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“Jesus According to Jesus” Worship Series



People say a lot of things about Jesus these days. Some say he was just a man. Some say he is God in human form. Some say he was a prophet. Some say he is their Lord and Savior. Some say he was a good example of how to live. Some say he is their guide. Some say he is a Republican. Some say he is a Democrat. Some say he is a friend. Some say he is a martyr. Some say he is an activist. Some even say he is an action figure. Some say all the stories about him in the Bible are made up. Some say the world was made through him. Some say he is judgmental. Some say he is merciful. Some say he is our only hope. Some say not to get our hopes up.

Join us for worship in January and February as we look at what Jesus said about himself as recorded in the Gospel of John.

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!



Our Bishop, James Swanson, Sr., will be sharing with us on Wednesday evening, January 14, 2009, to “kick-off” our first Wednesday Night Connection of the year; he is an excellent and inspirational communicator. Our District Superintendent, Doug Fairbanks, will also be joining us. Our youth will perform a couple of selections from *Youth Group: The Musical* to begin the evening. Please remember we will enjoy a delicious meal together beginning at 5:15 p.m. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to make your reservations by filling out the form in Sunday’s Worship Guide. We hope you will join us for this special evening with our Bishop.

Impacting Ministry 2009



On Sunday, January 11, 2009, Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church is hosting the annual training event for the Knoxville District from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. The opening session is *Offer Them Christ* led by our District Superintendent, Doug Fairbanks. *Impacting Ministry* provides an opportunity for interaction among United Methodist leaders at the local church, district, and conference levels. It is a training event, but not in the traditional sense. The format allows those in attendance to ask specific questions and receive direct answers related to their own unique settings. There will be eleven different workshops offered in the afternoon: *Latino Ministry, Mission Insight, Benevolence Ministry, Natural Church Development-Holistic Small Groups, Reaching 20/30 Somethings in a World of Questions, Financial Peace University, Children’s Ministry, United Methodist Beliefs, Youth Ministry, Workshop for Local Church Treasurers, and Staff Parish Relations Committee*. Attendees may attend two. An optional lunch is being offered at 1:00 p.m. for \$7.00 per person. The cost of the event is \$5.00. Please pre-register. Registration forms are available in the church office.

DECEMBER 31, 2008

The Messenger

On Campus Events

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 28, 2008

Total Worship - 352 Sunday School - 178

Christmas Eve Services - 566

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 8:30 Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 MPUMC Breakfast (FLC/FH)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Contemporary Worship (FLC/Gym)
- 11:00 Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 Youth Group Musical Activities
- 5:30 Youth Snack Supper
- 5:30 Brass Voices (Room 31)
- 6:15 Youth Group Activities

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 Trustees (Conference Room)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 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)
- 3:30 Girl Scouts (Room 30)
- 6:30 Cub Scouts (Old Building)
- 7:00 Open Gym (FLC/Gym)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 6:00 Book Club (Room 2A)
- 6:15 Children's Choirs
- 6:15 Early Risers Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:15 Friendship Choir (Room 30)
- 6:15 Youth Handbells (Room 31)
- 6:15 Youth Group Activities
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:00 Children's Handbells (Room 31)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

- 9:30 CEP (Education Wing)
- 10:00 Beth Moore Study (Room 30)
- 10:00 Fit and Faithful (FLC/Gym)
- 6:00 Men's Basketball (FLC/Gym)
- 7:00 Finance Meeting (Conference Room)
- 7:00 Stephen's Ministry Meeting (Room 27)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

- 8:00 Sr. High Basketball (FLC/Gym)

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

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

December 21, 2008

BUDGET	\$23,875.15
RECEIVED FOR BUDGET 2009	\$3,000.00
PAVING THE WAY	\$18,670.00
MEMORIALS	
Ed Long, Pete Nielsen, Walter & Thelma Hudson, Jean Holbert, Jean Eshbaugh	
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
FISH \$2,846.67, Christmas offering Latvia \$1,383.33, Christmas offering Undesignated \$1,650.00	
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS	\$1,969.37
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$53,394.52

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

December 28, 2008

BUDGET	\$17,223.90
PAVING THE WAY	\$4,888.00
MEMORIALS	
Jean Eshbaugh to benefit FISH	
HONORARIUMS	
G.B. Humphries & WNC helpers to benefit WNC	
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
FISH Christmas \$2,100.00, Latvian Missions Christmas \$275.00, Undesignated Christmas \$3,009.70	
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS	\$3,956.90
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$31,453.50

4^{first place}health

discover a new way to healthy living

First Place Orientation

Hoping for better health in 2009? Wishes and hoping alone won't get us there. Come to First Place Orientation on Sunday, January 11 at 4 p.m. Hear how modest changes can yield positive results. First Place is a faith-based health program for women who learn, study, pray and laugh (we laugh a lot!) together. To be part of our 12 week winter group, you must attend Orientation (unless you were in the fall, 2008 group). If you have questions, contact Jan Mobley at 691-3057 or granjj@comcast.net.

Approximate cost this session: \$50.00 for new participants; \$20 for second-timers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- January 8** Shannon Sears, Jim DeFreece
- January 9** Jennifer Walker, Martha Sparrow, Sam Bratton, Kacey Russell, Jay Montague
- January 10** Kayla Carey, Reagan Turnbow, Carolyn Lawhorn, Nancy Saylors, Jake Bronkala
- January 11** Kiki Himebaugh, Jeanne Richards, Ann Knox, Jennifer Voss, Shelby Bowers
- January 12** Scott Krebs, Sheila Muenzer, Carma Vantrease, Jon Gass
- January 13** Janet Adams, Ben Bassett, Ronny Pennington
- January 14** Roxanne Dudrick, Madison White, Lara Dreggors, Rich Holly, Jonathan Fox, Andy Uglow

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

Thanks
so
much!

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO TURNED
OUT AFTER CHRISTMAS TO HELP
WITH FISH!!!!**

We had a lot of people who came out to help and we helped over 450 people that day. Please keep us in your thoughts for the following months and keep the FISH ministry in your prayers. We will be serving FISH Friday on the 23rd of January. Mark that date on your calendar!!

Hope to see you then.
God's blessing,
Lee Derby



Happy New Year! If you are not a member, do yourself a favor and join the Mothers' Support Group this year. We will meet the first Tuesday, January 6, at the Chop House on Kingston Pike at 11:30. If you have a small child, please feel free to bring him/her. All mothers of all ages welcome. Email Rita Tate ritatate@tds.net to make your reservations.

A
Special
Thank
You

The church staff would like to thank all of you who gave a monetary contribution for the staff's Christmas. The gifts were greatly appreciated.

May God bless each and every one of you for your generosity.

KEENAGERS

JANUARY 15, 2009

Dinner: 6:30

Program: THE ELDERLY BROTHERS

Please call the church office for reservations.



Dear Brothers & Sisters of Middlebrook Pike UMC,

For the past 5 years, I have been blessed to be the Church Administrator here at Middlebrook Pike UMC. I have always felt blessed by this job and have been thankful to God and all of you for our relationship. It is with quite a bit of sadness that I must tender my resignation, effective as of 1/09/08. God has chosen to bless me with a position in my own family of churches within minutes of my home.

I have always believed that my position at MPUMC was a ministry, not "just a job." In this ministry, I have experienced a great deal of satisfaction, knowing that I was helping to advance the overall goal of this church's ministry.

I want you to know that I will take with me wonderful memories and a great fondness for all the lives God has allowed me to come into contact with, and I will miss you all greatly. It is my prayer that all of you will be abundantly blessed by God in ministry and in life.

In Christ's Love,

Barb

Children's Corner

Dates to Remember

- January 16 - Parent's Night Out (CUMC)
- February 20 - Parent's Night Out (MPUMC)

Mission Focus:

- ◆ **Change for Children** - ongoing
- ◆ FISH: Canned Fruit (January), Jelly (February)

Rotation

We need teachers!

Esther - December 28 - January 25

Shepherds

The 2nd graders need a shepherd



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, JANUARY 4

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

4:30 – Youth Musical Rehearsal
5:30 - Snack supper - \$3.00

6:00 to 7:15 – Youth Group **“TURNING THE PAGE”**

Come start the year off right...meet in the gym.

7:15 – Youth Bible Studies
8:00 – Open gym & youth rooms

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Breakfast of Champions – 7:00 a.m. - Cost: \$5.00
Location: Shoney's (Walker Springs & Kingston Pike)

RESURRECTION 2009 - Jan 16, 17, & 18

81 MPUMC youth & adults will attend this annual event.
Please turn in your full payment a.s.a.p.!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Youth prepare and serve breakfast...
meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.

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

Resurrection Counselors Meeting - 3:30 p.m.
Meet in the Youth Discussion Room.

4:30 – Youth Musical Rehearsal
5:30 - Snack Supper - \$3.00

6:00 – Special Youth Group Event **“RESURRECTION 2009 PREVIEW”**

6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

Resurrection participants are **strongly encouraged** to attend!

7:15 - Youth Bible Study
8:00 - Youth Free Time

HOAGIE SALE STARTS SUNDAY!

Enjoy a great sandwich during the Super Bowl and help our youth program! Order your hoagie by filling out the Sunday morning bulletin insert and putting it in the offering plate. The price is \$7.00, which includes a sandwich, pickles, and your choice of chips.

Eric Bronkala - Director of Youth Ministries

ebronkala@middlebrookpike.com; ebronkala@comcast.net

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things
The things of this past year
The Lord will do new things in us
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

By M.S.Lowndes



This past Fall, the staff of Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church worked through Andy Stanley's book, *7 Practices of Effective Ministry. Practice # 7: Work On It* emphasizes the need to take time to evaluate our work and to “celebrate your wins”. Stanley writes: *Self-evaluation is not a new concept. The book of Genesis records that God set aside a time for evaluating His own work. At the end of six long days of creating, Scripture tells us that before He rested, He evaluated. He saw all He had made and, behold, “it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).* As we have reflected on this past year, we have much to celebrate. First and foremost, our God is faithful, good, loving, and merciful. We are a very blessed people. The next celebration is you: God's sons and daughters at Middlebrook Pike UMC. The Pareto Principle (the 20/80 principle) applied to church life would state that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. When we look around at all the ministry accomplished in this past year day in, day out, and week in, and week out, we see more than 20 percent of you involved in significant ministry for the Kingdom of God. God bless you for all you do and give.

It is our hope that you will carve out some time in the next few days to evaluate and celebrate. The purpose of evaluation is not condemnation which can lead to paralyzing guilt. The purpose of evaluation is to learn and grow and to become aware. We can become such creatures of habit and routine that we will miss opportunities for healthy change and

growth if we don't stop and reflect. This is important enough to actually schedule time for it.

With the coming of a new year, it is natural to consider new goals. As we reflect, we might consider how we would like to grow spiritually and as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the coming year. What is the next step in my growth as a disciple? We might reflect on our primary relationships: spouse or significant other, parents and children, co-workers and neighbors. We might ask ourselves: “How can I love better?”

Invite God into your time of reflection and it will be a rich experience. Ask God how you are to use your gifts, talents, and resources to bless others in the coming year. Jesus, after washing the disciples feet, said: “This (loving service) is the path of blessing...”

Thank you for an incredibly rich year, and we look forward to serving our God with you in 2009,

Eric & Wil

Recent requests for prayer from our church family...

CONCERNS: Cindy Krebs, Tracy Krebs, Millie Barba, Barbara Valukas (Nate Valukas' aunt)

DEATHS: William Alfred Nevels (Nolan Nevels' grandfather)

PASTOR ON CALL

Wil Cantrell

Thursday 01/01
cell - 919-0647

Eric Rieger

**Friday 01/02 -
Sunday 01/04**
cell - 964-0030

LOOK TOWARD SUNDAY

January 4

Traditional and Contemporary Services

Sermon: “Jesus said..., “I Am””

Scripture: Exodus 3:13,14
and John 8:52-58

MIDDLEBROOK PIKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

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