

# The Messenger Monthly

A PUBLICATION OF ANNISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 2010

VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 4

Anniston First United Methodist Church  
1400 Noble Street  
P.O. Box 1789, Anniston, AL 36202  
phone 256/236-5605  
fax 256/236-5426  
web [www.annistonfirst.org](http://www.annistonfirst.org)  
e-mail [fumc@annistonfirst.org](mailto:fumc@annistonfirst.org)



**Anniston First**  **United Methodist Church**

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

## Mission Spotlight: Volunteers for the Anniston Soup Bowl

For over 25 years, The Soup Bowl in west Anniston has been providing a hot meal to those who are needy. Executive Director Linda Turner said the need is bigger than ever. "This year and last year have been our two busiest years," said Turner, who's been with the Soup Bowl for 21 years. "People are having a hard time." Depending on the time of the month, the Soup Bowl feeds 50 to 100 individuals each day.

*FUMC volunteers came and worked a week in February, 2010. From top: Forrest French, Robert Smith, and Carolyn Stewart*



Sample lunch menu:  
Chicken and dumplings  
Pasta with marinara  
Mixed veggies  
Cornbread  
Chocolate pudding

Lunch is served from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

### How can you get involved?

1. Make a donation to help purchase food. You can mail a check to:  
Soup Bowl  
P. O. Box 2072  
Anniston, AL 36202.
2. Donate food. Mrs. Turner said they are always in need of pasta, rice, cornmeal, sugar, flour, and tea bags.
3. Volunteer!  
Volunteers are needed for May.  
Contact Nancy Lee Payne at (256) 236-0101 or email: [nanleep@cablone.net](mailto:nanleep@cablone.net).

**Anniston Soup Bowl 1516 Moore Avenue (256) 236-6794**

# Influence

Proverbs - 22:6

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

The experiences we gain in our youth are not as important as the relationships that accompany them. Three of the most important relationships our youth will experience are their relationships with God, their parents, and their friends. When we, as a church, intentionally give our time and energies to our youth, the results are long-lasting.

Here are three stories about some amazing young adults that were once youth at Anniston First.



## **KENNETH VANDERVOORT**

*Parents: Dr. Buddy and Martha Vandervoort*

### **Costa Rica Mission Trip:**

On February 28, 2010, I set out on a dental mission trip to San Jose, Costa Rica. We spent one week providing dental care in various churches and schools at

places ranging from 15 minutes to 3 hours from where we were staying in San Jose. There were 41 dental students from UAB, including myself, 5 practicing dentists, 3 spouses, and 2 evangelical leaders. Needless to say, we had quite a strong workforce and were able to see many patients of all ages each day. The trip is sponsored each year by the Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama, an outreach organization of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

The weather was beautiful during our trip with an occasional thunderstorm that seemed to blow right through as soon as we realized it was raining. One night as we were getting ready to go to bed, the bunkhouse where we were staying began to shake violently. We promptly ran outside thinking the building was coming down. We were quickly informed by the leaders that it was a minor earthquake and we could come back in. Apparently, they are not uncommon, but it was quite a surprise for all of us from Alabama!

The goal of our trip was to make a lasting change on the people that we saw by sharing our faith in addition to providing needed dental care. We shared the word of God with every patient seen (mostly done

through translators and we were blessed to have some Spanish speakers on our team). It was a blessing to be able to provide a service to these people and then see just how gracious and thankful they were to receive it.

I graduated from The Donoho School in 2003 and was active at FUMC Anniston throughout my growing up years. My first mission trips were to Florida and Oklahoma as a member of the youth group. I look back on my days in the Youth Group with fond memories and am proud to call Anniston my home!



## **JESSICA SIMPSON**

*Parents: Curtis and Debbie Simpson*

I am living in sunny Florida in the capital city of Tallahassee. I am a graduate student at Florida State University, scheduled to graduate in December 2010 with a Masters Degree in Music Therapy. I am currently in my internship at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, the main hospital here in Tallahassee as a music therapy intern. I graduated from Auburn University in 2008 with dual degrees in Music Education and Psychology.

My most recent job for the past 18 months has been working in the nursery at my Florida church home, Killlearn United Methodist Church. I have held positions of both a nursery staff worker and Assistant Nursery Director. I also provide childcare for a local family in Tallahassee.

I am president of Alpha Mu Alpha, the music therapy organization at Florida State University. Through this organization and my internship at the hospital,

... continue on page 6

## Welcome back our missionaries Barbara and Jim Gray



*Greetings from WYAM Guadalajara,  
a moment of rest.*

Barbara and I returned on March 16th, after spending six weeks on a Mission trip to Guadalajara, Mexico. The key words throughout the trip were being available and flexible. What stands out most in our experiences were the people that we met, and the testimonies that many of the Christians had to share, and how God had transformed their lives. We want to thank each of you for your thoughts and prayers before, during, and after our mission trip. Many exciting things happened during this trip and also Satan was very hard at work to discourage what was happening.

During all three worship services on Sunday, May 2nd, we will briefly share about our recent Mexico mission trip. A written article with pictures will appear in the May edition of the Monthly Messenger. We will also do a slide presentation of our trip after the potluck supper Wednesday, May 19th.

written by: Jim Gray

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Elizabeth McCollough for being inducted into the Junior Beta Club at Faith Christian School. The National Beta Club is an organization whose creed is, "Let us lead by serving others." This motto fits in well with the school mission of teaching students to serve God and oth-

ers. Students must keep a minimum of a 90% grade point average in core academic subjects, exhibit good character and earn faculty approval.

Elizabeth is the daughter of church member and TCP Director, Sandra Spilman. She is an active member of the youth group and youth choir.



## Hand-made Easter Cards

For the past six weeks, following the Meals of Mercy lunch, the "Knots of Love" group has met to make hand painted Easter Cards for each person who receives a Meals on Wheels tray. "Knots of Love" delivered over 90 cards to InterFaith Ministries to be distributed by their volunteers.

Many of those who receive a free meal on Monday and Thursday have wanted to give something back to the community. In January they made twenty blankets by knotting together two layers of fleece. Hence, they became the group known as "Knots of Love." While working together they not only enjoy good fellowship, but the satisfaction of continuing to share the love that has been shared with them.

written by: Pat Decker

*Back row: Rodgers Lee, Gary Michael Ethridge.*

*Front row: Vivian L. Darsey, Addie L. Grant,  
Syndrea Lee, and Frances Cosby.*



# SUMMER TIME FUN

**You don't want to miss this!**  
**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.**

## *Vespers* at Camp Lee

### July 4

#### **God Bless America**

Gather together as we celebrate our country's birthday! Special musical performances in the Sanctuary 10:30 AM service: The Chancel Choir, orchestra, flutes, saxes, handbells, and soloists. Everyone is invited and encouraged to go out to Camp Lee for dinner, singing, a vesper devotion and fireworks over the lake. Bring a chair or blankets.

Dinner in the Grove Dining Hall: \$6/person

### July 18

#### **A Blast from the Past**

Come out to camp for an afternoon of good old-fashioned fun. Activities will include swimming, the zip line, and old-timey games in the Barn. A dessert auction and home-made ice cream contest may also happen! Plan to bring a picnic supper and stay for the vesper devotion down by the lake.

### August 1

#### **Back to School Bash**

Bring your towel and chair and come swim at the pool. Other activities will include BINGO games in the Barn at Camp Lee Farm.

Plan to bring a picnic supper and stay for the vesper devotion down by the lake.

## Mrs. Diane's

### *Summer adventures for the children:*

June 9 - Coldwater Creek (or movie if raining)

June 16 - Shark Tooth Creek

\$20.00/person - we will leave early and return late. Money needs to be paid by May 30. (See details on next page.)



June 20-25

Vacation Bible School  
*Exploring the Mighty Love of God!*

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Be there or prepare to walk the plank!

June 30 - Coldwater Creek (or movie if raining)

July 14 - Coldwater Creek (or movie if raining)



July 21

Spring Valley Beach  
in Blountsville, AL

Bring a picnic lunch  
and lots of sunscreen.

General admission:

2 and under - free

Age 3 years up to 48" tall - \$15.00

Over 48" inches tall - \$20.00

July 28 - TBA

Church Members are always  
welcome to come swim  
at the Camp Lee Pool.  
Life guards on duty / Grill area

2010  
JUNE & JULY  
OPEN SWIM TIMES:

Tuesday	2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Thursday	2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



**Trip open  
to ALL ages.  
Children, Youth,  
& Adults!**

## Hunting for Shark's Teeth

Wednesday, June 16  
at the Shark Tooth Creek Outdoor Adventures,  
near Aliceville, AL

Millions of years ago, this part of Alabama was underwater and home to 16 species of sharks. Each fish produced and shed up to 10,000 teeth, which were buried in what is now the creek's limestone bed. As the streambed erodes, the fossilized teeth are exposed.

Come enjoy a 2-hour shark tooth-hunting expedition with a guide on hand so no one leaves empty-handed. You are encouraged to gather as many teeth as you want, from which you can each keep 15 as souvenirs. A guide will help you identify the types of teeth and determine which species of shark left them behind.

Also - playground, picnic and swimming area.

Cost: \$20 ..... Register by May 30  
We will leave early and return late.

Contact Mrs. Diane to reserve your spot or for more information. [Diane@annistonfirst.org](mailto:Diane@annistonfirst.org)  
Bring a picnic lunch, bathing suit, towel and suitable shoes to wear in the creek.

# Day Camp *at Camp Lee*

An outdoor adventure, led by April LaFollette, that includes Bible Study, swimming, games, music, friends and fun. It is an opportunity to make friends and experience God in a natural setting.

**WHO:** Kids who have completed K-5th grades

**WHERE:** Camp Lee Farm  
(second entrance)

**WHEN:** Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**COST:** \$80

- ▶ **Week 1: JUNE 7-11**  
K, 1st & 2nd graders
- ▶ **Week 2: JUNE 14-18**  
3rd, 4th & 5th graders
- ▶ **Week 3: JUNE 21-25**  
K, 1st & 2nd graders
- ▶ **Week 4: JUNE 28-JULY 2**  
3rd, 4th & 5th graders

**Call (256) 238-8941**  
**e-mail: [camplee@camplee.org](mailto:camplee@camplee.org)**  
**Download forms at camp website**  
**[www.camplee.org](http://www.camplee.org)**

## Influence

... continued from page 2  
**JESSICA SIMPSON**

there are several community programs with which to volunteer. Currently, I am working with a Parkinson's Awareness Choir and Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.

On the weekends, I enjoy road trips, good music, and shopping. I like playing hostess to my friends, cooking dinner, having movie nights, and coordinating holiday parties. I also love traveling to see my Auburn Tigers play during football season, and to visit family and friends throughout the year.

I hope to be living and working in the Birmingham or Atlanta areas within the next year as a music therapist. Working with children in either a school system or hospital setting would be ideal. I know that I will end up where God needs me most. I hope that through music therapy I can make a difference and change lives!

**LAUREN LEDFORD**

Parents: Don & Becky Ledford  
 FUMC Youth Directors:  
 Kim Braxton, and Reggie Holder

Lauren Ledford was a member of FUMC Youth from 1994 until 2001 when she graduated from The Donoho School. She graduated from Auburn University in 2005 with a

B.S. Degree in Logistics. She currently lives in the Atlanta area and works for JAS Forwarding Worldwide, an international freight forwarder and logistics provider. Her job duties include analyzing company statistics and preparing international reports and bids. JAS has more than 150 offices in about 100 countries worldwide, so Lauren travels periodically to company offices around the globe.

We want to make this a regular feature!

Please brag on your children.

You can send me information about them or have them email me at [stacy@annistonfirst.org](mailto:stacy@annistonfirst.org).

Remember to include a photo.

## United Methodist Women District Meeting - April 24

Cheaha District will have its "Spiritual Enrichment Event" at Anniston First on Saturday April 24th. The theme will be: *Jesus' Command, "Love One Another."* Rev. Nancy Hornsby will be our speaker, and soloist Walter Mapp will perform on the piano (from First Church of Birmingham). Please send in your registration and \$7.00 for lunch to your circle's treasurer. Hal and Janice will be joining us and we will have Communion together. All members of UMW are invited and urged to attend. Registration will begin at 10:00 AM in The Bridge.

written by: Jan Merrill



## TCP Raises over \$300

March was Muscular Dystrophy awareness month. The Children's Place "hopped" to raise awareness and money on March 26, 2010, for children with disabilities. The children hopped approximately 150 times in Epworth Hall and raised a little over \$300.

written by: Sandra Spilman

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

- *Have you moved?*

Update your information at **CONTACT US**

- *Need some inspiration?*

Look for a devotional site at **RESOURCES**

- *Can't remember that meeting day?*

Look for it on the **CALENDAR**

Send in your items for the website or Messenger to:

[stacy@annistonfirst.org](mailto:stacy@annistonfirst.org)



Photo by Lloyd Andrews 2010

## Hard Work Pays Off

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to improve our landscaping around our church campus. It looks terrific! And just in time for Easter. Over 20 smiling faces worked on Saturday, March 27th. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship with each other. We put out 82 bales of pine straw, 2.5 tons of mulch, raked and cleaned up debris. Several people pulled weeds, cut grass and helped Jim Roberts during the weeks before to prepare for our group workday. A special thanks to Jim Roberts for pruning all of the shrubs and his leadership. Also we would like to thank the Sunday School Classes that help fund this worthy project. We hope everyone enjoys the beauty of what God has provided.

written by: Gibson Coleman

## Celebrating and Honoring Others

Gifts Have Been Given to the Following Funds:

ARCOLA LEE LIBRARY FUND

**In memory of Mr. Frank Reynolds**, give by Upper Room Sunday School Class.

BUILDING FUND

**In memory of Mrs. Jeanne Coleman**, given by Julia Ann Coleman Twilley.

**In memory of Mr. Frank Reynolds**, given by Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bolt, Tom Coleman, Wilson, Dillon, Pumroy & James, LLC., W. M. (Pete) Chalk, Karey L. Arntson Vawter, Wade A. Monroe, Gregory M. Halligan, Nancy C. Lipham, Mr. David Best, Elise and Phillip Sanguinetti, Bettie F. Davenport, Mrs. Charles E. Tucker, Betty Henley, Lake Tindall, LLP, Augusta and Scott Andrews, Dr. and Mrs. John A. Edwards, Jr., Sam and Marianne Blackwell and Brian Jordan.

**In memory of Mrs. Orlliss Smallwood**, given by Neysa Coker Sunday School Class.

ORGAN FUND

**In memory of Mrs. Jeanne Coleman**, given by Nell Jefferson.

**In honor of Mrs. Susie Ulrey**, given by Jimmy and Colleen Roberts.



*God sends no churches  
from the skies.  
Out of our hearts  
must they arise.*

## Celebrating Our Heritage

Hard times came to the nation in the 1890's and the new city of Anniston suffered as a result. Businesses were forced to close and people had to leave the community. Adding to this economic condition, the congregation of the First Methodist Church suffered the loss of their church from fire at Easter 1892.

But this congregation rose to the challenge and despite the "Panic of 1893," they laid the cornerstone for a new \$20,000 building on the north-west corner of Fourteenth and Noble. This red brick church stood for the next sixty-two years and served the congregation well for worship, education and missions.

Shortly after the turn of the century, an organ was installed. A Sunday school building was erected, a volunteer choir was organized and the congregation grew to 998 resident members by 1932.

Surely out of the congregation's heart, this church arose and grew.

**- Betty Bolt**

Anniston First United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 1789  
Anniston, AL 36202

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Monthly Messenger  
(USPS 624-180)  
Periodical Postage Paid at  
Anniston, AL

*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:*

#### **APRIL 15**

Scale Down Alabama Weigh-in  
10 am to 3 pm at The Bridge

#### **APRIL 17 - 18**

Noble Street Festival and Cheaha Challenge

#### **APRIL 21**

Children's Ministry Team - VBS meeting  
4:30 pm in New Disciple SS room

#### **APRIL 21**

Pot Luck Dinner 5:15 pm at The Bridge

#### **APRIL 24**

Angel Food Pick-up Day, 8:00 am at The Bridge

#### **APRIL 30 - MAY 2**

Youth Retreat at Camp Lee

#### **MAY 6**

Board of Stewards meeting 5:30 pm, B102

#### **MAY 7**

The Children's Place graduation program  
11:00 am in the Sanctuary

#### **MAY 12**

The Children's Choirs dress rehearsal for  
Spring Musical, 4:00 pm at The Bridge

#### **MAY 15**

United Methodist Men's breakfast, 8:00 am  
at The Bridge

#### **MAY 16**

Combined worship service at The Bridge  
Children's Choirs Spring Musical

#### **MAY 17**

Camp Lee board meeting, 6:00 pm

#### **MAY 19**

Pot Luck Dinner 5:15 pm at The Bridge