

# Decell Connection

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## From the Pastor-Reverend Frank Newell

Dear Decell Church Family,

Wow, wow, wow! It's hard to believe that we are almost done with 2014. This year has flown by fast. It only seems like yesterday we were celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and now we are about to celebrate Thanksgiving. Where did the time go?

As we look back on the previous year there is a lot of ministry going on for us to be proud. Our food pantry is serving on average 11 families each month. The blessing of the backpacks and collecting of school supplies is getting bigger every year. The blessing of the pets is being met with more support. The Senior

Thanksgiving Luncheon is looked forward to by many in our community. This is great ministry being done, but there is still more ahead of us.

As we look forward to the New Year, let's not make the same ole resolutions that we intend to keep, but later fall flat. Instead, let's look to see where the Holy Spirit is guiding us to expand our ministry and reach out to others. I think there is even more we can accomplish. However, it is going to take a team effort.

Sunday and drive around the community and see how many people are not attending church.

Not everyone is going to church or want to go to church. As the church we need to figure out

As I'm writing this article, I'm remembering two statements that I heard this week that are sticking with me pretty closely. The first is from our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Wayne Webster. He told us at charge conference to one Sunday invite the congregation to not come to church. After, we all picked our jaws up from the floor, he went on to explain to take one how to reach out to them and help them find their passion for church again, or for the first time.

**Continued on page 3.....**

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## Administrative Council-Jean Ricks, Chairman

Only two months-well not quite 2 months-left until 2015. My question is "Where did 2014 go?" Time passes quickly as you reach those "mature years".

Since August we have celebrated Homecoming with a great turnout. Reverend Wayne Webster, Brookhaven District Superintendent inspired us with an uplifting message; Roy and Gerry Daughdrill, as always, provided the beautiful music. Put Homecoming 2015 on your calendar-i9t will be September 20, 2015.

The Senior Adult Community Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 8 was enjoyed by 43 visitors, 14 Decell members. Meals were delivered to 20 others in the community who were unable to get to the church.

Charge Conference at Hazlehurst United Methodist Church was well done. Those attending were divided into two groups where the question "How is the POWER of the Holy Spirit moving in your congregation and what are your next steps to join God's mission in the world?" was discussed by answering several questions about what individual churches in the district were doing to become a more vital congregation.

The Stewardship Drive was a success with pledges which cover about 65% of budget for 2015. New officers for 2015 have been elected; the Administrative Council will be meeting in early January to plan for the year. Membership and stewardship will be the focus for the coming year. Input is invited. Decell belongs to all of

us. It can only remain a viable and thriving church if we all participate.

Christmas is upon us. We will be hanging the greens on November 30. Christmas family dinner is December 7- Santa will be there. Poinsettias will be placed in the church in December as well. Forms are available for you to place a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. Deadline for getting your request in is November 30. Christmas Eve service will be December 24.

Invite someone to join you in church. The January Council meeting will be January 11, 2015. You are invited to attend and share your ideas for making Decell a vital congregation in 2015.

Jean Ricks, Council Chair.

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

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

## 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. **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.

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 January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Men’s Club will be at Beauregard United Methodist Church.

February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> 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. So far we have collected 10 pairs of shoes to share.

Alton Ricks



### United Methodist Women

On August 26 Melnee Frazier and Jean Ricks attended the North Central Sub District meeting hosted by Barlow Charge at Sweetwater UMC. The program included a synopsis of the new studies for 2015—“How Is It with your Soul?” (Spiritual Growth) and “The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility, and Advocacy” (Issue Study).

In September, UMW completed the study “The Roma of Europe. At our October meeting, we began the study, How Is it with Your Soul? This question is a key part of our Wesleyan heritage and our UMC history. This study summons us to live more holy, lovingly, and to give more sacrificially as a result of responding to the great invitation—to be a disciple of Jesus.

At our November 12 meeting we explored the impact of ten different

National Mission Institutions and international ministries made possible by the World Thank Offering. This is our opportunity each November meeting to respond to God’s abundance with gifts of gratitude. We also completed the first session on pray in our study “How Is It with Your Soul?” by reading and discussing Hannah’s prayer story in 1 Samuel 1-3:20.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas luncheon at Ed and Hilda Lacey’s home on Friday, December 12, at 11 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Melnee Frazier (601.643.5825) or Hilda Lacey (601.894.4874) by Sunday, December 7.



## Finance Committee-Rusty Adcock, Chairman/Tithing

Happy Thanksgiving!

Wow. Think about that simple wish that we all dole out this time of year. Do you ever consider it? Do you give thanks with a happy heart to God the Father for all he’s bestowed upon you? We need to.

If you’re like me and so many, we tend to think we’re taking on life with our own means and talents. May we never forget...those means and those talents are graciously given to us by our Heavenly Father above.

Let’s be thankful this holiday season for all our blessings and talents. And also let’s consider those blessings we’ve been given. Are we giving back all we should to the One who blessed us?

Currently there are still some of our congregation who has not

pledged a commitment for giving in 2015. Please be prayerful about this opportunity you have to give back to Him who’s given so much. The tithing we give is the lifeblood of Decell Memorial UMC.

As for numbers to report, through the ten months ending October 31:  
 \* our actual cash balance was showing \$2337  
 \* our expenses accumulated, \$50,605 (just 76% of budgeted)  
 \* our tithing accumulated, \$48,522

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**

The trustees are happy to report that two major repairs have been completed since the last newsletter. First, the second a/c unit and compressor, for the upstairs

class and half of the sanctuary, have been replaced. Secondly, the wiring at the outdoor fuse box has been replaced with new wiring and converted to

a single breaker box. These improvements will help with the cost of heating and cooling, as well as making sure we do not have any more power outages due to squirrels.

**From the Pastor Continued.....**

This brings me to the next statement, which is, "Doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different outcome is the definition of insanity." Church traditions are wonderful, when they are life giving and bring fourth authentic worship. However, when we do things the same way over and over and don't get a better response, it's time to change our methods.

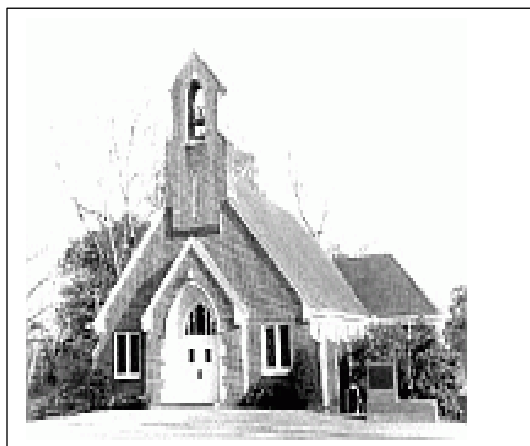
John Wesley is noted to not have a fondness of outdoor preaching. However, when George Winfield, a great preacher and outdoor evangelist, was to make a missionary trip to the Colonies, he invited John Wesley to preach for him. Even though Wesley had no love for outdoor preaching, his response was, "where is the stomp to preach." Wesley knew that new and different were not bad, so long as they were reaching the people.

Let us dream together, work together, and encourage each other in the ministry of the church. Let us live into our passion for the mission and ministry of God. Our hearts should be on fire for God, just as Wesley described his heart at Aldersgate.

2014 was a great year, but 2015 will be even better. For if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will find that there is nothing we can accomplish. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

**Rev. Frank Newell**

Reverend Frank Newell, Pastor Decell Memorial United Methodist Church



**Hospitality-Margaret Furr**

**Hospitality Committee**

The Senior Adult Community Thanksgiving was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Decell. We had 43 visitors that enjoyed live music/singing, and fellowship. Meals were also delivered to over 30 individuals in the community who were not able to join us. Our next large event will be the Christmas Family Dinner December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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!

**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.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**December**

- 10-Stephanie Duguid
- 14-Jenny Slonaker
- 17-Glenn Davis
- 25-Beth Adcock

**January**

- 19-Margaret Furr
- 25-Ralph Page
- 26-Mary Clopton

**February**

- 1-Martha Lightsey

**March**

- 10-Ralph Frazier
- 11-Sheila Stewart
- 17-Patrick Hopkins
- 21-W.L. Smith
- 28-Mandy Douglas
- 29-Micah Davis

**Anniversaries**

**December**

- 19-Jean and Alton Ricks
- 21-Helen and Ralph Page
- 27-Glenn and Minta Davis
- 31-Thelma and Max Foster
- 31-Peggy and Gary Peets

**January**

- 1-Jenny and Doug Slonaker

**March**

- 9-Anna Ruth and Albert Ray
- Peets

 *The*  
**POWER**  
*of We*

**Decell Memorial United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 65  
 Wesson, MS 39191

**Phone** 601-643-2749  
**E-mail** decellmemorialun@bellsouth.net

**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](http://www.thehour.org).

*In Loving Memory of*

*Ella Louise Ray*

*July 24, 1928 ~ July 20, 2014*



On July 20 Louise Ray passed away at her home. She was a long time member of Decell where she was a faithful member of the Fellowship Sunday School Class and served as the church's financial secretary. She was also a long time member of UMW and was serving as treasurer at the time of her death. She is survived by her daughters, Betty Ray and Ann (Tom) Sims both of Clinton. She is greatly missed.

**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**

- December**-Poinsettias
- January**-Jean Ricks
- February**-Hilda Lacey
- March**-Margaret Furr

**Greeters**

- December**-Doug Slonaker
- January**-Alton Ricks
- February**-Doug Slonaker
- March**-Patrick Hopkins

**Ushers**

- December**-Doug Slonaker & Patrick Hopkins
- January**-Alton Ricks & W.L. Smith
- February**-Doug Slonaker & Rusty Adcock
- March**- Patrick Hopkins & Wayne Page



**Calendar of Events**

- November 30**- Hanging of the Greens
- November 30** – Poinsettia Orders Due
- December 7**-Christmas Family Dinner
- December 24**-Christmas Eve Service
- January 11** – Administrative Council Meeting

*Open Minds. Open Hearts. Open Doors.*