

CHURCH NEWS

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

■ In memory of Gwen Becker, given by Noble and Sharon Doss.

■ In memory of Jerry Berger, given by Tami Kellberg and Sally Watkins

GIFT TO FUMC

■ To our Manna Bag Ministry in honor of Tamara Golden, given by an anonymous person.

SIGN UP FOR 2018 ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower dates for 2018 are being filled, so now is the time to sign up. Honor someone you love and appreciate, remember a departed loved one, or celebrate special days or events in your life or the life of the church. Arrangement cost is \$65. Contact Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Health: Bill Berger; Laura Carpenter; Bob Folk; Tom and Pam Jackson; Andrea Peck; Ruth Randolph; Gris and George Anne Rogers; Anna Sneed; Irma Dean Soward; and Bill Thurman.

Condolences: to the family and friends of Jerry Berger on her death.

Other: Pastors and Deacons.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Arthur Asika's son, Steve Asika; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Molly Drazic's cousin, Dorothy H. Butler; Bennett and Meisa Ezekiel's friend, Dev Reddy; George and Marianne Gaston's daughter, Robyn Riojas; the Wayne Greene family for son and brother, Michael Greene; Cindy Gunderson's friends, Kelly and Gretchen; Cassie Helton's friend, Emeline Hood; Jan Morris' parents, Lane and Marian Moore; Colleen Payne's sister, Kelli; Dianne Render's sister-in-law, Penny Burns; Justin and Erin Scarth's friend, Lisa Whatley; Alan Stephens' father, Carl Stephens; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministers care for people dealing with convalescence, divorce, financial struggles, grief, hospitalization, job loss, loneliness, terminal illness, and other life difficulties. If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, email stephenministry@fumcaustin.org and ask about speaking with a Stephen Minister. All contacts are completely confidential.

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

Our church office will be closed December 22-January 1, but Tom Mays and Laurie Barr are available to accept year-end gifts on December 26, 27, and 28 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and on December 29 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ring the bell at the preschool entrance to let them know you are in the parking lot.

Please note that IRS regulations require that contributions for 2017 must be mailed and postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Contributions received on January 1 or in the mail and postmarked in 2018 will be considered 2018 gifts regardless.

FAITH IN ACTION THROUGH THE YEARS

By Peggy Davis



As a lifelong member of FUMC, I grew up watching my dad as he faithfully ushered every Sunday. I realized at a young age what an important role this was in the church. He went on to become the head usher here for more than 30 years and took his role very seriously. He recruited many young men (it was only men at that time!) as they became teenagers, several of them being my classmates in Sunday School. On Christmas Eve I was at church with my dad and watched admiringly as he greeted, welcomed, and seated churchgoers for the service.

During my teenage years, I realized it was a part of me to serve in some way so my mother and I became communion stewards. We did this for several years. Then some 20+ years ago, still feeling the need to serve, I told the head usher to let me know if they needed help ushering and collecting the offering. He did and, as they say, "the rest is history." What a gift he gave me by letting me participate in this very special and important part of my Sunday mornings at church. I love being in the foyer to meet and greet regulars as well as the newcomers.

I have watched families as their infants grow up and have children of their own. Greeting and ushering on Sunday has truly been a ministry for me. I try to put myself in the place of a newcomer walking in the door and how important it is to have a friendly face smiling back and saying "good morning, welcome!"