



## 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!



Phone 865-690-8641

Fax 865 539-4636

[www.middlebrookpike.com](http://www.middlebrookpike.com)

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## LENTEN SERMON SERIES

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

MARCH 11, 2009

# The Messenger



The Spiritual Growth Team Invites you to:  
Join a Sunday School Class. Where else can you find interesting stories, lively discussions, people who care and it's free. What a deal! Looking for a class?

There will be a listing of classes in the  
Sunday Worship Guide.

Join this Sunday. Somebody is waiting to meet you.

# On Campus Events

## SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 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 Brass Voices (Room 31)
- 5:00 First Place for Life Meeting (Old Bldg.)
- 5:30 Revelation Singers (Choir Room)

## MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Old Building)

## TUESDAY, MARCH 17

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

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- 10:00 Willing Workers Circle (FH)
- 6:15 Early Risers Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:30 Hearing God through Scripture (Room 27)
- 7:00 40 Day Journey Book study (LCR)
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 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)
- 6:30 Keenagers (FH)

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

MARCH 8, 2009

Total Worship - 436 Sunday School - 240

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

March 8, 2009

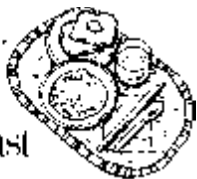
<b>BUDGET</b>	\$19,423.91
<b>PAVING THE WAY</b>	\$4,415.00
<b>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>	FISH \$1,017.00
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	Jim & Virginia Metzger
<b>DESIGNATED OFFERINGS</b>	\$2,912.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$27,768.26

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 22** Willa Long, Alex Voss, David Trexler
- March 23** Mindy Savage, Joe Lawhorn, Garry Ferry
- March 24** Tyler Niemann, David Carter, Mollie Rice, Alexander Robinson
- March 25** Patrick Daniels
- March 27** Michael Watt
- March 28** Caroline Neal, GB Humphreys, Matthew Daniels, Chad Curtis

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

Sunday  
School  
Breakfast

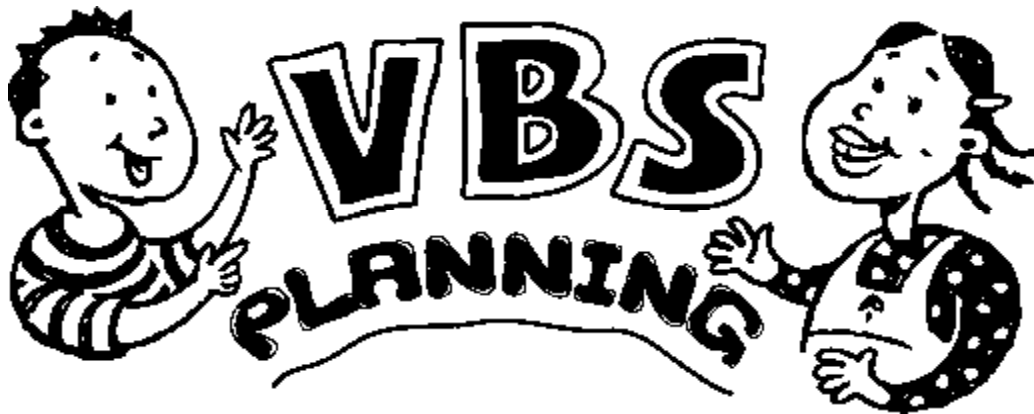


**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

The Experiencing God Sunday School Class will be providing breakfast on Sunday, March 15. The menu will be French Toast, Bacon, and Fruit. All proceeds will go to support Wesley Woods Camp Scholarships. Enjoy a great breakfast and support our young people.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTION  
MARCH 18 CANCELLED DUE TO  
SPRING BREAK**



Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it (June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>). We are doing a camping theme this year and are in need of a few items to be used for decorating.

Tents (any and all sizes)	Woodland Creature Stuffed Animals
A Canoe or Kayak	Folding lawn chairs
Artificial Christmas Trees	Picnic Baskets
Coolers	Small Inflatable baby pools
Canteens	Little Tykes Picnic Tables(need approx. 10)
Camping Lanterns	Sleeping Bags
Large Artificial plants	Large kites
Large Backpacks	
Any other camping gear that we could display throughout the church	

If you have some of these items and are willing to let us borrow them, please contact Marielle Kusch at 692-3899 - email [kuschfamily5@aol.com](mailto:kuschfamily5@aol.com) We will need them no later than May 24<sup>th</sup> and can return them to you by June 6<sup>th</sup>. You may leave the items in the fellowship hall or we can arrange a time to come and pick them up from you. Please make sure you label your items with your name and phone number so we can return them. Thanks for your help!

### *UMW Easter eggs*

*The United Methodist Women will sell both peanut butter and coconut Easter eggs to raise funds to support their 2009 mission projects.*

*Local mission projects include: FISH, Second Harvest, Project Help, Great Starts, Holston Home and the Jubilee Project.*

*We will sell on two Sundays: March 29 and April 5.*

*We appreciate your support.*

# ♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

♪ WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES ♪

## THANK YOU!

If you wander down into the choir room you will notice that the chairs are neatly arranged on new risers. The risers are the handwork of Archie Berry, Bernard Grubbs, and Mike Line. The materials for the project were provided by a church member in appreciation of the contributions of the choirs to our worship services. The choirs will enjoy these new risers which will be an invaluable aid to rehearsals. Our sincere thanks to those who make this valuable addition possible.

## COMING EVENTS

Our choirs are hard at work on "Song of the Shadows," a cantata based on the events of the last few days of the life of Jesus prior to the crucifixion. The cantata will be presented on Maundy Thursday evening. You will want to be in attendance for this special service which will include Holy Communion as an integral part of the cantata. I have used this particular work several times since it's publication about ten years ago.

It is without a doubt the most moving work of it's type I have ever heard. Reaction to it has been uniformly positive. The experience of Maundy Thursday will make the celebration of Easter Sunday a much more meaningful one.

The Revelation Singers have begun preparation for a patriotic multimedia program to be presented on May 9. This is a light musical work featuring many folk songs and patriotic songs from our uniquely American heritage. I used this work with great success at Fountain City UMC several years ago. It is a "fun" work which will be enjoyed by all ages. Mark this date on your calendars and plan to be with us for a different kind of musical experience.

Sonny



# Children's Corner

## Dates to Remember

March 27 – Parent's Night Out (CUMC)\*  
April 17, 2009 – Parent's Night Out (MPUMC)  
April 19, 2009 – David Leach (Director of Wesley Woods Camp) will visit MPUMC  
June 1 – June 5 -- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

\*Change in date due to spring break.

We need YOU ...

- ◆ Rotation substitutes for March 15 (Parable Playhouse, Christ's Café, Acts of God)
- ◆ Rotation substitute for April 5 (Acts of God)
- ◆ Shepherds for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Mission Focus:

- ◆ **Change for Children**—ongoing
- ◆ FISH: Peanut Butter—ongoing
- ◆ Easter Eggs ~ Wesley Woods Camp (ongoing)

## 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...

### Sunday, March 15

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

**No evening youth activities due to spring break!**

### Wednesday, March 18

**No Wednesday Night Youth Connection  
due to spring break!**

### Sunday, March 22

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

**See Eric to participate in our youth-led Good Friday  
service - Friday, April 10 - beginning at 7:30 p.m.**

### Wednesday, March 25

#### **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 games & discussion  
7:45 to 8:30 - Open gym & game room

#### **Teams are filling up fast for our 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.

**Only 1 spot is left!** 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.

**Only 4 spots are left!** Total Cost - \$500.00

#### **MPUMC Confirmation Class**

Our next meeting is **Saturday, 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

## Willing Workers Circle

Don't forget we meet March 18th  
at 10:30 for Bible Study and a  
pot luck lunch.



The flower chart can be found on the door outside the  
choir room. Please sign up to give flowers *in honor of*  
and *in memory of* your family and friends.

On April 5, the Ragamuffins Class will start a study of *Remember Who You Are: Baptism and the Christian Life*, by William H. Willimon. One reviewer describes the book in this way: "*Remember Who You Are* is foremost a devotional reading for Christians desiring a deeper spiritual understanding of their baptisms. However, the relaxed style does not betray the author's excellent work in presenting the historical and traditional understanding of baptism. *Remember Who You Are* helps the reader rediscover the beautiful and sacred truth about the baptism rite. He makes evident that an excellent starting place to define Christians is the baptismal sacrament, and thus they will be able to remember who they are."



The Ragamuffins meet in Room 21. Everyone is welcome to join in this enriching study of the meaning of baptism. The book is available from Amazon.com for \$9.60. The Ragamuffins will follow this study of baptism with Willimon's book on the Lord's Supper.

### *Transformation*

**Our VISION:** “Led by the Holy Spirit, we will transform lives, our community, and the world.

*What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. Galatians 6:15 NLT*

Lebron was an African-American college student who made money selling drugs. He “ran” with a truly dangerous crowd. Lebron met my Bible study leader, Nelson, and they became friends. He shared with Lebron about Jesus Christ. Lebron decided to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and his life was transformed before our very eyes. He became a kind, gentle, and humble follower of Jesus—he was a pleasure to be around.

Our “Vision Statement” declares that we are in the “transformation business”. Or better yet, it declares that the Holy Spirit uses us to transform not only lives, but communities and even the world. I like words. I wasn’t a particularly good student in high school until I became a Christian, but I had some excellent English teachers who helped me develop an appreciation for words. My freshman English teacher was a “man’s man”, so he got my attention. He was an underwater demolitions expert in the Navy (a Navy Seal before there were

Navy Seals). I’ll never forget the day he came in with his arm in a sling; he broke it hang gliding. Again, he got my attention, and he loved words. When I was a senior in High School, I took an Honor’s English class, and we did a section on vocabulary. This gifted teacher made it interesting and fun. So, what does *transform* mean? To transform means to change in condition, nature, or character.

Jesus changes people (but only with their permission and cooperation). He makes bad people good. He takes broken people and makes them whole. He transforms self-centered people into servants. He makes the proud humble, the weak strong in Him, the perverse holy, the apathetic passionate, the hateful kind, the good better, the bewildered directed. He helps us be good kids, youth, adults, husbands, wives, parents, grandparents, neighbors, students, teachers, and citizens. He changes us from the inside out, and when we work together, we can and do change (transform) our community and the world. The church is the people of God not a building. Someone said: “The Church is the hope of the world.” I do believe if we allow Jesus Christ to transform us and we, as a result of such transformation, love and serve our communities and the world, real change will take place; however, if nothing changes, nothing changes. Are you and I open to change? Are we open to Jesus?

*Pastor Eric*

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

**CONCERNS:** Sunny Graves,  
Marilyn Kirchoff (Kim Rochelle’s mother),  
Robbie Delbridge (Ken Rochelle’s grandmother)

### **PASTOR ON CALL**

Friday 3/13~  
Sunday 3/15

Eric Rieger  
Cell - 964-0030  
Home - 539-9801

### **LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY March 15, 2009**

***Traditional and Contemporary Services***

**Sermon: The Church Repents of Staying Sheltered**

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

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