



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 7, 2009

A View from the Pew

My dad called me all excited. "You remember the woman in our church who had cancer? Last week the church prayed for her, and she is healed! The cancer is gone! The whole church is amazed. We prayed and asked God to heal her, but no one really expected God to perform a miracle!"

I wonder if that has ever happened in our church. We see problems and people that need to be fixed, and we ask God to fix them. But then we go on the unspoken assumption that he really is not going to do anything.

When are we more surprised – when God answers our prayers or when he doesn't?

Down deep, do we really believe that God wants this church to prosper? Does he really have the power and the desire to change people and circumstances to make the church, the body of Christ, a place of transformation where hope abounds and lives are redeemed?

Is our faith limited by what we see in those around us, or is it ever-growing because we are looking to the one who has overcome the world? Could it be that the creator of the universe is waiting for some of his people living and working in McKenzie, Tennessee to ask him to do the impossible in order that people will see the Son of God living in power and love and majesty within us and among us?

I'm not trying to offer some kind of pep talk. I'm not saying that positive thinking and hard work is going to fix our problems. I am proposing the possibility that God himself is waiting for us to ask him to do what only he can do – for our good and for his glory.

Lord, here we are. If you don't do something pretty amazing among us and within us, our town and our world will never see that we are your people. Take us, change us, grow us, fill us with your peace, your power, and your love. We give you permission to do whatever you want with us for our own good and to bring hope to those who don't know you.

We believe you can and will act among us – help our unbelief. And we will try not to be too surprised when you perform miracles right here in our church. ☺

Fred

October 11 Text: Jonah 1:1-5, 10-17; 3:1-5, 10
Title: Lessons From God's Fish Bait

UMW News

Two dates for our calendars...

October 17, 9:00 a.m. Paris District UMW Annual Day will be held at Camden FUMC. Highlights are reports from all the districts units, ceremonial candle burning, fellowship with others, officer training, communion, prayer, lunch, and we are invited to bring an item for the silent auction.

November 7-8 – Feminine Fall Fling at Lakeshore. Registration begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, retreat ends at noon on Sunday.

More information on these events is on the bulletin board by the office back door.

Areas of Service Insert

The insert in your newsletter this week (if you are a local member) is an **opportunity** for each of you to make known to the Lay Ministries Committee what areas of ministry that you are interested in, what areas that you are able to help with, and if there is a ministry or program we don't have that you would like to see.

I stress the opportunity part of this because it's sort of like an election – if you don't vote, don't complain about the outcome. If you don't let us know what you're interested in, don't be surprised that we didn't read your mind.

Step up and let someone know.

Pray about it, search your heart, and return the form filled out on Sunday so the committee will have it to work with next week.

CHILDREN & YOUTH news

October plans for your calendar

Oct. 9-11 – Lakeshore Retreat for 4th-6th grade

Oct. 17 – Holt Family Farms – Pre-K – 8th grade. Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m., bring a sack lunch.

Oct. 18 – Family Fun Day – The fun starts immediately after church services, so dress casual. We'll have the rock wall and jumpers again plus Fantasy Face Painting, Apple Bobbing, Cake Walk, and more. The grill will be fired up and cooking hot dogs and hamburgers.

Oct. 28 – Halloween Costume Contest – Come dressed in your favorite costume and you may win a prize. We'll be roasting weinies, making s'mores, and having Halloween activities.

Please pray for . . . Family of Arthur Roland; Family of Harold Kail; Carolyn Bishop; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Sam Featherstone; Linda Joyner; John D'Adamio, Sr.; Rebecca Riley & family; Rick & Shirley Adams; Darin Riley; Ida Webb; Lois Vaughn & family; Darlene Martinez; Bro. Scott Alford & family; Bro. Larry Riley & family; Police Dept; Fire Dept.; Rescue Dept.; All living things on earth, in the air, in the sea; First Place 4 Health participants; Bill, Kristie, Will, & Alexis Reaves; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia McKennie; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194th ENBDE; Betsy Barcroft; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Betty Simmons; Marvin & Judy Williams; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Ann Sexton; 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, October 11

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, October 12

9:00 a.m. CARE Group meeting

Tuesday, October 13

6:00 p.m. Lay Ministries Committee meeting

Wednesday, October 14

6:00 p.m. *FLOW* meal and classes
 menu: Pizza, salad, dessert
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Saturday, October 17

9:00 a.m. UMW Annual Day at Camden FUMC
 11:30 a.m. Holt Family Farms, Pre-K – 8th grade
 1:00 p.m. Church Work Day

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Zach Jarrett, Emily Bolin

NURSERY – Doris Smith, Jennifer Pinson

GREETERS – John & Amanda Oakley

LITURGIST – Jill Holland

USHERS – Jennifer Pinson; chairperson,
 Dianne Anderson, Bev Nord, Gina King

October 10 Meals on Wheels Angels

Cooks: Susan D'Adamio, Betsy Campbell
 Delivery: Tim & Curtis Broadbent, Hollye Rider

Oct. 14 Wednesday Office Angels

Barney & Lossie Beers

Oct. 14 FLOW Kitchen Angels: Team 2

Diane Stafford, Bill & Margaret Stoner, Betsy Campbell, Susan D'Adamio, Joan & Hoot Gibson, Clark Brown, Joe & Elaine Williams, Bev & Tara Nord

October United Neighbors needed items:

Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce

Aggravation

If you have a job without aggravations,
 you don't have a job.

~Malcolm Forbes~



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*

Memorials October 4, 2009

In Memory of Ann Hood

Addie "Nell" McAlexander	Communion
Dale & Elise McAlexander & families	Communion
Carol & Butch Babcock & families	Communion
Tom & Brenda McAlexander & families	Communion
Pat McCoy-Kevin White & family	Communion
John McAlexander & sons	Communion
Nancy & John Langston & family	Communion
Melody & Kelly Suffel & sons	Communion

United Methodist Men

Great response to our work day last Saturday. So great, we're going to do it again! Just a few more things need attention, so put it on your calendar for October 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Thanks to all who did such a fine job.

Help a Student

More than 8,000 miles from McKenzie, Tennessee on the island of Mindanao in The Philippines is a small college with a special connection to McKenzie FUMC. The head of the Southern Philippines Methodist College is Janet McCarty, sister of Audrey Sistler. Audrey recently presented a program on the college and her sister's work to the UMW. The college offers degrees in theology, early childhood education, elementary education and computer science. Its mission is "preparing leaders and educating the poor." Most of the students are from low-income/poor families who could not attend college without a scholarship.

The UMW voted to support one of these students by providing a \$400 scholarship annually. Anyone who would like to donate to this scholarship will be greatly appreciated. Juanita Finley will gladly accept all donations toward this scholarship.

Soul Food

The soul, like the body, lives by what it feeds on.

~Josiah Gilbert Holland~

UTM Interfaith Pumpkin Patch

A great way to use your fall decoration dollars – help support UTM intern scholarships.

This fall, the Interfaith Student Center will sell pumpkins and gourds to fund college internships. The first shipment is scheduled to arrive Saturday, October 17 at 3 p.m., and the Pumpkin Patch will open as soon as the truck is unloaded.

A wide variety of pumpkins, gourds, and Indian corn will be sold to support the intern scholarship program of the Interfaith Student Center. Each semester, at least two intern scholarships are awarded to UTM students based on academic performance, leadership ability, and Christian character.

The Interfaith Pumpkin Patch will be open October 17-31 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, and on Sundays from noon until 6 p.m.

Interfaith is located on the east side of the UTM campus at 312 Lovelace Avenue. for more information, contact Rev. Jolinne Balentine-Downey at 731-587-2603.