A Common Thread

Family Promise, Welcome Table, Recovery at Maryville, Family Fall Festival – what do these ministries have in common? All of them are attempts to exercise hospitality to those whose lives have been sidetracked by hurts, habits and hang-ups.

The hospitality offered is done in the name of Jesus. Hospitality, for each of us, is a response to the grace shown to us by God through that same Jesus. We receive grace. We act gracious. We have been loved unconditionally. We love others without conditions. Our lives have been forever transformed by the love of God and we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to share that transforming love.

Judgment cannot be a part of unconditional, transforming love. None of us are in a position to judge anyone. Most of us have been blessed with opportunities to succeed in this world. Many of us have seized those opportunities. Our evaluation of others is based our understanding of worldly success. Did you go to college? Do you have a degree? What do you do? What about a house? In what neighborhood do you reside? What kind of car(s) do you drive?

The church of Jesus never uses that kind of criteria. As a matter of fact, the church is in the business of welcoming people exactly where they are in life. The last will be first in the kingdom of God. The first will be last in the kingdom of God.

We are chosen for the kingdom, not because of who we are, but because of who God is. The common thread for all of humanity is God’s love, God’s mercy, God’s grace – certainly not our achievements. The hospitality of God embraces all of humanity. All of us are children of God who are loved unconditionally regardless of our hurts, habits and hang-ups. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Grace and Peace,

Larry

p.s. Consider volunteering for one these amazing, grace-filled ministries if you do not already do so! There is a place for you, child of God!
**Sunday commitments for June 23, 2013**

**Prepare for Worship**

1 Kings 19: 1-15a  
Psalm 42 (UMH 777)  
Galatians 3: 23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

**Greeters:**

- **8:15 Morning Glory**  
  Mitchell & Gail Flynn  
  Clerinda Mynatt

- **10:30 Sanctuary**  
  Pat & Ernie Blankenship  
  Liz Sanders  
  Susan Howdeshell

- **10:30 The Crossing**  
  Doug & Joan Jenkins  
  Allen & Alisa Mason  
  Rathbone

**Acolytes:**

Elizabeth Giffin  
Elizabeth West

**Kids Own Worship**

*Pre-school –*  
  Tiffany & Phil Giffin

*Elementary –*  
  Stephen & Jennifer Daves

**Staff on call:**

Please contact  
Brenda (414-8493)  
or Larry (414-8494)  
Parsonage (233-2712)

**Sunday, June 30, 2013**

**Prepare for Worship**

2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
(UMH 798)  
Galatians 5:1,13-25  

**Acolytes:**

Josef & Isabella Morstatt

**NO Kids Own Worship!**

**Greeters:**

- **8:15 Morning Glory**  
  Mike & Cookie Crowson  
  Jerry & Frances Hodge

**Staff on call:**

Please contact  
Brenda (414-8493)  
or Larry (414-8494)  
Parsonage (233-2712)

- **10:30 Sanctuary**  
  David & Teresa Morton  
  John & Judith Ziler

- **10:30 The Crossing**  
  John, Julie, Ty & Will  
  Elder
Welcome!
Please be sure and welcome new members Daniel, Lehla, Sebastian and Reagan McMahan. They joined 1st UMC on June 16th!

Volunteers needed
The church office is in need of some assistance over the next few weeks doing some light reception duties. This will help us cover some staff vacation time. If you don’t mind being a friendly voice on the phone and flashing a pleasant smile at the front desk, then we could use YOUR help. If this sounds like something for YOU, then give us a call at 982-1273 for details or drop by during office hours from 8:00—4:30, Monday through Friday.

One month to go!
After months of planning and preparation we are just days away now from launching a vital new ministry on July 17th.

Recovery at Maryville (part of the Recovery at Cokesbury network) uses a Christ-centered, Biblical approach to help people deal with hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Billboards for this program have started going up in the Maryville/Alcoa area and you will soon be hearing spots on several local radio stations.

Before the launch there will be one last big training session on June 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. (More than 50 people turned out for the one in May). You can also attend the regular meetings on Wednesday nights at 6:30.

Photo policy (under development)
The Communications Team has been working to develop a photo policy for the church. Even though the policy hasn’t been formally adopted we would like for you to know what we are doing now to respect your privacy.

Throughout the year we use hundreds of photos in publications, on our website, and social media outlets to help demonstrate our shared purpose of telling, teaching and touching the world so that all may become transformed by Christ.

In communicating our mission to others we strive to respect your privacy. As a result our guidelines for printing and posting pictures embraces the principles in our mission statement. We consider the inclusion of photos in our communications a privilege that we intend to respect and honor.

Photo guidelines:
1. Names or other identifying information (i.e., phone numbers, e-mails, addresses) will not be disclosed on photos except for church staff, officers and ministry leaders or those who have given us permission to use their names and information.
2. Photos are almost always of people in public spaces and public events.
3. Pictures of children are almost always taken in a group setting and children are not identified individually (unless given permission to do so).
4. We try NOT to post any photos that would be considered embarrassing, objectionable, or hurtful to anyone in the photo.
5. We will provide credit for any photos taken by others if they so desire. In addition we honor any copyright wishes or restrictions.
6. ANY PHOTO WILL BE REMOVED UPON REQUEST OF AN INDIVIDUAL PROMINENT IN THE PHOTO, OR AT THE REQUEST OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.
A promise kept
Family Promise has completed another host week at 1st Church. We were blessed to host four families. These families included four children from 4 months old to 5 years old. We have never had this many small children at once.

We learned many stories of courage from our guests this week. Our two newest families included two moms and dads with children. One dad worked over 80 hours while here this week. The two single moms are very close to graduation. They are working toward moving on and reestablishing their independence.

Your generosity helped these families in many ways. We have had special outings and met some basic and advanced needs.

Your donation of used cars has enabled independence for two families. Earlier this year we bought a laptop computer for a special and deserving student. This young lady maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA while spending several nights in her mother’s car.

Another mother wanted a curling iron, but could not afford it. It wasn’t in her budget.

We have bought car batteries, tires, made utility deposits and bought diapers. Your generosity enables this program to help people in this county with many needs. Through you they are blessed.

It takes many volunteers to make this host week successful. We had over 40 people participate this week as volunteers. Thank You!

Serving others
One of the most visible ministries at 1st UMC is Welcome Table. Each week we serve more than 200 people a free meal. In May, 915 people were served thanks to the dedication of our dozens of volunteers.

During the summer months filling the gaps of people on vacation can be difficult. As a result some volunteers have to “double up” and get the job done. Volunteers are desperately needed on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays with clean-up. These volunteers are here from 5-7 pm.

If you are interested in helping out on Thursdays (especially with clean-up), please give the church office a call at 865-982-1273 or e-mail Amelia Geis at ameliageis@yahoo.com.

Mission POSSIBLE!
Thanks to YOUR generosity, the Holston Conference was able to EXCEED its Hands-on Mission goal this year. In all, 1st UMC provided nearly 40 food buckets for Liberia.

At Lake Junaluska the totals for all the districts was announced and in some cases, according to The Call, some districts had actually doubled or tripled their goal.

Here in the Maryville District. The goal was 250 buckets. 929 WERE COLLECTED!
It took three tractor-trailers to haul all the food buckets and health kits to the Charleston seaport where they were then shipped to Liberia and Zimbabwe.

A word of thanks
Dozens of times, for the past five years, I have counted on over 250 members and my friends at 1st UMC to help the Community Food Connection on grocery store food drives. June 7-9th was another example.

Over 15 members from 1st UMC worked on the record setting Alcoa-Walmart food drive. They were part of a total of 83 volunteers that collected, picked-up and sorted the donated groceries at the Alcoa Walmart. The old record of $21,000 donated in food was blown out by the $22,600 the CFC received.

The Community Food Connection store now has groceries stacked everywhere including a storage shed. Thanks again to the Blount County community and the volunteers at 1st UMC.

Sincerely,

Larry Ladd
CFC Special Projects Director

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Family Promise has been a ministry of First Church for almost 5 years now. It has been my privilege to serve as the coordinator during these years. It is now time for me to step down and allow someone else to lead. Are you the person to lead this mission? If so, please contact Brenda Carroll (982-1273).

Blessings,

Chris Hurley
The Bluebird basics
Paul Hawkins wants to share his nearly 18 years experience studying bluebirds with YOU. Come join us on Thursday, June 27th to watch videos on this interesting bird as well as hear about Hawkins’ personal experiences watching them. The program will begin at 11:30 in room 214. Lunch will be served at a cost of $5.

Tennessee’s Mighty Wurlitzer
July kicks off in style as the Tennessee Theater presents another Mighty Musical Monday. This FREE performance features vocalist Natalee Elkins as well as the famed Wurlitzer organ. The bus leaves the church at 10:45 am. Following the concert the group will go to lunch at the S&S Cafeteria in Bearden.

Summer at the Playhouse
The folks at the Cumberland County Playhouse bring you The Man of La Mancha. On July 16th, you are invited to come along as we travel to Crossville to see this production. Then, on August 6th we will return for the production of The King and I. For both trips, the bus will leave at 10:00 am. The cost for each trip is $40 which includes transportation, lunch at the Cumberland Mountain State Park Restaurant, and a ticket to the show.

Fall train ride
While it will be several months before the leaves begin to change, you may want to start thinking about a train ride through the Hiwassee River Gorge. The train leaves the station in Etowah on October 21st and takes you on a 50-mile round trip journey. If you are interested in going please let Ginny know before August 1st in order to be assured of getting tickets for the peak season. Costs range from $45—$87. The group will be leaving the church at 10:00 am on that day, stopping for lunch before getting on the train. For more information visit www.tvrail.com.

Curtain Call—Encore! Encore!
An event for older Adults
September 23-26th, 2013
Epworth by the Sea - St. Simons, GA
Cost is $400 (includes transportation, program and meals). Deposit of $200 by July 31st (refundable if trip doesn't happen). (Minimum number for trip is 12)
More info at: www.epworthbythesea.org/events

Collection efforts
As part of next month’s UMW District event, you are asked to donate new and gently used bras as part of the “free the girls” mission effort. The bras will be taken to El Salvador in August. Currently the mission has 13-thousand bras. Sending 20,000 is the goal. The UMW here at 1st UMC has set up a collection box. You can find it right outside the church office. You can also bring your donations to the event in Alcoa on July 13th.

“Setting the Captives Free”
Michele Rickett, author of Forgotten Girls headlines a special event next month in Alcoa. Rickett is well versed in the subject of human trafficking and her book has been chosen by World Vision as one of the top ten books on faith and justice. On Saturday, July 13th, Rickett will be at an Ice Cream Social and Women’s Info Fair at Alcoa 1st UMC. She will be talking about who is most at risk for being trafficked, how to prevent it from happening, and how YOU can rescue people from this kind of exploitation. The subject matter is sensitive, so Rickett does offer a word of caution to parents wanting to bring their children to this event. The cost is $10 for a family (childcare provided) or $5 per person. Sign-up forms are available by e-mailing nsimonsumw@gmail.com or calling 865-805-0134.

To sign up for any of the events above, contact Ginny (information listed in the top box) or go online to www.fumc-maryville.org and click on “Event Registration.”
Day Trip
Did you know that America’s largest private home is just two hours from here? That’s right, the Biltmore Estate in Asheville has been a top attraction in Western North Carolina for decades and we want YOU to see it in person. Next month, the Young Adults are planning a trip to this 250 room home and the 8-thousand acre estate it sits on. Details are still in the works, but the date of the trip is July 20th. Keep watching for more details. If you are interested in going please contact Asa at the information listed above.

Biltmore Trip—July 20th

Exceeding the goal
An eruption of cheers and applause drowned out the voice of the Rev. Andy Ferguson last Tuesday night at Lake Junaluska’s Stuart Auditorium. He had just announced the totals so far in the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

YOU and others throughout Holston Conference saved 113,525 lives by raising $1,135,250! The goal had been $1-million.

Every minute one person dies from malaria, which is a preventable disease. The United Methodist Church as a whole has pledged to raise $75-million by the end of 2015.

At the end of Tuesday’s service, Maryville District Superintendent Charles Maynard asked the crowd, “Are you going to get on the bus with the risen Jesus and go the next mile, and where will it take us?“

Thanks to everyone here at 1st UMC who have supported our INM efforts over the past few months.

Together we can “IMAGINE” a world without malaria.

Get your CAMP on!
This coming weekend will be all about camping and fellowship. The Young Adults group will be leaving the church at 6:30 on June 21st and heading to a spot on Tellico Lake where you can pitch a tent or stay in the cabin. Please sign up by contacting Asa (information above) or going online to www.fumc-maryville.org and clicking on event registration.

Testing your knowledge
The next trivia night is set for July 2nd. Come join in on the fun at Smoky Mountain Brewery. The games begin at 7:00 pm. We hope YOU will join us. Trivia nights are on the 1st Tuesdays and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

The Young Adult Sunday School class meets each week at 9:15 am in Room 128.
More information on the Young Adult Ministries can be found online at www.fumc-maryville.org. (Just look under the 1st Ministries Tab.)

Staying in touch online
While “The Church Bell” is a great place to keep up with what’s going on here at 1st UMC-Maryville, there simply isn’t enough room to include everything. Back in February we launched an updated version of our website, one that includes new calendar features, places to store online photo and video galleries, and an overall easier to use site for visitors to learn more about the great things happening here at 1st UMC.

Facebook has proved to be another great resource for spreading the word. We now have more than 330 “likes” of our page and there is always room for more “friends.” This social media site gives us fast and easy ways to share photos from events like VBS as well as spread the word about changes in meeting or program times. You can also find listings of our events here and invite your Facebook friends!

And this is just the beginning. Our followers on Twitter continue to grow and you can now check-in on Foursquare, all great ways of helping others share your experiences here at 1st UMC-Maryville.

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**Children’s Corner**

**Special summer Sundays**

From now through the end of July, children at 1st UMC will be learning all about friends. Through fun workshops like cooking and games and lessons about friends from the Bible, this isn't your ordinary Sunday School program.

Each morning begins with a short assembly in Wesley Hall at 9:15, then groups go off to do something different each week.

Hope to see you there and don't forget to invite your friends!

**Searching for leaders**

Do you enjoy being around children? Do you enjoy continuing to learn about the Bible? The children's ministry department is looking for several loyal and dedicated people to serve as leaders in the Sunday School department. One of the greatest gifts you can share with the children of the church is your time and your willingness to share your love of God. Please contact Denise Johns if you are interested in serving.

**Making a big splash**

Right before you start to hit the books in school again, why not hit the pool? On Sunday, July 28th the children’s ministry department hosts a celebration pool party at Green Meadow Country Club pool. The fun begins at 6:30 pm. All children and their families are invited to attend. Further information will be included in the next “Church Bell.”

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**What are your children learning?**

K-6th Grade—Friendship

**Sunday, June 16th**
(Last Sunday)

Preschool—Jonah
(Psalms 16:5)

**Sunday, June 23rd**
(Next Sunday)

Preschool—The Temptations (Psalms 16:5)

**Sunday, June 30th**
(Sunday after next)

**Preschool**—Levi
(Psalms 16:5)

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**Ukuleles and friendship**

Kevin and Amanda Painter led Kids Own Worship this past Sunday. The children learned more about the story of David and Jonathan and the qualities of a good friend. Kevin even took time to play the ukulele! If you have a talent you would like to lend to this special worship time then contact Summer Webb at 406-1743 or summerwebb@msn.com.

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**No Kids Own Worship on June 30th!**

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**Summer fun at the movies**

Please come and join Ms. Denise at Foothills 12 Movie Theater on Thursday mornings this summer. On the following **Thursdays at 9:40 am**, Ms. Denise will be there waiting for YOU to come see a great film. The movies and weeks of this summer movie mornings are listed below.

**June 20th—Hotel Transylvania**

**July 11—Horton hears a Who**

**July 18—Madagascar**

**July 25—Happy Feet**

**August 1—Yogi Bear**

**August 8th—Chimpanzee**

Cost of admission is $4 and includes a kid-tray with popcorn, drink and snack.

Please contact Denise at 679-0247 by text or call and let her know you are coming.
THE INCREDIBLE
BORING SUMMER

This group of students (left top) worked the whole first week of June to make VBS an incredible experience for our kids! They put on Bible skits and led the kids in crafts demonstrating a ‘stand-strong’ message everyday.

The coolest part of empowering our youth to lead the kids is watching them develop leadership skills. They learned how difficult it is to lead someone else, to make lessons engaging, and just to keep so many rambunctious youngsters together and participating.

The week was also a lot of fun and they said they’d absolutely do it again next year. You guys rock!

Last Tuesday, we drove to Charleston, SC for a few hours. It was a lock-in-on-wheels and we had a great time! Some asked: “why?” We said: “why not?” And yes, it was totally worth it!

JUNE 18TH is Church Olympics. We’ll be dividing into teams and competing for the gold! Meet at Stephen’s office at 1 PM. Dress for wild and crazy outdoor games. We’ll be done at 4 PM.

JUNE 18TH Dudes and Ladies study folks, we miss you! Come Tuesday night at 7:30 for brownies and ice cream. Dudes meet at Stephen’s Office. Ladies meet at the high school room (not the friendship shelter).

JUNE 24TH-28TH is Assembly. Stephen, Asa, Drew, and Kristina will be with our students at camp!

JULY 1-8TH No events because Stephen is on vacation, but we’ll see each other on Sundays!