

# MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF  
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
4 NORTH MENDENHALL ROAD  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38117-2698  
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[WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG](http://WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG)

“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”  
SINCE 1845



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Wednesday, June 9, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – June 13, 2010

Scripture: Luke 7:36-8:3  
Sermon: “Institutional Sinners”

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## PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

The 171<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Memphis Annual Conference is over. We began with the traditional memorial service Sunday afternoon. The opening worship and organizational gathering took place Sunday evening. A mass choir that included five Mullins UMC members led us in worship. Martha Harmon, Julia Howell, Miranda Byrd, Kim McDonald, and Bill Phillips represented Mullins in that capacity.

The Conference reviewed clergy appointments, commissioned several probationary members, ordained several others, and received the farewell addresses of the retiring clergy. The Bishop has reappointed me to serve here among you. For this singular gift I give thanks to God and to you, the members and faithful disciples of Mullins United Methodist Church.

We are blessed as well to receive the Reverend Scottie Brafford to our church in a part-time staff position as Minister of Spiritual Formation. More will follow from our friend; already known to you all as Scottie, in the weeks to come.

Martha Harmon and Lauren Gam served as our lay representatives and were quite faithful in their attendance. Martha's report follows:

*On June 6-8, 2010, at Collierville United Methodist Church, the 171<sup>st</sup> Session of the Memphis Annual Conference met. You were well represented by Lauren Gam, Reverend Scottie Brafford, Dr. Paul and Nancy Blankenship, Dr. Brad Gabriel, and Martha Harmon. Some of our choir members sang in the combined Asbury-McKendree District Choir at Sunday night's worship service. Several worship services were attended, and three inspirational presentations by Dr. Leonard Sweet were very good.*

*I received a box like last year's (at the pre-conference meeting) with inspirational developmental material in it for adults, youth, and children (it is in the church office).*

*A representative from the Eastern Mexican Conference, which we are hoping to enter into a covenant relationship with, addressed the Conference.*

*A budget of \$9,332,223 (which includes \$405,000 for Lambuth University, which at one time was left out but was put back by a motion) was approved and many good reports were heard. There was one resolution, to enter the*

Continued on page 3

## 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:

**John Griffin** at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1103

## HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

### BUDGET

In memory of **June Phillips** by Tom and Mary Jo Miller, Marilyn B. Tallman, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cohen

In memory of **Mae Cook** by Jean Searl and Mary Winton

## LOOKING FOR ALL ONE WAY SINGERS

We hope to have a reunion of all the ONE WAY SINGERS July 24 and 25, 2010. Please call Sandy Scruggs at 754-4790 if you have contact information for any members of this group.



## 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!

## CEMETERY REPAIR/CLEAN UP

Please make plans to come and help with cemetery repair and clean up on **Saturday, June 19**, from **9 a.m. to noon**. Call Charles Griffin at 685-2880 and let him know you will be here. Lunch will be provided, and Charles needs to know how many will be here to eat.



## THOUGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE ON FLAG DAY

With "Flag Day" coming up in June, Dick Sims thought perhaps there would be interest in an incident that occurred in the South Pacific during World War II. This is his remembrance:

I was in a B-24 Bomb Group, a part of General McArthur's campaign to return to the Philippine Islands. At that time we were on the northern coast of New Guinea, in dense jungle and with rough living conditions.

One of the men in my unit received a letter from home telling him that his family had just purchased a new American flag to fly on "Flag Day" coming up in mid-June. The letter he received created a lot of interest as my Bomb Group did not have a flag, and no one had even thought about a flag. However, soon everyone got involved in creating a flag for our unit. Scraps of cloth came from every possible origin, and soon the flag began to take shape. It wasn't even lined up properly; it was sewn and partially painted, but the red, white, and blue areas all were generally in place. It was a flag.

Our flag pole was a tree limb from the jungle, big at the bottom, very thin at the top, and not very tall. Comments came from just about everyone: "Have you seen our flag?" "Did the flag get wet last night?" "Is the flag staying together?" We had our own flag for "Flag Day" 1944.

We moved shortly, headed for the Dutch East Indies and finally the Philippines when World War II ended suddenly sometime in September 1945. I don't know where our flag terminated.

Today I would give almost anything for just a small piece of our flag, or perhaps a picture. The flags that I see today vividly remind me of our homemade flag back in June 1944 in New Guinea.

"It's a Grand Old Flag!"

Richard D. Sims  
US Air Force  
WWII  
Korean War  
Cold War



Continued from page 1:

*Memphis Annual Conference and "The Ministry" (which consists of Wesley Senior Ministries, Inc., Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation of Memphis, Inc., and Wesley Housing Corporation of Memphis, Inc.) into a Covenant of Mutual Relationship, which passed.*

*Next year's Annual Conference will be held in Paducah, Kentucky.*

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Martha Harmon  
Lay Delegate*

I look forward to moving a bit further along the Way in the months to come. May God bless you and yours, our life together and our goal to transform the world, beginning from the corner of Mendenhall and Walnut Grove.

Blessings,

*Brad*

## LIBRARY NEWS

Listen to WKNO Radio (91.1) on June 10

Dr. Gabriel will be interviewed on the popular radio program *Checking on the Arts* Thursday, June 10. He will be discussing our summer film series, *Wizards and Wardrobes* and *Wookies, Oh My!* The live interview starts at 3:49 p.m.

### Library Amnesty Week

Please look around your house to see if you have any overdue library materials lying around. Return them by this Sunday so that others can enjoy. We will have a drawing on Sunday for free Redbird tickets for all who bring back books.

## JESUS IN THE SOUTHLAND: SUMMER SHORT STORIES OF SALVATION, SIN, AND SEEKING

Join us this summer beginning Sunday, June 6, at 9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, for short stories by southern authors. Adults of all ages will read and discuss tales of religion and faith in day-to-day life from well-known southern authors.

A copy of this week's short story can be found by clicking the link in the bottom right-hand corner of the church website's home page or just use this link: <http://mullinsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Question-of-Rain.pdf>. A photocopy of the short story will be available at the church.

## THE POWER OF ONE: NATIONAL SINGLES CONFERENCE



This singles conference will be held at The Pentecostal Church, 4820 Germantown Road, Memphis, Tennessee, June 24-26, 2010, led by Pastor Terry Black. There are no registration fees. The day sessions include such topics as understanding the opposite sex, coping with grief, moving on after divorce, money management, determining the will of God, and ministering to single adults. For more information, please call the church at 753-6115, or look at the website: [www.tpcpowerofone.org](http://www.tpcpowerofone.org).

Julie Garner, Singles Coordinator

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JUNE 13:

**Liturgist:** Colleen Mason

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Charles Carter (Head Usher),  
Kathy Carter, Norm and Barbara  
Kercher, Tommy and Sandy  
Scruggs

**Children's Church:** April Riley

**Children's Message:** Rachael  
Scarborough

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

... in loving memory of my wife  
Dorothea by John Barnes

... in loving memory of my parents,  
Fritz and Marjorie Luton, in  
remembrance of their anniversary on  
June 13, by Judy Harmon

## THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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

## IMPORTANT NOTE!

Wednesday Fellowship  
Dinners and Men's Prayer  
Breakfasts will resume on  
August 11, 2010.

## COKE ZERO FANS, TAKE NOTE!

The soft drink machine  
in the gym is now stocked  
with Coke Zero. Enjoy!!!



## THANK YOU

Dear Mullins Family,

Thank you so much for  
remembering me during this time in  
my life. I am so grateful for the gift  
card, and even more thankful to have  
Mullins as my home church.

Love,  
James Williams

## LOOKING AHEAD!

In July, Mullins United Methodist Church will celebrate its 165<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we will have a month long celebration!

On Sunday, July 4, we will celebrate with MULLINS IN AMERICA from 6 p.m. until dark. Make plans to enjoy a picnic of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans, slaw, homemade ice cream, watermelon, water, soft drinks, and lemonade. Prepare your favorite homemade ice cream for the ice cream contest. Bring your lawn chairs to sit and visit, enjoy the games (Mullins trivia and more), and there will be fireworks and patriotic music! We'll have face painting and a moon bounce for the kids as well as other fun activities.

Be sure to wear red, white, and blue to the worship service on Sunday morning.

Watch the newsletter for more information in the coming weeks regarding the other birthday celebration events coming in July!

## MULLINS' HISTORY

In anticipation of our church's 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, portions of Y. M. Quinn, Jr.'s 1978 book, *History of Mullins United Methodist Church*, are being republished in the *Messenger*. Here is the first installment:

### Beginnings

When the site for Mullins Methodist Church was selected in early 1845, the surrounding country consisted of forest, plantations, and truck farms. We can



envision the pioneer families coming many miles in their wagons, some in buggies and surreys and some on horseback, to attend religious services in a brush arbor located on the northeast corner of what is now known as Walnut Grove and Mendenhall Roads.

The site consisting of two acres of land was deeded to the new church July 15, 1845 by Gabriel and Martha A. Anderson . . . [for \$18] . . . .

### 1845 Church

A log cabin for use as a church soon replaced the brush arbor, and Mullins United Methodist Church was thus established July 15, 1845. As a matter of interest, the church site was approximately twelve

miles east of the city of Memphis, whose boundaries at that time were north by Bayou Gayoso, east by Bayou Gayoso, south by Union Street, and west by the main channel of the Mississippi and Wolf River to the mouth of Bayou Gayoso. The population of Memphis at that time was 7,782. J. J. Finley was Mayor, and James Knox Polk of Tennessee was President of the United States. It was also during 1845 when General Andrew Jackson passed from this life on June 8, 1845. The whole nation mourned his death, none more than the little city of Memphis whose beginning was largely due to his efforts. Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845 and a year later war was declared by Mexico with the United and Memphis became the center of much martial excitement. Shortly after 1845 plank roads were constructed to Big Creek and Raleigh in Shelby County and to Holly Springs and Hernando in Mississippi. All other roads leading into Memphis were dirt roads, which turned to mud during wet weather.

There was evidence of the beginning of organized religion in the early 1820's. A. J. Crawford of the Methodist Forked Deer Circuit probably preached in Memphis in 1822 and Thomas Davidson, a Methodist Circuit rider, appeared in 1826, as did a preacher and medicine showman by the name of Lorenzo Dow. Reverend Dow was one of the most noted and remarkable men of the time, not only in this country but in Europe. He preached and stormed his way over the country side, through Alabama and Middle Tennessee, all the while preaching the gospel of hell fire and damnation. While preaching in Bedford County, Tennessee, he often stayed in the home of the Bibb family. He was attracted to the young daughter of this family and he talked many times to this young lady about religion. At first she wasn't interested, but she finally became converted. Legend has it that Reverend Dow gave her a casket-like box, lined with a shroud and containing a mirror, and told her to look at her image every day until she became converted. This Miss Bibb (no one seems to know her first name) later married a Mr. Thomas Mullins, and when their first son was delivered, they named him for old Lorenzo Dow. This son, Lorenzo Dow Mullins was born April 6, 1809 in Bedford County, Tennessee and sometime after this the family moved to Shelby County and settled on land later known as Mullins Station. This was about the year 1840.

Reverend Lorenzo Dow preached in Memphis in the fulfillment of an appointment made in 1824 which

was well remembered and drew large congregations. He preached several times here and was very eccentric in his manner. Reverend Lorenzo Dow Mullins, named for the old circuit rider became the first regular pastor and shortly before that the Church was named for him. He served as minister of Mullins during the years 1847, 1866-1868, and 1873. He was received on trial in the Tennessee Conference in 1830, exactly 100 years before his great grandson T. H. Mullins, Jr. was admitted to the Memphis Conference in 1930. Reverend Lorenzo Dow Mullins died in 1880.

Some of the Mullins plantation eventually became part of the Shelby County Penal Farm, and there is a curve in the old Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad tracks (now Louisville and Nashville Railroad) at Mullins Station on the Mullins plantation property. The railroad surveyors in laying out the track ran a straight line through the Mullins property, but the Mullins family discovered that the tracks, if carried straight, would run across an old slave burial ground, where rested the remains of loyal men and women who had been faithful through the years and so, under family insistence, the railroad had to put a curve so that the tracks would miss the old cemetery. These graves are there unmolested to this day.



The Brush Arbor, so well illustrated by our fellow church member Mr. Frank Morehouse, was soon replaced with a one-room log cabin, also illustrated by

Mr. Morehouse. Services were held in this log church until 1864, when the building was demolished by Federal troops and the logs used to construct a Yankee fortification on the north side of Poplar Pike, between Saint Nick Drive and Erin Road. The congregation continued religious services in a nearby school house located on the northwest corner of Walnut Grove and White Station Roads. The fortification was known as Fort Hurst.

Memphis was captured by the Federal Fleet June 6, 1862. Military rule became the government of the city. General Sherman came to control the city July 21, 1862 and he ruled with an iron hand. He used the slaves for public works and he ordered all negroes who applied for work to be employed as laborers on the fortifications and draw rations, clothing, and one pound of tobacco per month. It was probably these slaves, under direction of Federal

troops, who dismantled the log church, hauled the logs to the fortification site and constructed the fort to guard Poplar Pike and the Memphis and Charlestown Railroad from the Confederate forces.

After the war, members of the church moved some of the material back to the church site, added to it and built a white one-room frame house over the logs. This was in 1876 and the church was dedicated July 2, 1876 by Reverend John Moss. The Trustees who supervised its construction were Henry Echols, W. S. Mendenhall, William Meyers, J. R. Lee, and Samuel Mendenhall. It fronted south on Walnut Grove Road. Mr. C. L. McCullough was the first Sunday School Superintendent at this church, and Reverend J. P. Walker, Pastor.



Many of the congregations where churches were destroyed during the war were reimbursed many years later by the Federal Government. This was never done in the case of Mullins Church because it was necessary provide witnesses who had first-hand knowledge of the destruction, and too many years had elapsed before the matter was presented to the proper authorities.

Judge John R. Flippin was elected Mayor of Memphis when this second church was built in 1876, and two years later in 1878 the yellow fever epidemic struck the city. Many of the people died from the dreaded disease.

It will be noted in both the year 1876 and 1877 membership list how women outnumbered the men. Could this have been caused by the Civil War killing off so many of the men?

Mullins and Eudora Baptist Church, located at Poplar and Perkins are two old churches that did much toward holding together the feeling of love, devotion and independence our neighborhood still has.

## CROP NIGHT

Don't forget to bring a craft (scrapbooking, card making, crochet, etc.) and a snack to the church on Friday night, June 18, from 6 o'clock to Midnight!

**CHURCH STAFF:**

**Senior Pastor:**

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

**Minister of Spiritual Formation:**

Scottie Brafford  
[dscotbr@aol.com](mailto:dscotbr@aol.com)

**Director of Music Ministries:**

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

**Director of Children’s Ministries:**

April Riley  
[ariley@student.memphisseminary.edu](mailto:ariley@student.memphisseminary.edu)

**Director of Parents Day Out:**

Kimberly Alston  
[ihavejoy43@gmail.com](mailto:ihavejoy43@gmail.com)

**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 ..... 26  
Sunday School ..... 54  
10:50 Worship Service..... 96

Wednesday:

Prayer Breakfast..... 10  
Prayer Service..... 52

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Thursday, June 10**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

**Friday, June 11**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

**Saturday, June 12**

11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall  
12:00 noon 2010 Lakeshore Golf Classic—Jackson National Golf Course

**Sunday, June 13**

8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel  
9:40 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary  
12:00 noon VBS Setup  
4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group—Gym  
5:00 p.m. Yoga

**Monday, June 14**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:00 a.m. VBS—Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:15 p.m. Woodwind Ensemble  
7:00 p.m. Missions and Outreach in Room 117

**Tuesday, June 15**

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym  
8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:00 a.m. VBS  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class—Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, June 16**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:00 a.m. VBS  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, June 17**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:00 a.m. VBS  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:00 p.m. VBS Family Night

**Friday, June 18**

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage  
9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:00 p.m. Scrapbooking—Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, June 19**

9:00 a.m. Cemetery Repair/Clean Up—see page 2  
11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, July 4**

6:00 p.m. Mullins in America Celebration—see page 4