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Welcome Becky Waters Our New Church Organist

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is excited to welcome Becky Waters to our church staff as our church organist. Becky comes to the church with a wealth of experience in composition, performance, and teaching. She has served as the organist and as music director at several local churches in and around Huntsville. Please take a moment to welcome Becky to Monte Sano United Methodist Church.



Welcome Dexter Strong Our Youth Minister

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is excited to welcome Dexter Strong to our church staff as our Director of Youth Ministries. Dexter comes to Monte Sano with a background in politics and as a current student at The Candler School of Theology (Emory University). Dexter began working with our Youth in the Fall, leading Sunday evening youth gatherings. Beginning in December, he took on the role of Youth Director.



Unfortunately, Dexter will be returning to Candler in the Fall, but we are grateful for the leadership and love he is sharing with our students this year!

Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesday Night Dinners in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP in worship or call the church office by noon on Tuesday.

5:30pm-6:30pm

February 6: Loaded potato soup and vegetable beef soup, cheddar biscuits, & salad

February 13: Parmesan chicken with angel hair pasta and marinara sauce, salad, & garlic bread

February 20: Taco bar with Mexican rice

February 27: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER: Light on the Mountain

Retired Mountaineers in the Youth Room

10:00am-1:00pm

February 6

February 13

February 20

February 27

Newsletter

February 2019



From the Pastor

Communication is one of the greatest challenges we face today, even as we have more ways to communicate than ever before! In an effort to reach more of our church family with vital information about the church, we will be producing a printed monthly newsletter. This newsletter will be available the first Sunday of every month and it will be mailed or delivered to our members who cannot regularly come to worship. It will also be available in the church office and in the narthex throughout the month for guest and visitors.

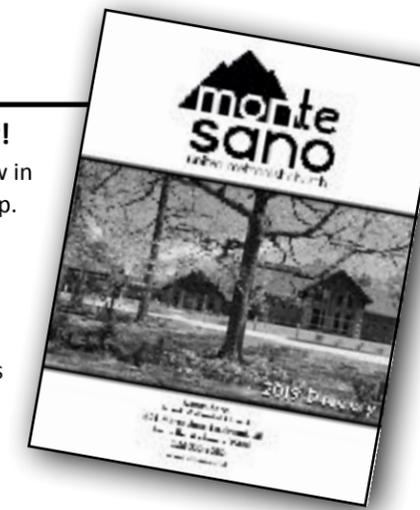
If you have feedback or if you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can contact either Heather Bond (montesanoumc@gmail.com) or myself (john.mullaney@umcna.org)

Blessings,
John Mullaney

New Church Directories Available Now!

Our new 2019 Church Directory is available now in the church office or in the Narthex after worship. This directory features up-to-date contact information for our church family, along with larger, easier to see pictures.

Directories are free, but we welcome donations of \$5 to help offset the cost of printing. We ask that each family please limit themselves to one copy.



Upcoming Meetings at Monte Sano United Methodist Church

Church Council

March 10 at 1:00pm in the Choir Room

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

March 12 at 6:00pm in the Library

Trustees Committee

February 13 at 6:30pm in the Library

Finance Committee

February 12 at 6:30pm in the Library

Kitchen Committee

February 14 at 10:30am in the Library

All meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. On occasion, non-committee members may be asked to step out due to issues of confidentiality.

These are scheduled meeting times, but occasionally meetings must be rescheduled due to conflicts, weather, or holidays.

Please call the church office to confirm the time and date of the meeting.

Welcome New Members!



Brian & Mary Beth Bartlett James
New Baby **Elijah Samuel** was born on January 29!



Bonnie & Phil Adams



David & Mandy McMillion
Sam, Rachel, & Caleb



Peggy Palmer

Ministry Updates

Missions

In January, a mission team consisting of members of Monte Sano UMC and Anniston First UMC members traveled to Haiti. The mission team served in the remote community of Sobier, which is a few hours west of Port Au Prince.

This mission trip represents the continuation of a multi-year commitment our church has made to the people of Haiti and especially to Sobier. The first mission trip to this area was made in 2013 in wake of the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010.

For a full update on the trip, please see the insert in this newsletter!

If you would like to go with a future mission team, please contact Karren Crowson (karren.crowson@gmail.com) for more information.



Children's Ministry: Confirmation Class

Confirmation for 5th, 6th, and 7th Graders will be offered beginning in March on Sunday's at 4pm. An information session for parents and students will be held on Sunday, February 10 at 5:00pm in the Church Library. Questions? Contact John Mullaney at 256-266-4766 or john.mullaney@umcna.org

Small Groups & Sunday School

A NEW class for couples and singles who are raising children began on January 27. This class will use a variety of curriculums, books, and discussion to guide our time together. We will meet in classroom 1 (located in fellowship hall next to kitchen). Come meet new folks and join the fun. Co-led by Angie Kephardt and Denise Mullaney (denisemullaney@me.com or 205-516-7606)



TABLE: Food, Friends, and Community

One of the things we long for as human beings is a sense of community. Relationships that matter. Meaningful friendships. And yet, it seems to be increasingly difficult for us to develop these types of relationships in the modern world. We move more often and change jobs more often than any time in our history! So how did Jesus develop relationships? Most often, it seems like it happened over a meal or around a table. Following this model, John and Denise Mullaney are opening their home to 10 adult guests (and however many children come with them) twice a month for TABLE. TABLE is nothing more than a meal shared by friends, both old and new! There is no program, just a food and fellowship. John and Denise will provide the main dish, and guests are asked to bring sides, dessert, or drinks.

Sign Up Sheets are available in the Narthex for two dates in February (2/8 and 2/23).

Disability Ministry: Valentines Day Party at 305 8th Street

305 8th Street is an organization that provides structured living environments for adults with disabilities. On February 3rd at 3:00pm, Monte Sano's Disability Ministry will host a Valentine's Party for the residents. Everyone is invited to help or attend. If you have questions or if you would like to donate Valentine's craft supplies or refreshments, please contact Lisa Patrick, chairperson of the MSUMC Disability Ministry committee (lisamcpatrick@yahoo.com).



This Month in Worship

HYMNstory: Songs of Faith

In the month of February, we will be exploring the history and significance of some of the most famous hymns in the Christian tradition. When were these hymns written? What were the circumstances that moved the composer to write them? What can we learn from them today?

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Sermon Title: | Scripture: |
| February 3: | "The Church's One Foundation" | 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 |
| February 10: | "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" | John 4:4-30 |
| February 17: | "Amazing Grace" | Ephesians 2:8-9 |
| February 24: | "It is We'll with My Soul" | Psalms 46:1-3 |
| March 3: | "How Great Thou Art" | Psalms 86:8-13 |



Coming Soon in Worship

Ash Wednesday: March 6, 2019 at 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. The Lenten Season consists of the 40 days before Easter, which are often marked with repentance, fasting, and the adoption of spiritual disciplines. The Ash Wednesday worship service is a time to reflect upon our mortality and our need for Christ. It concludes with the imposition of the ashes on the foreheads of the congregation.



CHANGE: Seven Words for Lent

In March, we will begin our Lenten Sermon Series, "CHANGE: Seven Words of Lent." In this series, we will be exploring seven key words that help us to promote change in our lives and in our faith. YES, NO, THANKS, ENOUGH, HELP, and SORRY. If you've been hoping to make some changes in your life, this is the series for you!



Prayer List

- Natalie DeWitt
- Jean Lovelace
- David Guess
- Dan Meadows
- Cami Miller
- Andre Rivamonte
- Walt & Sue Terry
- Wendy Watson
- Carolyn Parkin
- Marsha Sanders
- Walt & Sue Terry
- Jennifer Triok

Christian Sympathy:

- To Wendy Watson in the loss of her mother, Jeanette Watson.
- To Lily Sibold in the loss of her grandfather, Ron Sibold, Sr.

Financial Update

MONTHLY

January 2019 (as of January 28, 2019)

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Income | Expenditures |
| \$52,508 | \$31,604 |

YEAR TO DATE

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Income | Expenditures |
| \$52,508 | \$31,604 |

INDEBTEDNESS

Original Debt Incurred for the New Building: \$2.8 Million
 Current Indebtedness: \$950,000
 Additional Debt Reduction Paid Toward Principal Above Monthly Payment: \$780

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| | 9:00am Service | 11:00am Service | Total |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|
| January 6: | 86 | 75 | 161 |
| January 13: | 88 | 98 | 186 |
| January 20: | 64 | 76 | 140 |
| January 27: | 88 | 72 | 160 |



2019 Special Session of the General Conference

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

One Church Plan

The one-church model would allow different United Methodists in different places to make different decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than maintaining a single standard that operates everywhere throughout the worldwide church. This plan would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline and give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.”

This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

Traditionalist Plan

This plan would affirm the current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

Connectional Conference Plan

This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values (accountability, contextualization and justice). The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church and the five existing U.S. jurisdictions would be abolished.

Adaptations to the Book of Discipline would be allowed by each connectional conference. Annual conferences would determine their affiliation with a connectional conference. Local churches who choose a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference could vote to join another conference. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

Youth Ministry

BEHOLD Retreat

Eleven Youth and two adult chaperones went to the Behold Retreat at Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, Alabama, over Martin Luther King Weekend! Students enjoyed a great speaker (Pastor Jason Raitz from Thrive Church in Michigan), worship, and time together!

They also got to see our former Youth Director, Josh Williams, and his youth group from Gulf Shores UMC!

Special thanks to Joy Williams and Don Masterson for organizing the event and serving as chaperones.

JOSHI



Pictured: Lawson Daniel, Levi Keefer, Kira Daniel, Asher Staubach, Lily Sibold, Sean Meehan, Will Worthy, Julia Derrington, Emily Worthy, Margaret Masterson, and Nadia Goshen

Upcoming Youth Events

Watch the weekly worship bulletin, emails, and GroupMe Texts for more information about upcoming Youth events. Along with our regularly scheduled activities on Wednesdays and Sundays, we plan to offer monthly outings throughout the Spring:

February 10-Laser Tag at Insanity

March 24-Bowling

April 28-Movie Night

May 25-Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery

June 22-Paintball

If you would like to help chaperone an event, drive the church bus, or provide a meal for the youth, please contact Brandy Worthy (meworthy@gmail.com) or Dexter Strong (dexterstrong@gmail.com)

Monte Sano Youth & The Boys & Girls Club

Monte Sano United Methodist Church’s Youth Group has a long standing relationship with the Boys & Girls Club (103 Abingdon Ave NW, Huntsville, AL 35801). For over 12 years, 7th through 12th graders have served as tutors and mentors to the children of this wonderful community outreach. For many of the children at the Boys & Girls Club, there is a lack of a consistent, caring presence in their lives. Our youth have filled in that gap for many children. Imagine how empowering it is to have a teenager show up to tutor you every Wednesday of your life for YEARS!

Our youth group is always looking for adults who might be willing to help with transporting our youth from school to the Boys & Girls Club on Wednesday afternoons and then to church in the evening. If you’d like to help, please contact Brandy Worthy (meworthy@gmail.com)

Regular Youth Schedule:

During the school year, our Youth Group for 7th-12th Graders meets on Wednesdays and Sundays, except for major holidays and for scheduled events.

Wednesdays:

An adult volunteer picks up students from the Jr. High School in the church van.

Students meet at the Starbucks across from Huntsville Hospital at 3:30pm.

At 3:50pm the student depart to tutor at the Boys & Girls Club Youth come to the church at 5:30pm to eat dinner. (It’s FREE!)

From 6:00pm-7:00pm students meet in the Youth Room for a fellowship, games, and a lesson.

Sundays:

Worship at 9:00am or 11:00am

Sunday School at 10:00am with Julie & Tracy Marion





New Year, New Leadership

The church's leadership is made up of much more than just the pastor! In The United Methodist Church, we rely on the leadership of many lay persons to keep the church moving forward in our mission. Below are the names of the men and women who will make up our church leadership in 2019.

Church Council

Church Council is an important way in which we communicate amongst the various ministries of the church. By gathering together representatives from all areas of the church and hearing reports, we can actively work to support one another in our overall mission.

All are welcome to attend Church Council!

- Greg Wright-Church Council Chairperson
- Sandy Berry-Church Council Vice Chairperson
- Roger Crowson-Secretary
- Scott Williams-Lay Leader
- Judy Berry-Annual Conference Lay Delegate

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The PPSR committee works with our pastor and staff. They evaluate the work of all our paid staff, and they work to hire new church staff when we have vacant positions.

- Ruth Bentley-Chairperson
- Shelley Bilbrey
- Norbert Dalizu
- Scott Williams
- Audra Prfeling
- Eric Beck
- Cathie Jones
- Roger Rinn

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee works to develop the annual budget for the church. They also oversee all income and expenditures for all ministry areas.

- Yvonne Simms-Chairperson
- Liz Thornton-Vice Chairperson
- Cathy White-Financial Secretary
- Cindy Mull-Bookkeeper
- Victoria Clendenon-Treasurer
- George McCanless
- Jeff Hindman
- Les Miller
- Richard Perdue
- Steve Whitmore

Trustees Committee

The Trustees are in charge of maintaining, improving, and repairing all church property, including both the church facility and the parsonage

- Scott Nagle-Chairperson
- Diane Whitmore-Vice Chairperson
- Roger Tanghe
- Daniel Williams
- Roger Crowson
- David Fuller
- Ty Braddy
- Tracy Marion

Additional Committees

Children's Ministry

Marijo Braddy-Children's Ministry Director

Youth Ministry

Dexter Strong-Youth Ministry Director

Worship Committee

Ruth Bentley-Co-Chairperson
Joan Manning -Co-Chairperson

Disabilities Ministry

Lisa Patrick-Chairperson

Congregational Care & Prayer

Loye Pine-Chairperson

Mission Committee

Karren Crowson-Chairperson

Kitchen Committee

Betsy Kephart-Chairperson

Hospitality & Refreshments

Mary McDonald-Chairperson

Church and Society

Emily Elam-Chairperson

Library:

Christel McCanless-Church Librarian

Mountain Memories

LIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN AWARDS

Light on the Mountain Awards Dinner

Wednesday, February 27

5:00pm Hors Devours & Social Hour

6:00pm Dinner, Entertainment

Get your tickets now for our annual celebration of leadership! This year's theme will be "Mountain Memories." This year's celebration will feature live music and storytelling from Sara McDaris, as well as a delicious dinner featuring some of the recipes found in the new Monte Sano cookbook, *Come to the Table*.

Tickets are available after worship or in the church office: \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth and children.

This Year's Light on the Mountain Award Recipients:

Lifetime Achievement
Roger Rinn

Newcomer Award
Roger & Alice Tanghe

Visionary Award
Ana Byrne

Inspirational Leadership Award
John Archibald

Volunteer Award
Soos Weber and Betsy Kephart

Youth Award
Sean Meehan

Organizational Leadership Award
Interfaith Mission Service

SARA
MCDARIS
STORYTELLER



After thirty-four years, Sara McDaris retired as storyteller for the Huntsville-Madison County, Alabama Public Library System. In that capacity, she produced and hosted Grunches and Grins, shown on Alabama Public Television for nineteen years. She initiated the storytelling group, The Spellbinders, which offered seasonal performances of stories for the public. She was on the initial staff of WLRH Public Radio. She is a contributor to its Writers Corner and has often been selected as narrator for The Huntsville Master Chorale, The Huntsville Community Chorus, and The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

CLASSICAL-COUNTRY CONNECTION

LEO & BOB LARKIN, WITH SHANE ADKINS

Leo and Bob Larkin are residents of Monte Sano, and they are well known for their musical skills as the "Classical-Country Connection." They will perform along with Leo's son, Shane Adkins, who is an award winning guitarist known for his finger picking. You will get to experience some wonderful, old-time, traditional music that will surely bring to mind some "mountain memories!"

Come to the Table

Have you bought your *Come to the Table* Cookbook? This wonderful collection of recipes contains recipes from a wealth of local residents. From church members past and present to teachers at Monte Sano Elementary School, this cookbook serves an enduring testament to the Monte Sano Community!

Copies are still available for \$25. Contact Pat McMillion (pmcmillion@aol.com or 256-651-1651) if you would like a copy or buy a copy at "Light on the Mountain!"

