



Medic Blood Drive

We have scheduled a blood drive at the church for Wednesday, April 8. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to serve the Greater Knoxville community with life-saving blood, as well as to benefit your family. We're starting publicity early so that you who give blood on a regular basis can schedule your next donation for April 8. More later!

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

- 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
-

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIN

Knoxville Interfaith Network (KIN) is the recipient of a *Community Service Award* from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Commission of Greater Knoxville. The award was presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service, following the MLK Memorial March (Parade) on January 19. Middlebrook Pike UMC is proud to be a part of KIN and its work for justice and equality in our community. *For more information about KIN and how you can get involved, contact Deb Holly at 693-1370 or Viviane Manigat Jackson at 679-0070.*

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!



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead this Saturday night!

MARCH 4, 2009

The Messenger

Phone 865-690-8641

Fax 865 539-4636

www.middlebrookpike.com

On Campus Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- 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)
- 1:45 Piano Recital (FH)
- 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 9

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- 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)
- 6:30 Cub Scouts (Old Building)
- 6:45 Girl Scouts (Room 30)
- 7:00 Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 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 12

- 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 Stephen Ministry Meeting (Room 27)

Sunday, March 8 ~~ Breakfast will be served by The YOUTH ~ Come eat with us!!!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

MARCH 1, 2009

Total Worship - 563 Sunday School - 229
Confirmation Retreat - 22

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

March 1, 2009

BUDGET	\$31,794.33
PAVING THE WAY	\$6,871.17
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	FISH \$206.55 Holston Home \$10.00
MEMORIALS HONORARIUM	Virginia Metzger Mason Stivers
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS	\$2,435.54
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$41,317.59

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 14** Beth Riley, Larry Scollard, Rick Bryant, Ashleigh Frederick
- March 15** Renee Valentine, Mark Troutman
- March 16** Festus Obonna, Maggie Berry
- March 17** Greg Cooper, Kim Emmett
- March 18** Dilyn Hauck
- March 20** Wil Cantrell, Joel McDuffee, Lauren Robinson

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



Wednesday Night Connection Menu for March 11

Baked chicken, salad, vegetables and dessert

Program:

Lenten Studies

DO YOU REMEMBER...?

Do you remember the first time you came to church? Do you remember the first time you entered a crowded Sunday School class or a class that wasn't crowded? Do you remember the first Wednesday Night Connection meal you came to? Do you remember the feelings associated with trying a new place? Do you remember the unasked questions you felt in your heart: "Will anyone speak to me?" "Will anyone sit with me at the meal?" "Will I make any new friends?" Do you remember...? Hospitality is everyone's business here at Middlebrook Pike UMC. Extending ourselves to newcomers is everyone's responsibility. It is part of our Mission: "To fulfill our mission, we will **invite** persons into the Body of Christ, **nurture** them in community...". May we all be incredible "ministers of hospitality" when people come to our church. Do you remember? What will our guests remember when they first come?

SISTERS IN CHRIST

*will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 6:15
at the home of Gracie Murphree
108 Golf Club Road ~ 588-5158*

All women are invited to join us!!

MARY RAYFIELD CIRCLE

*will meet Tuesday, March 10, 7pm
at the home of Ruth Ford
in Bennington ~ 9227 Colchester Rd.*

*Meet at the church at 6:45 to
car pool or follow someone.*



♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

Be Patient With Us—God Isn't Finished With Us Yet

Years ago during my teaching career I came upon a cartoon picturing a young lad with a somewhat perplexed expression on his face. The caption accompanying the cartoon said, "Be patient with me—God isn't finished with me yet." I posted the cartoon on the window of my office for the edification of my students. They were put on notice that I was still trying to improve as a teacher.

We have just had our first experience combining the talents of musicians from the contemporary and traditional services. While our efforts were not without some problems we think that it was a good first effort and subsequent attempts will be improved.

There are numerous problems associated with such performances (for lack of a better word). It will take several more attempts before all of these difficulties are resolved. In no particular order here are a few things with which we must deal.

Performance areas and acoustics. This is particularly a problem in the contemporary worship space. The choral group is not at all accustomed to singing in what is realistically a gymnasium, a room not primarily designed for musical performance. The acoustical panels on the wall help, but do not eliminate the problem.

Sound equipment appropriate to the musical group and the individ-

ual acoustical properties of each instrument is essential. Then these must be balanced to achieve a pleasing musical effect. Even if all the equipment is excellent it must be adjusted in rehearsals, which takes a great deal of time. Our groups had only a very limited amount of time to rehearse together. We need much more time to work these problems out.

Related to acoustical concerns is the matter of balance between choral ensembles accustomed to keyboard accompaniment and the additional instrumental accompaniment. Singers and players must be able to hear one another and directors responsible for determining proper balance must have time to listen and make adjustments in rehearsal.

Music which is appropriate for performance with the instrumentation of our contemporary band and traditional voices is not easy to find. Most of the music our musicians sing or play is composed or arranged for one or the other medium, not for both together.

So, in short, we are working together to resolve these difficult problems so that we can do more things together. We know we have a lot of work to do, but we are trying. We think that our first attempt was a good beginning. So be patient with us—we aren't finished, and what's more "God isn't finished with us yet."

Sonny & Justin

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
- ◆ **Easter Eggs ~ Wesley Woods Camp** (ongoing)

Wesley Woods Camp Registration

Middlebrook Pike UMC would like to help send children to camp this summer. This is an amazing experience for children. There will be \$50.00 scholarships for camps that cost under \$200.00 and \$100.00 scholarships for camps over \$200.00. If a family feels they need additional assistance, please call Ann. She will be working with Charlotte Giles, church bookkeeper. If you have already registered your child and you need scholarship money, please let Ann know.

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.

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



MPUMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

This Week's Events & Activities...

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.

Sunday, March 8

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

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, March 11

Wednesday Night Youth Connection & Youth Leadership Council

5:15 to 6:00 - dinner

6:15 to 6:45 - Youth handbells

6:15 - "The Gathering"

6:45 - Youth group announcements & prayer

7:00 - Youth Leadership Council & Youth Group

7:45 to 8:30 - Open gym & game room

Sign up for 2009 Summer Mission Trips!

Smoky Mountains - July 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18

Current 6th, 7th, & 8th graders may participate.

Total Cost - \$175.00

Bennett County, South Dakota - July 11, 12, 13, 14,

15, 16, 17, 18, & 19 - **Current 8th through 12th graders** may participate. Total Cost - \$500.00

MPUMC Confirmation Class

22 people attended last week's retreat to Lake Junaluska. Our experience will continue with a Saturday morning session scheduled for **March 28 at MPUMC**. This session will last from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries

ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

NEEDED ~~ VCR's

to be used in our Bible study groups and children's activities with the TV's that we have on site

Contact the church office if you have any to donate.

Good Deeds

Time to spring into action and change smoke detector batteries! The Good Deeds Team will distribute 9-volt batteries and MPUMC invitation cards to neighbors in our community on Sunday, March 29th! The batteries have been donated at no cost to the church for this project, so all we need are willing walkers! Come on...the kids are back at school...the flowers will be blooming and it's a great way to connect with our neighbors! Meet us on Sunday, March 29th in the east parking lot (near the church office door) at 4:00pm to do a good deed!



KEENAGERS is sponsoring a trip to the Cumberland County Playhouse to see a wild and brilliant comedy ~

THE FOREIGNER ~
on Thursday, June 4, Matinee.
The cost is \$21 and all are invited to register. Lunch at Cumberland County State Park at nominal cost. For a seat on the church bus, please call your host Frank Kasper ~ 690-7974.

CLERGY COLUMN

"[Then Jesus said], now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father save me from this hour'? No, it is for this hour I have come." – John 12:27

One of the most impressive things about Jesus' like, in my opinion, is the consistency of purpose with which he lived. He was driven by the same motivations when responded to the poor and outcast as he was when encountering the sick and powerful. In John 12:27, Jesus declares his intention to follow his mission all the way to the cross even though he himself dreads the pain and suffering that will follow.

As we embark upon the soul searching that accompanies this season of Lent leading up to Easter, we have to ask ourselves: Am I consistently driven by the same motivations and purposes? Or am I sometimes driven by the motivation to love God and my neighbors and at other times driven by the motivation to fulfill my own momentary desires for respect or power or things or pleasure or safety whether or not those desires fit in with God's desire?

As we embark upon this soul searching as a church, we are sharing a sermon series titled *The Church Repents*. In this sermon series, we are intentionally listening to the opinions about the church of 16-29 year olds who have rejected the church as discovered by the extensive research done by the Barna group and published in the book *UnChristian: What A New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...And Why It Matters*.

Now why would we allow our souls to be troubled by these critiques about us by those who are not even a part of us? In the traditional services, last week I shared three reasons why we want to go out of our way to listen to these voices. 1) Because these

"SEEKING CONSISTENCY"

criticisms have some validated and many were formed from experiences within churches. 2) Because we care. Our willingness to listen and respond to these critiques may well have a lot to do with whether today's young adults turn away from faith for the rest of their lives as well as how those in older and future generations with similar concerns will view the church. And 3) we listen because things do not have to be the way they are. The church does not always have to bemoan the young adult generation missing from the church's ministries. Things can be different if we are willing to allow things to be different.

The first critique we heard last Sunday was that Christians are perceived by 85% of those young adults outside the church to be hypocritical. This week in worship we will consider the fact that 89% of this group also believes Christians to be judgmental. There is a part of me that does not want to listen to these critiques because they might force me to change the way I live and the way I do my job as a pastor. Thankfully, there is a greater desire in me that wants to listen because I know that unlike Christ my life and ministry contains a lot of inconsistencies and I want someone to help me make life and ministry more consistent with who Christ wants me to be even if it hurts.

This Lent, will you take time to ask God to expose your inconsistencies in a gentle way? And will you be willing to look those inconsistencies in the face even if it hurts? If you are willing to ask these questions, be warned, God may just use your courage to change to the world.

Grace and Peace,

Wil

Recent requests for prayer from our church family...

CONCERNS: Marilyn Kirchoff (Kim Rochelle's mother), Robbie Delbridge (Ken Rochelle's grandmother), Rick and Sally Lovin

BIRTHS: Dylan Read Larrabee ~ proud parents are Mick and Holly and brothers Tyler and Ryan

PASTOR ON CALL

Friday 3/6~
Sunday 3/8

Wil Cantrell

Cell - 919-0647
Home - 690-2594

LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY March 8, 2009

***Traditional and Contemporary
Services***

**Sermon: The Church Repents of
Judging Others**

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 237



MILITARY FAMILY

Jonathan Hamilton - stationed in Iraq
Jordan Leslie – grandson of Jen Webb
Alan West – Barry Ballinger’s cousin
Robert L. Kelly – grandson of Bill and Marie Cooper –
stationed in Iraq
Robert McCuiston – father of Jason McCuiston
Major Reed Berry – Judy Berry’s son
Christina Olsen – cousin of Nate Valukas
Anna Evert – Suzanne Thomas’ cousin – stationed in
Iraq
Coleman Harrell, USAF – nephew of Sam and Diana
Clark – stationed in Germany
Chrissy Atchley – daughter of Randy and Leah Atchley
Robert Haas – son of Don and Joyce Haas – stationed in
Germany
Daniel Clark – grandson of Don and Joyce Haas –
stationed at Fort Dix, NJ
Jacob Clark – grandson of Don and Joyce Haas –
stationed in Norfolk, VA
Nicholas Bible – Samantha Frederick’s cousin –
stationed in Iraq
Troy Arquette – stationed in Louisiana
Matthew Gardner – Erin Green’s fiancée – USAir Force
Andrew Cooper – Larry Cooper’s son – going to Iraq

The following names are our list of those known to be homebound. If you know of a homebound member who is not on our list, please contact the office so that we may add that name to our list, which is printed the 1st Wednesday of each month.

We encourage you to remember them in your prayers or drop them a note or a card.





Blanche Wright (Sabra Buchheit's mother)
 Carol Buchheit (John Buchheit's mother)
 Dolores Scarbrough (Judy Boyd's sister)
 Jamie Chamblee (Rick and Sally Lovin's nephew)
 Doris Ritchie (Don Moore's sister)
 Betty McGregor (Sally Evenden's aunt)
 Caryl (Sally Evenden's stepmother)
 Jackie Evenden (Sally Evenden's sister-in-law)
 Jayden Wise (Peggy Reed's nephew)
 Phil Moore and his son Dustin
 Jonathan Keas
 Bill Dabbs (Craig Turnbow's aunt)
 Marilyn Hinson (Craig Turnbow's aunt)
 George Kindred (Betty Turnbow's brother)
 Tiffany Dabbs (Betty Turnbow's cousin)
 Bobbie Wray
 Alice Moore
 Bobby Gordy (Dawn Galle's father)
 Dorothy Cole (Emily Guffey's mother)
 Jim O'Neal (Jean Rosenblum's father)
 Fred Rosenblum (Mickey Rosenblum's father)
 David and Patricia Merrill (Daphnea Moses' sister and brother-in-law)
 Karen Posey (Mike Moses' niece)
 Daryll and Melissa Ray
 Bill Cooper
 John Ray (Shelia Cooper's father)
 Cindy Krebs
 Catherine Cole (Bonnie Cole and Kathy Rinaca's mother)
 John Priode
 Clint and Betty Crisp
 Bobby Counts (Larry Katcham's cousin)
 Tim Allbee
 April Morgan Bartine
 Danny Anthony (Ray McDonald's nephew)
 Chuck Samuel (Kay Samuel's brother)
 Peggy Wyrick
 Tracey Ballinger
 Danny Mount (son of John and Kathy Mount)

John T. Mount (John Mount's father)
 Linda Mefford and her father Alex and brother Mike
 Danny Mefford (Linda Mefford's uncle)
 Monica (Betty Earl's grandniece)
 Mary Sallstrom (family of Diana Clark)
 Karen Giles
 Margaret Wilson (Marcia McGregor's grandmother)
 Karen Dennis (Ann Rockwell's niece)
 Bob and Pat Jackson (Becky Gompf's aunt and uncle)
 Georgia Bird (Jim Bird's step-mother)
 Carolyn Gass
 Fred Miles (Josh Walker's step-dad)
 Andy Walker (Josh Walker's brother)
 Bill Swaggerty Jr.
 Paul Ellis (Wendy Evon's father)
 Darlene Demaree (Loren Demaree's mother)
 Janis Lanternier
 Hope McGee
 Dot Hyke
 Jay Niblick
 Jon Seeders (Rick Seeders brother)
 Jess Lockyer (Rosemary Lockyer's brother)
 Steve Hinkle (Helen Walkers son)
 Chris Emmett
 Scott Bennett (Rob and Suzanne Thomas' brother-in-law)
 Johnny Jones
 Carrie Hawley (Drew Hawley's mother)
 Dwight Cope
 Ruth Masterson (Charlie Harr's sister)
 Stacey Sims
 Marjorie Wolcott
 Susan McClanahan (Iris Long's granddaughter)
 George and Billie Sliger (Fred Sliger's parents)
 Kathy Gibson (Ann Rockwell's sister-in-law)

***March Ongoing
Prayer List***

If you know of anyone who needs to come off this list, please contact Debbie in the church office at 690-8641.