



Dear Friends,

Welcome Home!

One of my favorite declarations in the Bible comes from the mouth of Jacob, the beloved rascal who had been known to wrestle with the grip of God's grace. On one occasion, after a long night of revelatory dreaming, the voice of God confirms the original covenant:

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Then, the response:

Jacob woke from his sleep and said "Surely the Lord is in this place--and I did not know it!...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 28:15-17).

As we look back over 110 years of ministry on the corner of Fels Avenue and Section Street, how thankful I am for the witness of my predecessors. Each of these reflect a certain testimony of the enduring faithfulness of God to the 'peculiar treasure' that is Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Like Jacob, these servants have shared with us words of Divine discovery. May we too share in this delight! Let us live the prayers and hopes of those who have gone before us!

Dr. Darren M. McClellan
Senior Pastor
2019--



Homecoming 2021

The five members of The Calhoun Family arrived in Fairhope in early June of 1975. We were met, at the church parsonage, and warmly greeted by a large group of youth from the church. Little did we know that two members of that youth group would become our daughters-in-law.

This was my second time to be in Fairhope. Some years before, when returning home from Gulf Shores, Ann and I had followed Scenic Route 98 which brought us by the church and through down town. On that day, we had no clue that one day Fairhope would be our home. For six years I had the privilege of serving as pastor of The Fairhope United Methodist Church. In 2001, upon retirement, we chose to return to Fairhope. Actually, we have now lived in Fairhope longer than any other place.

The Fairhope UMC and the Community have been a vital part of our lives. Our daughter was confirmed at the altar of the church. Our two sons and three of our grandchildren were married at the altar of FUMC. Most of our grandchildren and great grandchildren have been baptized at the altar of the church.

The five Calhouns, who arrived in Fairhope forty-six years ago, have now increased to thirty-four. Of that number, twenty-seven are residents of Fairhope today. While not all are members of FUMC, most are related to the church through Sunday worship and/or service.

To God be the glory for His grace and goodness!

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, we give thanks for your grace that has empowered and enables Fairhope United Methodist Church to be a shining light in this community for one hundred ten years.

We give thanks for the faith, commitment and sacrifice of those who have gone before us bringing us to this special day of celebration.

We pray for our fevered world and nation. We ask for your wisdom and guidance for the United Methodist Church and, most especially, Fairhope United Methodist Church as we navigate the uncharted waters of the future.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen

William E. (Bill) Calhoun
1975-1981

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Prayer for Homecoming...

Lord, we want to pray believing.

You said that if we seek, we will find, if we knock, it will be opened

We pray now, believing that our words are not wasted and that there is power in our faith:

that You do make us new again,

that You do help us begin again,

that You do give us the strength to tackle tasks ahead of us this week.

that You do give us the grace to love others,

even those who offend us or we find offensive.

What power there is in Your presence, in prayer, in faith.

Thank You for the ways you do lead us

through every shadowy valley in which we tend to become lost,

through every sticky web in which we can become so easily entangled,

through every difficult passageway in which we feel squeezed and hurt,

through every complex and confusing circumstance of this complicated life.

We do not pray that You will hear our prayers,

for You are omnipresent and always hear us.

We do not pray that You will act,

for You are always at work to sustain life and to give good gifts to Your children.

Rather we ask for the faith to believe and receive, to see how You are giving us what is good, to understand ways You are helping us through every circumstance in which we find ourselves. We pray believing that Your guidance and goodness are here to be received, even as we ask.

Marcus Smith

Senior Pastor 1981-1986

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O Holy Spirit, you brought the Church to birth on Pentecost and empowered the apostles and the saints through the ages to be about the continuing mission of the Lord Jesus. In times of division in the Church, you brought reconciliation and unity. When the Church had its victories, it was through your power and grace. And through it all, you kept the vision of our Lord Jesus Christ ever brilliant before your Church. Come now, as we celebrate 110 years of your activity in and through our beloved church family, and empower and unite us to be about our mission of "casting the light of Jesus into our world." For our church's past failures of faith and love, we ask forgiveness. For the times when our faith and obedience brought victories, we give you all the glory. And we invoke your life-giving presence as we follow your lead into a future we can only imagine. In the name of Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

Joseph H. Bullington, Jr.

Senior Pastor 1994-2009





Gracious God,

Thank you for the faithful years of service that has been given by your people at Fairhope UMC. Thank you for the lives that been made richer and those that have been brought into the Fellowship of Christ by their words and deeds.

Renee and I enjoyed our years of fellowship there and the many friends we have made that are still very precious to us. May you continue to pour forth your spirit upon this fellowship of believers and bless their works and words for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

Mike McKnight
Senior Pastor 2009-2015

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Our gracious heavenly Father,

We are grateful for the gift of place, for it is to sacred spaces such as this beautiful building that people are drawn to wonder, to dream and to be inspired. We thank you that for well over a century persons came to this place called the Fairhope United Methodist Church to discover the great love you have offered in Jesus Christ. Young people were taught here, young lovers married here, grieving families received solace here – all gifts given by You in this place.

We know Father, that this beautiful place is not the true church, though it is a place Your people gather to be enabled and empowered for faithful living in this community at home, school, and indeed around the globe. But your true church is where people go to proclaim through word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ. So, help the people called Methodist who gather here, never remain here satisfied with the sermon spoken and the hymns sung. May what is experienced in this place make people hunger for righteousness, thirst for justice and be emboldened to proclaim the Gospel message through word and deed to this broken and hurting nation.

We thank you God that you have uniquely gifted this particular body of believers in Fairhope with a vision to be your church in this community. So, Lord, we pray, may all that occurs in this place enable your people to love boldly, casting the light of Jesus into the world.

We ask this in His name, Amen.

Ed Glaize
Senior Pastor 2015-2019

