

# THE BEACON



Sebastian United Methodist Church  
**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS**

February 2017

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

As everyone recently reading *The Beacon*, worshipping God with us on Sundays, receiving our weekly emailed “*Updates*” or attending one of our many ministry team meetings knows, this is “Stewardship Season!”

You’re probably tired of hearing us announce, write about, and preach about “stewardship.” Our Stewardship Team has been working diligently to emphasize that rightly practiced Christian Stewardship impacts every area and aspect of personal, social, economic, and spiritual life.

While these three weeks of testimonies, liturgies, hymns, and homilies have not concentrated our attention on matters of our financial responsibilities, stewardship there is a moment in this series when we’ll focus on “the budget.”

Through the financial side of our church life we seek to make a transformative difference in the lives of members and our community, and that “ain’t cheap!”

Anyone who reads our communication tools (this newsletter, weekly worship guides, our Website ([www.sebastianumc.com](http://www.sebastianumc.com)), our Facebook page and “Bursts”, occasional ads in local media, and our weekly “Update,” at the very least, becomes aware of the multiple settings in which ministry takes place in Christ’s name both within and beyond our walls.

Our mission as Methodist Christians is straightforward: “*To make disciples of Jesus Christ through the Transformation of the World,*” beginning right at home, here in Sebastian and extending outward.

We **reach “in”** to touch the lives of our friends and members as we gather for worship, in joy-filled musical celebrations, through Bible study in several settings, in small prayer groups, spiritual growth groups, and missional outreach to others through our United Methodist Women, members of Church Women United, and UM Men.

We **reach out** to our community in our youth and children’s ministries through our Sebastian Boys and Girls Club and Sebastian Women’s Club and through our Brownie and Girl Scout “troops.” We minister to families affected by addictions through ALANON, and we extend our facilities to groups specializing in artistic creation, medical condition support, rehabilitation, and growth as well. All we offer and engage, we do in the name of Jesus Christ!

We **reach “in”** as well to provide opportunities for the stewardship of community building. Consider the labors of love and patience expressed each Sunday by members who prepare refreshments for our now-quite famous-in-the-community Coffee Hour Ministry and monthly Fellowship Covered Dish Dinners. Note also those members who compassionately extend themselves to families in grief through the ministry of food.

You’ve contributed thousands of hours of volunteer service through our SUMC Thrift Store Ministry. We need opportunities to “forget ourselves on behalf of others”... critically important opportunities for spiritual growth. As a bonus to everyone who financially supports ministry here, The Thrift Shop provides financial resources for approximately 40% of our annual budget! Without the financial result of these volunteer efforts Sebastian UMC would fiscally and programmatically a very different church.

But now comes a moment of truth, a moment of spiritual introspection, a moment of risk taking. The most difficult component of discipleship and church membership is financial stewardship. Yep, the ministry of our checkbooks, bank accounts, wallets, and purses. No disciple can escape this aspect of stewardship. Even though it involves the invitation to sacrificially sharing, giving money is truly a small component of our larger compassionate ministry.

Next Sunday we will dedicate our “Estimate of Giving Cards” if we are willing joyfully to “do the best we can” in 2017 in light of what Christ has done and calls us to do.

The bottom line? ... financially, yes, but by no means only financially in the greater terms of stewardship ... the end point of this First Financial Campaign at Sebastian UMC for each of us in more than two decades:

AS YOUR PASTOR, I UPPED MY PLEDGE. PRAYERFULLY. WILL YOU DO THE SAME?

*Will*



## Just a Note From Megan Mash

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. - Galatians 3:26-29 NIV*

Some hymns are not initially written as hymns. "In Christ There Is No East or West" was originally written as part of a libretto. John Oxenham composed the libretto *The Pageant of Darkness and Light* for the London Missionary Society's exhibition in 1908. The theme for the exhibition was "The Orient in London." Oxenham included the poem in 1913 in his book *Bees in Amber*. The theme of the hymn is Christian unity as found in Galatians 3:28. The hymn has been included in USA hymnals since 1920's and in 1935 it entered Methodist hymnals. In preparation for our current hymnal many hymn texts were edited to include more inclusive language. This hymn also underwent some editing. Laurence Hull Stookey was charged to edit the third stanza of the hymn. In correspondence with Carlton Young he wrote this about his experience:

While service on the language and theology subcommittee, [I] became frustrated with the assignment given [me] to revise the words...After numerous unsatisfactory attempts to make Oxenham's language inclusive, [I] decided to write a replacement stanza based on Galatians 3:28.

The text reinforces Paul's letter to the Galatians. We are reminded that in Christ there is "one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth." We are called to be instruments in this fellowship to spread God's love throughout the world. What makes us unique and different is not cause for division in Christ. We are each vital parts in the body of Christ. Our differences are what make the body strong. Our unique calls help us reach out to many more people who are broken and hurting. When we come together in Christ, we can do greater work than we ever could image alone. Christ calls us to work together because "his service is the golden cord close binding humankind." We are all one in Christ, united in love to serve the world.

**Most Needed Food Pantry Items  
NOW—Peanut Butter and Jelly**

### Sebastian United Methodist Church Last Scheduled Concert In Series-

- **Friday, February 24, 2017 7:00 pm**  
Spring Fling  
If you would like to be involved with skit, song or dance call Megan. Deadline—February 12.

### Clambake Kitchen Capital Improvement Grant 2017

We are pleased to announce that SUMC received a \$2000 grant from the Sebastian clambake at the Sebastian City Council Meeting on January 11, 2017, which will be used as a capital improvement for our Kitchen renovation.

We are all enjoying our new kitchen since the renovation project began last year and since it's completion, we have had: 2 full weeks of Music camp, 1 full week of Science camp, Fellowship dinners, Light-up night, Thanksgiving dinner, Samaritan Center Soup Bowl fundraiser, Silent auction fund-raiser, memorial lunches, Three Kings Feast, Lunch-eons, Celebrations, and our weekly after church fellowship time coffee hour.

That being said, we have had no time for any fundraising campaign, as we've been so busy with these events. To date we have raised \$7500 which includes the grant we just received, but we are in need of more, so if you feel called to add to this wonderful project, please do so either online or adding a dollar amount in your weekly offering envelope, just mark 'kitchen fund' on the outside.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, your gift will keep on giving for years to come with the use of our wonderful new kitchen!

Blessings,  
Nancy L Fox, fundraising chair



## ***United Methodist Women—150 Years Young***

We (Mary & Ann) attended the Roseland UMW meeting on January 12, 2017. Once again we were welcomed warmly. They are a very active group. Roseland has a 2017 UMW Directory all planned out for the whole year--listing programs --fundraisers-- events -membership information etc. We will be creating one for Our unit.

We continue to learn and be impressed with the number of women at Roseland that are involved with the United Methodist Women. Our hope is that this year more of our ladies will become a part of our UMW--it is a multi-faceted organization with lots of opportunities to be involved with many types of mission work and spiritual growth.

We so welcome all the ladies: we need YOU---YOUR IDEAS---YOUR INVOLVEMENT -- YOUR ENTHUSIASM and YOUR LOVE.

Mary & Ann (co-presidents) and Donna Borchsenius (vice president) attended an officer training at First UMC Okeechobee -Saturday January 21st. What a wonderful experience. Our Keynote speaker was Pastor Alexi Talbott her message was ATTITUDES --she challenged us to become very aware of our attitudes --they reflect who we really are --ARE our attitudes promoting GOD's LOVE, JOY, and HAPPINESS? We are the advisements for the CHURCH and GOD.--lots to think about. We met so many wonderful ladies from our District. We plan to attend some of their UMW meetings to get ideas how to grow our UMW.

On Wednesday night January 18th the UMW hosted the fellowship dinner with guest speaker Jody Idlette-- Principal at Sebastian River Middle School. Ms. Idlette shared some of the many needs of her students and their families. Sharon did a full page article in last week's bulletin. Our HEARTS were touched by the needs of these young children---we hope yours were also.

So please join this partnership with your time--talents-dollars-peanut butter, jelly, and bread

On Friday January 6th, Sally Lambert and Ann attended Church Women United of Indian River County at community Church Vero Beach. Church Women United is a national ecumenical movement of women of Faith who have committed themselves to expressing the UNITY which is already theirs in Christ. This community of Christian women experiences the diversity of all God's people through celebrations, worship, education, co-operative action, and works of charity. All church women of any church are represented here.

### ***Next meeting of the Church Women United of Indian River County***

Friday March 3, 2017 9:30 am

CELEBRATE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

West Minister Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach

We hope you will join us --we will meet at church at 8:30 to carpool to Vero Beach

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!

**Next United Methodist Women meeting is : Friday February 17th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:** Ethel Logan, District President, followed by Welcome Luncheon  
Come and learn all about UMW

great way to connect with other ladies in our congregation  
-share our interest and grow together SPIRITUALLY With LOVE --PEACE & LAUGHTER

Mary Schultz and Ann McCullough  
Co-Presidents

let there be  
laughter.★  
love.♥  
peace.☺  
hope.✿  
friendship.💕



David Brown	February 6
Ed Oleksy	February 10
Nancy Barry	February 14
Destiny McCreary	February 15
Dot Eagles	February 16
Judith Bairstow	February 23

Happy Anniversary

Dick & Sherry Hunter	February 14
Jim & Judy Gallagher	February 17,



### Cookies for Cops

Cookie month for SUMC is February. If you would like to donate cookies for our local police please bring your cookies on any Sunday in February and give to Alan Shepper, our Ecumenical Council Representative.



### DISCRETIONARY FUND (Grace In Action)

We traditionally take a special collection for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Grace in Action) on the first Sunday of the month. We are trying to help as many individuals as possible, so if you are able to make a donation, please put it in a pew envelope and mark for Discretionary Fund.

### Lay Servant Classes

Friday, March 10, 2017 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Emmanuel UMC, 2800 W. Eau Gallie Blvd. Melbourne, FL. 32935

- Cost: \$25 per course,
- Please bring a bag lunch, snacks and drinks provided
- Scholarships are available

Contact Mary Lou Rothfuss by email [mlrothfuss@att.net](mailto:mlrothfuss@att.net)

or at 772-321-3397 for registration form and/or additional information

**Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course - Now on sale at Cokesbury for \$7.70**

Taught by: Marilyn Waldis

**Advanced Class: "Let the Whole Church Say Amen!" —Now on sale at Cokesbury for \$15.50**

By Laurence Stookey.

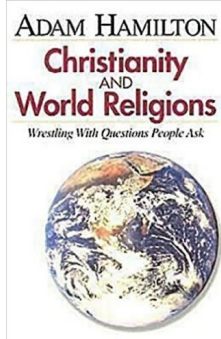
Taught by Colin MacNeil

Participants Guides for all classes available at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [The Upper Room.com](http://The Upper Room.com) **Questions or Concerns please call:**

Mary Lou Rothfuss, Atlantic Central District Director of Lay Servant Ministries



*Celebrate the Joy of Sharing*



**Thursdays from 5:45 PM to 7 PM** in the large classroom February through March -- a multi-week exploration of major World Religions with Dr. Finnin and representatives of other faith traditions. Book available in the Church Office in mid January. Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and World Religions" (available on Amazon and at Cokesbury.com with a few copies in the church office and (if available) "The Essence of World Religions" in the Church office if availa-

Exciting new bible study **"The Way"** starting on **Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM February 21<sup>st</sup>**. Travel with Adam Hamilton as he re-traces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Fascinating video from his personal travels to the Holy Land give you a "first-person" experience while his biblical wisdom and historical knowledge provide thoughtful and insightful commentary. Please contact Bill or Lynda Chapman for books at 772-918-8575 or see Sharon at the church office.



### **Mardi Gras Gumbo Party at the Parsonage**

Tuesday February 28, 2017

367 Main Street

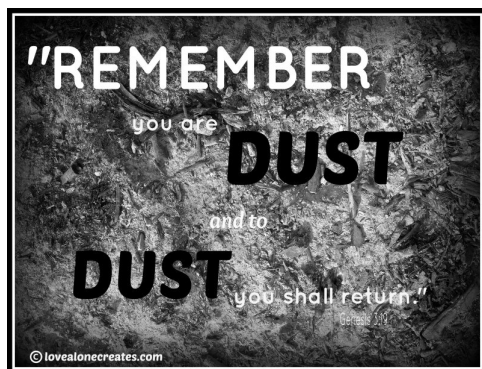
5:30 pm to Late:30 pm (wear your beads)

Mardi Gras colors are green, gold and purple!

Costumes welcome!

King Cake

Gumbo



### **Ash Wednesday Service**

March 1, 2017

7 pm



April 9—Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 Maundy Thursday Service

April 14—Good Friday Service

April 16—Easter

10 am Cantata

7 pm

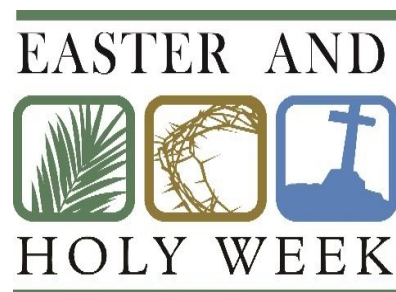
7 pm

7 am Worship at SUMC

8 am Breakfast, fellowship hall

10:15 am traditional worship

Choir, bells & brass!



# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6 pm Brownies CCR 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	2 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 5:45 pm World Religions LCR 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	3 6:30 pm AA open session FH 7:00 pm Megan Mash Recital	4
5 Sunday School Children 8:45 am CCR 10 am Worship 11 am after worship fellowship 1 pm Brass	6 9 am Small Group 10:30 am TS Ad Hoc Planning CO  4 pm Ecum. Cnc. LCR 5 pm Child Chime 6 pm NAMI SG 6 pm Worship CO 7 pm SPR CO	7 10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 6 pm AA closed session FH 7 pm Welcome Table CO 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	8 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	9 9:30 Small Group 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	10 6 pm Brownies CCR 6:30 pm AA open session FH	11 8 am UMM FH
12 Sunday School Children 8:45 am CCR 10 am Worship 11 am after worship fellowship 1 pm Brass	13 5 pm Child Chime 6 pm NAMI SG 7 pm Trustees CO	14 9:30 am Stroke of Hope FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 6 pm AA closed session FH 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	15 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6 pm Brownies CCR 6 pm Potluck FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	16 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 3pm Task Force 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	17 10 am U MW FH 6:30 pm open session AA FH	18
19 Sunday School Children 8:45 am CCR 10 am Worship 11 am after worship fellowship 1 pm Brass	20 9 am Sm. Group 5 pm Child Chime 6 pm NAMI SG 5:45 Stewardship CO 7 pm Finance  Presidents Day Office Closed	21 10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 6 pm AA closed session FH 6:00 pm Admin. Church Council CO 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon	22 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	23 9:30 Small Group 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	24 6 pm Brownies CCR 6:30 pm open session AA FH 7 pm SPRING FLING	25
26 Sunday School Children 8:45 am CCR 10 am Worship 11 am after worship fellowship 1 pm Brass	27 5 pm Child Chime 6 pm NAMI SG 6 pm Worship 7 pm Music Camp CO	28 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 6 pm AA closed session FH 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR			LCR—large class room FH—fellowship hall CCR-children's class room CO—church office S—sanctuary SGR-small group room BS—bible study SG—small group	



Sebastian United Methodist Church

1029 Main Street

Sebastian FL 32958

Office (772) 589-5230

Pastor's cell phone (386) 209-8073

Thrift Shop (772) 388-0405

E-mail: [sebastianumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:sebastianumc@bellsouth.net)

Website: [www.sebastianumc.com](http://www.sebastianumc.com)

Like us on Facebook!



### **Music Camp Fundraiser**

**March 19, 2017 After Worship in the Fellowship Hall**

**Balloon Bonanza and "Ooh La La Brunch"**

**Back by popular demand "Balloon Bonanza" purchase a balloon for \$10 to see what you win!**

**"Ooh La La Brunch" only \$5**

**Menu includes: Quiche, Fruit, French Toast Casseroles, Breakfast Casseroles, and Much More!**

**All money raised goes to Music Camp**

**Music Camp June 19-25 ages 5-9**

**Music Camp Part II July 31-August 6 ages 10-15**