

Decell Connection

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From the Pastor-Reverend Frank Newell

Dear Decell Church Family,

“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)

Kingdom Builders. I have always liked that name. I remember from a young age going downstairs in my home church, Petal UMC, and seeing the name plate “Kingdom Builders” on one of the adult Sunday School rooms. I remember thinking to myself that this must be a very important class of adults. They were the Kingdom Builders.

As I have grown and matured in faith, I find that the term, “Kingdom Builders” is a special title that should not be thrown about with careless abandon, but should be revered and

coveted. That is why I think it is important to respect the fact that we are all called to be Kingdom Builders. We are to covet our relationship with the Lord and honor God with the best of our abilities. This is what it means to be a Kingdom Builders, and that is who we are as the Body of Christ at Decell Memorial UMC.

As we look to see where we can build the kingdom of God through the Power of We, our conference theme, our committees have been working hard to see where we can share our talents. We want to grow in our attendance, not to just fill pews, but to be the disciples, the hands and feet of Christ. To do this there are a few areas we have identified that we will work on beginning next month and throughout the next year.

Our finance committee and I have decided to start a stewardship campaign beginning in August. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) Our heart as a congregation is to the ministry of witnessing to the word of Jesus Christ in our community, county, state, country, and world. But, like any endeavor, it takes finances. We need everyone to give by tithing. The tithes that we receive go toward the budget of the church, our Mission Shares in the district, and to the Mission Shares of the Annual Conference.

As a part of a connectional church means that we have a part of any ministry that is being supported by the General

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**Thank you
for your
support of
Decell
Memorial
UMC!**

**We invite
you to join
us on
Sundays at
10:45AM.**

Administrative Council-Jean Ricks, Chairman

As we enter the second half of 2014, there are things happening at Decell, and things we need to get done.

Homecoming is just around the corner-**September 21st** is the date and plans are coming along. More information will be forthcoming-just put the date on your calendar and plan to be a part of Coming Home to Decell.

We are in the process of setting up a website for Decell. This will be a way of reaching more people by sharing information about what is going on at Decell by way of technology. We have to recognize that we are living in the age of technology; even though there are those who still prefer to get information “the way we always

got it” (this Council Chair is one of those), there are those who like to take advantage of technology for information. So, we are going to do it both ways.

If you read the bulleting each Sunday, you will find the words: **“Our Worship Continues-Our Service Expands-Go and shine God’s light to all the world in all you do.”**

That is the mission statement of Decell. Can we do that? Yes, we certainly can. So let’s each one take that as our personal mission statement and make a difference in our lives and in the life of Decell.

You will soon be hearing about our Stewardship Drive. We need to be mindful that finance

is an important aspect of the church’s mission. As you look at the financial report, you will know that we all need to do our part in order for Decell to remain financially sound and for us to be able to meet our local and conference obligations. So think prayerfully about what you can do when you are asked.

Invite someone to church-pick them up and bring them-all are welcome at Decell.

The **next council meeting will be October 12th**. You are invited to attend as it is YOUR church. Share your joys, concerns, and ideas. See you at Church on Sunday!

Jean Ricks, Council Chair.

United Methodist Men and Women

Communication Update- Dr. Stephanie Duguid:

1. Newsletters
2. Directory
3. Birthday and Anniversary Lists
4. Worship Invitations
5. Continued electronic correspondence
6. **COMING SOON: NEW Church website**

*“Go and shine
God’s light to all
the world in all
you do.”*

PPRC Updates-Stephanie Duguid:

The PPRC is charged with several responsibilities one of which is to provide support for the pastor through communication with the congregation. We encourage any person who wants to contribute an idea for the spiritual Christian growth of Decell UMC to contact a PPRC member.

A renewed focus is that of starting a healthy and wellness ministry. Information will be coming soon.

The members of the PPRC: Stephanie Duguid-Chairman, W.L. Smith, Lois Hawkins, Mary Clopton, Sheryl Page, Alton Ricks, Ed Lacey, Peggy Peets, Doug Slonaker, and Martha Lightsey.

United Methodist Men

Decell and Beauregard meet jointly the second Sunday morning of each month at 8am.

The August 10th meeting of Men’s Club will be at Beauregard united Methodist Church.

September 14th and October 12th meetings will be at Decell. Come enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and inspiration.

Our yearly project is to provide shoes for needy youth at Wesson Attendance Center.

W.L. Smith, President



United Methodist Women

UMW is on *summer vacation* in July and August. When we resume in September we will be completing our study “The Roma of Europe.” Over the years, the Roma have been enslaved, shut out, and shunned. Up to two and a half million Roma were exterminated during Hitler’s reign of terror. Today they are the single largest minority group in Europe.

Through this study we have learned about the Roma history and culture, along with the

challenges they face today.

On August 23, we have the opportunity to participate in the Brookhaven Mission U Event at Jefferson Street UMC in Natchez. This is our opportunity to learn more about our 2014-15 studies, “How Is It with Your Soul? (Spiritual Growth).

Please contact Melnee Frazier if you are interested in attending.



Finance Committee-Rusty Adcock, Chairman/Tithing

Finance Report: Apr-Jul 2014

Recently, the USA Today posted an annual budget for the median family of four’s “American Dream” as \$130,357. This total included line items such as food, utilities, taxes, savings, entertainment and several others. You know what it didn’t include as a monthly expense for this family of four?

Tithes. Actually, there was no charitable giving mentioned at all.

This American Dream the media is touting doesn’t include what a family gives back to God. Hmmm? That says a lot about where our country is, doesn’t it?

I guess my point is this: If the majority of the country we live in doesn’t have God’s gifts in their budget, we’ve got a BIG challenge to change the mindset of those in our church. Of course, one thing in our favor...we’re in the most

giving state in the nation.

Giving to God’s work is vital for the life of the church. While our income and expenses are reality and finite, God’s blessings are infinite. Budget for God’s work. He’s due it; and He definitely deserves it.

Now, for the numbers:

**Account Balances as of June ‘14–
Hodges-Brown...\$50,355.98
Memorial Fund...\$5555.45**

**Through June:
Total Income = \$29,065
Total Expenses Paid = \$26,448
Balance-2,617 (with other expenses forthcoming)**

If you have any questions or concerns with regard to the finances of the church, please contact me.

Rusty Adcock



A tenth. One decimal place to the left. That’s all He asks of us.

Of course, He wants it given joyfully. It’s something how so many of us miss out on this opportunity.

Consider how happy you are when you see the reaction of a child after you’ve given them a gift. Isn’t it only fitting that we’d be equally happy when giving a portion of our income back to the Holy One who blessed us with it in the first place?

It’s a personal decision, and one you must be at peace with. I only bring the topic up as part of my new role as Chair of the Finance Committee. I just wanted to challenge you to consider your blessings and give accordingly.

Trustee Update-Wayne Page / Hospitality Committee-Margaret Furr

The improvements made to the church over the past year have made a wonderful difference in maintaining the facility. We are pleased to report the parsonage is in great condition overall. We

will be looking into a new electrical service (panel) for the church shortly. We have been working on small items regularly to avoid major expenses.

Hospitality Committee

If you would like to help with the events sponsored by the Hospitality Committee, please call Margaret Furr at 601-643-2246. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Annual Conference Report-Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Dr. Stephanie Duguid and Rev. Frank Newell attended the 25th Annual Mississippi Conference for the United Methodist Church in Jackson June 5th through 8th. Rev. Newell attended the pre-conference events on Thursday, as well as all of the conference events. Dr. Duguid attended the conference Friday and Saturday.

The theme of the 2014 conference was "Living Out The POWER of We". The Wesleyan tradition of continuous learning involves (1) Worship and study, (2) Spiritual growth and renewal, (3) Fellowship, and (4) Business. I can absolutely say that all points were emphasized.

If you have not had an opportunity to see Bishop Swanson share his message, you have not been involved in the ultimate worshiping experience. His ability to captivate an audience, blend and swell through his sermon, and share his excitement for the Holy Spirit, is like nothing I have seen before. A main focus of this year's conference was the "Stop Hunger Now" campaign forged by Ms. Swanson. The goal of the conference was to pack 100,000 meals before the weekend was over with an annual goal of over 1 million meals. The outstanding mark of 102,068 meals were packed during this weekend. It really goes to show the how the POWER of We can move mountains together.

As the lead of Communications and Connectional Ministries,

Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton has reached out on a regular basis to strengthen the bond through information and sharing through electronic methods. She also has a wonderful singing voice which was shared on many occasions throughout the weekend.

One mission of interest is the focus on community health through a wellness ministry with the support of the church. There were many churches that started various health screening, health fair, and other events in their community to spread the healthy word. Dr. Duguid and Rev. Newell are interested in following up with this opportunity in ministry for Decell.

The meetings were very well planned and included various services and recognitions including that of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award which honors people whose lives exemplify the teaching of Christ and the Great Commission. Rev. Coker who serves in Mendenhall and is involved in the Simpson County Center of Co-Lin was the recipient of this award.

Throughout the conference, many key points were shared, but there is one specifically that I would like to share with you. Although the membership of the United Methodist Church as decreased across the nation, in Mississippi it has increased. This includes the United Methodist Men's club otherwise,

according to Bishop Swanson, are known as the Romeo's (Retired old men eating out).

One last change in the church is that of the Campus Minister. Now, they will no longer receive a salary through the conference. The goal will be for each campus minister to apply for grants to encourage the fruitful and faithful ministries to have an opportunity to continue the great work through new initiatives and internships. They are seeking to find where they can fundamentally make the greatest impact. They said, "This is not our future, it is our today!"

Overall the conference was a wonderful experience with the opportunity to see God's hands at work in all that is done, has been done, and all that is left to be done. Also during the conference, there was a medical emergency in the middle of a presentation in which the conference came to a halt. As you would guess, our own Rev. Frank Newell was involved in assisting the person in need.

Finally, I leave you with the words of one of our speakers over the weekend:

In the church you focus on three kinds of people, the **doers**, the **donors**, and the **door openers**. Which one would you like to be today in supporting the mission of YOUR church!

Thank you!

Food Pantry-Sheila Sanders

The Food Pantry is serving over 13 families in the community on a regular basis. Thanks to donations and offerings from the congregation and community, we have a surplus of canned vegetable items.

If you wish to donate to the pantry, we are looking to stock up on **canned meats and peanut butter**.

The pantry is open the 4th Saturday of the month from 10-11 for pick up. Each bag offered

is supplied with similar foods and now include in invitation to join Decell for worship on Sundays.

Thank you to Martha Lightsey, Diane McIntyre, and Hilda Lacey for all of their help!

Birthdays

August

4-Minta Davis
16-Dalton Duguid
20-Doug Slonaker
31-Gayle Ross

September

2-Helen Page
19-Nelson Edwards

October

6-Thelma Foster
10-Jocelynn Duguid
11-Peggy Peets
15-Mary Ann Jasper
15-Max Foster
22-Tom Ross
24-Donis Foster

November

5-Wayne Page
7-Roxanne Stegall
7-Alton Ricks
7-Jean Ricks
16-Rusty Adcock
19-Jim Lightsey
19-Minnie Alice Clopton

Anniversaries

July

30-Sheryl and Wayne Page

August

30-Diane and Mike McIntyre

September

8-Linda and Michael Clopton

November

27-Gayle and Tom Ross

 The
POWER
of We

Decell Memorial United Methodist Church

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Phone 601-643-2749

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

Bible Study: We will continue our Bible Studies Wednesdays at 6:30PM and Thursdays at 10AM.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry will be collecting various foods each month. Please help with food and monetary donations as we distribute bags to those in need in the community the **fourth Saturday each month from 10-11AM**. Thank you!

The Hour: The Hour can be viewed on Channel 34, Sunday mornings at 8AM, or on the website, www.thehour.org.

From the Pastor-Reverend Frank Newell *Continued.....*

Conference of the UMC, in any part of the world. For example, any time UMCOR goes to a disaster area the mission shares that we give go toward the overhead cost of training and travel of the UMCOR worker. Therefore, all donations that go toward UMCOR are 100% going to the disaster relief/rebuilding effort. Also, our mission shares, like our local church budget, goes toward supporting the ministries that we directly have interaction with and serve. Camp Wesley Pines, Wesley Foundations, and Mission Centers are supported by mission shares, while locally we have a food pantry, Sunday School literature, and community projects are supported by our local budget that comes from your tithes. Tithing is the giving of the first fruits to the Lord, in recognition that it is all a gift from the Lord anyway.

Another area we have identified is being intentional about coming together as a church family. Throughout the year, we are planning more opportunities to come together as a church family. Already, we have UMW led by Melnee Frazier and UMM led by Alton Ricks & W.L. Smith. Both our UMW and UMM have a lot to offer in terms of fellowship and discipleship. We are also looking to having a few more family dinners after church. However, there is still more we can do to come together as a church family, the body of Christ, but we need everyone to come together as Kingdom Builders to grow.

In seminary, one of my instructors said the potential of a church is like a cylinder lock. When God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the congregation comes into alignment, the potential for growth and ministry is limitless. But, everything has to be in perfect alignment.

Let us align ourselves to God, through Jesus Christ, being led by the Holy Spirit, and find our potential. We can do this by all coming together. If you haven't been in a while come on home. If you know someone searching for love and acceptance, welcome them into our church family. When someone new moves into our community, invite them to be a part of our church family. Remember, our mission statement that can be found on the front of the bulletin,

"Our Worship Continues-Our Service Expands. Go and shine God's light to all the world in all you do!"

Let us be Kingdom Builders, by worshipping God every day, everywhere, and by letting God's light shine through us.

Rev. Frank Newell

Reverend Frank Newell, Pastor
Decell Memorial United Methodist Church

Worship Committee-Frank Newell, Chairman

The Worship Committee has met and set the 2014 calendar for worship events, listed responsibility for flowers each month. All updates are listed here.



Flowers

- April**-Sheila Sanders
- May**-Mary Ann Jasper
- June**-Melnee Frazier
- July**-Peggy Peets

Greeters

- August**-Max Foster
- September**-Rusty Adcock
- October**-W.L. Smith
- November**-Brent Duguid

Ushers

- August**-Max Foster & Rusty Adcock
- September**-Wayne Page & Patrick Hopkins
- October**-Ed Lacey & W.L. Smith
- November**-Max Foster & Brent Duguid



Calendar of Events

- August**- Stewardship Campaign Begins
- August 10**-Blessing of the Backpacks
- September 21** - Homecoming
- October 4**-Blessing of the Pets (2-4PM)
- October 12** – Family Picnic at the Lacey's (5:00 PM) as well as Administrative Council Meeting
- November 8**-Community Senior Thanksgiving Lunch

Open Minds. Open Hearts. Open Doors.