

# The Messenger Monthly

AUGUST 2010

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Anniston First United Methodist Church  
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The Messenger Monthly is published monthly by Anniston First United Methodist Church

## CONNECT. KEEP. GROW

Smile :) New Church Directory coming this Fall!

**We want 100% participation.**

**Reserve your appointment time today:**

**1. Volunteers** will be helping people sign-up at the Sunday worship services in August.

**2. Sign-up online.**

Go to [www.annistonfirst.org](http://www.annistonfirst.org) and go to the EVENTS page.

Click on the link and follow the directions.

### **Rewards:**

Each family/household that comes for the photography and portrait viewing at the church will receive a complimentary directory and 8 x 10 custom color portrait.

We want our pictorial directory to include everyone in the church. It simply won't be complete without you.

### **The Olan Mills photographer will be here:**

MONDAY, September 13

- all week -

including SATURDAY, September 18

and again TUESDAY, September 21

and WEDNESDAY, September 22.

*"Thank you for helping us to produce our best directory yet. I have not heard one complaint on the finished product. Everyone involved with this directory has had a good experience. I have been responsible for producing directories here at Huffman UMC for the past 20 years and this was the easiest and smoothest one yet. Once again, thank you to Olan Mills for producing a 'class A' product."*

**Jack Hair, Birmingham, AL**  
**Huffman United Methodist Church**



## ENOUGH

Discovering Joy Through  
Simplicity and Generosity

Rev. Bill Brown  
Anniston First,  
Senior Pastor

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, *"The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."*<sup>1</sup>

**Beginning September 12th**, join Minnie and I, in worship for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us *"you deserve it now,"* whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

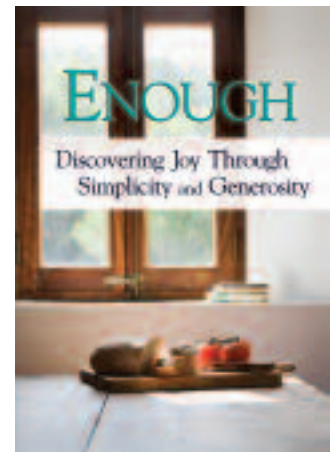
All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study (more information coming soon). We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can apply to your own life with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship services coming up.

Join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

**Stirling and Angel Rait** have agreed to lead our church in this year's Every Member Commitment campaign.

- In Christ, Bill Brown



<sup>1</sup> "Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; [www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html).

### **MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Men's Prayer Breakfast each Tuesday at 6:30 AM in The Bridge. All men are invited to attend. For more information call the church office at 256-236-5605.

### **WOMEN OF FAITH - OVER THE TOP SEPTEMBER 23-25 DULUTH GEORGIA**

It's that time again! Thousands of women will be meeting for a one of a kind week-end filled with music, laughter, drama, tears and heart tugging stories. Some even call it life changing. Here are the stats: we will leave on Thursday (late afternoon) and start early Friday morning with the first event. Approximate cost is hopefully a tad less than \$250. This includes hotel (2 to a room), WOF 2 day ticket, WOF shirt, gas for van, 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts. Additional cost will be the purchase of 2 suppers and any spending you choose at the event.

**CALL ME, QUICK - only 10 tickets left!**  
**Angel Rait (256) 831-5097**

### **SITTIN' AND KNITTIN' WITH JESUS**

A community Bible Study and knitting class.

This is a way for all denominations to come together and stitch about His love for us.

**August 19th – November 11th (Thursdays)**

**DAYTIME: 12:00 - 1:30 PM the Bridge**

**EVENING: 5:30 – 7:00 PM at Yarns in Jacksonville**

We will take 13 weeks to make a "story blanket." Each week, for 12 weeks, a square that serves as a visual reminder of the weekly Bible Study lesson will be completed. On the 13th week, we will learn how to put all the story blanket squares together. This blanket will share the story of ways to grow in Christ and to share Him with others. Having a little bit of knitting knowledge will help in this class, but not required!

Come join us! Call Angel Rait (256) 831-5097 for a reservation and supply list.

### **CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Cooking School will open on Sept. 8, at 6:00 PM**

Come to cooking school for ages 4 year-olds through 6th grade. Class will start is 6:00 PM and finish at 7:00 PM. Cost of the class will be \$7.00 per child to help with the cost of the food.



*Donna & Tim Barton*

**Donna Barton**  
**Rental Coordinator  
for The Bridge**

**256-241-3525**

**donna@annistonfirst.org**

Donna Barton has joined the staff of First UMC as the Rental Coordinator for The Bridge and Coleman Hall. In this position, Donna will be promoting our facilities within the community — showing the property to prospective clients, handling the necessary rental paperwork and arranging for each event's auxiliary personnel. "The Bridge is a magnificent structure that impresses everyone who sees it," Donna said. "You should hear the compliments whenever I show it."

Donna resides in Golden Springs with her husband, Tim, who is the General Manager of The Supply Room. They have one daughter, Lindsay, who recently moved to Birmingham after graduating from JSU's Elementary Education program. The Barton's nest is not quite empty, however, as they have become the proud parents of a rescued Airedale named Abby.

The Bartons are members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church where they serve as Eucharistic Ministers and mass ushers. Donna is Vice President of the Ladies Guild, a Bereavement Team Captain and Chairman of the annual Sock Hop Silent Auction. She is a driver for Meals on Wheels and serves on the Reserved Seating committee of Knox Concert Series. In her spare time, Donna loves to read, play bridge and work on improving her culinary skills.

If you hear of a group in need of meeting space — large space or small space — encourage them to contact Donna so that she can submit a bid on behalf of The Bridge. "Our rates are competitive with other area meeting halls," she said. "But we need everyone's help in spreading the word that we're in business." Donna will also be working closely with Angel Rait who has agreed to supervise the coordination of church members willing to serve as on-site representatives when The Bridge is in use.

# What are you doing to be the hands and feet of God?

## ► Breakfast at Glen Addie October 17

Get a group together to cook and serve breakfast one Sunday morning.  
Contact Erna Hardy at 256-236-7004.

## ► Meals of Mercy Thursdays

There is a big need for adult volunteers to come and help cook, serve plates and clean-up. Show up at the Bridge any Thursday from 10 AM to Noon to help.

## ► SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

WANTED: One person who loves little children to teach the 2 year-old Sunday School Class. You don't have to change diapers. We need you to love them and teach them the love of God. You make the BIGGEST difference in a child's life. See Diane Wood if interested. 256-241-3513.

We are God's hands and feet  
here on earth  
and while God can - and does  
perform miracles all the time at His will,  
he also uses us  
to do his wondrous work.  
We must always be listening  
for those wonderful opportunities  
to partner with our Father.

“Lord Jesus, in our busyness, we can so easily pass by opportunities that you have for us. Cause us to be more alert to Your voice and make the time for the opportunities you present to us—to bless others and receive blessings you have for us.”



**Jean Ann Smith** worked with other youth to sort and pack bags of groceries in Coleman Hall. The bags of food were given out the next day as part of the ministry, Groceries With Grace.

What is Groceries with Grace? A ministry of FUMC Anniston where a bag of groceries is given away with no strings attached. This ministry takes place one Thursday per month in Coleman Hall. Recipients have to provide an ID, address, number in household, ages of each member, and some financial information. On July 22, 2010, we served:

Men . . . . .	59	Under age 6 . . . . .	9
Women . . . . .	89	6-18 years . . . . .	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	19-59 years . . . . .	54
		Over 60 . . . . .	52

Yes, we do serve a large number of senior citizens. Many are raising grandchildren.

If you would like to help with this ministry by volunteering your time or making a donation, contact **Arthur and Patsy Young** at 256-820-1429. [arthuryoung@searchsouth.com](mailto:arthuryoung@searchsouth.com) or [patsyyoung@searchsouth.com](mailto:patsyyoung@searchsouth.com).

## We have had many financial challenges. We have had MORE FINANCIAL SUCCESSES.

They say that time flies when you're having fun but I can not believe that more than half of 2010 is behind us! It seems like only yesterday that the Finance Committee reported the first quarter results for what was expected to be another challenging year. In May it was clear that our congregation and staff were up to meet the challenge. Contributions were up and spending was under control. This was very exciting news and further proof that God continues to bless our church.

The Finance Committee met on July 20th to review the second quarter results. The year to date total revenue was \$24,000 less than we had planned. This at first may appear as bad news. However, our budget included \$20,000 for fund raising and we have completed only one fund raising event with contributions of \$2,000. Therefore, our fund raising is \$18,000 below our budget plan. In August the Finance Committee will present our second fund raising activity to the Board of Stewards and we believe this will put us back on track to meet our budget for fund raising revenues. If we disregard the fund raising, our current revenues are only \$6,000 less than planned. Compared to last year this is a much better condition but similar to last year, pledged contributions are less than planned. Soon our members will be receiving pledge statements in the mail and we encourage everyone to remember their pledge commitment.

Receiving \$6,000 less than we had planned is only troubling if we spent more than we had planned. The year to date expenses for the first half of the year are \$18,000 less than our plan. Credit again goes to our church staff and committee members for controlling spending and implementing even more cost saving ideas. The result of this \$18,000 reduction in spending was even greater when we consider that our utility costs are \$17,000 over our plan. Our total expense reduction was \$35,000. I believe that we all owe a word of thanks to the committee chairs and staff for all their hard work.

In summary, our operating budget at the end of the first half of 2010 is in a good financial condition. Although we have had many financial challenges, we have had more financial successes. Economic uncer-

tainties will continue to offer challenges for the remainder of the year but through these challenges we must always remember that we are not alone. We just need to continue to trust that God, through his people, will help us through the times of difficulty. If any member of the congregation has any questions regarding our church finances or any information reported here, please feel free to contact me or any other Finance Committee member.

Sincerely,  
John Fuller  
Finance Committee Chair

Operating Results (in Thousands of \$)				
June, 2010 Year to Date				
Description	Actual	Budget	Difference H(L)	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Contributions	385	382	3	763
Other Income	28	34	(6)	71
Carryover from Prior Year	30	33	(3)	33
Other Fund Raising Activities	3	21	(18)	39
Total	446	470	(24)	906
<b>Expenses</b>				
Conf Apportionments	20	20	0	39
Salaries & Benefits	208	228	(20)	448
Utilities	58	41	17	81
Insurance & Maintenance	48	53	(5)	106
Worship, Children, Youth, etc.	38	46	(8)	94
Interest on Indebtedness	67	69	(2)	138
Total	439	457	(18)	906
<b>Excess (Shortage) Income</b>	7	13	(6)	0

2010 Capital Funds (In Thousands of \$)		
	June YTD	Annual Budget
<b>Beginning Cash</b>	77	77
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions – Debt Retirement	75	352
Contributions – Organ Renovation	3	5
Total	78	357
<b>Expenses</b>		
Loan Closing Costs	14	14
Move Organ Funds to Separate Fund	12	14
Debt Reduction	28	306
Total	53	334
<b>Ending Cash</b>	102	100

# 1953-2010

A Salute & Goodbye to ...

## Neysa Coker Sunday School Class

We want to honor and remember the Neysa Coker Sunday School Class which was founded June 14, 1953 as a young women's class whose motto was "When we work for God, we never work alone." The first president was **Louise Walker** (Mrs. Kenneth) followed by 43 others, three of which served three terms each and the last two who served four terms each.



February 25, 2010 Neysa Coker Class and Teachers

The last president was **Rita Wells** holding the last class May 30, 2010. Their pianist for many years was **Marian Baker** who served until October 2004. Some of their members came from classes that had dissolved such as The Wesley Philathea and the Adalaide Jones Class. Over the 57 years of existence its members served and contributed to Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Hospice, Children's Home, Foreign Missionary support and other varied projects. They were served by many teachers over the years and most recently by **Lee London, June Allred, Dr. Tom Smith** and **Mickey Starling**.

**Neysa Coker** (Mrs. Virgil), died of polio in 1952 at The Anniston Memorial Hospital having contracted the disease from one or both of her sons, Sonny age 5 years at the time and Joe 6 months. The children survived.

*The above information was provided to the Records and Archives Committee by Louise Gray who is 96 years young and Rita Wells. A more extensive history of the class will be kept in the Church archives and will be made available to those who are interested by contacting the Church secretary.*



Front: Wheeler Hardy, Angel Rait. Front Row: Les Pair, Marjorie Pair, Jean Perley, Mary Ann NeSmith, Jean Collins, Lila Hamilton, Van Hamilton. Back Row: Virginia Lowery, Sheila (Jacksonville First UMC), Stirling Rait, Carolyn Smith, Bobby Green, Tom Smith.

## Wheeler Hardy's 90th Birthday

A group from Anniston First UMC (primarily from the Carre Class) attended a celebration of Wheeler Hardy's 90th birthday at Redstone Village in Huntsville on July 24.

Wheeler is a long-time beloved member of Anniston First UMC. Those attending enjoyed a great time with him and his family on this special occasion.

*To the world you might be one person. But to one person you just might be the world.*

# CHURCH MEETING

Sponsored by The United Methodist Men

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 21  
8:00 AM  
IN THE BRIDGE

**Breakfast will be served.  
Everyone is invited!**

**Speakers:**

PRAYER

Arthur Young, Lay Leader

DEVOTION

Lee Taylor, Chair Administrative Bd  
THE FUTURE OF ANNISTON FUMC  
Rev. Bill Brown, Senior Minister



Cost \$5 / person  
Call the church office to make a reservation. We want to make sure we have plenty of food for everyone!  
256-236-5605

Gifts Have Been Given to the Following Funds:

BANNER FUND

In honor of the **Banner Ministry Team** for the beautiful banners in the Sanctuary, given by Paul and Cindy Baker.

BROTHER B FUND

In memory of **Martha J. Wood**, given by Mr. Tom Coleman.

CAMP LEE ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of **Nancy Grace**, given by Becky and John Hollingsworth.  
In memory of **Mr. Cliff Tanner**, given by Dr. Philip J. Fagan, Jr., Yvonne K. Alt, Simon Banister, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Isom, and Robin Cooper.

HAL CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of **Mr. John Hoover**, given by Mr. David Best, Mrs. Mary Eccleston, and Mrs. Juanita Comer.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Frances Alsmiller**, given by Laura Ann Minshew, Paul and Shirley Johnson, Warren D. DeBardelaben, Sara and Joe Miniatas, Les and Jan Miller, Byron Baird, Helen Jane and Allan Werst, Johnny and Clara Alexander, Kay and Bill Yousey, Marvin L. Burroughs, and Julian W. Jenkins.

ORGAN FUND

In honor of **Mary Elizabeth Griffin Williams**, given by Janette R. Fulmer.

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND

In memory of **Mr. Cliff Tanner**, given by Bernice Cole, David and Margaret Copeland, Phyllis Weaver, Deborah Yim, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Scott Pirnie, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bolt.

[www.annistonfirst.org](http://www.annistonfirst.org)

Send your items  
for the website or Messenger to:  
stacy@annistonfirst.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Making disciples of Christ by being disciples of Christ*

*Join us for Worship and Fellowship*

<b>Sunday School</b>	9:30 Sunday
<b>Worship in the Chapel</b>	8:30 Sunday
<b>Worship in the Bridge</b>	10:30 Sunday
<b>Worship in the Sanctuary</b>	10:30 Sunday
<b>Youth Group</b>	5:00 Sunday

*Special Dates:*

**AUGUST 15**

Sign-up for Portrait Session / Church Directory  
Youth Group at 5 PM

**AUGUST 16**

Camp Lee Board meeting at 6 PM

**AUGUST 17**

Board of Stewards meeting at 6 PM

**AUGUST 21**

**Come out for BREAKFAST AT THE BRIDGE**

**8:00 AM Cost \$5/person**

**Churchwide meeting to follow with Rev. Bill Brown. Everyone is invited. Call the church office to make a reservation (256) 236-5605 Hosted by United Methodist Men**

**AUGUST 22**

Sign-up for Portrait Session / Church Directory  
Youth Group at 5 PM

**AUGUST 24**

Finance Committee meeting at 5:30 PM

**AUGUST 28**

Angel Food delivery & pick-up day

**AUGUST 29**

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM**  
followed by a **covered dish lunch** in the Bridge

**LAST CHANCE: Sign-up for Portrait Session**  
**YOUTH GROUP: Fall Kick-off Party @ camp**

**SEPTEMBER 5**

Children's "Welcome Back" Sunday School  
party, 9:30 AM

**SEPTEMBER 6**

Labor Day (*Church office closed*)