



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 26, 2011



Sunday Morning Worship Service
January 30, 2011

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

Scripture: Micah 6: 1 - 8; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matt. 5: 1-12

Sermon: “CHUTES AND LADDERS”

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

Institutions play a vital role in society. When institutions are healthy, we all benefit. The United Methodist Church began as a movement, became a society and crystallized into a religious institution. There we find some of the roots of some of the significant issues that churches all across Europe and America must face today.

Institutions, by their very nature, are slow to change, slow to respond to changes in the culture and usually better at helping people fit into the institutions patterns than adapting to new needs of people. The book Who Says Elephants Can't Dance, is the story of IBM's turnaround from an inflexible institution to a responsive one. I read the book, in large part, because of the title. Nothing is so silly (with all respect to Disney's Dumbo) as the idea that an elephant can fly. But they can. And institutions can become responsive, open and more concerned with helping people grow into their best possible self, than trying to shape people into pre-set figures. This brings us to church.

We have all heard the statement “I am spiritual but not religious.” Sometimes folks in our congregation make that statement. The words can, and do, mean many different things. What I find to be the case most, is that the claim to be spiritual but not religious, contains a belief that the church as an institution is not organized to welcome folks as they are and where they are on their spiritual journey, to resource them and encourage them. Instead, the spiritual but not religious folks see the church again as an institution – as more interested in making the person look and act like all the generations that have come before them. Churches often will have adult Sunday School at a time that works well

for older retired people but does not work quite as well for families with young children. We all know of churches that make volunteering difficult for people who work evenings, have young children, and so on. We also know why this is so. Institutions tend to serve the interests of people already on the inside. There are other ways of being an institution, though. Consider the history of the hymn, “Are Ye Able”. Written for a service in 1926, the hymn energized the young generation of Methodists all across America. The challenge, the hope and the promise were, and still are, stirring. My point is that the hymn was new. The music was new. The words were unfamiliar. The institutional church, though, recognized that new is necessary. New can meet present conditions. New can speak to new people. New is about serving not my needs, not the interests of those of us already in the community. New recognized that Jesus wants us to reach out, engage and find those not yet here.



Institutions that survive and grow are those that understand and act on the understanding that they will never stay the same. They keep enough of what attracted the present members to meet their needs. They also add enough of the new to meet the needs of those not yet a part of the group. Church as an institution changes whether we want it to or not. A faithful response is to seek the direction God would have us go, into the new, and go that way. Our spirits will still be fed and we will be the longed for oasis of both spirituality and religion for others.

Grace for the Way

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

Larry Clayton, and George Sibley, at home

Please pray for **Maureen Watkins**, Cyndi Watkins' mom, who will have surgery Jan. 31

Our Sympathy

...to Amanda Rigg and family in the loss of her mother, Rebecca Gatlin



Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

ENDOWMENT

In memory of **Tom & Kay Bell** by Nancy & Tom Bell, Jr., Michael, Rachael & Paul

MUSIC

In memory of **Doris Key** by Helen Addington



Bread Ministry

Our bread supply needs replenishing so that we can welcome our first-time visitors with a loaf of homemade bread. Please bake a few loaves of your favorite bread, double wrap for freezing and bring them to the church. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

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.



February Means UMNC Food Pantry!

Each February Mullins UMC members help our community by collecting canned goods and non-perishable items for the Food Pantry at United Methodist Neighborhood Centers. Though we collect food all year long, February is the month we place a special emphasis on helping restock Food Pantry shelves. Please bring donated items all during the month and place in the containers located by the church office and by the ramp leading to Fellowship Hall. Your donations will make a difference in our fight against hunger in the Memphis community.

News From *THE CONNECTION*, Sundays 4 - 6 p.m.

Adults: The Beth Moore study entitled *Breaking Free* is off to a great start. Thanks to Mullins' member, Brenda Carson for offering leadership. This group meets from 4–6 p.m. in Room 212 in the Education Building. It's not too late to join this group! Contact Brenda, or show up on Sunday afternoon.

Elementary Children: Music and choir at 4 p.m. with Bryan Dunn, followed by snack. Recreation in the gym from 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth: Recreation in the gym, followed by snack. Bible lesson and activities based on Sunday morning's scripture readings from 4:45 - 6:00, led by James Alston.

Snacks? We're celebrating the season between Epiphany and Lent with food – (yes!) – AND by crowning a king/queen each night. You've just gotta be there!

CALENDAR NOTE. . .The Connection programs for children and youth will NOT met on Sunday, February 6th. We encourage families to gather together for Super Bowl festivities.

NEW! 2nd Sunday Pizza Night. Bring \$1/slice on Sunday, February 13th.

Find Your Ministry: Make a Difference

Two Mullins volunteers are creating a new network of congregational care at Mullins through their weekly contribution of time and talent. **Suzanne Wyrick** enters our weekly worship attendance into the church computer database, and then creates a list of those who have been absent from worship for three consecutive Sundays. Receiving this information, **Norm Kercher** makes phone calls to check up on our friends who've been absent. Sometimes he finds that folks haven't signed the Registration of Attendance pads (oops!), and sometimes he finds folks who need a listening ear, and always he's finding folks who appreciate his thoughtfulness. Our thanks to both Suzanne and Norm, two Mullins members who have found their ministry and are making a difference.

What about you? If you've 'found your ministry' – whether inside Mullins or beyond our doors – we'd love to share your witness. Contact Rev. Scottie Brafford, at Scottie@mullinsumc.org.

A SAVE-THE-DATE FOR ALL WHO ARE 20' — 30' SOMETHING

If the candles on your cake total between 20 and 30, join us for brunch on Sunday, February 20th. It'll be a "meet & greet" and we'll also explore possibilities for small groups and for regular fellowship. Brunch will be offered in the church Parlor, located in the Fisher Wing near the Chapel, beginning at 9:45 a.m. Watch for additional information, or contact Rachael Scarbrough, Scottie Brafford or Brad Gabriel.

DONATIONS FOR THE MID-SOUTH FOOD BANK

During the month of February, Barbara and Thomas Southwell are collecting canned goods and non-perishable items to be donated to the Mid-South Food Bank. If you would like to contribute, please bring canned goods, etc. to church on Sundays during February and given them to Barbara following the 10:50 worship service, or take them to their home at 4980 Robindale (2 blocks north of the church, off Mendenhall). Main items requested by the Food Bank are canned meats (small hams, tuna, Spam, Vienna Sausage, chili, canned Ravioli, etc.), soup (highly requested by agencies but there's never enough), and peanut butter (high in protein and great for snacks and sandwiches. From a single can or package, to a sack full or a box full — every bit helps!

GET ON BOARD! BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer training for Baptist Trinity Hospice will be held Saturday, February 12, 8:30 - 5:00 p.m., 6141 Walnut Grove Road. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please call Sandra Livesay at 767-6767. Evening and special shifts available.

REVEREND TINA MORRISON TO PREACH AT MULLINS FEBRUARY 6

First UMC, Memphis, is celebrating its 185th birthday, Sunday, February 6. They have invited Pastor Gabriel (who served First UMC for seven years) back to deliver the sermon that morning. In his place at Mullins UMC, we will welcome the Reverend Trina Morrison, Executive Director of Hannah's Hope Adoption Agency. Be sure to greet Reverend Morrison with Mullins' renowned hospitality.

Mullins Mid-Week

"O Come Let Us Adore Him!", an interactive exploration of what we do in worship and why, continues through February as our after-dinner program for adults. So far, we've focused on where we are in the great yearly cycle of the church calendar, called the *liturgical year*. Coming up, we'll explore the structure and elements of Sunday worship, and delve into the ways we observe baptism and communion. Dinner is available for \$6, beginning at 5:45. Following our time of community prayer, the Mid-Week program begins at 6:30.

Cry Out to God for Our City!

Join a non-denominational, multi-racial, cross-generational group of Christians that meets every month to pray for Memphis. We meet in the Wilson Chapel of Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Ave., in Memphis, every 4th Wednesday (except December) from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Gail Duron at 756-4425 or at bleessyall@aol.com

Members in Service for January 30:

Liturgist: Rachael Scarbrough

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

Children's Church: Margaret Carbaugh

Children's Time: Diane Rose

Chancel Flowers

are being placed to the glory of God

... in honor of Helen Addington, with gratitude for all she does as Communion Steward, by the Worship 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.



The Menu for February 2:

Turkey
Dressing
Peas
Creamed Potatoes
Cranberry Salad
Bread
Dessert

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

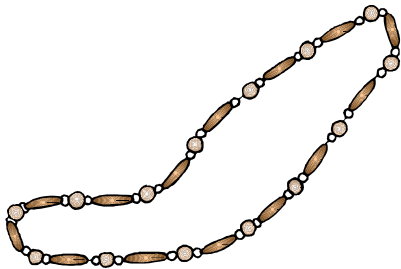
Dinner is held on Wednesday nights at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a brief prayer service and an interesting program. Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy the fellowship. Your first dinner is complimentary!

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.



2nd Annual Souper Bowl Luncheon

The Crossroads Sunday School Class is hosting the 2nd annual Souper Bowl Soup & Sandwich Luncheon on February 6, 2011. You are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:50 worship service. You may eat in Fellowship Hall or get your soup and sandwich to go. All proceeds will benefit Missions.



Maanza a Leza Does Jewelry Repair

Maanza a Leza is now accepting work repairing your costume jewelry. Please give any jewelry in need of repair to Brenda Carson, Terrye Mastin or Debi Gray. The cost of repairs will be minimal (if the repairs are ones that Maanza a Leza can make).

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. All are welcome. New Directions meets in Room 117 each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

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

Lamplighter/Friendship Class welcomes everyone to their excellent weekly Bible study. Currently, their focus is on "Assuring Hope", exploring texts from Isaiah. Soon they'll be studying the Gospel of Mark. They meet in the

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. Many, many dates are available.

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.



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!

This Week at Mullins:

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel
brad@mullinsumc.org

Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford
scottie@mullinsumc.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn
bryan@mullinsumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries:

April Riley
april@mullinsumc.org

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston
kimberly@mullinsumc.org

Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaronf@bellsouth.net

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell



OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

Sunday:

8:45 Service.....	24
Sunday School	61
10:50 Worship Service.....	127
Prayer Breakfast.....	4
Prayer Service	59

Sunday, January 30

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 31

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym
6:15 p.m. Wind Ensemble
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts - FH
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH
7:00 p.m. Administrative Council - Chapel

Tuesday, February 1

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 2

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, February 3

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

Friday, February 4

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

Saturday, February 5

11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Feb. 6

12:00 Noon Souper Bowl Lunch - FH

Thursday, Feb. 10

6:30 p.m. Trustees Mtg. - 117

Sunday, February 13

8:00 a.m. Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast