



8:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE IS BACK COME WORSHIP WITH US.

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www.middlebrookpike.com

JANUARY 21, 2009

The Messenger

GOOD DEEDS: Letting God's Light Shine!

We have been blessed with a brand new year, a brand new day and another chance to minister to our neighbors! We are called to serve God in all ways! We are to offer Christ. How do we offer Christ? We offer His love with a warm smile and conversation. We offer God's gift of life with the story of Christ. We offer Christ's peace by modeling tolerance and acceptance. We offer His forgiveness with our patience. We offer God's help with our actions, helping hands and **GOOD DEEDS!**

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Mt 5:13-16

The **Witness Team** is excited to announce **GOOD DEEDS Projects!** These short-term projects will range from supplying batteries for smoke detectors to our neighbors, to distributing energy-saving light bulbs, to passing out seeds and flower bulbs to help beautify the neighborhood! We might have a hot chocolate stand this winter or a lemonade stand this summer on the Vanosdale side of our church campus. We might be found raking leaves or supplying a few extra quarters at the local laundromats. The service opportunities are endless and the benefits are terrific! It's one more way to model the love of Christ!!!

Please consider these projects! We will be calling on the MPUMC family to Let God's Light Shine through these **GOOD DEEDS!** Help us out! Whether you come on your own, with your family and friends or your Sunday school class or Life-Link group—

you are guaranteed to be blessed!!!!

Look for information about our first project in February! Meanwhile...*pray about how God will have the MPUMC family "grow our church" and how God would have all of us participate to make Disciples for HIM!* Questions? Call Roger McCoig 531-7118 or Deb Holly 659-5600

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS ~~

A wonderful witness program is ongoing at our church! Through neighborhood walks and our members talking one-on-one with folks in our area, people are seeking to worship with us. In the meantime, steady progress is being made on our new parking lot, but it is still months away from completion. To help visitors easily find empty parking spots now, members of the Church Leadership Council have challenged each other to park off site. Other options include parking in back of the sanctuary on the Middlebrook Pike side and car pooling to church. If you are able, we encourage you to help in this effort to extend a "Middlebrook Pike welcome" to our guests.

Godspeed,

Jackie Sims, Lay Leader

On Campus Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

- 8:30 Traditional Worship Service (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)
- 12:15 Communion (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 Brass Voices (Room 31)
- 4:30 Youth Group Musical
- 5:30 Youth Snack Supper (FH)
- 5:30 Revelation Singers (Choir Room)

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

- 7:00 SPR Meeting (LCR)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Old Building)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

- 9:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 9:30 CEP (Education Wing)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (Choir Room)
- 10:30 Prayer at the Altar (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 Girl Scouts (Room 30)
- 6:30 Cub Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 ESL Classes (Room 31)
- 7:00 Open Gym (FLC/Gym)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 5:15 Wednesday Night Connection (FLC/Gym)
- 6:00 Book Club (Room 2A)
- 6:15 Children's Choirs
- 6:15 Early Risers Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:15 Friendship Choir (Room 30)
- 6:15 Youth Group Activities
- 6:15 Youth Handbell Choir
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:00 Children's Handbells (Room 31)
- 7:45 Youth Group (FLC/Gym)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

- 9:30 CEP (Education Wing)
- 10:00 Beth Moore Study (Room 30)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC/Gym)
- 6:00 Men's Basketball (FLC/Gym)
- 7:00 ESL Classes (Room 31)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

- 8:00 Sr. High Basketball (FLC/Gym)

(See other enclosed calendars within this publication for additional activities.)

**Wednesday Night Connection Menu
for January 28**



**Roast Pork, Sweet Potatoes,
Vegetable, Salad and Dessert**

**Please be sure to make your
reservation by Monday at noon.**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 18 2009

Total Worship - 401 Sunday School - 207
Resurrection 2009 - 79

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

JANUARY 18 2009

RECEIVED FOR BUDGET \$14,919.25

PAVING THE WAY \$2,010.00

Memorials Steve Cope

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

FISH \$155.00 MS Missions \$375.00

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS \$1,856.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$19,315.25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- January 30** Joe McMurray
- January 31** Vicki Malone, Louise Smith,
Barbara Baker, Claire Bradley
- February 1** Erin Green, Jackie Sims,
Gina Giannattasio
- February 2** Ken Cofer, Tracy Gibson
- February 3** Tommy Lawhorn, Betty Earl,
Jackson McDonald
- February 4** Jennifer Hughes, Elaine McGinn,
James Costa
- February 5** Bob Wilson, Sam Clark

(If we missed your birthday, we are sorry. Please notify the church office so your birthday can be added to our records.)

SPR COMMITTEE
will meet at 7pm on Monday,
January 26th in the Large
Conference Room

**"Jesus According to Jesus"
Worship Series**

People say a lot of things about Jesus these days. Some say he was just a man. Some say he is God in human form. Some say he was a prophet. Some say he is their



Lord and Savior. Some say he was a good example of how to live. Some say he is their guide. Some say he is a Republican. Some say he is a Democrat. Some say he is a friend. Some say he is a martyr. Some say he is an activist. Some even say he is an action figure. Some say all the stories about him in the Bible are made up. Some say the world was made through him. Some say he is judgmental. Some say he is merciful. Some say he is our only hope. Some say not to get our hopes up.

Join us for worship in January and February as we look at what Jesus said about himself as recorded in the Gospel of John.

MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

.Mothers' Support Group will meet at Vinny's and Me in Turkey Creek on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 11:30 at 11643 Parkside Drive. Please ask for the Board Room to be seated. (And we are planning an in-town retreat on February 13 or 20, which is still in the planning stage.) If you need to bring a small child for the lunch meeting, please feel free to do so. All mothers of all ages are welcome. Kindly email ritatate@tds.net to make your reservation.



Lenten Study begins Monday, February 23rd.

Please join us for a Lenten Study at our Monday night Life-Links session. We'll meet from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm at Deb and Rich Holly's house. Give yourself the gift of time for reflection and relaxation as we celebrate all that Jesus did to prepare His servants for the ultimate gift—life forever.

Questions: Call Rich or Deb at 693-1370



**Bandanas - Bible
School in Yei,
Sudan**

Children's Ministry will be collecting "new" bandanas for our brothers and sisters in Yei, Sudan. The Young Adult Mission Team of the Holston Conference will be going to Yei, Sudan in March to teach 2000 children that are attending school on United Methodist property about the Bible. The theme will be Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors. Each child will receive a bandana. Choose a bandana that you would like; I know the child who receives it will also like it! Pastor Wil is the Worship Leader and Host for Divine Rhythm. This is a Worship Retreat for young adults in the Holston Conference. Let's help Pastor Wil by starting this collection for our brothers and sisters. There will be a box in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

We are asking everyone (adults included) to be a part of this!

Please have the bandanas in by
FEBRUARY 22.

Hearing God Through Scripture class

On Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30, Associate Pastor Wil Cantrell will be leading a bible study class titled "Hearing God Through Scripture". Each class session will focus on learning to listen to what God is saying through a particular passage in the Bible. The class will begin on Wednesday February 4 and will meet in the library.

NOW CIRCLE

NOW Circle will meet on Thursday, January 29, at 7pm. We will meet at the clubhouse at North-shore Village, 7741 Village Drive. We will have a brief pledge service and then play Bunco. Bring a finger food to share. For more information, Call Kathy at 694-9145.

♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

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WHAT IS THE PRELUDE FOR?

Why do we have a prelude to our worship services? Have you ever thought about that? It is listed in the worship guide along with the prayers, hymns, scripture readings, sermons, etc. It must, then, be a part of the service.

The prelude is intended to prepare our hearts for worship. It can be a time of reflection, prayer and meditation, or scripture reading. The music, which incidentally, is carefully planned and practiced by our fine organist, should help all of us to reflect on God and our purpose for being in a place of worship. Consider these ideas next Sunday as you enter the sanctuary. Let the music help to prepare you for your encounter with God rather than serve as background music for conversation. There is a place in the order of worship for greeting friends and welcoming visitors when conversation is encouraged. Thank you.

SINGERS WANTED FOR HOLY WEEK CANTATA

You may have seen the invitation to participate in choirs for our Holy Week music. We are beginning preparation for our Maundy Thursday cantata, "Song of the Shadows." I have used this cantata several times in the past ten years, and it is without a doubt one of the most moving services I have experienced. Perhaps you'd like to participate as a singer in this service. You may come on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and try us out. You will receive a warm welcome from some great folks. You need not obligate yourself to a long term choir membership. We'd love to have you. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

Sonny



Children's Corner

Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 1—New Rotation (People Who Made a Difference)
- ◆ February 20 - Parent's Night Out (MPUMC)

Mission Focus:

- ◆ **Change for Children** - ongoing
- ◆ FISH: Canned Fruit (January), Jelly (February)

BANDANAS - ONGOING THROUGH FEBRUARY 22

Baby Pictures:

Please send your baby's picture for the Baby Bulletin Board.



Baby Rose: Let Ann know when you will be bringing your "new" baby for the first time so the church can honor him/her with a rose on the altar.

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



MPUMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

Upcoming Events & Activities...

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Youth Sunday School - 9:45
Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11:00
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 & 11:00

4:30 - Youth Musical Rehearsal
5:30 - Snack Supper
6:00 - Youth Group
7:15 - Youth Bible Studies

8:00 to 8:30 - Open gym & youth rooms for youth group

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH CONNECTION & YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

5:15 - Dinner line opens
6:15 - Youth Handbells & "The Gathering"
6:45 - Announcements & Prayer Time

7:00 - Youth Leadership Council & Devotional Time

7:00 to 8:30 - Open gym & game rooms for youth

CONFIRMATION IS COMING!!!

What is *Confirmation*?

Confirmation is a faith-building and faith-affirming experience for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders who would like an opportunity to discover and discuss key elements of their identity as Christians and members of Christ's church. **Youth who wish to participate should contact Eric Bronkala by Sunday, February 1, 2009.**

The Confirmation experience will begin with a special orientation for youth, parents, and mentors on **Thursday evening, February 12 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Confirmands should be thinking about whom they'd like as their mentor.** This person should be an adult church member (of the same gender) who the confirmand sees as a good example of what it is to be a Christian disciple. Mentors will serve as "big brothers / big sisters" - assisting the youth throughout the entire Confirmation experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Eric Bronkala in the church office (690-8641).

Please keep all involved (teachers, mentors, confirmands, and parents) in your prayers.

**COMING NEXT WEEK...
INFO ON SUMMER MISSION TRIPS!!!**

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

Wesley Woods Camp

As we close 2008, we are looking at the summer of 2009. There are many children who want to experience Wesley Woods Camp. With the cost of the camp and our current economic state, we are looking for people who are able to sponsor a child. Please call Ann Cover if you feel that you can help send a child to camp. Wesley Woods Camp information is located in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

DEDICATION OF HABITAT HOUSE Sunday, February 1 at 2pm

**Please join us as we dedicate this new home to the Zayet family!!!
This home was built in partnership with Middlebrook Pike and Habitat For Humanity.
Everyone is invited to join in this exciting celebration!!!**

CLERGY COLUMN

Equality & Beauty

So God created humankind in his image. (Genesis 1:27)

While giving the invocation at the presidential inauguration, Rev. Rick Warren referred to the occasion as a “hinge point of history”. For our country to elect a man of African American descent to its highest office says a lot about humanity and our country. Regardless of our political leanings, I believe we can all celebrate that our country is capable of electing someone of African descent to the presidency.

As I understand it, our country was founded on five basic premises. Some of these premises were written, some unwritten; some were noble, some despicable; some were eternal truths, some were terrible lies; some of these premises directly contradicted one another. But all these premises played a large role in shaping our nation.

Premise #1 – All people are created equal.

Premise # 2 – All people deserve to pursue happiness.

Premise #3 – The government should have to answer to its people.

Premise # 4 – Light skinned people are superior to dark skinned people.

Premise #5 – Men are superior to women.

The history of our nation, especially as showcased in the

“HINGE POINT OF HISTORY”

recent presidential campaigns, including the primaries, is one that teaches us that noble premises of our nation are exponentially more powerful than the despicable premises. Just twenty years ago, young African American males often were taught that they were not even smart enough to play quarterback for the football team. Today, young African American males will grow up with the knowledge that someone who looks like them can rise to highest office in our country. We’ll never know the difference this knowledge will make in the lives of many young people, but we can trust it will be great.

That an African American President can take the oath of office on the steps of a Capital building constructed by African American slaves shows how far we have come. The continued gaps in income and educational opportunity between races and genders show how far we still have to go.

Still, as I consider the power that the truth that all people are created equal has exhibited in shaping our nation’s history and mending its every flaw, it occurs to me that in the Church we have an even greater truth to share with our world when we affirm that all people are created in God’s image. Not only do we believe that all people are equal, we believe all people are beautiful.

Thank you, God, for your truth that sets us free!

Grace and Peace,
Wil

Recent requests for prayer from our church family...

CONCERNS: Scott Bennett (Rob and Suzanne Thomas’ brother-in-law), Betty Crisp, Phil Moore, Milton Carleston (Lee Carleston’s father), Ruby Adkins (Dale Murphy’s sister)

DEATHS: Danny Cooper (Marie Cooper’s nephew), Juanita Lackner (Carolyn Lawhorn’s mother)

PASTOR ON CALL

Eric Rieger

**Friday 01/23 -
Sunday 01/25**

cell - 964-0030

LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY January 25

***Traditional and Contemporary
Services***

***Sermon: I am the “Way, the Truth,
and the Life”.***

Scripture: John 14: 1-11

**MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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