

"The Church in the heart of the city with the city in its heart."

# The Downowner



## Celebrate Christmas Through A Gift To "Downtown"

### MEN'S SOCKS

BY DECEMBER 20



Again this year we are collecting men's sport socks to distribute as a Christmas gift to our homeless brothers at our Annual Christmas Breakfast. Look for a box in the narthex.

### ANGEL TREE



We are collecting toys for the children of Shalom Community Mission for their Christmas party. Please take an angel or many angels from the tree in the narthex, which will indicate the age and gender of a child. Wrap your new gift for the child (\$15 or less) and attach the angel to the outside. Gifts are due by **Wednesday, December 16**. See Mary Weden for more details.

### Christmas Offering

Plan to make a gift to FUMC at Christmas to assist with our ongoing ministries. Watch for a special envelope in the mail or send your gift to FUMC marked "Christmas".

Sponsor a meal or part of a meal with **The Breakfast Club** in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. Simply send us the information below along with your contribution. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the person you are honoring if you wish.

- 1 Sunday meal for 180 persons \$200.00
- 1/2 Sunday meal \$100.00
- Sandwiches for 180 persons \$60.00
- Coffee for 180 persons \$30.00

Name and address of person giving the gift: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of person you are honoring or memorializing: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contribution amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special date, *optional* (anniversary, birthday, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FUMC with "The Breakfast Club" in the memo.

### Our Vision

God's transforming grace in Jesus Christ calls us to become one dynamic church of diverse people in downtown Miami, offering a new life of Christian discipleship to the community.

### Our Mission

To proclaim the gospel in all we do; to encourage and build disciples.

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### SERVICE TIMES

**SUNDAY**  
 Informal Service 8:30am  
 Traditional Service \*10:55am  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 Fellowship Dinner 5:45pm  
 Prayer and Praise 6:45pm  
**SATURDAY**  
 Contemporary 7:00pm

\*NURSERY PROVIDED

## FUMC Budget Process 2010

This information was distributed at the Church Council meeting on November 18 and again in worship on November 22 when we had a "household conversation" about these important matters related to our church. If you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact Dick Weden, chair of the Finance Committee at [rmweden@yahoo.com](mailto:rmweden@yahoo.com) or Pastor Cynthia Weems at [cweems@fumcmiami.com](mailto:cweems@fumcmiami.com) or 305-371-4706.

In early October, the Finance committee received a report from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership that analyzed income and expense patterns at FUMC for the last several years. The Lewis Center used the data to offer a set of recommendations to us as well as a budget formula for 2010 that anticipates a balanced budget. Both the Lewis Center report and the budget spreadsheet are available for public review.

The Finance committee voted to use the report and recommendations as a guide in its budget process for 2010. The committee communicated this to various committees that have oversight over budget areas (Staff-Parish, Trustees, etc.). The committees are working to set a 2010 budget based on the recommendations. These have all resulted in significantly lower budget numbers for 2010. **In total, a budget reduction of 30% or nearly \$140,000, is recommended.**

### Implications for a Balanced Budget:

**Pay as we go.** We will only pay bills with monthly recurring income beginning January 1, 2010.

**Personnel** will be cut by \$45,000 or 23%. Beginning Jan. 1 our church staff will consist of a Full-time Pastor, Full-time Custodian, Part-time Office manager, Part-time Music Director and Part-time Bookkeeper.

**Facility management** will require new and cancelled contracts with several vendors as well as only required maintenance. No major repair expenses will be budgeted for.

**Program and ministry** expenses will be absolutely minimal.

**Church leaders and committees** will be actively involved in monthly decisions if income does not come in as expected.

### 2010 Draft Budget at a Glance:

#### ***Estimated Income:***

Offerings = \$175,000  
Building Use = \$100,000  
Endowment = \$34,000\*  
Other = \$15,000

*\*A modest spend rate of 3% of the endowment is being recommended.*

**Total 2010 budget = \$324,000**

#### ***Estimated Expense:***

Personnel Costs = \$158,000  
Program and Operations = \$16,000  
Facilities = \$73,000  
Property Insurance = \$56,000  
Mission and Outreach to UMC = \$57,000

**Total Estimated Expense: \$359,000**

The Finance committee will continue to work on budget figures as they are finalized in committees. A final 2010 budget will be voted on at the Dec. 16 Church Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

For over two years, FUMC has supported the **Senior Hot Meals** program by covering their bi-weekly payroll taxes. The Finance committee has voted not to continue supporting the program after January 1, 2010. This is not due to lack of support for the program's mission. It is simply unsustainable for the church to accept an additional expense to its operating budget.

**The Breakfast Club** ministry with the homeless will continue to operate with donated funds entirely outside of operating budget dollars.

### The Numbers:

2009 Budget = \$465,000  
2009 Use of Endowment Funds toward  
Operating budget = \$122,000  
2009 Anticipated Budget Deficit =  
\$50,000

#### Income through Offerings:

2007 = \$212,000  
2008 = \$207,000  
2009 = \$166,000 (projected)

Additional income in donations from Miami Dade College and American Car Parks provides \$100,000 annually to support our general budget.

### Sample expense patterns:

Average monthly electric bill = \$3300  
Average monthly water/sewage bill = \$1100  
Annual property insurance = \$56,000

#### Giving patterns:

*Based on annual giving by a "giving unit" towards the operating budget*

**Over \$8,000 = 2 giving units**

**\$4,500 - \$8,000 = 5**  
**\$3,000 - \$4,500 = 6**  
**\$2,000-\$3,000 = 5**  
**\$1,000 - \$2,000 = 6**  
**\$500-\$1,000 = 15**  
**\$200-\$500 = 33**

# Advent at FUMC

## Join Us For Worship This Christmas

We hope you will join us for a variety of activities this Advent season. There are opportunities to worship, to serve and to celebrate in Christian fellowship. These are wonderful opportunities to invite friends to church and share the joy of the season. Please see the following list of activities and check out our website at [www.fumcmiami.com](http://www.fumcmiami.com) for full details. We will look forward to seeing you soon!



### *Chrismons Program* *Sunday, December 6*

Join us for our annual Chrismon assembly at **9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary**. We will decorate the Christmas tree and sing carols. Refreshments will be provided after the event.

#### *THE CHRISMON TREE*

The tree is decorated by the congregation by using a tradition that has been observed around the world for about fifty years. The decorations are symbols of Jesus Christ and the early church. They tell the story of God's plan for our salvation through faith in Jesus, whose birth we honor during this holy season.

The children are an important part of the program, as they (in the guise of angels) present banners of each symbol, indicating when people come forward with their Chrismons, as the narrator tells the biblical story.

The word Chrismon is a combination of two words: CHRISt and MONogram. All Chrismons are made by members of the church and are white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to Jesus' purity and perfection. Gold refers to the royalty of the King of Kings. It is a beautiful tradition and we hope you enjoy the tree as you worship with us this season.

Submitted by Wilma Baggesen

### *Christmas Concert and Caroling* *Saturday, December 19*

Come join us for a "Classical Christmas" concert. **Saturday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m.** Pianists Kacey Link and Julia Mortyakova will present a mix of four hand piano duets including Christmas music with selections from the Nutcracker ballet by Tchaikovsky and traditional carols, as well as neo-Romantic music by female composers



*Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky "The Nutcracker"*  
*Cecile Chaminade "Pieces Romantiques"*  
*Amy Beach "Summer Dreams"*  
*Olga Harris "Six Lyric Waltzes"*  
*and more!!!*



CAROLING

Then stay with us after the concert at **6:00 p.m. for Christmas caroling** just outside of our church on busy Biscayne Boulevard. We will bless the boulevard with songs and warm wishes for the holiday season. We will fellowship over hot chocolate after the singing is complete.

### *Cantata*

*Sunday December 13*

**One worship service only at 10:55 a.m.**

Join us for the Christmas Cantata "A Christmas Light" delivered by our Chancel Choir. It will be a service of joy and song and a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to wor-



Candlelight Service

*Christmas Eve Worship*  
*Thursday, December 24*

Carillon Music Program will begin at 5:30 p.m. Our Candlelight Service will begin at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary with participation by our children and youth. Come to celebrate the birth of Jesus in the heart of Downtown.



Poinsettias

#### **DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS**

The Sanctuary will be decorated with flowers this Christmas. Order Your poinsettias today to honor or memorialize a loved one. Cost: \$10.00 per plant (due with order). Deadline December 13, 2009

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Trustees:** December 2 at 7:30 p.m.
- Education:** December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Finance:** December 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council:** December 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
(2010 Church Budget Vote)



### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**Thursday, December 24 and December 31, 9:00 a.m.—12 Noon.**  
**Fridays, December 25 and January 1 office closed.**  
**Volunteers Needed!** Volunteers are needed to help answer telephones on Wednesday, December 23 and December 28, 29 and 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00–4:00 p.m. If you would like to help, please call the church office.

### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

There will **NO** Wednesday Night Dinner and/or activities December 23rd.

### The United Methodist Women (U.M.W.) will meet Saturday, December 5.

11:00 a.m.— General meeting.  
 12:15 p.m. Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.  
 All are invited. Please make lunch reservations with Circle Chairperson or with the Church Office.

### Circle information:

- ◆ **Miriam Circle will meet Thursday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m. in the Epworth Village Green Room.**
- ◆ **Esther Circle Meeting will meet Friday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon meeting. Location to be announced.**
- ◆ **Ruth Circle Meeting—To Be Announced**



### KEENAGERS

**Keenagers will meet Friday, December 18, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**



### THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

- ◆ **Gifts in memory of John Massey were received from: William & Lucy Patton, Joy McGarry, Mildred C. Wright.**
- ◆ **Gifts in memory of Elizabeth Snider were received from: Mildred C. Wright.**
- ◆ **Gifts in memory of Dorothy Wilson were received from: Elizebeth Carter.**
- ◆ **Gifts to the Bathroom Renovation Fund were received from: Elizebeth Carter (in honor of the Hutsons 65 Anniversary), Amy Brown/Arnold Family Trust, Phyllis Region, Ginette Grey.**
- ◆ **Gifts to the Breakfast Club were received from: Louise Quinon-Teza, Evelyne Green, Dick and Mary Weden, Steve Simmons.**
- ◆ **A gift to Missions was received from Larry Winebrenner in memory of Alice Roudenbush.**
- ◆ **A gift to the General Budget was received from Doris Woelfel.**

*A special thank you to all these people for their generosity and continued support of our church and its ministries.*



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dorothy Wilson who died on November 11, 2009 at 97 years of age. A memorial service was held on November 14. The family has requested memorial gifts in her memory be given to FUMC.



### Friendly Reminder!

The **deadline** for submitting articles for inclusion in the January issue of *The Downtowner* is **December 15th.**



Attention All Church Leaders  
 Mark your Calendars  
 District-wide Church Leadership Day  
 Saturday, January 16, 2010  
 at Hollywood Hills UMC  
 More details coming soon.

# DECEMBER 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>2</b> 6:30 Homeless Ministry 9:00 Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30 Board of Trustees	<b>3</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry	<b>5</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>11am U.M.W.</b> <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>6</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	<b>7</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>8</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>9</b> 6:30 Homeless Ministry 9:00 Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30 Education Comm.	<b>10</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 2:30pm Miriam Circle @ Epworth 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry  11:30 am Esther Circle	<b>12</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>13</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	<b>14</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>15</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 7:00 Finance Co.	<b>16</b> 6:30 Homeless Min. 9:00 Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30 Adm. Council Mtg.	<b>17</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry  11:30am Keenagers	<b>19</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>20</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	<b>21</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>22</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:00pm Comm. Partnership for Homeless Dinner	<b>23</b> 6:30 Homeless Min. 9:00 Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class <b>NO Fellowship Dinner</b> <b>NO Prayer/Praise</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program Christmas Eve Carillon Music Program 5:30pm Candlelight Svc.	<b>25</b> Christmas Office Closed 	<b>26</b> 9:00am <b>NO</b> Hot Meals Program <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>27</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	<b>28</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>29</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>30</b> 6:30 Homeless Min. 9:00 Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise	<b>31</b> 9:00am <b>NO</b> Hot Meals Prog.  <b>New Year's Eve Office Closed</b>		



## BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Danny O'Brien          | 28 Scott Galvin  |
| 3 Steve Wilkinson        | Kathy Kirk       |
| 4 Clinton Sanders        | Lindsay Loher    |
| 5 Emily Vasquez          | 29 Melle Knowles |
| 6 Doug Lightbourne       |                  |
| 8 Chris Curry            |                  |
| 10 Zariah John           |                  |
| Dwayne Lebrun            |                  |
| 11 Elaine Stockhausen    |                  |
| 12 Henry Williams        |                  |
| 15 Beverly Kirk          |                  |
| 16 Melissa Miano         |                  |
| 17 Kenny Kirk            |                  |
| 21 Carlos Arias          |                  |
| Luke McAndrew            |                  |
| 26 Rita Flowers          |                  |
| Ruth Flowers             |                  |
| 27 Catherine Winebrenner |                  |
| Kathy Winebrenner        |                  |



## ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

- 12 Christopher & Silvia Folds
- 26 Douglas & Janis Miano
- 31 Clifford & Sandra Young

## SPECIAL DATES

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2009
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2009
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2009
- First day of winter, December 21, 2009
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2009
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2009
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2009

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## PERIODICALS MAIL

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### CHURCH STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Cynthia Weems cweems@fumcmiami.com
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Mayra Hernandez
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mihai Valentin Bogdan
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Chantal Falby
<b>Chef</b>	Raul Abuchaibe
<b>Custodian</b>	Maria Lopez
<b>Missionaries</b>	Marilyn Beecher Delbert and Sandy Groves

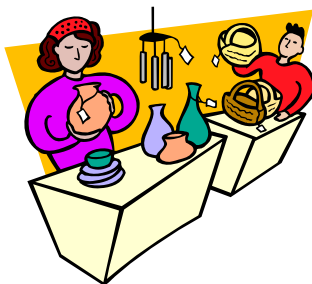
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### Restroom Renovation Update

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Restroom Renovation campaign. Due to permitting issues, the project is now scheduled to begin in February with the women's restroom being renovated first. We have received almost \$5,000 since our first ask. That, along with the \$14,000 already committed, brings us to within \$3,000 of our needed funds. Please consider a gift to this important project. Make your checks payable to FUMC with "Restroom Renovation" in the memo line.

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### SUPPORT YOUR HOT MEALS PROGRAM



### Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 12

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Market goods, clothes, food, prizes  
and many other surprises!!