

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, February 23, 2011



Sunday Morning Worship Service
February 27, 2011

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

Scripture: Matthew 6:24 – 34
Sermon: “Hobbes, Smith, Marx, and Jesus”



February is Food Pantry Month at Mullins!



Please bring canned goods and non-perishable items during the remainder of February for the Food Pantry at United Methodist Neighborhood Centers. Though we collect food all year long, in February we place a special emphasis on helping restock Food

Pantry shelves, which are severely depleted after the holidays. Place your donations in the containers by the church office and by the ramp leading to Fellowship Hall. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Two Invitations from the United Methodist Women

1. On Tuesday, March 1, Mullins UMW will hold their General Meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Our guest speaker is Paul Burns from the Wesley Senior Living Services. If you have a family

member or neighbor who wants to stay in his or her home and not enter alternative housing, you will want to come learn what Wesley Senior Living has to offer to be able to stay in your home.

Lunch will be served after the meeting. Lunch cost is \$3 per person. If you are not a UMW member, please call the church office to make a lunch reservation by Monday, February 28.

2. We will host an Asbury District Mission Study on Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast snacks will be served during registration at 9 a.m. Betty Jo Masters will lead a mission study entitled “The Love of God, John’s Letters.” Betty Jo emits her contagious love of God and is a wonderful speaker. All women of Mullins are encouraged to join us, no reservation required.

The study will break for lunch, participants are asked to bring a sandwich. Our Unit will furnish desserts and beverages. Please come!



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:

Marguerite Cooper, Baptist Rehab, Room 236

Lynn Sweatt, The Village at Germantown Rehab

Our Sympathy, love, and prayers go out to:

... **Harold and Dottie Smith**, in the loss of his sister, **Nancy Smith**.



Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET

In memory of **Bob Rose** by Angeline F. Kearns, Carol Ann Moreland, Bill and Betty Pickel, Ann Smith, Taylor and Mary Beth Richardson, Ruth and Charlie Montague, and Mary and Steve Palmer

In memory of *Clifton Watson* by Anita Moore

In memory of *Carol Wilson* by Carol Ann Moreland

In memory of *Tom Bell, Sr.* by Bill and Betty Pickel, and Ann Smith



Transportation Needs?

If you need a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evening, please call the church office, 685-8253.

Children's Ministry

We had a fun time this past Saturday at "Focus on the Arts." The original number of registered children was 7, but we ended up with 18! There were even a few new faces, which is so exciting. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.

I have schedule a parent meeting for Sunday, March 6, in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:50 worship service. It doesn't have to be long, and I know you have family and lunch plans and Sunday naps to get to! I would just like to quickly go over plans for VBS, our upcoming field trip to the children's museum, changes in Sunday evening programming, spring events, etc. Please respond whether or not you can attend, or even if a later afternoon meeting would work better for you. Thanks!

Sidenote: Our SPROUTS shirts have been ordered for several weeks and were supposed to take only three weeks to be delivered. I hope to have the shirts to the children in March, and I apologize for the slow process getting us there.

April Riley
Children's Director

Thanks from Troop 75

The scouts, leaders, and families of Troop 75 would like to thank you for your participation in the Annual Pancake Breakfast this year. With your help, we were able to collect over 250 canned goods and \$135.00 in monetary donations for the Memphis Food Bank as part of the Scouting for Food Campaign. We also want to express our sincere gratitude for letting the Troop and Pack join in the worship service for Scout Sunday. It is always a joy to share fellowship and a worshipful experience with the church family that supports us in so many ways throughout the year. Please accept our sincere gratitude for all that you do for Troop 75.

In reiterating the message of Luke Powers, who is the 2010 Scout of the Year, we invite any and all of you

to join us on Monday evenings in the gym for our regular Troop meetings. If any of you have a special vocation that you may be willing to teach the scouts as it relates to an available merit badge, we welcome the opportunity to share in your expertise. Your presence and involvement with the Boy Scouts is a gift that will be welcomed with open arms.

Once again, we want to thank you, our Mullins Church Family.



New Adult Sunday School Option

On March 6 a new book study for adults will be starting at 9:40 a.m. Sunday (Sunday School Hour) in Room 209 (upstairs in the Education Building across from the Crossroads Sunday School Class). We will be looking at *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, by best-selling author Marcus Borg, Cyndi Watkins will be facilitating the study.

For those people who have asked, this book has ten chapters and is 291 pages long. Therefore, you can expect to read an average of 29 pages per week.

From Publishers Weekly

The title of this book comes from the author's experience of "unlearning" his literal reading of the Bible from childhood in favor of a "historical-metaphorical" reading derived from his 35 years of studying the Bible as an academic. Borg, an Episcopalian who teaches at Oregon State University, is a member of the Jesus Seminar, author of *The God We Never Knew* and the counterpoint to evangelical N.T. Wright in *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Views*. Borg offers a highly readable and succinct introduction to biblical criticism, outlining the kinds of cultural, theological and historical lenses through which people read the Bible and explaining how those readings affect their relation to God. The historical-metaphorical reading that Borg presents includes both the "historical illumination of a text in its ancient context" and a metaphorical approach that "enables us to see and affirm meanings that go beyond the particularity of what the texts meant in their ancient setting." He applies this approach to the Bible in sections, wending his way from the creation stories to Revelation even as he advocates a journey from "precritical naivete" (the acceptance that the Bible is literally true) through "critical thinking" to "postcritical naivete" (accepting again that the Bible is true even if that truth does not depend upon factuality). The book is copiously footnoted without being in the least stodgy, and is open about Borg's own spiritual journey without being didactic or disrespectful of the tradition he has left.

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Please let her know by Wednesday, March 2, if she should get you a book. You can call her at 756-5985 or email her at tinnalee@bellsouth.net. If you forget to tell Cyndi to get you a book and you are still interested in the study, please join us anyway. Cyndi is planning on ordering more books than there are reservations.

Concord Academy Fundraiser

Anyone interested in attending the March 5 Bluegrass & Barbecue fundraiser for our own Concord Academy, contact Rita Hilgenhold or Linda Morris at (901) 291-2314. If we have enough, we could reserve a table or join a table with some of the students' parents.

Members in Service for February 27:

Liturgist: Cyndi Watkins

Ushers and Greeters: Phillip Wilcox (Head Usher), Ginny Wilcox, Jesse Wilcox, Betty Williams, David Williams, Diana Wright, Joe Wyrick

Children's Church: Melissa Johnson

Children's Message: Tammy Williamson

Chancel Flowers

are being given to the glory of God

...in loving memory of Fran and Gene Anderson by Sandy and Tommy Scruggs

Prepare for Sunday Worship

... by reading and praying these scripture passages. You'll hear them again on Sunday morning. Your preparation will make a difference to your experience of worship...

Isaiah 49:8 - 16a

Psalms 131

I Corinthians 4:1 - 5

Matthew 6:24 - 34

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 March 2:

Pork Loin

Sweet Potato Patties

Green Beans

Salad Bar

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!

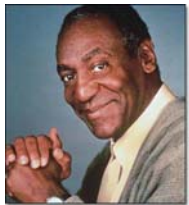
If you're not already on the list, please call the church office to let us know you're coming so we'll be sure to have plenty of food.

March Birthdays

Here is a list of Mullins members with birthdays in March. If you know of someone who is not on this list and who should be, have that person call the church office. We want to celebrate EVERYBODY!

<u>Name</u>	<u>March:</u>		
Bill Pickel	1	Sue Hausmann	10
Ed Mounger	2	Brent Milton	10
Jesse Wilcox	2	Barbara Newman.....	12
Loda Herring.....	2	Jennifer Mastin	12
Paula McGoldrick	4	Colbey Lambeth	14
Diana Wright.....	4	Wayne Carson	14
David Weaver	5	Corey Carmichael.....	15
Chris Yates.....	5	Addison Brown	15
Stephen Malone.....	7	Linda Mayhan	16
Minette Harrison	8	Steven Sweatt.....	16
Molly Williams.....	9	Dan Hiatt	18
Carol Culpepper	10	Jay Phipps	19
		Larry Clayton.....	20
		Cecil Harris.....	20
		Agnes Sims	23
		Vernon Smith.....	24
		Jay Parker	25
		Steve Brown.....	25
		Tabitha Smith	26
		Joyce Campbell.....	27
		Patricia Cooper	27
		Camilla Price.....	27
		Greg Forsyth	28

Bill Cosby Benefit for Lambuth



General Admission tickets (\$50 each) and a few tables remain for the April 5 performance by Bill Cosby that will benefit Lambuth University. The show will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Carl Perkins Civic

Center in Jackson. For tickets call the Civic Center Box Office at 731-425-8587. For tables and sponsorships, call 731-425-3259, or email ellisr@lambuth.edu.

Mullins Mid-Week

“O Come Let Us Adore Him!”, an interactive exploration of what we do in worship and why, continues through March 9 as our after-dinner program for adults. Dinner is available for \$6, beginning at 5:45. Following our time of community prayer, the Mid-Week program begins at 6:30.

Coming up: March 2Little Bit of Mardi Gras!
March 9.....Ash Wednesday

Need a Creative Outlet?

We are looking for someone interested in a “Graphic Arts Ministry” for such things as banners, Sunday bulletins power point projection, etc. If you are interested, contact Scottie Brafford through the church office.

Radical Hospitality

We’d like to recognize Norm Kercher for his huge efforts in contacting every single member who misses three Sundays or more. Every single week, Norm gets on the phone and tells people that Mullins misses them. How sweet is that? What a ministry!

Thank you, Norm for reaching out to others. Your church loves you and appreciates your gentle spirit and generosity.



Lay Speaking Ministries



Lay Speakers witness to the Christian faith by Caring, Leading and Communicating. Brochures for Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking courses are available on the table in the Hall of the Apostles and in the church office. The dates for both classes are March 3rd, and March 5th, at Ellendale UMC. If you are interested in becoming a lay speaker, please pick up a brochure. For additional information about Lay Speaking, please chat with Brad or one of the Mullins Lay Speakers.

“Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a Sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you’ll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.” I Peter 2:5 (*The Message*)

Pastors' Corner,

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

Don't you love having choices? Henry Ford said that people could own any style of car as long as it was a model T and any color as long as it was black. Aren't you glad that we are no longer there? Beginning on Sunday, March 6, we'll experience changes in the way we celebrate Holy Communion. In this article, we'll consider *what* will change (and what will not) and *why* these changes are occurring, so that we enter these changes with awareness and understanding. These changes have been reviewed with our Worship Committee Chair, Linda Morris.

In our Wednesday Mid-Week programs during January and February, we've been learning and reflecting about worship. We've explored what we do and why, and the conversations have been rich. Last Wednesday we looked at some of the ways we have understood Holy Communion through time, as a way of realizing how those influences and teachings are present for us today. This week, we'll consider the words AND the actions that combine to create our experience of Holy Communion, and we'll review together the changes that will begin on March 6.

First – what will NOT change? Our current practice of receiving communion with pre-cut cubes of bread and with small individual cups will NOT change. This method of receiving communion, familiar to the Mullins' congregation, will continue to be offered each week and will be offered at both worship services.

What will change? Each week and at the 10:50 service, alongside this familiar way of receiving the elements, we will also offer another way of receiving the elements, called intinction. Intinction is a method of receiving communion using an intact loaf of bread, or several rounds of pita bread, and a single chalice of juice. The Communion Server tears a piece of bread from the loaf and hands the piece to the recipient, who then dips the bread into the juice, allowing both the bread and the juice to be received together.

What else will change? We will experience a more full liturgy of communion, by bringing the bread and wine

for intinction forward to the altar at the same time that we bring forward our financial offerings. This will remind us that our communion elements – the bread and juice – are created through the gifts of God and through the work of hands... just as our financial gifts are created through the gifts of God and through the work of our hands. Both are blessings we've received from the Creator, are blessings that we've nurtured in faithful stewardship, and now offer back to the Creator.

The path that we walk to and from the table, and our pattern of kneeling for prayer, will also change. We will come forward along the side aisles to receive. Four communion servers will be standing on each side of the sanctuary outside of the chancel rail. One server will hold a tray of individual cups, another server will hold a tray of

pre-cubed bread; one server will hold a single chalice of juice, another will hold a loaf of bread. As you come forward up the side aisle, you will indicate your preference by standing in front of the persons who are offering the elements in the way you prefer to receive. After receiving the elements, you are invited to kneel at the altar for silent prayer and then to return to your seat by the center aisle when you feel ready to do so.

What else will change? In accordance with best practices for cleanliness given to United Methodist Churches from our General Board of Discipleship, you will also see those who will handle and tear the whole

bread wash and dry their hands before they begin serving. Their hands will be the only ones to touch the bread before it is placed into your hand.

Other things to watch for – or to *listen* for? We will return to our previous practice of singing our communion responses, instead of speaking them. And, as we are receiving the elements sometimes the choir will offer an anthem, and sometimes they'll sing hymns we know. Join the music. Sing with words. Hum the tunes.

As always, we will receive an offering that may be left at the chancel rail. This communion offering is always used to 'extend the table' of Christ – meaning – it is always given for mission and outreach. Our regular financial offering pays the utility bill; our communion offering takes God's light into situations of darkness in the world.



To review: Individual cups and pre-cut cubes of bread are present for all who want it that way. Kneeling for prayer after receiving is encouraged. One loaf with portions torn off and offered to worshippers for intinction will be available.

Now, *why* are these changes being made?

This Wednesday night, we learned that the liturgy of Holy Communion has a four-fold pattern that is created by the scriptures. There are words AND actions in the liturgy that *take, bless, break, and give*. By expanding our liturgy, we'll experience a more complete pattern of this holy meal with Christ. By offering the experience of whole bread that is broken, yet is also one loaf, we'll experience a richer visual message of communion. Through the action of intinction (dipping the bread into the juice) and then tasting a larger portion of bread, we 'taste and see' the goodness of God in a different way. We seek to deepen the mystery of God's presence with us at the table.

Also, these changes are being made in order to bring us closer to the manner in which communion is received when we have 'family reunions' of Methodists. For whenever laity and clergy Methodists gather – at Annual Conferences around the US, or at clergy meetings, or at Emmaus gatherings, or at our General Conferences held every four years – whenever the 'family' gathers, intinction is the method by which communion is offered. Even when thousands of people gather and communion is celebrated each day for more than a week, intinction is always the method of service... and reports of illnesses as a result of intinction simply don't occur. This is the

normative method of receiving the elements for 'the Methodist family' when it gathers.

Finally, these changes are being made in faithfulness to our desire to grow Mullins in spiritual depth and in membership. For many people, intinction offers a new window into the mystery of Christ's presence at the table. And, research and studies consistently indicate that younger people prefer receiving communion by intinction. Indeed, the Wesleyan revival in the 1700's was as much a Eucharistic revival as it was a preaching revival. A more rich celebration of communion just might change the world, again.

Initially, some of our *Companions in Christ* graduates will assist as our communion servers at 10:50. In the future, we'll offer Eucharistic Ministry training to any who wish to serve communion during worship and/or to those who are homebound. If you wish to be notified of the training, contact Dr. Gabriel or Rev. Brafford to express your interest.

We invite your prayers for this new endeavor. It's not a change we make lightly, and there are sure to be rough edges as we move toward becoming comfortable with these new patterns. It is, however, a change that feels right for us at this time. "Make (these elements) be for us the body and blood of Christ" that we may grow in completeness, mature into Christ's likeness, and transform the world. Amen.

Grace for the Way,

Brad Gabriel and Scottie Brafford

Follow-up on the 20's-30's Brunch

On Sunday morning, February 20, a group of fifteen young adults came together to enjoy brunch and laughter in the Mullins parlor. Nametags helped smooth the introductions, as energizing group dynamics kicked into high gear. By the end of the gathering, a room-full of new friends was busily making plans for next Sunday while polishing off the remaining breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, muffins, orange juice, and coffee – a fabulous assortment of goodies prepared by members of the Nurture Work Area, Rachael Scarbrough and Julia Howell.

IF YOU MISSED IT, here's the deal: The Young Adult Group will meet Sunday mornings, 9:45 in the Mullins parlor. Rachael Scarbrough is establishing a Google-group so that conversation about curriculum and activities can get underway. We'll get info onto the church website ASAP.

Tremendous thanks to the Nurture Work Area and to Rachael Scarbrough for getting this group gathered and launched. Thanks also to Julia Howell and Ritter Arnold for their support, presence, and blessing at the beginning of this journey. Please hold this emerging group in your prayers, as they come together to celebrate and share their lives with God and with one another.

Upper Room

March/April issues of *Upper Room* are now available outside the Sanctuary. The cost is \$1.00 each. Don't miss out on this great devotional material!

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 Youth Ministries:

Christian Sarran
christian@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	21
Sunday School.....	(No Count)
10:50 Worship Service	111
Prayer Breakfast	6
Mullins Mid-Week.....	61

Sunday, February 27

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, February 28

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts—Gym

Tuesday, March 1

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
10:30 a.m. United Methodist Women General Meeting—Chapel—see p. 1
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 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, March 3

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Parlor
6:15 p.m. Wind Ensemble

Friday, March 4

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym
3:30 p.m. St. Agnes Students—Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 5

8:00 a.m. Beethoven Club Music Auditions

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, March 9

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, March 12

9:00 a.m. UMW District Mission Study—Fellowship Hall—see page 1

Monday, March 14

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting—Room 212

Monday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 27

12:00 p.m. Spring Pot Luck