



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.

April 28, 2010

A View from the Pew

I just lost a good friend in the church. I did not really lose him; I know where he is. As it happens, I was one of those with him when his body died. His long battle with cancer reminded me of my mother's situation.

(A Tennessee preacher and Bible professor by the name of Fred Craddock told about a friend who died from cancer, and I have used his idea to relate my own experience.)

Mom was sitting at home when she heard the knock at the door. She opened the door and saw ol' death ready to come in. She slammed the door in his face and said, "I will not let you in."

Mom had a stroke and was rushed to the hospital. The doctors and nurses worked with her and the therapists worked with her, and she came home. She could not walk so well, but her mind was clear and Mom could still do many of the things she loved to do. Everyone was glad to see her looking so well. Ol' death had to go away.

Later, Mom was reading a book and eating her pretzels when she heard another knock. When she opened the door, death was again ready to come in. She slammed the door and said, "I will not let you in."

The doctor said it was a heart problem. One of the valves was leaking and the heart wasn't pumping enough oxygen. Surgery was too risky at her age, but extra oxygen could help, and it did. She was weaker than before and spent most of her days in a wheelchair, but her mind remained clear and she could read her books and eat her pretzels and play her games. She didn't look quite as good now, but ol' death was sent packing.

Mom was asleep the next time she heard the knocking. She tried to get up and shut the door, but the locks and hinges weren't working so well, so she called for help. Many came and stood in front of the door. "We won't let him in. We have the faith." They kept ol' death away from the door, but when they looked out the window, they could see him with his pale, yellow face, sitting outside under a tree - just waiting.

Friends and family prayed hard and guarded the door. The doctors and the nurses did all they could do. It wasn't going to happen on their watch. Then something changed. Mom

said, "Let him in. It's OK." Some argued and said they could still keep death away, but finally they agreed to let him in.

So death came in and took Mom, but somehow he seemed different this time. Normally he entered with fear and pain, but this time he had set them aside, and he was carrying rest and peace. And ol' death looked an awful lot like a servant of God.

Fred

CHILDREN & YOUTH news

Upcoming Events:

May 5th - Last FLOW - Picnic at the barn in the City Park. Grilled burgers and hot dogs are on the menu and we'll serve at 5:30. Games with prizes and a possible wiffleball game for all adults and youth. We'll grill and play games at the church if it rains. We hope to see EVERYBODY there!

May 9th - Confirmands to join our church. Participants include Lexie Bolin, Ty Bruce, Jake Chappell, Gus Glass, Mitch Merrick and Cameron Oakley.

May 16th - Presentation of our graduating High School Seniors: Evan Hudgins, Jake Johnson, John Johnson, Hailee King, and Mary Nethaway.

May 21st - Jackson Bowling and Family Fun Center to celebrate the last day of school. We will leave the church parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. Chaperones are still needed before we can make definite plans, please contact Gina or Donna if you can help.

A Great Invitation

We are invited to join in the celebration of Maxie Lee Cook Bersey's 95th birthday! It will be held on Saturday, May 8 at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please come and go - or sit and stay as long as you like. Refreshments and cake will be served. ****no gifts please****

Hosted by Kathy Sacks, Dawn Sacks Duke, Taylor Duke and Marylynn Bersey

The Tribute Cookbook

Are you gathering you recipes to share? Please don't put it on the back burner.....**we need your recipes by the end of April.**

Sunday, May 2 Text: John 13:31-35

Title: How Do You Love?

Please pray for... Family of Ray Berryman; Family of Darra Adkins; J. W. Sterling; Georgia Powell; Shelly Dillon & family; Marg Walters; Louise Moore; Vickie Foster; Tommy Ellis; Thomas Roditis; Nicky Stafford; Danny Allen; Angela Ezell; All those being deployed to Afghanistan; Dot Niesler; Lavelle Stockdale; Alice Curnutt; Mary Martinez-Karas; Felicia Mesavage; Daniel Western; Sandy Hutt; Karen May; Ben Dill; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Corene Bennett; John & Arlene Howard; Sam Featherstone; Emily Bolin; First Place 4 Health participants; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Eva Sue & Jerry Dorris; Don & Anita Heath; Thomas & Louceil Brummitt; Rev. John Pugh; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Michelle Hagins; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Jo Newton; Anna Weatherford; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; 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, May 2

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside Senior Living
- 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
- 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise Handbell rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday Night-Lights

Wednesday, May 5

- 5:30 p.m. FLOW picnic at City Park
(at the church if it is raining)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

- ACOLYTES** – Jacob Pinson, Allie Harvey
- LITURGIST** – Charles Pruneau
- NURSERY** – Dianne Anderson, Cherry Russell
- GREETERS** – Paul & Jennifer Glass
- COMMUNION SERVERS** - Stephanie Bolin
Jerry & Emily Archer
- USHERS** – Jimmy Patterson; chairperson,
Burnell Beers, Truman Bateman

May 1 Meals on Wheels Angels

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

May 5 FLOW Kitchen Angels

Jimmy & Kathy Patterson, Truman & Trudy Bateman, Edward Sexton, Harold & Suzanne Russell, Mildred Colotta, Jim & Linda Arnold, John Oakley, Marshall & Robin Russell

May United Neighbors needed items:

peanut butter; saltine crackers

Prayers and Pray-ers needed
If you are interested in meeting regularly with one other person to pray (prayer partner), please let Fred Sistler know. There has been some interest expressed in this.

Open your arms to change,
but don't let go of your values.

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

Memorials

April 25, 2010

In Memory of Darra Adkins

Sandra McMahan

In Memory of Ray Berryman

- Junior (Gene) & Pat Berryman C & Y
- Dean & Gail Robb
- Charles & Kay Beal C & Y
- Nicky & Diane Stafford C & Y
- Joe & Elaine Williams
- Kent & Charlene Jones
- June Brummitt Choir
- Rikke Curtis C & Y
- Al & Meredith Lampley Choir
- Mike Laughrey & Jill Holland MOW
- Dr. & Mrs. H. L. Russell & family MOW
- Jerry & Emily Archer
- Frances Pate
- Jimmy & Kathy Patterson
- Jackie & Suzanne Pemberton C & Y
- Eddie & Pam Freeman Choir
- Hoot & Joan Gibson Choir
- Sandra McMahan
- Jim & Sharon Scruton
- Bill & Margaret Stoner
- Keith & Barbara Sanderson

In Memory of Margaret Purcell

Frances Pate

Sunday Night-Lights

First practice for our new praise band is this Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who wishes to participate is invited to attend.

GriefShare

If you've lost someone close to you or know someone who has, there is a new grief recovery support group in our area. Baptist Home Care & Hospice, located on R. B. Wilson Drive in Huntingdon is offering this service free for anyone. The group meets the fourth Tuesday monthly at 7 p.m. in the Huntingdon hospital's community room. More info is on the bulletin board outside the church hallway office door, or you can call 986-7040 or 986-7010.

In Concert - Bethel University Singers and Orchestra, Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethel Performing Arts Center, dedicated to the memory of Anna Pirtle.

Thanks Corner . . .

To Our Church Congregation:
This is a thank you on behalf of my friends, Ray and Brenda Berryman. The past few weeks, I watched our church family so graciously give their time, love, support and most importantly their prayers to help them through this most difficult time. Our church is so truly blessed to know that we have Angels willing to be there in a time of need. God Bless each of you who devoted their time to help and be there for them. This is not a thank you note from Brenda, but from a friend who has observed this love and support for them.

With love,

