



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 2, 2009

A View from the Pew

A long time ago, in a world far away, I was in college. As president of one of the Christian groups on campus and a busy student, I was feverishly working on a devotional for our evening vesper service.

The phone rang. "This is Kimi (a friend of mine). I need a ride to the meeting tonight."

That really irritated me. It would take at least an extra 30 minutes I did not have to pick her up. If she had planned ahead she could have taken a campus bus. I did not have time for this. At other times it would have been ok, but not then.

The main reason it bothered me was because I was working on my devotional, and preparation time for speaking has always been very precious to me. Nothing is allowed to interfere with my getting ready to speak. No interruptions: not sleep, not activities and certainly not people. Go away – I'm busy with important stuff.

As I started to answer Kimi, my thoughts were yanked back to the subject of my devotional: the Good Samaritan. The story where Jesus condemned the religious leaders who would not allow their rules and obligations to be interrupted by someone needing help. Jesus said the right model was the one who stopped what he was doing to help the person in need.

I wonder if there are times when God interrupts our comfortable and predictable lives with someone who needs our help? Is it possible there are even times when our responsibilities and obligations to the body of Christ seek to intrude upon our play time?

The next time you are interrupted, before choosing what to do, allow for the possibility that God has sent this to remind you of what your priorities ought to be as a follower of Jesus.

"Kimi? I'm glad you are going tonight. What time shall I pick you up?"

Fred

December 6 Text: Luke 3:1-6
Title: The Way

*You are invited to a
Bridal Tea
honoring **Heather McCartney**
bride-elect of **Mark Anderson, II**
Sunday afternoon, December sixth
Two thousand and nine
between the hours of
one and three-thirty o'clock
First United Methodist Church
16 McTyeire Street
McKenzie, Tennessee
Selections are available at
Bed, Bath and Beyond
Super Drugs
Walmart*



Our traditional Angel Tree is up in the lobby with the needs and wants of local children who attend Head Start whose parents have requested help.

Though the tree went up November 22nd, you haven't missed your chance to help make a child's Christmas special this year. There are many Angels still waiting for special people to come along and take them home. Please pick as many as you'd like, do some shopping, and return wrapped gifts to the church by Friday, December 18th.

Lakeside Christmas

Lakeside Senior Living Community will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and invite everyone to come out and enjoy the decorations, horse-drawn carriage rides, hors d'oeuvres & apple cider, Christmas Carolers, door prizes, tours, and fellowship. This is a great time to visit with our members who live there.

Ornaments

If you forgot to bring an ornament last week during our Hanging of the Greens service, that's OK, you can bring it this week. We have plenty of room on the tree.

Congrats are due . . .

First Place 4 Health participants are proud of the collective 105.4 pounds lost by the group during the first 12 weeks of this program, and rightly so. Most of us know the struggle to eat right and exercise, especially during the holidays. The group will continue with their Sunday afternoon meetings, beginning a new Bible study this week.

Please pray for . . . Family of Ronnie Pigg; J. W. Sterling; Cathy Bunnell; Mildred Bunnell; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke McKennie; Jonathan Stanfill; Connie Laymon; Jerome Crawford; Bill, Kristie, Will, & Alexis Reaves; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grice; Robbie Barker; Carolyn Bishop; Lisa Highfil; David Byrd; Dr. Jon Carlock; First Place 4 Health Participants; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Beverly Mueller; Drew Hayes & Vandy Baseball team traveling to Japan; Mark Dillon; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Thomas Roditis; Ethan Craven; McKenzie Fire & Police; Safety of travelers over holidays; David Pugh; John D'Adamio, Sr.; Lynn Dorris; The Pugh family; Felicia Mesavage; Frank Mesavage; Tammy Keener & family; Alice Curnutt; Mary Martinez-Karas; Dr. Daniel Day; Angela Allen; 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 6

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside Senior Living
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. Tea honoring Heather McCartney, bride-elect of Mark Anderson II
- 2:00 p.m. Set risers up in sanctuary for Cantata
- 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
- 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 9

- 6:00 p.m. FLOW meal and classes
menu: Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

- ACOLYTES** – Timothy Dillon, Larson King
- NURSERY** – Doris Smith, Robin Russell
- GREETERS** – Harold & Suzanne Russell
- LITURGIST** – Charles Pruneau
- COMMUNION SERVERS** – The Nords
- USHERS** – Charles Thompson; chairperson, Edward Sexton, Burnell Beers, Mark Anderson

Dec. 5 Meals on Wheels Angels

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

Dec. 9 Wednesday Office Angels

Barney & Lossie Beers

Dec. 9 FLOW Kitchen Angels: Team 4

Kevan & Gina King, Sylvia Hickman, Judy Kennon, Ronnie Bruce, Kent & Charlene Jones, Charles & Donna Pruneau, Sandi McMahan, Kevin & Diane Harvey, Bettie Scates

December United Neighbors needed item:

Volunteer time

Memorials

November 22 and 29, 2009

In Memory of Nell McAlexander

Friendship Sunday School Class

In Memory of Coedia Reynaud

Friendship Sunday School Class

Mildred Colotta	MOW
Harold & Suzanne Russell	MOW
Charles & Betty Thompson	MOW

UMW News

The **Corinthians** and **Mullins** Sub-groups will meet together for a Christmas Brunch at 10:30, Saturday, December 12 in the home of Betty Brown. Each member is asked to bring a finger food and a \$5.00 donation to the Angel Tree project. Please RSVP to Betty at 352-3904.

Christmas Card Reminder . . .

Bring your Christmas cards to other church members here so that our Middle School Youth can deliver them for you. There will be a box by the church office until Dec. 9. Our youth will sort and disburse them on Sunday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 20. Please make sure that the receiver's name is clearly printed on the envelope. 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 this year.

We are invited...

Larry, Debbie, and Lauren Riley have invited us to their home for an **Open House** on Sunday, December 13th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.



From Charlene . . .

It is sometimes difficult to decide who enjoys the Chancel Choir's Christmas cantata more.... the congregation who listens or the members of the choir who share the story. The practice gets more involved as we try to keep the weekly anthems ready and still get in the necessary work on a collection of anthems that present the story of Jesus' birth in a new and fresh way.

I Hear the Prophet Callin', the latest cantata by Pepper Choplin, does just that with a collection of music featuring different folk styles of music - Appalachian, Irish, Latin, Cajun, and early American. The beautiful story we have shared for many years is summed up by Choplin as:

*I hear the prophet calling; a mother singing;
the shepherds calling;
I seethe star of glory
I hearthe people singing.....*

Please make your plans to be in worship on Sunday, Dec. 13th at the 10:50 service as we celebrate the gift of God's only Son.

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

Thanks Corner . . .

Thank you to those who participated in the Shoe Box Mission. We had a total of 19 boxes. Special thanks to Dr. Harold Russell for donating toothbrushes. This is a wonderful ministry and I could not have done it without your help. Thanks again!

