

MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4 NORTH MENDENHALL ROAD
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38117-2698
901-685-8253

WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG

“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”
SINCE 1845



Wednesday, July 7, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – July 11, 2010

Scripture: Luke 10:15-37
Sermon: “Humble Service”

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Followers,

Well, let's see if we can sum up the apportionment matter. The Annual Conference budget contains regional, national, and international costs for ministry, mission, and administration. For example, we say that all donations made through the church in the wake of a disaster go directly to meeting the needs created by the disaster. We can make that happen because our apportionment payments provide the costs of maintaining the structure to administer the help. Apportionments also pay for District Superintendents and campus ministers and a Conference office (drop by the office for a full list if you want). In order to raise that money across the whole of United Methodism, apportionments are used. The formula our Annual Conference uses to assign portions of the budget to each church is based essentially on our local expenditures, after deductions, seen as a portion of the Annual Conference budget. As we spend more, our apportionments normally will go up. How, then, are we to meet 100% payout?

First, we could lower expenditures: In round figures, to heat and cool and light and clean and care for the general condition of the campus takes a third of the budget. We have a very large campus built in a time when the world was much different than the one we live in today. We accept this cost of maintaining Mullins UMC's physical space as part of our stewardship of what those before us created and so as to keep faith with those who come after us. Salaries and related costs are another third of the church budget. Church leaders at every level have decided that to maintain where we are and to be able to grow again at this corner, we need dedicated

staff, and that requires money. We can lower staff costs, as we have done in recent years, only by painfully reducing the number of people paid to do ministry here, reducing salaries, or by holding wages constant without even cost of living adjustments. Some staff members are in their third year of that position. Taken together, building and staff are two-thirds of our budget.

In addition, Mullins members decided years ago to make necessary and essential repairs to the gym and other parts of our building. I applaud the congregation's decision to, again, keep faith with what has come before us and be good stewards of the property for those who will come after us. Building debt is another 16% of the church budget. Programming expenses fairly much round out the budget. For several years Mullins members have worked hard to keep programming costs down. Cutting does not seem to be an option.

Second, we could increase our giving: Of course, if you can give more, then, as the Spirit leads, you should give more, remembering as Jesus taught, where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Some church professionals will say that the church does not have a money problem but a spiritual problem. I have never bought into that argument here. We all know Mullins members who have lost jobs, taken pay cuts, assumed the expense of caring for other family members and more in recent years. We also know that when disaster hits, you are quick to respond with money and needed supplies. We know that we have lost several dozens of members to death of the past several years, more even

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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:

George Balas at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Room 2426

Lucille Givens at Healthsouth Rehab North, Room 108-B

Gene Hill at home

Leigh Ann Maness at home

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET:

In honor of **Terrye Mastin** for saving my life, by Andrew Taylor

In memory of **Doug Bethay** by Lou Bethay

In memory of **Jean Phipps** by Lou Bethay

In memory of **June Phillips** by Lou Bethay

In memory of **Mae Cook** by Lou Bethay

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

In memory of **Frances Vawter** by Mrs. H. C. Williamson, Jr. and Bill Peck

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Staff-Parish Relations will meet on July 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 117

Administrative Council will meet on Monday, July 19, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

Two cemetery plots in our Mullins' cemetery are available for sale. For information concerning this, please contact Larry Clayton at 761-1490.

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than a reasonable growth rate would replace. If there is a spiritual problem related to money, perhaps we should ask about that not only in the local church but in every other area the church is found. Can we, without emotion, help the Conference explore issues of transparency, equity, clergy effectiveness, just distribution of financial responsibility, appropriate church size, support of non-church institutions, Conference staff make up, and more?

Third, in some years past, Mullins decided that meeting 100% of our apportionments fell into the "critical needs of the church" category. Funds were then taken from the endowment to meet the short fall. At this point we are not close enough to meeting 100% pay out to make that step practical. Also Mullins, just like General Boards of the UMC, have endowments that, according to some, could reduce their need for apportionment dollars, yet the terms of the endowments restrict what the funds can be used for.

Finally, we can continue to be committed to paying 100% of our apportionments. We will pay as we can, receive special offerings (as we have done in the past) to help pay those amounts, make sure that donations we give to causes are, whenever possible, routed through the church office, and be prepared to answer any questions that come at us. We will allow those without knowledge of what you do, how you serve and what you give in Jesus' name to this community to make ill considered statements and take no offense. We will trust that the administrative structures of the church that have served the cause of the gospel so well for so long will see the vitality of Mullins UMC. We will grow both in numbers and in the spirit until such time as meeting our apportionment responsibility is not an issue. We will do all this and more, not by our own strength but by trusting in the God who strengthens us for all good things.

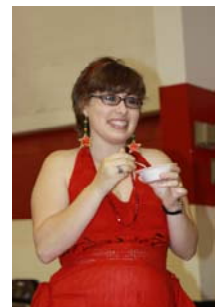
Grace for the Way,

Brad

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES!

Mullins' month-long 165th birthday celebration continues on July 11 with a Contemporary Worship Service at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a Taco Bar Dinner following the service. Please make reservations by calling the church office, 685-8253.

In the meantime, enjoy some photos from our "Mullins in America" party on July 4, where Brent and Charlotte Milton won the ice cream contest with their Lemon Ice Cream. Congratulations!



NEW BABIES

Congratulations to Major and Cathy Philpot on the birth of their granddaughter, Skyler Elyse Philpot. Skyler weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz., and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Jason and Bobbie Jo Philpot.

Congratulations to Barbara and Cecil Harris on the birth of their great-grandson, Christopher Camille Brooksher, who was born on July 1, 2010. Christopher and his family reside in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NEW MEMBER

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member of the Mullins' church family, Clint Trusty! Clint has been worshiping with us and attending Wednesday night dinners for quite some time. He joined our congregation on Sunday, July 4, 2010. He resides at 5313 Wilton Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38120.

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

Join us this summer on Sunday mornings at 9:40 in 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. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 685-8253 so that copies of the stories may be available for all. You can find a link to this week's short story in the bottom right-hand corner of the home page of our church's website.

THANK-YOU NOTES

To the Family Life Committee—a huge “thank you” for your planning and hard work in making our “Mullins in America” Fourth of July Celebration such a wonderful evening! Kathy and Charles Carter and Sandy and Tommy Scruggs devoted much of their time and energy making this event possible.

Family Life Committee members have worked consistently for many years to plan and organize our church birthday parties, Christmas dinners, potluck lunches, and much more. They are behind the scenes much of time, but they are here working tirelessly to see that our social events are running smoothly. We appreciate you and are thankful for your dedication and commitment.

Family Life Committee:

Just a note of appreciation for all the creativity and hard work you put into making our church home more like “home.” Too often we hear complaints; not often enough we hear kudos. Kudos!

Jackie and Pete Westergaard

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JULY 4:

Liturgist: Rachael Scarbrough

Ushers and Greeters: John

Montgomery (Head Usher),

Harriet Montgomery, Jan

Canfield, Melissa Johnson,

Margaret Methvin, Angie Smith

Children's Church: April Riley

Children's Message: April Riley

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

... in loving memory of Nancy and Paul Blankenship, in celebration of their birthdays, by Rachel Fuchs.

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.

KEEP THOSE CANS COMING

Charles Griffin recently turned in our aluminum cans for recycling. We received \$144 for Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to all of you who continue to support this project by recycling.

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

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

Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Scottie Brafford
dscotbr@aol.com

Director of Music Ministries:

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

Director of Children’s Ministries:

April Riley
acriley@student.memphisseminary.edu

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston
ihavejoy43@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaron@mullinsumc.org

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell

OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

Sunday:

8:45 Service	23
Sunday School	56
10:50 Worship Service.....	90

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, July 8

9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

Friday, July 9

9:15 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, July 10

11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 11

8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary

2:00 p.m. Summer Film Series

4:00 p.m. Youth—Gym

5:00 p.m. Yoga

5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service and Taco Bar Dinner

Monday, July 12

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage

9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting—Room 212

Tuesday, July 13

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage

9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

6:15 p.m. Core Ball—Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Jr. High Bible Study—Youth Room

7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 14

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage

9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

5:00 p.m. Sr. High Bible Study—Youth Room

6:30 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee—Room 117

Thursday, July 15

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage

9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym

Friday, July 16

8:30 a.m. Summer Stage

9:15 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, July 17

11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, July 18

12:00 noon Birthday Potluck Lunch—see page 3

Monday, July 19

7:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting—Chapel

Sunday, July 25

10:50 a.m. Homecoming. One Way Singers perform—see page 3