

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 30, 2010

A WORD from the PASTOR

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

The truth we see in this scripture should define the way Christians view every day. God himself has prepared good works for us to do: that means worthwhile, beneficial tasks for us to carry out. God has chosen to involve us in accomplishing something of lasting significance.

No one's life is exempt from this principle. The reason you are alive today is that God has prepared good works for you to do today. Every single day has divine significance. And every single day of eternity can be impacted by what you do each day.

This is more than inspirational jargon. This is not about the kind of self-worth essential for healthy existence, this about God. And we should be thrilled to be right in the middle of it with God. God has chosen to create us and redeem us for the purpose of involving us in what he is doing. And within the broad scope of what God is doing, he has given us each specific gifts to be evolved in the Lord's Church.

So we ought to be alert and expectant to discover the God-given talents we possess for the good works the Lord has called us to. Sometimes they're big and unexpected, and sometimes they're part of our normal routine. Whatever form they take, God has prepared these opportunities. So what we do and how we do it is to demonstrate the character of Christ in His Church, for God ***"has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the Knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"*** (2 Cor. 4:6) as we speak about Christ and help people.

It's possible for us to get to wondering how all this works. If God is sovereign, won't these good works just happen without our response? The wonder and beauty here is that we don't have to know the answers to these questions. We don't have to understand how God's preparation of the works and our doing of the works fit together. God has invited and commanded us to do God's Will and purpose.

So what good works has God prepared for you as part of McKenzie First's Ministry? You probably already know what some of our

needs are for ministry opportunities: we're seeking Sunday school teachers for our children. This is one area of need.

Let's be prayerful and expectant, alert and engaged, eager to join God in his gracious plans for us at McKenzie First.

*Peace!
Larry*

Conference Offering Results!

Our Conference Offering helped meet the goal that was set to offer pension support for the Central Conference. Help is already being distributed in the form of emergency grants of \$80 until the pension plan is operational.

One widow was able to replace her disease-breeding thatched roof with a corrugated metal roof. Another widow who lives with one of her children and grandchildren said the income means her grandchildren can now afford to go to school. Still another retired pastor told the pension staff that after a lifetime of sleeping on the floor, she could afford for the first time to buy a mattress.

Our dollars helped with this much needed support for ministers and widows of ministers who have spent their lives in service to others.

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 at the park. The Community Chorus, directed by Charlene Jones, will sing at 8:45 p.m.

VBS - BOABAB BLAST

July 12th - 15th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ages preschool to 5th grade. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Congrats to Drew!

If you haven't already heard, Drew Hayes was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. He left last week for Billings, Montana and will join the Billings Mustangs, an advanced rookie squad. He is looking forward to playing with the Mustangs and wants to move through the organization as quickly as he can.

Please pray for... Walters family; Bill & Lorraine Dillon; McKenzie Fire Dept.; Rhea Todd; Alice Curnutt; Deanna Geno & family; Mary & Darrell Karas; Becky Herron; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; Dale Walter; Shelly Dillon; Dillon family; Albert Baker; Willie Rogers; People motivated by greed; Margaret Guzdial; Drew Hayes; Danny Allen; The world; President Obama; Darlene Martinez; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Joan Brown; Zia Locke; America; The Gulf Coast; Our church; Brother Riley; All church members; Thomas Roditis; Clarence Beville; Kyle Alexander; June Cook; Martha Johnson; Suzanne Russell; Ashley, Beth and baby Josie Culpepper; Hunter Harrison; Dr. Nelson Harrison and Gayle Harrison; J. W. Sterling; Jacob Pinson; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Bob & 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, July 4

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
 Text: Galatians 5:1; 13-25
 Title: Freedom To Live
 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
 6:30 p.m. Sunday Night-Lights

Monday, July 5

Office closed

Wednesday, July 7

11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Emily Bolin, Timothy Dillon

LITURGIST – Sylvia Hickman

NURSERY – Robin Russell, Doris Smith

GREETERS – Edward Sexton,
 Charles Thompson

USHERS – Glenn Sacks; chairperson,
 Kevan King, Luke Anderson


July United Neighbors needed items:
 crackers, peanut butter

There will be a
Church Council Meeting
 Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.
 All members are invited to attend

What Are You Doing Now?

What you are doing this day will eventually affect someone you don't even know. ~MountainWings~

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 June

27, 2010

In Memory of Tommy Ellis

Nicky & Diane Stafford

C & Y

News from Janet McCarty

We've received a letter of thanks dated May 26, 2010 from Audrey Sistler's sister.

Dear Audrey and UMW friends,

Christian greetings from Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges in Kidapawan City!

It was wonderful to spend time meeting so many of you when I visited in February. I very much felt your love and support.

SPMC has received the \$400 you so generously donated for a scholarship for a student for one year. Currently new students are taking the entrance exam and filling out the scholarship application forms. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting the end of May to choose the students fortunate enough to receive a scholarship. At that time I will let you know the name of your student and he/she will be contacting you also.

Thanks so much for your donation! Because you cared, a Filipino student will have a chance to get an education and have hope for a better future. You have made a difference in the life of a student.

May God richly shower you with blessings!

Shalom,

Janet M. McCarty
 Acting President

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).

The Mission Plant is in need of laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, and safety pins. Banana, apple, and tomato boxes stack very well. 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.

Thanks Corner . . .

I have received so many memorials, cards and calls since my last Thank You, that I felt I really need to express once again a big Thanks to ALL. The support you continue to give me is wonderful. I understand that without the Grace of God and all of you continuing to pray for me, I would not be able to handle the loneliness. Thanks and please keep praying.

Much love,
Brenda