



# FAITH @ FIRST

*McKenzie First United Methodist Church exists to worship God and enable open-minded people to discover the freedom of God's grace through Jesus Christ.*

January 6, 2010

## **A WORD from the PASTOR**

Greetings In Christ's Name and love!

I would like to wish every one of you a very Happy New Year! I pray that 2009 has been a wonderful and Spirit filled year for you and all your loved ones. I also want to encourage each one to share more in our Church's opportunities for growing in our faith and fellowship.

I believe every member of our congregation should make a commitment in 2010 to be a part of a least one small group study. We can do this by attending, with the other members, a Sunday school class or a study group throughout the year.

Small group ministries give us opportunities to learn more of our Savior and God's will for our lives. Plus, we get to know one another better. We have wonderful groups, which have discussions on different subjects from the Bible. This includes prayer and other disciplines as well as challenging us to use our gifts for the glory of God in our ministries here. So, come and join with us in a group participation more in our ministries.

Before I close, I'd like to thank each one for making our church what it is. A very special thanks to those members who participated in making it possible for us to pay our apportioned-missions before the end of the year. Because of your faithful generosity to reach this milestone for our church, we have taken our local church's ministry into all the world.

This is a great honor to the name of Christ now, and also when we stand before our Lord in the future. He will say well done my children.

Happy New Year as we now move on into 2010!

Pastor Larry

January 10 text: 1 Samuel 3:1-11  
title: God's Call

### **Staff Addition**

It is with great excitement that the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Church Council announce that Mr. Fred Sistler has been approved for the Director of Ministries position. Fred will provide guidance for the educational growth of our children, youth, and adults and support for our Senior Minister. He began this position January 4, 2010. We look forward to the wonderful things he will help accomplish.

### **F.L.O.W. adult news**

A study based on The Lord's Prayer began this week, led by Bro. John and Bro. Larry. If you missed the first one, join us for the next ones, Wednesday nights right after the meal.

### **Do You Like To Take Pictures?**

We need a (volunteer) photographer . . . doesn't have to be professional. Do you like to take pictures or would you like to start? We'd love to have pictures of special services, Sunday School classes, activities, etc. for use in the newsletter, on the web site, and on bulletin boards. Talk to Fred Sistler if this is something that would interest you.

### **V.B.S. Planning Time Is Here**

Another opportunity – Vacation Bible School Director. Talk to Fred Sistler if you'd be interested in assuming this new role.

### **A Reminder . . .**

Please call the office if you or someone we should know about is sick or in the hospital. We don't want to miss someone who needs a call or visit. Ten calls about the same person is much better than none, so please don't assume that somebody else will let us know.

### **Ornament Pattern, Please**

Someone added a cross stitched cross and flame ornament to our Christmas tree. If that was you and you still have the pattern, Jo Elam would like to borrow it. A copy for the church office would be appreciated, also, in case there are other folks who would enjoy having a copy.

**Please pray for . . .** Family of Betsy Barcroft; Family of Junior Watts; Steve Cavitt; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia McKennie; Jon Stanfill; Dorothy Kratzer; Karen May; Sam Featherstone; Tommy Ellis; Tina Wallace & family; Mary Martinez-Karas; Leaverta & Ernest Bynum; Alice Curnutt; Judy Cooper; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Betsy Campbell; Richard Davy; Mildred Bunnell; Roger Kee; Sue & Jerry Dorris; Lynn Dorris; Don & Anita Heath; Frazier, Sally, & Garrett Allen; Thomas & Luceil Brummitt; Thomas Roditis; Shane McClelland; Myke, Patti, & Justin Wilson; First Place 4 Health participants; J. W. Sterling; Cathy Bunnell; Mark Anderson I; David Byrd; Sybil King; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Debra Seale; Anna Weatherford; David "Perk" and Betsy Kee Perkins; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194<sup>th</sup> ENBDE; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Betty Simmons; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jean A. Melton; Margaret & Jim Purcell; Ina Faye Hall & family; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Ray & Brenda Berryman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Becky Herron; Our troops overseas and at home.

**The next week at our church**

**Sunday, January 10**

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
- 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal

**Monday, January 11**

- 9:00 a.m. CARE Group meeting

**Wednesday, January 13**

- 6:00 p.m. FLOW meal and classes  
menu: Chicken strips, veggies, bread, dessert
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK**

**ACOLYTES** – Larson King, Allie Harvey

**LITURGIST** – Charles Thompson

**NURSERY** – Elaine Brown, Gina King

**GREETERS** – Mike & Laura Bateman

**USHERS** – Bryan Merrick; chairperson,  
Jack Elam, Jim Padgett, Jimmy Patterson

**Jan. 9 Meals on Wheels Angels**

Cooks: Glenn Sacks  
Delivery: Tim & Curtis Broadbent, Hollye Rider

**Jan. 13 Wednesday Office Angels**


Barney & Lossie Beers

**Jan. 13 FLOW Kitchen Angels**

Jimmy & Kathy Patterson, Truman & Trudy Bateman, Edward Sexton, Harold & Suzanne Russell, Mildred Colotta, Jim & Linda Arnold, John Oakley, Robin Russell

**January United Neighbors needed items:**

Dry beans, rice




**FUMC Staff**

**J. Larry Riley, Pastor**  
**John Pugh, Pastor Emeritus**  
**Fred Sistler, Director of Ministries**  
**Charlene Jones, Director of Music**  
**Sandra McMahan, Organist, Handbell Director**  
**Donna Bruce & Gina King, C & Y Directors**

**Honorariums and Memorials**      December 27, 2009

<b><u>In Honor of Children &amp; Youth</u></b>	
Lucille Russell	C & Y
<b><u>In Memory of Finis Murray</u></b>	
Mildred Colotta	C & Y
Dr. Tom & Rhonda Smith	

 **From Charlene . . .**

Christmas music always seems so special, taking our minds, so busy with plans and events, back to the unbelievable miracle that created this season. The Chancel Choir, with additional singers who so willing assist with their talents, works hard to prepare a moving story always new to us each year. This season we had the additional help from Sandi, Thomas, and Josh with their instrumental accompaniments. My sincere thanks to all of them.

The Christmas Eve service is probably my favorite service in our church year, the visitors always smiling as we share the story, this year with a beautiful lighting of the Nativity Candles. What a wonderful job Malissa and Luke did to create such a moving scene. And Bethany Ellis...what would Christmas be without hearing her version of "Mary, Did You Know?" Rev. Riley's message, the Communion, the candle lighting shared with friends who carry the light into the world....that scene still brings a smile to my face and tears to my eyes.

Then to celebrate the Sunday following Christmas with Wesley Brockman's rendition of "Mary, Did You Know?" done so movingly on saxophone, completed my Christmas season to perfection. This young man, a student at Bethel in the Renaissance program, has made our church his local church home, and is so willing to give of his talent to us. We thank him again.

So we move on in our church music year hoping that the cold winds or winter do not blow out that glow of the Christmas candles that we lit at the announcement of our Savior's birth. In this uncertain New Year, God bless us all as we keep the certainty of the love of God in our hearts all year.

**The District Training Afternoon**

The Paris District Training afternoon is this coming Sunday, January 10, 2:00 p.m., at Paris FUMC. These very informative workshops are for Lay Leaders, Discipleship groups, Outreach, Evangelism, Treasurers, Finance Committees, and P/P R Committees. The theme for this year's training afternoon is "A Trainable Spirit". Each class will be repeated and you will have the opportunity to attend two workshops. For more information, call the Paris District Office at 642-9215 or email [parisdist@bellsouth.net](mailto:parisdist@bellsouth.net).

**THANKS CORNER . . .**

Kermit & Nancy Holland really appreciate the Christmas cards that the youth collected from the members. We enjoyed each one.

*Special Thanks and God bless each of you who helped brighten a child's Christmas by taking an angel from our Angel Tree.*

*In Christian love,  
Jerry & Emily Archer*

