

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 23, 2010

A WORD from the PASTOR

Isaiah 40:22 & 31 "He [God] sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength...They will soar on wings like eagles;..."

In describing the greatness of our Creator, Isaiah starts off comparing humanity to the grasshoppers. Isaiah had such a gift for metaphor, we can see this as he carefully chose contrasting grasshoppers with eagles.

Grasshoppers have gotten a bad rap. In Aesop's fables they are lazy and playful. They have nothing for the winter and must beg the industrious ant for food and shelter. Humans have a negative view of the grasshopper.

I remember as a boy in West Tennessee during certain summers when the grasshoppers were thicker than flies. When I walked in the pastures, each step caused a ripple of life that surged nearly 10 feet ahead of me, leaping out of my way. They ate everything, the corn and our vegetable garden. Thank God they did not eat the whole crop.

But why did Isaiah choose grasshoppers to represent humanity? Grasshoppers have wings, though they are much less endowed than eagles. They also have 5 eyes, as part of their survival ability to see all around them. This ability to see the wide horizon helps us move beyond being spiritual novices.

As long as we remain down in the grass, content to only look in front of us, we only see the next blade of grass in front of us. We will not grow and thrive. We eventually will get caught up in our own selfish struggles, wondering why the grass doesn't taste better.

But by exercising faith in Christ, we gain the capacity to look at the vast expanse of God's world with a sense of awe and wonder that lifts us to new heights. Seeing ourselves in the context of being part of a majestic creation, gives our faith "wind beneath our wings" to soar like eagles. May we learn to live with grasshopper eyes and eagles wings.

Peace,
Larry

Sunday, June 27 Text: Luke 9:57-62

Title: Surrender

Opportunity Knocking . . .

We have an opening for a **3rd-4th grade Sunday School teacher**. If you are interested in filling this vital part of our Sunday School ministry, please contact Gina or Donna.

Mountain Mission Pick Up

The next pick up date for the United Methodist Mountain Mission is **Tues., July 20**. Items urgently needed at this time are: men's summer clothes, men's shoes, new or very gently used underwear and socks, dishes, and school supplies (markers, pencils, crayons, notebooks, paper, book bags). As always, they will welcome any good and usable items.

Please hold your donations at home until July 18 as we have no storage space here.

Freedom Festival 2010

Saturday, July 3, is the date for the **City of McKenzie Freedom Festival 2010**. There are events beginning with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. and ending with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. The parade (with our float in it) will begin at 6:00 p.m. downtown, ending at the city park on Como Street. Activities and entertainment will be available for all ages. The Community Chorus, directed by our own Charlene Jones, will sing at 8:30 p.m. A copy of the complete schedule of events will be in the church bulletin on Sunday.

CHILDREN & YOUTH news

Freedom Festival 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.

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 King. Cost of the shirts is \$10.00. Order yours by June 30th so we can get the shirts in before VBS!



Watch the newsletter for more details.

Please pray for... Margaret

Guzdzial; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Joan Brown; June Cook; Martha Johnson; First Place 4 Health participants; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; Gladys Lovell; Sean Kyle; Craig Broadbent; Lindsey Hall; Tina Bruce; J. W. Sterling; Sandy Hutt; Ashley, Beth and baby Josie Culpepper; Hunter Harrison; Nelson & Gayle Harrison; Felicia Bush; Eva Sue & Jerry Dorris; Lynn Dorris; Don & Anita Heath; Anthony & Lucille Brashear; Brady Brewer; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Laila McDade, Lori & Eric; 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.

**Sandra McMahan, Organist, Handbell Director
Donna Bruce & Gina King, C & Y Directors**

Kathy Patterson, Administrative Assistant

The First Parent

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or whatever.... here is something to make you laugh. (Remember, this is a laugh!)

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children. After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve (his children).

The first thing he said was, "Don't!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve. . . we have forbidden fruit!" "No way!"

"Yes, way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, (wondering why he hadn't stopped creation after elephants).

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and was He ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" our first parent, God, asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed!

But there is assurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself.

If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two Aspirin" and "Keep away from children."

You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 years telling them to sit down and hush.

Grandchildren are God's reward to you for not killing your children.

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

~Author Unknown~

Memorials

June

20, 2010

In Memory of Raymond Owen

MHS Class of 1951

Vernette Hacker

Mission

The next week at our church

Sunday, June 27

- 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 28

- 9:00 a.m. CARE Group meeting

Wednesday, June 30

- 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Larson King, Allie Harvey

LITURGIST – Glenn Sacks

NURSERY – Betty Merrick, Jennifer Pinson

GREETERS – Jason & Jennifer Pinson

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

June 26 Meals on Wheels Angels

Cook: Fred & Audrey Sistler

Delivery: Jodie, John & Jake Johnson

Jill Holland & Harris Laughrey

June United Neighbors needed items:

macaroni & cheese

Good Sense

We rarely think people have good sense unless they agree with us.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld~

FUMC Staff

J. Larry Riley, Pastor

John Pugh, Pastor Emeritus

Fred Sistler, Director of Ministries

Charlene Jones, Director of Music



Thanks Corner . . .

A sincere thank you to the CARE GROUP for the delicious meal provided after Nicky's recent surgery. Thanks also for the prayers, calls, and cards.

May God bless you,
Nicky and Diane Stafford