



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.

August 19, 2009

A WORD from the PASTOR

As a United Methodist Clergy, I have been asked, "How do we arrive at what we believe and support as Christians?" Years ago Susan Padezanin did a great article to explain our historic guidelines. Since this column is not long enough to explain the entire article, this week we'll look at the first two sources.

Ms. Padezanin explains our sources, from which we derive our beliefs and theological affirmations in the following guidelines. They are also the criteria by which we assess our understanding and witness of our faith. John Wesley believed that the living **core of the Christian faith** was revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.

Scripture.

The Bible is the primary source for what we believe. Our doctrines are grounded in the biblical story of God's self-disclosure--in creation; in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; in the activity of the Holy Spirit; and in the coming of God's promised kingdom. We believe that God's Word and will are revealed to us when Scripture is interpreted in light of its original message, as well as in terms of its meaning for us today. As we open our hearts and minds to the Word of God through the words of human beings inspired by the Holy Spirit, faith is born and nourished, our understanding is deepened, and the possibilities for transforming the world become apparent to us.

Tradition.

Our Christian tradition is rooted in the lives and within the works and testimony of those who have gone before us. Church ritual, creeds, and hymns are all part of our heritage. The devotional classics and theological writings of Christian men and women over the centuries form an important part of our tradition. Christian art illuminates the sacred story. The lives of the saints--the people we read about in books as well as those we have known personally--bear testimony to the faith. Our tradition gives us an insight into how earlier Christians and communities of faith understood God's will, how they interpreted the gospel, and how they applied the Scripture to their own situations.

Next week we'll look at personal experience and confirmed by reason.

Peace and Grace, Larry

August 23 Text: I Corinthians 1:18-25
Title: What Fools Look Like

--- ACOLYTES ---

Acolyte and fire safety training will be conducted on Wednesday, August 26th from 6-7 p.m. All new acolytes (third graders) as well as current ones with experience are strongly encouraged to attend.

Help a Student

More than 8,000 miles from McKenzie, Tennessee on the island of Mindanao in The Philippines is a small college with a special connection to McKenzie FUMC. The head of the Southern Philippines Methodist College is Janet McCarty, sister of Audrey Sistler. Audrey recently presented a program on the college and her sister's work to the UMW. The college offers degrees in theology, early childhood education, elementary education and computer science. Its mission is "preparing leaders and educating the poor." Most of the students are from low-income/poor families who could not attend college without a scholarship.

The UMW voted to support one of these students by providing a \$400 scholarship annually. Anyone who would like to donate to this scholarship will have an opportunity this Sunday. Juanita Finley will be available after the worship service to receive your donation or pledge. Thanks!

Attention UMW Members

This year is half over and we still have projects to complete. We would like to finish the year with all our budget obligations completed.

Many members have paid their pledge for the 2009 year, but there are many who have not paid their pledge for the year.

If you have not paid your pledge, please give it to the UMW treasurer, Juanita Finley, or to your subgroup treasurer. Thank you all for helping to meet our UMW budget for this year. If each member pledges \$2 per month (that would be \$24 for the year) we could pay all our obligations. Yea!! Yea!!

Memorials

August 16, 2009

In Memory of Joe Curtis

Richard & Peggy Chappell C & Y

In Memory of Sarah McDonald

Richard & Peggy Chappell Choir

In Memory of Romie Moseley

Richard & Peggy Chappell Choir
Marshall & Robin Russell

Remember we are collecting school supplies for the school guidance counselors. All donations are appreciated.

Please pray for . . . Susie, Paul, Victoria, & Abbey Motheral; Rikke, Johnathan, & Jeana Curtis; Elizabeth Russell; Finis Murray; Buddy McClain; Nell McAlexander; Darlene Martinez; Darlene Figard; Marilyn Putman; Ann Hood; Thomas Roditis; Wally & Lois Brazie; Lucy Hickman; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Barbara & Frank Shiney; First Place, Diane Harvey & Jennifer Pinson, leaders; Turner Owen Lee; Freada Petty; Dorothy Carter; Terry Hardy; All God's creatures; Bro. Scott Alford & family; Bro Larry Riley & family; Our church; McKenzie Police Dept., Fire Dept, & Rescue Squad; J. W. Sterling; Zia McKennie; Mildred Bunnell; Zack Terry; Bill, Kristie, Will, & Alexis Reaves; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Arthur Roland & Bea Pickler; Kay & Samantha Parker; Nan Tate & family; Sybil King; Myke & Patty Wilson; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194th ENBDE; Betsy Barcroft; Morris Beasley and family; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Betty Simmons; Marvin & Judy Williams; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Ann Sexton; Lola Alexander; Jean A. Melton; Margaret & Jim Purcell; Ina Faye Hall; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Ray & Brenda Berryman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Becky Herron; Kellett Hochreiter; Justin Wilson; Our troops overseas and at home.

The next week at our church

Sunday, August 23

Promotion Sunday
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, August 24

9:00 a.m. CARE Group meeting

Wednesday, August 19

6:00-7:00 p.m. Acolyte training
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Timothy Dillon & Gus Glass

NURSERY – Gina King & Donna Bruce

GREETERS – Alice Curnutt & Lois Pugh

LITURGIST – Kent Jones

USHERS – Tim Broadbent; chairperson,
 John Oakley, Austin Bush, Edward Sexton

Wednesday Office Angels August 26

Lanier Mabry & Frances Pate

August United Neighbors needed items:

deodorant; toilet tissue

Do you want to lose weight? Could you use some balance in your life? Come and discover the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program, **First Place 4 Health**. We'll start this widely acclaimed program on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 5:00 p.m. Talk to Jennifer Pinson or Diane Harvey to get on board.

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 23 is Promotion Sunday, the day for "moving up" a class when you get old enough. We have 5 rising 3rd graders who will receive a Bible during the morning service: Emily Bolin, Allie Harvey, Larson King, Will McBride, and Libby Oakley.

August is Pray For Us Month

Here is this week's *Pray For Us* list with a scripture and a specific person or group to include in your prayers each day. Please participate enthusiastically in this endeavor. Let's follow where God leads us.

August 22 – Board of Trustees members

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

2 Timothy 1:14 NRSV

We pray that the members of this board take seriously the promise to oversee all things relating to the church building and grounds, and that they use sound judgment to carry out their duties.

August 23 – Jimmy Patterson, Building and Property Superintendent

We will not neglect the house of our God.

Nehemiah 10:39b NRSV

We pray that Jimmy will continue to care deeply about all things related to the church buildings and property, and that his concern will inspire others to care as well.

August 24 – Bob Putman, Stewardship and Finance chair

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

We pray that Bob continues to be a man of prayer who is persistent before God until he has answers, guidance, and results. We pray that we will heed God's call through Bob's requests for support.

August 25 – Suzanne Russell, Lay Leader

for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Matthew 25:35-36 NRSV

We pray that Suzanne continues to encourage others to use their gifts to participate in leading the mission and ministry of the congregation.

August 26 – Lay Ministries Committee members

So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17 NRSV

We pray that the members of this committee will recognize which congregation members can best serve on the various teams and committees within the church each year.

August 27 – Kevin Harvey, Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee chair

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9 NRSV

We pray that Kevin continues with strength and inspiration for his leadership of this committee, and that the members continue to work together with him on their mission.

August 28 – Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee members

If any of you lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you. James 1:5 NRSV

We pray that these committee members prayerfully ponder each decision that must be made and come to agreements that will benefit our church.

FUMC Staff

- J. Larry Riley, *Pastor*
- John Pugh, *Pastor Emeritus*
- Charlene Jones, *Director of Music*
- Sandra McMahan, *Organist, Handbell Director*
- Donna Bruce & Gina King, *C & Y Directors*
- Kathy Patterson, *Administrative Assistant*

