

# Steeple Notes

October 21, 2015

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## The Ripple Effect

On Saturday I passed it over. How could I part with my ski jacket and take it to the Rummage Sale? It still has a dozen tags on it from places I've skied over the years. My ski jacket brings back such fond memories, never mind that I haven't used it in ten years. Why is it so hard to let go of my stuff?



It's interesting that the fall Rummage Sale always comes right before Celebration Sunday, when we dedicate our financial commitments for the coming year. For me, filling out our Estimate of Giving card is a lot easier than choosing what to take to the Rummage Sale because Gary and I always give at least 10% of our salaries to whatever churches we are serving. Nice and easy. No agonizing. No tears. No fuss. We follow the biblical model of the tithe. Based on our current salaries, Gary and I will give a minimum of \$18,500.

But my stuff: that's another story. I know in my mind that I don't use half of the things I own, but holding on to them is so much more comforting. Just in case I ever need

## Why Not the Best?

From autobiographies to legends, people have been asked "Why did you not give your best?" Our scriptures pose that question as well! So many people went from giving God a token to giving God their all.



On this Celebration Sunday, we'll take a good look at "Why Not the Best?!" I hope to see you at Shine!

Pastor Gary

them, right? What's wrong with saving (hoarding), anyway? Here's my problem. I don't trust God enough, which means I can't fully let go of my stuff, my pride, or doing it my way.

Now it's Sunday afternoon. I've been at worship all morning and came home inspired to "lose my life" so I can save it. I'm taking my ski jacket to the Rummage Sale tomorrow with everything else I've packed up. I know there is someone who really needs this warm jacket and will be delighted to wear it this winter.

I am also ready to fill out our Estimate of Giving card for next Sunday. By my estimation it will have taken me five minutes to fill out my EOG card and five hours to sort through all my stuff for the Rummage Sale.

Gary and I can't wait to see you this Sunday with your EOG card in hand! As you shop at the Rummage Sale or go about your daily life this week, think about the many ways in which you are positively impacting the lives of others. We call it "The Ripple Effect."

Pastor Laurie

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## Our Church Family

**Our Christian Caring and Concern** are shared with the following persons, known to be in the hospital on Tuesday, October 20: Pam Budde, Jan Query

**Our Prayers for Good Health** are shared with the following person, released from the hospital since Tuesday, October 13: Ed Harris

**Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support** are shared with John and Kim Fitzgerald and family on the death of her grandmother, Ruth Peterson, on October 15.

**Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support** are shared with the family of Beverly Gallentine, who died on October 16.

## Intercessory Prayer



The Prayer Team would like to pray for you during times of need and also to praise the Lord during times of celebration. In addition to your concerns, please let us know of any answered prayers, family members in the military returning home, births, marriages and other special events. Contact Elise Norwood ([enorwood@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:enorwood@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3127) or use a Prayer Request Card, available in the sanctuary pews and the church office. Cards may be dropped off in the Prayer Request box across from the Welcome Center or in the church office.

## Did You Know

....that this week's Voice of Hope message is recorded by Steve Packard, and Greg LaBrake will record the message for the week of October 25 with the title "Life Is a Pilgrimage." To listen, call 248-646-6407 and press 2 when your call is answered by our automated system.

....that the altar flowers (\$50) are available on November 15 and November 29. Please contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121 or [office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org)) for more information or to reserve a date.

....that old cell phones may be dropped off in the church office.

....that our First Nurses sponsor a Lions Club box for eyeglass and hearing aid donations. Your unneeded equipment will help people in developing countries. The box is located outside the sanctuary, across from the Welcome Center.

....that anyone can give an endowment gift. Any size gift may be made as an endowment. You may do this now or as part of your estate plan.

....that in order to keep our records up to date, we need to hear from you! We cannot change addresses, phone numbers, names or e-mails without your help. If you have adult children with an address other than yours, we need to know that, too. Please help us keep current by sharing new information! Contact Karen Porter at 248-646-6407, ext. 3126 or [kporter@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:kporter@fumcbirmingham.org).

....that in addition to Campbell's soup labels for Red Bird Mission, we collect them from many General Mills products (Box Tops for Education) and Tyson Foods (Project A Plus). Watch for these labels as you shop and bring them to the church office.



## Children, Student and Family Ministries

**For information about our Children's Ministry activities (Crib through 5th Grade),** check out our website at [www.fumcbirmingham.org](http://www.fumcbirmingham.org), Facebook FUMC Birmingham Children and Family Ministries, or contact us at [sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org) to receive a monthly email newsletter.

### **Want to get the inside scoop on First Student Ministries?**

"180Seconds" is our e-newsletter for middle school students.

"Make Your Mark" is our e-newsletter for high school students.

Get your free subscription today! Sign up under "[E-News](#)" on the church website.

**Mission and Outreach Opportunity....**With assistance from the United Methodist Women, the FUMC Preschool and Children and Family Ministries is able to take an exciting, hands-on Science Night experience to the families of Redford and Brightmoor on Monday, November 9 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. We will share the love of science and learning with families at The Redford Aldersgate UMC (10000 Beech-Daly Rd., Redford Charter Twp.). Volunteers are needed to help oversee the science stations and to assist with refreshments. Please contact Lori Handzel (248-646-6407 ext. 3154) to let us know how you can help.

**FREE Unite 3 on 3 Basketball Preview Day....**Sunday, November 8 from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in the CLC gym. Kids ages K-4th grade and 5th grade girls are invited to come and check out a preview of our Unite 3 on 3 basketball league. The league is focused on fun and fellowship as well as building the basic skills of basketball through practice time and games. The Unite 2016 season runs January 16 to March 12. Please register in advance for the Preview at [fumcbirmingham.org/unite](http://fumcbirmingham.org/unite). Questions? Call Beth Torrey (248-646-6407 ext. 3129).



**Meaning and Significance of Baptism....**This class explains the biblical basis for why our church baptizes infants and children; the unique benefits of baptism; and how God works in the lives of infants, children and their parents to produce spiritual growth and the ongoing ministry of the church. Led by clergy and lay staff, this class for parents will meet on Sunday, November 1 at 5:00 p.m. Baptisms will take place during worship on November 15 at 11:00, December 20 at 11:00, and December 27 at 9:30. Please contact Janet Smylie ([office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121) to register for the class or to schedule a baptism.

**Update on Hungry?....**It has come to our attention from the Oakland County Health Department that the Hungry? program has not followed the required ServSafe food regulations necessary to feed hundreds of students each week. The safety of students is our utmost priority, therefore we will not be able continue with Hungry? in its current format. We have received special permission to offer the Hungry? program for three final Tuesdays to celebrate this incredible ministry. We have enjoyed a wonderful ministry for seven years and thank Pastor Suzanne Walls and the Beverly Hills congregation for their pivotal role in this program. We are grateful for the many adults who have volunteered their time on Tuesdays to prepare delicious food, serve the students, and clean the dishes and the building. We are thankful for the use of the Beverly Hills facility and appreciate their partnership with this ministry.

During the coming months, Kelly Willian and the Student Ministries Team will prayerfully assess the Hungry? program to determine the purpose and possibilities for the future using a licensed kitchen to serve the students of the community. Please join us in thanking Beverly Hills United Methodist Church, and please contact Pam Davis, Hungry? Coordinator ([pdavis@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:pdavis@fumcbirmingham.org)), if you would like to volunteer for one of the final three Hungry? dates: October 27, November 10 and 17.

## Third Quarter Financial Report

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving! As we end the third quarter of our fiscal year at First UMC, we are pleased to report that we are in a very healthy financial position. Through September 30 we have received \$1,847,486 in our Operating Fund. We are \$120,000 ahead of where we would expect to be at this time of year. Our Home Fires Fund, which is used for capital maintenance and replacement, has received \$159,395 through September, which is \$4,000 above where we would expect to be at this time of year.



Still, the final three months of the year are crucial for our financial health. As in any church, without a strong fourth quarter, we might not make our financial needs. We encourage the continued faithful giving of our members!

This is a time of great opportunity and new beginnings, with Kelly Willian assuming responsibility for our high school ministries. We are also anticipating a new Shine pastor next year. In addition, Rev. Zack Dunlap will return from his year of multi-site training on July 1, 2016 to pastor a new worshipping community in Berkley.

As you have done so many times before, we need all of our members and friends to respond faithfully and generously to our 2016 Stewardship Campaign. God has wonderful plans in store for First UMC, to give us a future with hope as we bring in God's kingdom on this earth.

Laurie and Gary Haller

## Talking Helps: Interactive Therapy Group

The basis for this group of women is the common purpose of finding out more about who they are and what they would like to change in their personal lives and relationships with others. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m., our own Teena Dickerson leads the group to engage with one another on different emotional levels. Individuals can freely gain wider perspectives about the various ways they relate to their own surroundings and circumstances. Please call Teena directly (248-593-0041) to find out if you might benefit from this process.

## Opportunities for Employment

**Welcome Center Receptionists....**Do you have a heart for hospitality? Are you seeking a part-time (8-12 hours per week) employment opportunity? We are looking for Main Entrance Welcome Center Receptionists to provide a warm and joyful welcome to the building for the congregation and community. Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office. Contact Mary Feldmaier with questions ([mfeldmaier@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:mfeldmaier@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3142).

**High School Ministry Coordinator....**Do you have a heart for high school students? High School Ministries is seeking to hire a High School Ministry Coordinator who will assist in growing this area of ministry. Applicants must love to work with high school students and have a desire to share their passion for serving God and the community. This is a part-time position (15-20 hours per week) and involves work on Sunday morning and evening. Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office. For more information, contact Kelly Willian, Director of Children, Family, High School and College Ministries ([kwillian@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:kwillian@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3128).

## Stewardship: *Multiply!*

### Why do we fill out an Estimate of Giving card?

The church must be responsible in how it shapes a budget. So an accurate idea of our income is essential to plan our expenditures. Churches today call it an “Estimate of Giving,” knowing that one’s income can change, either up or down, through the year.

### Do you, as pastors, give to our church?

Absolutely! Each fall we re-commit ourselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ and fill out an Estimate of Giving card. As noted in the Pastor’s article, we always give at least a tithe of our gross income to the church. Even if our salaries do not increase, we will increase our giving.

### What is the Operating Budget?

This is “The Fund” that funds nearly everything! It covers children, youth, education, music, caring ministries, choirs, administrative support, missions, outreach, staff salaries and benefits. It’s the main fund our members need to support.

### Then what is the Home Fires Fund?

The Operating Budget covers maintenance; Home Fires covers capital replacement. The Operating Budget pays for carpet cleaning; Home Fires pays for the carpets. The Operating Budget pays for furnace filters; Home Fires pays for the furnace. The Operating Budget covers boiler maintenance; Home Fires pays for the boilers. Home Fires is one-tenth the size of the Operating Fund. Both funds are listed on the Estimate of Giving card.

Recently Home Fires paid for air conditioning in the Children's Center, replaced two of our 21 roof sections to address leaks, remodeled the Cranbrook Cross parsonage, and replaced one-third of our old computers and software. It will soon place new carpet in the CLC! Because of Home Fires, we did not need to have any “extra budget” fundraising.

### How can I give?

Bring your Estimate of Giving to church on Sunday, October 25, and bring it forward to be consecrated. Or mail it to the church in the supplied envelope. Or go to our website either [to give or to supply your Estimate of Giving!](#)



## Opportunities for Fellowship

**UMW Holiday Shopping Trip....** Carpool with others from the church to the Christmas Bazaar at Faith UMC in Trenton. Friday, November 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 each and include a chicken luncheon. The ladies from Trenton support our mission work by attending the UMW Rummage Sale. Join us for a day of fellowship while supporting their mission efforts. Sign up and pay in the church office.

**National Park Adventures....** There have been a couple of cancellations on the National Park Adventure Cruise and Denali Park trip to Alaska next July, so there are some openings...four, to be exact. If you are interested, please contact Carl Price right away for details ([carl\\_pat\\_price@netzero.com](mailto:carl_pat_price@netzero.com)).

## Opportunities for Outreach

**Serve Communion....** Would you like to help serve communion during worship? We are especially in need of a few more servers for the 11:00 service, but would be happy to add you to our list of servers for any service. Each month you will receive an email asking if you are available for the next Communion Sunday, typically the first Sunday of the month. You can agree or decline depending on your schedule. Full instructions will be provided. Please consider serving your church in this important ministry. Contact Janet Smylie ([office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121) for more information.



**November 1st Missions Fair....** From Baldwin Center, StreeThreads and Methodist Children's Home nearby, to Spirit Journey "up north" and Sneedville in Tennessee, to Costa Rica and Haiti, FUMC's 26 missions teams work to relieve suffering and deprivation, and build sustainably better futures for those less fortunate. Come to Fellowship Hall on November 1st to see what's going on!

**Christmas Wish Lists** from Methodist Children's Village foster care children will be available at the November 1st Missions Fair in Fellowship Hall. The children really hope they will receive gifts at Christmas. Please put joy in their hearts by picking up a child's wish list.

**SERRV Sale....** In 1949, a small group of church relief workers began a program helping refugees rebuild after World War II. Out of this humble beginning grew the current program called SERRV. It is an international program whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. SERRV pays a fair wage for the goods that are produced and is the connecting network used for the sale of their items. For over 10 years, First Church has had at least one SERRV Sale each year to help support this excellent Fair Trade program. You will find jewelry, clothing, baskets, home decorations, nativities, and much more. This year's



sale will held during the coffee hours on Sunday, November 1st. Don't miss your chance to buy holiday gifts or items for yourself. For more information, contact Linda Wilson ([jreedwilson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jreedwilson@sbcglobal.net)).

**Habitat Update....** FUMC teams have been involved with Habitat for Humanity for some time, and have been supported with contributions from the congregation. In the past two years, team participation has declined markedly, so Missions leadership has decided to "idle" the Habitat activity and send all remaining monies to Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, Michigan. Those in the congregation still wishing to support the Habitat cause can do so directly by visiting [habitatoakland.org](http://habitatoakland.org).

## This Week at First Church

### Wednesday, October 21

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis Men's Group  
 8:00 a.m. Rummage Sale Set Up  
 6:00 p.m. Rummage Sale

### Thursday, October 22

10:00 a.m. Rummage Sale  
 4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### Friday, October 23

9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale

### Saturday, October 24

11:00 a.m. Eunice Orton Memorial Service

### Sunday, October 25

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 10:30 a.m. College Packet Assembly  
 5:00 p.m. HS Youth Group  
 5:00 p.m. MS Bells  
 5:30 p.m. Genesis Choir  
 6:30 p.m. Book of Jeremiah  
 6:30 p.m. IXOYC Choir  
 6:30 p.m. MS Youth Group  
 7:30 p.m. HS Bells

### Monday, October 26

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:15 a.m. Parents Day Out  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 9:30 a.m. Post Rummage Sale Meeting  
 10:45 a.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 11:30 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 12:30 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 12:30 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 12:45 p.m. Parents of HS/ College  
 1:00 p.m. Front Porches  
 4:30 p.m. Hip Hop  
 4:30 p.m. Pre-Ballet 2 w/Tap  
 5:30 p.m. Beginners Ballet  
 5:30 p.m. Hip Hop Enrichment

6:30 p.m. Adult Karate  
 6:30 p.m. Diamond are Forever  
 6:30 p.m. Purl Girls  
 6:30 p.m. Steeple Stock  
 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Covenant Bible Study I

### Tuesday, October 27

6:30 a.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study  
 8:30 a.m. WOW Leader Meeting  
 9:15 a.m. Parents Day Out  
 9:30 a.m. Mahjong  
 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Women's Study  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Handbells  
 10:00 a.m. COW  
 10:00 a.m. WOW Bible Study  
 10:30 a.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 12:30 p.m. Women @ One  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 4:30 p.m. Pre-Ballet w/Tap  
 7:00 p.m. Church & Society Ministry  
 7:30 p.m. FUMC Men's Basketball

### Wednesday, October 28

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis Men's Group (White)  
 7:30 a.m. Word for Working Women  
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. GRIP Child Care  
 9:15 a.m. GRIP/GRIP Elementary  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Aging Ain't for Sissies  
 11:30 a.m. Singing Bowls  
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon  
 12:30 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 12:30 p.m. Sisters  
 6:45 p.m. Young Adult Study  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Parents  
 7:00 p.m. Celebration Ringers  
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
 7:00 p.m. Landscape Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

### Thursday, October 29

9:15 a.m. Parents Day Out  
 9:30 a.m. Prelude: 24-36 Months  
 10:15 a.m. Prelude: Walkers 24 Month  
 11:00 a.m. Prelude: Newborn-Walkers  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 4:00 p.m. SPARK  
 4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Prelude: 24-36 Months  
 4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir  
 4:45 p.m. Bible Study: Snyder  
 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Children's Bells  
 6:30 p.m. Jr. Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Karate  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women

### Friday, October 30

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:15 a.m. Parents Day Out  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates

# Sunday, October 25, 2015

## Celebration Sunday!

### Traditional Worship

8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Matthew 13:31-33

*Multiply!*

“The Ripple Effect”

Rev. Laurie Haller

Hymns:

“To God Be the Glory”

“You Are the Seed”

9:30 - Sonshine Choir, Genesis Choir, Chancel Choir

11:00 - Covenant Choir, IXOYC Choir, Chancel Choir

### Shine Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

2 Timothy 4:6-8, Luke 18:9-14

*Multiply!*

“Why Not Our Best?”

Rev. Gary Haller

**The Liturgists** are Rev. Gary Haller at 8:15 and 9:30, and Gretchen Brewer at 11:00.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Catherine (Kate) Hameister by Dick, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**The Missions Candle** is lit by Judy Turner in appreciation of the faithfulness, love, and caring the Kids Hope USA mentors and prayer partners give to the children of Greenfield School.

### Find Us Online!

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**Lindsey Hall, Suzanne Walls and Zack Dunlap**, Associate Pastors

**John E. Harnish, William A. Ritter and Robert P. Ward**, Pastors Emeriti

### Our Purpose:

To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Christ for ministry and mission in the world.

### Our Vision:

Becoming a church that glorifies God, serves Christ, loves others, and lives it out.

**Steeple Notes** is published weekly by First United Methodist Church. Notices should be in writing and submitted to Janet Smylie in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday.