

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 14, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – July 18, 2010

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Special Presentations by Rev. Barry Henson and Rev. Steve Atkins

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends on the Way,

Money magazine has a new list of the top ten best places to live in America. According to reviewers, what makes the towns among the best are matters like low unemployment, low crime rates, good schools, and multiple outdoor activities.

Can we, in a playful way, apply the criteria for best and worst cities to churches? “Low unemployment” would be a high rate of participation in church activities. The “good schools” in a church setting, are multiple options for quality Christian education and spiritual formation and study groups. The “low crime rates” is the same as high involvement in missions. That way a church is keeping the great commandments of loving God and neighbor. Okay, then, if you are still with me, how does Mullins United Methodist Church rate?

High participation rate in church activities: can be calculated from two distinct groups, worshippers and total membership numbers. Mullins has a high percentage of home-bound and away-from-the-area members. If we use the worship attendance number as our base, though, we find a low unemployment rate. The last two weeks, for example, had turnout rates of 50% or more for Sunday evening activities. That is not bad for an urban church.

We have a good “school system”. We have a virtually one-to-one relationship between church school participation and lay leadership. When offered, short-term education or spiritual formation opportunities, from Advent to Lenten studies and the wonderful Companions in Christ series, and Wednesday night Bible study and community study groups, the attendance is not inconsiderable. We are investing more in our children's education with our new Director of Children's Ministries and

we are re-vamping the entire youth program. We have four solid, long-standing and one brand new, adult Sunday school classes. Mullins UMC has a solid percentage of members who lead, participate, and support their education and formation groups.

We have “low crime rate” understood as numbers of people taking part in mission activities. Mullins members meet almost weekly to support missions in Africa. Sunday school classes regularly support local ministries (remember the route those monies through the church office for apportionment payments). Individuals tutor at Lester Elementary, collect food and clothing for United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, feed the hungry at St. John's United Methodist Church, collect birthday bags for the needy, and recently helped to rebuild a home in New Orleans.

Finally, all of *Money* magazine's top ten cities are small in population. That allows people to know one another better. Mullins fits that criterion also. Taken together, Mullins UMC might rank among the “best churches.” Given what we have and what we do, I have to conclude that if anyone has doubts about Mullins, if anyone thinks there is “nothing here for you” or if anyone believes time has passed this corner by, then they simply haven't looked clearly at the what makes this church among the “best.” We get out of anything what we put into it. So, see you soon in Sunday school and worship, in study group or on a mission project.

Grace for the Way,

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:

George Balas at home

Lucille Givens at Healthsouth
Rehab North, Room 108-B

Gene Hill at home

Leigh Ann Maness at home

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JULY 18:

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: Dr. Gabriel

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

... in celebration of our 54th anniversary by Nancy and Paul Blankenship.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

will meet Monday, July 19, 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY . . .

Reverend Gabriel will be away July 21 through July 30. The Reverend Scottie Brafford, Mullins' new Minister for Spiritual Formation, is on call for pastoral emergencies during that time. Reverend Brafford will also be preaching at Mullins on Sunday, July 25.

NOT GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER?

It has come to our attention that some readers of this newsletter need to have the *Messenger* mailed to them. Also, some online readers are not getting the weekly email notification when the newsletter is put on the website. If either of these two situations are your situation, please call the church office and let us know how we can help you get the *Mullins Messenger*.

Please remember that each week's newsletter is available online by Sunday for the week to come (although we try to get it out earlier than that). Home-bound members without Internet access will always be mailed a copy of the Mullins Messenger. Limited print copies are available at the church by Sunday for the week to come.

Deadline for submission of articles, news, and information is Monday at noon.

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES!

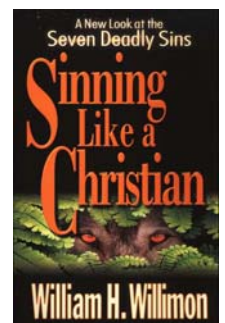
Mullins' month-long 165th birthday celebration continues on July 18 as we welcome former associate pastors, Rev. Steve Akins and Rev. Barry Henson. Both pastors will share memories and reminisce during the 10:50 service. There will be a Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:50 worship service. Please bring two of your favorite dishes to share with everyone. We'll enjoy lots of good food as we fellowship together!

Be sure to attend the 10:50 worship service on Sunday, July 25, as we welcome back to Mullins members of the One Way Singers. In the 1970s this group took the gospel message in song to churches from Memphis to Florida, Canada, and more. We look forward to having them offer worship leadership for us on July 25.

YOU'RE INVITED

... to join the New Directions adult Sunday school class for *Sinning Like a Christian*, a new look at the Seven Deadly Sins by William H. Willimon. This series will begin on July 25 during the Sunday school hour. New Directions class members invite all who are interested to join them for this series. Everyone is welcome!

The New Directions class meets Sunday mornings at 9:40 in Room 117.



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.

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

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

ANOTHER GREAT- GRANDDAUGHTER FOR THE KERCHERS!

Norm and Barbara Kercher are celebrating the birth of their fourth great-granddaughter, Braelyn Ann Herring, born July 9, 2010. Braelyn weighed 10 lbs., 12 oz., and was 23 inches long. Proud parents are Wes and Brittany Herring, and the very proud grandparents are Vernon and Brenda Smith.

A LETTER FROM THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

The Gideons International is a Christian Business and Professional Men's Association. We are grateful for your church's steadfast labor in the Lord and past support of the Gideon ministry. In an effort to show our appreciation, we would like to invite dedicated Christian laymen from the Mullins congregation to be our special guests at a dinner meeting. The dinner meeting is set for Monday evening, August 9, or Tuesday evening, August 10, whichever date is most convenient for the prospective Gideon. At this meeting, we will share with them in detail what God is doing through this ministry and testimonies of lives transformed by the power of the Gospel. If interested, please contact the Mullins church office, 685-8253.



THANK-YOU NOTE

Thank you for adding to our Independence Day celebrations with the beautiful fireworks!

Your neighbor,
Pat Fielder



FROM THE LIBRARIAN

In addition to books in our main library, we select books for seasonal display in the Narthex and Hall of the Disciples. All can be checked out for your reading pleasure. Please sign the notebook next to the books. Also would you consider writing a short review of the book for posting on the library page of the church website?

Also during church office hours, you can check out books from the main library. Call or come by the church office and speak to Susan Tutt. She can unlock the library for you.

Thanks for your tremendous support of our library programs including Read-to-Feed, which benefits Heifer International. In the past, children have raised enough money to purchase a heifer (calf) for a family in the developing world. If you made pledges of support, God bless you for your generous spirit. If you or your child took part, God bless you also. By taking part in this program you are giving children around the world sustainable sources of food for their own table and an additional source of income for their families. With this added money many families are able to send one or more child to school and on to a better future.

Wizards and Wardrobes and Wookies oh my! Thanks to those who have been joining us for the summer film series. We have two more films for the summer: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *Prince Caspian*. Please join us for these fabulous films Sunday afternoons at 2 o'clock in Room 117, (New Directions Sunday school classroom).

Recycled Jeans? Let your old jeans and worn-out shirts enjoy a brand new life as a bookbag or kid's tote. Bring them to Margaret Carbaugh.

Also needed for future hand-made items:

- Quart jars with lids
- Craft fabric
- Craft ribbons

Thank you for your support.

MULLINS' HISTORY

In celebration of our church's 165th Anniversary, portions of Y. M. Quinn, Jr.'s 1978 book, *History of Mullins United Methodist Church*, are being republished in the *Messenger*. [Bracketed material has been added by the 2010 typist.] Here is the fifth installment:

The Sanctuary-1957—The Fifth Building on this Site

Since the close of World War II Memphis had experienced phenomenal growth, the greater part of which has been east. Mullins was in the path of this eastward expansion. The residential development had now surrounded and gone far beyond the church. Homes in this area were substantial and in some cases most expensive. Mullins had grown to an active membership of 850, and was increasing month to month. With this growth, the need for expansion became inevitable. Both the sanctuary (1947-church) and Sunday School facilities became inadequate. Plans were therefore made for a medium size church to care for some 2,000 members.

After months of study it was decided to build a new sanctuary with seating capacity of about 600, with a full basement. The basement was to be used as an assembly hall and have kitchen facilities, and was also to be used by the Sunday School. On a Sunday in May 1955 the congregation of 800 voted unanimously to accept the architectural design for the new structure created by Everett D. Woods. Mr. A. L. Moreland, Memphis Postmaster at that time, presided at the unveiling ceremonies. Frank C. Steudlein was chairman of the building committee, with C. S. Carroll heading the finance committee.

As mentioned Mr. Everett Wood was engaged as the architect and the estimated cost, including pews was \$281,000.00. The new Sanctuary was constructed in front of and to the south of the 1947 church, and nothing of the present facilities were destroyed. Thus the little white frame church was saved and is now used for church services, Board meetings, and a Sunday School room.

The grounds on which the new Sanctuary was built consist of the original two-acre tract acquired in 1845, the cemetery tract which was bought in 1892, adjoins the two acres on the north, and approximately two acres adjoining the church and cemetery lot on the east acquired in 1952 and 1954, used for parking. North of

all this property is a 60 foot strip used for access and parking.

Through the efforts of Reverend James H. Elder, pastor; Frank Steudlein, Chairman of the Building Committee; Harold C. Curry, Chairman Committee on Financing Arrangements; R. K. Stone, and C. W. Pearce, members Committee on Financing Arrangements, along with David Bowlin, T. L. Campbell, C. S. Carroll, E. W. Elam, J. G. Gates, Sr., E. D. Goodfellow, J. L. Gulledege, Dr. V. A. Hall, A. L. Moreland, Harry Madison and P. W. Walker, Sr. the dedication services were held April 14, 1957.

Description of the Sanctuary

This is a new form of architecture, free, simple, and relatively unadorned, signifying our order of worship and reverence. This building is an example of contemporary architecture, just as once were the great churches and cathedrals of their day and age. Its exterior uses cut stone and red range brick in pleasing manner. Candelabra windows in tiers of five, three, and single windows "stepping down" within the same opening, give natural light through cathedral glass to the nave. [The "nave" is that part of the Sanctuary where the congregation sits and includes the center aisle.]

The tower to the southeast corner of the building rises to a height of 62 feet, and the pedestal and cross extend upward another eleven feet. [The tower is even higher now than when this was written, as a cellular tower was integrated into the architecture and placed the top of the existing bell tower around 1996.] The candelabra windows in the tower complement the windows in the walls of the Sanctuary. The front elevation uses cut stone in buttress effect, and all the upper center section contains a redwood and cathedral glass window fourteen feet wide and seventeen feet in height.

Four large oak paneled doors, two immediately below the large window, and one to either side, open to the narthex and nave at the upper level. [The "narthex" is the entry hall at the back of the "nave." It's where we serve refreshments after the 10:50 worship service on Sunday.] Other entrances are to the east and west of the Sanctuary. To the front of the Sanctuary, worshippers enter the narthex which is fifteen feet deep and forty-two feet wide. There are vestibules on both sides of the narthex.

[The Description of the Sanctuary will be continued in next week's *Messenger*.]



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
ariley@student.memphisseminary.edu

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston
ihavejoy43@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

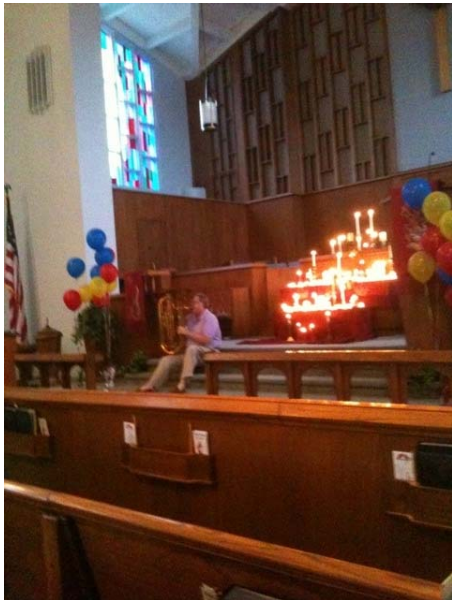
Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaron@mullinsumc.org

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell



Pat Mason plays *Happy Birthday* on his tuba at the Contemporary Worship Service on July 11.

OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

<u>Sunday:</u>	
8:45 Service	23
Sunday School	67
10:50 Worship Service.....	111

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

Sunday, July 18

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 12:00 a.m. **Mullins’ Birthday Potluck Lunch**
- 2:00 p.m. Summer Film Series—See page 3
- 4:00 p.m. Youth—Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga

Monday, July 19

- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting—Chapel

Tuesday, July 20

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 10:00 a.m. UMW to build Health Care Kits—Room 117
- 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 21

- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth—Youth Room

Thursday, July 22

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

Friday, July 23

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

Saturday, July 24

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall
- Dinner and Rehearsal for One Way Singers

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, July 25

- 10:50 a.m. Homecoming. One Way Singers perform

Tuesday, July 27

- 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee—Room 209