



Phone 865-690-8641

Fax 865 539-4636

www.middlebrookpike.com



Sunday, February 28

4-6pm

We will meet in the Large Conference Room.

Please call the church office for more information and if you need childcare.



Episcopal Letter

40 Day Prayer Journey Begins Tomorrow

Dear Friends:

Tomorrow, February 23, 2010, marks the beginning of Forty Days of Prayer by the people of the Holston Conference United Methodist Churches. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit might prepare and equip us to communicate in an invitational way to our friends, acquaintances and those strangers among us God's desire to be in relationship with all persons.

[Please join me in this Forty Day Prayer Journey](#) that begins February 23, and ends forty days later. I believe if we will join our voices and hearts in conversation with God, our Lord will hear and empower our lives that we may point people to Jesus.

"And now O Lord, come among us and give us a desire to be in dialogue with you that our witness may be strong, attractive, and convincing so that those who come into contact with us may see and desire to be in relationship with you." AMEN

Yours in Christ,



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

FISH IS THIS FRIDAY AT
MPUMC

PLEASE COME BY TO HELP PACK OR
DELIVER FOOD ANY TIME

9am-4pm.

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

The Messenger

On Campus Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 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)
- 2:00 Stephens Ministry (Room 40)
- 4:00 First Place Class (Room 27)
- 4:00 Girls Basketball
- 4:00 New Member Class (LCR)
- 4:30 Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 Brass Voices
- 5:30 Revelation Choir
- 5:30 Youth Snack Supper
- 6:00 "GiG" Youth Small Groups
- 7:30 "Slingshot" Youth/Young Adult Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 1

- 6:00 CEP Children's Clothing Sale (FLC)
- 7:00 Trustees Meeting (LCR)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:00 Staff Meeting (LCR)
- 9:30 CEP
- 10:00 CEP Children's Clothing Sale (FLC)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful
- 10:30 Prayer at the Altar
- 6:15 Early Risers Choir
- 6:30 Christian Believer Class (LCR)
- 6:30 Good & Beautiful God Class (Library)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir
- 7:00 Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

- 5:15 Youth Handbell Choir
- 6:00 Beth Moore Study (LCR)
- 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 ESL Class (Room 30)
- 7:45 Youth Games

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

- 9:30 CEP
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC)
- 5:00 CWS Praise Team
- 5:15 Youth Handbells
- 6:00 Disciple III (LCR)
- 6:00 STEPS Co-Parenting Class (Old Bldg.)
- 7:00 Finance Committee (LCR)
- 7:00 Toastmasters (Room 30)
- 7:00 ESL Class (Room 31)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

- 9:00 STEP Co-Parenting Class (Old Bldg.)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

Sunday School— 240 Worship— 499

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

February 21, 2010

BUDGET	\$20,840.41
PAVING THE WAY	\$1,553.00
MEMORIALS	
SPECIAL OFFERINGS: FISH	
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS	\$1,722.35
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$24,115.76



- March 7** Ben Neal, Nate Valukas
- March 8** Carson Stivers, Jean Begley
- March 9** Kim Snyder
- March 10** McKenzie Roberts
- March 11** Michael Neas, Jeremy Valukas
- March 12** Graham Jarrell, Mike Cooper,
Matthew McCoig

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



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**Breakfast will be served by
the UMW ~ NOW CIRCLE**

Please join us.



MPUMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES...

Saturday & Sunday – February 27 & 28

Confirmation Retreat

to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Participants should meet at MPUMC at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday will and return around 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday, February 28

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Traditional & Contemporary Worship - 8:30 & 11:00

Youth return from the Confirmation Retreat - 3:30 p.m.

4:30 – Youth Choir

5:30 - Snack Supper

6:00 – Small Groups (GiG)

7:30 - Slingshot Worship Service

Room #52 - Youth Hallway - 2nd floor FLC

Wednesday, March 3

Wednesday Night Youth Connection

5:15 to 6:15 – Youth handbells

6:45 to 7:45 – Youth group

7:45 to 8:30 – Open gym & game room for youth

LOOKING AHEAD...

Friday, March 5

Breakfast of Champions

All junior and senior high youth should join us for breakfast at Shoney's (Walker Springs & Kingston Pike) beginning at 7:00 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 for the breakfast bar and a drink. During the meal our guest speaker will lead us in a short time of devotion and prayer.

New Schedule

for Sunday Nights begins March 7!

Youth Choir - 4:30; Snack Supper - 5:30

Youth Group Special Events - 6:00

Small Groups (GiG) - 7:00; Slingshot Worship Service - 7:45

Please make a note of the new schedule which will run through Sunday, May 16—excluding holidays such as Easter Sunday and Mother's Day.

Mark your calendars...

Junior High Mission Trip (6th through 8th graders)

July 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17—Birmingham, AL

Senior High Mission Trip (9th through 12th graders)

June 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27—Daytona, FL

Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries

ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

WOMEN'S



The Mary Rayfield UMW Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at The Olive Garden on Kingston Pike at 6:30 pm. This is the annual "Family and Friends" meeting. Members are encouraged to bring spouses, children, "special others" and friends to this fun meeting! Visitors and those interested in joining a UMW circle are very welcome!

The Mary Rayfield Circle of UMW will be serving breakfast on Sunday, March 28--

Join US!!!!

NOW Circle will meet on Thursday, February 25 at 7pm at the home of Angie Kelly,

1219 Hamstead Court.

We will be playing Bunco.

Bring a finger food to share.
All women of the church are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact
Amy Gibson, 584-6996
or
Angie Kelly, 691-2196



MOTHERS' SUPPORT GROUP

LUNCH ~~ RETREAT

Mothers' Support Group will meet Tuesday, March 2, at 11:30 at Puleo's for lunch in the back-room. There we will make final plans for our night meeting on March 5. At the night meeting we will begin with dinner, afterwards go to a movie and then go to Towne Place Suites to visit and spend the night for those that wish. If you plan to spend the night, please contact Jean Begley JTBegley2@AOL.com to make your reservations. So make your plans to join us for one, two or all the events.

Please let Rita Tate know if you plan to go to lunch ritatate@tds.net.
All mothers of all ages are invited.



First Tuesday Lunch Bunch
will be meeting on Tuesday,
March 2 at 1:00 at the
Red Lobster on Kingston Pike.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us for
GREAT fellowship!

RSVP is necessary. Please call Joyce Haas
at 690-6426
by Monday, March 1.

CEP's SPRING CLOTHING SALE

Monday, March 1
6—8pm

Tuesday, March 2
9:30—noon

Everyone is invited to shop with us.



I am trying to get a group of rising 1st-3rd graders that would be interested in going to a week of day camp at Wesley Woods this summer. We would need 12 campers to be able to use the church bus. The weeks that have been mentioned are the week of June 14-18 or the week of June 28-July 2. The hours are 8:30-5:00 everyday except Friday. They have a closing celebration at 2:00. The cost is \$185. There is a \$15.00 early bird discount if we register by April 1. If you know of others that may be interested, please pass this along to them. Let me know what you think.

Thanks!
Dayna Walker



GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book and Directory for the church. This book helps us all to know more about our church. The who, what, when, why and how of our church. The book is being provided at no cost to our church, including the mailing to each family, and again is being subsidized by local businesses who advertise in it. If you own or manage a business and want to find out how to advertise in the book, please call the church office at 690-8641. Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92% of families would rather patronize our Guide Book and Directory advertisers over a non-advertiser. It "does pay" to advertise in our Guide Book and Directory.

If you have any changes to your address, phone or e-mail, please make sure the church office is aware of them for the directory.

e-mail duglow@middlebrookpike.com

Children's Corner

Dates to Remember ~

- March 19- Parent's Night Out (Middlebrook Pike UMC)
- March 28 - Easter Egg Hunt (Rick and Gracie Murphree's home)
- April 11 - New Rotation (Ruth)
- May 9 - Eric Bronkala teaches 5th graders.
- May 16 - New Rotation (Miracles)
- May 21 - Parents Night Out
- June 7 - June 11- Vacation Bible School
- June 13 - Eric teaches 5th graders.
- June 27 - Summer Rotation begins
- July 16 - Parents Night Out
- July 25 - Eric Bronkala meets with rising 6th graders and their parents at 9:45 (Theater).
- August 22 - Bible presented to rising 3rd graders. Information will follow.

Camp Wesley Woods

Summer is right around the corner. Please come by the office and receive a Camp Wesley Woods magazine. As you know, camp fills up quickly. Please see Ann if you need assistance.

Missions: Change for Children – ongoing
FISH – Peanut Butter

The Easter Egg

The empty Easter eggs will be in the baskets in the Narthex and Family Life Center beginning February 21, the first Sunday in Lent. Please take one (or two) and fill with coins, dollars, checks, or all. Return your Easter eggs by Easter, April 4. There will be baskets in the Narthex and Family Life Center. The money collected will be given to Change for Children. Each year, churches give loose change to benefit children's ministries in Holston Conference and in Africa. And each year, several groups receive that pocket change in the form of grants. Change for Children grants support new and existing ministries with economically disadvantaged children, from birth to age 12, and their families. Holston churches and related United Methodist agencies are eligible for these funds.

CLERGY COLUMN

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

II Corinthians 13:5 *The Message*

I have come to appreciate the Christian Year more and more. By following the Christian Calendar, we hear and observe the story and life of Jesus Christ regularly. This Story is so multifaceted that I never tire of it.

We are in the season of Lent. Traditionally, the season of Lent is a time of self-examination. I'm 52 years old now. I am supposed to have a physical check-up every year. Is my soul any less important? I do not know about you, but many times I am fearful of going to my physician for my yearly physical for I am afraid he will find something wrong. I'm tempted to be like the proverbial ostrich and "put my head in the sand", but I will go, for I know it is wiser to live knowing reality: "It is what it is." If I didn't go, something very treatable could grow and develop undetected and become a very serious problem. I think this is also a good analogy for our souls. Jesus said: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" John Wesley encouraged early Methodists to inquire of one another when they met in their class meetings: "How goes it with your soul?" So, how goes it with your soul? Do you know how to evaluate how you are doing? Please allow me to offer the following.

We have been taught to evaluate our spiritual lives by our spiritual and devotional practices: are we regularly attending church, reading the Bible, serving in some way, giving, going to a small group or Sunday school? These can all be very good practices, but they are not the ultimate criteria for growth and well-being. The people in Jesus' day that would

Recent requests for prayer from our church family...

CONCERNS: Alex Mefford, Maxine Kessler (Pat Kessler's mother-in-law), Janice Campbell, Mary Tucker, Kristi Davis, Willa Long, Rachel Buchheit

BIRTHS: Catherine Jane ~ baby girl born to Chris and Mandy Mayes ~ proud grandparents are Rick and Cathy Bryant

have rated the highest on faithfully observing spiritual practices and disciplines would have been the Pharisees. Jesus did not use them as examples of spiritual health and maturity. Sometimes the health of one's soul is measured by commitment and busyness. But again, the Pharisees would have been considered epitomes of spiritual health and well-being if commitment and religiosity were the ultimate criteria. Are you saying that I could have taken all the Disciple Bible Studies, deliver FISH food regularly, be a Stephan's minister, be in UMW, be in choir or in the praise band, be a Sunday School Teacher, etc., etc., etc., and still not be spiritually healthy and mature? Yes! If busyness and commitment were the sole measures of spiritual health, the Pharisees would win. But Jesus said love is the measure of spiritual health and maturity. The questions of evaluation are: "Am I becoming more loving? More Christlike? More selfless? Does my service and commitment flow from my love for God and others?"

"Spiritual disciplines are not self-improvement techniques. They are not activities I do for spiritual extra-credit. They are what John Wesley call *means of grace*. In 12-step terms, they always involve letting go. The Bible's word for that is *surrender*. Spiritual practices help me submit my will to the divine will. They are like a cord that plugs an otherwise inert appliance into a source of power. They connect me to a reality deeper and more powerful than myself. Ultimately, they connect me to Jesus. They help me access the life that flows only from him" (John Ortberg, *Your Spiritual Growth Plan, Leadership Journal*, Winter, 2010). And our spiritual growth and growth in love come from that connection and life.

I began this new life in Christ in grace and I will continue in grace:

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 2: 6-7

Hope you have a good check up,

Pastor Eric

MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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