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FEBRUARY 25, 2009

# The Messenger

## LENTON SERMON SERIES

Approximately 40% of 16 to 29 year olds have opted out of being part of the Christian Church in America. You may be part of the above statistic or have a friend that is. You may have children or grandchildren who are part of the statistic above. The statistic is about people we love and care about, but it is also about people God loves very much. When the people surveyed were asked “Why?” they have opted out of church—they primarily replied that they didn’t want to be like the people they know who claim to be Christian. We say: “Perception is reality.” I want to change this perception and repentance is about change.

Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock (Rev. Kenneth W. Collins). As a church, we will do some soul-searching together through our Lenten Sermon Series: The Church Repents. Repentance is a positive dynamic—it is part of the process for needed change to occur—it is a good thing.

### Ash Wednesday—The Church Repents

March 1—The Church Repents of Being Hypocritical

March 8—The Church Repents of Judging Others

March 15—The Church Repents of Staying Sheltered

March 22—The Church Repents of Being Too Political

March 29—The Church Repents of Too Quickly  
Endorsing Violence

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## EASTER EGGS

As the Lenten Season begins, you will find an Easter egg basket in the Narthex and Family Life Center. Each will be filled with “empty” Easter eggs. Please take an egg during the Lenten Season and fill it with coins, bills and/or a check. There will be children with Easter baskets on Easter morning waiting to collect the Easter eggs. The children will take the eggs to the altar during the Easter Worship Services. If you will not be here on Easter Sunday, please take the Easter egg to the office. It will be placed in the basket on Easter. The money collected will be used to help families send their children to Camp Wesley Woods.



# On Campus Events

## SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 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, MARCH 2

- 5:30 UMW Board Meeting (FH)
- 6:00 CEP Children's Clothing Sale (FLC)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 Trustees Meeting (LCR)

## TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 9:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 9:00 CEP (Education Wing)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (Choir Room)
- 10:30 Prayer at the Altar (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 Girl Scout Meeting (Room 30)
- 6:30 Cub Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 Open Gym

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- 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, MARCH 5

- 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 Finance Committee Meeting (LCR)

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 8:00 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ~ Sanctuary
- 7:00 Youth Lock-in

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 7:00 Youth lock-in



### Wednesday Night Connection Menu for March 4

Pork chops, vegetables,  
salad and dessert.

Please join us for a church-wide Lenten Study  
after dinner in the FLC

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2009

Total Worship - 411 Sunday School - 204

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### FEBRUARY, 2009

<b>BUDGET</b>	\$17,190.23
<b>PAVING THE WAY</b>	\$2,317.00
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	Virginia Metzger
<b>SPECIAL OFFERINGS:</b>	
<b>FISH</b>	\$125.00
<b>HIWASSEE COLLEGE</b>	\$1,075.00
<b>DESIGNATED OFFERINGS</b>	\$2,022.88
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$22,730.11

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 7** Ben Neal, Nate Valukas
- March 8** Carson Stivers, Jean Begley
- March 10** McKenzie Roberts
- March 11** Michael Neas, Jeremy Valukas
- March 12** Graham Jarrell, Matthew McCoig
- March 13** Martha Scott, Quintin Wardick

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

## STEPHEN MINISTRIES MEETING

this Sunday, March 1

Please meet at 12:15 in the Large Conference Room.

## Wednesday Evening Classes



40 Days Living the Jesus Creed by Scot McKnight ~ This class will meet in the FLC after Wednesday Night Connection Dinner. It is a church-wide forty day devotional reading plan and optional small group discussions.

Hearing God Through Scripture ~ This Bible study will focus on learning to listen to what God is saying through a particular passage in the Bible. We meet in the Library with Associate Pastor, Wil Cantrell at 6:30.

A Call to Die-a 40 Day Journey of Fasting from the World and Feasting on God ~ This study will help to prepare your heart for Easter. We meet in the large conference room with Sandy Daniels at 7pm.

We invite you to take part in any of these Lenten studies ~  
Please call the church office for more information.

### Small Group Monday:

- ◆ a time to decompress.
- ◆ a time for relaxation.
- ◆ celebrating God's goodness

Join us! Monday nights. 7pm-8:15pm  
Deb and Rich Holly's home.  
Call 693-1370 or email richolly@knology.net to RSVP

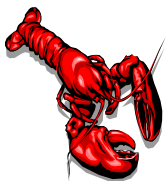
### SPRING CLOTHING SALE

**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).**

### BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY ~~

The United Methodist Women will be serving breakfast this Sunday.

Come join us!!



First Tuesday Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Tuesday, March 3 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 2..



# ♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

## ♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

### WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED

Imagine worship without music. Although it is possible, and some folks do worship in that manner, for most of us who worship in the Protestant tradition worship would be lacking a vital element were music excluded.

Choosing music for worship services is an important part of the planning process. First of all our music must glorify God, who, after all, is the object of our worship. The hymn writer Fred Pratt Green penned the words of a wonderful hymn along those lines in 1971. Although we don't use this hymn a lot I believe it has much to say to us about our offerings of music in worship. It is worth our careful reading.

When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried,  
Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found  
a new dimension in the world of sound,

as worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue,  
Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
when utmost evil strove against the Light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,  
Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia!

May all of our music glorify  
Him who gave us the gift of music  
with which to praise and worship.



*Sonny*

## Children's Corner

### Dates to Remember

- ◆ March 27—Parent's Night Out (CUMC)\*
- ◆
- ◆ April 17, 2009 Parent's Night Out (MPUMC)
- ◆
- ◆ June 1—June 5 - Vacation Bible School

\*Change in date due to spring break

### Mission Focus:

- ◆ **Change for Children**—ongoing
- ◆ FISH: Peanut Butter—ongoing



### 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.

### Baby Pictures:

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



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.

### Saturday & Sunday – February 28 & March 1

#### Confirmation Retreat to

#### Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Participants will meet at MPUMC at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and return by 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. Cost: \$40.00

### Sunday, March 1

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

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

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, March 4

#### Wednesday Night Youth Connection

5:15 to 6:00 - dinner  
6:15 to 6:45 - Youth handbells  
**6:15 - "The Gathering"**  
6:45 - Youth group activities

## Sign up for 2009 Summer Mission Trips!

### Smoky Mountains

July 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18  
Current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> graders may participate.  
Total Cost - \$175.00

### Bennett County, South Dakota

July 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19  
Current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders may participate.  
Total Cost - \$500.00

## >>>Coming Up<<<

### Friday, March 6

#### "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.

and...

#### Senior High Lock-In @ MPUMC

Cost: \$10

Video games, movies, karaoke, and food is the theme for this lock-in!

Meet at MPUMC on Friday night at 7:00 p.m., leave from MPUMC by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

**Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries**

ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

## Holston Conference Corner

It is so exciting to be a part of the UMChurch and it is exciting to be a part of the Holston Conference! Our Holston Conference Discipleship Team is about to launch new ministries this year and we want you to know about them!

We will partner with both financial and hand-on support for the new Disciple Bible studies to be offered in Virginia Prisons. Susan Montgomery, lay-person from Concord UMC is developing a Cradle to Prison ministry. The conference will offer Leadership Holston this August, a 9-month training program for 12 lay and 12 clergy, who will study about the church and the conference and develop leadership skills along the way! We're looking at a new way for churches to help churches with a brand new idea from Reece Fauscett pastor in Trentville, Georgia!

God is at work...

in BOLD ministry! Questions.

Call Deb Holly @ 693-1370 or [debholly@knology.net](mailto:debholly@knology.net)

## 100 Gather for Event Focused on Financial Crisis

About 100 people joined us Saturday Feb. 21 for the worship and workshops that comprised our Surviving A Financial Crisis event. Many of those present were community members who had heard about the event from friends or advertisements. Here are a few of the comments that were made by people attending the event. "I'm going through bankruptcy and until now I didn't know where to turn." "I'm in the midst of foreclosure and I'm grateful for these resources." "I still have a job for now, but I've been wondering how I should be using my money." Thank you to all the volunteers, ministry teams, workshop leaders, and staff members who made this event a blessing for our community!

# CLERGY COLUMN

## REAL LOVE

<sup>16</sup> We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

I John 3:16-18

The late cultural prophet and philosopher, Francis Schaeffer, said that the mark of a Christian was love. I talk a great deal about love because the Bible does. The Bible is the most realistic book that I know of. The New Testament was written in koine’ or common greek. Greek was a very precise language for the Greeks loved precision. They had four words for love: *storge*, *eros*, *phileo*, and *agape*. *Storge* is the love of the familiar and the commonplace: “I love my reading chair.” *Eros* includes erotic love, sexual love, and romantic love. *Phileo* is the love of friendship. It is a highly regarded form of love. *Agape* is the highest form of love. The

## “I AM SO PROUD OF OUR CHURCH”

early Christians took this term and elevated it as the “God-kind” of love, sacrificial love. It is the love that seeks the other’s greatest good. It many times has nothing to do with feelings; it has to do with the will and resolve. It has to do with discerning the greatest good on behalf of the beloved. As Scott Peck has written: “Love agonizes.” This kind of love can change the world.

I witnessed this kind of love this past weekend with our *Surviving A Financial Crisis* event and the workshops that followed. I am so proud of our church for reaching out to those who have need. I am so proud of our church demonstrating compassion. I saw many faces I did not know. I heard that there were folks here who were facing bankruptcy, looking for jobs, and had homes facing foreclosure. Church, thank you for being the kind of church that shows real love, genuine love, agape love through actions. Thank you for supporting such events. Thank you for sharing your gifts and graces to make such events possible. Church, I saw your “mark” this weekend—for I saw love.

*Pastor Eric*

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

**CONCERNS:** Rick and Sally Lovin, Hiwassee 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)

**DEATHS:** Chuck McDonald (Ray McDonald’s father)  
Barbara Valukas (Nate Valukas’ aunt)

### PASTOR ON CALL

Friday 3/6~  
Sunday 3/8

Eric Rieger

cell 964-0030  
home 539-9801

### LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2009

*Traditional and Contemporary Services*

**Sermon:**

*The Church Repents  
of Being Hypocritical*

MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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