

# First Things

Issue No. 28

A weekly publication of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

August 1, 2021

## Homecoming at FUMC

While Rev. Mark Flynn is on sabbatical, we look forward to hearing from several guest preachers. Most of them have served First Church at some point during their ministry. Watch this space each week to learn more about our guests and to help us welcome them to FUMC.

### Introducing This Week's Guest Preachers: Stella Roberts and Ann Robins



The Rev. Dr. Stella Roberts will be our guest preacher in the Traditional Services and The Rev. Ann Robins will be our guest preacher in the Contemporary Service on August 1.

Stella Roberts served as the Lead Pastor at First Church from 2006-2013 and then became Visitation Pastor from August 2015-May 2018. During her time here, FUMC merged with Trinity United Methodist Church. Members also were involved in the launch of both the Free Medical Clinic and TORCH (Trinity Outreach Center for Homeless). Food for Kids and a church-wide effort to provide meals for families who have experienced loss are both programs she recalls as important additions to the life of the church.

In her retirement, Stella is enjoying music, playing the dulcimer, taking Lolli the dog on lots of walks, getting to travel, and enjoying spending time with Sam. She looks forward to participating in worship and catching up with people who have had such a significant impact on her over the past 15 years.



Ann Robins serves as the Tennessee Valley District Superintendent. Ann grew up in Nashville within walking distance of her home church. She was very active in her youth group and credits her youth leaders with helping her build on her knowledge and love of God and neighbor. She was deeply impacted by desegregation—she notes she was able to play basketball and sing with some amazing people she might never have met without her school's desegregation.

Prior to her appointment to the district, Ann served as the pastor at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Knoxville for 14 years. During her time there, the church embarked on many meaningful missions and ministries, as well as seeing its membership double and operating budget nearly triple.

In her free time, Ann enjoys playing golf, exploring our beautiful mountains, and visiting the beach. She and her husband have been married for 40 years, are the parents of two adult children, and are the grandparents of 2 1/2 year old Liam.

Please help welcome Stella and Ann to our church this week.



## Kyle Jones and Selene Wu in Concert Sunday, August 1

Join us on Sunday, August 1, at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon of music by Kyle Jones (saxophonist) and Selene Wu (pianist). The eclectic and diverse program will contain both lyric and virtuosic music featuring established saxophone repertoire as well as newer compositions. This is a free concert in the Sanctuary.



All students who are headed back to school are invited to bring their backpacks to church Sunday, August 1 for a special blessing. They will receive a keychain to put on their backpacks. This is a tradition for students to remind them throughout the school year that their church loves and supports them.

## Keystone Receives a Grant Award

Keystone is honored and excited to announce a grant award from The Pat Summitt Foundation. This grant will fund our Safeguarding Support Program which provides scholarships to help defray the cost of adult day programming for those living with dementia. It will enable us to continue our 33 year history of ensuring financial support when there is a need. The look of relief on a caregiver's face when a scholarship is awarded says it all. We are incredibly grateful to The Pat Summitt Foundation and the East Tennessee Foundation for their partnership and commitment to our mission and those we serve.

## New Sunday School Class at 9:45 a.m.

We are starting a new Sunday school class this Sunday. The class will meet in the Chapel at 9:45 a.m. Jay Jellison will be leading the class for the month of August and will be teaching on The Sermon on the Mount. Susan Ochs will take over starting in September. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Jenny Caughman ([jcaughman@fumcor.org](mailto:jcaughman@fumcor.org)).

## Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in *FirstKids* as nursery workers, Sunday school leaders, and Children's Church teachers. If you are interested in helping us with our children's program, email Director of Children and Family Ministries, Shelby Fowler ([sfowler@fumcor.org](mailto:sfowler@fumcor.org)).

## In Loving Memory of

### E. Lloyd Youngblood

Who joined the FUMC family May 20, 1962, and died July 18. We extend love and sympathy to his family and friends.

## Congratulations to

- Kevin, Danielle, Bruce, and Daniel Tupper on the birth of their son and brother, Bowman Hugh, July 23.
- Anne and John Leitnaker on the birth of their granddaughter, Harvest Anne, July 23.

## Hospitalized

MMC: Russ Morel

Tennova North: Bob Henderson

Discharged: Ken Kile, Michele Frisbee

## Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$18,177
2021 Year to Date	\$810,670
2020 Year to Date	\$803,558
Monthly Mission Offering	\$1,380

## Homebound Member Birthdays

The following people are homebound members of our congregation who have birthdays. Please take a moment to send them a card. You can get their addresses by looking in the directory or by contacting the church office (483.4357). Thank you for this expression of care and concern.

August 4	Norma C. Smith
August 5	Elizabeth McDuffie
August 5	Robert Dickinson
August 13	Connie Horne

## Special Offering: Hope for South Sudan

Special offerings are collected to benefit organizations outside our Church. For August, the people of the South Sudan have been chosen to receive our contribution. This is a critical time for the people of South Sudan where they have been displaced to refugee resettlement camps in Uganda with only the basic necessities in a dangerous situation. The Holston Conference has supported our brothers and sisters of the Sudan for more than 10 years, building churches, drilling wells, and providing basic needs. Housing, security, medical supplies, and education for orphans are all needed. The Holston conference will match all church contributions up to \$75,000 to support our friends in time of need. Make checks out to FUMC (memo: South Sudan).



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## Enjoy singing? Join a Choir

Choir rehearsals will resume for the fall on August 4. The Adult Choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:30 p.m. and provide music for both Traditional services. Choristers may now choose the service that they prefer to attend, 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. The Youth Choir will rehearse on Sunday evenings from 6:15–7:00 p.m. before Youth Group starting August 8. They will provide music on the first Sunday of each month rotating through all three worship services. Children's Choir will be led by Shelby Fowler and will begin soon. Stay tuned for more information.

## Experience the Grand View of the Northwest Parks, May 15, 2022

Make a nine-day trip that stimulates your senses and captures your curiosity of the national spaces of parks and monuments. Driving west through the Rocky Mountains to Grand Junction, we'll venture on to Moab, following the scenic Rim Rock Drive. In Utah, we will visit Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Dead Horse Point. Following Byway 12, we will view the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We will visit Bryce Canyon National Park. Finally, in Zion National Park, we will experience the grandeur of white and red sandstone cliffs and the Virgin River that runs through them. Our tour will conclude in Las Vegas.

This Collette Vacation tour will be explained in detail Wednesday, August 25, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 207. Kay Moss, coordinator of Adult Trips, will introduce Sawyer Shoates, the Southeastern Representative. Collette caters to retirees but welcomes all ages. Collette contributes 10% of our trip proceeds to FUMC.

## Youth Group on Sunday Evenings Beginning August 1

We will kick off the school year together for Sunday Night Youth Group on August 1. Each Sunday from 7:00–8:15 p.m., our youth group will gather in the Loft for games and devotions. All students in grades 7–12 are invited to come to Sunday Night Youth Group. *Masks will be required for everyone* in the Youth Loft. To find our fall youth schedule, check out the youth webpage ([fumcor.org/youth](http://fumcor.org/youth)).

## Stephen Ministry Training Begins in September

In September, First Church will offer a Stephen Ministry Training. Stephen Ministers are trained to compassionately walk alongside someone who is experiencing a life crisis. As human beings, it is inevitable we will travel the road of loss and suffering. When we are caught in the grip of pain and sorrow, we need to know we are not alone. Stephen Ministers are trained to extend their presence, their compassion, and oftentimes, simply silence, as they offer care. To be a Stephen Minister means choosing to be fully immersed in the suffering of another and to ultimately experience the profound blessings which come from reflecting the love of God to those who need to know we will travel with them. If you are interested in this worthwhile training, please contact Rev. Jenny Caughman ([jcaughman@fumcor.org](mailto:jcaughman@fumcor.org)).

## New Sunday School Class For People with Small Children

A new Sunday School class will be starting for people with young children. This class will be led by Caroline and Matt Biedler and will meet Sundays from 10:30–11:15 a.m. starting August 29. The class will study books and scripture, as well as enjoy some outside activities. For more information, contact the Biedlers ([carolinemiller.ccs@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller.ccs@gmail.com) or 608.977.0673).