

MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4 NORTH MENDENHALL ROAD
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“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”
SINCE 1845



Wednesday, August 11, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – August 15, 2010

Scripture: Luke 12:49-56
Sermon: “BackDraft”

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Way,

How are your gardens growing? Do you have “silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row”? Why would anyone grow that crop anyway? Nursery rhymes, naturally, are not literal. Nursery rhymes are imaginative, symbolic, and often fanciful. Other poetry can have all those characteristics as well. Consider William Blake's “Auguries of Innocence” where he speaks of seeing

*...a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.*



Imagery, symbols, and fanciful language—we humans use those techniques to speak of matters that are sometimes and simply beyond ordinary, everyday language.

Sometimes our Bible uses that type of language. Particularly (but certainly not exclusively), we have that type of language in the

Psalms and Proverbs. Can we hear that type of language in some of Jesus' teachings? Does the Sermon on the Mount consist of instructions on living that are to be taken literally? Is it true that those who live by the sword will literally die by the sword? Must we give away everything we own? What about that camel and the needle's eye? **I believe that we find understanding of the hard sayings in the sayings that are more readily understood.** That means we have to read and hear and deal with Bible passages in context, historical and social when possible, in relation to other scriptures, certainly.

That sort of study is done best in small groups that meet regularly, study diligently and seek honestly to hear what God is saying to us in the Word. Sunday morning is obviously a great time for such groups to meet.

If you are in a Sunday morning group that is taking the scriptures seriously, good. If you are in a Sunday morning group that is studying another book that still takes the scriptures seriously, again, good. If you are not yet in a Sunday group that reads and studies and explores with grace, care, and rigor, let me encourage you to do so. If you can't find a group like that, please contact me or someone on the Nurture and Education Work Area and let them know Mullins is here to help all of us grow into the likeness of our Christ.

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:

Jean Searl at Baptist East ICU,
Room 2912



CHANCEL CHOIR

Did you ever wish you could get in on the ground floor of something wonderful? Well, if you can carry a tune, you can get in on the ground floor of the 2010-2011 season of the Mullins Chancel Choir. We haven't even started learning our Christmas music yet!

Choir practice is held each Wednesday evening at 7:15 in the Fischer Wing (go through the Chapel and turn left). We're always looking for new voices and have a robe that is sure to look great on you!



MAANZA A LEZA

There are going to be some scheduling changes with the beading group. We plan to meet this Wednesday (August 11) as scheduled. **Beginning September 5**, we will be meeting the **first Sunday of every month** after the 10:50 worship service until about 2:30 p.m., and pizza will be provided for lunch.

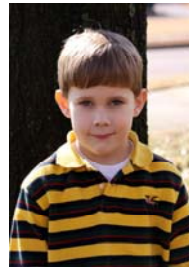
We plan to have more take-home beading kits available for anyone who would like to bead but can't attend these first Sunday gatherings.

We will no longer be beading on Wednesday nights, giving the beaders a chance to participate in other Wednesday night activities.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND ADULTS, OH MY!

Labor Day is just around the corner. School is starting or has started. Programs for our children and youth are taking off again. Look to your *Mullins Messenger* to learn dates and places and times and events.

Also, as adults, let's renew our commitment to see the programs for children and youth as "our" ministries, not "their" ministries. Children's church leaders, Wednesday night "Sprouts" activities and Sunday morning, youth snack suppers on Sundays, youth Sunday school and Wednesday activities are the responsibility of all of us. Many Mullins adults are already involved in some activity that helps our children and youth learn and grow. All of us need to follow their example.



Preachers will often take a line from the Bible out of context and remark that "Moses leaned on his staff and died." The meaning there is that staff, hired people alone, can never do all that we need. No church should expect its staff to do all that it needs. Please be open to invitations to take part in some aspect of Mullins ministries for our children and youth. They will benefit from your experience. You will benefit from their growth. The kingdom will benefit from a new generation of faithful Christians.

Watch this space for a list of opportunities coming soon.



PARENTS MEETING—AUGUST 15

All parents of Mullins children and other interested adults are invited to attend a meeting Sunday August 15 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will review Children's Church and Sprouts Rotation and explore the possibility of evening programming for our children.

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.



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!

THANK YOU

The Hostess Committee would like to express its heartfelt thanks for the beautiful flowers given in its honor, which were placed on the altar on August 8.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS



Something wonderful and exciting is emerging around Mullins. It helps us explore the meaning and mystery of scriptures that are read each Sunday in worship...it links the arts and the needs of the world and Bible study.... it's available for all ages.... and it's something that each of you can learn more about in an pretty easy way. Have access to the internet? Go to www.spiritseasons.com, and look around.

This is the website for *Seasons of the Spirit*, a lectionary-based curriculum for Sunday mornings, or for Wednesday evenings, or for any time a group gathers and wants to deepen their engagement with the texts that are read and proclaimed during Sunday's worship service. At the website, particularly check the article "Theological & Education Foundation", and or check the tab for "Explore Products" which offers a quick download of sample lessons and resources.

Now – when I write that ‘something wonderful and exciting is emerging around Mullins’ – what I’m sharing is that *Seasons of the Spirit* is already in use at Mullins UMC. It's been used by our children this summer, and has been well received by both the adult leaders and by the children. And we know that truth from Isaiah 11.6, right? "...a little child shall lead them." Hm....



What might it look like for us at Mullins if we expand *Seasons of the Spirit* into more age groups? How might that impact the way we form ourselves as disciples? How might it affect our experiences of worship? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Be in touch with April Riley, (Director of Children's Ministries), Brad Gabriel (Pastor), Cyndi Watkins (Sunday School Superintendent) or me, Scottie Brafford (Minister of Spiritual Formation).

In community,
Scottie



MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR AUGUST 15:

Liturgist: Rev. Scottie Brafford
Children's Church: April Riley
Ushers: Elmer Wrobley (Head Usher), Greg Forsyth, Tina Campbell, Scott Campbell
Children's Message: Terrye Mastin

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God
... in honor of Hal and Diana Baker in celebration of their 50th anniversary on August 14, by their daughters and their families.

... in memory of George Moreland in remembrance of our 50th anniversary by Carol Ann Moreland.

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 18:

Chicken
Cream-Style Corn
Broccoli
Biscuits
Salad Bar
Dessert

Adults \$5, Children 12 and under \$3,
Family Max \$20

Adult Program following Dinner:
"Communion and United Methodists: The Rev. Dr. Paul Blankenship Tells All"

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.

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

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

Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford
dscotbr@aol.com

Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn
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Director of Children’s Ministries:

April Riley
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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 ??
Sunday School 60
10:50 Worship Service..... ??

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

Sunday, August 15

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Parents’ Meeting—Fellowship Hall—see page 2
- 4:00 p.m. Youth—Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga

Monday, August 16

Gym Closed through August 12

Tuesday, August 17

- 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 18

- 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 19

PDO Closed

Saturday, August 20

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—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