



First United
Methodist Church
116 W. Broadway
Alexandria, IN 46001

Address Service Requested

Dr. Frank Beard, Interim Pastor
Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Our church website: <http://www.alexfirstumc.org>
Church email: alexfirst@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Office phone: 765-724-3411; FAX 765-724-9592

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Alexandria First United Methodist Church

REFLECTOR

...helping you take the next step on your spiritual journey

December 2010

Volume 41, Number 12

Serving Others

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Alexandria First UMC will once again hold their Christmas Eve Candlelight service. The service will take place at 7:00 p.m. Participate in our cherished candlelight tradition, the passing of the light. In this awe-inspiring moment, we hope you'll experience the true joy and hope of Christmas! Many people consider this the highlight of their Christmas season each year. Bring your family and friends.

HAT AND GLOVE TREE

Once again we will be accepting mittens, gloves and hats to adorn a Christmas tree. The hats, mittens and gloves will be going to the local elementary school. You may place them on the Christmas tree located outside the sanctuary. Thank you from the missions committee.

CHRISTMAS CARD SERVICE

We will have our in-house Christmas card service soon. If you would like to send a Christmas card to your church family you may take advantage our postage-free distribution center located inside the main Broadway entrance. You can drop your cards off in the mailbox and pick up cards that may have been addressed to you from the alphabetized box on the table.

Connecting With Others

Christmas Eve invitation from, the Steeles

You invited to attend the annual Christmas Eve Party 3-6 pm at the Steele home 1112 S Harsion.

A buffet of hors d' oeuvres and beverages of your choice will await you. George Smith and Paul McDaniel will entertain you at the piano. Come join your friends and our family before the Christmas Eve service.

GROWING TOGETHER

Social Concerns Sunday Class

Join our class as we discuss events that affect our lives. Guest speakers from all walks of life present views of concerns to all of us.

Sally Cuneo provides the pastries and coffee for fellowship while George Smith and David Steele accompany you as you sing the hymns and songs you love.

The Sunday before Christmas the annual Christmas story will be told in subdued light as George accompanies carol singing. It is a real celebration of the true meaning of the season in a spiritual atmosphere.

Teachers are David Steele, George Smith, Donna Koob, Deanne and Ron Beard among others. Class begins with fellowship at 9:30.

United Methodist Women

Women of the church, the United Methodist Women will be having their annual Christmas party here at the church on Wednesday December 8th at noon. This will be a pitch-in meal along with a \$5.00 gift exchange. We hope you will join us for an afternoon of fun, food and laughter.

United Methodist Men



**Connect
Grow
Serve**

To reflect on our November 7th breakfast and meeting:

There were 21 men, 2 ladies (cook & steering committee)

Some said that they couldn't remember when there was that many at the monthly

meeting of the United Methodist Men. Thanks to Kandi & Barney Alexander for fixing the scrumptious breakfast. We had 3 guests, John Dockery, Sr. VP Indiana Commission United Methodist Men and Larry Gunn, both members of Elwood 1st UMC and Marvin Lowe, noted for his weekly radio program "The Inside Pitch". Dr. Frank Beard was introduced as the speaker for the morning and he held a question and answer time which was very informative. Dr. Beard, who is our interim pastor and District Superintendent brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and interesting overall new life to our UMM and church. David Wilson, our secretary and treasurer announced that we have an abundance of money in our funds and we voted to give the church \$2,000.00 to be put into the general fund account.

Our December meeting will be the 1st Sunday (Dec 5th) at 8:00 a.m. David Steele will prepare the meal which promises to be another appetizing breakfast. Our guest speaker will be John Dockery, telling of the upcoming cluster meetings and activities around the United Methodist Men. John is a very interesting speaker and he attends our Men's Fellowship meetings held each Tuesday morning at Gaither Resource Center. He was chosen to be over 7 United Methodist churches in this area for the UMM. He and I will work closely together to build the laity and unite the men of the United Methodist Churches.

Heads up for the January breakfast meeting of the Alex 1st UMM, which will be: January 8, 2011. Please jot down the date and time: 8:00 a.m.

George S. Smith, Acting President Alex 1st UMM



Christmas is the season to be aware of God's presents to the world, but also of God's presence in the world. God's present of God's presence through Jesus Christ comes to bring us joy and happiness.

In Fort Wayne, the churches have an opportunity for children to come in and pick out a toy they would like for Christmas. A boy of about eleven was talking a little longer than most of the other children. At first he was looking at the toys for boys his age, but quietly he drifted over to the little girls section. He picked up a doll, the one with long brown hair, and brought it to the wrapping station.

The volunteer smiled and suggested he go back and get a more appropriate toy for a boy, but, no he insisted this was what he wanted. Finally the volunteer said to him, "This is a gift that you want for yourself for Christmas, I don't really think a boy your age wants a doll." He looked at her with wisdom in his eyes and said, "The best present I could have is to see my sister be happy." The volunteer wrapped the doll in special pink paper and handed it to the boy. Then she invited him back to the "boys table" to choose a gift for himself. He wasn't sure that would be fair to the other kids, but she assured him that – just this once, it would be okay.

The volunteer couldn't get the words of the boy out of her head, "The best present I could have is to see my sister be happy." Later that afternoon, the volunteer didn't go directly home, but drove over to the nursing home and did something she had been putting off for several weeks. She walked into her old aunts' room, trying to ignore how uncomfortable she felt in this place. For the first time in a long time, she simply sat with her old aunt listening to the old stories that would usually have put her to sleep. She didn't check her watch every few minutes to see if she could gracefully exit, she simply was present with her aunt. She listened to stories of the old days; family secrets and hopes for the future. As she was preparing to leave, her old aunt touch her hand and said, "This is the best Christmas present you could have given me, your being her made me so happy." The boy was right; the best present is often just being present. It turned out to be a gift to both of them.

May you and your family have a joyful and happy Christmas as you are in the presents and presence of the Lord.

Merry Christmas.

Rev. Jean M. Brindel (Your soon to be new pastor: Jan 1, 2011)

Prayer Requests



Condolences: To Teena Bowers and family upon the loss of Jack Bowers

Current Requests: Emily Owens Mary Wells, Gib Bridwell, Stuart Sweeney, Linda Lambertson (loss of her son),

Kaumars Adieh (hospitalized at Ball Memorial)

Ongoing Requests: Dan Campbell (brother of Irene Campbell), Ginni Zink, Amy Hines (granddaughter of Barbara Mumaw has lupus), Beverly Sanders (sister of Marilyn Lenhart), Brent Bridwell, Leon Lenhart (brother of Bob Lenhart), Jack Bowers

Battling Cancer: Heather Beardsley (friend of Vickie Griffin), Carolyn Miller (undergoing treatments – friend of Marilyn Lenhart), Marvin Davis, JoAnne Thomas, Don Kroll

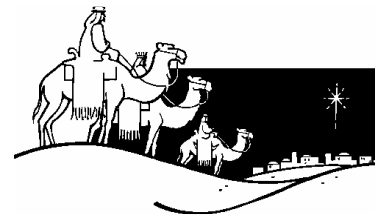
Shut-ins: Irene Campbell (Summitville Convalescent Center), Gib Bridwell (Alexandria Care Center)

Service Personnel: Pray for peace, pray for military personnel

Assist a Family with Christmas

Missions Committee has adopted a local family to assist with Christmas in purchasing clothing items and games/toys. Pull a tab off the board located near the Broadway Street entryway. Please note clothing items should be casual dress. Items need to be brought in boxed and unwrapped with the pull tab no later than December 19th. Wrapping paper donations accepted. Monetary donations may also be given to Donna Townsend to help with the family's needs.

☞ Missions Committee will have a brief meeting following the worship service December 12.



What gifts can we bring?

December 2010

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m.

Birthdays!!

- 1 Jean Kendal
- 1 Nancy Powers
- 2 Brent Heritage
- 2 Shawn McGuire
- 3 Connie Johnson
- 7 Lauren Owen
- 11 Delores Swaim
- 12 Dorothy Keesling
- 18 Matt Ellis
- 24 Sally Cuneo
- 28 Leslie Richardson
- 30 Marilyn Lenhart
- 31 Carol Sue Smith

Anniversaries!!

- 3 David & Nancy Steele
- 27 Fred & Adrienne Owen

Plan ahead:

For your calendar events to be included in the next newsletter, turn them in by the 15th of each month.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 Congregational Care Committee 9:00 am Band – 6:00 pm	2 Choir – 6:00 pm	3 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	4
5	6 Administrative Board meeting 7:15 pm	7	8 UMW Christmas Party pitch-in, \$5.00 gift exchange - noon Band – 6:00 pm	9 Choir – 6:00 pm	10 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	11
12 After Worship Fellowship Missions Committee Meeting after worship	13	14	15 Band – 6:00 pm	16 Choir – 6:00 pm	17 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	18
19	20	21	22 Band – 6:00 pm	23 Choir – 6:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight service 7:00 pm	25 Christmas
				Office Closed		
26	27	28	29 Band – 6:00 pm	30 Choir – 6:00 pm	31 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	
					Office Closed	

