



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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MOBILE, AL 36601  
PERMIT #10014

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR LENT

### Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 9 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

We need prizes for our Bunny Store & plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or small toys.



### Out of the Shadows Easter Cantata

Sunday, April 17 11:00 a.m.

### The Last Supper

Thursday, April 21 7:00 p.m.

A living dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, The Last Supper

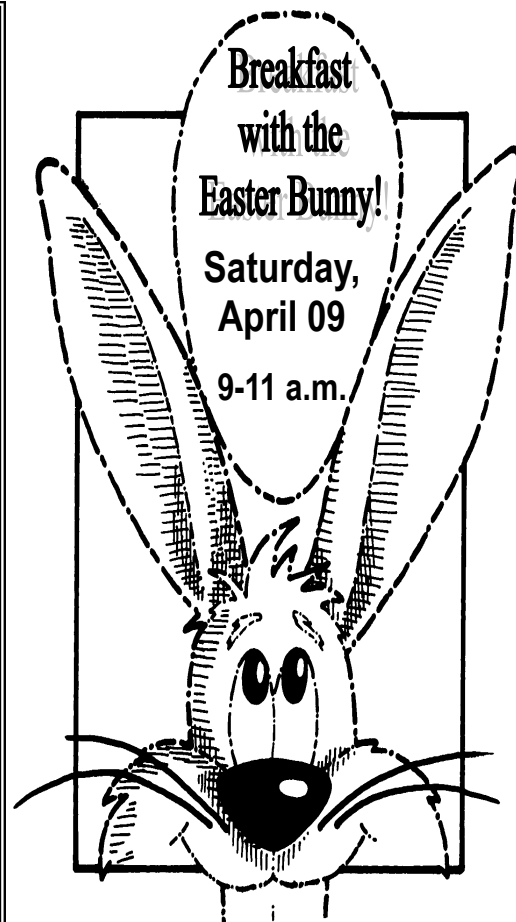
### Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 24 6:30 a.m.

We will be hosting this service this year and will be welcoming members of Oakmont Christian Church and the Church of the Nazarene. Breakfast will be served after the service.

### Easter Worship Services

Sunday, April 24 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



# The Cornerstone

A PUBLICATION OF SARALAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL

2011

Issue No. 240

## Wow, What a Day!

I'm sitting in my office on Sunday afternoon April 3<sup>rd</sup>—the day of the Bishop's visit. I am so overwhelmed by what a great day this has been in the life of our church, I'm having trouble expressing myself. The first thing I want to say is thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this a great day. The campus and building looked immaculate, the services were powerful and meaningful, and the reception for Bishop Leeland and Janet was spectacular. I want to say a special word of thanks to Trip Jennings and all of our Trustees, and the others who worked hard to make the building and campus look so good. I wish to thank Jon Miller and Patrick Jacobs for their hard work in making the worship services so meaningful along with the Bold band, Chancel Choir, Sound Team, Acolytes, Ushers, and everyone else. Finally, I want to thank Elaine Moore for organizing the reception along with the legions of those who helped her and brought such wonderful food to share. I also want to say a special word of thanks to Betty Moye for the many ways she helped behind the scenes to make sure things happened at the right time and in the right manner.

The second thing I want to say is, "Mission Accomplished." Some of you asked me why we had invited the Bishop to come at this point in the life of our church. The main reason behind our invitation is because I wanted him to be keenly aware of what a great

church Saraland UMC is and how important it is to the life of our Conference and Denomination. I believe Bishop Leeland walked away from his experience here with a profound appreciation of our church and what it means to our community.

Finally, I just want to thank God for the "Wow" of today. It hit me as I looked out into the crowds this morning and I got a glimpse of just how BIG our church is. I don't mean, of course, just numbers. What I mean is how big our church's reach is. As I looked out into the faces present today I saw hundreds of faces, young, old, new, and not so new of people who have chosen to be a part of this church family. I also saw Pastor Irving Santos and his wife Yolanda and their family who lead our Thursday night Spanish Ministry. I saw Barry and Deborah Andrews who sold us the 3 acres on which our future expansion will be built. I saw their daughter-in-law Sharon Andrews who works with our Cub Scout pack. I saw Ed McKibben who entered the ministry from the ranks of our church. I saw Mayor Howard Rubenstein and his wife Tammy and heard him remark about how important our church is to our community. Everywhere I turned I saw the fruit of a church whose mission is to be an irresistible influence for Christ in its community. Wow, what a day!

Love,

*Rob*

Rob

## Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 24 at 6:30 a.m.

We are hosting this service and will be joined by members from Oakmont Christian Church and the Nazarene Church. Breakfast will be served after the service.



# District, Conference and local news and events...



## 2011 Annual Conference

### Living the Mission

June 5-8, 2011  
 Frazer Memorial UMC  
 Montgomery, Alabama

**Special Guests include:**  
 Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr.  
 Bishop Alfred Wesley Gwinn, Jr.  
 Dr. P. Alice Rogers

### Summer is Coming and so are the 3.0 Interns

There will be 28 college interns living in two local churches and working at 6 mission sites in the Mobile District this summer. Below you will find a list of needs that we have for these students who will be living out their Christian faith by serving in our communities. Please consider helping to meet these needs personally or encourage your church to take part in this incredible ministry.

- Dinner for our students each week night. \*\*
- Contact Jean Tippit by email @ [jtippit@gmail.com](mailto:jtippit@gmail.com) or call 656-6857 to coordinate your night to cook or treat the students to a great meal. (We are planning on keeping travel to Wednesday nights only to help with gas costs for our interns.) The students will be in town from May 31<sup>st</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Providing food for breakfast and lunch. \*\*
- We would like to fill the pantry with granola/fruit bars, chips, crackers, and other foods for the students to use for breakfast and lunch. The pantry will be located at Kingswood UMC and we will have more information in the days to come about specific items and when drop offs will begin and end.
- Welcome pkgs/goodies.
- We would like to let the students know they are welcomed not just by us, but by the community at large.
- PRAYERS
- We are hoping that **everyone** will be in prayer for this ministry but we are in need of individual prayer partners for each intern. This will mean starting to pray for them as they are hired and continuing prayer all summer. Please contact Jean right away if you or others you know are interested in being partners this year.

Thanks for being a part of what God is going to do this summer through these students.

Jean Tippit and Don Wooley  
 Jean- [251-656-6857](tel:251-656-6857) or [jtippit@gmail.com](mailto:jtippit@gmail.com)

\*\* You or your group could also help by sending financial donations for lunch and dinner or by having a food drive to help get the pantry prepared.

### Wesley Foundation Mission Trip and Service Opportunity

In May the USA Wesley Foundation will be building a community center for the Mayan poor (in Tulum, Mexico) so they may have a place for church events, Sunday school, reading classes, etc. We will also be leading Bible school for the local children. Our team of college students is



incredibly excited to have this opportunity to share the love of Christ by acting as His hands and feet in Mexico.



We cannot do this without your help. Our students ask for your prayers and your financial support. We would also like to help you out! If you have any kind of work that needs to be done around your home or business please consider giving us an opportunity to help you with it. We will do all we can to help you out. All we ask in return is that you consider giving a donation to our Wesley missions.

So, if you need help raking leaves, planting flowers, moving furniture, eating your food, etc. please give Mikey Moresi a call at 775-313-4505. He will be coordinating the work effort.

We are excited about sharing God's love in Tulum and look forward to sharing with you all of the great things God did through us when we return. Thank you for your support!

# APRIL 2011

Saraland  
 United  
 Methodist  
 Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:00 PM Truth Seekers Party
3 Episcopal Visit 9:00 AM Bold Service 10:00 AM Consecration Service 11:00 AM Classic Service 3:30 PM Confirmation 5:00 PM UMYF Block Party	4 4:30 PM Girl Scout #8466 6:00 PM Zumba	5 12:00 PM Lions Club Lunch 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 8577 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	6 5:45 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:15 PM Wednesday Night Programs 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Practice	7 10:00 AM Evelyn Joy Circle 5:00 PM Girl Scout #8191 6:30 PM Boy & Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	8 Confirmation Service and Worship Weekend	9 Confirmation Service and Worship Weekend 6:40 AM St. Francis Street Breakfast 9:00 AM Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
10 Confirmation Service and Worship Weekend 9:00 AM Bold Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Classic Service 4:00 PM Finance Committee 5:00 PM UMYF Block Party 6:00 PM Trustee Meeting	11 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Mtg 6:00 PM Zumba	12 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	13 5:45 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:15 PM Wednesday Night Programs 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Practice	14 6:00 PM Grace Circle 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8517 6:30 PM Boy & Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	15 5:00 PM Denton/Boutwell Rehearsal	16 3:00 PM Denton/Boutwell Wedding
17  7:30 AM United Methodist Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Bold Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Classic Service w/Easter Cantata	18 6:00 PM Zumba 6:30 PM Hope Circle	19 12:00 PM Lions Club Lunch 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 8577 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	20 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Practice	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:00 PM Girl Scout #8191 6:30 PM Boy & Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Last Supper Drama 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	22 GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service @ Chickasaw UMC	23
24  6:30 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Bold Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Classic Service	25 8:30 AM Early Learning Center 3:00 PM YMCA After School Care 5:30 PM Cluster Group Meetings 6:00 PM Zumba	26 8:30 AM Early Learning Center 3:00 PM YMCA After School Care 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	27 8:30 AM Early Learning Center 5:45 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:15 PM Wednesday Night Programs 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Practice	28 8:30 AM Early Learning Center 3:00 PM YMCA After School Care 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8517 6:30 PM Boy & Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	29 3:00 PM YMCA After School Care	30

# News from The Bridge Student Ministry

## Update on Director of Student Ministry Search

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SRP) is sorry to report that they withdrew the job offer to Rev. Lee Ann Williams who was to be appointed on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to complications of an ongoing back injury and the need for immediate surgery, Lee Ann was unable to start work until June 1<sup>st</sup>. The SPR decided that it was in the best interests of our students and the church to work to fill the position sooner. Please be in prayer for the SPR as they continue their search. Please pray especially for Lee Ann Williams, her husband Drew, and daughter Abigail as they seek other opportunities for ministry and as Lee Ann recovers from her surgery.

### What's happening in April...

#### Confirmation Worship & Service Weekend

*Friday, April 8* 5:15 p.m.  
We will be going to worship at Spring Hill Avenue Temple. We will leave the church promptly at 5:30. When we return to the church, we will have pizza and watch a movie about John Wesley.

*Saturday, April 9* 6:40 a.m.  
We are going to prepare and serve breakfast at St. Francis Street. Be at the church no later than 6:40 a.m. When we get back to the church, we will help with Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

*Sunday, April 10* 8:15 a.m.  
We are going to have two different worship experiences this morning! We will go to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Chickasaw for their 8:30 a.m. Mass and then we will go to Fountain of Life Church for their 10:45 a.m. service. Be at the church NO LATER THAN 8:15 a.m.

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**  
Youth are needed to help with this event (Sat., April 9)! Please be at the church by 8:30 a.m. to get your instructions. See Ms. Betty for details.

**We're going to Chickasaw UMC!**  
Wednesday, April 27, we will be meeting at Chickasaw UMC for Aaron Hunt (local artist who paints abstract picture of Christ) and The Brighter. Cost is \$5 at the door.

## GOURMET APPLES FOR SALE

Our Early Learning Center is selling gourmet apples...crunchy, tart apples covered in creamy caramel and milk chocolate! The cost is \$10 per apple. Orders will be taken March 21-April 10 with delivery beginning on April 13. The proceeds from this sale will help with the cost of shade structures for the playground.



## News from the Early Learning Center

Michelle McDaniel, our ELC Director, has submitted her resignation effective the end of May. Michelle has been invaluable to the ELC and we cannot begin to thank her enough for the work she has done to build this program! Although we are sad to see Michelle go, we are excited that she has decided to pursue her Master's Degree and wish her all the best as she begins that adventure. Thank you, Michelle, for your years of dedication and service!



### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

April 03 Genna Myers & Elizabeth Crooker  
April 10 Dylan McFarland & Justin Whisonant  
April 17 Wyatt Fulton & Alex Everett  
April 24 Katie Leaird & Brianna Corley

Please let Ms. Betty know if you cannot be here when scheduled.

## Children's Ministry

### Pew Buddies Needed!



We're looking for adults that would be willing to sit with children whose parents are leading parts of the worship service (singing in the choir, playing in the praise band, etc.). This may involve taking to or picking up from Sunday School; explaining parts of the worship service when needed; and helping to keep them occupied when the wiggles set in! If you are willing, please see Betty for more information.

Summers are tough for working parents! If you know someone (older youth or adult) that may be interested in part-time "nanny" work for the summer, please have them call Betty (675-2728).

## BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Saturday, April 9  
9 - 11 a.m.



Grace UMC will be sponsoring their annual Women's Conference Saturday, May 7, 2011 8:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 each. Speakers: Jean Tippit Brenda Stutz

Breakfast will be served by the Men/Women's Club at 8 a.m. and the conference will start at 9 a.m. There will be music, fellowship and praise. A nursery will be provided. Please make plans to attend by calling the church at 661-4951 or Lisa Wilson at 661-7275.

## Single Mom's Outreach

Resource Fair to Assist Single Moms  
Presented by Christ UMC United Methodist Women

**SATURDAY, May 14, 2011**  
**9 am to Noon**  
**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Building F / Fellowship Hall**  
**6101 Grelot Road**

Community Resources:  
Health, Safety, Library,  
Support Groups, Recreation.

Refreshments  
and children's  
activities provided.



For additional information contact:  
DEBBIE BELL,  
UMW President  
251-648-4772  
mawbel36575@yahoo.com

**Government Street UMC** is proceeding rather hurriedly to bring the parsonage next door to the church up to speed so that it may be used to house half of the 3.0 mission interns who are serving in the Mobile District this summer. A lot of progress is being made in a short time. The next week or two are going to be spent organizing our efforts and coordinating the tasks on a time line.


Our most critical needs for leadership are:

- A plumber or someone with plumbing knowledge who can tie in our new plumbing to the water system. There are a few basic things like installing fixtures too.
- Interior carpentry - a second upstairs bathroom needs to be completed.



Our goal is to have everything clean and habitable. The house will not be completely finished. There will be some other details remaining. We can use both skilled and unskilled manpower. There are also tasks that involve dry wall, tile installation, and the major construction clean up before the interns can move in. Please contact Rob Gullede at (251) 438-4714 or [thebeekeeper@thebeehive.us](mailto:thebeekeeper@thebeehive.us).

There will be a **Retirement Celebration** at the University of Alabama Wesley Foundation for Rev. Ken Smith, campus minister, and Mrs. Juanita Simmons. The celebration will be held Saturday, April 30, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information please contact Susan Page [spage@advance.ua.edu](mailto:spage@advance.ua.edu) or 256-679-4927. Address: 505 9th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35401

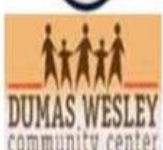


"Dumas Wesley Community Center Night"  
at Hank Aaron Stadium

Mobile Bay Bears VS Jackson Generals

**Come & Support Dumas Wesley Community Center During An Evening of Exciting Bay Bears Baseball!**

**May 26th, 2011**  
**7:05 P.M.**



## Taking the Next Step in Partnership

We give thanks for our **lay leader** and **lay members** of this congregation. Please be in prayer for them as they experience a first-time **leadership day** with Bishop Paul L. Leeland and the conference lay leader, Dr. Steve Furr, on April 16 at Blue Lake Camp. Their leadership to this congregation is most appreciated. We prayerfully anticipate how to make our congregation more fruitful and commit to what might be for the Kingdom of God.

Alabama-West Florida  
Conference  
United Methodist Church  
[www.awfumc.org](http://www.awfumc.org)

PRAYER CONCERN

We express our deepest sympathy to Genna Myers on the death of her dad, Carter Myers and to the family and friends of Joe Simison.

Special Concerns: Eunice Addison, John Aikens, Helen Allen, Julie Bacon, Billy Beckman, Philip Brown, Bruce Calder, The Canfield Family, Vernon Capps, Gerald Cargile, Kathy Cave, Randy Daugherty, Bobby Epperson, Sr., Bobby Epperson, Jr., Jean Faggard, Noah Faggard, Louise Fox, Diana Grant, Janie Gilbert, Olen Gunn, Carol Hannibal, Tommy Harbour, Pat Harrison, Wayne Howard, Mary Huff, Linda Jennings, Lillian Jepko, Hazel Jones, Wendell Kennedy, Myrtle Lewis, Patty Liesemeyer, Dan Mason, Eunice McAleer, Abbie Myers, Bonnie Ramsbottom, Bill Rodgers, Gracie Rowe, Doug Seymour, Mona Stephens, Tammy Stringfellow, Joseph Toomey, Rebecca Walker, Virginia Walker, Daryl Wallace, Jennifer Wallace, Michael Waltman, Francis Wiggins, Kathryn Williams, Dick Wilson, Hazel Yarbarough



Shut-ins:
Cogburn Nursing Home: Janie Gilbert
Veteran's Home in Bay Minette: Bill Rodgers
Westminster Village: Dan Mason

Continue to pray for all of our men and women in the military.

MARCH STATISTICS

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes Attendance (Worship: 184, Sunday School: 129), Giving (2011 Monthly Requirements: \$32,675), and Received in March (General Budget: \$30,428.19, etc.)

PLEASE NOTE: Reimbursements and pass through funds are not shown.

Bell Ringers Needed!

A new adult handbell choir is forming! If you would like to know more about playing handbells, please come on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. No experience is required... you simply need to be able to see the music, distinguish between colors and count.



PLEASE NOTE: We will not be meeting on April 17 or 24 (Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday).

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- Finance Committee: Sunday, April 10 @ 4 p.m.
Trustees: Sunday, April 10 @ 6 p.m.
Church Council Cluster Groups: Monday, April 25
5:30-6:30 PM .... Reach Cluster
6-7 PM..... Worship Cluster
6:30-7:30 PM .... Grow Cluster
7-8 PM..... Serve Cluster



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 04/01 Cindy Bruns, Brian Murphy
04/03 Donald Mitchell, Greg Toomey
04/06 Shauna Crenshaw, Madison Douville
04/07 Emma Leveritt
04/08 Bill Wood
04/09 Jerry Johnson, Johnny Holley, Lance Lane, Brittni Sasser
04/10 Margaret Blossom, Mac Boutwell
04/11 Johnny Sellers, Mary Helen Smith
04/12 Auburn Hudgins, Marshal Sellers
04/13 Lloyd Fulton
04/14 Andy Stubbs, Dalton McFarland
04/15 William Dean
04/16 Josh Epperson
04/17 Curtis Riley, Jr., April Lindley, Mallory Childers, Micah Crenshaw, Emma Rawls
04/18 Kristen Schneider, Ethan Couch
04/19 Ed McKibben, Donald Bunch
04/21 Liz Ezell
04/23 Jean Davis, Kathy Cave, Savannah Givens
04/24 Conner Wolff
04/25 Rodney Waltman, John Bruns
04/26 Debra Wright
04/27 Scott Crenshaw, Stephanie Moye
04/28 Lisa Massey
04/30 Maxine Dearman, Billy Black, Sean McDonald

Best wishes to each of you!

Is your birthday missing from the list? If so, please call the church office so we can update our records.

News from the Hope Circle:

The Hope Circle is collecting items for McKimmie Place Homeless Shelter for Women. Different items will be collected throughout the year. They are currently collecting deodorant, underwear and shower shoes. A collection box is in the lobby of the church



Grace Circle

A new United Methodist Women's Circle has formed. It is called the Grace Circle and will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Women of all ages are welcome!

ATTENTION UNITED METHODIST MEN!!



The United Methodist Men will be preparing breakfast for those who attend the Easter Sunrise Service on April 24. This will take the place of our monthly meeting! The next regular meeting will be held on May 15.

Easter Cantata Out of the Shadows

By John Purifoy

Sunday, April 17
11:00 a.m.

Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 22
7:00 p.m.

We have been invited to join Chickasaw United Methodist for their Good Friday service.

Come and remember.

New Study for Adults at Wednesday Night Live United Methodists...in a Nutshell

Beginning Wednesday, April 27th, join pastor Rob Couch on Wednesday nights for a four week study on the history, beliefs, and life of the United Methodist Church. You will learn where we came from, where we are, and where we're going. You'll learn about distinctive United Methodist Beliefs and practices.



Briefly Rob thought about calling this course "Why United Methodists are Right...and Everyone Else is Wrong"... but, as you'll learn in the course, that isn't a very Methodist title! The study will begin at 6:15 PM following dinner each Wednesday night and will last four weeks. Don't miss it!

Fill a bag...Feed a family...

We provide boxes of food for persons/families that come to the church requesting assistance. Our food pantry is pretty well stocked right now BUT a few items are needed. We are in need of canned fruits (any kind), juice boxes, instant oatmeal, instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce and canned meats (ham, tuna, chicken) Donations can be brought to the church office.



Palms and Easter Lilies

Palms will be placed in our Sanctuary for Palm Sunday. The cost is \$15 per plant.

Easter lilies will be placed in our Sanctuary on Easter. The cost is \$12 per plant.

Palms and lilies can be placed to the Glory of God or in memory/honor of someone special. If you would like to purchase a palm or lily, please complete the form available in the Sunday bulletin. Place this form with payment in the offering plate. Orders can also be made through the church office. Payment must be received with your order. Order soon!



THE LAST SUPPER

A living dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, The Last Supper

Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

Communion will be served as part of the service.