

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.

February 24, 2010

A View from the Pew

We buried Mom last week. It was the first funeral I ever conducted. I did not volunteer for the job, but Mom and Dad had talked it over a few weeks earlier and they both wanted me to do it. How could I refuse?

I spent many hours studying Scriptures related to death and comfort and the resurrection. I asked many friends to pray for wisdom and strength for me to be both son and pastor to Dad. Every time I read the words of committal to be used beside the grave, the tears would come again. How was I going to make it through the funeral standing beside Mom's casket?

When we were told that Mom did not have much longer to live, Dad and I went to the funeral home to take care of the "pre-planning." While we were waiting to speak with the funeral director, Dad got the call that Mom just died. I was grateful to be there with him. We took care of the things that must be done and returned to the nursing home where Mom's body still lay.

It was a cold, gray day, which seemed fitting if you have to bury your mother. By the grace of God and the presence and prayers of friends and family, I was making it through the service. Dad, his three sisters and a brother-in-law, and Audrey and our son David were all sitting in front of me. Dad's grief was almost more than I could bear to watch. Halfway through the service, the song, "It is well with my soul" was played. As I was listening, I heard someone singing. It was Dad. He was soon joined by his sisters and brother-in-law and Audrey and David. The service ended with "How Great Thou Art," and the same thing happened again. The voices were not loud, but they were beautiful and filled with faith and love.

Looking at the casket which contained the body of his much-loved wife of almost 63 years, Dad was able to declare that God was great indeed. As he walked through the valley of the shadow of death, all was still well with his soul.

I have heard that faith is more caught than taught.

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old. – Proverbs 23:22

Thanks, Mom and Dad.

Fred

Senior Adult Luncheon

There will be a catered luncheon following the morning worship on Sunday, March 28 for the seniors (not the high school kind). It will be a time to ask questions and offer suggestions on how our church can best meet your needs and how you can be involved in ministry. We very much need your participation.

What happens at this meeting will help shape our church's work with seniors in the years to come. We need a definite head count for the caterer, so please call the office to RSVP or sign up on the bulletin board outside the office hallway door as soon as possible.

Let's go bowling!

This Friday, February 26th – Paris Bowling Center. We will leave the church at 5:30 p.m. and return around 8:30 p.m. The cost of \$6.00 covers two games and shoe rental. Bring extra spending money if you want to eat or play in the game room. Everybody is invited!!

Memphis Conference Reporter

It is subscription renewal time for the twice monthly conference newspaper. If you've never read it, you don't know what you're missing. Not only does it contain articles about what is happening in our conference churches, but also with Methodism world-wide.

Subscriptions begin June 1, 2010 and expire May 31, 2011 for the bargain price of just \$20.00. *The Memphis Conference Reporter* is self-supporting. No apportionment dollars underwrite the budget. Subscription forms are available in the church office. The deadline is March 31.

Opportunities still available

We are still looking for photographers as well as someone for bulletin board updating. Could it be you?

Wedding Bells

Proud parents John & Susan D'Adamio and proud grandmother Ina Faye Hall are excited to share the news that their son and grandson, Jake Smith, will marry Leigh Buck on May 29th.

