



# Mullins Messenger

A Publication of  
Mullins United Methodist Church  
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This Issue Published as of Wednesday, June 22, 2011

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

June 26, 2011

Scripture: Genesis 22:1–14; Matthew 10:40–42  
Sermon: "A Wild and Windy Place"

July 3, 2011

Sermon by: Rev. Scottie Brafford

July 10, 2011

Sermon by: Rev. Steve Atkins

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends on the Way,

When our retiring Bishop, Richard Wills, came to us seven years ago, he moved quickly to introduce to the Annual Conference the program of clergy spiritual renewal leave. Such a leave is a time away from a pastor's normal ministry setting with a specific agenda. The Conference guidelines are taken from our Book of Discipline and include the following directions.

*Bishop Richard Wills, the Cabinet and the Board of Ministry of the Memphis Annual Conference offer the following guidelines for ministers and churches of the Memphis Annual Conference. References for these guidelines are found in The 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Guidelines for Sabbaticals[1]. The final interpretation of all procedures and requirements remain with the Bishop, Cabinet, and Conference Board of Ministry.*

*Spiritual Growth Leave - A minister's Spiritual Growth Program should include "leaves at least one week each year and at least one month during one year every quadrennium." ¶351.2*

*It is the expectation of the Bishop and Cabinet that ministers will take full advantage of the provisions of ¶351.2 and that churches will be supportive of these Spiritual Growth Leaves.*

*Studies have shown that an intentional break from the draining work routine can have an extremely beneficial effect. One way or the other, the body and the mind will eventually demand relief from the pressures of an unrelenting schedule. That demand often manifests itself in the form of heart disease, a mental breakdown, a moral failure or a life-threatening illness. Intentional opportunities for spiritual growth provide a positive step to preempt the negative stresses facing today's clergy.*

That all sounds rather dire, doesn't it? I can report to you that I have experienced no "...heart disease, a mental breakdown, a moral failure or a life-threatening illness." The

important point is that I do not want to, either. Life here at Mullins UMC is wonderful and I am delighted to be re-appointed here for another year. I want this year to be one of continued growth and renewal for Mullins church. To that end, I will be out of the pulpit and away for the first four Sundays in July. My wife Linda has scheduled her spiritual growth/spiritual renewal leave at the same time. We are heading to England on a Wesley heritage experience. There we will visit significant sites in the beginning of the Wesleyan revival, including Wesley's Chapel, Epworth, Bristol Birmingham, and more. There will be lectures and time for worship and prayer out of our regular routines here at home. The "out of the ordinary" nature of the trip, combined with the work that I have done for Memphis Theological Seminary in Methodist studies lately are designed to help focus my attention once more on the vitality of Methodism. This expression of the faith is one of the most significant voices for the redemption of the world. My intention is that, having spent time in the places of our beginning and spending time after that in intentional reflection and visioning, I will be better prepared to serve as your pastor in the time to come. I am deeply appreciative of our Staff Parish Committee's willingness to endorse my time away.



While I am away, pastoral duties, including preaching and pastoral emergencies will be handled by the Reverend Scottie Brafford, our own Minister of Spiritual Formation and the Reverend Steve Atkins, a former Mullins Associate pastor who is presently on staff with the Wesley Housing ministries. Thank you for your support and I ask for your prayers during my leave time.

Grace for the Way,

*Brad*

P.S. I was asked if this is an extra expense for Mullins. The answer is that I am funding my leave time and there is no added expense for the church.

## 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:

**Paul Blankenship** at home



## Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

### BUDGET

In honor and memory of **Lena and Edward Melsa, James Albent Melsa, and Lesley Lee Melsa** by Col. Otto Melsa, and Shirley and Larry Melsa

### MAANZA A LEZA

In honor of **Wayne Carson's** retirement by Cyndi Watkins

A new candelabra has been given in memory of Marjorie Luton by members of Sewing Circle. Gerry Gardner, Nell Ginn, Marge Gresham, Willa Hand, Ruth Meyer, and Kay Winfield.



## Upper Room

Current 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!

## Save Your Receipt!

Please be sure to attach the receipt when turning in forms for reimbursement for church expenses. These blue forms are available in the church office.

## Star-Spangled Celebration

Join us in the gym on Sunday night, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. for an air-conditioned picnic. We'll celebrate the 235<sup>th</sup> birthday of our country and the 166<sup>th</sup> birthday of our church. Eat good food, play games, and hang out with your friends!



THEN at 8 p.m., we'll all go outside and join our neighbors for "Melons and Music and Mullins." We'll enjoy some cool watermelon, and when it gets dark Tommy Scruggs and his crew will light up the sky with an even bigger fireworks display than we had last year! Bring your lawn chairs!



## Door Hangers

We want to invite the people who live in the Mullins neighborhood to enjoy the watermelon and fireworks with us. We need volunteers to meet this Saturday morning (June 25) at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to pick up some door hangers and walk around the neighborhood hanging them on front doors. We'll go out in small groups, so you can have fun AND help your church at the same time! Win/win!

## ISO (In Search of) Bell Ringers

Mullins has a beautiful set of handbells that are just begging to be rung. Our Music Director, Bryan Dunn, is looking for 8-12 people to commit to making this happen.

You do not need to know how to play—Bryan can teach you. You do need to be able to successfully count to four over and over (or three if you're playing a waltz), and it helps if you can keep track of which is your right hand and which is your left hand most of the time.

If you have any questions or want to sign up, contact Bryan at [bryanrdunn@gmail.com](mailto:bryanrdunn@gmail.com) or talk to him at church on Sunday.



## Thank You

Dear Mullins Family,

I am so grateful for the year I have spent with you all. I pray that our paths cross again and that God blesses your efforts to grow His Kingdom! Thank you for everything you've done to support our Children's Ministry and me.

Love, April Riley

## Recognition of Lester Tutors

Memphis City Schools have wrapped up another year. We want to recognize the Mullins tutors who have tutored/mentored students from Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade weekly at Lester School. A big round of applause goes out to: Margaret Brown, Harriet Montgomery, Becky Schoumacher, and Ginny Wilcox.

We'd love to have you join forces with us next school year, 2011-12. You will be richly rewarded! Talk to one of these ladies about her experiences.

## New Members

Our Mullins church family grew by two on June 19, as Judy Forsyth (pictured with her husband Greg) and Charles (“Chad”) Miller joined our congregation. Judy and Greg Forsyth reside at 736 Forest Lake Drive, Memphis, Tennessee 38117. Chad Miller comes by profession of faith and was baptized. He lives at 52 North Fernway, Memphis, Tennessee 38117.



## Mullins Wind Ensemble

The Mullins Wind Ensemble is looking for new members to join their group. If you play or have played an instrument in the past, this may be just the spot for you! The Wind Ensemble rehearses on Thursdays at 6:15 in the Choir Room. We would love to have you join us!

Also, donations of musical instruments are needed. If you have an instrument to donate, please contact Kent Stratton or the church office.

## New Interim Children’s Director

On Sunday, June 26, we will welcome Emily Hightower, who will serve as our interim Children’s Director this summer. Emily is a student at the University of Mississippi with a major in International Studies. She speaks French and has studied abroad—*tres bien!* And as you can see by her picture, she likes ice cream. The kids at Mullins are going to love Emily!



## ATTN: Golfers

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic to support Wesley Senior Ministries is set for Thursday, September 15, 2011, at Windyke Country Club. To reserve a spot for your team or sponsor position, please call 901-213-1930.

## Job Opening

Capleville United Methodist church has a position open for an administrative assistant/financial secretary, 20-25 hours per week, 4-5 days a week, depending on demonstrated skills and experience. The job includes financial recording, reporting, and bookkeeping functions, including payroll and accounts payable and receivable. Do not apply if you do not have this experience. Essential daily functions include answering phones, sorting mail, monthly newsletter, weekly bulletins, and building use management.

Send resume to: Pastor Autura Eason Hampton, Capleville UMC, 4725 Riverdale Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38141-8524.

## Members in Service for June 26:

**Liturgist:** Cyndi Watkins

**Ushers and Greeters:** Charles Carter (Head Usher), Kathy Carter, Barbara Kercher, Norm Kercher, Tommy Scruggs, and Sandy Scruggs

**Children’s Church:** Lisa Weaver

**Children’s Message:** Scottie Brafford

## Chancel Flowers

are being placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Truemun Wyrick by Joe Wyrick.

## Members in Service for July 3:

**Liturgist:** Rachael Scarbrough

**Ushers and Greeters:** Harriet Montgomery (Head Usher), John Montgomery, Jan Canfield, Melissa Johnson, Margaret Methvin, and Angie Smith

**Children’s Church:**

**No Children’s Message—Communion**

## Chancel Flowers

are being placed to the glory of God in memory of Louise Harmon by Martha Harmon.

## Members in Service for July 10:

**Liturgist:** Rachael Scarbrough

**Ushers and Greeters:** Harriet Montgomery (Head Usher), John Montgomery, Jan Canfield, Melissa Johnson, Margaret Methvin, and Angie Smith

**Children’s Church:**

**Children’s Message:** Margaret Carbaugh



## 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.

## Lay Leadership Gatherings

A couple of Lay Leadership gatherings are coming up, and any that is involved in mission and ministry in their local congregation is invited to attend.

- July 20th, 7 p.m., Raleigh UMC, 3295 Powers Road, Memphis, Tennessee
- August 24, 7 p.m., Covington UMC, 145 W Church Road, Covington, Tennessee

It is the plan to focus on the following items during these initial meetings:

1. Explanation of the work of the various District committees and how that work relates to both local church and Annual Conference work
2. The Statement of Hope and Vision for the Asbury District as we strive towards greater unity in being the body of Christ in our communities.
3. Conversation around needs in our local churches and communities that might best be addressed by our District resources, both financial and people.

These meetings and the future Lay Leadership Gatherings are not open to clergy.



## Read to Feed

On Saturday, June 18, four participants of Mullins Read to Feed program met at the Mastins' home for a kick-off swim party.

Read to Feed is a reading incentive service-learning program that offers global education opportunities and will foster in your children a love for reading, a passion to help others, and a way to create a better world.

Children get sponsors to each book they read this summer.

If you would like to sponsor one of our kids, please see Margaret Carbaugh for a list of the participants.

## July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here is a list of Mullins members with birthdays and anniversaries in July. 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>July:</u>		
Juanita Acree.....	2	Leigh Ann Maness .....	14
Kris Monroe.....	2	Diane Rose.....	16
Ruth Chapman .....	3	Robert VanCleerf.....	16
Jordan Scruggs.....	5	Martha Siler .....	17
Greg Griffin .....	6	Edna Keel.....	18
Andy Mastin.....	7	Marcia Taylor.....	18
Cyndi Watkins.....	7	Ellie Likley.....	18
Connie Barbee.....	7	Greg Rigg.....	18
Becky Scruggs .....	9	Terrye Mastin .....	19
Steve Tolbert .....	12	Joyce Simmons .....	19
Susan Wilson.....	13	Hadley Griffin .....	20
		Amanda Rigg.....	21
		Joey Cheshire.....	22
		Terry Durham.....	23
		Tonya Martini.....	24
		Ben Eddins.....	29
		Barbara Southwell.....	30

### Anniversaries:

Nancy and Paul Blankenship.....	18
Joyce and Charlie Simmons.....	29

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



### 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

## 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)

#### Interim Director of Children's Ministries:

Emily Hightower  
[emily@mullinsumc.org](mailto:emily@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

### OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

#### Sunday:

8:45 Worship Service ..... 23  
10:50 Worship Service ..... 117

### Sunday, June 26

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

### Monday, June 27

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym  
6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team—Room 117

### Tuesday, June 28

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

### Wednesday, June 29

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting—Room 117

### Thursday, June 30

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Parlor  
6:15 p.m. Wind Ensemble  
7:00 a.m. Book Club—Parlor

### Saturday, July 2

11:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

## Upcoming Events:

July 3 Mullins 166<sup>th</sup> birthday and Independence Day Celebration—see page 2  
July 10 Organ/Piano Concert by Aaron Foster and Andre Duvall  
July 10–15 Youth Mission Trip  
July 11 Finance Committee Meeting—Room 212  
July 18 Administrative Council Meeting—Chapel

## Late-Breaking News

Going on the Youth Mission trip this summer? Plan to attend 10:50 a.m. Worship next Sunday (July 3) for your Commissioning and Sending Forth.

If you want to join the conversation about *Jane Austen Ruined My Life* by Beth Pattillo, come on in! We'll meet Thursday evening, June 30, in the Parlor at 7 p.m. Be sure you've completed the book (which by many of us agree is a book you don't want to put down), because our conversation will include the book's ending.

Children's Ministry is looking for women and men who feel a call to teaching. Inspired by the high standards of excellence set by April Riley, we're excited to reach for higher standards of excellence in our Sunday School programs. We're developing teams of three (3) adults per classroom, and asking for a teaching commitment of six months. By using teams of three, the team can work its own rotational plan, ensuring that each Sunday will be lead by two adults. Two teams are needed; one for younger children and another for older children. Curriculum, training, and supplies will be provided. A strong ministry to children is a vital component of sharing God's story and of church growth. As we prepare for hearts and our space for additional visitors and new members, is this a path of service God's inviting you to explore? If so, please contact Scottie Brafford, [scottie@mullinsumc.org](mailto:scottie@mullinsumc.org) or call the office, 685.8253.