

MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”
SINCE 1845



Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Sunday Morning Worship Services:
8:45 in Mullins' Chapel – 10:50 in Mullins' Sanctuary



Mullins Pulpit – May 23, 2010 – **Pentecost!**

Scripture: John 14:8-17
Sermon: “Blowing in the Wind”



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

Last year we spent time with one path to growth, Bishop Robert Schnase's *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. We will want to spend time reviewing those practices. A commitment to growth, like much of life, requires a new way of living. Anyone who has ever decided to improve his or her life by stopping smoking, losing weight, eating better, studying the Bible, improving his or her prayer life, etc., knows that the decision is only the beginning. After we make the decision to grow, we must put into practice the new attitudes, new behaviors, and new responses. While we prepare to spend time again with Bishop Schnase's study, we can explore other approaches to growth.

One recent study of a church that has had some success in growing its young adult community presents some common sense truths that we might want to remember. The church under study has many of Mullins UMC's characteristics, traditional worship style with classical hymns along with a few new hymns; decision-making boards and committees; a traditional staffing structure. The church recognizes that it must live with certain tensions. Those tensions are:

1. The need to be flexible while maintaining high expectations of members. Participation in worship, small groups, and service is the norm. In order to achieve that norm, the church created numerous entry points for time-stressed young adults.
2. This is a tension I think may be most important. The congregation is welcoming but not needy. Few of us want to be treated as though we are wanted in a group in order to rescue the group. In the church under study; the members,

“. . . appearing joyful themselves and also happy to welcome newcomers . . . caused younger adults to feel embraced out of a sense of abundance, rather than scarcity.”

3. The church programs, sermons, and studies all present themselves as believing, but not dogmatic. Keeping that dynamic tension is vital. Adults under 40 seem to appreciate a church that is clear about what it believes. Mullins UMC is certainly orthodox, traditional, and Wesleyan. Adults under the age of 40 also, according to studies, enjoy being in a church that allows questions, respects different viewpoints, and behaves in ways that are consistent with what they claim to believe. Again, Mullins UMC has that characteristic with the members' work at St. John's soup kitchen, Lester Elementary School, our African mission, and more.

If, as I said, Mullins UMC has the above characteristics, then why do we not have a ballooning under-40 membership group? We will have to spend time exploring the question. In part, some answers may be that we have hid our light under a basket, or that we have not consistently embraced the tensions listed above, or that we have expected—as one Mullins member said to me—that we will always be here and so have no need to reach out to others in a serious and sustained way.

As the rest of 2010 unfolds, let us make time to explore the characteristics of fruitful congregations, the tensions that allow growth and our plans to welcome into the wonderful church our friends, family, and neighbors.

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 home

Tom Curry and **Mary Lee Curry** at home

John Griffin at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1103

Kent Stratton at home

Lynne Sweatt at home

Frances Vawter at home

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of *June Phillips* by Pat Kissell, Jack and Jane Morris, Walter and Rosemary Heitmann, Tank Tankersly, Mary McAlpin, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Brunson, Mrs. Nelrose Clayton, Erika M. FitzGibbons, The John Wagner Family, American Guild of Organists, Memphis Gavel Club, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, Betty and Evelyn Walden

In honor and memory of *Lena and Edward Melsa and Leslie Lee Melsa* by Col. Otto Melsa

MUSIC FUND

In memory of *June Phillips* by Cyndi Watkins

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In memory of *June Phillips* Mrs. H. C. Williamson, Jr.

THE FINCHERS GOSPEL SINGERS

will be in concert on Sunday, June 13, 2010, at 5 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4459 Willow Road, Memphis, Tennessee. Aldersgate UMC invites us to join them for an evening of great, heart-warming music!

PENTECOST IS HERE!



Remember to wear RED to church Sunday (May 23), and invite your friends to experience how we celebrate Pentecost at Mullins!

There will be cake in the Narthex following the 10:50 worship service.

ATTENTION VBS HELPERS!

I need your help completing the set for VBS. **Saturday, May 29th at 10am.**

Also, please consider volunteering for the actual week of VBS. I need someone to help with registration, games, crafts, and I also need group leaders. Remember—VBS cannot work without volunteers! Currently, I am short on help for the week. I PROMISE you that you will have fun and feel great about giving your time to these kids! See me for details.



Thanks, Lisa Weaver

LAKESHORE NEWS

Times are tough across the conference right now. Lakeshore needs our support more than ever. Requests for assistance from camper families are on the rise. Below are ways you can help support Lakeshore:

- Lakeshore Golf Classic Tournament is June 11, 2010. the fee for an individual is \$125 and \$400 for a team of four. Please join us at the Jackson National golf Course in Jackson, Tennessee, for lunch at 12 and then at 1 p.m. for the shotgun start. We will have wonderful prizes, goody bags, and a Silent Auction. Contact Lakeshore for registration forms.
- Buck-A-Day Campaign—When speaking to groups, I stress the importance of continuing the strong legacy that Lakeshore offers. Please consider sending a check for \$365 to help Lakeshore progress into the future.

Bill Walker, Director of Development

HYMNFEST (MAY 30)

During both worship services on May 30, we will sing the first verses of the congregation's favorite hymns. Do you have a favorite hymn you want sung? Contact the church office with your suggestions **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 23**, or fill in the form below and put it in the offering plate. Choose your favorites from the following books: *The United Methodist Hymnal* ("UMH"), *The Cokesbury Hymnal* ("CH"), or *The Faith We Sing* ("FWS").

Hymn Name: _____

Number: _____ Book: _____

Hymn Name: _____

Number: _____ Book: _____

Hymn Name: _____

Number: _____ Book: _____

UNITED METHODISTS AT WORK THROUGHOUT WEST TENNESSEE HELPING NEIGHBORS RECOVER FROM DISASTROUS FLOODS AND TORNADOES

Memphis Conference Disaster Relief Teams are at work throughout West Tennessee in response to flooding and tornadoes that hit the western part of the state in early May.

Since the disaster hit, three of the conference's five disaster relief teams have been at work in Southtown (a section of Dyersburg), Millington, Memphis and Jackson, all areas affected by flooding, and in McNairy County that was hit by a half-mile wide tornado that traveled the county from its southwest to northeast corners.



The choir room at Bellevue UMC is filled with UMCOR cleaning buckets and health kits to help people who are recovering from the Tennessee floods.

Bishop Richard J. Wills Jr. toured the disaster area on Thursday and Friday, May 13 and 14. "A lot of people are struggling and in a lot of pain," Wills said as he spoke to families who had been flooded from their homes in Millington, TN. In Selmer, he shook hands with many of the United Methodist volunteers helping to remove debris left by a tornado that ravaged the town. "This is important Kingdom work," Wills said to Terry Cuff, co-leader of the team helping Selmer residents. He added that he had lived through several hurricanes when he served a church in Florida. "These disasters give us the opportunity to come along and be the good neighbors God wants us to be."

Wills toured Dyer County, Millington,

Selmer and Purdy in McNairy County, and homes flooded in Jackson.

All but three counties in West Tennessee—Weakley, Henry and Lake—have been declared natural disaster areas and are eligible for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), according to Bill Carr, Memphis Conference disaster relief coordinator.

Disaster relief teams are made of up volunteers from United Methodist churches who organize to offer early response, recovery and rebuilding to persons and communities affected by disasters, explained Carr. The teams provide labor, equipment and supplies for cleanup, as well as emergency relocation assistance.

Three teams have been working since the disaster struck, the Area I team based in Memphis, the Area III team based in Camden and Paris, and the Area IV team from western Kentucky. Two other teams, one drawn from volunteers in the Dyersburg area and one from the Jackson area, are preparing to deploy.

"Our teams and volunteers are available for short- and long-term needs in the wake of this disaster," said Carr.

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE PLASTIC BAGS?

Does your household have an over-abundance of plastic bags from Target, Walmart, grocery stores, etc.? If so, Parents Day Out at Mullins UMC will be glad to take the ones you don't need! PDO uses these bags on a daily basis, so we go through A LOT of bags! Please bring your extra plastic bags to the PDO or church office. Thanks!

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR MAY 23:

Liturgist: Lynn Bergwerk

Ushers and Greeters:

Scott Campbell (Head Usher),
Kathryn Black, Tina Campbell,
Carol Ann Moreland, Jackie and
Pete Westergaard

Children's Church: Tammy
Williamson

Children's Message: Margaret
Carbaugh

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God in honor of the birthday of the Church by Dr. Brad and Rev. Linda Gabriel.

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 MAY 26:

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.

CHECK LIGHTS AND DOORS!

When leaving the church facility, please be sure lights are turned off and doors are securely locked.

Thanks for helping and being good stewards!



CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel
bwgmullins@bellsouth.net

Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn
bryan.r.dunn@gmail.com

Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries:

Lauren Gam
lauren@mullinsumc.org

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston
kimberly@mullinsumc.org

Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaron@mullinsumc.org

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell



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OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

Sunday:

8:45 Service 22
Sunday School 53
10:50 Worship Service..... 149

Wednesday:

Prayer Breakfast..... 7
Prayer Service 70

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, May 20

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym

Friday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, May 22

10:00 a.m. Concord Graduation—Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Yoga

Sunday, May 23—PENTECOST!

8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
9:40 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. VBS Work Day—Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group—Gym
5:00 p.m. Yoga

Monday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
6:15 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 25

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
10:30 a.m. Bridge Group—Lamplighter/Friendship Room
6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class—Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 26

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, May 27

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
6:30 p.m. UMW Night Circle

Friday, May 28

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, May 29

10:00 a.m. VBS Work Day—Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Yoga

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 11, 2010

12:00 noon 2010 Lakeshore Golf Classic—Jackson National Golf Course

Week of June 14-17

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

Summer Stage

Summer Stage runs from June 1 through August 6