



# Fayette First United Methodist Church

February 2012

Fayette FUMC  
412 Temple Avenue North  
P.O. Box 367  
Fayette, AL 35555  
(205) 932-5544  
www.fayettefumc.org

Church Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday  
9am-12, 1-3pm  
Office Closed Friday

**Sunday Morning**  
9am - Contemporary Worship  
(Fellowship Hall)  
10am - Sunday School  
11am - Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary)

Fayette FUMC Staff  
Rev. W. Eric Bagwell  
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Associate Pastor  
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Dana Gilliam  
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Jeanie Hindman  
Children's Choir Director  
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Patsy and Joey Cosby  
Custodians

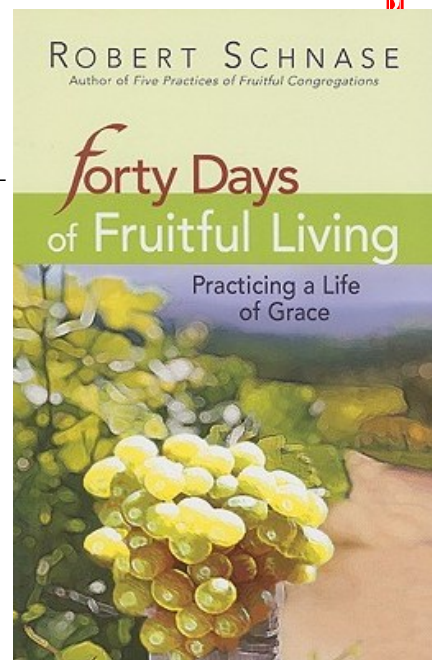
During the season of Lent this year I invite you to read a small book of daily devotions together titled *Forty Days of Fruitful Living: Practicing a Life of Grace* by Bishop Robert Schnase. It is my hope that your heart will experience something beautiful.

Here are some deep questions from Bishop Schnase: *What can I do that will open me to truly experience God's grace? How do I cultivate a life that is purposeful, deep, and fruitful?* *How can I discover the difference God intends for me to make in the world?* Do these questions stir your heart—even a little? Maybe you have never asked them of yourself, but I hope you will be willing to “go there” with us during the season of Lent.

The season of Lent is a time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the crucifixion of Jesus. During this time we reflect on the reasons God's grace is so amazing. Lent runs the 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday before Easter, not counting Sundays. Why not? Because Sundays are always a celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This year Lent falls from February 22 to April 7.

Forty Days of Fruitful Living directs us toward the practices that open our hearts to God, to others, and to a life rich with meaning, relationship, and contribution. These practices—to receive God's love, to love God in return, to grow in Christ, to serve others, and to give back—are so essential to our growth in Christ that failure to attend to them, develop them, and deepen them limits our capacity to live fruitfully, to settle ourselves completely in God, and to become instruments of God's transforming grace.

The fruitful, God-related life develops from intentional and repeated attention to these five essential practices that are critical for our growth in Christ. *Forty Days of Fruitful Living* will help us do that individually and together as a church family. The book is designed to provide a unifying, renewing, outward-focused immersion into the life of grace. For a deeper spiritual exploration, share your *(continued on back page)*



Our mission is to introduce people to the love of Jesus Christ and to equip them to be his disciples in service to the world.



### Confirmation Group Beginning

Fayette FUMC is proud to announce that we will be beginning Confirmation Classes for our Fifth and Sixth Graders on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will meet each Sunday afternoon from 2:30-4:00 pm for eight weeks. Church, please be in prayer for these youth as they begin this journey and relationship with God.

### Ash Wednesday Service

Come and join the Fayette FUMC family on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary to begin the holy season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service. As we sing and pray together - as we hear God's Word and receive the sign of the cross - may we all begin to reflect upon Jesus' gift of new life.



### Lay Speaking Training Event

The Southwest District office is pleased to share that the upcoming Lay Speaker Training will be held at Fayette FUMC on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. The cost is \$30 (includes lunch and materials for the class). Rev. John Hassell will be teaching the *Basic* class, Rev. Belinda Freeman will be teaching the advanced class - *Discovering your Spiritual Gifts*, and Rev. Carol Lambert will be teaching the advanced class - *Interpreting our Methodist Heritage*. For more information or to register please contact Joan and Bobby Boothe at 367-8181 (day) or 367-8393 (night).

### CALLING ALL COOKS: Cookbooks Still Available!!!

The youth still have cookbooks for sale to raise money for their mission trip this year with the *Appalachia Service Project*. The price of a cookbook is now \$10 and you can purchase one in the church office or see Mrs. Dana.

### Prayer Shawl Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the first Tuesday of each month at St. Michael's Episcopal Church from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and is always looking for new members to be a part of this wonderful ministry. We need lots of help right now as we work on the prayer scarves that will be presented to the seniors on Senior Sunday (May 20<sup>th</sup>). If you might like to join the group, please contact Lane Vance at 932-8087.

### Just A Reminder to All Men (and boys)

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and we don't want any of our men (or boys) to forget that special “lady” in their life (whether it is a girlfriend, wife, mother, grandmother, or just a friend who happens to be a girl). As a mother, I am just as glad to be remembered with a card as I am to receive flowers or candy (which I don't need).

### Just Around The Corner

Just so you know...the library is just around the corner from Pastor Eric...we're just round the corner from Sherrie... we're just around the corner from Beth...we're just around the corner from Dana. We're just around the corner and we want you to come see what we have for you. We want you to be a part of what's happening! We need your suggestions (of what else you might like to see here); we need your help (a typist is needed as are workers); we need your support (we want to grow even more). The book choices are growing all of the time, and as a matter of fact, we are filling up the space we have! You can come by any time the church office is open, and if you have suggestions, we would gladly welcome them. You can leave a message at the office, or you can call Bessie Nell, Cat or Lane. We work every Thursday that is possible, so just come on by...we're just around the corner. Lane Vance, Librarian



### 2012 Relay for Life “Dream Works” Basketball Tournament

One of our 2012 ‘Relay for Life’ teams is hosting a ‘basketball tournament’ for their fundraiser. A number of Fayette churches are forming teams! The actual tournament date is TBA, but the Relay for Life is May 4<sup>th</sup>. The entry fee is \$50 per team. A sign-up sheet and Rules and Regulations will be posted outside the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to get involved and show that FFUMC cares about our community. Please show your support and sign up to play. You will be having fun and supporting a good cause! For more information, call our team leader, Dana Owens (270-1457) or Brandi Davis (292-5552).

- \* 4 on 4 (6 player roster minimum)
- \* Must sign up as a team
- \* Ages 16+

### Fountain of Love

Fair Haven is the United Methodist Retirement Village in Birmingham. The Fountain of Love Offering provides immediate financial assistance to residents who have exhausted their own resources. Without this program, needy residents of Fair Haven would have to leave the place that they call “home.” However, because of the support of the North Alabama Conference and its churches, no resident has ever been asked to leave a Methodist Home because of an inability to pay. We will have literature and envelopes in the next few weeks. Look for them in the bulletin.

### John Wesley Quote

I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

**New Name for Fayette FUMC's Kids Program**

Our children's group has a new name - *Fayette First Kids!* We are so excited about the projects and activities planned for this year and all children through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to come and invite their friends to be a part of the fun with us!

**Upcoming Kids' Activity**

Hey FFK's! We will meet on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fun-filled day of activities and snacks. See you then!

**Easter Egg Hunt**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the Saturday before Easter here at FFUMC. The plans are for a meal to be served. More information in next month's newsletter.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES**

- February 1 6pm UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 5 6pm UMYF Super Bowl Party (Youth Room)
- February 8 6pm UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 11 7pm FMS Beauty Walk (Bevill State)
- February 12 3pm Parent Meeting; re Confirmation Classes
- February 12 4pm Jr. High UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 12 5pm Sr. High UMYF (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 15 6pm UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 19 4pm Jr. High UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 19 5pm Sr. High UMYF (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 22 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service FFUMC Sanctuary
- February 24 3pm Tween Retreat (Camp Sumatanga)
- February 26 4pm Jr. High UMYF (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 26 5pm Sr. High UMYF (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- February 29 6pm UMYF Fellowship Meal (Lewis' House of Wings)

**Tween Retreat at Camp Sumatanga** will be February 24-25 and is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's theme is "Boot Camp" and you are encouraged to wear your favorite camouflage. If you are interested in attending, please see Mrs. Dana soon. Deadline for registration is February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**FFUMC Youth Relay for Life:** FFUMC Youth will be participating in the 2012 Fayette County Relay for Life. In the next couple of months, we will be doing some fundraising events to help the American Cancer Society. All cancer survivors (or anyone who has faced a cancer diagnosis) are invited to join us as our honorary guests in the Survivors Lap Celebration on May 4, 2012 at 6 pm at the Fayette County Courthouse.

**Camp Sumatanga Summer Camp:** If you would like to attend Summer Camp at Sumatanga this year, packets are now available at various spots around the church or in the church office. Please have it completed and turned back in to Mrs. Dana no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Dana at 932-5544 or 270-2725. (More info on page 4)

**Youth ASP Mission Trip 2011:** The youth will be going on a mission trip through the Appalachia Service Project again this year and need your help! People in the Appalachia area experience much of the following:

- Poverty is more than double the national average
- One in four lives below the poverty level, which means 105,000 children, 195,000 adults, and 35,000 elderly
- 62,500 homes are substandard & 19,000 lack adequate kitchens
- 21,000 homes lack complete plumbing

Nearly half of the families have annual household incomes below \$20,000. A crew is made up of 5 youth and 2 adults and we are in need of willing individuals who will instruct and work along side our youth in the repairing of the homes. We plan to leave early on Sunday, June 10th and return on Saturday, June 16. If you feel led to participate in this wonderful mission opportunity, please see Ms. Dana.

**HONORARIA & MEMORIALS**

*Parsonage Fund* –

In memory of Brenda Robertson by Sammy & Linda Renfroe  
 In memory of Mayro Morrow; Brenda Robertson; & Joe C. Davis by Theron W. Nolen

*Church Library* –

In memory of Bob Harper Hamner by Ron & Anita Morris  
 In memory of Joe C. Davis & Wilma Smith by Sherrie Voegele

*Perpetual Endowment Fund* –

In memory of Mayro Morrow & Michael Matsos by Christian Fellowship Sunday School Class

*Webster/Acker Scholarship Fund* –

In memory of Dr. Horace G. Gordon; Brenda Robertson; Wilma Smith; Mike Matsos; Mayro Morrow; & Joe C. Davis by Joe D. & Linda Acker

**FEBRUARY CHURCH VOLUNTEERS**

**Sunday Greeters/Coffee (9:00 Service):**

Charles & Nancy Davis

**Offering Counters:**

9am Service - Don Bell & Wayne Daniel  
 11am Service - Missy McFall & Harmon Darnell

**Acolytes (11:00 Service)**

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Thekla Wheat & Than Tucker  
 February 12<sup>th</sup> - Chandler Meherg & Theron Shipman  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> - Lindy Hindman & Sally Shipman  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> - Gracie Sullivan & Leah Howton

**Children's Church Leaders**

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Trina Daniel  
 February 12<sup>th</sup> - Pam Shipman  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> - Tana Dodd  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> - Glenda Robertson

**Nursery Schedule**

February 5<sup>th</sup> - LeighAnn & Ken Fields  
 February 12<sup>th</sup> - Cannon & Pam Shipman  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> - Trina Daniel & Vicki Newman  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> - Liza & Chris Gary

(continued from front page) thoughts and reflections daily with friends or family members. Your Sunday school class might decide to use the book as the basis of conversation.

You can purchase copies of the book for yourself or family at the church. They are \$8 and can be found outside the worship spaces or in the main office. We pre-purchased 75 copies, and hope to sell out quickly. Get yours by Feb. 21 so you can begin reading with the rest of our church on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

My prayer is that *Forty Days of Fruitful Living* encourages you in your following of Christ and blesses our congregation in the great task of ministry in the spirit of Christ.

Grace and peace,  
 Pastor Eric

Summer is just around the corner and we are already making plans for going to Sumatanga! If you have questions, please contact Dana Gilliam at 932-5544 or 270-2725.



The Summer Camp theme this year is "Just Add Water." We'll be looking at stories from the Bible where water plays a significant role...the Creation story, the Crossing of the Red Sea, the Healing of Naaman, the Baptism of Jesus, Peter Walking on Water, and the Jesus' encounter with the Woman at the Well. Living Water creates, saves, cleanses, blesses, commits, and sustains us in our faith journey. Make plans to join us this summer as we explore waters!

Sumatanga summer camps serve to positively shape each camper's life, while inspiring young Christians to renew the church and change the world. In order to accomplish this, they strive for a summer camp experience where each camper has a lot of fun, is safe and feels safe, and participates in a sacred time and place called summer camp at Sumatanga. All of our staff have a background check and go through several days of training before they are with the campers.

Camp Sumatanga is located in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachians. The campus includes a lake for fishing and canoeing, hiking trails, a low ropes course, a large swimming pool, game fields, tennis courts, and a basketball court. Camp Sumatanga is accredited by the American Camping Association.



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