

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.

June 16, 2010

Memphis Annual Conference Report

From your lay delegates, Charles and Betty Thompson.

I have come to the realization that trying to report on the hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions of words spoken is like trying to write a *Reader's Digest* version of *War and Peace*. Betty and I have lots of printed information which can be made available. If there is any particular part of conference that interests anyone, please let us know.

We are pleased to report that Rev. Riley was reappointed as our pastor for another year.

Conference began at 4:30 Sunday afternoon and ended around 6:30 Tuesday. The memorial service was a highlight for us as my sister and 12 others were recognized on 2 big screens in the beautiful Collierville sanctuary.

The opening session Sunday night was the performance of a group of Down Syndrome Young Adults who performed body movements in Praise to God. They received and deserved standing ovations. Their group's name is *Company D*. If you get a chance to see them, do so. I promise you will be blessed.

Some thoughts on what Annual Conference happenings are: 4 persons commissioned as provisional members, 2 presented as Deacons, 10 presented as Elders, 8 retirees. 72% of the churches failed to pay all of their apportionments. However, 99.67% of churches in the Paris District paid theirs. There were 3 mergers and 4 church closings, none of these in the Paris District.

Lambuth's situation has not been solved at Conference ending, but had some promising prospects.

The budget that was passed was a little lower than last year's budget.

To find out where much of your apportionment money goes, I suggest you look on page 5 of the Consent Calendar in the 2010 Pre-Conference Material booklet. There are many reports in there of specific ministries.

Some final thoughts.

We can be proud to be called Methodists. We are a connected church that reaches all over the world. We take care of this planet as a God given responsibility. We accept Jesus Christ as our savior and the head of our church. We believe that Christ's command to go into all the world and make disciples is our

universal mission statement. It is our calling to tend God's garden whether it be people or plants.

Annual Conference challenges us and also shows us what we are doing. Dr. Sweet, in one of his sermons, had this to say. "God's first words to man is found in Genesis 2:16 and his last words to man is in Revelation 22:17. Everything in between belongs on God's table." May God's peace be with us all.

Charles & Betty

This Is Good News!

We had our first **weekday prayer meeting** at 11a.m., Wednesday, June 9 in the chapel.

There were so many people we had to use chairs! It was encouraging to be in a service where all of the pews were filled.

The prayer meeting will be weekly from 11:00-11:30am on Wednesdays.

The format is:

- 5-minute devotional
- Prayer requests
- Prayer

Some pray silently and some pray aloud.

Come whenever you can. The chapel is also open 9-noon and 1-3 p.m. weekdays for anyone wanting to spend some quiet time with God.

I believe God is going to do a new work here. Start watching for him. *Fred*

CHILDREN & YOUTH news

Venture River - Next Wed., June 23rd, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 4th grade and up. Parents of youth that will be entering 3rd grade or younger will need to join us as chaperones. The cost is \$21 for persons 54" and taller, \$16 for under 54". We can save \$2 per person if we have a minimum of 15 people. To cut cost we can pack a picnic lunch and eat outside the park. Please call Gina a.s.a.p. at 415-1984 so she can get a headcount and make reservations.

4th of July Float: The theme will be Happy Birthday America! and middle school youth will help build the float. We will build at Gina's house (where we can jump in the pool to cool off!) during the week of June 28th. Gina will contact middle school youth with specific times for working on the float.

Please pray for... Family of Wade Kiestler; Darlene Martinez; Janice Nation; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Betty Berry; Sean Kyle; Sandy Hutt; Ashley, Beth and baby Josie Culpepper; Clergy families moving; Shelly Dillon; Becky Herron; Larry Robison; Eva Sue & Jerry Dorris; Don & Anita Heath; Thomas & Louceil Brummitt; Brady Brewer; Marvin Williams; June Cook; Martha Johnson; Thomas Roditis; Jim Lane; Lucille & Anthony Brashear; Vickie Foster; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Caregivers & caretakers; Sam Featherstone; Bill & Betty Featherstone; J. W. Sterling; First Place 4 Health participants; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Michelle Hagins; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Jo Newton; 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, June 20

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
 6:30 p.m. Sunday Night-Lights

Monday, June 21

11:30 a.m. Hilltoppers

Tuesday, June 22

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

Wednesday, June 23

8:30-4:00 trip to Venture River
 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Jacob Pinson, Emily Bolin

LITURGIST – Kevin Harvey

NURSERY – Diane Harvey, Leah Partridge

GREETERS – Bob & Jo Newton

USHERS – Charles Thompson; chairperson, Jacob Partridge, Paul Glass, Jimmy Patterson

June 19 Meals on Wheels Angels

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

June 23 Office Angels

Lanier Mabry, Frances Pate

June United Neighbors needed items:

macaroni & cheese

VBS - BOABAB BLAST

July 12th - 15th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ages preschool to 5th grade. We are pre-ordering t-shirts...if you want one please call Jennifer Pinson or Gina. Cost of the shirts will depend on how many we order...we're aiming for \$10-\$12 each. Let us know a.s.a.p. so we can get the shirts in before VBS! Watch the newsletter for more details.

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 and Memorials

June 13, 2010

In Honor of John Laughrey, Drew Hayes, Craig Broadbent

Brenda Berryman

In Memory of Darra Adkins

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Madeline Barker

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Ray Berryman

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Tommy Ellis

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Juanita Gunter

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Bonnie Lawrence

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Ross Martin

Raymond & Jessie McDade

In Memory of Ray Owen

Raymond & Jessie McDade

MHS Class of 1951

Virginia Kee

Mission

In Memory of Margaret Purcell

Raymond & Jessie McDade

You May Remember

Some of us may remember Bill and Camille Funk, lay educational missionaries to Borneo from 1962-1971. They were partially supported by contributions from our church, and we presented them with a commemorative plate many years ago. Camille is now in the process of downsizing her style of living and it was very important to her that the plate got back to us. It has hung on the wall in each of the homes they have had over the years, according to her very nice note that accompanied the package. The plate is now on display in the church office.

Surprise!

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
 As I entered Heaven's door,
 Not by the beauty of it all,
 Nor the lights or its decor.
 But it was the folks in Heaven
 Who made me sputter and gasp
 The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
 The alcoholics and the trash.
 There stood the kid from seventh grade
 Who swiped my lunch money twice.
 Next to him was my old neighbor
 Who never said anything nice.
 Herb, who I always thought
 Was rotting away in hell,
 Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
 Looking incredibly well..
 I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
 I would love to hear Your take.
 How'd all these sinners get up here?
 God must've made a mistake."
 "And why is everyone so quiet,
 So somber - give me a clue."
 "Hush, child," He said, "they're all in shock.
 No one thought they'd be seeing you."
 Judge Not!

~Author Unknown~