Dear friends,

The RESPITE Ministry at FUMC Montgomery is a community of hope and support for those living with memory loss in the River Region.

Almost unbelievably so, April 2017 will mark our five-year anniversary. RESPITE has grown by leaps and bounds in just five years, thanks to the support of FUMC Montgomery, volunteers, Care Partners, and our families’ all of whom have helped build our new community. We also would like to acknowledge our community partners: The Church of the Ascension, Temple Beth Or, and St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Fortunately, due to the tremendous support we have received in the past, we have never conducted a campaign to raise funds to support RESPITE. I write you to highlight the programs and services our ministry provides and to ask that you include RESPITE as you develop your personal giving plans for the remainder of this year.

RESPITE has:

* Provided over $60,000 in scholarships for day program participants;
* Included over 60 Care Partners and participants in the Side by Side Chorus;
* Supported over 100 Care Partners in monthly support groups;
* Involved over 22 volunteers and Care Partners in a newly formed weekly yoga class;
* Launched a new support group for Parkinson’s Care Partners;
* Incubated four new Respite programs across the state: FUMC Dothan, Canterbury Methodist in Birmingham, CARES Program of Collatt Jewish Family Services; and Auburn United Methodist;
* Provided dementia awareness training for over 380 volunteers in the five programs;
* Developed plans to partner in 2016-2017 with 80 local high school students to provide an abstract art program for RESPITE participants;
* Partnered with the Montgomery Fine Arts Museum to offer dementia friendly art tours;
* Launched a national program entitled “Grief Share” to offer support for participants who have lost loved ones--offered in two 13 week sessions led by Ms. Laura Selby, Associate Director of RESPITE;
* Conducted Annual Alzheimer’s Candlelight Vigil held in November for the city;

Your support of the Respite Ministry will allow us to continue to offer and improve our programs that enhance the personal quality of life and well-being of so many of our church and community friends and families. Please know that RESPITE is a faithful steward of your support and contributions. Two part-time employees and an army of volunteers developed and implemented all of our benchmarks.

For more information on how to contribute to or participate in the Respite Ministry at FUMC Montgomery, please contact me at the following number or address.

Sincerely,

Daphne Johnston

Executive Director of the Respite Ministry