

Faith Promise Weekend 2019

Mark your calendars for March 1-3, 2019 as we celebrate the Mission and Outreach activities of Smyrna First United Methodist with our Faith Promise Weekend! This will give you a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our Mission and Outreach opportunities and how you can get involved.

Activities will begin Friday March 1, with a special Celebration and Prayer Service. Saturday, March 2 will be our "Spring" Day of Service with numerous activities at the church and throughout the community. We finish the weekend Sunday, March 3 with our Faith Promise for Missions Giving and a very special community wide Open House/Ribbon Cutting at Tillman House. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!



March 3—You are Invited to Tillman House Open House



You don't want to miss this milestone in the ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 3, 2019! The day will begin with our Faith Promise Giving for Missions Celebration at 8:45, 8:55 and

11:00 worship services. There will be special speakers, music and worship at all three services that morning.

Then Sunday afternoon everyone is invited to a very special Open House at Tillman House, our Mission and Outreach Resource Center. Join our Bishop, District Superintendent, City Leaders, invited Clergy and Staff for a Ribbon Cutting, refreshments and tours of the facility. Learn more about the ministry vision for Tillman House and how you can be involved!

Tillman House Resource Center has a Facebook page! We invite you to check it out and "LIKE" our page. It's a great place to follow our progress and learn about mission opportunities!

The Faith Promise Unlocking God's Resources

Faith Promise is how we fund the mission and outreach activities of Smyrna First United Methodist. A Faith Promise is a personal commitment, made in faith, for world outreach. When we make this commitment, we say, "By faith, I commit myself to give a certain amount of money, and I trust God to enable me to fulfill this commitment." In taking this step of faith, suddenly all of our priorities are reprogrammed. We begin to see our support of missions with new eyes. Instead of sitting back waiting, we begin to actively look for ways in which God will provide for us to fulfill our Faith Promise.

Where does Faith Promise money go?

Faith Promise money is used to support mission/outreach activities of Smyrna First UMC "across the street and around the world". This money enables those agencies/individuals we support to focus less on raising support, and more on what God has called them to their particular area to do.

Faith Promise money is also used to lower the cost of those who may go on Smyrna First sponsored mission trips that happen throughout the year.

It may also be used for missionary care, helping missionaries upon re-entry or with a crisis that may arise while they are on the field.

Look at the insert page in The Extension to see details on our Faith Promise spending during the past year.

Remember that a Faith Promise is a covenant between you and God, not a pledge to the church. Within the context of this covenant, he uses our faithfulness to build His church locally, nationally and internationally. Please be prayerfully considering how God is calling you to support his work in and through Smyrna First United Methodist.

Tillman House Partners with Action Ministries

A major goal of Tillman House is to partner with existing non-profit groups to assist those in need in our community. We are excited to kick off two programs in the coming weeks in partnership with Action Ministries. Action Ministries mobilizes communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief, housing and education. They envision communities in which the cycle of poverty is broken and everyone has the tools needed to reach their full potential.



Action Ministries Smart Kids After School Program



Tillman House is gearing up to be a host site for Action Ministries' Smart Kids After School Program. We are thrilled to partner with Action Ministries and Green Acres Elementary School in February.

To get ready, we have hosted two work days with another possible one in the works (stay tuned!). Our most recent Work Day was held on Saturday, January 5, 2019. We were honored to have Kelley Henderson, Director of Action Ministries and some of his team, Marvin and Kim, with us. We had 17 volunteers and staff from Smyrna First UMC helping with various projects as we prepare to welcome 15 students from Green Acres Elementary.

You soon will see the new bus that Action Ministries has purchased for the program. The After School Program will run throughout the school year on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There will be opportunities for you to help with the kids and/or cook for them.

We will host a training event for volunteers soon. The program provides two days a week with an emphasis on tutoring (reading and math) and one day a week for Specials (Art, Music, Sports, etc.). If you have a particular talent to share, please let us know! We would like to have four Specials to offer monthly; then, we can host parties, etc. on the occasional 5th week. Action Ministries will be hiring a Director for the program. Kim Natarajan is the Action Ministries Contact person. To volunteer, please email Marla Arnold at marnold@smyrnafumc.org for training date and more information.

Hunger Relief Food Box Program

Action Ministries' hunger relief programs help people shed the burden of searching for their next meal. In February, Tillman House will become a Food Pantry (Distribution Center) for Action Ministries food boxes. The boxes, which are packed at the Action Ministries Feed the Hungry Warehouse, contain non-perishable food items to feed a family of four for a week. Volunteers will handle registration of clients, assist in filling out requests, and distribution of the boxes. We plan is to offer hours after the MUST Food Pantry closes (possibly between 2-6PM two days a week, plus some Saturday hours). Contact Alan Nicely, anicely@smyrnafumc.org, for more information or if you are interested in coordinating this program or volunteering.

You Can Be A Good Samaritan!

One of the major ways Smyrna First UMC is able to assist those in need in our community is through The Good Samaritan Fund (Good Sam). Good Sam allows us to assist with rent, utilities, transportation (Bus passes), food, gas, medications etc. It is through your faithful and sacrificial giving to the Good Samaritan Fund and to our Faith Promise for Missions that we are able to accomplish these "small tasks with great love."

We do not give people cash, but rather write checks directly to apartment complexes and utility companies. We also use Kroger Gift Cards extensively. With the Kroger Cards people are able to purchase gas, prescription medication and of course food.



When our Food Pantry opens in the coming weeks, we are exploring the possibility of using Kroger Cards to supplement the food box contents with milk and other perishable food items. Kroger Cards also allow us to assist the homeless population that we see with hot meals. The food boxes are great, but if you do not have access to a kitchen, preparing a meal is problematic. Kroger cards can be assigned any value at checkout, but we have found that \$10.00 and \$25.00 cards are the best.

You may give to the Good Samaritan Fund at any time and in any amount. No gift is too small... "a little does a lot!"

Smyrna First groups are finding creative ways to support this ministry!

The Noteables, at their New Year's brunch gathering to get ready to "go on the road" to sing at nursing homes in 2019, raised \$780 in Kroger cards to help those in need.

At their Christmas dinner, The UMW Shirley Stewart Circle "sold" leftover Christmas items to each other in exchange for donations, and earned enough for \$100 in Kroger gift cards.



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Your Faith Promise giving for 2018-2019 has supported missionaries and ministries in our community, throughout our country and “to the ends of the earth.” Take a look at how your Faith Promise Giving has been used in the past year!

Ed & Linda Baker – Professional Resource Consultants (Water/Sanitation Projects, Africa and Central America)



Our 10 years serving as missionaries in Paraguay and Nicaragua taught us that living incarnationally means becoming involved in the issues facing those that we serve – water and sanitation, agriculture, health, education, and many social issues. People are more open to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ from those of us who recognize the many issues of daily life and help with their solutions.



John & Katheryn Heinz – CenterForm (Urban Missions/ Training Atlanta)

CenterForm is a community of creative, forward-thinking, socially-engaged Christians who are committed to working together to seek peace, wholeness, justice, reconciliation, health, and joy. At CenterForm, we are constantly looking at how our Christian faith connects with the real world around us. How do we instill Kingdom principles in business? How does an expansion of a church property affect the surrounding neighborhood? How can art capture and communicate complex Biblical truths in a single image?



Todd & Pam Attaway—Thailand, The Mission Society

The Attaway family served the past four years as cross-cultural witnesses to the people of Thailand. They are now regional mobilizers for The Mission Society, connecting with people exploring cross-cultural ministry and walking with them as they discern next steps.



Habitat for Humanity

Smyrna First, as a part of the Cobb Interfaith Habitat Coalition, participated in funding and building a home our area in 2018. From your Faith Promise Giving, \$7500 was provided to help fund the 2018 home for the Sy family from Mauritania, West Africa .

Eric & Santa Owen—United Methodist Men, NGC

The Owens serve the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church by setting up and coordinating short term mission trips in Latin America and Africa.



David & Vicki Creel—Far East Broadcasting Company

David has been a missionary with FEBC since 1990 serving in Saipan for 18 years. During that time, he served as a broadcast engineer for international shortwave radio station KFBS which broadcasts the Gospel to many closed countries in Asia including Russia, China, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Indonesia.



Vicki is from the Philippines and has been a missionary since 1997. She served in China for 12 years working with children, sharing Christ, and training church workers. They are now serving together with FEBC’s International Service Team. They provide engineering support for FEBC’s radio stations located throughout Asia..

Charlie & Mary Kay Jackson—Ghana

The Jacksons have served in partnership with the Methodist Church Ghana since 2006. Charlie is Assistant Professor of Arts and Sciences at Ashesi University, where he witnesses to future Ghanaian leaders through his servant attitude. Mary Kay works with Methodist Development Relief Services and Pure Home Water, two charitable organizations that focus on bringing potable water to the rural poor in Ghana.



Kathy Griffith-General Board of Global Ministries

A major responsibility of Global Ministries is to connect the various parts of the Church as United Methodists engage in global mission. As a biblically rooted and historically informed organization, Global Ministries facilitates engagement in God's mission. Our own Kathy Griffith serves the GBGM as Program Manager, Maternity, Newborn and Child Health. Medical Assistance Programs (MAP)--a faith-based nonprofit providing essential medicines for mission clinics and hospitals in developing countries around the world.



Michael Mozley – Executive Director, Catalyst for Africa

Catalyst For Africa strives to encourage, train, disciple, and collaborate with African Christian leaders to create individual and community transformation. Catalyst For Africa exists to nurture and foster long-term relationships between leaders in Africa and leaders from around the world. Our desire is to walk and to work alongside one another and mutually share with one another: wisdom, knowledge, resources, and our very lives.



Murphy Harpst Children’s Centers

Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers, headquartered in Cedartown, GA, is an independent not-for-profit organization committed to meeting the needs of abused and neglected young people through residential treatment, placements in specialized foster care, and community programs that serve at-risk youth and their families. In addition to our Faith Promise support, Murphy-Harpst received one third of our 2018 Christmas Eve Offerings.



Murphy-Harpst
LIFE AND HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Troy and Cassie Haight—One Step in Faith

The Haight’s mission is to stand in the gap and make a difference in the lives of trafficked, at-risk and spirit children who are caught in circumstances not of their own making. We serve the vulnerable children and people of Ghana through child sponsorship, spiritual discipleship, rescue and restoration for the Glory of God.



Graham and Sharon Nichols—Ecuador

Graham and Sharon Nichols have responded to God’s call to serve as Career missionaries serving with TMS Global. They have been called to live among and serve the people of Ecuador in Santo Domingo de los Colorados located in the Coastal Region of the Country.



Medical Assistance Programs (MAP)--a faith-based nonprofit providing essential medicines for mission clinics and hospitals in developing countries around the world.

Dr. Esaho Kipuke – Togo

Dr. Kapuke serves as Directors of Church Planting and Community Development with emphasis in West African French speaking countries. The Kapuke Ministry now includes young women’s training, orphan care, adult literacy and many other areas.

Dave and Ellen Bartlett – Ghana

The Bartletts are from Marietta and are working to help establish a faith-based recovery program in Ghana. They work with local churches around Ghana with the hope of bringing wholeness and healing to the individuals caught in various types of bondage, as well as to their families. Dave and Ellen also work with local Ghanaians which rescue children from a life of slavery in the fishing and cocoa bean industries.

Tanya Weaver—American Foundation for Children with Aids-Africa

AFAID Executive Director Tanya Weaver’s work includes helping children infected and/or affected by AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.



God’s Footprints in Nicaragua

GFN provides financial and advisory support to empower the impoverished people that were moved from the old Manchester settlement at Lake Managua to the Cristo Rey settlement near Tipitapa, and to provide like support for an educational facility located in the San Sebastián barrio of Managua that provides nutritional meals and early learning for pre-school children as well as vocational training for older girls and women.

Partner in Education
Green Acres Elementary School
Belmont Hills Elementary School



Words from Pastor Derek . . . When It Finally Quits Raining

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand. Isaiah 41:10

I know it hasn't, but it sure feels like it rained every day in April. I bet you are like me and one of the first things you did every morning was check the forecast for the day praying that it wasn't calling for more rain.

Have you ever had that feeling in your personal life? The feeling that we all can have, is that no matter what we do, storms will drown our plans. Our emotional health can be connected to so many factors. Job security, family health and individual health are just a few of the countless matters that influence not only our mood but our direction as well.

During my time at a previous church, we experienced one of the most severe droughts of the past one hundred years. Many of the members had crops and farm animals that were dependent upon frequent rain. I sat with my members as they looked to the sky and prayed for it to pour buckets of water around them. We waited a long time. A Long time. I will never forget sitting on Mr. Al's porch and him saying this, "It's praying during the flood that gives you the perspective needed when praying through the drought."

When you find yourself in the midst of spiritual drought or maybe drowning in anxiety please take time to go to God in prayer. I also hope that you will contact Barbara Hatchell or one of our Stephen Ministers at StephenMinistry@smyrnafumc.org. They have been trained and are ready to serve you in whatever need arises. I know I am thankful for their ministry. As always you can know that I am also here and ready to talk.
In the hollow of His hands,
Derek



Spring Day of Service!

As a part of our church wide 2019 Faith Promise Weekend, the Spring Day of Service will be March 2. We will gather at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a continental breakfast and then disperse for various projects inside and outside the church. The projects planned to date are as follows:

- **Action Ministries**-Packing food boxes for those in need. Action Ministries Collection Center
- **Tillman House**-Numerous cleaning projects as we prepare for the Open House on March 3.
- **UMCOR**-Assemble Cleaning Buckets for UMCOR
- **Cookies for Christ**-Bagging, tagging, delivery of cookies for Smyrna First UMC Outreach
- **Belmont Hills ES project**-TBA
- **Green Acres ES project**-TBA
- **Smyrna FUMC Visiting Friends yard clean up**
- **MUST Ministries**-TBA



During our March 2 Day of Service, we will assemble Clean Up Buckets for UMCOR. These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane. The following items will be needed for the kits. For more details, go to www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Cleaning

Five-gallon round buckets with re-sealable lid	Scouring pads (No stainless-steel pads with soap in them)
32-64 oz. bottles liquid laundry detergent	36-50 clothespins
16-40 oz. bottles liquid <u>concentrate</u> household cleaner	50-100 ft. clotheslines (cotton or plastic line)
16-34 oz. bottles dish soap	Heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (three solid, or three gel fresheners also acceptable)	N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)	Kitchen gloves (Durable for multiple uses)
scrub brushes (With or without handle)	Work gloves
Re-useable cleaning wipes (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels)	

Relay for Life—May 3, 2019 The Smyrna First Team Needs YOU!



It seems that every week we are faced with a family member, friend, co-worker, church family member, or acquaintance whose life is changed forever with a diagnosis of cancer. So we are constantly reminded of why we at Smyrna First choose to participate each year in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. At Relay for Life events, no one faces cancer alone.

We come together every year at more than 3,500 Relay events around the country to support and celebrate survivors and caregivers and remember those lost to the disease.

The Cobb County Relay for Life event is on **Friday, May 3**, at Jim Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta. The walk will begin at 6:00PM with the survivor's lap followed by caregiver's lap. We will walk the track until 9:30 when the Luminaria Lap begins to remember those we have lost to cancer. The closing ceremonies and celebration will be at 10:30 PM.

It's time to sign up for the Smyrna First UMC Relay for Life team! Sign up online today!!

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/SmyrnaFirstUMC>

If you have ever been diagnosed with cancer, YOU ARE A SURVIVOR! We want to honor you at this event. Go to the website to register. For more information contact Janet McMeans, mcmeansj@bellsouth.net, or Judy Waldrip, waldripw@bellsouth.net.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, January 31, 2019

2pm-7pm

Location TBA



You can put the power of faith into action and help save a life!

MUST Ministries needs...

- Canned Fruit
- Chili Beans
- Canned Spinach
- Grits
- Tuna/Chicken Helper
- Chicken Noodle Soup

Place Items in the MUST Box outside the Fellowship Hall or bring to Tillman House



2019 Atlanta Marietta District Mission Study

EMBRACING WHOLENESS

Led by Mary Anne Brannon

When: Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 9:00 AM
(registration begins at 8:30 AM)

Where: East Cobb UMC, 2325 Roswell Rd.,
Marietta, Ga. 30062

Cost: \$10.00 per person (includes study and lunch)
Registration deadline: Saturday, January 27, 2019

For more information on this event or to find out more about the UMW at Smyrna First, contact the leader of any UMW circle:

The Faithfilled Circle
Christen Vickery, 678-232-0712
faithfilledumw@gmail.com

Shirley Stewart Circle
Sandra Clarke, 770-948-7183
devereuxgirl@bellsouth.net

Mary Martha Circle
Evelynn Herring, 770-435-3048
evelynnherring@gmail.com

Willing Workers Circle
Dana DeSandro, 404-226-2648
ddana1010@gmail.com

New Beginnings
Connie Beasley, 770-432-8180
goalsby2@charter.net

YOU'RE INVITED!

To the
Missions Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
7:00 PM

Tillman House Parlor

Learn about our many Mission projects, bring new ideas, and find out how you can be plugged in!