



Mullins Messenger

A Publication of
Mullins United Methodist Church
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“A Church Alive and Serving Christ”
Since 1845

This Issue Published as of Wednesday, January 19, 2011



Sunday Morning Worship Service
January 23, 2011

8:45 in Mullins' Chapel – 10:50 in Mullins' Sanctuary

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon: “Street Lights”

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

“Plan your work and work your plan,” we were taught was the motto of Memphis' former political boss, Mr. Crump. Similar is the saying, “No one plans to fail, they just fail to plan.” Fine. I'm an old Boy Scout and I know that to “Be Prepared” is more than just a good idea.

What about Mullins and our ministry though? Are planning and working and programming and us all there is? Certainly, “planning and working and programming and us” are essential. God works through humans and communities of humans to achieve God's will. Mullins members are, in turn, good at “planning and working and programming and us.” I do not want us to stop that.

As we get really rolling with 2011, though, let us lift up that which makes us a church and not one more volunteer group with good “planning and working and programming and us.” Let's remember the work of the Holy Spirit.

In children's Sunday school this past Sunday, one child asked if I thought I knew all that I needed to know before becoming a preacher. After explaining that everyone learns all life long, I was able to end with an important saying for all of us, “God does not so much call the equipped as equip the called.”

When we look to the support, guidance and encouragement of God through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are likely to find that we can do more than we ever thought possible. God equips us to do the more. In addition, when we make our plans, work the work, engage in programs and look to the “us,” let's be sure to leave enough room for the Spirit to complete, to make sacred, our activities.

Not a Sunday goes by at Mullins without an order of worship, pre-selected hymns and the like. Not a Sunday goes by that in ways small or large, something extra happens, something unplanned, unscripted and unanticipated. When that happens, we can become irritated or we can look for what God might be teaching us in that occurrence. Does a new hymn speak to you in intriguing ways? Does an old hymn suddenly and unexpectedly have additional meaning? While listening to the scripture is there a tingling or tickling at the edge of your consciousness that says, “This is important, there is a message for you in these particular words.” We serve ourselves and Mullins well if we are open to what may be unplanned by us but may be what God intends.



Finally, we will do well to remember that while God, through the Holy Spirit, may meet us anywhere, for many of us that Person of the Trinity seems to show up most often in prayer time, in the sacraments, and in what we call today the “worship arts” of drama, music, dance, art, and multimedia that help us to encounter the Holy in ways that engage all of our senses. Let us, then, make our plans, work our work and program the life of the church. This is a good and positive approach. Let's also find ways to offer to one another all the avenues of experiencing God here at the corner of Mendenhall and Walnut Grove.

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:

Lynn Sweatt, The Village at Germantown Rehab

Julie Tolbert and Makayla Rose, at home

Larry Clayton, at home



Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of **Doris Key** by Mr. and Mrs. Norm Kercher

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In memory of **John and Lib Wagner** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin

MUSIC

In memory of **Doris Key** by Mrs. David Moore



Upper Room

The January/February issues of *Upper Room* are now available outside the Sanctuary. The cost is \$1 each. Don't miss out on this great devotional material.

Craft Night

If you are into scrapbooking, jewelry making, card making, or any other type of craft, please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 28, from 6 p.m. to midnight (or whenever you get tired). It's a very casual, friendly environment where we all get to do what we love.

So bring your craft and a snack to share. Maanza a Leza will bring some jewelry to put together if you'd like to do that.

Also, if anyone would like to learn some intermediate or advanced crochet techniques, Debi Gray will be on hand to teach them, so bring your hooks and yarn!



Coming Soon in Adult Sunday School

January 30—*When God Whispers Your Name*, by best-selling author Max Lucado, will be presented in the New Directions Class. This is classic Lucado, filled with wonderful parables and biblically-based stories around the theme of listening to God and sensing God's unconditional love. Good stuff! All are welcome. New Directions meets in Room 117 Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45.

Watch for news from Crossroads Class. They're selecting new material now and will begin a new study soon also.

The Lamplighter/Friendship Class welcomes everyone to their excellent weekly Bible study. Currently, their focus is on "Assuring Hope," exploring texts from Isaiah, Chapters 45–53, and soon they'll be examining the Gospel of Mark, Chapters 8–13. This group meets each week in a classroom in the gym, first door on the left.

Beth Moore Bible Study

The Beth Moore Bible study began Sunday, January 16, with seven present. The study will last 11 weeks. It is not too late to begin "BREAKING FREE" from any of the things that keep us from our optimal relationship with God. Join us this Sunday at a special time of 4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Our regular time for all of the other sessions will be 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Open Gym Fun Night for Kids!



Kids are invited to an Open Gym Fun Night with basketball, board games, Wii tournaments, lawn games, food, and new faces from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21, at the Mullins United Methodist Church Gym. Bring a dollar for each slice of pizza you want, and we'll provide the drinks and snacks! You DO have an admission cost of ONE FRIEND!

New Baby!

Congratulations to Steve and Julie Tolbert on the birth of their daughter, Makayla Rose, on Friday, January 14, 2011. Makayla weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Big brothers Caleb and Dylan and big sister Jasmine welcomed Makayla home. Mother and baby are doing great!

King Cake devoured at *The Connection*.

Hmm...what's "King Cake"?

Oh.... It celebrates Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, right?
(nope)

Ok.. well.. King Cake... we're in Memphis... Ahh! It's for Elvis Presley's birthday, right? (um... nope again)

On Sunday afternoon, January 16, a group of Mullins elementary and middle school students encountered and conquered their first King Cake, which had been imported to Memphis from a city further south, one that also lies



along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi. Director of Music Ministries and New Orleans' son, Bryan Dunn, bravely crossed state lines with the King Cake, determined to introduce this delicious Epiphany tradition to Mullins' young people. Rev. Scottie Brafford shared in the liturgical teaching moment, and James Alston assisted with color (purple, green, and gold, to be specific). As we learned and munched, we found that our King Cake did contain a baby (carefully rescued by Emma Dunigan), and we look forward to seeing what liturgically-colored snack she will share with us next week, as we continue to celebrate the season from Epiphany to Lent.

If you missed last week—well, we can't promise another King Cake—however, we **do** promise that our celebration will continue. Be there from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the gym.

AND this Sunday, January 23, we'll be offering pizza. Bring \$1 for each slice.

Hmm . . . I wonder if pizza comes in purple, green and gold . . . ?

Flower Calendar for 2011

Beautiful flowers on the Chancel each Sunday greatly enhance our worship experience. Please consider signing up for a date or two on our Flower Calendar for this year. The cost is only \$30 per arrangement—quite a bargain!

The calendar is posted outside the church office for your convenience. You may also call the church office at 685-8253, and we will be glad to assist you.

Remember, Chancel Flowers are not a budgeted item—if no one signs up, we won't have flowers for that Sunday. At the present time, only a few dates have been taken—please sign up soon!

Birthday Calendar

By popular demand, we plan to start printing the Birthday/Anniversary Calendars again and making this information available to the congregation each month. Please take a few minutes to contact the church office with the birthdays and anniversaries of your family. If you do not call the office with this information, you run the risk of your church family forgetting to say "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Anniversary" to you on your special day. Also, help us keep our records up to date by notifying the church office of changes in your address, phone number, and email address. Thanks for your help in these important matters!

Members in Service for January 23:

Liturgist: Cyndi Watkins

Ushers and Greeters: Tom Taylor
(Head Usher), Gene Hill, Millie Hill, Don Mayhan, Linda Mayhan, Marcia Taylor

Children's Church: April Riley

Children's Time: Rachael Scarbrough

Chancel Flowers

are being placed to the glory of God

. . . in loving memory of Dorothy Shores Stalcup by Carol and Charles Griffin III.

The Worship Committee

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



The Menu for January 26:

Spaghetti
Italian Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert

*Adults-\$6, Children 12 and under-\$4,
Family Max-\$23*

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.

A Modest Proposal:

The Sojourners Community Civility Covenant Petition Text

The following is a portion of a Civility Covenant offered by the Sojourner's Community. We may also want to remember that in the bitter debates over the U.S. Constitution, the Framers of the Constitution urged that people on both sides stay away from assuming or attributing to others, interests and motives they could not know. Such advice is still worth our consideration.

"How good and pleasant it is when the people of God live together in unity." -Psalm 133:1



The church in the United States can offer a message of hope and reconciliation to a nation that is deeply divided by political and cultural differences. Too often, however, we have reflected the political divisions of our culture rather than the unity we have in the body of Christ. We come together to urge those who claim the name of Christ to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

1) We commit that our dialogue with each other will reflect the spirit of the Scriptures, where our posture toward each other is to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).

2) We believe that each of us, and our fellow human beings, are created in the image of God. The respect we owe to God should be reflected in the honor and respect we show to each other in our common humanity, particularly in how we speak to each other. "With the tongue we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God....this ought not to be so" (James 3:9,10).

3) We pledge that when we disagree, we will do so respectfully, without falsely impugning the other's motives, attacking the other's character, or questioning the other's faith, and recognizing in humility that in our limited, human opinions, "we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror" (1 Corinthians 13:12). We will therefore "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

4) We will ever be mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreements, being neither arrogant nor boastful in our beliefs: "Before destruction one's heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor" (Proverbs 18:12).

5) We recognize that we cannot function together as citizens of the same community, whether local or national, unless we are mindful of how we treat each other in pursuit of the common good in the common life we share together. Each of us must therefore "put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body" (Ephesians 4:25).



6) We commit to pray for our political leaders - those with whom we may agree, as well as those with whom we may disagree. "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made - for kings and all who are in high positions" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

7) We believe that it is more difficult to hate others, even our adversaries and our enemies, when we are praying for them. We commit to pray for each other, those with whom we agree and those with whom we may disagree, so that together we may strive to be faithful witnesses to our Lord, who prayed "that they may be one" (John 17:22).

We will strive to create in our congregations safe and sacred spaces for common prayer and community discussion as we come together to seek God's will for our nation and our world.

--Jim Wallis

President and CEO of Sojourners

Ministerial Education Fund

The **Ministerial Education Fund** is the church's affirmation that we continue to share the responsibility for education of our clergy. It is one of the seven apportioned funds that enables United Methodists to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone. Through the MEF and other funds, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work.

Our seminary students need the support of their annual conference, congregation, and the MEF, which is a critical piece of the circle of support for those on the path to ordained ministry.

For most of our seminaries, MEF support represents between 12 percent and 20 percent of their annual budget - a big piece of keeping tuition and other costs lower for the clergy we need.



All of our 13 seminaries make scholarships available to qualified United Methodist students, and GBHEM has endowed a **Special Seminary Scholarship Fund** to further increase support for educating clergy. These funds are in addition to money students receive from annual conference MEF dollars. *Twenty-five percent of MEF apportioned dollars are retained in annual conferences.*

As Myron McCoy, president of Saint Paul School of Theology, has said so well: "MEF dollars are critically important to the life and mission of Saint Paul. The church's MEF disbursement to us accounts for approximately 20 percent of our educational budget. The MEF dollars given to Saint Paul are a great investment for the UMC's present and future as roughly 80 percent of our graduates are directly involved in ministry leadership in the local church."

Our 13 United Methodist theological schools can, with our financial support, respond to the immediate and future needs of the church in terms of curriculum, focus, and special programs.

Amee Miller, a student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, recently wrote the following thank-you letter:

"Your contribution to Garrett-Evangelical affirms your commitment to equipping our churches with well-educated leaders. To be perfectly honest, I had no idea how much I needed to learn until I got here and got started. I now see more than ever how

crucial our seminaries are to the growth and development of the Church," she wrote.

To learn more about the fund, visit the [UMC Giving site for the Ministerial Education Fund](#).

Asbury District Lay Leadership Training

Sunday, February 20, 2011

2:30–4:30 P.M.

Memphis First United Methodist Church

Due to the change in dates & facilitators availability please note the new sessions. More details will be available soon.

- **S/PPRC Chairs & members**
- **Church Business** (Finance Chairs, Treasurers, & Admin. Staff involved in finances)
- **Safe Sanctuaries** (Anyone participating or interested in participating with children & youth in the local church, District or Conference. If your local congregation has not provided this training we highly recommend this session.)
- **Lay Leaders**
- **Men's Ministry** (UMM, Men's Clubs, & Men's ministries)
- **Christian/Spiritual Formation** (Spiritual Formation Chair, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Facilitators, Covenant Discipleship, Prayer Coordinators, and individuals interested.)(Rev. Scottie Brafford will lead this group.)

Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 13, for the annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. The price of admission is a canned good(s) that will be donated to the Scouting for Food campaign. Enjoy a delicious breakfast with time for fellowship among family and friends, as well as the scouts and leaders of Troop 75.

Thank You

Geraldine Finley would like to thank the anonymous donor who placed chancel flowers in her honor last week. That was so thoughtful!

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel
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Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford
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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
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Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaronf@bellsouth.net

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell

Prayers for Memphis

A non-denominational group meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month (except December) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Wilson Chapel of Christ United Methodist Church to pray for our city. If you are interested in joining this group, call Gail Duron at 756-4425 or email her at blessyall@aol.com.

OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

Sunday:

8:45 Service 20
Sunday School..... 54
10:50 Worship Service 112

This Week at Mullins:

Sunday, January 23

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. *The Connection*—Friends, Family, and Fellowship
- 4:00 p.m. Youth
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 24

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym
- 6:15 p.m. Wind Ensemble—NOTE THE CHANGE IN NAME!
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts—Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee—Room 212

Tuesday, January 25

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Bridge Group—Lamplighter/Friendship Room
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 26

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast (All Men Welcome)—Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs
- 6:30 p.m. Program
- 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 27

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Parlor

Friday, January 28

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Craft Night—Fellowship Hall—see page 2

Saturday, January 29

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events:

Monday, January 31

- 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council—Chapel

Sunday, February 6

- 12:00 noon Crossroads Fundraiser

Sunday, February 13

- 8:00 a.m. Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast—see page 5