



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.

October 28, 2009

A WORD from the PASTOR

Five Steps the Church Needs for the Future

A local church is a lot like a ship. How true: if you turn too fast, you may turn the boat over. This is evident because the sea of the world is full of sunken ships (churches) that would have survived, if the leaders would have transitioned more slowly instead of forcing abrupt and immediate change. Change is not necessarily accepted merely because it is needed.

Many people know things need to change, but would rather settle for mediocrity than venture into the unknown seas of an uncertain future. People will only accept change if their leader has enough influence, track record and integrity to ensure a safe trip into uncharted waters. Changing a church requires at least 5 steps.

Leadership – Unless the leaders are on board, change will be resisted and confusion may follow. Questions need to be answered among the leaders before the church visions can be cast within the congregation.

Worship – The key to a successful worship service is flow. A worship service that doesn't have constant interruption points gives you a seamless experience with God. A service with flow gets you into His presence, and there your mind can be changed. Change must be perceived as spiritual growth. Nothing says that like a seamless flow in a worship experience.

Discipleship – Solve your problems in the smallest possible component. The quickest avenue of change is through small groups. Discipleship programs not only give you the best results for personal growth, but also provide the perfect vehicle for congregational vision and growth. As leaders cast the vision, the small groups leaders can have unprecedented influence in creating positive momentum.

Stewardship – Growing congregations have moved from a survival mentality to a renewed emphasis upon evangelism. However, the first question concerning change is "**can we afford it.**" Churches have got to start thinking outside the *offering plate*. Growing churches create income streams that fuel their ministry budgets. For example, VBS can find financial helps by way of a Sunday noon soup lunch. Stewardship planning and special funding events make a huge impact upon ministry.

Fellowship – A larger church can capture a small congregation's spirit of fellowship, through small groups. Being connected is the

key to the glue of cohesiveness. Never underestimate the power of a night of eating, laughing and enjoying each other. The church is about this. Let us work towards our church's atmosphere, where personal relationships with God and others are. (in part, from Bryan Cutshall)

Peace,
Larry

Barcroft Benefit Luncheon

Friday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Can you believe it? It's already time for poinsettias! Christmas will be here before we know it. Our "In honor or in memory of" poinsettias this year will be red, wrapped in gold foil. The price is the same as last year, \$12.00 each. Order forms will be in the bulletin the next 3 weeks, or call the office. Orders must be turned in by Nov. 16. We'll have a lovely sanctuary display and you can take yours home after our Christmas Eve service.

November Happenings

Our November church calendar is filled with things to remember. Here are a few.

First comes All Saints on the 1st (also the end of Daylight Saving Time); we'll begin accepting orders for our Christmas Poinsettias (deadline is Monday, November 16); and our stewardship campaign also begins. The campaign will end with **Commitment Sunday** and an **add-a-dish lunch on the 22nd**.

On the 15th, we have Charge Conference at 6:00 p.m.

Our Angel Tree for the benefit of kids enrolled in Head Start will be up in the lobby on the 22nd, and the annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Baptist Church with a message by Rev. at 6:00 p.m. .

If all of that isn't enough, Thanksgiving is the 26th, Advent begins the 29th with Hanging of the Greens, and our regularly scheduled CARE Group, Hilltoppers, and others will meet.



Set your clocks back an hour
Saturday night before you retire!

Please pray for . . . Family of Arthur Roland; Family of Phil Bomar; Family of Opal Sasser; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Bill, Kristie, Will, & Alexis Reaves; Scott, Dana, Madison, & Evan Alford; John D'Adamio, Sr.; McKenzie Fire & Rescue; First Place 4 Health Participants; Nick & Debbie Martin; Thomas Roditis; Lisa Highfil; Shelly Dillon; Mary Walters; Mark Dillon; Health for all who need it; Scooter Walters; Angela Allen & family; Mary & Darrell Karas; Dr. Carlock; Bro. Riley & family; all living things in air, water, & land; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia McKennie; Jonathan Stanfill; Sam Featherstone; Linda Joyner; Carolyn Bishop; Anna Weatherford; David "Perk" and Betsy Kee Perkins; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194th ENBDE; Betsy Barcroft; 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; Kellett Hochreiter; Our troops overseas and at home.

The next week at our church

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Saving Time ENDS

- All Saints Sunday
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside
- 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
- 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, November 4

- 6:00 p.m. *FLOW* meal and classes
menu: Pork chops, green beans, mac & cheese, bread, baked apples
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

- NURSERY** – Cherry Russell, Elaine Brown
- GREETERS** – Diane Harvey, Diane Stafford
- LITURGIST** – Kent Jones
- COMUNION SERVERS** – Jennifer Pinson, Donna & Ronnie Bruce
- USHERS** – Jerry Archer; chairperson, Mike Laughrey, Joe Williams, Jimmy Patterson

October 31 Meals on Wheels Angels

Cooks: Youth, leaders, and parents
Delivery: Youth, leaders, and parents

Nov. 4 FLOW Kitchen Angels: Team 5

Kevan & Gina King, Larry & Debbie Riley, Barney & Lossie Beers, Charles & Betty Thompson, Youth will be clean up crew

November United Neighbors needed items:
Deodorant, toothpaste

Mountain Mission

The next MMM pick-up date is **Tuesday, Dec. 1**. Desperately needed items this time are household items, linens, cleaning supplies, furniture, appliances, underwear, socks, and shoes. As always, please hold your donations at home until Nov. 29 as we have no storage space here.

FUMC Staff

J. Larry Riley, *Pastor*
 John Pugh, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Charlene Jones, *Director of Music*
 Sandra McMahan, *Organist, Handbell Director*
 Donna Bruce & Gina King, *C & Y Directors*
 Kathy Patterson, *Administrative Assistant*

<u>Honorariums and Memorials</u>		<u>October 25, 2009</u>
<u>In Honor of Bro. J. Larry Riley</u>		
Edward Sexton		Mission
<u>In Honor of Bro. John Pugh</u>		
Edward Sexton		MOW
<u>In Honor of UMW</u>		
Edward Sexton		Mission
<u>In Memory of Ann Hood</u>		
Jack & Shirley Martin		
Frances Pate		
<u>In Memory of Rebecca Riley</u>		
Jack & Shirley Martin		
Lucille Russell		
June Brummitt		
Austin & Agnes Bush		
Hoot & Joan Gibson		MOW
Charles & Betty Thompson		
<u>In Memory of Arthur Roland</u>		
Austin & Agnes Bush		
<u>In Memory of Ann Sexton</u>		
Jack & Shirley Martin		
Hoot & Joan Gibson		MOW
Frances Pate		
Edward Sexton		Mission

CARE Group members are collecting money to give to **Jacob Partridge** for his internet service, the way he keeps in touch with his family while in Iraq. If you'd like to help, see a member or Kathy in the office.

Christmas for United Neighbors
 United Neighbors is now collecting clothing and toys for Christmas. We ask for everything to be clean and in good condition. (Would you give them to someone? Please put all parts of a toy together!) We need clothing for preschool through high school. We will also need volunteers to clean and sort items and also to help with the distribution in December. Please call 352-0547 for more information. We appreciate your support!

Phone Number, Please
 I will be working on a new directory for 2010 shortly. I know that some folks have disconnected house phones in favor of cells. If your contact telephone number has changed since our pictorial directory was printed, please call the office and let me know. Thanks. *Kathy*

Thanks Corner . . .
WOW, what a great church we belong to. We thank each and every one for the prayers, cards, calls, visits, food, and expressions of sympathy on the loss of our family member, Ann. We especially want to thank the ladies of the UMW who prepared the delicious meal for after the funeral. Last, but not least, we wish to thank Brother Riley and Brother Pugh for holding the service for us. Again, we are truly blessed to have such a great church family. May the Lord bless each of you.
The Sexton Family