

# MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF

MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 NORTH MENDENHALL ROAD

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38117-2698

901-685-8253

[WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG](http://WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG)

“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”  
SINCE 1845

---

---

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

---

---

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

8:45 in Mullins' Chapel – 10:50 in Mullins' Sanctuary



Mullins Pulpit – April 25, 2010

Scripture: John 10:22–30

Sermon: “Review the Bidding”



Dear Friends,

To follow up from April 18: Recently I read a report from a colleague who was teaching on world religions. When he asked how you recognize a faithful Muslim or Jew, participants knew a lot: pray five times a day toward Mecca, keep kosher, and the like. When asked how you recognize a faithful Christian, they hesitated. “Go to church and try to live a good life” seemed to be the general response. Okay, I get that. “Living a good life” is such a part of our culture that many folks probably cannot distinguish that from being Christian. Please hear me; I am not saying that the two are opposites! In the face of being generically good, are there behaviors, practices, actions that mark a Christian life?

Craig Dykstra and Dorothy Bass, exploring the themes of practice, write; “By ‘Christian practices’ we mean things Christian people do together over time to address fundamental human needs in response to and in light of God’s active presence for the life of the world.” Again, okay, but what fundamental needs are we addressing and what are some of those things we do to address them?

Well, we need food, clothing, shelter, companionship, a sense of place, purpose and

belonging, and a relationship with the Holy One that is not an idea but a life. Please feel free to add more to the list.

What do we do in response to those needs? Traditionally Christians: serve the poor, pray and read the bible daily, attend worship weekly and forgive those who sin against us. Christian practices also include: hospitality to the traveler and visitor, giving sacrificially to the mission and ministry of the church, attending and leading small groups like Sunday school classes. Of course Christian practices include telling others about the faith history and especially about our Lord Christ. Again, feel free to add to the list.

Christian practices are special among humans because they are places of the sacramental presence of God. That sacramental presence leads to the practices being places where we experience the sanctifying power of God. Practice and power, sacrament and sanctification are all woven together by God’s grace from limited, flesh-and-blood creatures. We do and are, we act and become. I look forward to seeing you Sunday as we do worship and are Christian together once again.

Grace for the journey,

*Brad*

## OUR PRAYERS

As members of the body of Christ, we are always in prayer for one another. At this time our thoughts and prayers go out especially for:

**Margaret Callihan** at Appling Woods Skilled Care, Room 307

**Marge Gresham** at home

**John Griffin** at Germantown Methodist, Room 309 West

**June Phillips** at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Room 1413

**Kent Stratton** at home (scheduled to have surgery in Belgium on April 29)

**Lynne Sweatt** at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1129

**Frances Vawter** at home

## OUR SYMPATHY,

love, and prayers go out to:

**Barbara Southwell** and her family in the loss of her uncle, Jack Marvin Rogan



## GRADUATION SUNDAY

On May 16, 2010, we will honor our 2010 high school and college graduates at the 10:50 service. If you have a son or daughter whose name is not listed below, please contact the church office at 685-8253. We don't want to miss anyone!

### Graduating from High School:

Frank Bradley  
Corey Carmichael  
Grace Hayden  
Frankie Jordan  
Kelcey Lewis  
Chris Mason  
Dalton McNeil

### Graduating from College:

James Williams

## CEMETERY REPAIR WORK

On Saturday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon, volunteers are needed to help with cemetery repair work. Charles Griffin and Andy Mastin are coordinating this project, and they need volunteers willing to lend a hand that day.

Please contact Charles or Andy and let them know they can count on you!



## USHERS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

We would like members of our congregation who have served in the military to serve as ushers on Memorial Day, May 30. Please contact the church office at 685-8253 by **MONDAY, APRIL 26**, and let us know you would like to participate.

## THANK YOU

My family and I are very appreciative, and we were deeply moved by the thoughts of love and the prayers from the Mullins church membership and the Men's Prayer Breakfast group during Jean's illness and death. We were blessed to have Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel's support and his inspiring and uplifting Memorial Service for Jean. May God bless and protect Mullins Church and its members.

Monzell Jay Phipps

## VBS UPDATE:

The volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Hall of the Apostles and online under Children's Ministries (<http://mullinsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/VBS-REGISTRATION-FORM-2010.pdf>). We need people of all ages to sign-up to help with the many opportunities available.

Also, we are in need of the following items:

- large baskets
- large ceramic planters or urns
- palm tree house plants
- large area rugs (won't need until the week of VBS)
- monetary donations to cover decorating expenses
- PRAYER

VBS will be held June 14-17, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a Family Night on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Ages for VBS participants are 4 (by June 1) through 11.

Contact Lisa Weaver for more information. It's going to be a great week!!!

## COMPUTER CLASSES



DeNeuille Learning Center-Midtown is offering computer and GED classes for women beginning in June. The Center's mission is to assist women from all cultures and backgrounds in learning the skills needed to make positive changes for themselves and their families. Registration is June 1, and classes begin June 9. For registration, an appointment, or more information, please call 726-5902.

## LITURGY NOTES

For Christians, Easter is celebrated for 50 days, making it the longest special season of the church year. Set against the background of Ordinary Time, our lengthy observance of Easter proclaims the exultant priority of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the ‘signature event’ of our faith. When we think about it, the way in which we ‘spend’ our time, or mark observances of time, does indeed say a great deal about who we are. Whether a favorite television program on Monday night... or the ways we enjoy our morning coffee... we are oriented to observe time, and our habits reveal our values.

For the church, the season of Easter begins with a triumphant celebration on the First Sunday of Easter. Over the next Sundays, we hear stories from scripture about those who encountered the resurrected Jesus, and through these stories we are drawn into a conversation with these early followers of The Way. How did they respond to the resurrection? How were their lives transformed? What were the risks... and the blessings? Why did they ‘create’ Christianity? What wisdom do they offer us today?

It can be easy to walk past these questions... they’re hefty ones that require time and reflection. And, they’re important ones – the kind of questions that invite spiritual wrestling and that deepen our faith. Therefore, to support engagement with these questions, the liturgy of the church offers us visual reminders of the season of Easter to keep us on task. These include...

- The liturgical colors of white and gold, which remind us of light, holiness, purity, and of what is new.
- The paschal candle, which is lit each Sunday during Easter. This towering candle reminds us that the Light of the Resurrection has shattered the darkness of death. Therefore, it is also appropriate to burn a paschal candle at funerals. By tradition, a paschal candle is placed near the baptismal font, whenever possible. Why? What does the resurrection have to do with baptism?
- Baptism is the threshold through which we enter the Christian journey. Jesus’ ministry began after his baptism; ours does as well. In the early church, baptism often involved plunging a person under water three times, with much resulting sputtering and gasping. Doing so physically taught that death was real and that life depended upon breath, upon God’s breath, which gave life at creation. In light of the resurrection, the breath of God is also the breath of the resurrected Christ. Therefore in baptism, the waters of death are shattered and we emerge to inhale the breath of Christ. We remember these truths at Mullins this Easter by placing the baptismal font at the entrance to the Chapel; we enter into worship by way of recalling the gift of our baptism. The shell is an early symbol of baptism and it is filled with water. For us, this visual reminder is an invitation to ponder the meaning of our baptism. Experience this water in any way you wish – gaze at it, touch the water, submerge your hands. Pray.



The season of Easter brings us good questions and a span of time for reflection. Embrace this gift, given by God and through the church. Inhale the Easter-infused life more deeply. Amen.

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR APRIL 11:

**Liturgist:** Rev. Scottie Brafford

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Andy Mastin (Head Usher), Terry Mastin, Paula McGoldrick, Ann Smith, Barney Magargel, Brenda Carson

**Children’s Church Leader:** Debi Gray

**Children’s Message:** Diane Rose

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

... in honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Andy and Terry Mastin.

... in loving memory of Jeanne B. Crews, in remembrance of her birthday, by L. Dow Crews and family.

## THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

invites you to join us on Sunday mornings in the Narthex for coffee and conversation following the 10:50 worship service.



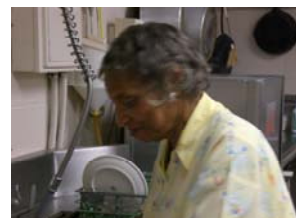
## THE MENU FOR APRIL 28:

*Spaghetti  
Italian Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert*

*Adults \$5, Children 12 and under \$3,  
Family Max \$20*

Dinner is held on Wednesday nights at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a brief prayer service and an interesting program. Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy the fellowship. Your first dinner is complimentary!

If you’re not already on the list, please call the church office to let us know you’re coming so we’ll be sure to have plenty of food.



## ASBURY DISTRICT OFFICE IS RELOCATING!

On May 20 the Asbury District Office will relocate to space in Highland Heights United Methodist Church. Since they have shared office space with McKendree District for the past several years, they have also shared furnishings. They need new office furniture, decorations, and equipment. Primary needs are: waiting room furniture (chairs, lamp, coffee table), a conference table and chairs, and shelving units for office supplies. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help purchase these needed items, please send a check payable to the Asbury District, and designate it "for office relocation." Mail checks to: Asbury District Office, 5118 Park Avenue, Suite 610, Memphis, Tennessee 38117. If you have office furnishings to donate, please contact Tammy Carroll at 685-6255.

## CAMP BRAVEHEARTS FAMILY GRIEF CAMP

... is a summer grief camp offered annually by Methodist Hospice as part of their Bereavement Services. Children ages 6-16 who have experienced the death of a family member or friend within the



past two years are invited to attend. A complete program is also available for the parents and caregivers of the children attending camp. Camp BraveHearts is funded by contributions from the community so that campers can attend at no charge to their family.

The camp is located at Saint Columba Episcopal Center, 4577 Billy

Maher Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38135. The dates are June 10, 11, and 12, 2010. Children arrive in the morning and leave in the afternoon. Lunch and snacks are provided.

To register, or for more information, call 516-1744 and ask to speak with a camp intake person.

The Notre Dame Club of Memphis Presents a Hesburgh Lecture:

## "WHAT IS THE PLACE FOR RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE?"

**Richard W. Garnett, J.D.**

Will the Wisconsin District Court decision ruling that the National Prayer Day is unconstitutional be upheld? What is the difference between freedom of religion, separation of church and state and "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,..."?

Dean Garnett says: "As citizens, we are entirely free to participate in public life, in the civic arena, and in politics as whole persons. Nothing in the text, history, or structure of our Constitution requires us to accept disintegration as the "price of admission" to the life of active, engaged citizenship. We need not bracket our faith, or translate our commitments. In our traditions, it is true, we wisely separate the institutions of religion from those of government. But the Church is not, and must not be, an arm or auxiliary of the state. But this is precisely in order to protect religious freedom, including the freedom to construct and live a faithful, integrated, public life."

Join us for a fascinating discussion about everyday life, law, culture and the Constitution, made especially timely by the recent court decision!

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Christian Brothers High School Auditorium

5900 Walnut Grove Road

Memphis, TN 38120-2174

Free and Open to the Public

Free Parking in Front of School



## BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer training for Baptist Trinity Hospice will be held Saturday, May 1, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6141 Walnut Grove Road. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call Sandra Livesay at 767-6767. Evening and special shifts available.

**CHURCH STAFF:**

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel  
[bwgmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:bwgmullins@bellsouth.net)

**Director of Music Ministries:**

Bryan R. Dunn  
[bryan.r.dunn@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.r.dunn@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries:**

Lauren Gam  
[lauren@mullinsumc.org](mailto:lauren@mullinsumc.org)

**Director of Parents Day Out:**

Kimberly Dunigan  
[kimberly@mullinsumc.org](mailto:kimberly@mullinsumc.org)

**Church Secretary:**

Susan Tutt  
[susmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:susmullins@bellsouth.net)

**Organist:**

Aaron Foster  
[aaron@mullinsumc.org](mailto:aaron@mullinsumc.org)

**Custodians:**

Geraldine Finley  
David Campbell



**OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):**

Sunday:

8:45 Service ..... 30  
Sunday School ..... 60  
10:50 Worship Service..... 120

Wednesday:

Prayer Breakfast..... 7  
Prayer Service ..... 60

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Sunday, April 25**

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. ‘Tween’ Group—Gym

**Monday, April 26**

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 6:15 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting—Room 117

**Tuesday, April 27**

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Bridge Group—Lampighter/Friendship Room
- 6:15 p.m. Asbury District Laity Banquet—Christ United Methodist
- 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, April 28**

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:45 a.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs
- 6:15 p.m. Beading Group—Room 209
- 6:30 p.m. Program—Study of Psalms by Pastor Gabriel
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 29**

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Night Circle—Room 117—All Women Welcome!

**Friday, April 30**

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

**Saturday, May 1**

- 8:30 a.m. Cemetery Repair Work
- 9:00 a.m. Hospice Training—see page 4
- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, May 2, 2010**

- 2:00 p.m. Golden Cross Awareness Day—Fellowship Hall

**Friday, May 14–Sunday May 16, 2010**

- 6:00 p.m. Singles Retreat at Lakeshore

**Sunday, May 16, 2010**

- 10:50 a.m. Graduation Recognition

**Tuesday, May 18, 2010**

- 7:00 p.m. Lecture: Religion in the Public Square—see page 4

**Week of June 14-17**

- 9:00 a.m. VBS—Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace