

First United Methodist Church

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# 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.*

**December 1, 2010**

## A View from the Pew

A doctor friend of mine was talking about the need for Christians to be involved in mission work. Doctors are sorely needed in many impoverished and devastated parts of the world. I asked her why she and her family did not go.

"Our children will soon be ready to enter high school. We looked at what they would miss if we moved overseas and the cost was just too high."

My response was, "If God wants you to go, have you considered the cost of not going?"

When Jesus talks in terms of picking up a cross to follow him, we know there is definitely a price to pay.

I think the cost of not following him is much higher. When Audrey and I responded to our own call and moved overseas, our cost could be measured in terms of money, security and comfort. As I look back on those eight years, I can see some of what we gained:

- to be content with fewer things
- to travel to many countries we had never seen
- to equip new believers living in a hostile environment
- a growth in our ability to trust God in difficult and confusing times
- friends willing to live and die for their faith
- hearing people pray for the souls of those who murdered their friends
- to literally see visions and miracles I did not know were still possible
- to have "enemies" of my faith save both my life and my sight
- to see God establish a church through the prayers of his people rather than through planning and programs
- to see a young man regularly attending church even when it meant weekly beatings by his father
- to see a woman baptized at risk of her life
- to see a man lose his job in a bad economy because he was a Christian and still not deny his faith

One of the greatest joys for me was meeting weekly with a business friend to pray and talk and discern what it meant for us to be salt and light in a dark place.

God is still calling you and me to take up our cross and follow him. Perhaps we see the cost of following him. I wonder if we see the cost of saying "No."?

(Jesus said) "If you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost." Luke 14:27-28 (NLT)

- Fred -

### **Meals on Wheels needs HELP**

This very worthwhile program is in need of help for preparing meals and for delivery, as well as substitutes that can be called as needed. If you can help one Saturday per month, please call Glenn Sacks at 352-2070.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH news**

**Dec. 3rd & 4th - Christmas Ornament Sale** during Hometown Christmas. Stop by our booth in the Alexander Hall building and purchase some handmade ornaments for your tree. Our youth have been creating some "masterpieces" for several weeks and are excited to show off their work.

**Dec. 12th - Youth Christmas Program/Sunday Night Lights** 7:00 p.m. Elementary youth will be singing Christmas songs and Middle School will be performing a unique interpretation of a song. You'll have to come see if you want to know what it is!!

**Dec. 15th - Family Fun Night/Potluck Dinner** - eat at 5:30, Christmas games w/prizes start at 6:00. This will be the last FLOW for 2010.

**Jan. 4th - FLOW resumes.**

It's again time for our Christmas Angel Tree. Pick one (or more), and children will thank you. Our angels this year represent students in need who attend McKenzie Elementary School. Gifts are due back to the church by December 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **Reelfoot Work Day**

Calling all Happy Helpers! Our next trip to Reelfoot is Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. for a day of fellowship while helping get things done for Reelfoot Rural Ministries. Talk to Clark Brown if you need more information.

**Please pray for...** Family of Helen Herron; Family of Peggy Barnhart & Mrs. Mary Barnhart; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Carla, Walter & Bubba Waddle; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; Lisa & Rusty McDowell; Karen May; Barbara Shiney; Cory McGill; Johnny & Trudy Radford; Lynn Dorris; Oscar Owen; Joey Anderson; Bill Boothe & The Merricks; Cathy Barnett; Tina Bruce; Byron Broadbent; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Bev Nord; Martha Padgett; Brandon Langley; Betty Annis; Dr. Carl Freeman; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Bob & Jo Newton; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou Boothe; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jim Purcell; Al Ownby; Ina Faye Hall & family; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Our troops overseas and at home.

**The next week at our church**

**Sunday, December 5**

- 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 practice
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Band practice

**Wednesday, December 8**

- 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. ages 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas practice
- 5:30 p.m. C & Y Christmas project
- 6:00 p.m. FLOW meal
- Menu: Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert
- 6:15 p.m. Middle school age Christmas practice
- 6:30 p.m. C & Y classes
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**Thursday, December 9**

- 8:00 a.m. Leave church parking lot for Reelfoot

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK**

**ACOLYTES** – Allie Harvey, Larson King

**LITURGIST** – Anna Anderson

**NURSERY** – Joyce Hayes, Stephanie Bolin

**GREETERS** – Truman & Trudy Bateman

**USHERS** – Charles Thompson; chairperson, Edward Sexton, Burnell Beers, Mark Anderson

**December 4 Meals on Wheels Angels**

Cooks: John, Lois & David Pugh,  
Charles & Betty Thompson  
Delivery: Edward Sexton, Charles & Betty Thompson

**December 8 Office Angels**

Burnell & Lossie Beers

**December 8 FLOW Kitchen Angels**

Crew Leader: Kevan & Gina King, Betty Brown, Richard & Peggy Chappell, Paul Glass, Jerry & Emily Archer, Stephanie Bolin, Fred & Audrey Sistler, Meredith Lampley, Truman & Trudy Bateman

**December United Neighbors needed items:**

Vienna sausage; canned chili or spaghetti with meat

**Telephone numbers to reach the pastor: office 352-2456; home 352-2730; cell 731-617-0142. Please don't hesitate to call if you have a need.**

**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**  
**Kathy Patterson, Administrative Assistant**

**We're Invited**

Lakeside Senior Living community will have their 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Christmas on the Lake" Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. We're all invited to join in this spectacular holiday open house featuring horse-drawn carriage rides, Hors D'oeuvres & apple cider, door prizes, tours, and live entertainment provided by *The Ellis Family* featuring Bethany Renae. This is home for 6 of our members who would love to visit with us during this celebration.

**Our Conference Chaplain**

In the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> newsletter, there was an article about the military chaplains not getting much support from their home churches. If you would like to thank them for their service to our veterans, our Annual Conference Chaplain's address is: Rev. or Chaplain Alan B. Bell, 115 S. Vine Grove Ln. S., Cordova, TN 38104. I'm sure he would appreciate some cards of thanks from our church. *Charles Thompson*

**Member Christmas Cards**

Be sure to take advantage of our church post office for your Christmas cards to fellow members. There is a box outside the church office to put them in; be sure the name is clearly written on the envelope. Beautiful "gifts" with pockets for cards are hanging in the lobby and the youth will be sorting the cards into the pockets. Please check your pocket each Sunday from Dec. 5 until Dec. 19 to get your cards. They will also be delivering to our members that are homebound and in assisted living facilities, so please be sure to include them on your list.

**Sunday Night-Lights**

Anyone interested in learning how and operating the sound system for Sunday Night Lights please talk with Fred. It requires approximately a 2.5 hour commitment from 5:45-8:15 p.m. Sundays every week for both the services and practice sessions.

We still need your estimate of giving card for 2011 if you haven't already turned it in.

**Interesting KJV Bible facts**

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus. The Bible is God's gift to us. The King James Version contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,693 words, 31,102 verses, 1189 chapters, and 66 books. The longest book is Psalms. The shortest is the Third Letter of John. The longest verse is Esther 8:9. The shortest verse is John 11:35. "And" appears 46,277 times. Ezra 7:21 contains every letter of the English alphabet except "J". The longest personal name in the Bible is "Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (Isaiah 8:1). "on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:14) *~submitted by Becky Herron~*

**Nothing New**

There is nothing new under the sun but there are lots of old things we don't know. *~Ambrose Bierce~*