"Help of the helpless, O abide with me."

The cards, notes, visits, emails, texts, facebook messages, tweets, phone calls, food, space to heal, and prayers sent our way from our wonderful family of faith at First Methodist were great sources of strength to Sally and me during my recovery from knee replacement. Your kindness and love not only encouraged me, but also provided light during some of the difficult times. I am deeply grateful to you. In addition, the great faithfulness and commitment of our fine church staff during my absence has been inspiring to me.

The past six weeks, my spirits have been lifted repeatedly by the very first song on my iTune list on my cell phone. The song was written in 1847 by Henry Francis Lyte and is entitled "Abide With Me." Lyte set his words to music while he was dying from tuberculosis. The song is a prayer for God to remain present throughout life, through trials, and through death. The opening line alludes to Luke 24:29, "Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." Lyte's version of the song contained eight stanzas. Five of those stanzas are found in hymn #700 in The United Methodist Hymnal.

The version that nourished my soul and blessed me with assurance contained only 3 stanzas and was recorded by Amy Grant in 2005 on her album Rock of Ages... Hymns and Faith. Repeatedly, the words of "Abide With Me" have brought me peace during the challenging and stressful days of the last two months. I share them with you now in hopes that they might bless, nurture, and bring the peace of Jesus to your life this week.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour. What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Abide with me. Abide, abide with me. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; I1ls have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Abide with me. Abide, abide with me. Abide with me. Abide, abide with me. Abide with me. Abide, abide with me. Abide with me. Abide, abide with me.

May Jesus, our strong Savior, abide with you this week.

Inhale Faith; Exhale Fear.

Jim Sanders
jim@fumcdothan.org • 333-2995

Sunday, May 3rd

We are looking forward to Triumphant Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 at which time we hope to raise enough funds from gifts and pledges to extinguish FUMC's debt by the end of 2015. This will free up over $300,000 from the Ministry Plan (budget) that is currently allocated toward debt service. These funds can be used for ministries, missions, staff support, capital improvements, capital and operating reserve, etc.

Please pray for Steve McCarroll and Henry Ivey as we begin a campaign culminating May 3rd and prayerfully consider your gift or pledge to help extinguish the debt.
Sunday Morning Worship  I  First Light Chapel Communion 8:15  I  Sanctuary 8:55 and 11:00  I  The Bridge 8:55

CHILDREN
Upcoming Activities
March
1  • Joyful Noise and Celebration Singers sing at 8:55 Sanctuary service.
• Communion Sunday: No Rock Solid or Pebble Rock. Children remain in worship with their families.
4  • WACKY and SonShine Time

WACKY and SonShine
Both WACKY Choirs (Joyful Noise and Celebration Singers) will be singing at the 8:55 Sanctuary service this Sunday, March 1.
We are having a blast with Easter rotations this Wednesday in WACKY. Don’t miss out on these special activities that will prepare us for Easter!

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Remember the spring semester fee ($20 for members and $30 for non-members) is due.

TWEENS
March Calendar:
1  • Tween Sunday School, Room 202 (upstairs, Children’s Building)
• Sunday afternoon Tween activities begin at 4:30.
4  Tween Wednesday (3:15 to 5:00) (Meet upstairs in Café)

Wednesday Afternoon Tweens
Our tweens will be visiting our homebound members on March 18. If you are willing to help coordinate this visit or willing to drive, email gindi@fumcdothan.org.

Confirmation this Week
The End of the World and Life after Death.

JDRF: Let’s Walk to Cure!
All tweens are invited to participate in the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes on Sunday, March 1, at 3:00. The walk will be done in time for 4:30 Missions and More. Call Gindi if you are interested.

5th Grade Bible Study
We are in Week 5 of our study on Proverbs. Join us at 5:40 on Sunday nights following Snack Supper for a great small group time.

Dates to Remember:
Confirmation Retreat: April 17-19
Confirmation Sunday: May 3

YOUTH
United Methodist Youth Fellowship
March 1  Come and bring a friend. Snack Supper is $3 and choir starts at 4:30.

Tuesday Breakfast: March 3
Come at 7:00 for a good hot breakfast. Let Leisa know if you will need a ride to school.

Wednesday Youth Bible Studies
• Jr. Highs: 3:45 in Room 283.
• Sr. Highs: 7:00 in Room 284.
Sr. Highs meet at Rodeo by Publix for supper at 6:00.

Youth and Confirmation Parent Meeting
Parents for both youth and confirmation will meet at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. Confirmation Parents will stay for retreat information.

SAVE THE DATE!
Vacation Bible School: June 8-12

FIFTY FORWARD
Lunch Bunch at Smokey Joe’s
On Thursday, March 12, we’ll meet at Smokey Joe’s at 11:00. Call katie@fumcdothan.org to sign up.

50 Forward in Action
We will be making Palm Crosses with our youth on Tuesday, March 24, at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost for lunch $6.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS
Given in honor of:
Robert Hagler
Ben Martin
• The Staff of Women’s Health Care of Dothan

Given in memory of:
Jim Dalton
John and Jackie Brown
Jim and Ann Ellis
Eddy and Rebecca Everett
Jean Hufham
George and Gloria Jeffcoat
Phillip and Pam Meredith
Lester and Patricia Stewart
Lucy Haygood
Jim and Ann Ellis
Jean Hufham
Steve and Karen McCarroll
Jack Peavy
Jean Hufham

JOYS AND CONCERNS
Recently hospitalized:
• Joe Carothers, Susan Hewes, Betty Langford, John Oliver, Anne Katherine Phillips, Lucy Reeves, Ruby Sullivan

Our sympathy to:
• Mark and Susan Warren; death of Mark’s sister, Jill Purvis, February 15.
• Mike and Fran Jones; death of Mike’s mother, Doris V. Curry, February 18.

March 5, 6, 7, 2015
We need volunteers to work:
1) Unloading trucks, February 28 (9-12)
2) Organizing items for sale, March 1 (1-5).
3) During the sale March 5, 6, 7.
4) Packing up after the sale to store supplies, March 7 (1-3).
5) There are sit down jobs that do not require heavy lifting.
To volunteer to help, please email Janet Heintzelman at rahfamily2@gmail.com.

Get rid of your stuff!!!
Wild Game Dinner

Friday March 20th
Fellowship Hall • 6 to 8

Sit down dinner with Wild Game Recipes.
Special Speaker: Jon Paul Moody
Harvest Outdoor Ministries; Paris, Tennessee,
is coming with a wealth of hunting and outdoor
knowledge and a Christ centered message.
Admission is FREE; reservations are required.
See our website at www.fumcdothan.org
or call 793-3555 to sign up.

FOR THE RECORD
Our Generous Ministry Plan Giving
Given in January $ 185,872
Given through January 31 185,872
Anticipated Receipts
(Through January 31) 212,166
Debt
Building Debt
(Through January 31) 212,166

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: TOUCHPOINT LUNCHEON
Join us on Tuesday, March 3, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall for UMW Touchpoint. Come catch a glimpse of early spring with a visit to the “Family Islands” better known as The Bahamas. Please call the Church Office at 793-3555 to make your reservations for lunch. All ladies of the church are welcome.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
Wednesday, March 4th
Serving: 4:45 to 6:00, Fellowship Hall
Cost: $6 Adults and $4 Children
Adult and Children’s Menu:
Catfish Fillets, Cheese Grits, Coleslaw, Salad Bar, Cheese Biscuit, Beverage, and Dessert. Sign up online, on Sunday in the Friendship Folder, or by calling the office at 793-3555 by 5:00 Tuesday.

HOLY BAPTISM
Harris Baker Liddon, born November 4, 2014, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, February 22. He is the son of George and Betsy Liddon. Grandparents are Dwight and Loretta Baker and Billy and Barbara Liddon. Older brother Malone and sisters Catherine and Elizabeth are also pictured.

DO SOMETHING AMAZING
GIVE BLOOD

LIFE South Blood Drive
Sunday, March 8th
8:30 to 12:30
Bloodmobile, East Parking Lot adjacent to the CLC.
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 1st
8:15  First Light Communion (Chapel)
8:25  The Gathering (Parlor)
8:55  Sanctuary Worship
8:55  The Bridge Worship (Fellowship Hall)
10:00  Sunday School for All Ages
11:00-12:00  Sanctuary Worship
3:30-5:30  Financial Peace University (Room 131)
4:30-5:30  Children of the Day (Room 154)
4:30-5:30  United Methodist Kids Fellowship (Children’s Building)
4:30-5:45  Disciple I (Room 165)
4:30-6:00  Divorce Care (Room 133)
4:30-7:00  Tweens (Rooms 201, 280, 283, 260)
4:30-7:00  United Methodist Youth Fellowship (Rooms 255, 284, 283, 263)

Monday, March 2nd
All Day  Set up for Rummage Sale.
8:15-9:15  Step Aerobics (Gym)
9:00-11:30  In Christ's Name (Room 134)
1:30-3:00  Fellowship Bible Study (Room 157)
5:30-8:00  District Core Team (Room 165)
7:00-8:00  Alzheimer’s Support Group (Room 133)

Tuesday, March 3rd
7:00-7:30  Youth Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
7:30-8:30  Today God is First (Atlanta Bread Company)
8:45-9:30  Senior Stretch and Strengthen (Gym)
10:00-11:30  Companions in Christ (Room 157)
10:30-12:00  Executive Council (Room 165)
12:00-1:30  Touchpoint Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
1:00-3:00  Joyful Hands Sewing (Room 152)
4:00  Heritage Committee (Room 134)
6:00-8:00  Church Party (Fellowship Hall/Gym)

Wednesday, March 4th
All Day  Set up for Rummage Sale.
7:00  Selden Bailey’s Prayer Breakfast (Shoney’s)
8:15-9:15  Step Aerobics (Gym)
1:00-5:00  Fifty Forward Bridge (Room)
3:30-5:00  SonShine Time (Children's Building)
3:30-5:00  WACKY (Children’s Building)
3:30-5:00  Tweens (Room 266)
3:45-4:45  Jr. High Bible Study (Room 283)
4:45-6:00  Fellowship Supper (Fellowship Hall)
5:15  Staff Parish Committee (Room 134)
5:30-6:30  In the Footsteps of Paul (Room 158)
5:30-7:00  Believing God (Room 157)
5:30-7:00  Grief Share (Room 131)
6:00-7:15  REVELATION (Room 255)
7:00-8:00  Sr. High Bible Study (Room 284)
7:15-7:45  REVELATION (Room 255)

Thursday, March 5th
All Day  Set up for Rummage Sale.
12:00-1:30  Men's Lunch and Bible Study (Room 165)
12:00-1:00  Man Lunch with Wes
5:00-7:00  Rummage Pre-Sale (Gym)

Friday, March 6th
8:15-9:15  Step Aerobics Class (Gym)
11:00-7:00  Rummage Sale

Saturday, March 7th
7:00-12:00  Rummage Sale (Gym)
9:00-12:00  Christian Life Center open