

# Mullins Messenger

A Publication of  
Mullins United Methodist Church  
4 North Mendenhall Road  
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[www.MullinsUMC.org](http://www.MullinsUMC.org)

“A Church Alive and Serving Christ”

*This Issue Published as of Wednesday, May 25, 2011*

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

May 29, 2011

Scripture: Galatians 5:22–23; Colossians 3:12–13; John 14:15–21  
Sermon: “The Fruit of the Spirit—Patience: Love Lasting”

June 5, 2011

Scripture: Galatians 5:22–23  
Sermon: “The Fruit of the Spirit—\_\_\_\_\_”



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

From another graduation theme, let me share this quotation from the beloved Dr. Seuss. *"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."* Graduates are encouraged to take the dare, change the world and make this a better place for all of us. Those are good challenges. They apply to local churches as well. The following is from Dr. Don Nations, a church consultant.



*"I recently returned from a twelve day trip working with pastors, laity and Cabinet members in three annual conferences. Three things stick out as I reflect on those conversations:*

*"There are a lot of people doing a lot of great things and working very hard in our churches. We are blessed to have them and we need to pray that their numbers are multiplied.*

*"Almost everyone says 'we want to grow' but that goal remains elusive. We almost always underestimate the amount of change that will be required to get the results we want. If we really want to reach new people with the life-changing message of Jesus we are going to have to change more than we think.*

*"Lasting change comes as the result of a sustained effort focused on a few key things. Churches do not change because the people read a book, attend a single workshop, have a Bible study or wish things were different. Instead, they change due to good leadership embracing a good process and maintaining good focus for a long time.*

*"I hear it all of the time – we just can't compete with the Baptist church for youth, they have a Family Life Center; we are too small to compete for people against the big churches*

*in town; we might as well not even try to start a contemporary service because the independent church down the road has all of the young families in town already. Here is the truth: your competition is not the church down the road!*

*"Most youth do not attend a church simply because it has a Family Life Center, most people do not attend a church simply because it is large and no church has 'every young family' in town attending it. In almost every community, every church could double in the next twelve months and there would still be plenty of people who were not attending church.*

*"Churches are not competing against other churches for new people. Instead, they are competing against all of the other things a person could do and all of the other things a person values. People have many options on Sunday morning – sleep in late, read the paper, play online games, participate in sports and recreation, have friends over for lunch, take a day trip, watch spiritual programming on TV or online, work, study for school, spend time with their family, etc. If you want to see the church grow, then you have to do something that will lead people to make the decision that going to church is one of their top priorities for a Sunday morning. What is it about your church that would lead someone to make that decision?"*

So, what positive statement about Mullins UMC you will share with someone this week? What positive deed will you do to better Mullins' place in the changing religious landscape of Memphis? I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you this Sunday.

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:

**Gerry Abazoris**, HealthSouth Rehab, Room 110B



## Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

### BUDGET

In honor of **Dr. and Mrs. Brad Gabriel** by Evelyn G. Goddard and Earl Griffin, family of John Griffin



## Upper Room

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

## Transportation Needs?

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

## PDO Needs Volunteers

Mullins Parents' Day Out needs volunteers to help with students in both PDO and "Boredom Busters," the elementary summer camp program. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Kimberly at 681-9217.

## A Special Invitation

What?	Meet the pastor and staff
Where?	Mullins United Methodist Church 4 N. Mendenhall (corner of Mendenhall and Walnut Grove)
Where?	The Potter Reception Room, by the sanctuary and Church Office
When?	Sunday, June 5, 2011 from 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Why?	To enjoy coffee, pastries, meet a delightful staff, and find out more about the Mullins community

## Letter from Our District Superintendent

My sources have discovered and provided this newsletter editor with a copy of some important correspondence written by the District Superintendent to our Pastor on May 19, 2011:

*Dear Brad,*

*The Bishop and Cabinet have projected your return to Mullins United Methodist Church for another Conference year. This letter is official notice of that projection.*

*I am pleased that you will remain in the Asbury District. As well, I am confident that you and your congregation will build on your past experiences together and have a good year in the ministry of our Lord.*

*If I can be of help to you in any way, please contact me.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rev. Sandra L. Leatherwood*

Congratulations, Mullins! We get to keep our Pastor for another year!

## Choir News



Have you seen what's changing here at Mullins—New music! New Worship Arts! New Spirit! New Sermon series! And many other new things!

The Chancel Choir is changing also—our song is the same, but our façade is about to undergo renovation. We're getting new choir robes, but we need your help to purchase the new robes (see illustration). The new contemporary robes are black with stand up collar and cuffed sleeves. They will have the UMC Cross and Flame logo on the left shoulder. In addition, the ensemble includes a full length reversible tunic that can be worn for special occasions or every Sunday.

If you want to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one, please send your check to Mullins UMC, music/choir robe fund. The cost of one ensemble (includes shipping costs) is \$100. However, any donation is greatly appreciated. We hope to debut the robes on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at the 9-11 tenth anniversary memorial concert.

*Sincerely,*

*The Mullins Chancel Choir*

# Joplin Tornado Hits UM Churches, Members

A UMNS Report

By Linda Bloom\*

3:00 P.M. EST May 23, 2011



Several United Methodist churches in Joplin, Mo., were scrambling to provide shelter Monday morning for church members and others whose homes were damaged by a tornado the day before.

At least two churches also suffered extensive damage. The Rev. Christopher Sloan, pastor of Christ's Community United Methodist Church, compared viewing the aftermath to looking at a "lunar landscape."

The devastation is so well defined, he added, that "when you get on a hill, you can see a path through the city."

Sloan also serves as a fire department chaplain and had helped set up an emergency medical services response center after the tornado struck.

His church, which had power but no water, was open as a shelter and was receiving supplies and volunteers. A disaster-response team from the Missouri Annual (regional) Conference is expected to use the church as its headquarters for tornado response, he said.

"We're finding out how many people in our congregations have lost their houses," he said.

Sloan confirmed that the sanctuary of another church, St. Paul's United Methodist, was destroyed by the tornado, although the rest of the structure remained standing. The conference also reported that St. James United Methodist Church was destroyed and the Southwest District office next to it damaged.

The Joplin Globe reported 89 deaths as a result of the tornado, which struck the city of 48,000 around 6 p.m. on May 22. A major hospital, St. John's Regional Medical Center, took a direct hit from the tornado and has since been vacated. Two firehouses were destroyed.

Members of a church youth group at Byers Avenue United Methodist Church, which had minor damage, rode out the tornado in a Sunday school room. "We sang church songs, we prayed ... we tried not to get scared," Ethan Hatfield, 16, told the Tulsa World.



At First United Methodist Church in Joplin, receptionist Sue Cowen spent Monday morning fielding calls of concern and inquiry from congregants, United Methodists from other parts of Missouri and even a few out-of-state churches.

The church — a 100-year-old stone building with a membership of 903 — was intact and open "to anyone who wants to get out of the rain," she said. "We have many members with no home, no nothing anymore."

Christ's Community, which has more than 1,100 members, is a large facility with about 30 classrooms and plenty of room for those seeking shelter. "We're just going to put people in classrooms," Sloan said.

Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase invited United Methodists "to respond prayerfully, courageously and generously" to the Joplin disaster. "Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who grieve the loss of loved ones and who have suffered the destruction of homes and businesses following Sunday's devastating tornado in Joplin," he said in a May 23 statement.

Continued on Page 4

## Members in Service for May 29:

**Liturgist:** Cyndi Watkins

**Ushers and Greeters:** Scott Campbell, (Head Usher), Tina Campbell, Kathryn Black, Carol Ann Moreland, Jackie Westergaard, Pete Westergaard

**Children's Church:** April Riley

**Children's Message:** April Riley

## Chancel Flowers

are being placed to the glory of God in celebration of their anniversary by Tommy and Sandy Scruggs.

## Gluten-Free!

Beginning June 5, gluten-free communion wafers will be available for those with special dietary needs. The gluten-free wafers will be in a bowl on the communion tray on first Sundays when we celebrate communion.

## 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 June 1:

Steak  
Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Fruit  
Dessert

## The Menu for June 8:

Turkey and Dressing  
Creamed Potatoes  
Peas  
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.

**(Continued from Page 3):  
More than Missouri**

The Rev. Tom Hazelwood, U.S. disaster response coordinator for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, said he expected he would be traveling to Joplin for an initial damage assessment. Hazelwood was to arrive in Missouri on May 23 for a previously scheduled meeting in Kansas City.



At least 14 of the denomination's annual conferences have been affected by tornados or storms this spring, he noted,

with the number of tornados in highly populated areas this year "more significant that we've had in a long time."

United Methodists are also responding to deadly tornadoes that touched down over the weekend in Kansas and Minnesota. The twisters left at least one person dead in northern Minneapolis and killed another in Reading, a town of about 250 people in eastern Kansas.

Winds ripped off the roof of Reading United Methodist Church, and the building may be a total loss. About 20 homes in the town were destroyed.

[Donations to help UMCOR respond to "Spring Storms 2011" can be made here.](#)

\*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/umcscribe>.

News media contact: Linda Bloom, New York, (646) 369-3759 or [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org).

If you are interested in putting together a Cleaning Bucket to help with the tornado- or flood-relief efforts, here is a link to that information: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/pdf%20files/cleaningbucketkit11.pdf>

**Change Making Change—An Update  
Area Executive Assistant to the Bishop**

People do ministry. Someone once pointed out that *administration* needs a part of *ministry* to serve the church well. In the Nashville Area (made up of the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences) one *ministry* position that requires *administration* is the Area Executive Assistant to the Bishop. The many demands on a connectional church call for ministers to be in administration. The ministry of this position is important in keeping United Methodist Churches in these two conferences connected to one another, the general church and the larger faith community. This ministry is the apportionment line item we are now funding.

**As of May 22, we have received \$231.21. This is over one half, 52.3%, of our total apportionment amount for this ministry of \$442.** We have one Sunday left in May. Let us meet this opportunity by May 29 and move forward.

**Eagle Scout Project**

FirstWorks Ministries is a non-denominational, faith-based, non-profit charity group that strives to meet the needs of the hungry, homeless, and displaced citizens in downtown Memphis. One area they specialize in is Children's Ministries which offers a sense of community for high-risk children and youth. A space that FirstWorks uses is the playground at Highland Heights UMC. Unfortunately, this playground has suffered the wear and tear of time. However, **YOU** can help to refurbish this playground with a small donation.

Daniel Gabriel, lifelong member of the United Methodist Church and youth-group member at Mullins UMC, is working on his Eagle Rank in the Boy Scouts of America. A vital part of his rank advancement is his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Drawing on his lifelong connection with the church and FirstWorks, Daniel is going to repair and refurbish a portion of the Highland Heights playground. He will be adding swings for the children, a swinging bench for adults, sanding and staining picnic tables, securing a slide to the ground, and mulching the playground. If you so desire, you can contribute to the completion of the project by "buying" a swing, a bench, or any other of the many materials needed. Just look at the table below, choose what you would like to donate, and send your donation to one of the addresses below the table.

Of course, the economy has everyone struggling. If you are unable to pay for an entire material feel free to buy just part of something. Cash and check are accepted; make checks payable to Mullins United Methodist Church. Mullins will then make one check for the purchasing of the materials. This will allow us to make use of the church's tax exempt status because it is a church matter. Any extra money left over after the project will be donated to FirstWorks. God bless each one of you and remember, children deserve a safe, enjoyable play area.

Materials List:	
Olympic Maximum Redwood Naturaltone Stain	\$34.98
4'x8' Redwood tinted diamond lattice (plastic)	\$29.97
4'x4'x10' Treated Lumber	\$9.97 x 3
2'x4' stud	\$2.36
SNS Swing Seat	\$19.97 x 2
SNS Child Swing	\$24.97 x 2
60lb Mortar Bag Quickcrete	\$4.25
Cypress 5' Swing	\$186.00
Cypress A-Frame for Swing	\$134.00
Titebond III	\$5.99
3/8"x5" Carriage Screws	\$0.94 x 4
3/8" hex nuts	\$0.12 x 4
1x2x8 Furring Strip	\$0.82 x 2
Wrought Iron Flat Black 11oz.Can Spray Paint	\$2.22 x 8

Daniel is also looking to apply new playground mulch to the climbing area at Highland Heights UMC. The cost of material and delivery and placing is \$675.

Send donations clearly marked to one of the following addresses:  
Daniel Gabriel: 7269 Pittsfield Cove, Germantown TN 38138  
Mullins UMC: 4 N Mendenhall, Memphis TN 38117  
Highland Heights UMC: 3476 Summer Ave, Memphis, TN 38122

## Got Summer Reading?

Are you interested in some spiritual reading this summer—and maybe sharing with friends? Here are a couple of great suggestions:

- Jane Austin Ruined My Life: A Novel, by Beth Pattillo
- An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith, by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Wisdom from the Middle Ages for Middle-Aged Women, by Lisa Hamilton

If one of these perks your interest, be in touch with Scottie Brafford at [Scottie@mullinsumc.org](mailto:Scottie@mullinsumc.org). We'll organize a reading group either on Sunday morning or during the week.

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) has more info about these titles, and some are also available on Kindle.

I'll be watching for your responses!

*Scottie*

## Interim Bishop

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church unanimously elected retired Bishop Ben R. Chamness on May 5, 2011, as interim bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area, which encompasses the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences. Chamness will serve from September 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012, when a new bishop will take office. He is stepping in for Bishop Richard J. (Dick) Wills Jr., who is retiring September 1. Chamness will move into the Nashville episcopal residence for a year. In a related story:



“In respect for Bishop and Mrs. Wills’ deep passion for the welfare of children, the offering will be given to the daycare ministry at United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, to the adoption ministry of Hannah’s Hope, to the daycare ministry at Reelfoot Rural Ministries and to the foster children ministry at West Kentucky United Methodist Family Services,” according to the statement from Rev. J. Randy Cooper of the Memphis Conference Committee on Episcopacy.

Checks should be made payable to Mullins UMC and turned in no later than Sunday June 5.

## Memphis Conference Reporter's Last Print Issue

The last issue of the Memphis Conference Reporter was produced for May 27. An announcement and explanation of this change appeared on page 5A of the paper’s April 1 issue. “Methods and frequency of Conference communications will change in mid-2011,” is the name of the article that also appears in the news section of the Memphis Conference Web site at [www.memphis-umc.org](http://www.memphis-umc.org). The article explains how and why the Memphis Conference Communications Action Team voted at its Spring 2011 meeting to implement numerous changes to conference communications that take effect in mid-2011. The decision to end the Memphis print Reporter with the May 27 issue is among the changes. This issue is the last issue in the June-through-May subscription cycle.

### A new print paper:

Beginning July 1 and continuing every other month (Sept. 1, Nov. 1, Jan. 1, March 1, May 1), the Conference will produce a free, **printable** newspaper (8.5x11-inch format) that will be emailed **free of charge** to churches and individuals to read and share electronically or in print, according to local church needs. This publication, yet to be named, will contain news of the Memphis Conference, its churches, agencies and ministries. To receive national and world news of The United Methodist Church in print, individuals and churches will still be able to subscribe to the *weekly, national edition* of the Reporter newspaper. An individual, annual subscription (52 issues) is \$26 and may be started at any time of the year. (copied Memphis Conference Reporter)

## Mullins VBS 2011

VBS time is quickly approaching! Your donations and offers to volunteer are greatly appreciated. Please visit our VBS Stations outside the Sanctuary to register children and/or sign up to volunteer the week of VBS, June 13 – 16. We are in GREAT need of Craft Hut Leaders and many more shoe boxes!

Anyone who wants to be involved this year, please make plans to attend a meeting this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:50 worship service on Sunday, May 29.



## Lucille Givens

Lucille Givens' son and daughter-in-law were in town last week for an early birthday celebration with Lucille. They wrote a testimonial about the role of Mullins UMC in Lucille's life. In part, the letter reads as follows:

*"My mother, Lucille Givens, has been a member of Mullins United Methodist Church for years. My wife and I live on the other end of the state in Johnson City, but we have seen and heard first-hand how important the Mullins church community has been to her since she joined many years ago.*

*"The church has enriched the quality of my mother's life and benefitted her in numerous ways. The ministers serving the church have always been attentive to my mother's care and given her sincere personal attention when she was ill or hospitalized. Countless members of your congregation have made friends with her and stayed in contact with her through telephone calls, cards, and personal visits. She still looks forward to coming to Sunday services when she can, and the affectionate greetings she receives from the congregation members on those days are priceless. The Bible study, her Sunday School class, Methodist Women's group, her personal friendships with church members, and the real spiritual guidance she has received from your staff during touch times have all be bright spots in my mother's life.*

*Sincerely,  
Stanley Givens"*

## Clutter Police

Recently, some dedicated "clean-minded" church members have taken on the task of cleaning out and straightening up our storage areas. If you happened to have anything that might be considered "clutter" hiding out in a closet or behind the stage in the Fellowship Hall, you might want to check out the tables located near the stage. Things that could be valuable treasures to you might have been placed on these tables and will only be there a very short amount of time. The next stop for this unwanted minutia is the trash! Check it out soon!

## Aldersgate UMC Hosts VBS Family Camp

All ages—0 to 100—are invited to attend Aldersgate Family Camp June 3, 4, and 5. The theme is "We Are One in Christ." Activities for the young and not so young begin on Friday, June 3 from 6 – 8 p.m. with a cookout and games, and continues on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with Bible study, music, crafts, games, exercise, and a pizza lunch. Sunday, June 5, we will have our presentation.

The mission focus is cleaning buckets for UMCOR. A list of needed items is available at our church and on the home page of the Mullins website.

## June Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Here is a list of Mullins members with birthdays and anniversaries in June. 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!

### Birthdays:

Name	June:				
Carol Doyle .....	2	Betty Williams .....	17	Pat Mason .....	24
Callie Likley .....	3	Nancy Blankenship .....	18	Brad Gabriel .....	25
Lucille Givens .....	3	John Barnes .....	20	Gail Stratton .....	25
George Sibley .....	3	Ginny Wilcox .....	20	Paul Hausmann .....	25
David Campbell .....	5	Daniel Gabriel .....	21	Carol Griffin .....	25
Emily Williams .....	5	Scott Campbell .....	22	Cy Leist .....	26
Sammie Powell .....	9	Becky Cohen .....	23	J.R. Thomas .....	27
Aaron Foster .....	11	Paul Blankenship .....	24	Jane McGoldrick .....	28
Lynn Bergwerk .....	13	Art McGoldrick .....	24	Joe Wyrick .....	29
Clay Carter .....	14	Tom Southwell .....	24	Darren Weeks .....	30
Harold Smith, Jr. ....	16	John Weaver .....	24	Suzanne Wyrick .....	30

### Anniversaries:

Names	June:				
Carol and Charles Griffin .....	4	Jay and Virginia Finzel .....	13	Barbara and Tom Southwell .....	27
Agnes and Dick Sims .....	5	Barbara and Norm Kercher .....	14		
John and Lisa Weaver .....	9	Kathryn and Steve Black .....	22		

## This Week at Mullins:

### CHURCH STAFF:

#### Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel  
[brad@mullinsumc.org](mailto:brad@mullinsumc.org)

#### Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford  
[scottie@mullinsumc.org](mailto:scottie@mullinsumc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn  
[bryan@mullinsumc.org](mailto:bryan@mullinsumc.org)

#### Director of Children's Ministries:

April Riley  
[april@mullinsumc.org](mailto:april@mullinsumc.org)

#### Director of Youth Ministries:

Christian Sarran  
[christian@mullinsumc.org](mailto:christian@mullinsumc.org)

#### Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston  
[kimberly@mullinsumc.org](mailto:kimberly@mullinsumc.org)

#### Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt  
[susmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:susmullins@bellsouth.net)

#### Organist:

Aaron Foster  
[aaronf@bellsouth.net](mailto:aaronf@bellsouth.net)

#### Custodians:

Geraldine Finley  
David Campbell

### Sunday, May 29

- 8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
- 12:00 noon Vacation Bible School Meeting—Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Jump Start!
- 5:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

### Monday, May 30

PDO and Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 31

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 8:30 a.m. "Boredom Busters" begins
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, June 1

- 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—Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, June 2

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

### Friday, June 3

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

### Saturday, June 4

- 11:00 p.m. Yoga

## Upcoming Events:

Monday through Thursday, June 13 through 16

Vacation Bible School—see page 5



### OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

#### Sunday:

8:45 Worship Service .....	19
10:50 Worship Service .....	107
Prayer Breakfast .....	9
Prayer Service .....	56