

Mullins Messenger

A Publication of
Mullins United Methodist Church
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This Issue Published as of Wednesday, February, 01, 2012

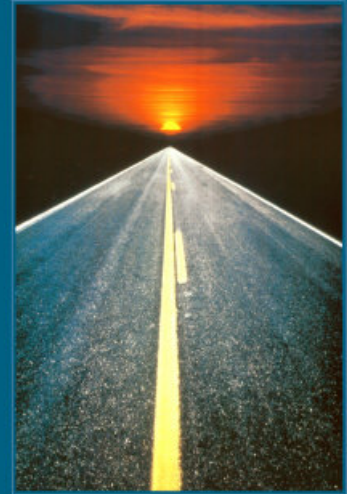
Sunday Morning Worship Service
February 5, 2012

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

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: "Divine Flexibility"

GOALS



*To get started,
you must have a destination.*

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

We have goals for 2012! You may see the adopted goals on page 5 of this newsletter. These are not resolutions that many people make and quickly forget. These are the goals adopted by the Mullins UMC Administrative Council intended to be markers of Mullins' vitality in this new year.

What do we do now? The ushers will take care of recording Goal No. 1, average worship attendance. The pastor is responsible for recording Goal No. 2. Goal No. 3 requires the active participation of the leaders of every group listed. If you are a Sunday school leader, choir leader, scouting leader or the leader of any other group, please report whether or not your group met, each and every week. You can do that by phoning or emailing the Church office. Goal No. 4 requires some real counting by the leader/organizer/convenor of a group/event/opportunity listed. Whether you organize serving the hungry and homeless at the St. John's Soup Kitchen or oversee the filling of MIFA birthday bags, your responsibility is to tell the church office how many Mullins UMC people participated in that mission.

Finally, if your group gives money to a mission listed or to another mission that you think ought to be listed, we need you to call or email the church office and report how much money you sent and to whom.

As always, the easiest way for Mullins to keep track of your generosity in missions' money is to **route your giving through the church office**. This is true whether you are a Sunday school class or a coffee group. Once the numbers are in the church office, Julia Howell has volunteered to enter the numbers on the Vital Congregations web site each week for one year.

Please remember that 2012 is a year to learn. We may well find that we have included some activities that we would have been better off not including. On the other hand, we may have left something out. This is a learning and discernment process because not everything that we do at Mullins falls into one of the goal areas listed. That is perfectly fine. Think of the extra things we do as having a cup of coffee in the afternoon with a neighbor, it will not pay the mortgage or repair the gutter, but it is a good thing to do anyway. For these indicator areas of vital congregations, however, we want to work with the broader church, trust that the faithful people who have tracked these indicators are intending to help us all grow and believe that actually knowing what we are about is never a bad thing.

Grace for the Way,

Brad

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:

Jay Phipps, at home

NOTE: Prayer is a wonderful gift from God. We are always willing to add friends and family to our prayer list. However, please help us keep the prayer list up to date by letting the church office know when names can be removed from the list. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

BUDGET:

In honor of **Brad Gabriel** by Jane Cannon

In honor of **Cyndi Watkins** by Jane Cannon

In honor of **Aaron Foster** by Jane Cannon

In honor of **Lyndall Jones** by Gary and Lyndall Snyder

In memory of **George Sibley** by Voline Conlee

In memory of **Mary Jane Melton** by Mr. and Mrs. Norm Kercher, Mary Winton, Ann Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Davis, and Carol Ann Moreland

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY:

In memory of **Mary Jane Melton** by Aaron Foster

In memory of **Anna Ruth Brown** by Carol Ann Moreland

February Means Food Pantry



UNITED METHODIST
Neighborhood Centers
OF MEMPHIS, INC.
100 years of service

Please remember to bring donations of non-perishable items during the month of February to help stock the Food Pantry at United Methodist Neighborhood Centers. This is a long-standing tradition at Mullins, and UMNC counts on us to help stock the shelves at their Food Pantry each February. UMNC bins are located in the hallway outside the church office and by the ramp leading to the Fellowship Hall. Every contribution helps.

Together, we can make a difference!

Thank-You Notes

Dear Church and Dr. Gabriel,

Thanks to Dr. Gabriel for his visit and prayer during my recent hospital stay, and also to the church family for your prayers. I'm home and feeling good and am blessed that I have no pain. Medication is correcting my health problem.

May God bless everyone and our church..

Jay Phipps

My family and I want to send a big thank you to the staff and members of Mullins UMC for always giving us love and support all these years. We had faith and help from our church family.

Love in Christ,
Jane Cannon

Change Making Change

Last year Mullins' experiment in helping pay our apportionments through contributing our pocket change (and the occasional dollar bills) into the "green glass jar" raised \$4,000 toward ministries as diverse as Grace Place Prison Ministries, Africa University, and the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers. In large part, you said, because you liked giving so specific ministries that touch each of us individually.

So here we go again!

We begin with a two-track approach. District Administration is where the Connection Church rubber hits the local church road. (Not too sure if that metaphor is any good, but there you are.) We will divide any non-designated donations left in the jar to the District Fund (\$3,127) and the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers (\$123). Certainly there is a Sunday School class or study group who will want to write a check for the \$123 to the UMNC to help them in all the good they do.

After that we tackle Grace Place women's prison ministry (\$185) and our Asbury District Hispanic Ministries (\$277).

Let's see if we can break the 2011 record.

We recently experienced a wonderful example of "change making change" when Dr. J. R. Thomas stopped by the church office with pocket change he has been collecting for the green jar! His donation of \$43.50 will get us off to a great start! Let's keep up the good work!



St. John's Ministry

Our next date to serve at the St. John's Soup Kitchen will be Saturday, February 18, at 3:45 p.m. Those interested in volunteering should call Ginny Wilcox at 276-8467.

Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for February 12 from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. for the annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Boy Scouts. Admission will be cans of food for the Memphis Food Bank.

Sweetheart Banquet



Mullins youth are hosting a Sweetheart Banquet on Sunday, February 12, from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You will enjoy good food and great entertainment.

Adult menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Kids Menu: Chicken Nuggets and Fries

Tickets will be on sale Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. This is an important fundraiser for the youth to help pay for the summer trip to Big Stuf.

Youth Ministry News

In addition to regular Sunday and Wednesday youth nights, mark your calendars for these events:

- Sunday, February 5:** Souper Bowl of Caring and Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 12: Sweetheart Banquet
Friday, February 17: Lock-In
Sunday, February 19: Youth Game Night
Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday Service

Super Job Fair

Raleigh United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Job Fair on March 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thirty-one companies are scheduled to attend. The Job Support Ministry office is open each Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to help the unemployed with job search assistance (phone: 387-1825).

For more information, check the website at www.raleighumc.org and go to the job fair page.

Baby News

Congratulations to Kimberly and James Alston on the birth of their son, James Louis Alston V, born January 30, 2012. The baby, who is to be called "Quintus," weighed 8 lbs, 4 oz. Mom and baby are doing well, and Dad and the big sisters are all very excited.



Members in Service for February 5, 2012:

Liturgist: Cyndi Watkins

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

**No Children's Message—
Communion**

Chancel Flowers for

February 5 are being given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Walter Jones by Rachel Fuchs and Sally Lehning.

Gluten-Free!

Gluten-free communion wafers are now 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 February 8:

*Ham
Crowder Peas
Turnip Greens
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 dinner list, please call the church office to let us know you're coming so we'll be sure to have plenty of food.

Mavericks Basketball

This Saturday, February 4, will be the last game for the Mullins Mavericks. Come out and see them play at Trinity Baptist Church (corner of Trinity and Sanga). Tipoff is at 10:00 am. These boys play their hearts out every game—it's better than the NBA!



Spring Soccer

We are now registering for Spring Soccer at Mullins. If you know any boys or girls ages 4 to 8, please encourage them to join us. We had a Fabulous Fall season and look forward to a Sensational Spring!

We have three coaches lined up, but could definitely use a few more. We like to have two per team for Safe Sanctuary purposes and good balance.

We are also looking for volunteers to distribute flyers (postcard size) in your neighborhoods, work areas, or shopping centers. If you would like to help with this, please contact Julie Tolbert, and she will bring plenty to church on Sunday. One idea to pass them out is to string a piece of yarn or rubber band through a corner and hang them on mailbox posts as you walk through neighborhoods. Think how many children we could reach if we had more volunteers to cover more neighborhoods!

Thanks in advance for your support!

Evangelism Conference

Okay, first I need to make a confession. I signed up reluctantly to attend last Saturday's one-day conference, *Telling Your Faith Story: Igniting a Passion for Evangelism*. And, I grumbled that it was being held at First UMC Covington, and I grouched when I had to hit the road at 7:30 Saturday morning to make the 8:30 start time. And it was scheduled to last ALL DAY (until 3:45) on a Saturday? I might not have signed up at all, except that Brenda Carson had signed up (she's the new Evangelism Chairperson).

It turns out it was one of the best conferences I've attended. Not at all the 'yet another ho hum evangelism how-to'. Brenda and I are still processing the ideas and energy, as are the other 70+ attendees who made the trek to Covington.

The presenters had impressive credentials. Rev. Kwasi Kena is Director of Evangelism Ministries, General Board of Discipleship, has started churches and has been a missionary in Ghana, West Africa, and in New York City. Rev. Tom Albin is the Dean, Upper Room Ministries and Ecumenical Relations with strengths in spiritual formation, Wesley studies, mission, and evangelism. The Upper Room reaches people around the globe with a short blast of hope and encouragement through that little Guide to Prayer.

Here are a few highlights:

We learned about the importance of telling stories—our stories. We warmed up by telling one another stories of "I remember when something I cooked didn't turn out right . . ." or "I remember when I got sick at an inconvenient time . . ." Through this exercise, we learned that we all have stories inside us. We experienced what it's like to listen to a story and discovered that we can help one another improve as storytellers. Next, we were told that each of us has a God-story inside us. Each one of us does. And we did more exercises to help us get in touch with our own God-story. That becomes the story we're able to share with others. THAT's evangelism, because THAT's the 'good news' that we've received and that's made a difference in our lives!

And who needs to tell those stories? According to Rev. Kena, it's the laity. Arguably, clergy members have limited credibility with much of the unchurched. While clergy tend to spend most of their time interacting with church members and other clergy, laity are more inclined to rub shoulders with friends, family members, and colleagues who don't go to church.

Brenda and I will be putting out heads together to discern how we'll share more of this event with you. Because, as we repeatedly heard on Saturday, if we don't share what we've learned, then the day was a failure. And with such a lovely winter's days at stake, Brenda and I are NOT going to call that day a failure! We'll be in touch.

Scottie

Mullins UMC: Vital Congregations Goals for 2012

1. Average Worship Attendance: this figure is the total of all worship events held at Mullins UMC over the course of a year averaged out on a weekly basis.

Two Sunday morning services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, two Christmas Eve Services, Thanksgiving (if a community service, counting only Mullins members), other special services through the year, excluding funerals and weddings.

Goal: 130 persons

2. Professions of faith: this is the total number of professions of faith in 2012. One per quarter.

Goal: 4

3. Number of small groups for discipleship and spiritual growth. Groups included follow:

Nursery, pre-school Sunday morning, children's Sunday school, Worship Care Sunday morning, Childrens' Wednesday night program, Youth Sunday morning and night and Wednesday, Youth Conference Retreat, Youth Missions, Big Stuff , CrossRoads, Lamplighter/Friendship, New Directions, Young Adults (Classy Class), Artist Way , Mullins Mid-Week Dinners and Programs, Chancel Choir, Handbells, Mullins Community Wind Ensemble, United Methodist Men/Prayer Breakfast, UMW General meeting, UMW Circle, Thursday Bible Study, Joyful Readers, Coffee With Clergy, Prayer Group, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Craft Night, One to Grow.

Goal: 32

4. Members in Mission: How many people connected with Mullins UMC will be involved (even repeatedly at the same mission) in mission activities this year?

St. John's Soup Kitchen	20 people 3 times	60
Crafts Fair organization, set up, day-of presence		50
Youth Summer Mission event		12
Youth quarterly mission event: Reelfoot	9 people quarterly	36
Lester tutoring:	6 people 9 events	54
Manzaa a Leza:	5 people at 20 events	100
UMNC goods delivery	1 person 12 times	12
Life Blood	6 people 3 events	18
Make MIFA bags	8 people twice	16

**Goal for Mission Opportunities)
(not total of different people involved):**

360

5. Dollars Given to Missions: advocacy, service, education and other mission project dollars given through the church or parts of the church.

Apportionments*	39,000
UMW-including Craft's Fair	6,100
Lipscomb Scholarships	15,000
Maanza a Leza	5,800
Dollar Value of Reelfoot Donations	
Food, clothing and toys	500
Dollar Value of School Supplies	150
Blessing of Animal collection	100
CrossRoads	350
New Directions	1,250
St. John's Ministry	1,000
UMCOR Specials	150
UMNC	400
VBS Heifer	200

Goal: \$70,000

*corrected to match 2012 Budget

February Birthdays

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

Phyllis Pope	1	Voline Conlee	11	Kathy Carter	22
Charles Griffin	1	Patricia Church	13	Martha Harmon	23
Thalina Marques	2	Emily Parker	13	Elmer Wrobley	25
Louise Magargel	5	Lyndall Jones	14	Ryan Crews	27
Christopher Gross	8	Gene Hill	18		
Lisa Weaver	8	Bo Bowen	20		
Juanita Freeman	9	Sadie Frazier	21		
Marion Haynes	9	Sarah Dunn	21		
Millie Hill	10	Judy Clayton	21		
Lawrence Lewis	10	Allie Van Cleef	21		
Vena Cava	11	Tina Campbell	22		

Anniversaries:

Name February:

Kris and Noel Monroe	2
David and Marilyn Williams	5
Missy and Pat Williams	7



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

“Souper” Bowl News Items:

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 5, the youth of Mullins will be participating in a mission that is nationwide. Youth groups from all across the country will be collecting **spare change** to donate to a local mission on Super Bowl Sunday. Right after the 10:50 service, youth will be outside the sanctuary doors to collect any and all spare change in bowls. The youth will then decide what local mission they wish to support. Thank you in advance for participating in this mission effort.

Super Souper Bowl Sunday

From now until February 5 (Super Bowl Sunday) our Memphis Food Bank ministry, spearheaded by Barbara Southwell, is seeking to collect donations of **cans of soup**. The goal for this drive is 500 cans and whatever amount the congregation of Mullins can contribute. The need is great, and we are called to minister to those in need as we are able. The cans of soup can be brought to the church or to the Southwells' home at 4980 Robindale Lane.

Announcements for Sunday

Please send all announcements for Sunday morning to the church office by Noon on Fridays. Email information to brad@mullinsumc.org. Thanks for your help with this important matter.

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

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

Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford
scottie@mullinsumc.org

Director of Children’s Ministries:

Vicki Gandee
vicki@mullinsumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries:

Chris Reinbold
chris@mullinsumc.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn
bryan@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 Worship Service 24
10:50 Worship Service 130

Wednesday:

Fellowship Dinner & Program..... 60

This Week at Mullins:

Sunday, January 29

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

Monday, January 30

10:00 a.m. Church Women United—Buntyn Presbyterian
6:00 p.m. Zumba—Gym
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting—Room 117
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 1

7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programming
6:30 p.m. Adult Program
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Parlor
6:15 p.m. Mullins Community Wind Ensemble—Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Zumba—Gym
7:00 p.m. Soulful Readers—Room 101

Friday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym

Saturday, February 4

11:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall
12:30 p.m. Basketball Banquet—Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 12

8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast—see page 3
5:00 p.m. Sweetheart Banquet—see page 3

Thursday, February 16

House and Grounds Committee meeting

Saturday, February 18

St. John’s Ministry—see page 2

Wednesday, February 22

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service