



# 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 29, 2010

## A View from the Pew

It's hard to experience the holidays without thinking of getting together with friends. If it were not for warm and inviting people, much of the joy would be missing.

Did you ever consider what it takes to practice the gift of hospitality? How expensive do the serving dishes have to be, how fancy the napkins, what culinary skills are required, and what kind of etiquette is appropriate? Those kinds of questions are natural in our culture, but are they the most important ones?

Can one be too poor or too ordinary or too anything to be hospitable? One of the greatest acts of hospitality that Audrey and I ever experienced was in a very simple home. We had been invited to their house for an evening meal. They did not have much. Neither the plates nor silverware matched. The glasses did not match. In fact, they did not have enough glasses for everyone, so Audrey and I had to drink from the same glass. They did not have a lot of food, but what they offered was the very best they had. There were not enough chairs, so we crowded around a table with some sitting on boxes or step stools.

I can't remember what we ate, nor can I recall how their home was decorated. What I remember is how honored they were that we had come to eat with them. Our presence made the evening special for our hosts. I remember them asking their imam (like a Muslim pastor) to sing before the meal. He sang with great joy. When the imam finished his song, he asked if I would sing something which spoke of my own faith. I sang Amazing Grace.

What keeps you from inviting people into your home? Not enough expensive dishes or napkins or glasses? Too small of a table or too few chairs? Or is it a heart thing? What do you suppose your guests would remember – how special your stuff was, or how special you made them feel? Did you share your faith and listen to theirs? What do you think that visitors remember about the hospitality of you and me and of our church? To which people and to which church will visitors want to return?

*Always be eager to practice hospitality.*  
Romans 12:13b (NLT)

~ Fred ~

## CHILDREN & YOUTH news

1/5/11 - FLOW Resumes

**Jan thru Mar - GADGET DRIVE** - This is a fundraiser mentioned in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago. We'll be collecting "gadgets" to recycle and earn some cash at the same time. Items we can take are: cell phones, digital cameras, desk tops, video games, computer monitors and hard drives, laptop computers, gaming systems, calculators, home audio, GPS systems, camera lenses, projectors, MP3 players, camcorders, satellite radios, blue-ray dvd players. Remember, the recycling company guarantees all personal information will be erased from your donated items and if your item cannot be recycled, they guarantee it will not end up in a landfill. If you have any of these items that you can't use or don't want, please drop them into the "Gadget Recycle" box outside the church office.

## District Training Afternoon

Our District Training Afternoon will be Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at Trinity UMC in Paris. Classes will be offered for Treasurers and Finance Committees, Lay Leaders, Vacation Bible School Leaders, and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees.

We will finish by 4:30 p.m. with a brief break and refreshments mid way through the classes.

The Lay Leaders, Vacation Bible School Leaders, and PPR Committee classes will be offered twice in the course of the afternoon so if you're on more than one committee, you will be able to attend both.



Great time to get back in the habit . . . the habit of weekly church attendance. Great time to get more involved in some of the activities that we have going on, too! If you've been procrastinating, you don't know what you're missing. Make 2011 your year to be here.

**Please pray for...** Family of Buddy

Barker; Family of Mary Elizabeth Waddle; Charles Pruneau; Marian Smith; Carolyn Goodwin; Mildred Bunnell; Al Lampley; Barbara Shiney; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Mark Anderson; Terry Bunnell; Mitchell Lunn; Joey Anderson; The less fortunate; Our country: Our continued freedom: Non-Christians; Sunday Night Lights; Larry, Debbie & Lauren Riley; Our church; Karen May; First Place 4 Health participants; Charlotte McGinnis; Thomas Roditis; Jimmy Lane; Ken & Judy Butler; Ken Oakley; James Taylor; Joe Beal; Martha Padgett; Betty Annis; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Bob & Jo Newton; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Bill & 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, January 2**

- 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 practice
- 7:00 p.m. Praise band rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 5**

- 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. FLOW meal  
Menu: Ham, veggies, dessert
- 6:30 p.m. C & Y classes
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK**

**LITURGIST** – Edward Sexton

**NURSERY** – Diane Harvey

**GREETERS** – Luke Anderson, Jake Brown

**USHERS** – Richard Chappell; chairperson, Brad Chappell, Jack Elam, Jimmy Patterson

**January 5 FLOW Kitchen Angels**

Crew leader Jimmy Patterson; Kathy Patterson, Edward Sexton, Harold & Suzanne Russell, Mildred Colotta, Jim & Linda Arnold, John Oakley, Marshall & Robin Russell, Barney & Lossie Beers

**More Universal**

Death is more universal than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives. ~A. Sachs~

**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*

**Honorariums Dec. 19 & 26, 2010**

**In Honor of Charles & Donna Pruneau**

John & Lois Pugh Choir

**In Honor of Fred & Audrey Sistler**

John & Lois Pugh SNL

**In Honor of Larry & Debbie Riley**

John & Lois Pugh Budget

**In Honor of Lauren Riley**

John & Lois Pugh C & Y

**In Honor of Harold & Suzanne Russell**

John & Lois Pugh Budget

**In Honor of Glenn & Kathy Sacks**

John & Lois Pugh MOW

**In Honor of Sandi McMahan**

John & Lois Pugh Choir

**In Honor of Charlene Jones**

John & Lois Pugh Choir

**In Honor of Charles & Donna Pruneau**

Friendship Sunday School Class Mission

**In Honor of The Chancel Choir**

Mike Laughrey & Jill Holland Choir

**Sunday Night-Lights**

The special Sunday Night Lights service with our children and youth performances that had to be cancelled on December 19<sup>th</sup> due to ice has been rescheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't experienced Sunday Night Lights yet, this is an added incentive.

**Stretch 'N Tone**

A low-impact full body workout that includes relaxing, stretching & toning movements of Pilates & Yoga – do only what your body permits. Bring an exercise mat and wear loose fitting clothing. The fee is \$1.00 per class and is paid at each session.

Classes meet at the McKenzie Sr. Citizens Center 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday, except for holidays or the fourth Thursday. For more information contact Myrna Johnson at 731-402-0607.

**A Reminder...**

Please call the office if you or someone we should know about is sick or in the hospital. We don't want to miss someone who needs a call or visit.

