

# THE BEACON



Sebastian United Methodist Church

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS**

**June 2017**

## THE PRIVILEGE OF MISSION:

### OUR CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS

Growing up along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in the 1950's, I learned a lot about Methodist missions at Clermont Harbor Methodist Church. It helped that my dad was the pastor! He'd remind folks that "apportionments" connected us to Christ's work worldwide and that this connection was vital to being "Methodist Christians."

For some reason dad's commitment to paying "benevolences" and "World Service" before other "askings" has remained with me throughout my own ministry. Perhaps that's because conference and jurisdictional benevolences as well as Ministerial Education Fund dollars supported both my seminary study and my work as a campus minister and as a university chaplain in United Methodist institutions.

Over the past 47 years as an ordained United Methodist minister serving "beyond the local church" and now as a pastor OF a local church, I've been regularly surprised at how many United Methodists think of "apportionments" as obligatory "church taxes" and little more.

I've discovered also that this perception is not unique to Mississippi, Louisiana or North Texas Methodists but can be found throughout Florida Conference congregations as well! I am pleased beyond measure to say that such is not so here at Sebastian UMC!

As a pastor I have come to understand apportionments as a United Methodist privilege, an aspect of our "unity," and perhaps even a sign of God's graceful connectivity calling United Methodists to share in the challenging tasks of sustaining and caring for God's creation. If that is so, Sebastian members are a grace-filled lot, supportive of the privilege of sharing and consistently responsive!

Our "apportionment" dollars make possible the commissioning and sending of agricultural specialists, educators, medical teams, and evangelists – folks we call "missionaries" – across the globe to settings we cannot or will not go to ourselves. That's "World Service" at work!

Our "apportionment" dollars fund the essential

operations of our Annual Conference programs: our efforts in child protection, local support for disaster relief, our camping ministries and campus ministries, initiatives in social justice, to name just a few. Here we'll find our "Conference Benevolences" at work.

Through the dollars apportioned to every local church, Sebastian UMC included, we make possible the education of pastors-in-training at our United Methodist seminaries (Ministerial Education Fund); we insure the continued survival of historic Black colleges and universities (The Black College Fund); we establish new United Methodist congregations, and encourage local ministries within the our own Atlantic Central District.

Behind every line item in our congregation's "apportionment schedule," stand human beings, sisters and brothers who labor in Christ's many missional vineyards across our Conference, nation, and world – Volunteers in Mission, district superintendents, support staff who make Methodist institutions work efficiently, and episcopal leaders. With pride we can rightly claim that every apportioned dollar is accounted for. We can be confident that efficiency as well as compassion guides the administration of United Methodist institutions and ministries -- efforts in education at every level, evangelism, health care, age-level programs across the denomination, collegiate ministries, church extension, child care and welfare, and so many other areas.

"Apportionments" connect us to Christ's work across the entire spectrum of ministry. In the care of children in Brazil or Angola or Philippines who otherwise would have no access to education, medical advice, pastoral care or Christian worship; through temporary supplements to pastoral support in Florida congregations too small or unable fully to provide for their ministerial leadership; by founding and nurturing the only viable educational institution in Zimbabwe, Africa University, now responsible for the education of hundreds of teachers, health care professionals, and agriculturalists across that vast continent – in all these settings "apportioned dollars" represent Christ's presence.

When the topic of “apportionments” arises, don’t think “taxes!” Think “our congregation’s Tithe.” That’s right. Our 2017 Apportionment share of our church’s mission is just a bit less than 10% of Sebastian UMC’s operating budget.

Think “mission” and “Connection.” Think “service” and “vocation” and response to Christ’s concrete and specific call to care and love across God’s world.

Think “Christ’s Mission” beyond our locale, and boldly claim “evidence of God’s grace” right here in our midst.

This year we inaugurated the first Stewardship and Financial Campaign Sebastian UMC has undertaken in more than two decades! I am privileged to say that our members are “stepping up to the plate.” (No pun intended!) Many have increased their giving, pledged to tithe, moved toward tithing as a goal. Among the dollars, time, energy, and talents that constitute our stewardship, the dollars for “Apportionments” shine. Sebastian UMC is a 100% Apportionment Congregation in the Florida Annual Conference.

Our delegates to Annual Conference in June will again wear the 100% Ribbons of full support to the Local, Conference, and Global mission of our Church through apportioned giving. As we prepare for Conference, my prayer and hope is that this will always be so. Blessings and peace in Christ our Lord.

## *Will*

### **June 4th is Pentecost Sunday WEAR RED**



The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Priests or ministers, and choirs wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well.



#### **Note:**

**AED machine is located in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen, just inside door on the wall.  
There will soon be AED in the Thrift Shop and AED in Sanctuary**

**Interested in AED Refresher or Want to know how they work? Let the office know  
or put a star next to your name in the attendance registration book with AED next  
to star**



## *Just a Note From Megan Mash*

This year saw our first missional concert series. We had seven concerts involving many different groups and many different people. This series has provided us with an opportunity to partner with the community to make a difference in our community through music.

Music is a gift that God has given us for more than just worship on Sunday morning. We have shown how we can gather together to worship God and serve the world at the same time.

The series benefited multiple organizations with different goals. We helped flood victims in Louisiana through UMCOR.

We have helped out our children in multiple ways from providing Christmas gifts through the Ecumenical Council and the Welcome table, to food and other supplies through the Cowboy Round-Up Program at Sebastian River Middle School, to other activities at the Boys and Girls Club and the Sebastian River Middle School Band.

All of this work is just amazing to me! Every organization I have been in contact with has been extremely appreciative of your generosity. In total we raised over \$1,800!! Below you will find a list of each concert and what we raised for each.

9/23/2016- Handbells- Louisiana Flood/UMCOR - \$171

10/23/2016- Flutes -Flooting for Food- Ecumenical Food Pantry - \$194

10/30/2016- AGO Phantasies and Phugues- \$250

12/11/2016- Christmas Concert-

Hotel Kids Christmas (Welcome Table)/Ecumenical Food Pantry - \$265

2/3/2017- Megan Organ- Boys and Girls Club - \$298.21

2/23/2017- Spring Fling- Cowboy Round Up - \$414.11

4/29/2017- Flutes- A Night at Disney- SRMS Band - \$301

I cannot begin to thank each of you for the success of this program. Without the performers and audience, we would not have been able to make this program possible.

God has blessed us with talented musicians who selflessly give of their time to bring glory to God. Plan are under way to plan each concert for next year. Some of the concerts will return like the Christmas Concert and the Spring Fling. Other concerts will have more concrete themes. And I expect at least one new concert!

Keep a watch out later this summer for our schedule and put the dates on your calendar to join in the fun, beautiful music and praise of God by serving our community.

### **Administrative Council Appoints Feasibility Study for Thrift Store Expansion**

On Tuesday, May 16, the Sebastian UMC Administrative Council established a Feasibility Study Committee to explore the elements of need for expanded space for furniture display, receiving, and sales, items which are considered the Thrift Stores major source of revenue.

The Committee will examine Thrift Store plans in light of our Church's mission to serve our community in Christ's name and to make and encourage Disciples of Jesus Christ through whom God transforms the world. The Thrift Store provides approximately 1/3 of the funds that make Sebastian UMC's ministry possible.

Sebastian UMC members are encouraged to pray for this ministry team and to share insights and thoughts about how our Church can minister more effectively through this component of our outreach to the Sebastian community. Bill Osborne chairs our Administrative Council and serves on this committee. He welcomes your constructive and prayerful thoughts and opinions.

The Feasibility Study Committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Administrative Council and Charge Conference in preparation for next steps that include review and further planning by the District Superintendent, District Property Committee, and a Sebastian UMC Church Conference.

## DISCRETIONARY FUND (Grace In Action) June 4, 2017

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 or your envelope and mark for Discretionary Fund. You can also give online [www.sebastionumc.com](http://www.sebastionumc.com)



### MUSIC CAMP MEETING

Thursday, June 1, 7 pm

Fellowship Hall

All Volunteers Meeting

No Potluck in June due to Music Camp

July Potluck Host United Methodist Men

August Potluck Hosts Sharon Johnson & Heather Brott

**The Welcome Table Always Welcomes Food Donations & Workers**

**Meals are prepared and served on the last Friday of the month.**

**See sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall**

God Bless & many thanks for your continued support of this mission



### Happy Birthday June

### Happy Anniversary

Colin MacNeil	June 4
Charles Goodpasture	June 5
Elana Messersmith	June 5
Ann Marie Van House	June 14
Jacob Farmer	June 15
Vicky Hay	June 16
Nellie Brookens	June 20
Evelyn Wiltsie	June 22
Donna Osborne	June 26
Sharon Johnson	June 27
Wayne Van House	June 29
Sue Shepper	June 30

Mary & Jack Wilson	June 4
Muriel & Renford Douglas	June 8
Suzann & Larry Moritz	June 10
Bill & Kathy Messersmith	June 21





It's Official!

## Our Pastor's Fifth Book, *Southern Breezes II*, has gone to press!

Pastor Will's second book of poetry will be off the press and in our office in June! Marshpiper Press and Parson's Porch Press have announced the publication of ***Southern Breezes II: Rhymes, "Rahms," and Rantings of a Gentle Heart***.

*Southern Breezes II* presents more than forty poetic creations by our pastor, Dr. William Finnin, as well as two earlier published items, one first accepted by *Boys' Life* ca. 1956! Serious and playful, provocative and joyful, contemplative and personal, this collection provides a broadly human glimpse into the heart and mind of a practical pastoral theologian, lover of life, and erstwhile preacher.

Amazon and a few local outlets will carry *Southern Breezes II* at the price of \$14.95 (free shipping with Amazon Prime). Copies will be available from Dr. Finnin, at the Church Office, and at as an as-yet-to-be-scheduled Book Signing Reception for the discounted price of \$12.00.

Copies of Dr. Finnin's 2016 book of essays, *Way Points on a Journey*, are currently available from his office for the discounted price of \$13.00.

**Pre-order a copy of *Southern Breezes II*, including shipping/handling, for a total of \$14.00 per copy. Email your order to [wfinnin@smu.edu](mailto:wfinnin@smu.edu) and receive your copy in the mail as soon as books arrive from the printer! Purchase requests may be mailed to WMF/Marshpiper Press, 327 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958.**

## Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

ENTERPRISE—The Margaret R. Scully Aquatic Center has been completed at the [Madison Youth Ranch](#), part of the [Florida United Methodist Children's Home](#). A dedication ceremony was held May 2 and attended by Margaret Scully, and her daughter, Johnna Ware. Additional guests included members of the board of trustees from the Children's Home, as well as donors and supporters that made the aquatic center a reality.

The new addition includes a large pool for the children, covered patio and a pool house. The pool will provide a recreational outlet, as well as provide a location for swimming lessons.

The Children's Home also recently broke ground on two additional buildings at their Madison Youth Ranch. Guests were on hand for a ceremony that recognized the commencement of construction of a chapel and Counseling and Support Services Center.

The chapel is planned for children attending Sunday services and will include space for music and other activities. Currently, the children attend a local United Methodist church for services. The Counseling and Support Services Center will provide the necessary space for a therapist to meet with and treat children residing at the Youth Ranch. This will include individual and group sessions. The building will also provide space for tutoring, a clinic, a group meeting room and tornado safe room in case of inclement weather.

The groundbreaking event was attended by the Children's Home's board of trustees, its staff and about 100 donors and supporters. The Madison Youth Ranch, part of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, was opened in 2014 in Pinetta, Florida. It is located on 300 acres of pristine Florida land that is flush with pine, oak and magnolia trees.



Ed Johnson

SUMC Florida United Methodist Children's Home Representative

# MISSIONS

Donna Osborne, Chairman

## Pentecost is coming!!

I have been doing some investigative reading about Pentecost. I wonder as the Mission Chairperson of our church, how we can make Pentecost mean something more to us. You know, something more than wearing red to church on Sunday, listening to the story of the birthday of the church & then going back to our own routines without too much more thought about Pentecost.

My understanding is that before Jesus, in the era of the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was poured out almost exclusively on prophets, priests, and kings. They were the ones that had the spirit of God at work within them & therefore had the responsibility to lead the common folk and implement the religious laws. And the common folk knew they were the lesser ones, certainly not on equal footing with the church leaders. They didn't have the same rights, abilities or powers, or so they were told. They were kept down and for the most part accepted their lot in life. But it seems Jesus turned things upside down.

We are taught that Jesus came for everyone. At the first Pentecost after Jesus' death & resurrection, Peter explained to the people that the Holy Spirit had descended on all believers. That everyone, men, women, young, old, rich or poor, now had the Holy Spirit working in them and through them.

I am thinking that had to be a really big deal to those folks. That concept was so far removed from their way of life; it must have been at first unbelievable and then immensely exciting. It brings to mind how the first women who were granted the right to vote may have felt. They were now on equal footing, no longer less than. It was cause for celebration! People were excited to spread the word. Over the years however it became the norm and perhaps not quite as exciting

So I ask myself, am I as excited as those first Christians? Are we all? Honestly I don't often think of it in that way. I guess I take it for granted; much like my right to vote. When I take the time to really think about it I feel truly blessed because there are others who do not know. Others, who when tragedy strikes have only their humanness to lean on. But I have Jesus and the Holy Spirit. So shouldn't I be more excited each & every day? Shouldn't I respond with uncontained excitement to let others know what I know? That is hard to do. I do try to reach out to lend a hand of friendship. I do tell some people I meet that my church is an awesome church. I just don't know if that is enough in response to all I have been given.

So I will pray about that. Maybe, hopefully I will get some direction. Perhaps you can all do the same & if any of us gets a nudge in a new exciting direction we can share the news and get all of our church community a bit more excited. Maybe we will meet some folks at our Hot Dog roast on June 10th at Pelican Isles that we can share our blessings with. If you'd like to join us there let me know.

Blessings, Peace & Joy

Donna Osborne, Mission Chair

### The Welcome Table Is Undertaking Something New!

We are planning to reach out to our neighbors at the Pelican Apartments on Powerline Dr. behind the Sebastian Post Office. On June 10th we are planning a weenie roast for the families there and some outdoor games for the kids.

- We plan to be there from 12:30 to 3:00.
- We would like to extend an invitation for our church family to join with us in this fun

#### Getting to Know Our Neighbors Day.

Anyone interested in learning more or volunteering to grill, serve or supervise some fun activities can call the office or put your name & phone number on the sign up sheet that will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Someone from our committee will contact you

Jesus said "GO" so would you join us as we go to meet our neighbors?

Donna Osborne

732-991-4386



# June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 TS Feasibility Com 2:15 CO <b>Music Camp</b> <b>All Volunteer</b> <b>7 pm FH</b>	2 UMM First Friday Fish Fry 5– 7pm FH	3 
4 Pentecost Sunday Worship 10 am 11 am After Worship Coffee FH	5  6 pm NAMI	6 Aphasia 10 am FH	7  Girl Scout Brownies 6 pm CCR	8	9 Annual Conference	10 UMM 8 AM FH
11 Sunday Worship 10 am 11 am After Worship Coffee FH	12  7 pm Trustee CO	13 Stroke of Hope 9:30 am	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday Worship 10 am 11 am After Worship Coffee FH	19 Finance 7 pm	20	21	22	23	24
	<b>Music Camp Week—All Room Use Groups Cancelled for this Week</b>					
25 Sunday Worship 10 am Music Camp Musical & Breakfast	26 Worship 6 pm CO	27	28	29	30	

## Weekly

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:30 AA Closed Session FH 7:30 Alanon LCR	10 am Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	7:30 Alanon LCR

BS—Bible Study  
LCR—Large Class Room  
CCR—Children Class Room  
SGR—Small Group Room

FH—Fellowship Hall  
MC—Music Camp Meeting  
CO—Church Office  
S—Sanctuary



## Sebastian United Methodist Church

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Like us on Facebook!

### **Group Room Use Schedule for the Summer**

If your group uses one of the classrooms, fellowship hall , etc.

Your group will have to find another place to meet during these weeks this summer.

- June 19-24 Music Camp 1
- July 10-14 Science Camp
- July 31-August 5 Music Camp 2