

# the CONNECTION

February 4, 2011

Two Sections, Section A

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EDITOR: KELLEY ELIZABETH MCDONALD  
kelley.mcdonald@gmail.com

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BY PHILIP SMITH  
youth minister

## Love God, Love Others...



February ushers in love. John Wesley said, "An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge." St. Valentine is the patron saint of love, young people, and happy marriages.....no wonder the holiday is named after him. Many of us will rush out and spend various amounts of money on flowers, candy, and cute little stuffed animals. We will hope that our cards express just the right thing about how we feel about each other.

What is it about this one day? Shouldn't we express this type of adoration to our loved ones on a daily basis? Isn't this the kind of love we find from God?

What is love? Someone said in an article recently that love is an over-used word or expression that has lost its true meaning.

Has it become meaningless? The Bible tells us that "God is love." One of the most quoted verses is John 3:16, "For God so loved (agape) the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." God's love is unconditional. The gift of Jesus as a provision for sin was given to all humans regardless of who we are. This is love.

C.S. Lewis said, "Love is something more stern and splendid than mere kindness." Mother Teresa once said, "If you judge people you have no time to love them." The greatest challenge we have as Christians is to serve in love. Christ said everything hangs on two commandments....love God with all our heart and soul and all your mind and the second...to love your neighbor as yourself. This Valentine's Day, remember that we live in love, and we are saved by love. Share that love!

"I observed, "Love is the fulfilling of the law, the end of the commandment." It is not only "the first and great" command, but all the commandments in one. "Whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, they are all comprised in this one word, love."~John Wesley



Members of the JFUMC Youth group prepare the serving line for last year's Chili Cook Off.

## Red Hot Chili Cook Off

February 13th marks the annual Red Hot Chili Cook Off from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Over the past several years, this has not only been a great church tradition but also one that has grown. Each year it is the youth who sponsor, work, and coordinate this event. Proceeds from this annual fund raiser benefit the youth mission fund. This fund helps provide the youth who work the event with money for the large yearly mission trip and for smaller ones we embark on throughout the year. The youth look forward to this event each year, and each year the church blesses them with generous donations which fund rewarding mission trips. This one event raises most of money used for mission expenses and allows several youth who might not be able to attend the mission trips the opportunity to attend and to give back. Last year the youth traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi and worked on damage still left over from Hurricane Katrina and on outreach ministries in the community. This year the youth council is making final plans for a summer mission trip.

Not your ordinary Chili Cook Off? Nope! This year, prizes will be awarded for the Best Chili (most donations received), and the Best Decorated Booth and a NEW PRIZE voted on by a panel of judges! Set your taste buds for some great chili and good fun! Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from the youth! Booth registration forms can be picked up at the church office and must be turned in by February 9th. Registration fees are \$25.

**First United Methodist Church**  
308 West Main Jacksonville AR 72076  
501.982.8176  
www.lessaboutsunday.org

## the calendar

These are some of the special events that will be happening around the church during the month of February and the first week of March. Please look for the full interactive church calendar on the church website [www.lessaboutsunday.org](http://www.lessaboutsunday.org) or call the church office at 501.982.8176 to have a full calendar mailed to you.

### Thursday February 3

6:00 pm ALPHA Begins

### Sunday February 6

4:00 pm Prayer & Fasting Group

### Tuesday February 8

2:00 pm Worship @ Towers

### Thurs Feb 10 – Fri Feb 11

9:00 am Sew N Sew

### Thurs Feb 10 – Sun Feb 13

Men's Walk To Emmaus

### Saturday February 12

9:30 am UMW Mission Study

3:00 pm Woodland Hills

Worship

### Sunday February 13

1:00 pm Trustees building walk-through

3:00 pm Financial Peace U

5:00 pm Red Hot Chili Cookoff

### Monday February 14

6:00 pm Finance Committee

### Tuesday February 15

2:00 pm Worship at

Greenbriar

7:00 pm UMW Covenant Circle

### Friday February 18

3:00 pm Woodland Hills Party

### Saturday February 19

8:45 am Parenting Solutions

at Asbury UMC, LR

10:00 am A Day With God

### Sunday February 20

March Connection deadline

7:00 am UMM Breakfast

12:15 pm Church Council

### Monday February 21

1:00 pm UMW Mary Martha

and Wesleyan Circles

6:30 pm UMW Faith Circle

### Thursday February 24

12:00 pm Young at Heart

### Fri Feb 25 – Sun Feb 27

Veritas for Youth

### Sunday February 27

3:00 pm Worship at

Transitions

### Monday February 28

6:30 pm Trustees

### Fri March 4 – Sun March 6

JFUMC Women's Retreat

### Tuesday March 8

2:00 pm Worship @ Towers

### Wednesday March 9

Ash Wednesday

## First Meeting of 2011 Church Council

The new Church Council at JFUMC had their first meeting of the year on Sunday, January 9 following our morning worship services. It was a called meeting and dealt with three issues:

Ken Payne was elected as treasurer for the congregation, and is now the lay person responsible for accountability to our financial procedures that are defined by our denomination's guidelines and our Finance Committee's policies.

Pat Reel was elected secretary of the Council, and is now the person responsible for maintaining an accurate account of the proceedings of our meetings.

After considerable discussion, questions and concerns shared, the council unanimously approved the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. This budget represents a decrease from 2010 operating expenses, which was made possible through three areas:

(1) building maintenance costs were kept at minimum expectations, and payments for our indebtedness will be paid from our capital funds campaign (instead of the operating budget) until we approve a plan for our debt retirement;

(2) staff expenses were cut by shifting the Church Administrator's responsibilities into existing positions, hiring a contract cleaning service, and training volunteer receptionists for our office; and

(3) basing our ministry expenses on actual expenditures rather than requests.

Copies of the budget are available through the church office.

## Calling all Handymen and Handywomen!

The Board of Trustees is inviting all persons interested in helping with basic maintenance and improvement projects to join us for a thorough walk through of our facilities on Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 pm. We

are inviting everyone who signed up on the Every Member in Ministry (volunteer) campaign in 2010, but would also like to welcome anyone who would like to help us by providing some volunteer hours as we seek to repair and improve our facilities!

The walk-through will last 60-90 minutes, and we will have a calendar and sign-up sheets for known jobs that we want to include. We will also be ready to name and address other issues that we may see as we tour the facilities and look for ways to improve our hospitality, safety, and accessibility through some volunteer work days. You don't need to sign up – just come and join us for the tour!



## Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes!

Our church staff works hard to provide the resources, opportunities, and support for the people of God at JFUMC to accomplish the ministries God directs us to do. We believe that the Holy Spirit leads us (when we allow), God gives the vision for church, and our church leadership defines our policies and directions, and we are all involved in the acts of ministry. Our staff is here because they are called by God to help administer the work of the church and support you in your ministry needs at JFUMC. Here is a brief description of our 2011 staff:

**Senior Pastor (FT):** Mark McDonald preaches, teaches, leads spiritual development, helps us understand God's vision for JFUMC, oversees the staff and general ministries of the church, and leads by example.

**Associate Pastor (PT):** Charles Watt also preaches, teaches, administers the sacraments, and takes special responsibility for the visitation, senior adult ministries, and nursing home ministries.

**Pastor Emeritus (volunteer):** Wendell Dorman is retired and stands available to help with pastoral needs in our congregation as needed.

**Discipleship Minister (FT):** Donna Hendricks cares for the ministries that help our people grow in their relationship with Christ and answer their call to ministry.

**Youth & Outreach Minister (FT):** Philip Smith cares for our youth ministries, outreach opportunities, and special community events.

**Pastoral Intern (volunteer):** Walt Garrett serves as an intern/associate and helps with visitation, pastoral care, nursing home ministries, and other pastoral duties as he completes his seminary education.

**Director of Music (FT):** Phil Frederic serves as our pianist and is responsible for all the music ministries and traditional worship services of our church.

**New for 2011 Facilities Manager (FT):** Jay Wedaman manages our cleaning service, coordinates all facility and equipment usage/repairs/maintenance, and coordinates all our A/V needs.

**New for 2011 Finance & Administration Manager (FT):** Michelle McCoy oversees all the finances, office administration, data management, and volunteer coordination for all our ministries.

**Communications Coordinator (PT):** Kelley McDonald is responsible for coordinating our media in a way that efficiently communicates the vision, direction, needs, and opportunities of our ministries.

**Worship Leader (PT):** Mike Brown coordinates the music and worship themes for our contemporary worship service, and works with our youth music ministries.

**Childcare Provider (PT):** Leah Sherman provides loving care for infants and toddlers on Sunday mornings, and also works with childcare for children on Wednesday evenings and during special events.

**Maintenance/Security (PT):** O.D. Ridgle works with our Facilities Manager to set-up and break-down rooms, clean as needed, and perform security checks on a daily basis.

## Amazing Grace

You've heard it and sung it hundreds of times, but what really is so amazing about grace? While everyone is talking about love this month, let's talk about how Christians learn about love from God- from grace to heaven and hell. We'll even learn how to show God's love when the world around us is filled with hatred.

### February 6

*Free Grace*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16

### February 13

*When the Rubber Meets the Road*  
Romans 3:21-26

### February 20

*Everyday Christians*  
Matthew 7:7-12

### February 27

*Eternal Life*  
John 3:16-17

### March 6

*Judgement*  
Matthew 25:14-30

## the services

We have three worship times for you to choose from each week.

**8:35 am**  
Traditional Worship

**10:55 am**  
Blue Jeans Worship

**6:00 pm**  
Youth Worship

**FREE LUNCH**  
**HERE.**

**EVERY Saturday**  
**11:00-1:00**

## UMCOR Sager Brown Mission Trip

May 15-20, 2011

This mission trip offers many opportunities for service. Some of these are sewing school bags, working in the warehouse to pack the different kits UMCOR supplies worldwide to people in need, or working in the community around Baldwin, Louisiana to assist with home repairs. The cost of the trip is \$275. For more information about the trip contact Martha Altom 982-6952 or marthaaltom.99@comcast.net. More information about Sager Brown can be found on the UMCOR Sager Brown website (<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/sagerbrown/>) or in the information below.

The following information is from a brochure produced by UMCOR called *UMCOR at a Glance*.

### Headquarters:

New York, NY

### History:

Formed in 1940 in response to the suffering of people during World War II, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) continues to provide a channel through which people may express their Christian compassion for people around the globe, often the poorest in society, who are undergoing hardship and suffering as a result of natural catastrophes, conflicts, or wars. As a humanitarian relief and development agency, UMCOR is called on to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery wherever and whenever needed.

### Mission:

Our mission is to alleviate human suffering — whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster — with open minds and hearts to all people.

### Strategy:

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR partners with local organizations and survivors to rebuild their livelihoods, health, and homes. UMCOR workers are known all over the world for their compassion, leadership, expertise and guidance in recovery efforts.

### Operations:

UMCOR is working in 81 countries worldwide, including the United States. Wherever and whenever we are needed, we will Be There. And we will Be Hope.



**BEYOND THE WALLS**

### Volunteers:

UMCOR utilizes thousands of volunteers every year. In fact, in 2006 at our Sager Brown depot and mission center in Louisiana alone, 3,031 volunteers prepared more than 300 tons of disaster relief supplies for shipping all over the globe.

### Finances:

UMCOR is a good steward of your gifts and grants. Private donors can designate their gifts to our programs with the assurance that 100% will be spent on the programs.

## the pastor's study

BY MARK MCDONALD

senior pastor



In smaller churches, it is common to have a pastor, and sometimes even a part-time secretary or janitor. However, once a church begins to grow past 150 in attendance, a pastor cannot care for the spiritual and temporal needs effectively, and a staff helps develop and administer the ministries and mission of a congregation. There are many strategies to staffing a growing church. Some models recommend a full-time minister and one part-time support person for every 85 in attendance. Others

recommend a part-time position for every 50 in attendance with full-time positions beginning when the church reaches 150.

At JFUMC, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee has been working to keep our staffing expenses between 45-55%. Each year, many things change- from utilities to ministry expenses. Our mission giving is separate from our operating budget, making it hard to find a consistent basis for that percentage. However, we are very close to that percentage based on our total giving (excluding capital campaigns). This year, our Church Administrator, John Washok, retired at the end of 2010, and our church decided to shift his responsibilities into current staff positions so we could focus more money into other ministry areas. By recruiting volunteers to serve as office receptionists and hiring a contract cleaning service to provide two deep-cleanings each week, we were able to reduce our staffing expenses by more than \$30,000.

We have a wonderful staff of deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ, and I appreciate the way that you shared your support of us at Christmas. We all appreciate the Christmas bonuses, and I'm so thankful that you showed your love and support in the way you did!

The changes in responsibilities have put us all on a learning curve this year, and they have also made it even more important for every member to be in ministry! As we move into this new year with new responsibilities, I want to ask you to continue to show your support for our faithful staff in some tangible ways:

- Take some time to read through the new positions in this issue of *The Connection*, so you can know who can help you the most!
- Call the church office (982-8176) or email us at [info@jacksonvilleumc.com](mailto:info@jacksonvilleumc.com) with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have.
- If you have a more in-depth question or would like to have more time to talk about something, please consider making an appointment with someone on staff to honor his/her schedule as they learn new responsibilities.
- Consider volunteering to help in an area of the church so our staff can focus even more on providing support and encouragement for our ministries. Every Member in Ministry brochures are available at the church, online, or by email – just ask us for one!
- Take responsibility for your ministry areas so our congregation and staff can become even greater partners as we *Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World!*

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark

## Thank You

"I want to thank the congregation for a wonderful retirement send off. Your generous gifts of money and delicious food were an added bonus. I was so pleased to see so many in attendance. It really warmed my heart. For the Roasters, a special thank you. Your memories of past events were astonishing, considering how long ago you had to go back. Everyone justified my reason for wanting to be a part of this wonderful congregation. I feel very blessed to be part of your family."

Love and prayers,  
John Washok  
RETIRED

"I would like to thank everyone who helped with the decorating of the sanctuary and the narthex for Christmas. Your help was greatly appreciated and was a blessing to all who attended the worship services during the Advent and Christmas seasons."

Many blessings,  
Joyce White

### JFUMC Ministries are:

- Spirit-led
- Vision-directed
- Council-accountable
- Staff-administered
- Laity-executed

### Wednesday Night OASIS meals (5:00-6:00 pm)

**February 9**  
Taco Casserole

**February 16**  
Beef Tips & Noodles

**February 23**  
Chicken Spaghetti

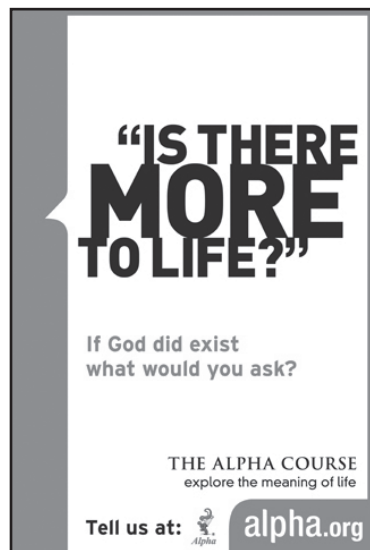
## Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage

There will be a new adult Sunday school class forming on February 13th. The focus of the class will be marriage and family issues. It will meet in the choir room inside the main church building at the 9:45 Sunday school hour. The class will begin with the marriage video series of Mark Gungor.

*Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* is a marriage study that couples humor with biblically-based teaching and principles. Please contact the church office or call Lisa Hickingbotham if you are interested in this class. You can preview his videos on the web by going to [www.laughyourway.com](http://www.laughyourway.com)

The website has resources that will be helpful to those who are dating or married whether or not you can attend this new LIFE group. I urge you to sign up to receive the newsletter with helpful tips for relationships, to check out his blog or to listen to the daily Better Marriage Minutes that can be found on this webpage <http://www.laughyourway.com/better-marriage-minute/>

## ALPHA can help you find the answers.



Alpha, a ten-week course for adults interested in investigating Christianity will be offered at our church from on Thursdays from February 3 until March 31. The course will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. A meal will be provided and membership in our congregation is not a requirement. The ALPHA course is for anyone seeking more information about the Christian faith. It's a place to have fun while learning. You will have an opportunity to get to know others and make new friends, to discuss issues in small groups, and it will be a place where no

question is seen as too simple or too hostile.

Some of the topics that will be discussed are: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why and how should I read the Bible? Why and how do I pray? Who is the Holy Spirit? How can I resist evil?

If you are interested, please call the church office at 501.982.8176 and let us know. There is no charge for the course, but a small donation for the meal will be appreciated. Hope to see you there!

## Parenting Solutions at Asbury UMC

This life-changing parenting seminar goes deeper than just behavior management or reward/punishment. The approach changes what children believe and that changes their behavior from the inside out. You will be grateful you attended this seminar because you'll be able to use the material right away. It's practical. It's biblical. And it offers hope to parents. There is also a children's program that complements what the parents are learning.

This event is sponsored by Asbury, Highland Valley, Little Rock First, Pulaski Heights and Winfield United Methodist Churches. Saturday February 19, 2011 at 8:45 am

Cost \$25 per adult.  
Sign up at [www.fumclr.org](http://www.fumclr.org) or call 501-225-9231  
Asbury UMC, 1700 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, 72212

## Generation Change in Youth Worship!

*Generation Change* started Sunday January 23rd. Some teens will deal with sex. Some teens will deal with alcohol and drugs. But all teens will deal with money. This is a great opportunity for our youth to learn about money, self value and worth. *Generation Change* will be presented during youth worship time! Hope you can make it.

## Youth Praise

Mike Brown has agreed to work with the youth in the music department! We are extremely excited to have Mike help us out! Youth praise now practices every Sunday at 4:00 pm.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Red Hot Chili Cook Off

Family Life Center  
February 13th, 2011  
5:00 pm

#### Veritas 2011

February 25-27, 2011  
Hot Springs Convention Center  
Speaker: Brent Cambrell, Musical Guest: Two Empty Chairs  
An awesome time of worship, fellowship, and fun!

#### Winter Jam

March 5 at 5:00 pm \$10, Verizon Arena  
Newsboys, David Crowder Band, RED, NewSong, Kutless, and many more!

## Easter Choir: *Lion of Judah*

If you enjoyed *The Perfect Tree* Christmas Choir musical last December, then you'll love what's coming Palm Sunday. The Chancel Choir and Praise Team will join together to reprise a favorite from a few years back- *The Lion of Judah*. Rehearsals have already begun, but you can join with us any time. We're practicing in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Make a commitment to sing with the Easter Choir this year! It'll be a blessing, and you'll have a great time with us in musical fellowship.



## Stuck Scholarship

High school seniors and qualified college students may pick up an application for the Stuck Scholarship in the church office. The applications should be filled out and returned with required transcripts and references to the office or to the Pairs and Spares LIFE Group by the end of April.  
Thanks, Dorothy Connelly

