

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 16, 2009

A WORD from the PASTOR

There is a legend of how the pink advent candle came about. Of course a legend does not have to be true to make an important point. Consider the old legend's significance about advent.

There was a family of four blue candles. They were named *Hope, Truth, Joy, and Love*. They were all in a family circle.

On the first Christmas, in the stable where Jesus was born it was very dark. It is said that someone took the family of four blue candles into the stable to provide light.

The candle named Hope said, "This baby's birth will bring HOPE, and fulfill the hopes of many."

The candle named Truth said, "This baby, who is TRUTH, will bring great truth to the world, and show us where we have gone wrong."

The candle named Love said, "This baby who is LOVE, will bring love to the world, for the baby was born in love and will die in love.

The candle named Joy . . . stood there, not knowing what to say.

The other candles looked at it strangely. They were all straight and looked so serious and proper. However, the Joy candle, which had melted somewhat, had its back bent and it could not think of anything to say.

But then it began to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come..." With that it began blushing, but it also began radiating joy all around. (source unknown)

In reality our world is experiencing so many problems; we need the true joy of the Lord. Notice in our advent wreath at church and in homes, one candle is to be pink – known as the color of joy. Remember in the legend, the joy candle may not have been as serious as the hope, truth, and love candles. But we know the importance of joy in our lives.

The Church has entered the Advent season which means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent. My prayer this Advent is that this season will mean far more than simply marking a 2000 year old event in history. In these trying times, may we

know the True Joy of our Savior's birth, being now reconciled to our God. And now we can know and have "...the joy of the Lord as our strength." Nehemiah 9:10

*Grace and Peace,
Larry*



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Our traditional Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service continues next Thursday at 11:00 p.m. We will be especially blessed this year with the vocal talent of guest soloist, Bethany Ellis.

Angel Tree gifts are due back here by Friday, December 18.

Need a last minute gift idea?

We have an amazingly wonderful useful item in the office for just \$10.00! FUMC cookbooks make great gifts for those who don't have one or have worn theirs out.



Merry Christmas!
and best wishes for
a

safe and Happy New
Year
from the staff here at
FUMC

Please pray for . . . Family of Finis Murray; John D'Adamio, Sr., J. W. Sterling; Mildred Bunnell; Karen May; Sam Featherstone; Thomas Roditis; Shane McMelland; Sybil King; David Byrd; Lynn Dorris; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Frank Mesavage; Keener family; Dr. Daniel Day; Marsha Holiday & family; Felicia Mesavage; Mary Karas; Alice Curnutt; The entire world; 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 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; Our troops overseas and at home.

The next week at our church

Sunday, December 20

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, December 21

11:30 a.m. Hilltoppers

Tuesday, December 22

2:30 p.m. Imogene Sub-group meeting

Wednesday, December 23

No activities, no choir practice

Thursday, December 24

Church office closed Thursday and Friday
11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!!!

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Mitch Merrick, Allie Harvey

LITURGIST – Kevin Harvey

NURSERY – Malissa Anderson, Diane Stafford

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

Dec. 19 Meals on Wheels Angels

Cooks: Kevan & Gina King
Delivery: Frank & Barbara Shiney,
Christie & Mary Nethaway

Dec. 23 Wednesday Office Angels

Lanier Mabry, Frances Pate

December United Neighbors needed item:

Volunteer time

There will be a
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 29, at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend.

Kathy will be out of the church office
December 28-31. Volunteers will be in to
answer the telephone mornings only. There will
be no newsletter that week.

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*

Honorariums

December 13, 2009

In Honor of Charles & Donna Pruneau
Friendship SS Class

Merry Christmas to "The Lunch Bunch"
A friend

In Honor of the Chancel Choir
Thomas & Patty Oakley

Choir

2010 offering envelopes are on the table
outside the office. If you don't find yours, let
Kathy know.

A few Wise Sayings.....

The best way to get even is to forget.

Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to
death.

Some folks wear their halos much too tight.

Some marriages are made in heaven, but the
ALL have to be maintained on earth.

It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a
molehill. Just add a little dirt.

You have to wonder about some people.....they
think God is dead and Elvis is alive.

The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that
held its ground.

The tongue must be heavy indeed, because so
few people can hold it.

Keep smiling, and if you see someone's missing
one, give them one of yours!!



"Because they didn't have e-mail then.
That's why God sent an angel
to proclaim the baby's birth."

Thanks Corner . . .

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous
gift you gave our family. It is wonderful being
able to communicate over the computer. Not
only can we hear each other, but we can also

see each other. This has been a blessing, especially with Emma. Your gift will help us to continue this communication without as much financial strain. We are so thankful to have found such a loving & accepting church family. Thank you again.

Love,
Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge

Dec. 16 FLOW Kitchen Angels

Kevan & Gina King, Larry

Wednesday, December 16

6:00 p.m. *FLOW* meal and presentation of video made by our youth

menu: Ham, veggies, dessert

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

A View from the Pew

A Mature 21

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21 Wise Sayings

1. The best way to get even is to forget...
2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
3. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts...
4. Some folks wear their halos much too tight...
5. Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth...
6. Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 5 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God isn't such good idea.
7. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up...
8. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.
9. Words are windows to the heart.
10. A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
11. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.
12. A successful marriage isn't

finding the right person - it's being the right person.

13. The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.

14. Too many people offer God prayers with claw marks all over them.

15. The tongue must be heavy indeed, because so few people can hold it.

16. To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you.

17. You have to wonder about humans, they think God is dead and Elvis is alive.

18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.

19. You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck...

20. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.

21. And last but not least -- God gave the angels Wings, and He gave humans CHOCOLATE!!!!!!

Keep smiling, and ... if you see someone's missing one.... give them one of yours!!

~Author Unknown~