

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 14, 2009

Dear Friends:

Every week we move closer to hearing the angels sing, to see the star, and to go with the shepherds to the manger to see the Christ Child. There are no others with whom I would rather make this trip than with you. Let's not let the rush, push, shove, and activities of the season rob of us the joy.

Many on Sunday shared their gifts with us as we gathered for worship. Thanks to Matt, Kim, Hannah, and Jake Less; Marty, Kristin, Caroline, and Meredith Shaw; Marty, Robin, Holly and Emily Lovgren; Bill, Kimber, Thomas, and Coleman Davis; FirstSong, the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Bell Choir, the Sanctuary East Praise Band, and all who helped make our times of worship so special. I encourage all of us to be present in the many upcoming services as we prepare to welcome Christmas.

Thanks to the Claim His Name Musical Ensemble and the Heavenly Sonshine Choir for their incredible musical presentation, "The Greatest Christmas Card In The Whole Wide World." Thanks also to the Cherub Disciple Choirs for their awesome musical presentation of "The Christmas Story". Everyone who attended these musicals got a glimpse of heaven - - that is, children singing about the Good News which came to all people in God's gift of the Christ Child. Whatever gift we may get this Christmas, none will come close to this One found lying in a manger. Such musical presentations like these would not have happened without some very dedicated adult leadership. There are far too many to mention individually, so please know that all of you are deeply appreciated and that your hard work is a blessing to all of us.

Graceworks is in desperate need of new, unwrapped items under \$25 for infants to seniors, but especially for teen boys and men. Donations can be brought to Graceworks at 104 Southeast Parkway Tuesday through Saturday 9 - 4. Please give to those in our community much less fortunate than we. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

We are also in need of travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, chap sticks, t-shirts, and tube socks for our Room In The Inn guests. These items can be brought to the church office Monday - Friday 8 - 4:30. This is an ongoing need and not just during the Christmas season. Maybe this would be something we could give each month to help keep our supply closet fully stocked to help meet this critical need. Thanks for your help.

I remind the middle and high school age youth of your confirmation class which starts in January. To be a part of this a class registration and a signed Confirmation Covenant must be returned NO LATER than January 3. I encourage all of our middle and high school age youth to give this your prayerful consideration. If you have any questions please contact Jacob, Helen, Vona, or me. We will be praying for you.

I remind all church leaders of the Laity Connection District Training to be held on January 10 starting at 2:00 p.m. here at Franklin FUMC. This annual leadership training is designed to help us better carry out the responsibilities to which we have been elected. For more information, please contact Vona or me. I hope to see YOU at this training event.

With the coming of Christmas we have God's promise to always be with us. With God's presence and the love of each other we know, the best is yet to be!!! Thanks be to God!!!

Grace and Peace,

Lynn

FIRST KIDS

Calling all Parents.... Pick up a Discussion starter Car tag at the Children's Welcome Center on the 2nd floor. The questions follow your children's curriculum for the month of December. Watch for more Discussion starters each month!

For more news about Children's Ministry, check out the children's page of the church's website, www.franklinfumc.org.

FELLOWSHIP

The Adult choirs of FUMC invite you to our annual Christmas Cantata, The Voices of Christmas, by Joseph Martin, at 6:30 pm Sunday evening, December 20. With string accompaniment and familiar carols, the focus of the season will be brought to life through this beautiful music. Come and experience a meaningful worship experience through music.

Alumni and graduates are invited to join a special group of students who will provide anthem music, leadership, and participation in the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service at FUMC. We can use all kinds of talents—ushers, singers, musicians, dancers, readers, etc. Call Jennifer Scoble (794-7449) or Jim Kimmel (519-4177) for details. Join us for this wonderful hour of worship on this very special night.



Youth High School and Middle School Confirmation starts in January! Look for our Confirmation booth in December in Fellowship Hall during fellowship time or pick up materials on the 3rd floor or at www.415youth.com. To register, a signed Confirmation Covenant must be turned in for the youth. Registration ends January 3, 2010. No registrations will be accepted after that date. Questions? Contact Jacob Fasig.



On December 21 we will have a youth group Christmas and Caroling Party from noon to 5:00 pm. Join us for lunch and caroling at a few of our local nursing homes and assisted living communities. We'll then return to the Church around 3:00 for hot chocolate and a dirty Santa gift exchange. RSVP to Helen by December 16 so we can arrange for food and transportation. Girls bring something sweet, boys bring something salty, plus your Dirty Santa gift (\$10 or less).



Registration is now open for the youth Warmth in Winter 2010 Retreat! The retreat will be in Murfreesboro and will be an amazing weekend of worship, workshops, lectures and more. For more information, cost, and to register for the event, please go to www.415youth.com. Registration ends January 4. Contact Helen Lombardo with questions.

The Columbia District Laity Connection 2010 is a workshop to enhance lay ministry in our district. The Columbia District is 14,000 strong in laity. It is important that we know each other and multiply our effectiveness as a district. This workshop is for chairs or reps of the SPRC, Church Council, Trustees and Finance Committees in addition to all lay speakers, lay leaders, our children's workers and witness ministries representatives. The workshop will be held on Sunday, January 10 at 2:00PM at Franklin First United Methodist. Please let your pastor know that you would like to register for this workshop.

SERVICE & GENEROSITY

Travel size toothpastes, toothbrushes, combs and chap sticks (travel size soaps not needed at this time), packages of t-shirts or tube socks are needed for toiletry bags we make for our Room in the Inn guests. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office. Thanks!

Volunteers are needed to help boys from My Friends House with Christmas shopping and dinner afterwards at 5:30 at Chilis. Meet at Target on Columbia Avenue at 4:00 pm on December 20. Each boy will have a predetermined amount of money to spend on gifts for themselves or their family. You may also donate money by sending a check to the Church with a notation of "My Friend's House." Call Tim or Rhonda Tracy at 591-5741 if you have questions.



The Generosity Outcome Team would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and meaningful holiday season. Christmas provides a wonderful time for family and friends to come together and celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout this year you have been hearing and reading messages on generosity from outcome team members. They have shared their expressions of generosity and demonstrated how our church ministries depend on our individual initiative and dedication to be faithful disciples through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We hope that you have opened your heart to these messages and it is exciting to imagine what can be accomplished for God's Kingdom if we all faithfully respond to our membership vows.

This year's Stewardship Campaign theme was "First Fruits" from Proverbs 3: 9 –10. This was a powerful message reminding each of us of our commitment to give back to the Lord a portion of the financial resources God has entrusted to each of us. We heard several Stewardship Messages from members of the church and enjoyed inspirational sermons from Lynn Hill on this year's important message. It is our hope that the meaning of "First Fruits" is now a part of the thoughts and, hopefully, the lives of all members of Franklin First. If you have not yet submitted your commitment card and/or service form then we ask that all members prayerfully consider responding to how God is inviting you to participate through the giving of your "first fruits" for the coming year.

We thank you for the love and dedication we share for Christ and for this church. It is going to be exciting to see what plans God will now have for Franklin First United Methodist Church.

Jack G. Elder
Generosity Outcome Team Member



Our partner church, 61st Avenue UMC, needs our help once again for the Last Minute Toy Store, Friday December 18 thru Monday, December 21. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks.

Also, new unwrapped toys and gifts are needed, especially for ages 0-4 and for teens. To volunteer or to deliver gifts, please call 61st Avenue UMC at 292-7184. For more information, visit www.lastminutetoystore.com.

The Night Shift at the 61st Ave UMC Last Minute Toy Store - Want to do something really special during Advent? Volunteer for the late night shift at the Last Minute Toy Store. The shift begins at 3:00 am and ends at 7:00 am. During this time the “shoppers” are standing and sitting in line to get their shopping ticket for the following day. Your role is to keep people safe and peaceful while making the waiting as hospitable as possible. Advent is a lot about waiting . . . And you can make a difference this year by being a cheerful presence. Questions? Email vwilson@franklinfumc.org, Pastor Paul 6laveumc@bellsouth.net or check out the website at www.lastminutetoystore.com. Sign up on the Mission Menu.

Year End Charitable Giving - When planning your year-end charitable giving, remember you can make a prepaid contribution to the 2010 Capital Campaign for our North Campus Development. Mark your check “Prepaid 2010 Capital Campaign.” The prepaid amount will be applied to the commitment you make to the Capital Campaign in May or June of 2010. If you have questions, please contact La Verne Sweeney, Church Business Manager, at 794-2734

Year End Contributions - Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2009, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2009. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2010 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2009 even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2009 will be deductible in 2009 even if the church does not receive them until 2010. If you are giving stock to the church as a contribution for 2009, call the Church Office, 794-2734, for instructions or to let us know that the transfer has been made. Please transfer stock two weeks prior to year-end (Dec. 15, 2009).



Graceworks desperately needs more Manger gifts of new, unwrapped items under \$20-\$25 for any age, infants to seniors, but especially those for teen boys and men. If you can help, donations can be brought to Graceworks (marked Manger) at 104 Southeast Parkway, Tuesday—Saturday, 9:00 am thru 4:00 pm.



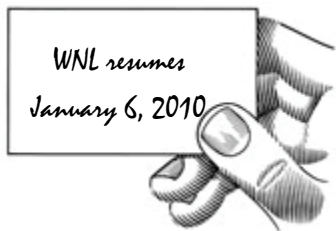
FIRST FAMILY MATTERS

as of December 14, 2009

At Vanderbilt: Chuck Henry
At Williamson Medical Center: Barry Caveness
At Centennial: Bill Farmer



415 Student Ministries needs a new Synergy Sunday night food coordinator for the next semester, beginning January 2010 and beyond! Meals are served from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on the third floor. If there are any closet caterers out there who want to help feed hungry teenagers on Sunday nights, contact Helen@415youth.com for more details. We need you!



The Church is in need of small, CLEAN, bud vases for the flower ministry. (Large vases are not needed at this time.) Vases may be dropped off at the Church office.

If you would like to help usher at the 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm or 9:00 pm Christmas Eve services in the Historic Sanctuary, please contact Bill Piper at 496-4787.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS for December 6, 2009	
Sunday School Attendance	825
Worship Attendance (4 services)	961
Offering this week	\$62,123
YTD Offerings	\$2,074,211
YTD Operating Budget	\$2,345,352
YTD Operating Budget Spent	\$2,039,400
Loan Balance-December 3, 2009-Activity Center	\$1,742,955
Total Principal Paid YTD-Activity Center	\$238,537
Loan Balance-2/15/09 -North Campus	\$3,815,689
Legacy of Faith Gifts this week	\$14,408
Foundation gifts	\$0
Questions? Call LaVerne Sweeney, Business Manager, 794-2734	

WEEK AT A GLANCE

2009 CALENDAR FOR FRANKLIN FIRST UMC:

Please complete an Event Form
(available at the office or online) 2 to
4 weeks in advance to reserve
dates for all meetings and
activities. Also, if you should
change a date, day, or time
after completing the initial Event
Form you must contact Pam
with the update as all of our
publications rely on the accurate
information supplied to the office
staff and recorded on the
church calendar. Contact Pam
at the church office (794-2734)
if you have any questions.
pgarland@franklinfumc.org
www.franklinfumc.org/pdf/EOF.pdf

MONDAY, December 14

10:00 am Mary and Martha Circle Christmas Party, Cafe
6:30 pm Advent Study, B214
7:00 pm Small Group Ministry Team, A302

TUESDAY, December 15

6:00 am Men of Momentum, Café
7:00 am Women's Bible Study, B101
9:00 am Older Adult Fitness, Sanctuary East
5:45 pm Primetimers—Here We Go a Caroling
6:30 pm CMT Meeting, A210
7:00 pm Stephen Ministry, 3rd Floor

WEDNESDAY, December 16

8:00 am Weekly Prayer Walk, North Campus
9:15 am Disciple II Bible Study, A211
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group, B214
5:30 pm Chancel Handbells, Historic Sanctuary
6:30 pm FirstSong Rehearsal, Historic Sanctuary
7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Historic Sanctuary

THURSDAY, December 17

9:00 am Older Adult Fitness, Sanctuary East

SATURDAY, December 19

8:00 am Rehearsal Worship Team for 9:00 Service, Sanctuary East
8:00 am Prayer Walk, North Campus
9:00 am Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Historic Sanctuary

Franklin First United Methodist Church

143 5th Ave. South • Franklin, TN 37064 • www.franklinfumc.org
Office: (615) 794-2734 • Fax: 790-4926 • Parents' Day Out/Preschool: 794-5386

9:00 and 10:30 Worship Services (Blended Worship & Traditional Worship) • 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday School

Knowing Christ | Sharing Christ | Making Disciples



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES: It's **IMPORTANT** to keep your family and contact information up to date with the church office. Please contact Debbie Miller, your Membership Secretary, at the church office (dmiller@franklinfumc.org or 794-2734) with any changes or additions (i.e. name, address, e-mail, phone, births.) Thank you!

VIDEO SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENTS: New PowerPoint presentations are loaded each Sunday morning. If you have information for the week ahead, please let John Knorr know by the Friday before. *John Knorr*, jknorr@franklinfumc.org

NEWSLETTER AND/OR BULLETIN PUBLICATION REQUESTS: The deadline for submitting information for the Mission Menu, Franklin First UMC bulletin insert, and First Things First Newsletter is **Tuesday at noon**. Please submit to: secretary@franklinfumc.org. Thank you! *Due to limited space on printed publications, an article may not be able to run more than twice—consecutively. We will do our best to accommodate each request.*

Church Staff:

Dr. A. Lynn Hill, *Senior Minister*
Rev. Vona R. Wilson, *Associate Minister*
Rev. Mark Coursey, *Minister of Evangelism & Program*
Rev. John Williams, *Minister of Visitation*
Rev. Becky Peeler, *Minister to Children*
Sarah Carty, *Asst. Director of Children's Ministry*
Jacob Fasig, *Director of Youth Ministry*
Helen Lombardo, *Associate Youth Director*
Mary Phillips, *Organist*
Jim Kimmel, *Music Director—Historic Sanctuary*
Sarah Evins, *Music Director—Sanctuary East*
John Knorr, *Music/Media Asst.*
Brenda Kessell, *Preschool Director*

Office Staff:

LaVerne Sweeney, *Business Manager*
Pam Garland, *Office Manager-Financial Secretary*
Brooke Rainey, *Communications Director*
Debbie Miller, *Membership Secretary*
Laura Lindquist, *Church Secretary*
Carmen Greenwald, *Receptionist*
Amber Wakefield, *Childcare Coordinator*
Roy Reed, *Facilities Supervisor*
Juanita Hill, Bert Miller, Sid Bradley, Jr., Arthur Polk, *Custodians*

