



THE GOSPEL CHIMES

Jennifer Smith, Editor — June 2009

FROM THE PASTOR' STUDY

I can't believe that this past year has gone by so fast! It seems like only yesterday that Joy and I were moving into the parsonage and meeting so many of you as you worked hard to complete a successful VBS. We hit the ground on a high note and I believe that great things are still in store for all of us here at FUMC.

My primary goal for my first year was to get to know each of you on a more personal level, let you get to know me and get some sense of my leadership and worship style. I've been encouraged by all that I've seen and I pray that you have been encouraged as well. If you haven't, I offer my sincere apologies and I hope that we can work together in the coming year in a better and more joyful manner.

What follows are the three-year-criteria that I set for myself and for our church and by which I believe we can measure ourselves. These are signs or benchmarks which indicate to me that positive transformation is happening. These are also characteristics found in every vital congregation.

1. A core leadership team is forming that is united in purpose, rigorous spiritual habit, and is serious about accountability. This means that the majority of the pastor's time is spent identifying, mentoring, and developing leaders for the church and that our leaders are looking for opportunities to serve, rather than opportunities begging for leaders.
2. The behind-the-scenes measures of growth are increasing, evidenced by more people getting involved in midweek and other small groups activities.
3. Non-traditional groups of people are connecting somehow with the church (through a variety of worship opportunities, small groups, or mission outreach) and the church is reaching to the true limits of its primary mission field (defined by the distance people normally drive to work and shop, i.e., 15 miles from our church).
4. Creative ideas reveal higher daring and higher risk-taking than evidenced the year before.

(continued on page 5)

YARD SALE UPDATE BY JENNIFER SMITH

On the first weekend in May, FUMC had it's first Indoor Yard Sale in many years. Six different tables were set up with items to sell: Scott and Debbie Walker had some amazing collectibles; Jim and Joy Adams had lovely home decorations and computers; Sharon Hobson had great deals on purses and bags, and Amy

Burchett, Susan Spurlock and myself had children's clothing and toys. It was a wonderful selection of items. Unfortunately, the rain kept many away. We still had a great donation to the church of 10% of our profits, though. Everyone that did participate had a wonderful time and great fellowship,

not only with each other, but the community.

The church is planning on having another yard sale around the beginning of August. We have not set an exact day. So gather all of those items that are

(continued on the back page)

First UMC
256 S. Arnold Ave.
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
Office: 886-8031
Parsonage 886-8431

Sunday
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Beth Moore 5:30 p.m.
Sr. & Jr High Youth 6 p.m.

Wednesday
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Thursday
Quilting Circle 10:00 a.m.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Church History	Pg 4
Upward Update	Pg 3
UMW News	Pg 2
Family Focus	Pg 5
Children's Ministry News	Pg 3
Music Ministry News	Pg 6

UMW NOTES BY JENNI SMITH

On May 3rd, the United Methodist Women met to discuss future events and experience their first Thirty One Party.

The rain kept some of our group at home, but those who did brave the weather had a great time and bought some wonderful items. The total amount of the party orders were \$358.94. I advised the women that 10% of the total sales would be donated by me back to the UMW. We will plan for another party in the coming months and hope that the weather will allow many more to participate in the fellowship and fundraising fun. Thank you to all the women of the UMW for allowing me to share my business with them.

We've also set some tentative dates for two great events! The first date would be August 2nd for our first Fresh from the Garden Luncheon! The ladies were very excited about this and had several ideas. The plan is to have lunch immediately following church service that Sunday, serving only items from our gardens and local vendors. This should make for a healthy bite and great ideas for recipes and gardening tips. Mark it on your calendars and get set for yet another amazing lunch given by the United Methodist Women. *(continued on the back page)*

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY BY REBECCA DEROSSETT

In the Presence of a Queen

(A Nine-Week Bible Study of Esther by Beth Moore)

The Book of Esther tells the tale of a most remarkable woman who sealed her place in history by simply following her destiny.

Although we cannot be sure when and where Esther was born, we do know she is a lovely young woman as our story opens. She is Jewish, an orphan, living in exile with her cousin, Mordecai, who has raised her as his own child.

The time is 483 B.C., 103 years after Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken the Jews into captivity, 54 years after Zerubbabel led the first group of exiles back to Jerusalem, and 25 years before Ezra led the second group to Jerusalem. The setting is the magnificent Persian Empire, with King Xerxes in power.

Esther lived in the kingdom of Persia, the dominant kingdom in the Middle East after Babylon's fall in 539 B.C. Her parents must have been among those exiles who chose not to return to Jerusalem, even though Cyrus, the Persian king at that time, had issued a decree allowing them to do so. The Jewish exiles had great freedom in Persia, and many remained because they had established themselves there or were fearful of the dangerous journey back to their homeland. (Life Application Study Bible, Esther, Footnote 1:1, Page 750)

Over their years of captivity, Mordecai and the other Israelites had learned to heed the long-ago words of the old prophet Jeremiah: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your

daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says." (Jeremiah 29:5-8)

It was not mere coincidence that Mordecai and Esther were in this particular place at this exact time in history. Rather, the events in the Book of Esther unfold chapter by chapter as God's plan in action. The little Jewish orphan girl would, against all odds, ascend the throne as Queen of Persia and become the instrument of salvation for her people, and her cousin Mordecai's position would be elevated to second under the king. God truly works in mysterious ways!

Join us on Sunday evenings at 5:30 for this fascinating nine-week Bible study by Beth Moore, with Nan Arnett as coordinator. It is not too late to join in.

OUR FAITHFULNESS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Average Worship Attendance—117

Average Sunday School Attendance—32

Average Offerings — \$4,682

UPWARD-VBS UPDATE

A date has been set for the New Upward Camp and VBS at First United Methodist Church! Mark your calendars for July 6 through the 10, from 6:00-8:30 pm, with the final day as a picnic and celebration day. The following leaders are working hard to make our 2009 Upward-VBS a success.

- Jack Kyle Howard is heading-up this event as our Upward Coordinator.
- Tiffany Warrix and Jill Vickery are the Cheerleading Coordinators.
- Danny Hamilton will be coordinating the basketball camp.
- Amy Burchett will be organizing the Vacation Bible School for children ages 2yrs to rising Kindergarten.
- Erin Burchett and Jenny Burchett are organizing the registration for several locations and multiple days.
- Jenni Smith is refreshment coordinator for the camp.
- Advertising coordinators are Jill Vickery and Kristin Garrett
- Transportation coordinator has yet to be filled.

To make this camp a success, a number of volunteers such as devotional leaders, coaches, referees, cooks, cleaners, van drivers, as well as several others, will be needed. You can also help by donating money for supplies and providing registration fees for children for whom the fees might be a difficulty.

On June 7, our Upward coordinators will be making a presentation concerning the Upward Camp in our morning worship service. Please don't miss it. Be praying for our Upward volunteers and our up-coming camp.



WEE WORSHIP BY AMY BURCHETT

We now have a new ministry available for our two and three year old children. Wee Worship! During the month of March we started trying it out with the nursery kids. It was a huge success and the toddlers loved participating. When the older children go down for Children's Church, the toddlers will gather in the "Noah's Ark" room.

They will have a lesson from Cokesbury's Live B.I.G. curriculum,

a craft or coloring, and a light snack. It has been a fun and exciting opportunity for our children. If you would like to volunteer to help with this new ministry you can contact Amy Burchett at 886-3325 or make a note on the back of your attendance sheet.

June 2009 Volunteers
 7 Erin Burchett
 14 Amy Burchett
 21 Julie Paxton
 26 Robin Smith

If you are unable to teach on your assigned week please try to trade with someone else on the list. You may also call the church office, 886-8031 or Erin Burchett, 874-4395. Thank you so much for your help.

GOD'S SHEPHERDS MINISTRY IN NEED OF SUPPLIES

With the flooding in May, many people were left with nothing. First Church was there to help where we could. Thank you to all who donated, not only time, but cleaning supplies, and clothing.

We would like to thank Julie Paxton and Shyla Meece for the huge donation of clothing, blankets, sheets, soaps, kitchen supplies, and toys from their donated items in the upstairs of the church. These items usually go to the Sandy Valley Abuse Center. Our concern now is for replenishing the items for this valuable ministry.

So, we are asking for donations of supplies to help those families in need.

Julie has come up with a list of necessities, and boxes will be put out at the church for donations. Please contact Julie Paxton or Shyla Meece with any questions or for more information on this ministry.

Here is a list of items that are needed most by the Abuse Center:

- Clothes basket
- Bedding items
- Towels & wash cloths
- Kitchen cleaning items
- Dish cloths and towels
- Dishes & kitchen utensils
- Pots & pans
- Plastic storage containers
- Clothes pins & hangers
- Toilet paper
- Clocks & clock radio
- Cookie tins
- Women & children's toiletries

THE SPANISH LADY BY FLOYD DAVIS

In 1918 it seemed that Prestonsburg had the world by the tail. The Bituminous Coal Industry had made Floyd County its favored child, opening more than seven major mining operations and camps in the preceding ten years. Thousands of newly created jobs caused the population to boom with coal production doubling in less than a decade. The Great War in Europe had driven the price of coal skywards, filling the miner's pockets with money they eagerly spent in Prestonsburg's stores and offices. The town had an operating railroad, it glowed with newly installed electric lights, was warmed by natural gas, and enjoyed sewer and water service, at least in some areas. On Arnold Avenue, a new Methodist Church was rising from a former potato patch: to loosely quote Barbara Burchett, "...a building that would qualify as a cathedral compared to any other structure in the sleepy town." But the fall of that year brought an unwelcome visitor from the army camps and the overseas trenches; a great pandemic influenza known at the time as "The Spanish Lady".

As now, influenza was a regular winter visitor throughout the United States. Normally, the disease was uncomfortable but benign with a very low mortality rate; especially among the younger, healthier elements of the population. The first cases of Spanish Flu were reported on an army base at Fort Riley, Kansas, on March 4, 1918, and, although there is much propaganda and controversy about exactly where it started, it is likely that Fort Riley is the place of the mutated virus' genesis. The "lady's" victims were not infants and the elderly but the youngest, strongest men. It became quickly apparent that this strain of flu was a vicious killer with a mortality rate as high as 50%. It spread rapidly through other army camps and along the railroads, carried by troops being shipped all over the country to meet the First World War's unending thirst for men and materials. Once introduced into a community it quickly spread through contact and droplet contamination. Huge parades sponsoring national patriotism and the sale of war bonds hastened the spread of the disease although very few communities ultimately escaped the Spanish Lady's embrace.

By the early fall of 1919, the first cases of influenza began to appear in Floyd County, carried in by railroad crews from hard-hit coal terminals on the East Coast. The Lady had arrived in Prestonsburg. The pandemic had been recognized in early in 1918, but the American government made every effort to suppress news of the epidemics gravity for fear of its effect on civilian morale and the war effort. Both the Axis and Allied nations were affected, but both did their best to under play the desperate situations of their sickened troops in the trenches. It fell to Spain, a neutral in the First World War, to fully document the carnage the epidemic brought to their citizens—leading to its being named the Spanish Flu. It did not begin in Spain, and it wasn't any worst in Spain than other countries, but the candor of the Spanish press forever attached the country's name to the epidemic.

(continued on page 6)

FOCUS ON A FAMILY—NANCY WEBB

Who do you know whose age is 90/50? She may be ninety chronologically, but is no more than fifty on the inside. Why our own Nancy Webb, of course, who celebrates her ninetieth birth day this month. She was born Nancy Watts Powers, a twin to Ethel Carter Powers. Her family was a Godly family; holding her father's hand and walking to Church being one of Nancy's earliest memories. Her age is almost exactly the same as our present sanctuary, Nancy having commenced business in June, 1918 while the sanctuary was dedicated in April. She only attended Church in her early life, but became a regular Sunday School attendee in Charles Oppenheimer's "balcony" class; occupying one balcony or the other during class as Brother Oppenheimer's choose.

Her high school bachelorette was held in our Church, and she has always considered First Church her home Church, even when she was living and teaching in Weeksbury or Baltimore, Maryland after her marriage. She raised her four children in the church with all the activities that attended that. She also is a long-time member of United Methodist Women, has served on multiple committees, her most recent work being on the Church's Historical Committee that planned the Church's 125th Anniversary Celebration. Her other recent activities centered on Children's Church, outreach, The Russell May Art Project (for which she was named an Angel of the Arts), and a co-director of the Epiphany Project (which celebrated the births in local hospitals during the Advent Season).

She has had a special knack for putting Methodism into practice throughout her long life. She was a teacher in the public schools for decades, doing her best to improve the lives of her students and community through education. She has resisted (and resists) discrimination in its many forms, boycotting or walking out of restaurants and places of business that openly discriminated against people of color. She is a tireless advocate of children and is always ready to share her rich life with any who will listen. Most recently, she entered the national news media when Hillary Clinton visited Prestonsburg during the 2008 Campaign. The following is a quote from a Canadian News Service:

"PRESTONSBURG, Ky. - Nancy Webb cradled the yellow sign in her lap as she sat in her wheelchair, patiently awaiting Hillary Clinton's arrival. The words scrawled in bright red ink conveyed a simple, heartfelt message. "I'm 89. We need a woman in the White House in my lifetime."

Who knows, perhaps it will be her! Happy 90th Birthday Nancy! (by Floyd Davis)

THE PASTOR'S STUDY . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

6. Eighty percent of our morning worship crowd are participating in at least one mission and outreach endeavor every six months and enrolling in two short-term small group offerings per year.

7. The pastor is chronically joyous instead of being chronically depressed. The congregation is constantly excited about the new and exciting things going on in the church and therefore can't keep from sharing their excitement with their friends.

What grade would you give FUMC on these seven benchmarks? Do you think these are the right criteria for us? Should others be added?

In the coming months, I will be talking with the congregation in a variety of settings about each of these criteria. I hope that we can pray and study these with a sense of unity and purpose.

Please keep Joy, me, and FUMC in your daily prayers. I believe that everyone here truly wants to see FUMC grow and prosper and to see God's call to ministry and mission come to fruition. It will take a lot of prayer and effort, but it will be worth it, I promise. *Rev. Jim*

MUSIC NOTES BY REBECCA HAYWOOD

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Not much is known of the background of this Fanny Crosby hymn, "Blessed Assurance." Fanny tells this one story about the hymn. Mrs. Joseph Fairchild Knapp, wife of the organizer of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, went to visit her and get an opinion of a tune Mrs. Knapp had written. "What does it say to you, Fanny?" she asked. Fanny's answer was "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine." And then a few minutes later she handed to Mrs. Knapp the completed lyrics of the hymn. The tune and the lyrics were put together and are still sung today.

Blinded at birth, Fanny Crosby wrote over 8000 hymns. She said about her blindness, "The first face ever to gladden my sight will be when I get to heaven and behold the face of the One who died for me. . . . I verily believe that God intended that I should live my days in physical darkness so that I might be better prepared to sing His praise and lead others from spiritual darkness into eternal light. With sight I would have been too distracted to have written thousands of hymns."

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God.

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Savior all the day long.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you have a favorite hymn and would like to know more its composition, please contact Rebecca and she will try to feature it in upcoming newsletters.

The Spanish Lady . . . Continued from page 4

Few records of the early days of the pandemic in Floyd County have survived, and those that have do not indicate any great concern regarding the Spanish Lady. Headlines were filled with news of the war and the possibility that it might soon end. Nevertheless, the pandemic swept through its coal camps and towns, the county's medical staff were quickly overwhelmed. Nothing had prepared them for anything of this magnitude and appeals for help produced only limited responses. Some authors suggested that the depth of the pandemic in the coal camps was intentionally under reported to avoid frightening away new miners who were desperately needed to replace those who died or gone to war. However, a few reports from surrounding counties have survived. An article appearing in the November 1, 1918 Courier Journal ran an article entitled "Influenza Condition is Much Graver in Letcher: Thirty Deaths Reported in Week and Many New Cases". The article read:

"Whitesburg, Kentucky, October 31st. Physicians tonight report as alarming the influenza situation at Millstone, Lavers, and Kona, a mining camp above, in Letcher County, where many new cases are developing daily. Dozens of families are ill with the condition growing more serious, as many of the patients are practically without medical attention. The few physicians able to attend the sick have more than they can do. Dr. Ben Potter, the only physician at Kona, who suffered and attack three days ago, has developed pneumonia and is in a serious condition. Three deaths occurred at Kona this morning. Several deaths have occurred at Blackey."

Conditions in Pike County are documented by a much quoted miner whose story was also preserved by the WPA History Project's Medical History of Kentucky: ". . ." in Pike County, Kentucky, a miner named Teamus Bartley called the epidemic, "The saddest lookin' time then that ever you saw in your life." He and his brother worked at a coal mine when his brother's entire family came down with the disease. Teamus visited his brother every night, and reported on what he saw: "...every, nearly every porch, every porch that I'd look at had--would have a casket box a sittin' on it. And men a diggin' graves just as hard as they could and the mines had to shut down there wasn't a nary a man, there wasn't a, there wasn't a mine arunnin'." lump of coal or runnin' no work. Stayed that away for about six weeks."

(Part Two in the July Newsletter)

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Christian Smith: Robert Christian Smith graduated from Fishburne Military School on May 16, 2009. Christian attained the rank of captain during his three years at Fishburne, serving as S-3 of the battalion staff during his senior year. The position of S-3 is "training officer", which meant that he was responsible for working with the Army Instructors in planning all training exercises, formations, drills, etc. As a result of his excellent work at this position, Christian received an award from the U.S. Army for his dedication and contributions to JROTC. He will be attending Big Sandy Community and Technical College in the fall, to begin work toward a degree in Business Management.

Jackson Osborne: Lloyd Jackson Osborne is a graduating senior at Prestonsburg High School. He is a member of the Honor Society and Tennis Team and serves on Student Government. In an essay about "Why I Am a Democrat", he won the Floyd County Democratic Women's scholarship. Jackson has been a member of First United Methodist Church since his baptism in October, 1990 by Quentin Scholtz and Wayne Sparks. He has been a part-time employee at Stonecrest Golf Course since 2007. Jackson's plan is to attend the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2009 and major in International Studies.

Katy Petry: Katy was born on October 26, 1991 in Marion, Ohio. Parents are Randy & Tina Petry. She has 1 older brother, Drew, and 1 younger, Caleb. We moved here when she was 6 weeks old. She went to MCA through the 8th grade (skipping 4th). For high school, she went to Prestonsburg HS. She's played soccer for 4 years on the HS varsity team and recreation league soccer since she was 5. She was All-region her junior year and All EK conference her senior year. She has been in the National Honor Society for 2 years and maintained a 4.0 all 4 years of high school. She plans to attend UK in the fall majoring in mining engineering.

Savannah Campbell: Savannah Campbell graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.83 GPA from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor of science in Psychology and also completed a major in journalism. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, a member of the Kappa Tau Alpha Journalism/Communications National Honor Society, a member of the Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society and a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She plans to work for the Justice and Safety Center for Homeland Security in Richmond, Kentucky, writing for an emergency responder newsletter published there while pursuing a graduate degree in psychology.

Rachel Davis: Twenty-four years ago, Rachel Davis was brought to First Church as a toddler to participate in the life and Christian education programs of the Church. She attended Mountain Christian Academy's preschool program, completed her primary education at Clark Elementary and Adams Middle School, and graduated from Prestonsburg High School in 2002. She completed her LPN training at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in 2006 and worked in various nursing homes and hospitals, gaining certifications in advanced life support, telemetry, and cardiac monitoring. She enrolled in the nursing program at Morehead State University in 2008 and graduated May 9th, 2009 as a registered nurse with additional concentrations in sociology and women's studies. She plans to practice in Eastern Kentucky.

James W. Adams III: James, the son of Rev. Jim and Joy Adams, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor of arts degree. James' completed a double major in German Language and Culture and International Studies. James will be in Prestonsburg for a few months waiting for an assignment with the Peace Corps. After his time with the Peace Corps, James hopes to gain admission to the Patterson School of Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky.

Andrew Howell: Thomas Andrew Howell, son of Susan Holderby and grandson of Helen B. Wells, recently graduated from the University of Kentucky, School of Law. He previously graduated from Centre College with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Minor in Spanish. His future plans include getting married in August of 2009 to Taylor Gray and settling in Louisville, KY.

There were a number of graduates who did not turn their information into to the church office. Graduates and parents of graduates, help us in celebrating this important milestone. We will put additional graduates in the July Newsletter.

Katlin Clark: is the daughter of Dr. Eddy and Robin Clark. Katlin graduated Cum Laude from Eastern Kentucky University, with a B.A. in Business-Insurance Administration. She was a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority and a member of several professional organizations. She was the president of the Insurance Society. Katlin is employed by the Kentucky Employer's Mutual Insurance Company, in Lexington.

Parents: If you student was not included here, it was because we did not have the information. Please send your information to the church for inclusion in next month's Newsletter.

First United Methodist Church
256 S. Arnold Ave
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #44
Prestonsburg, KY

UMW . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The ladies are also planning for a Christmas Bazaar. Joy Adams has rounded up some of our finest crafters in the church and they have been working every Wednesday evening. We are still looking for more items to put in the sale and many more hands to help. If you are interested, please contact Joy Adams at 886-8431 or by email at adamsjoyl@gmail.com or Susan Holderby at 886-2909 or by email at susanholderby@gmail.com .

Our next meeting will be held on June 7 at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served by Pam Herrick and Robin Clark.

Jenni Smith, UMW Treasurer

YARD SALE . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cluttering your homes and the clothes that you packed away, and get ready to sell, sell, sell at our Fall Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale. Tables will be \$10 to rent, and we ask that 10% of your profit be donated to First United Methodist Church. This is a wonderful way to clean your home, help the church, and make wonderful friends.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 886-8165 or by email at jenni112672@yahoo.com, or Debbie and Scott Walker at 886-6748 or by email at thewalkers4@suddenlink.net .

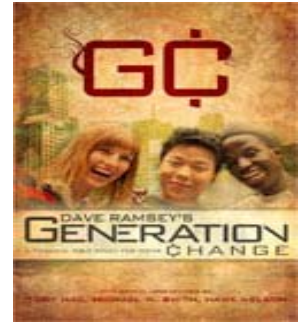
Coming In June: From Dave Ramsey, author of Financial Peace University.



A 4-week small group study for Senior High and College age students!

Generation Change Is Coming?

Every day our youth are bombarded with a million different voices—everything from billboards to internet ads—telling them who they are and measuring their worth by what they have. The pressure to be accepted in today's stuff-centered world drives them, and perhaps even their parents, to throw money away on things that don't matter—all in an attempt to "be somebody." The result? We're raising a generation that spends money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't even like! It's time for a change!



TRANSFORMATION 2010—VISION, MISSION, AND LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW DECADE

In the *Pastor's Desk* article, I mentioned that one of the criteria I've set to evaluate my ministry and the ministry of FUMC is: *A core leadership team is forming that is united in purpose, rigorous spiritual habit, and is serious about accountability.*

With this in mind, I am looking for volunteers that will guide our church into the next decade of the 21st century and beyond. Please note that this group will not be a replacement for the Administrative Council. This group will be accountable to the pastor and the Administrative Council. No money can be spent, no initiatives can be put forth on behalf of FUMC without the approval of the Administrative Council. Also, this group is not the "Pastor's Favorite Members Club." I hope to have in this team a number of perspectives and voices—especially those that differ with mine. And each year a certain number of team members will rotate off the team and new persons will be asked to join.

The purpose of this team is simply this: This team of leaders will have the primary task of leading our church forward into an uncertain future. They will discern a *vision* for our church and define a *mission plan* for our congregation which will enable us to live out our mission in this particular time and in this unique place of ministry.

So, what are the responsibilities of the individual team members?

1. Team members must be persons who yearn for FUMC to be a more effective and vital congregation and who are willing to deepen their spiritual relationship with God and increase their level of participation in the life of the church to see this happen.
2. Team members will need to have their "finger on the pulse" of a rapidly changing, nominally-Christian culture and try to understand it in light of the Gospel. This will necessitate that the team members will read much and attend workshops and training events that will enable them to enhance the knowledge base of the team. Familiarity with the Internet and related technologies is a must.
3. Team members will lead *by example*. They will agree to 1) Attend church every Sunday, unless they are sick or out of town; 2) Will consistently give a set amount of their offerings to the church; 3) Will meet with the pastor 1-2 times a month for mentoring and spiritual formation; 4) Participate in at least three outreach ministries a year; and 5) Will identify other potential leaders in our church and will mentor those persons to become future leaders.

In know that #3 above sounds hard; but most of the leaders of the church are already doing these things. Don't let this scare you off. Simply understand tha a church cannot grow unless there is a core of people who love Jesus and FUMC as much, if not more than most of the other secular distractions of everyday life.

So, do you think that you would like to be a part of this team? Look over the requirements carefully and begin praying daily about this. I have some people in mind that I believe can add much to this team, but I want to wait before approaching them. I don't know who in our congregation God may be leading to do this. God knows best.

If you do believe you can and are being led to join this team, please contact me. I would love to talk about this with you. God's blessings. **Rev. Jim**