



Thanks to all the volunteers who worked on and behind the scenes, construction on our Habitat House for Carolyn Melton is complete. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the dedication of the house on **Sunday, January 24.**

Phone 865-690-8641

Fax 865 539-4636

[www.middlebrookpike.com](http://www.middlebrookpike.com)

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*The Good and Beautiful God*

*Falling in Love With the God Jesus Knows*

A 10—Week Study Beginning

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

call the church office to register by January 17

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**Community Prayer Service for Peace** at MPUMC

On Sunday January 24 at 6PM, our church will be hosting a community prayer service for peace. The service will be led in partnership with First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge. At the service, you will get to learn how a group of youth from Oak Ridge are working in a real and profound way for peace in the Middle East. You will also have the chance to be a part of the prayer initiative begun by our own Mickey Rosenblum to have 1 million Christians praying for peace by praying for our enemies in January of 2010. Please mark your calendars now!

JANUARY 13, 2010

The Messenger

# On Campus Events

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**

- 8:30 Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 8:45 Contemporary Worship (FLC/Gym)
- 9:00 MPUMC Breakfast (FLC/FH)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Contemporary Worship (FLC/Gym)
- 11:00 Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 Girls Basketball
- 4:30 Brass Voices
- 5:30 Revelation Singers
- 5:30 First Place Class (Old Bldg.)
- 5:30 Youth Snack Supper
- 6:00 "GiG" Youth Small Groups
- 7:30 "Slingshot" Youth/Young Adult Worship

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 18**

- 7:00 SPR Meeting (LCR)

## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

- 9:00 Staff Meeting (LCR)
- 9:30 CEP
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC)
- 10:30 Prayer at the Altar
- 6:30 Christian Believer Class (LCR)
- 7:00 Open Gym

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20**

- 5:15 Youth Handbell Choir
- 6:15 Early Risers Choir
- 6:15 Angel Choir (Room 26)
- 6:15 Cherub choir (Room 21)
- 6:15 Friendship Choir (Room 30)
- 6:45 "Ignition" Youth Fellowship
- 7:00 Children's Handbell Choir
- 7:00 Chancel Choir
- 7:00 ESL Class (Room 21 and 30)
- 7:45 Youth Games

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 21**

- 9:30 CEP
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC)
- 5:00 CWS Praise Team
- 5:15 Youth Handbells
- 6:00 Disciple III
- 6:30 KEENAGERS
- 7:00 Toastmasters (Room 30)
- 7:00 ESL Class (Room 23 and 31)

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

- 9:00 FISH

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 23**

- 8:00 Sr. High Boys Basketball
- 9:00 Homeowners Meeting (FH)

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 10, 2010

Total Worship - 452    Sunday School - 228



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Church Office will be  
closed on Monday, January 18  
in observance of  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



- January 19**    Loraine Slimp, Brian Brown, Dorothy Burkhart, Bonnie Cole-Horne, Dalton Atkins, Jason Shepherd
- January 20**    Grayson Gissel, Justin Mathys, Jim Robinson, David Ridner, Ashley Key, Catherine Hawley, Becky Higgins
- January 21**    Jerry Nichols
- January 22**    Clyde Finch, Joe Hatton
- January 23**    Jen Webb, Jack Watt, Sally Lovin
- January 24**    Sally Skoda, Daryll Ray, Carroll Grubbs
- January 25**    Martha Jean Bratton
- January 27**    Becky McMurray, Bill Swaggerty, Rita Tate, Daniel Rice



SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

BREAKFAST WILL BE  
SERVED BY

Believers Sunday  
School Class

Ragamuffin Sunday School class invites you to join them —

**Who Stole My Church**, by Gordon MacDonald  
With himself as narrator, Pastor and author Gordon MacDonald creates a cast of church members in their 50s, 60s and 70s who meet each week to discuss where their church has been, is now and should go in the future. "All I know is that someone stole my church and I'd like to get it back," says one. MacDonald delves into the feelings of the older generation as they watch new leadership take over, see changes in music and use of technology, and begin to wonder how they will fit in. He challenges their understanding of what the church is, then looks at the early church and the modern church and the many cultural influences that transform Christian spirituality. MacDonald is especially strong when he includes young people's perspectives or brings research to bear on how people view and act on change. This is a challenging, innovative approach to a delicate subject. It's sure to benefit church leaders and members of all ages who dream of a reinvented church.



*Willing Workers Circle*

*We'll be meeting in the fellowship hall at 10:30 AM on the 20th. Come give us a try. Also note that if school is cancelled because of the weather, we do not meet.*

## Children's Corner

### **Dates to Remember ~**

**January 15, 2010 – Parent's Night Out  
(Middlebrook Pike UMC)**

**January 17, 2010 - New Rotation (Paul)**

### **Missions:**

Change for Children – ongoing  
FISH – Peanut Butter

### **Baby Bulletin Board**

Please send Ann a picture of your baby with the full name and date of birth on the back if he/she is younger than 1 year, and we don't have one.



Everyone enjoys looking at the newest additions to our church family.

**~ Thanks ~**

**Thanks to all who have agreed to volunteer with our children. You will be greatly blessed each Sunday you work with children. They are eager to learn. You will be surprised at how much you learn from them.**

Ann Cover - Director of Children's Ministries  
acover@middlebrookpike.com

# The STEPHEN MINISTRY is NOT A SECRET!

Although we never divulge your secrets, the Stephen Ministry Program at Middlebrook Pike UMC is not a “secret”. If you or a loved one has experienced a devastating loss, a crisis, an illness, or a family disagreement that has put your life into a tailspin, then you might benefit from the love and care from a Stephen Minister. Share your need with a pastor, a Sunday school or Bible study teacher; a church staff member, or another Stephen Minister. They will give your phone number to the Stephen Leader who will call within 48 hours to meet you and match you with a Stephen Minister of the same gender. The program is designed for any adult who has a need for spiritual care and comfort.

## **What is the Stephen Ministry?**

The Stephen Ministry program provides spiritual care and a biblical solution by training lay persons to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide. The Stephen Ministry’s logo symbolizes that we are broken people who have needs, but it is through the love and cross of Jesus Christ that we are made whole. Stephen Ministers do not tell you what to do, but they will listen attentively as you share your experience and offer comfort and prayers as you seek solutions. They allow the healing from God to transform you so that you can pick up the pieces of our life and move on. Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. Only the Stephen Leaders and the pastors know who is receiving one-on-one care from a Stephen Minister. What takes place in the caring relationship is private and known only to the Care Receiver and the Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry is God’s love in Action! Stephen Ministers reach out with God’s love to people in our congregation and non-members who are hurting. If you could benefit from the confidential, one-on-one care and support of a Stephen Minister, or if you know someone—please consider requesting a Stephen Minister.

## **How does the Stephen Ministry program work?**

Congregation members who have gifts for care giving are carefully screened and selected for 50 hours of specialized training. Upon completion of the training, the Stephen Minister is commissioned by our church and is prepared for service. Each Stephen Minister who has an assignment is expected to attend Supervision twice a month and Continuing Education programs throughout the year. This keeps our listening skills and biblical focus sharp.

Upon being given an assignment, the Stephen Ministry meets with his or her Care Receiver once a week for one hour to provide emotional and spiritual care. They may also stay in touch by phone, cards or e-mail. There is no set time to end the relationship, most are ongoing for six months to one year—as long as there is a need.

All congregation members have a vested interest in the Stephen Ministry program and we request your prayers for hope and healing for those who are hurting. God doesn’t expect you to bear your burdens alone! If you have a need, please make an appointment with one of the Pastors or contact Lynne Harr.

And, if you are a good listener and a compassionate person who wants to share the love of Christ, we need you as a Stephen Minister. Please contact our Stephen Minister leaders, Lynne Harr and Bill Swaggerty (beginning Feb. 1).

Stephen Ministries is a non-for-profit Christian education organization that provides training, support and resources to thousands of congregations worldwide.—[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org).

To make a referral, call Pastor Eric Rieger or Pastor Wil Cantrell at 690-8641 or contact Lynne Harr at 584-1624.



# MPUMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES...

This calendar does not include basketball practices or games.  
See your coach for further details.

### **JANUARY 15, 16, & 17**

45 youth & 12 adults attend Resurrection 2010;  
our annual youth Methodist youth convention in Gatlinburg.

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11:00  
"Crossroads" Contemporary Worship - 8:45 & 11:00

**Youth and adults return from Resurrection 2010 - 3:30 p.m.**

**No Snack Supper or Small Groups!**

**"SLINGSHOT" Worship Service**

7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**In the room #52.** Please come and join us!

## **YOUTH BASKETBALL PLAYERS**

Always remember to check with your coach to be sure of the correct date and time of practices and games...they will be the first ones notified of any changes.

## **SUPERBOWL HOAGIE SALE CONTINUES...**

Enjoy a great sandwich with the Super Bowl or for a quick Sunday lunch and help our youth program by ordering your hoagies today. The \$8.00 price includes a six-inch hoagie sandwich, pickles, potato chips & a chocolate chip cookie.

Each sandwich will be packaged with separate lettuce, tomatoes and condiment packets to maintain freshness and provide individual preference. **Order forms will be available at the Sunday morning worship services.** Fill out the order form and place it in the offering plate or basket. All orders may be picked up and paid for after the early and late services in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 7th.

## **Slingshot Worship at MPUMC**

Come to our youth and young adult worship experience called "Slingshot" - Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. in room #52.

Our January sermon series is "Pop Goes Religion"

**This week - "God, TV, & The Silver Screen"**

Join us this month at the intersection of faith and culture!

And...don't forget to look for the Slingshot worship community on Twitter at "Slingshot411." Over 110 people follow us on Twitter and/or receive daily text messages devotional moments from the Slingshot Worship Team.

**Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries**  
ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

## USHERS

Ushers create a welcoming and safe-environment for the congregation and visitors.

Duties ~~ greeting and seating people entering the services, distributing the worship guides, collecting the offering, and keeping order in the sanctuary.

Qualifications ~~ a friendly smile and a firm handshake.

**We need ushers for both of our Traditional Worship Services** ~~ if you would like to serve our church in this ministry, please call Jim Bird (693-6678) and let him know that you would like to be one of our Sunday morning ushers!!

We look forward to seeing you standing in the narthex with a smile!!

# *Grow Spiritually this Winter*

A 10—Week Study Beginning

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

## *The Good and Beautiful God*

*Falling in Love With the God*

*Jesus Knows*

“God wants me to try harder.”

“God blesses me when I’m good and  
punishes me when I’m bad.”

“God is angry with me.”

We all have ideas we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true—but many are false. James Bryan Smith (author) believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live.

In the pages of this book you are invited to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once you’ve discovered the truth in Scripture, you can engage in a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul as well as your mind.

This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by—to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed—and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God. (from the book)

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please drop in offering plate or return to church office by January 17.)

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Phone) (email)

\_\_# of copies of The Good and Beautiful God @ \$16.00 each

You may email Pastor Rieger the above information: [erieger@middlebrookpike.com](mailto:erieger@middlebrookpike.com)

I was chatting with a Clinical Psychologist last week and we talked about younger adults and church. He was quick to say that younger adults (and youth, too) want the “church” to talk straight to them. They do not wish reality to be “candy-coated” or veneered with a coating of pretense that the world is something other than it really is. He also mentioned that younger adults want to be part of something that is really making a difference—not just going through the motions.

It reminded me of my New Year’s Day email that I sent out. At the risk of being redundant, please allow me to share a portion of this with you again:

*The word “engagement” comes to my mind. To be “engaged” means to be involved in something deeply, not just at a surface level. It means to participate in, to pledge or promise, to assume an obligation, to become meshed or interlocked, to be attracted to or engrossed with, and more. There are four levels (at least) of engagement for disciples of Jesus Christ:*

1. *Engaging with God (deepening and enjoying our relationship with God through worship, spiritual practices, and personal devotion)*
2. *Engaging with God’s people (of course this assumes family and friends and real interaction and relational knowing and sharing through small groups and working together in service and mission)*
3. *Engaging with our community (being salt and light in tangible and practical ways)*
4. *Engaging with the world (being a world Christian—salt and light through involvement and awareness in global needs and witness)*

*I want to be “engaged” in 2010—not to just go through the motions—I want to experience God and life at a deep and fulfilling level, and I know I will never do that if I am not fully engaged.*

For the sake of your own soul and our witness to younger adults and youth, will you and I commit to truly engage this

year? When we worship, will we prepare our hearts and minds even as we come to church. Will we come to worship each week unless we are ill? Will we attend to what is going on in the worship services? Will we bring God our best—our attention, our devotion, our participation, our openness, our willingness, all of us? Will we make time in our hectic schedules for personal prayer, Bible reading, and time with God?

Will we be part of a small group in 2010--A Sunday School class, a Disciple Class, choir, or a Bible Study? Try to be part of a small group that meets weekly where you can truly “engage” with others and have them “engage” with you.

Will we be of some kind of regular service or ministry to our community? Will the younger adults witness Christianity in action? Will they see the difference a “living faith” makes? Will our communities be better places because we are here?

And the world—will our Christian witness impact the world in any real and vital way? One way we can begin is by praying for peace daily in this month of January. Please join us on Sunday, January 24 at our Community Prayer Service, 6:00 p.m. to offer prayers for peace. There are going to be a lot of young people at this event—let’s show them how real and vital prayer can be and that we care about the world they are inheriting from us.

Engage and get real,

*Pastor Eric*

**Recent requests for prayer from our church family...**

**CONCERNS:** Sabra Buchheit, Kathy Short (Heidi Seeders cousin), Pat Goode (Hilari Frederick’s grandmother), Bill Holt (Hilari Frederick’s father), Mary Jo Roseberry (Harriet Millers’ aunt), Jamie Chamblee (Sally Lovin’s nephew)

**PASTOR ON CALL  
January 15-16**

Eric Rieger  
cell—964-0030

**PREPARING FOR SUNDAY  
January 17**

*God & Science Sermon Series  
Creation & Evolution*

**MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
7234 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909**

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