



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, August 4, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – August 8, 2010

Scripture: Luke 12:32-40
Sermon: “Not for Scouts Alone”

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Travelers,

While on vacation, my older son and I talked a lot about the wave of modern, popular (one person called them “evangelical”) atheists. The current crop of these folks attack faith from a number of points, and maybe we should look at some of them. For this time, though, I want to explore just one anti-Christian argument.

The argument states that because we have no historically verifiable source other than the Bible that Jesus of Nazareth ever lived, rational people must reject that he ever did, in fact live.

Well, let's see: A rather obscure Jewish rabbi on the fringes of the Empire, sentenced to capital punishment is executed as a rebel king. Okay, nothing unusual there. Rome, through its governors, regularly crucified thousands of would-be rebels. We do not have biographies of them. So, I guess it did not happen. Did someone tell the grieving survivors? We can extend the atheist argument to other areas. By their reasoning, the vast unnamed legions of Rome must not have existed because no one wrote about the individuals who made up the legions. Likewise, the armies of Goths, Huns, and the like who fought the Roman army and toppled the Empire, did not live because we have so few individual biographies. Hmmm, I wonder why the Empire did fall?

My point, of course, is that lack of specific historical information about a person does not mean that person did not exist. Who first welcomed a wolf into a nomadic camp, allowing for the domestication of dogs? Who first realized that instead of simply gathering wild grains, humans could actually plant, cultivate, and harvest a steady supply of grains? We may not have a Kitty Kelly version of the Life of Jesus, but what we do have, at a minimum, is the early result of his life.

Membership in the faith grew from maybe 120 at the death of Jesus to 3000 a few weeks later. From that first Pentecost to the year A.D. 300, the church grew to over 4 million believers. This growth does not have to be considered explosive to be significant. The first apostles, with the exception of John, died violently, far from home. Believers were forced to abandon their source of identity to embrace the faith. Lies, persecutions and death were common responses by the wider society to the converts. I have copies of numerous legal proceedings in which early believers were stripped of place, status, and life. What was there that caused all those people to endure all those hardships?



In elementary school science I learned that nothing happens on its own; there are causes for events. If the saltshaker on the kitchen table is turned over, I do not believe that the salt moved all on its own. One of the cats, dogs, or people in my home is responsible.

If the early church enjoyed a steady rise in believers in face of loss, privation and even death, something was responsible. The reason was their faith. The plainest explanation for the source of their faith is that Jesus of Nazareth did live, die, and rise from the tomb. The life of Jesus, his teachings and actions so captured the minds and hearts of those around him that the good news spread in spite of the efforts of the existing social order to crush it. That is true. Jesus lived, Jesus lives, Jesus will live.

Blessings,

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:

Voline Conlee at home

Lucille Givens at home

Jean Searl at home (surgery August 9, 2010)

OUR SYMPATHY, love, and prayers go out to:

Kay Ledbetter in the loss of her husband, Joe Ledbetter

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET:

In honor of **Steve and Kathryn Black** by Taylor and Mary Beth Richardson

In memory of **Frances Vawter** by Diana Wright

An anonymous gift has been given in honor of **Maureen Watkins** mother of Cyndi Watkins. Please remember Maureen in your prayers in her fight against cancer.

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.

DID YOU LOSE YOUR GLASSES?

Eyeglasses in a black and red flowered case were found in the Sanctuary last week. If they belong to you, please contact the church office.

OPEN GYM FUN NIGHT

Parents' Night Out Alert!

All children and youth are invited to an Open Gym Fun Night with basketball, board games, Wii tournaments, lawn games, food, and new faces from 6:00-9:00 on **Friday, August 20th** at the Mullins UMC Gym.

Please bring a dollar for each slice of pizza you want, and we'll provide the drinks and snacks!

There's only one catch....you DO have an admission cost of ONE FRIEND. We encourage everyone to bring at least one friend with them for this fun night out! Hope to see you there!



NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

Susan Tutt will be out of the office from August 6 through August 13. So if you have anything to submit for the newsletter next week, please email it to Cyndi Watkins, tinnalee@bellsouth.net, by Monday, August 9, at noon.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE!

Wednesday Fellowship Dinners will resume on August 11. A new dinner reservation list is now being formed. Have YOU called the church office to get YOUR name on the list? If not, please do so today.

If you make your dinner reservations by the week, please assist our Hostess Committee by making your dinner reservations promptly. Also, please remember to cancel your dinner reservation if you are not able to attend on any given week.

MULLINS MID-WEEK— FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

We will resume our regular Wednesday Schedule on August 11, with Men's Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. and Fellowship Dinner at 5:45 p.m., followed by children and youth programs, adult program, and choir rehearsal.



Our Hostess Committee, comprised of Bea Manning, Macy Williamson, Marge Gresham, Marion Haynes, Helen Addington, and Sammie Powell, works diligently to plan and coordinate meals for Wednesday nights. Please take a moment to let them know you appreciate their hard work and efforts in this volunteer ministry.

Hats off, also, to Geraldine Finley, the finest cook in Shelby County! We thank you for all your dedication and hard work!

ATTENTION:

Mullins UMC Children's Ministry is looking for volunteer assistants for the four year-old through second grade Sunday School class, which meets at 9:40 on Sunday mornings. We would love to have your help in working with our adorable children! If you would like to participate, please contact Cyndi Watkins or April Riley.

THANK YOU NOTE

Our family wishes to thank the members who have called and sent messages to George Balas. He is still recovering from recent surgery and appreciates all the thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Balas

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY

Saturday, August 14, is our date for feeding the homeless in our community. If you would like to carpool to St. John's United Methodist Church, meet at Mullins UMC at 3 p.m. If you prefer, you can meet the group at St. John's at 3:30 p.m.



SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

... for all adults working with children and youth will be held Sunday, August 8, at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

There are many different needs at the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers (UMNC). During the last few weeks we have listed various needs for different age groups. For more information, please contact Lyndall Jones, UMNC Representative.

2 Year Old Room:

- Dance props—pom-poms, dancing scarves, ribbon sticks, hand bells
- Dramatic play area—doll clothes, boys' and girls' clothes—large size, hats, purses, clip-on neckties and bowties, play food sets (2)
- Science area—live plant, large plastic magnifying glass (5)

Pre-K (Ages 3 to 5 Years Old):

- Sand and water table or two 58-quart-size storage containers
- Puzzles—numbers, letters, objects, shapes, colors, etc.
- Science area—nature collections, magnifying glasses (5), bugs, reptiles, nature and science puzzles, nature games, nature flash cards
- Math area—abacus (counter), number flash cards, dominoes, colored number bean bags



- Lacing cards, stringing beads, interlocking blocks, Legos
- Dramatic play area—oversized clothes for boys and girls, clip-on neckties, hats, community helper hats
- Dance props—dancing scarves, pom-poms, etc.
- Art area—children's blunt-tipped scissors

School Age Room (5 to 12 Years Old):

- Board games—Monopoly, Banagrams, Twister, etc.
- Alphabet sequencing puzzles, phonics flash cards, books
- Uno

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR AUGUST 8:

Liturgist: Jennifer Mastin

Children's Church: April Riley

Ushers: Elmer Wrobley (Head Usher),
Greg Forsyth, Tina Campbell,
Scott Campbell

Children's Message: Tammy
Williamson

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

... in honor of the Hostess Committee

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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



MENU FOR AUGUST 11:

Ham
Northern Beans
Turnip Greens
Slaw
Corn Bread
Lemon Pie

*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.

DON'T FORGET!

- Floors in the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and hallway will be cleaned and waxed August 5, 6, and 7.
- The gym will be closed August 9-12 so that the floor can be cleaned.
- Susan Tutt will be out of the church office Friday, August 6 through Friday, August 13.

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	27
Sunday School	66
10:50 Worship Service.....	94



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, August 5

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

Friday, August 6

- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage—Last Day!
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, August 7

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Children sing at Wesley Manor

Sunday, August 8

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Safe Sanctuaries Training
- 4:00 p.m. Youth—Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga

Monday, August 9

Gym Closed through August 12

Tuesday, August 10

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—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, August 11

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs
- 6:15 p.m. Beading Group—Room 209
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Program—Fellowship Hall
- 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 13

PDO Closed

Saturday, August 14

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. St. John’s Ministry
- 5:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony—Chapel and Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 25

- 6:30 p.m. All work areas meet in the Fellowship Hall after dinner

Sunday, August 29

- 9:40 a.m. Rally Day—Promotion Sunday

Tuesday, September 21

- 9:00 a.m. Older Adult Ministries Training at Christ UMC