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SURVIVING A FINANCIAL CRISIS

THIS Saturday, February 21 at 2PM,

“Surviving a Financial Crisis.” The event is designed to help those who have been affected by job loss and financial difficulties during the recent economic downturn. The event will feature a worship service at which Rev. Lurone Jennings will be preaching and workshops on topic such as managing money, finding a job, finding help with necessities, dealing with stress, and staying motivated. Please call Ann Cover if you will need child care.

CLC Training with Lurone Jennings

Lurone Jennings will be with our Church Leadership Council again this year for training **THIS Saturday morning, February 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Lurone coached NFL star, Reggie White and Olympic Gold Medalist, Venus Lacy, who starred on the U.S. Women’s Olympic Basketball Team. Lurone was the principal of the largest inner city high school in Chattanooga, Howard High School. He later became the Director of Drug Education and Athletics. Lurone is the Executive Director of the Bethlehem Center and is a widely sought-after preacher, trainer, and speaker. Immediately following our training, we will have a CLC Meeting. We hope you can join us.

Combined Worship Services This Sunday

You will be blessed this Sunday morning when we combine our worship services so that we all can hear our special guest, Reverend Lurone Jennings. Lurone is leading our Church Leadership Council training on Saturday morning and is the preacher for our Community Worship Service at our *Surviving a Financial Crisis* event on Saturday afternoon. Our 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and our 8:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service will worship together at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 a.m. our Traditional worshippers will join our Contemporary worshippers in the Family Life Center for combined worship. We have special music planned, and Reverend Jennings will inspire you greatly.

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

The Messenger

On Campus Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 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)
- 12:15 Communion (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 Youth Group Musical
- 4:30 Brass Voices (Room 31)
- 5:00 First Place for Life Meeting (Old Bldg.)
- 5:30 Revelation Singers (Choir Room)
- 5:30 Youth Snack Supper
- 6:00 Youth Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 6:00 Sr. High Basketball (FLC/Gym)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Old Building)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 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)
- 6:30 Cub Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 5:15 Wednesday Night Connection (FLC/Gym)
- 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 (Room 31)
- 6:30 Hearing God through Scripture (Room 27)
- 7:00 40 Day Journey Book study (LCR)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:00 Children's Handbells (Room 31)
- 7:00 ESL Classes (Room 30)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 9:30 CEP (Education Wing)
- 10:00 Beth Moore Study (Room 30)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC/Gym)
- 5:00 Praise Team (FLC/Gym)
- 6:00 Men's Basketball (FLC/Gym)
- 7:00 ESL Classes (Room 31)
- 7:00 FISH Board Meeting (FH)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 9:00 FISH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 8:00 Sr. High Basketball

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



Wednesday Night Connection Menu for February 25

Pot roast, mashed potatoes,
vegetables, salad and dessert.

Please join us in the Sanctuary for our Ash
Wednesday Services at 6:30

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Total Worship - 438 Sunday School - 269

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| BUDGET | \$11,787.33 |
| PAVING THE WAY | \$1,495.00 |
| HONORARIUMS | Rita Tate |
| MEMORIALS | Virginia Metzger |
| SPECIAL OFFERINGS: | |
| FISH | \$167.75 |
| HIWASSEE COLLEGE | \$1,401.00 |
| DESIGNATED OFFERINGS | \$5,643.02 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$20,494.10 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 1** Cathy Bryant, Jenny Austin,
Jean Rosenblum, Marty Clay
- March 2** Dale Murphy
- March 3** Bronson Pennington
- March 4** Wes Mowery
- March 5** Laura Lutz, Doug Collins
- March 6** Corey Turnbow

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

SPRING CLOTHING SALE

The Children's Enrichment Program will have their Spring Clothing Sale on **Monday, March 2nd 6-8pm, and Tuesday morning, March 3rd.** If you would like to participate, call the CEP office for more information on Tuesdays or Thursdays and ask for LouAnn (531-8589).

Spiritual Growth Team Announces:

The Spiritual Growth Team invites you to observe the Holy Lenten Season with our church family through a church-wide forty day devotional reading plan and optional small group discussions. The daily readings will begin NEXT WEDNESDAY (Ash Wednesday), February 25, 2009.

Based on the book, *40 Days Living the Jesus Creed*, by Scot McKnight, this study will involve both the daily readings and the opportunity to gather on Wednesdays nights, after Wednesday Night supper, for a round table discussion with others and a small group leader.

Contact Debbie Uglow at the church office (690-8641) or email at: duglow@middlebrookpike.com to order a book for \$11.00.

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

GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY MORNING

This Sunday we expect a large crowd at our 11:00 worship service to hear Rev. Lurone Jennings



If you are healthy and able to walk, please consider parking offsite at one of our alternative parking sites.

Thank you!
We appreciate your help in this matter.

Hearing God Through Scripture

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 meet in the library.

40 DAY JOURNEY ~~ BOOK STUDY

Join me on a 40 day journey through the Lenten season using a book "A Call to Die- a 40 Day Journey of Fasting from the World and Feasting on God" by David Nasser. We will meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm beginning on the Wednesday 2/18 and finish on the Wednesday before Easter 4/8. I did this book last year and it was very meaningful for me as I prepared my heart for Easter. Please call me, Sandy Daniels 556-6937 if you are interested or have questions. Or you can call the church office to sign up. We will meet in the large conference room downstairs in the office suites.

NOW CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, February 26, for dinner and a movie. Meet at West Town Mall to see "He's Just Not That Into You". We will gather in the Food Court anytime after 6pm for dinner, followed by the movie at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us, For more information, please call Amy Gibson at 584-6996.

Historic Ash Wednesday Services

Lent begins Wednesday, February 25. We will hold Ash Wednesday Worship Services with the imposition of the ashes at 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Please join us as we begin this holy season together.

♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

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For many years it was my desire to participate in a short term mission trip. Due to responsibilities as a teacher, then a full-time church staff member, I was unable to go on such a trip due to job related responsibilities. Since retirement from Fountain City UMC in 2003 it has been my joy to go on several mission trips: four times to Nicaragua, once to Romania, and one previous trip to Mississippi.

This past week it was my privilege to go with the mission team to Mississippi, a trip I enjoyed a great deal for several reasons. In no particular order these are some thoughts which came to mind for participation in such projects.

Perhaps the greatest motivation is that there are people who have needs of various kinds and we can be God's instruments in meeting at least some of those needs. Participation in mission trips has provided for me opportunities for spiritual growth, as we share the experience with fellow team members as well as with those to whom we minister.

Development of bonds of Christian fellowship with other team members is a very positive benefit. Living and working with team members is a "crash course" in getting to

know them. Sharing the responsibilities of the mission gives a common cause for all to focus on together and unity of purpose is a strong motivator.

We often hear the admonition to "put your money where your mouth is." It seems to me that participation in a mission trip is an opportunity to "put your mouth where your money is." Sometime it's much easier to write a check and feel that we have done our part than it is to actually give the time and energy to actively participate in a mission endeavor.

Perhaps the most important reason to participate is to obey the commandment of our Lord when he instructed his disciples to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Thank you, Middlebrook Pike UMC, for offering opportunities for such experiences. As Wil said Sunday morning we find that we get more from such ministries than we give. When the next opportunity is presented give some prayerful consideration to participation.

Sonny

Children's Corner

Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 20 - Parent's Night Out (MPUMC)
- ◆ **March 27—Parent's Night Out (CUMC)***
- ◆ June 1—June 5 - Vacation Bible School

***Change in date due to spring break**

Mission Focus:

- ◆ **Change for Children** - ongoing
- ◆ FISH: Jelly (February)
- ◆ FISH: Green Beans (March)

**BANDANAS - ONGOING THROUGH
FEBRUARY 25**



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.

**Teacher needed:
The sweet 3's need a
teacher for the
spring quarter. That
is March, April and
May. Please call Ann
if you would like to
teach.**

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

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.



MPUMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

Upcoming Events & Activities...

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Youth Sunday School - 9:45

Traditional Worship - 8:30 & 11:00

Contemporary Worship - 8:45 & 11:00

4:30 - Youth Musical Rehearsal

We are doing a run-through of the first half of our tour program!

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH CONNECTION

5:15 - Dinner line opens

6:15 - Youth Handbells

Ash Wednesday Service - time: 6:30 pm

7:00 - Youth Group Time

7:45 to 8:30 - Open gym & game rooms for youth

Confirmation moves to the mountains...

The Confirmation experience continues with a weekend retreat at Lake Junaluska, a Methodist facility near Waynesville, North Carolina on **February 28 and March 1**. In addition to time in the classroom, the retreat will include a visit to the World Methodist Museum, a walk through the Lake Junaluska area, singing, devotions, attending Sunday morning worship at a local church, and time for personal reflection with classmates and mentors.

On Saturday the 28th, we will meet at MPUMC at 7:30 a.m., leave for Lake Junaluska by 8:00 a.m., and return on Sunday by 3:30 p.m. We will be sleeping, dining, & meeting at the Terrace Hotel, which is on the grounds of Lake Junaluska.

MPUMC will be covering most of the expenses related to the overall Confirmation experience, but youth, mentors, & teachers are asked to pay forty dollars to help cover the cost of supplies, lodging, travel, food, etc. Please make checks payable to Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church and give them to Eric Bronkala, or drop them in the offering plate with "Confirmation" written on the memo line. Financial assistance is available.

In addition to casual clothes and toiletries, you will need: a modest amount of spending money (souvenirs, drinks, etc.), warm jackets and sweaters, raincoat or umbrella if the forecast calls for rain, comfortable shoes for walking, a Bible, and clothes for church on Sunday morning.

Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries

ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

Holston Conference Corner NEWS!

Holston Conference Discipleship Team attends Quadrennial Training in Jacksonville.

You will be proud to know that the United Methodists are at work! The Holston Conference Discipleship Team and I attended the Quadrennial Training in Jacksonville, last weekend. During the four-day training, we learned about the Four Areas of Focus on which the General Board of Discipleship (*the big United Methodist Church*) has called us to focus our efforts for the next four years. The Holston Team was engaged, enlightened and energized by attending the four plenaries and many workshops! Now it is the Holston Discipleship Teams' responsibility to share what we learned at the training and to inspire all 906 local churches to get involved!

You will be hearing more, but for now, let me share with you, my own church family, the Four Focus Areas for this Quadrennial!

- ◆ Developing Christian leaders for the church and the world
- ◆ Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations
- ◆ Eliminating poverty
- ◆ Improving health globally

Are you *charged up*? We'll need to be *electrified* in order to continue the work we are doing and begin many new ministries to meet the many needs in our world today. Don't forget, our world is not only places around the globe, but also places within our very own Knoxville neighborhood!

More call to Focus on *the "Four"* soon!
You can find more about the Quadrennial Training at UMC.org.

Deb Holly

CLERGY COLUMN

For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever. –Psalm 9:18

Psalm 9 tells us that thanks to God's grace the poor and needy will always have reason to hope. It is a terrible thing to see someone who has lost hope. Of all the things in the world that could be taken away from someone, hope may be the most devastating. Without hope there is no belief that things can get better; no assurance that things don't always have to be the way they are right now; no reason to try to change things. For some people hope has been absent from their lives for so long that they begin to question why they should even go on living.

Last week, I was blessed to be a part of another one of our church's mission teams to Mississippi. The job we were giving by the work coordinator at our camp was to put a new roof on a house damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The job we were given by God was to give hope to a homeowner who had seen very little help come his way in the years since the hurricane by putting a new roof on his house.

Once again, our team was blessed to be able to be a blessing to someone else. And in our relationships with the homeowner, Edwin, we witnessed hope returning in his life. Edwin like several of the homeowners we have worked for in the past seemed to have almost given up. A roof is the first thing that must be done to a house before any other work can be done. So when we go to put a new roof on a house 3 and ½ years after it was damaged, we know

"WITHOUT HOPE THERE IS NO BELIEF"

we are working for someone who has gone without help for a long time. At the beginning of the week, Edwin was appreciative, but very reserved. By the end of the week, he was working alongside us all day, laughing and joking, and continuing to work more on his house at night. Where did his sudden energy to work on his house come from? Hope. Where else?

This Saturday at 2PM our church is sponsoring an event called Surviving a Financial Crisis aimed at giving hope to those affected by a recession whose end is not yet in sight. We are hosting this event to give practical help to those affected by job loss, foreclosure, and limited finances. More than that, however, we are hosting this event in hopes that something that happens in worship or in a workshop might give someone the hope that they can preserve through the challenges they face and hope things do not always have to be like they are today.

Have you struggled to find hope at some point in your life? Are you struggling right now? If so, remember this: When our hope is grounded in God then that kind of "hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

Grace and Peace,
Wil

Recent requests for prayer from our church family...

CONCERNS: Hiawassee College, Stacey Sims, Marjorie Wolcott, Linda Mefford and her father Alex and brother Mike, Susan McClanahan (Iris Long's granddaughter), Karen Dennis and Kathy Gibson (family of Norm and Ann Rockwell), Andy Walker (Josh Walker's brother), George and Billie Sliger (Fred Sliger's parents), Dwight Cope, Ruth Masterson (Charlie Harr's sister)

DEATHS: Barbara Valukas (Nate Valukas' aunt)

PASTOR ON CALL

Friday 2/20 ~
Sunday 2/22

Wil Cantrell

cell 919-0647
home 690-2594

LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2009

***Traditional and Contemporary
Services***

***Sermon: I am the
"Resurrection and the Life".***

Scripture: John 11:17-44

**MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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