshments, handouts and door prizes.



### Sassy Seniors on the Road

Sassy Seniors will go on the Road to the Lookout Steakhouse on Wednesday, July 20th at 1 p.m. We will have the banquet room on the 3rd floor and there is an elevator plus an excellent view. We will get to order from the menu BUT AGAIN, WE WILL HAVE TO GUARANTEE A NUMBER TO GET TO USE THE BANQUET ROOM AT NO COST. SO AFTER MONDAY, IF YOU HAVE MADE A RESERVATION AND NOT CANCELLED, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A MEAL. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. Please call Ada Reid at 864-4721 or email [slntonsr@cablone.net](mailto:slntonsr@cablone.net).



### FUMC BOOK CLUB

The FUMC Book Club meets Tuesday nite, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the home of Mike Tremmel, 3411 12<sup>th</sup> St., Gulfport. Refreshments

will be served. All are welcome!

Neil White, a journalist and magazine publisher from Gulfport, wanted the best for those he loved—nice cars, beautiful homes, luxurious clothes. He loaned money to family and friends, gave generously to his church, and invested in his community—but his bank account couldn't keep up. Soon White began moving money from one account to another to avoid bouncing checks. His world fell apart when the FBI discovered his scheme and a judge sentenced him to serve eighteen months in a federal prison.

But it was no ordinary prison. The beautiful, isolated colony in Carville, Louisiana, was also home to the last people in the continental United States disfigured by leprosy. It is here, amid an unlikely mix of leprosy patients, nuns, and criminals, that White's strange and compelling journey begins. Funny and poignant, *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* is an uplifting memoir that reminds us all what matters most.

**July 3 Philippians 2.12-18**

**“In Fear and Trembling”**

**July 10 Philippians 3.1-11**

**“The Power of the Resurrection”**

**July 17 Philippians 3.12-21**

**“Press On”**

**July 24 Philippians 4.1-9**

**“Rejoice, Gentleness, Thanksgiving”**

**July 31 Philippians 4.8-14**

**“Through Christ”**

*You are invited to read the Book of Philippians this summer and to prepare for worship each week by reading the scripture for that Sunday. All who have ears to hear, let us hear.*