

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, March 31, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – April 4, 2010

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Sermon: “Telling Tales”



PASTOR'S CORNER

Brothers and Sisters,

This letter is set for the week following Easter Sunday, April 4 in the Year of Our Lord 2010. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! New life is unleashed upon the earth! Can we feel the full impact of this new reality? What do we do with new

life?

Recently I found the following news story: “The Department of Social Services in Greenville County, South Carolina, once sent the following form letter: ‘Your food stamps will be stopped, effective immediately, because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances.’”

Changed circumstances you say? How odd is that letter! Most of the time dead people don't have much in the way of changed circumstances. They just stay dead. In contrast, Easter is all about Jesus refusing to stay dead. After three days, the tomb opens, Jesus lives and new life is unleashed on the earth!

Our symbols for Easter all try to put that message of new life across. Easter eggs and Easter chicks both symbolize new life. Since ancient times eggs are symbols of spring. Eggs also symbolize the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged after three days of death. In Ukraine long ago, Christians decorated eggs because the oval shape of the egg can symbolize the earth. In coming out of the tomb, Jesus comes out of the earth and makes all creation,

the earth and all in, on and under it, new! Likewise, a chick, hatching out of an egg, symbolizes new life or re-birth as life emerges from the tomb.

Why do we have an Easter bunny? We have an Easter bunny because the bunny rabbit was a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times. Jesus tells us that he has come that we might have life and have it in abundance. With the resurrection, we are free from the ultimate fear, the fear of death. With the resurrection, new life is ours and life in abundance is ours. Hence, the bunny.

The Easter lily, too, emerges from the earth, is a cultural symbol of purity, and, in the part of the world where Easter began, begins to bloom in the Spring of the year, the time of the Passover and Easter.

Of all the symbols of new life at Easter, though, perhaps none has the impact of the cross. When the love of power outweighed the power of love, the cross was a symbol of terror, pain and death. Jesus of Nazareth, though being the same as God, gave up his equality for our sake, accepting death on the cross. In the resurrection, Jesus breaks the powers of terror, pain and death. “Death where is thy victory? Death where is thy sting?” asks the apostle. In the resurrection, the victory and the sting that death might claim are broken because new life is unleashed upon the world. We are re-born!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! New life is unleashed upon the world! Alleluia!

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:

June Phillips at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Room 1413

Betty Pickel at home

Lynne Sweatt at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1129

OUR SYMPATHY,

love, and prayers go out to:

Carolyn Irvin in the loss of her brother-in-law, James Leon Watson



HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of **Brooxie Newcomb** by Carolyn Irvin

EASTER

In memory of **Jean Phipps** by Lyndall Jones



LANDSCAPING FUND

In memory of **Jack Cannon** by Jane Cannon, Mary Jane Melton, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Babb, Amy Wickley, grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chandler, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harkins. A dogwood tree and azaleas will be planted at the church in memory of **Jack**.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Service, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Lunch, April 2 at 12 Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker this year will be Rev. Ken Burnette, former pastor of Mullins UMC.

Easter Egg Hunt for our children, Saturday, April 3, at 10 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 4, 6:45 a.m. in Mullins' cemetery. Join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Sunrise Service. We'll enjoy breakfast casseroles, fruit, coffee, and juice. Please call the church office and let us know you plan to attend the breakfast so we can plan for enough food. There is no charge for the breakfast, but donations will be accepted.

Easter Worship Service, April 4, at 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no 8:45 worship service that day.



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES DURING HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, 12 noon through **Easter Day**: Self-Directed Prayer Walk through Mullins' Cemetery and Meditation Garden.

Good Friday, 2-3 p.m.: Labyrinth Walk for Elementary Children in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday, 4-6 p.m.: Labyrinth Walk in Fellowship Hall

ASBURY DISTRICT WORK DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Asbury District Office will be relocated and needs volunteers to prepare our new office space at Highland Heights United Methodist Church. Volunteers will meet to paint and do minor repairs on Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!

Get your nominations to Susan in the church office by Tuesday, April 6 for this year's "Unsung Heroine/Hero". This special person will be honored at the Asbury District Laity Banquet on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 6:15 p.m. at Christ UMC, 4488 Poplar Avenue. The gathering will be in Seabrook Hall; dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Child care WILL NOT be provided. The cost of the tickets is \$10 per person and must be purchased in advance from the church office. Tickets ARE NOT available at the door!

As you consider a nominee for 2010, think of someone who goes "above and beyond" in service to Christ and his church, without thought of recognition and thanks. You may nominate ONE person (members only). Please do not nominate previous award winners.

Nominee for "Unsung Heroine/Hero": _____

Nominated by: _____

LENTEN BANNER

During Lent, we have been blessed by expressions of liturgical art created by Mullins' member Carolyn Carter. A progressive banner, hung in the sanctuary, has offered us a new word each week, reminding us of spiritual practices that restore wholeness in our lives. Each word was selected by listening deeply for God's invitation in the weekly gospel reading. Through her personal reflection on these words, Carolyn also chose to express the word's meaning visually. Below and in her own words, she shares some of her thoughts:

Our banner of torn cloth is now whole.

As Lent is a time of reconciliation and for mending our ways, this banner of torn cloth has also been mended each week and words to encourage us in our spiritual journey have been placed on it.

solitude The letters are bold, "in your face" to impress upon us the importance of taking time to think, reflect, and pray.

listen This is a quiet word so the letters are small and thin. We have to be quiet to listen.

compassion

Passion is the emphasis of this word so the letters start out small and become larger towards the end of the word.

Humility As we practice humility we become closer to God, so this word slants up toward God.

Love Out of compassion grows love. Out of love grows compassion.

At the bottom of the banner the mending stitches change. We are a stubborn species and as individuals we tend to continue doing the same things because it seems to work for us. A spiritual journey is a time to reflect on our lives and to try new things. You may be surprised at the results.

Carolyn has also created different ways for us to see the cross during Lent –unadorned and plain.... wrapped in sackcloth to invite our repentance.... covered with thorns to remind us of the suffering of Christ... blooming with wheat, remembering that seeds of abundant new life are released through death. All the while, the resounding Alleluia of God's people lies silent in the treasure box at the foot of the altar. In its absence, we can reflect on the meaning of Alleluia, 'Praise be to God!, in our lives.

We are grateful to Carolyn for so generously sharing her creative gifts with us. And – we are grateful to God for all the good gifts that uphold and surround our lives.



MULLINS LIBRARY NEWS

Adults:

The following books are by the popular Christian writer, Max Lucado. To make them easy for you to check out and read, they are on the reading table in the Reception Room through the end of Easter. We will have a notebook next to the books with columns for you to fill out. Just return the books in two weeks. Enjoy!

- *And the Angels Were Silent, The final week of Jesus*
- *He Still Moves Stones*
- *When Christ Comes*
- *No wonder they call him the Savior*
- *When God Whispers Your Name*
- *No Wonder They Call Him The Savior*

Children and Young Adult:

The following books are upstairs in the main library. You can check out these and other children's and young adults out before or after Sunday school. Please e-mail Margaret Carbaugh with requests for library resources or to help us rate these books so we know what you'd like us to be making available to you.

- *The Lightning Thief* -- This first book in the 6-part Percy Jackson and the Olympians series formed the basis for the movie. *****
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars: The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas*. The three-part series is told from the perspective of a group of street kids in Victoria London who help Sherlock Holmes solve mysteries. A great introduction to the Sherlock Holmes character and life in Victorian London. ***
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*. The second book in the popular series. Read it and rate it for us.
- *Little Visits with God*, donated by Carol McCaul. A vintage book of small devotionals that you can share with especially younger children.

Required Reading for Public and Private Schools:

Please donate your gently used required reading books to the library so other parents don't have to scurry around to find and purchase them this at the beginning of each school term. The purchase of these books for both the public and private schools is a huge expense that parents may not have to bear if others will share the books they children are through with.

If we can get the books in time, we will make a list of what we have before time for school to start up at the end of August.



MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR APRIL 4:

Liturgist: Rev. Scottie Brafford

Ushers and Greeters:

Andy Mastin (Head Usher), Terrye Mastin, Paula McGoldrick, Ann Smith, Barney Magargel, Brenda Carson

Children's Church Leader: Lisa Weaver

Children's Message: Cyndi Watkins

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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



THE MENU FOR APRIL 7:

Turkey and Dressing
Creamed Potatoes
Peas
Cranberry Salad
Bread
Dessert

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.



VBS UPDATE:

The volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Hall of the Apostles and online under Children's Ministries (<http://mullinsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/VBS-REGISTRATION-FORM-2010.pdf>).

We need people of all ages to sign-up to help with the many fun opportunities available.



Also, we are in need of the following items:

- large baskets
- large ceramic planters or urns
- palm tree house plants
- large area rugs (won't need until the week of VBS)
- monetary donations to cover decorating expenses
- PRAYER

VBS will be held June 14–17, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a Family Night on the 17th at 6:30 p.m. Ages for VBS participants are 4 (by June 1) through 11.

Contact Lisa Weaver for more information. It's going to be a great week!!!

NEW "TWEEN" GROUP BEGINS!!

If you are the parent of a "tween" (10-, 11-, or 12-year-olds who are in the 5th, 6th, or 7th grade), then this is for you! A new group is forming, and we want your tween to be part of it! The first meeting is on Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. in the gym. This will be a Potluck for parents and tweens, so bring your favorite dish and join us as we discuss future plans. Regular meetings will be held on Sundays from 4 to 7:15 p.m.

ARMED FORCES DAY



serve as ushers on Sunday, May 16, 2010.

If you have served, or are currently serving, in the Armed Forces of the United States, please contact the church office. We would like to celebrate this special group by having you

DOROTHY AND KEMMONS WILSON SPEAKER SERIES

John MacArthur is a fifth-generation pastor, a popular author and conference speaker, and has served as the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California since 1969, and as the President of The Master's College in Santa Clarita, California.



He is the host of the national radio program, *Grace to You* aired locally on WCRV AM 640. Rev. MacArthur has authored or edited more than 150 books, most notably the *MacArthur Study Bible*, which has sold more than 1 million copies. His topic for the event to be held on April 12, 2010, 7 p.m. at Christ UMC will be "God: The Reconciler." This event is free and open to the public.

SINGLES MINISTRY

MCSAM (Memphis Conference Singles Ministry) is for adults of all ages. Singleness is not age specific. MCSAM is not a divorce group or a single-parent group. We are comprised of singles of all status—not married yet, never married, divorced, and widowed.

MCSAM holds two retreats a year at Lakeshore. The next retreat is scheduled for May 14, 15, and 16. You will sign in after 6 p.m. on Friday evening and

stay through lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$80, which includes meals and lodging. This will be a weekend of great food, fellowship, music meeting lots of new people, worship, fun,

games, and more. For a registration form and for more information please call the Conference office at 731-664-8480, or visit us on the Web at <http://www.memphis-umc.org/mcsamorg/>.



MULLINS COOKBOOK

Pull out your best recipes and submit for the new Mullins Cookbook to be published for sale before our month-long celebration in July 2010, being planned by our Family Life Committee.

Recipes may be submitted in handwriting (printed), typed, or in a "Word" document. Please include the following:

1. Your name and phone number
2. Title of recipe, number of servings, cooking temperature
3. Ingredients
4. Directions

The deadline for recipes is April 18.

Do you have a church cookbook that dates before the UMW's 1988 "Our Daily Bread" book? We would like to borrow it/them for a *Mullins Old Timers' Recipes* section. You may leave recipes and books in our church office or email Margaret Brown at mbrown@dbrown.com or fax to 388-0557. For more information, call Margaret Brown at 388-9190.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you willing to represent Mullins United Methodist Church for emergency/disaster preparedness? Do we want Shelby County to have to face the uncertainty and lack of resources like residents of New Orleans did during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, or the people of Haiti after the recent earthquake? Many Shelby County residents look to their places of worship in times of need or when they need valuable information or resources. We need your help to educate and inform all Shelby County residents about the proper supplies and procedures that can save lives.

On April 28, 2010, at 12 noon, there will be several Kick-Off Meetings in the Memphis community. The locations are:

- Koinonia Baptist Church, 4340 Millbranch Road in Whitehaven
- Ed Rice Community Center, 2907 Watkins Street in Frayser
- Church Health Center Wellness, 1115 Union Avenue in Midtown
- Hope Presbyterian Church, 8500 Walnut Grove Road in Cordova

Contact the church office if you are willing!



INVITATION

MR. AND MRS. LARRY DUPREE
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER
KIMBERLY CAROL DUPREE DUNIGAN
TO JAMES LOUIS ALSTON IV
SON OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES LOUIS ALSTON III
AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APPETIZERS AND CAKE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

CHILDREN WELCOME

RSVP 901-315-0835
OR JAMES38134@GMAIL.COM



CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

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

Director of Music Ministries:

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

Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries:

Lauren Gam
lauren@mullinsumc.org

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Dunigan
kimberly@mullinsumc.org

Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaron@mullinsumc.org

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell



OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

8:45 Worship Service.....	28
Sunday School	57
10:50 Worship Service.....	127
Prayer Breakfast.....	7
Prayer Service	73

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Easter Sunday, April 4

- 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service in Mullins Cemetery, followed by breakfast
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary

Monday, April 5

- Parent’s Day Out—CLOSED
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 9:30 a.m. Church Women United at Buntyn Presbyterian Church
- 6:15 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting—Room 209

Tuesday, April 6

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 12:00 noon Unsung Heroine/Hero Nomination Deadline
- 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 7

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:45 a.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs
- 6:15 p.m. Beading Group—Room 209
- 6:30 p.m. Program
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 8

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Companions in Christ—Room 209

Friday, April 9

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, April 10

- 9:00 a.m. Asbury District Work Day at Highland Heights UMC
- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Potluck for “Tweens” and Parents—Gym

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, April 12, 2010

- 7:00 p.m. John MacArthur to speak at Christ UMC

Sunday, April 18, 2010

- 12:00 noon Recipe Deadline for the New Mullins Cookbook

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

- 12:00 noon Disaster Preparedness Kickoff in Various Locations

Sunday, May 2, 2010

- 2:00 p.m. Golden Cross Awareness Day—Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 14–Sunday May 16, 2010

- 6:00 p.m. Singles Retreat at Lakeshore

Sunday, May 16, 2010

- 10:50 a.m. Armed Forces Day Recognition

Week of June 14-17

- 9:00 a.m. VBS—Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace