

"making disciples for the transformation of the world."

December 2011



MONTGOMERY ~ OPELIKA DISTRICT NEWS

“Engage”

The second word in the S.E.N.D. model is, “Engage”. It is not enough to discover needs and resources through “seeking” them. One must go beyond the discovery of needs and possibilities. We must look beyond the demographics and move to the next step. That is the point where we “engage” the people we have discovered that have the needs as well as those who have the resources to make a difference for good in their lives.

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God did not stop at “so loving the world”. God engaged the world. There is no better time of year than this to remember that. The whole point of Christmas is that God, in Christ, engaged the world through what we know as the Incarnation. John says it this way, “And the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us, and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth,” (John 1:14). This act of “engagement” was the beginning of the world’s transformation.



The Webster’s Dictionary cites the following about the word “engage”. “To draw into (as a conversation); To attract and hold the attention; To involve oneself; be active; to bind by a promise; To occupy, keep busy; To employ.’ As we can see from this, a relationship is the implied and expected outcome of “engage”.

Notice the way God engages the world in Christ. He did not come to be served, but to serve. He did not come to gain, but to give. He did not come to make the world captive but to set it free. His power was revealed in compassion for the lowly, healing for the broken, forgiveness for the condemned, and light for those who sat in darkness. The resources Jesus had were not spent on Himself, but poured out to benefit those whom He came to engage...even through death on a Cross.

We have a calling to engage the world, too. “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let that person deny him/herself, take up his/her cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his or her life will lose it, but whoever loses his or her life for My sake will find it,’” (Matthew 16:24-25). In taking up God’s will for our lives, we are taking up our particular crosses and following Christ.

>>> Continued



Engage>>>>

So, in engaging the world in the Spirit of Christ, several things must be present. It begins with loving and valuing those people around us. We must put value in those we serve. Our help should not detract from their worth, but enhance it. Likewise, it involves relationships. We must be willing to engage in relationships if we are to be legitimate in our endeavors to serve Christ through serving others. Everyone Jesus called to Himself was also called to be in relationship with others who were following, too. Moreover, to engage another is to be vulnerable. No credible love can flow through invulnerable lives. Who could have been more vulnerable than Jesus from Conception to the Cross? Finally, our engagement of the world must be flavored by the fruit of the Spirit. We can be kind in our methods and truthful in our message. We can be winsome in our ways and firm in our convictions. We can be strong without being oppressive, gentle without being weak, and prosper without being selfish.

In Mark 16:15, the Bible records Jesus as saying, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." This is another way of saying, "Engage the world." We are to go into "our" world every day and engage it with the good news of Jesus Christ...in word and deed. No one touches the world in the same way, at the same time, and with the same gifts. We are all unique. But we can be uniquely engaging.

Church Classifieds

Need:

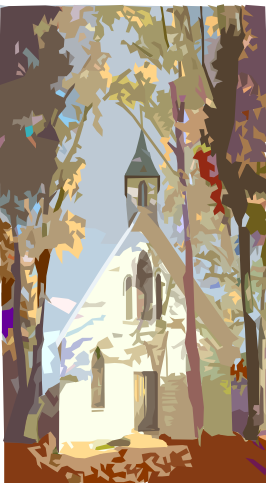
Church Need: Do any of the churches in the district have any used overhead projectors or anything else that could project words for praise songs, that they would like to sell or donate to Mt. Carmel?

Thank you

Tom Skeen Pastor 334-596-4317

Jobs

We have an immediate need for 2 caring nursery workers from 9:45am-12pm on Sundays who will lovingly interact with toddlers/infants. Pay is \$10/hr, with extra compensation for those with CPR/first aid certification. Please email resumes to newchurchat301dexter@gmail.com or mail to 301 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104.



Church Classifieds Continued

12/1/2011

Job Announcement: **Youth Minister to Jr. High/Sr. High**

First United Methodist Church, Millbrook, AL

Contact: Rev. Steve MacInnis, Senior Pastor

Ph: 334 285-4114 or by e-mail at

steviemac1234@gmail.com

First United Methodist Church, in Millbrook, Alabama, is seeking a Youth Minister with a passion for youth ministry who will join our staff leadership team as the full-time Youth Minister. This position includes weekly programming on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings, as well as mission opportunities, retreats, youth music and drama, special events and creating new opportunities within the Church, community and sometimes globally for youth involvement. We are seeking a Youth Minister who will keep Youth Ministry vitally alive and lead young people to Christ. Potential candidates are invited to send your resume and cover letter, including your philosophy of youth ministry, before the close of business Friday, December 9, 2011 either electronically via e-mail to steviemac1234@gmail.com or by USPS mail to: Rev. Steve MacInnis, Senior Pastor, Millbrook First United Methodist Church, 3350 Edgewood Road, Millbrook, AL 36054

Merry 
Christmas

From the
Montgomery
Opelika District

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Charlotte and I would like to thank all of you for your wonderful support, your prayers for us, and for the marvelous way you are serving Christ in the Montgomery-Opelika District! What an outstanding group of pastors and laity we have in this District! Truly we are blessed beyond measure. Our prayer for you and your families is that you will have the most wonderful Christmas ever. May God's Spirit truly be with you all as you travel, visit with friends and family, share gifts, and especially as you worship. Thank you for your generous showering of prayers, gifts, calls and cards. We truly love you, and we want to serve you in any way we can as we all partner together in sharing the Gospel of the living Christ. Be blessed! You are a blessing!

Love to all, Ron and Charlotte

December 2011

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 12 | 13 7:00 PM 6th Annual Messiah Sing-Along | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 22 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 23 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 24 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays |
| 25 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 26 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 27 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 28 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 29 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 30 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 31 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays |

January 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 2 District offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 2:30 PM MTPT | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 3:00 PM MTOP District Conference and Lay | 30 | 31 | | | | |

I'D LIKE TO SEE ALL THE PASTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY CHURCH AT THIS EVENT.

MONTGOMERY-OPELIKA DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND LEADER ACADEMY

**Sunday, January 29, 2012 @ Aldersgate UMC, Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Alabama
3:00-5:30 PM**

OPENING WORSHIP

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

PRESENTATION ON VITAL CONGREGATIONS

REV. NEIL McDAVID

HOW TO BEGIN AND GROW A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY **Sarah Goolsby**

For all size churches: Ideas for types of groups, Resources, Outreach through Small Groups, Training leaders.

HOW TO BEGIN AND GROW A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY **Sally Granberry**

For all size churches: Beginning where you are; Building a team; Curriculum and Visual Aids; Music & Teaching.

HOW DO I "DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST?" **Rev. Matt O'Reilly**

For all sized churches: A method for faith sharing; 7 touches and 3 hearings; Writing my testimony (being prepared); Prayer and faith-sharing.

PASTOR/STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS **Rev. Ron Ball**

For all size churches: What is the task of this team? Dealing with compensation; Dealing with conflict; Encouraging your pastor; The role of discernment.

YOUTH MINISTRY TODAY **Tony Jeck**

For all size churches: What questions are youth asking? Resources for youth ministry; Youth and mission; Preparing youth for the next step; Questions and answers.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY CHURCH **Susan Hunt**

For all size churches: Knowing your context; Responding to the need; From across the street to around the world; Being servants in our unique worlds.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT **Dr. John Ed Mathison**

For all size churches: Clergy and Laity; Loving, Learning, and Leading

**Each person will be able to attend two (2) classes.

You can register online at www.themontgomerydistricts.com



We're on the web
www.themontgomerydistricts.com

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