



Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, to Lisa Weaver, VBS Director and all those who worked at Vacation Bible School this year! Thanks to your efforts, VBS was a huge success! The children had a wonderful time with Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks and singing. Thank you each and every one for giving of your time in this great ministry to our children!

MULLINS UMW TO ASSEMBLE HEALTH KITS ON JULY 21

Can you help your UMW assemble Health Kits for UMCOR? Simply write a check for \$15, (which covers the cost of one kit), to Mullins UMC and note "for UMCOR Health Kits", and we'll do the shopping for you. Deadline for cash or item donations is July 15. Health Kit items needed: hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27" any color), 3 oz. bar soap in original wrapper, wash cloth (any color), toothbrush in original package, large sturdy hair comb (no pocket combs), nail file or nail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers). Your UMW could not complete this project successfully without your support!

CRAZY FOR CROPPING!

Please mark your calendars for the next Mullins Crop Night on July 17, 6:00 p.m. until midnight! For more information, contact Cyndi Watkins.

GUESS WHO IS 164 YEARS OLD THIS MONTH?!

Come celebrate an important day in the life of your church. We will be celebrating the 164th birthday of Mullins UMC on Saturday, July 25, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come for dinner and find out who is the Mullins Survivor — a test for the entire family! We will dine on Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Tropical Fruit Salad, Green Beans, Rolls, Birthday Cake and Ice Cream. Oh, and there'll be Hot Dogs for the kids! Luau attire recommended — break out those Hawaiian shirts! Be sure to make your reservations with the church office no later than July 22. Hope to see you there!

Your Family Life Committee

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of Rhodes Vawter by Pat & Jim Wise, Martha & Jack Day

MAANZA A LEZA

In memory of Lucille Carson by Wayne & Brenda Carson

BYOP*

*Bring Your Own — popcorn, that is! Join us on Sunday afternoons in Room 117 for a series of free, family-friendly films. The first movie in the series, *Charlotte's Web*, was enchanting. It may be repeated later this summer. Some of the others we'll enjoy are the BBC version of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *ET*, *Lion King*, and *Kit Kittredge*. Each movie will be followed by a brief Q/A and discussion. Movies start at 2:00 p.m. so you can enjoy a leisurely lunch before returning to church with your friends and family. Sunday Afternoon at the Movies is sponsored by the church library. Most of the movies we'll watch, plus many other fun resources, are available for check out following worship service on Sunday. Come by the library and check it out.

HEIFER READ-TO-FEED PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

Rumor has it that Riley Williamson has read the most books so far this summer, and that Addison Furst is not far behind her.

Some of the children's and young adult books on the not-to-be-missed list are *The World of Narnia*, *The Wanderer*, *Tale of Desperaux* and the *Percy Jackson and the Olympiads* series. In non-fiction, the most popular books have been *A Tale of Two Bobbies*, a true story of the animals of Hurricane Katrina and *Koko's Kitten*, the story of Koko the gorilla who adopted a baby kitten.

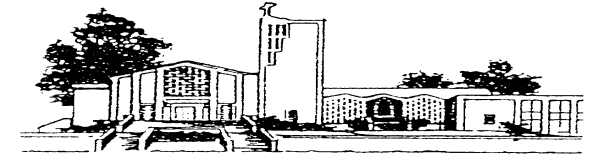
In Young Adult and adult books, my favorites have been *The Dolphins of Laureteum*, one of the best in the Roman Mysteries series for young readers. In Young Adult and children's books, my top pics are *The Graveyard Book*, *Dragon Rider*, and *Thief Lord*. In fantasy and science fiction, I highly recommend *The Seventh Tower* series, jointly produced by Garth Nix and Lucas Films. I couldn't put them down the first time I read them. The library has a growing selection of faith and fantasy books, including the *Time Trilogy* by Madeline L'Engle, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the Tolkien Ring Trilogy.

Margaret Carbaugh
Church Librarian

WATCH OUT FOR FLYING MONKEYS!

The library is sponsoring a family outing to see *The Wizard of Oz* at the Orpheum on August 14. More details later!

MULLINS MESSENGER



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July 1, 2009

Vol. 40 No. 27

The Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel, Pastor

Mullins Pulpit - July 5, 2009

Scripture: Mark 6: 1 - 13

Sermon: 'CHOSEN FAMILY'

Weekly Schedule

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

Dear Friends,

As we fully enter into summer, I think that we do well to recall something we've looked at before. Among people who study such things, where we gather tends to be classified as first places (home) second places (work) and third places (informal gathering spots). Researchers say, "a third place is the informal public space between home and work that connects people to each other, allows them to recharge, pause, and then reengage the world. They are places in which participants feel strong, positive emotional ties because they are creating rewarding, meaningful social experiences and a warm community environment. That is why successful third places do not have to engage in gimmicks to stimulate participation; they are places that individuals voluntarily choose to visit." Commerce wants us to go to third spaces such as coffee shops, book store, malls and the like. Those are good places to meet, certainly. What about church, though? Certainly we gather with joy on Sunday mornings. Many of us gather for meals, visits and programs on Wednesday nights. Others of us meet together for early morning prayer times. I give thanks that Mullins is such a gathering place! What if we took this one step further? What if we set aside the Fellowship Hall or another place in the church to be open during the day for anyone who cared to come? What if we had coffee and water, cards (as our Bridge players already do), books, videos, discussion groups, flex exercise groups for those of us getting a bit older and stiffer, and so on? What if, in effect, Mullins became the "third place" for the entire neighborhood — not a neighborhood center but the obvious center of the neighborhood? A move like that would combine most of the "five practices of fruitful congregations" in a very natural way: extreme hospitality, risk taking mission, service and extravagant generosity. The practice could lead us further into the other practices of intentional faith development and passionate worship. A move like that, along with the other steps the church is taking might be what is called for to move us once again into a time of growth. The costs would be minimal. The real question is, who is willing to be the hosting people? Who would be willing to be here both to enjoy the pleasure that comes with being in Mullins and to introduce others to this heart of the community third space? Who among us might see an opportunity to be with others in an environment of Christ like welcome and enjoyment? If you think that person might be you, give me a call and let's talk.

Blessings,
Brad



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!!

	SUNDAY, JULY 5 - SATURDAY, July 11
SUNDAY	8:45 a.m. Worship - Chapel 9:39 a.m. College & Career Class - Parlor 9:40 a.m. Sunday School 10:50 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary 4:00 Youth 5:00 p.m. Yoga Class
MONDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
TUESDAY	6:30 a.m. Career Support Group - Lamplighter Rm. 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class - FH 7:00 p.m. Yoga Class - FH
WEDNESDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 6:00 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Com. - 117 6:13 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (optional)
THURSDAY	6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group - Parlor 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
FRIDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage Youth Canoe Trip

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JULY 5

Communion Sunday - No Children's Message
Children's Church Leader: Tammy Williamson

NOTE FROM THE CHUCH SECRETARY

I will be out of the office the week of July 6th. Please leave messages and I will return your calls as soon as I return.
Susan Tutt

ACOLYTE TRAINING

We will have an acolyte training session in August (exact date and time to be announced). Children must be 2nd grade or older; both boys and girls are needed. Interested families should contact Tammy Williamson at 626-0671.

OUR PRAYERS

At Home
Charles Griffin
Tom Curry

OUR PRESENCE

8:45 Service	30
Sunday School	73
10:50 Service	148
Prayer Breakfast	8
Prayer Service	72



CHANCEL FLOWERS

for this Sunday are being placed to the Glory of God

...in loving memory of Louise Harmon
in remembrance of her birthday,
by Martha Harmon

LADIES EARLY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The new early morning (6:30 a.m.) prayer group has been meeting at the Perkins Restaurant at Eastgate. Beginning Thursday, July 2, we will meet in the Mullins Parlor in the Fisher Wing, close to the Choir Room. Please enter the Meditation Garden door. All ladies who wish to grow in their prayer life are welcome.

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM!

Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it's easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would've been better off as slaves in Egypt.

Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (NRSV).

We're no longer bound by sin and death. That "independence" is worth celebrating every day!