

MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”
SINCE 1845



Wednesday, June 23, 2010

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



Mullins Pulpit – June 27, 2010

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62
Sermon: “Objects in Motion”

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,
At the meeting of the Memphis
Annual Conference held at
Collierville United Methodist Church
earlier this month, Mullins UMC was

publicly named and praised for the wonderful work with the Maanza A Leza ministry in Zambia. Before that, our Conference newspaper ran an excellent story about Mukanyanga Muzyamba, the student from Sichebeya, Zambia, that you have helped get her college degree (<http://mullinsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Article-regarding-Mukanyanga.pdf>). All of that is to the good and is as it should be. But, there is more to the money story than praise.

Speakers at Annual Conference criticized, though not by name, the 25% of the churches in the Memphis Annual Conference that do not pay 100% of their apportionments. Mullins UMC is, and has been for many years, one of these churches. Earlier this year our immediate past District Superintendent, the Reverend Kevin Conrad, called several Mullins' leaders together, along with leaders of Bartlett UMC and St. Paul UMC to review all three churches' history of not paying 100% of their apportionments. This was in keeping with a decision made at an

earlier Annual Conference. Superintendents are required to review apportionment payment rates of churches. If, after five years, a church is not at 100% payment of apportionments, the Superintendent is to meet with the church leadership. The Superintendent and church leadership are to develop a plan that will move the church toward 100% payment of apportionments. If the church is still unable to make that payment level after an unspecified period, then other plans regarding the future of the church will be made.

At our last Finance Committee meeting, Kevin, along with our incoming Superintendent, the Reverend Sandra Leatherwood, and our Conference Treasure, Mr. James Finger, spoke with the committee members regarding our apportionment payment history and future. We discussed matters such as how apportionment levels are set, what might happen to churches that do not pay 100% of their apportionments, etc. That

Sharing God's Gifts



(Continued on page 4)

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 home (knee surgery
June 28)

John Griffin at The Village at
Germantown Healthcare,
Room 1103

Leigh Ann Manness at the Med,
Trauma ICU 22

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET:

In honor of *Paul and Nancy*

Blankenship for their birthdays by
Steve and Kathryn Black

In honor of *Lisa Weaver* for her work
with Vacation Bible School by Mary
Winton

In memory of *June Phillips* by Mr. and
Mrs. David Mangrum

In memory of *Frances Vawter* by
George and Jean Sibley, Lucille
Givens, Dr. and Mrs. Warren
Lesmeister, Dr. Thomas Fortner,
Steve and Kathryn Black, Mr. and
Mrs. Norm Kercher, and Celia
Ridley

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY:

In memory of *Frances Vawter* by Aaron
Foster and Suzi Morris

MUSIC:

In memory of *Frances Vawter* by Helen
Addington

In memory of *June Phillips* by Jean
Jones

RECEPTION



After church this Sunday, June 27, we will be having a reception to officially welcome two new staff members to our Mullins Family: April Riley (our new Children's Director) and Rev. Scottie Brafford (our new Minister of Spiritual Formation). Please stop by the Narthex immediately following the 10:50 Worship Service on Sunday for cake, coffee, and a chance to greet these two wonderful women.

MULLINS 165TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

It's a month-long event in July! Mullins UMC will be 165 years old on July 15, and we want to celebrate. Mark your calendars now with these events:

July 4 – Mullins in America, 6:30 p.m. until dark—Join us for a picnic, fireworks, and patriotic music. Please make reservations with the church office by July 1. The menu is hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, slaw, watermelon, cookies, homemade ice cream, and beverages. There will be a Homemade Ice Cream Contest (hence the homemade ice cream on the menu), so prepare to make your very best recipe of homemade ice cream. Be sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on for the picnic, which will be held in the gym due to the hot, hot weather. There will be a Moon Bounce and special activities for the kids.

July 11 – A Contemporary Worship Service, which includes music and dance, will be hosted by the Crossroads Class. The event will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Taco Bar Dinner.

July 18 – 165th Birthday Party! There will be special speakers at the 10:50 Service, along with special music. We will have a Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the service, so plan on bringing two of your favorite dishes.

July 25 – Homecoming. The One Way Singers will perform special music



Remember, you can pre-order your Mullins cookbook at any of the 165th events.

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 REPAIR/CLEAN UP

Cemetery repair and clean up will continue this **Saturday, June 26**, from **7:30 a.m. to noon**. Once again, lunch will be provided, but Charles needs to know how many to plan for, so give him a call at 685-2880 and let him know that you will be here to help.

LETTER DR. GABRIEL RECEIVED FROM AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Dear Bradley,

United Methodist support of Africa University makes seemingly impossible dreams come true. Mukanyanga Muzyamba dreamed of becoming a doctor as she grew up in an impoverished village in a remote part of Zambia. She walked 12 miles round trip to school, where she excelled. In fact, she was the only person in her village to continue to eighth grade and beyond. College seemed an impossible goal until members of Mullins United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, learned about her. The church had a ministry in Mukanyanga's home village, building classrooms.



Not only did they encourage her; they also began to sponsor her. After starting college at the University of Zambia, where no slots remained in the pre-med program, she learned of Africa University and its health services management degree.

On June 12, Mukanyanga received a bachelor's degree in health services management. She hopes to attend graduate school in Memphis, and eventually to run her own medical center in Zambia. Mukanyanga is

one of many Africa University students with dreams to improve life in their countries . . . This June, nearly 400 students from 24 countries students received their degrees on our campus in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Your support of the Africa University Fund is vital. Africa University relies on our denominational apportionment system to survive. In the 2009-10 school year, 300 qualified students could not enroll because annual conferences did not meet their apportionment commitments.

Every United Methodist is connected to Africa University and to each of our students. United Methodist support through the Africa University Fund enabled Mukanyanga to earn her degree. Please encourage your church to remit 100 percent of its Africa University Fund share.

If you have questions, or need more information about Africa University, please contact the Africa University Development Office. The e-mail is audevoffice@gbhem.org. The telephone number is 615-340-7438.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Ernest Lyght
Chairperson, Africa University Board Development Committee
and Advisory Development Committee

Dr. Fanuel Tagwira
Vice-Chancellor, Africa University

NOTE: If any Mullins members would like to donate directly to Africa University, please make your contributions through our church office so that we may be given apportionment credit.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JUNE 27:

Liturgist: Rev. Scottie Brafford

Ushers and Greeters:

Charles Carter (Head Usher),
Kathy Carter, Norm and Barbara
Kercher, Tommy and Sandy
Scruggs

Children's Church: April Riley

Children's Message: Cyndi Watkins

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God

. . . in loving memory of my parents,
Clara and Truemun Wyrick, by Joe
Wyrick.

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.

THANK-YOU NOTES

The family of Frances Vawter wishes to express deep appreciation to her wonderful Mullins friends whose cards, calls, prayers, and many acts of kindness brightened her days, warmed her heart, and gave her strength for her journey. Thank you so very much!

Taylor and Mary Beth
Richardson

Dear Friends,

Mom's Mullins friends meant so much to her. Thanks to all of you for the heartfelt cards, calls, and donations. I know that our faith and loving memories of Mom will bring comfort and strength to us all. Again, thank you.

Jeri Lynn Key and
the Family of Mae Cook

Pastor's Corner—Continued from page 1:

conversation may well be the beginning point for a Mullins-wide conversation about apportionments.

Let us review what we all know but can sometimes forget. United Methodists have the *Book of Discipline* that is our guide, support, and set of rules. The *Discipline* goes a long way in preventing church anarchy and is a good thing. The current (2008) *Discipline* (in line with *Disciplines* going back for generations) at paragraph 247.14 expresses our duty as part of the United Methodist Church very simply: **“Payment in full of these apportionments (The World Service Fund & Conference benevolences) by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.”** We as a church, and I as your pastor, are held accountable for all the money that is not paid to our apportionments. Apportionments are the budgetary share of the area, regional, and national church mission, ministry, and administrative budgets given to a local church. The United Methodist Church's web site has a variety of resources that explain more about apportionments. Over the next several weeks, I intend to look at this matter in our newsletter.

At this point, let us know that, in round numbers, our apportionment responsibility for 2010 is \$100,000. Let us be aware that for over two decades we have not paid 100% of whatever amount we have been apportioned. Understand that we did not get into our current position overnight and that we will probably not get out of our situation overnight either. However, as faithful Christians we will do all that we can trusting the grace and strength of our Lord. I look forward to hearing from you about this and I know we will enjoy the conversation.

Grace for the Way,

Brad

MULLINS' HISTORY

In anticipation 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 third installment:

The 1947 Church, The Fourth Building on this Site



The old church building had served for fifty years and was badly in need of repairs. A group of men, including Mr. Gus McCool and Mr. W. H. Fisher contracted with a Germantown carpenter to make the necessary repairs by placing cables between the walls to straighten them up. On close inspection it was found the building was in such poor condition that not much could be done with the

antiquated 1897 church. The agreed-on price for repairs was \$10,000, so contract was to this same carpenter to rebuild the church for this same amount. This new building was to be on the same site, and a replica of the old building. Construction was started in 1946 and completed in 1947. The building program was started under the Reverend Clarke W. Bell and completed under Reverend James E. Wilford.

While the number of church members totaled approximately 145 at the time of construction, only about seventeen families were active in the church. It was very difficult to collect the money needed, and Mr. McCool and Mr. Fisher went to various citizens outside the membership for needed funds. Mr. J. P. Norfleet gave \$1,000; Mr. Everett Pigeon; Mr. Hull and Jimmie Dobbs \$1,000 each, and Mr. McCool and Mr. Fisher gave \$10,000 split between themselves. The needed money was raised and the new church paid for by the time it was dedicated.

While the old church was being torn down and a new one built, the congregation had the problem of where to hold services while all this was going on. The problem was solved by the generosity of the Calvary Episcopal Church, which allowed the use of their Chapel located at the corner of Poplar Pike and Perkins Road. The Memphis and Charleston Railroad tracks (now Southern Railroad) were nearby and the whistle of passing trains would almost blow the congregation from their seats. This Episcopal Chapel later became the Church of the Holy Communion at Walnut Grove and Perkins Roads.

To help hold expenses down Mr. McCool and Mr. Jim Smith went to Arkansas and secured windows and doors from an old church that was being demolished, and these were reused in the new church.



The pulpit, chancel rails, and pews from the old building were taken to the dairy barn owned by Mr. Joe Mason, located near Walnut Grove and White Station Roads, and refurbished by several men of the church. These items are now [over 110] years old. This work of refurbishing was done during very cold weather as the Mason barn was without heat of any kind. The men kept warm by working fast to remove the many coats of paint, make repairs, then sand, stain, and revarnish the furnishings. Mr. Jim Smith, who was in the gravel business, hauled the furniture to and from the barn in his gravel truck. [The pulpit is temporarily on loan to TheatreWorks.]

This church still exists behind our present Sanctuary, and it was a great credit to Mullins that it was allowed to remain when our new Sanctuary was built in 1957.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All announcements to be made during Sunday worship services should be in the church office by 12 noon on Friday.

ANOTHER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUCCESS STORY!

A HUGE thank you to Lisa Weaver and her crew of VBS volunteers! This year's Vacation Bible School was the most successful yet, with 100+ children in attendance. VBS is a huge undertaking, and without the help of our wonderful volunteers, this event could not happen. To all who helped in any way: THANK YOU!!!

THANK-YOU NOTES FROM THE HOME SCHOOLING KIDS:



The homeschool students would like to thank you so much for letting us use the Resource room for our class. We have done so much in the class and we would not have been able to do all the things if you had not been so so kind to let us use the room. God has blessed us so much by putting you into our lives. May God bless you forever and ever. Thank you!
Love Clara Smith

Dear Mullins United Methodist Church,

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to use your facilities this year. Because of your kindness, we have learned about the American Revolution, the planets, weather, and most important the valuable lesson of growing in love for Christ and each other.

Teaching young people is Kingdom work and your help has made all the difference.

Sincerely,
Cathy Mason

We Thank you so much for letting us use one of your rooms for our school
Love Noah



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



Brenda Carson won this colorful movie poster for her Tin Man costume at the showing of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Our next film in the summer film series will be *Star Wars: A New Hope*. In addition to the movie, we will test our wits by trying to answer movie trivia questions devised by Dr. Brad Gabriel.

OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

<u>Sunday:</u>	
8:45 Service	25
Sunday School	50
10:50 Worship Service.....	125

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, June 24

- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Night Circle—Room 117

Friday, June 25

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

Saturday, June 26

- 7:30 a.m. Cemetery Cleanup/Repair—see page 2
- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 27

- 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—*Star Wars: A New Hope*
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group—Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga

Monday, June 28

- 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage
- 9:15 a.m. Walking in Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Lipscomb Scholarship Committee—Office
- 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee—Room 209

Tuesday, June 29

- 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. Bridge Group—Parlor
- 6:15 p.m. Core Ball—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, June 30

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

Thursday, July 1

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

Friday, July 2

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

Saturday, June 3

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, July 4

- 6:00 p.m. Mullins in America Celebration—see page 2

Sunday, July 11

- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service and Taco Bar—see page 2

Sunday, July 18

- 12:00 noon Birthday Potluck Lunch—see page 2

Sunday, July 25

- 10:50 a.m. Homecoming. One Way Singers perform—see page 2