



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.

July 28, 2010

A WORD from the PASTOR

Zig Zigar tells the story of the time he was a student at Yazoo City High School in Mississippi. He was a table tennis player and could beat just about anyone. One time a new kid came to town and Zigar couldn't beat him.

Zigar was using the old three-finger grip so he changed to a newer "handshake" grip. The initial results were disastrous. But, after a few weeks his game improved and he eventually was able to beat the new kid in town. He was convinced that he had to change his grip in order to improve his game.*

Sometimes we have to take an honest look at ourselves and see that what always worked in the past may not work now or in the future. We have to keep making adjustments and corrections along our life's journey in order to be successful.

This is especially true for the church. Some changes are necessary in order to be effective witnesses for the faith. If we want our church to grow, we have to change our grip.

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus told his disciples to **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."** Like the first disciples Jesus calls us also to "go and make disciples." Unfortunately we get complacent with our faith and just come to worship and get what we need for ourselves. There seems to be an attitude that, "if people want to be part of the church, they will somehow find us."

According to Jesus, we have a responsibility to seek out those who are unchurched and invite them to come: **"Go therefore and make disciples."**

To do that we have to postpone our comfort zones, our circle of friends and seek out those who are lost and those who don't have a relationship with God.

Visitors who come to McKenzie First may come because their lives are in transition. They are looking for a sense of belonging and community. In other words, they may feel a void in their lives or there is some pain.

When visitors come it is essential that we make them feel welcome and do everything in our power to establish a relationship with them. Being warm and friendly is just the beginning. Like Jesus said, we need to **Go - get involved.**

One single effort to keep moving forward, reaching out to a friend and inviting them to worship can make a world of difference.

*See you In Church,
Larry*

[*Dr. Keith Wagner]



From Charlene . . .

Chancel Choir practice will resume next Wednesday. If you'd like to join, this is a great time to begin. No try-outs necessary, we won't make you prove you can sing. Check it out on Wednesday nights at 7:00. You might be surprised at the different perspective you get during a worship service by being up front and involved in a way that is meaningful and appreciated.

F. L. O. W. 2010-2011 NEWS:

Summer is quickly winding down and teachers and students will be returning to school sooner than they are ready! With the return of school comes the return of our Wednesday evening programs.

We've been busy planning for the return to our Fellowship and Learning On Wednesdays. Classes and dinner will resume on August 18th. Classes for adults will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. and classes for children and youth starting at 6:30.

This year will be filled with lots of community service projects, fundraisers and family activities. Every 5th Wednesday will be a Potluck Supper and Family Game night. September brings our first fundraiser of the year....the return of the "Chicken Dinner". Family Fun Day will again be held in October and a Christmas ornament sale will take place during Hometown Christmas. We are also working hard on the return of the Children's Christmas Program. Our Middle and High School students will have several fundraisers to raise money toward a mission trip next summer. More information on the trip will be presented at the first FLOW, so be sure to join us. Thank you all for the support you have shown to the Children & Youth program. We are looking forward to another great year.

Please pray for... Family of Trey Newman; Debbie Riley; Pat Roberts; Sandy Hutt; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; Our church; Judy Seratte Chandler; Don David & family; Martha Johnson; Harry Agricola; Thomas Roditis; Larry Byrd & family; Sally Sullivan; First Place 4 Health participants; Jerry & Eva Sue Dorris; Lynn Dorris; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Tracy McKee Phelps; J. W. Sterling; Chad Turman; Laura & Libby Oakley; Charlotte Wilson & family; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Sunday Night-Lights (Sunday Night Service); Youth & Children's ministries; Betty Pritchard; Josh Black; Danny Allen; Jacob Jackson; "Speedy"; Marsha Holiday; Becky Herron; Darlene Martinez; All God's Children; Cooler weather; Norbert & Margaret Ann Barruel; Dr. Carl Freeman; 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; 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, August 1

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
 Text: Mark 14:12-16; 22-26
 Title: The Significance of Holy Communion
 1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside
 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
 6:30 p.m. Sunday Night-Lights

Wednesday, August 4

11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Jacob Pinson, Libby Oakley
LITURGIST – Jennifer Pinson
NURSERY – Gina King, Elaine Brown
GREETERS – Elaine Brown, Elane Kee
USHERS – Edward Sexton; chairperson, Tim Broadbent, John Oakley, Austin Bush

August United Neighbors needed items: dishwashing liquid, bath soap, empty sacks

Opportunities available

We are still looking for photographers, someone for bulletin board updating, and a Sunday School teacher for our 3-4 graders. Could it be you? Would you be willing to give any of these a try? Talk to Fred.

Telephone numbers to reach the pastor: office 352-2456; home 352-2730; cell 731-617-0142. Please don't hesitate to call if you have a need.

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

July 25,

2010

In Memory of Mary Frances David

Dr. & Mrs. H. L. Russell & family **Choir**
 Sandra McMahan **Handbells**
 Mildred Colotta **C & Y**

In Memory of Trey Newman

Sandra McMahan **Handbells**
 Mildred Colotta **Mission**

Prayer in the Chapel

Our weekly prayer meetings are very well attended. We always have room for more, though. Come to the chapel on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. to pray for our church, our community, our country and our world. No particular form of prayer is followed or expected. There is a leader each week. Please come whenever you can, for the sake of us all.

Drink, Steal, Swear, and Lie

I met a guy once who told me he has a motto he lives by every day. He said, "Listen carefully and live by these four rules: Drink, Steal, Swear, and Lie."

I was shaking my head No! but he then told me to listen while he explained his four rules. So here they are:

1. Drink from the everlasting cup every day.
2. Steal a moment to help someone who is in worse shape than you are.
3. Swear that you will be a better person today than yesterday.
4. And last, but not least, when you lie down at night thank God you live in America and have freedom.

I am not as good as I should be, I am not as good as I could be, but THANK GOD I am better than I used to be!

~Author Unknown~

Handbell Happenings

Peals of Praise Handbell practice will resume in September. If singing isn't your thing, maybe ringing is. Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings at 6:00. Try one and see if this is a talent you didn't know you had, or re-join if you've skipped a year or twenty.

Sunday Night-Lights

This is the place to be on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. if you're interested in being a part of our praise band. This vibrant group is looking forward to the fall Bethel quarter when college students who are far away from their church homes are looking for a joyful Sunday evening activity.

Thanks Corner . . .

The family of Mary Frances David thanks the First United Methodist Church for the beautiful floral arrangement.

Don David