

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, visits, gifts of food and other expressions of concern during my hospital stay and now through my convalescence at home. This experience has been a very humbling one for me. I will never forget the care and love shown by my church family during this time. My family and I are grateful to be part of the wonderful congregation at Mullins UMC!

Charles Griffin & Family

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the annual UMW Crafts Fair a huge success! We worked hard, had great fellowship, and did a great job! The UMW Crafts Fair Committee truly appreciates YOU!

Dear Friends,

Many, many thanks for your expressions of love and concern at the time of my recent surgery. Your prayers, cards and calls have strengthened me during this time. I will never forget your kindness! Paul and I are blessed to call Mullins UMC our church home.

Sue Hausmann

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

United Methodist Neighborhood Centers is committed to providing Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need in our community. Please help by contributing items for one or more baskets. All donations must be at the church by November 18. Sunday School classes and other groups are encouraged to participate in this project.

Thanksgiving Basket Contributions for a Family of 4 - 6:

1 dozen rolls; 2 cans green beans, corn, and cranberry sauce; 1 box of Stove Top Dressing Mix; one 24 oz. can sweet potatoes; 2 lb. bag of cornmeal mix; 5 lb. bag of flour; 5 lb. bag of sugar; 24 oz. vegetable oil, 1 box cake mix and 1 can frosting; 24 count tea bags or 1 jar instant coffee; one 12 quart can of Kool-Aid; 10-15 lb. turkey (or money to purchase turkeys); laundry basket or banana box to hold items.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 16

Acolytes: Emma Dunigan, Megan Massey
Children's Message: Dr. Gabriel

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of Walter Graham Rogers, Jr. by his loving family

PLAYGROUND

In honor of Betty Williams by Phillip, Ginny & Jesse Wilcox

In honor of Dick Gardner by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Curry

In honor of Charles Griffin by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Curry

In honor of Julia Howell for her birthday by John & Harriet Montgomery

In memory of our daughter, Jill Anne Phipps by Mr. & Mrs. Jay Phipps

In memory of our mothers by Linda Morris, Rita Hilgenhold

In memory of Delores Forsyth by the Crossroads Class

Gifts to the Playground Fund have been received from:
John & Lisa Weaver, Nancy & Paul Blankenship

ELEMENTARY PARENTS' MEETING

There will be a very important meeting for parents of elementary age children (K - 5th grade) Sunday Nov. 16, 12:00 noon. We'll begin with a Potluck Lunch, then make plans and look to the future of our children. Please make plans to attend!

You are cordially invited to attend

CONCORD ACADEMY 5th Annual Silent & Live Auction Fund-Raiser Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert Night

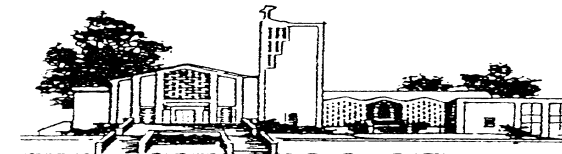
Saturday, November 15, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
Independent Presbyterian Church
4738 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, Tennessee

Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door

Ticket sales and proceeds from the Auction benefit the entire school and student body.

For more information, call 682-3115

MULLINS MESSENGER



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Memphis, TN 38117-2698
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November 12, 2008

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The Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel, Pastor

Mullins Pulpit - November 16, 2008

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11; Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Sermon: 'WOULDA, COULDA, SHOULDA'

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship	8:45 & 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School	9:40 am
Wednesday Dinner & Program	5:45 p.m.

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For the Martini duo, the “spiritual” Mullins is a very “physical” place. The economy has been going in the wrong direction. We all know someone who is being greatly affected — if not ourselves. Mullins is part of that equation — expenses go up, giving cuts back. Sometimes I forget that Mullins is a *physical* feature, as it is so much a *spiritual* connection for Tonya and me. Take a moment and look around the church complex. We have lights, computers, musical programs, water, restrooms, a roof, landscaping, choir robes, paint, cleaning needs, kitchen, staff, newsletters, bulletins, supplies, furniture, carpets, playground, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Gym, offices, and a whole lot of space to heat and cool. Guess which ones are free? That’s right — none. Where would Mullins be without our support for these needs? Certainly less effective in attracting others to join in spreading The Word, which is our ultimate assigned task. But it gets even more personal when you think about it.

We must decide this week whether to continue to live here in Memphis, or take a job opportunity in Oklahoma. It’s easy for us to reflect on the importance of Mullins, knowing we may be leaving. We have thought a lot about it, and Mullins is at the top of the list of “What We Will Miss the Most”. In our 32 years of marriage (Tonya was obviously very young at the start), we have moved several times. We have attended many churches, and joined several churches along the way. Sometimes it was a good fit, sometimes not. About seven years ago we wandered into a back row at Mullins UMC. We were overwhelmed by handshakes, smiles and friendly faces, led by Tom Bell. We were hooked. It had been a long, dry spell since we had felt someone really cared whether or not we were there.

Over the years, the *physical* aspects of Mullins which need our support have been the scene for our *spiritual* connection with Mullins. We have made close friendships here that will go with us for the rest of our lives. Everyone at Mullins is an extension of our family. We have shared family tragedies and joys with our Mullins family. Our Sanctuary is the place where we disconnect from traffic, jobs, weather, and the stress of life. . .a place to listen to what God has to say to us through sermon, song, communion and prayer. It’s Tony’s favorite place at Mullins. It’s a place where a person can completely change their lives. Tonya’s favorite feature of the church is the choir. She has found friends who laugh, as well as cry, with her. She felt welcomed from the beginning, and her choir practice stories are full of the joy and concerns of other members of that close group.

In Fellowship Hall, people we don’t know pray with us for other people we don’t know. It doesn’t matter who they are — we are all sharing our concerns of illness, death, birth and celebrations. Fellowship Hall has given us much joy, and we will certainly miss the aptly named room, full of people we love. If you don’t go on Wednesday nights now, try it — you’ll like it!

Sunday School class (something I dreaded as a young boy) has been another *physical* scene of *spiritual* connection. The common purpose of this small group has been a joy to participate in. The many personalities and experiences lead us in all directions on any

issue, and we all come back for more every chance we get. In that classroom, we sit and learn from others who discuss biblical topics viewed from their life experiences. Tonya and I find that we have led sheltered lives and are given insight from our friends.

I could go on (and apparently already have) about many other *physical* places at Mullins that provide us with a *spiritual* connection. Parents Day Out, an outreach ministry where Tonya has many friends. The gym where we welcome strangers to Funny Bones and the world’s greatest Craft Fair! The Meditation Garden inspires a spiritual connection, while the cemetery offers me a reality check when I think the world cannot possibly exist without me.

So what’s my point? Our Mullins home is a very special place. Trust me — the importance of Mullins is easy to see when you know you may soon lose it. But the *spiritual* connection we have here takes place in a *physical* setting that we often overlook, and it requires our help for the upkeep. When you contemplate bringing God’s money back to the church, reflect for a moment on what God has blessed you with at Mullins. It’s been amazing for us.

Tony and Tonya Martini

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22	
SUNDAY	8:45 a.m. Worship - Chapel 9:40 a.m. Sunday School 10:50 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary 12:00 Noon Elementary Parents Mtg. & Potluck - FH 4:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Yoga Class 5:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels - 117
MONDAY	10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Group 3:00 p.m. PDO - FH 6:13 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts - FH 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council - Chapel
TUESDAY	8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym 10:30 a.m. UMW Circle Mtg. - Parlor 6:01 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class - Gym 7:00 p.m. Yoga Class 7:00 p.m. Bowling
WEDNESDAY	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast - FH 8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner - FH 6:15 p.m. Beading Group - 209 6:15 p.m. Youth Programs (No Sprouts!) 6:30 p.m. Charge Conference - FH 7:17 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY	8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym
FRIDAY	8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym
SATURDAY	8:15 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. AA Mtg. - Lamplighter Rm.

THE MENU FOR NOVEMBER 19
Adults \$5, 12 & Under \$3, Family Max \$20
 Adults: Italian Dinner, Italian Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert
 Kids: Pizza or adult menu

OUR PRAYERS

Baptist Memorial Hospital
 Harold Smith, Sr., 221 ICU

Baptist Women’s
 Gerry Gardner 337

At Home
 David Knott

OUR PRESENCE

8:45 a.m.	30
Sunday School	75
10:50 Service	150
Prayer Breakfast	7
Prayer Service	90

OUR SYMPATHY

love and prayers go out to

....Nancy Whitley in the loss of her mother, Irma Carrell

...Marge Gresham in the loss of her sister-in-law, Hazel Nabers

...the family and friends of Leon Burkett



CHANCEL FLOWERS

for this Sunday are being placed to the Glory of God

...in loving memory of my father, Charles Poe,
 by Sammie Powell

CHILDREN’S PLAY PRACTICE

Children ages 4 - 11 are invited to join us on Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday mornings during Children’s Church to practice for the Christmas play. The play will be Sunday, December 7, at the Christmas Dinner.

BREAD NEEDED

...for our ministry to first-time visitors. Please double-wrap for freezing and bring to the church.