

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

REV. WILLIAM T. JOWERS, MINISTER

web site: www.TrentonUMC.org

e-mail: methodist777@bellsouth.net

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As America prepares to celebrate Independence Day, it is fitting for us to ask, "In what way are we under God?" The Scriptures state many times and in many ways that all nations are under God. The Psalmist proclaimed, "From the rising of the sun to its setting the Name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens." (Psalm 113:3,4)

We are reminded, in the first place, that our nation and all nations are under the evaluation and judgment of God, the God who revealed Himself in the Bible. Not we, nor any other nation, decide what is ultimately right or wrong in human morality. Certainly, the practical affairs of a nation are subject to debate and to decision by majority vote. That is the very essence of democracy.

Ultimate right and wrong are decided by the will of God and not human convenience and judgment. As a nation and as individuals, our thoughts, words, and deeds are subject to the evaluation and judgment of the Creator of this world. We are a nation under God!

This concept is important for us as we decide what to do with our individual lives and in our national life. If God is high above our nation, His will must be studied to determine how we are to act.

To be "under God" is not to be under His accusing gaze alone. It is also to be under His amazing grace. It is to be in touch with a God who understands us, who forgives us, and who calls us to live now under His forgiving grace, and who offers us the glories of his eternity.

Yes, indeed! God is high, and we are low. He is above us, and we are below Him. But this is not a condition of slavery. It means to be under a God who demands much, and who gives more. He wants to be the God of every person and every nation so that through His Son, He may bless all. "To all who believe on His Name, He gives power to become the sons and daughters of God."

In Christ's Service,

Rev. William T. Jowers

The 2010

Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church
171st Session of the Annual conference

June 6 - 3, 2010

Collierville United Methodist Church
Collierville, TN.

Conference Theme - "TENDING GOD'S GARDEN"

Sunday, June 6, 2010:

Registration was scheduled from 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

The opening service for the Conference was the Memorial Service. There were 12 ministers or ministers wives memorialized.

At 7:30 p.m., the Opening Session of the Conference was called to order by Bishop Richard J. Wills.

The musical highlights of choral groups and the presentation by Company D, a group of challenged youth, were wonderful.

Rev. Rick Kirchoff brought us the sermon using John 2:1-11 as his sermon text, "180 Gallons of Finest Wine". This is the story where Jesus was at a wedding feast and they ran out of wine.

Monday, June 7, 2010:

At 8:00 a.m., there were two scheduled sessions"

Clergy Session that met, "On the Square" in Collierville presided by Bishop Richard J. Wills, and; the Laity meeting in the Church Sanctuary presided by Sandra Burnett, Conference Lay leader.

At 9:30 a.m., the host pastor welcomed all the delegates to Collierville United Methodist Church.

At 10:30 a.m., there was a worship service for Commissioning Provisional Members for Service and Recognition of Retiring Members and there were 4 Provisional Members commissioned. We also celebrated and honored 6 ministers for their years of service.

The Monday afternoon session was opened with song and prayer followed by our conference speaker Dr. Leonard Sweet, who was a very dynamic speaker.

Bishop Wills then presented his views of the "State of the Church" in which he commented about this year being a very difficult year relative to the economical recession, flooding and tornadoes in Tennessee. He was very complimentary to Bill Carr and the Disaster Response Team for their work during the flooding and tornadoes and recommended that each church take a special offering in August to be used to support financially the work of the Disaster Response Team. Next, Jim Ewing presented the "Harry Denmon Evangelism Award to Cathy Farmer, who has served as the Memphis Conference Communications Director for many years. The session then turned to reports from each specific conference mission area.

Rev. Rick Dye gave the Cabinet report where the following mergers and church closings were recommended: There were 3 Church mergers and 4 church closings this year. Rev. Dye stated that there are three negative signs in our Conference, the vitality in churches is shrinking, there is a shortage of ministers, and Church attendance is reducing. Two district superintendents will no longer be superintendents and there would be 2 new ones. Rev. Harrell Nations will become our new DS.

Dr. Bill Seymour, president of Lambuth University, stated that Lambuth would remain non-profit status and expected a complete announcement in 7-10 working days.

Bishop Wills commented that the United Methodist South Korean Conference was also interested in purchasing a university in the United States.

After an initial motion and an amendment to the motion to put the \$405,000 back in the budget based on certain conditions, it was passed and sent to CF&A for budget correction. The budget was later approved with this addition.

At 7:30 p.m., we assembled for the Order of Worship for, "The Ordination of Deacons and Elders", where 2 Deacons and 10 Elders were ordained.

Bishop Wills presented the sermon for the evening where he encouraged the new Deacons and Elders to let the, "Light of Jesus", shine out of darkness so that they may be an influence in the lives of those they serve to lead them to Christ.

Tuesday morning, June 8, 2010, opened with prayer, singing and a message from Dr. Sweet.

Additional reports were heard and approved.

The nominating committee passed out a list of nominations for the year 2011. After corrections they were approved.

I attended the Laity Luncheon where Timothy Crisler, Mississippi Annual Conference Lay Leader spoke on how his home church was revitalized.

At 1:20 p.m., the conference business session resumed. CF&A reported that the final budget for 2011 is \$9,382,223, it was approved.

Sandra Burnett discussed the Conference Sights Committee report that informed as that next year's Conference will be held at Paducah, KY.

At 5:45 p.m., there was a final worship service with communion and announcing of Fixing Appointments that I did not attend.

I would like to thank both congregations for asking me to be your Laity delegate for this conference. I believe that the Conference was very much a success in bringing Clergy and Laity delegates of United Methodist Conference together, from the seven districts, to once again be updated about all the wonderful mission projects that our conference is involved in first hand and also to be able to voice our opinion on subjects that impact the life of the Church and the Conference.

God Bless America and The United Methodist Church,

Jim Proudfit
Lay Delegate,
1st United Methodist Trenton/Olive Branch Churches

REQUEST FROM KARI ALEXANDER

Kari needs someone to teach the K-2nd grade Sunday school class on the fourth and fifth Sunday of every month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kari Alexander at (731-414-0576).

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have made some significant progress toward the completion of our pictorial church directory. Our pictorial directory committee will be meeting to finalize all data soon. Please contact Michele Phelan, our coordinator, for additional information or to remit a picture of your group or loved one.

CHURCH CLEANING SIGN-UP LIST

We need volunteers to clean the various areas of the church. Since we no longer employ a janitor, we really need to enlist some new volunteers to share the cleaning responsibility. Those, who want to help, please sign your name on the SIGN UP LIST FOR CUSTODIAL CARE FOR JULY and AUGUST 2010. All check-lists are on the table outside the church office.

REQUEST FROM JACOB ROSS

Jacob Ross, our youth leader, is looking for church families to host the Wet-n-Word (youth's pool-side Bible Study) each week during the month of July. If anyone has a pool and is willing to host one evening, please contact Jacob at (901-277-4047).

YOUTH NEWS FROM JACOB ROSS

Summer Program 2010
The Dive Student Ministries
Trenton First United Methodist Church

August 14 "Go With the Flow" Buffalo Canoe Trip
We will be taking a day trip to float the Buffalo. All students 6-12 grade and their parents (or other willing adults) are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Other Activities
July 25th Diamond Jaxx Game
If the Jaxx continue their promotion, allow free admission with presentation of church bulletin.

One Thursday a month: "Midnight Movie Mania"
One (possibly two if needed) Thursday night a month we will go to Jackson to see a midnight release of a new movie agreed upon by the group.

Third Saturday of each month (beginning in August) "Next Step" This program is for High School Seniors and college students. It will be a time of fellowship to learn about some of the responsibilities of being on your own in the college world and to catch up with our college friends returning home for a visit.

ACOLYTE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We are presently developing "a complete list" of all who now are or have ever served as acolytes. Please call the church office (855-0561), if you have formerly served as an acolyte. These persons will be recognized during a church service in August for their worthwhile contribution to our church.

SYMPATHY IS EXPRESSED TO:

Nelma Dabbs and her family in the death of Harold Vaughn Dabbs.

The Williams Family in the death of Mr. Roderick Williams, member of Trenton First United Methodist Church.

The Helms Family in the death of Mrs. Connie Helms, mother-in-law of Glenna Helms, and a member of Jackson First United Methodist Church.

HOSPITAL NEWS: Frank Parker was discharged from Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville after a successful surgery. Patricia "Pat" Zarecor was discharged from the hospital. Bethany Crockett is in the Humboldt General Hospital.

PRAYER AND CARE: Thomas Cherry, Bill Goodrich, Bill Richardson (Nephew of Anne Coble), Bill Goodrich, Kelly Lambert, Karin Johnson, Rebecca Taylor, Frank Parker, Walter Helms, Patricia "Pat" Zarecor, Bethany Crockett and Lee Hayes.

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Doug Ferguson (son of Bob and Susie Ferguson, deployed to Iraq), James Patrick Inman, Paul Michael Ross (brother of Jacob Ross), Chris Smith, Jesse Vinson (grandson of Harold and Barbara Griggs), Chais Milligan Wallsmith (son of Michael & Christy Wallsmith, and son of Michelle Wallsmith, deployed to Afghanistan), Brad Ballentine (husband of Kerri Ballentine deployed to Afghanistan).

IN RETIREMENT HOMES: Agnes Evans, Greenbriar Meadows, 436 Hannings Lane, Martin, TN 38237; Dorothy Hardaway, Room 5, Harlan Morris Home, 400 Harlan Morris Drive, Trenton, TN; Tassie Hopkins, Bailey Park Community Living Center, 2400 Mitchell Street, Humboldt TN 38343.

IN NURSING HOMES: Finis Carr, Dyer Nursing Home, 1124 North Main Street, Dyer TN 38330. Charlene Lemond, Apt. 258, Trezevant Terrace, 3437 Waynoka Ave., Memphis, TN 38111, phone 901-746-5967. Helen McCormick (stepmother of Peggy Davis) is in Dyer Nursing Home, Dr. T. Wilson. Haynes, Morningside of Jackson, 1200 North Parkway, Jackson, TN. Vivian Hight, Humboldt Manor, 2031 Avondale Road, Humboldt, TN 38343, Minnie Swafford (mother of David Summars), Dyer Nursing Home.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

01-Jerry L. Barrix	13-Dorothy Hardaway
05-Cydney Beth Lane	15-Gracey Estes
08-R. B. Hodges	16-Dorothy Ellison
08-Pat Zarecor	22-Courtney Ballentine
09-Billy George	25-Frank Parker
09-Kyle Smith	28-Susan Woods

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY: Sammy Dickey**COMMUNION SERVERS FOR JULY:**

Wally Vernon and Katey Vernon

USHERS FOR JULY

*Betty Poteet	Jewell Hardaway	Corinne Holman
Joyce Flack	Dorothy Lancaster	Berlyne Holman

GREETERS FOR JULY

July 04	Corinne Holman & Faye Campbell
July 11	Jewell Hardaway & Jeff Carr
July 18	Bobby & Priscilla Jones
July 25	Larry & TyAnne Ridings

ACOLYTES FOR JULY

July 04	Sydney Phelan & Bailey Williams
July 11	Annie & Tyson Bartholomew
July 18	Josey Phelan & Maddie Vernon
July 25	Gracey Estes & Cydney Beth Lane

CHILDREN'S SERMONS FOR JULY

July 04	Teri Maddox
July 11	Peggy Davis
July 18	Carolyn Blankinship
July 25	Tyanne Ridings

CALENDAR**Sunday, July 4**

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery Available)
10:50 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Available)

Monday, July 5

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
OBSERVANCE

Tuesday, July 6

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Health Clinic

Wednesday, July 7

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. -- UMYF

* Students bring snack foods (No meal provided)

Location TBA

July 9-11 "Memphis Mission Madness"

The youth will leave for Memphis on Friday afternoon to participate in a number of mission projects. We will be staying at Scenic Hills UMC and will worship there Sunday morning. Other activities include a drive-in movie and Redbirds game as well as going to a local pool to swim and hang out (includes showers).

Sunday, July 11

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery Available)
10:50 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Available)

Wednesday, July 14

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ---FUMC Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. -- UMYF

* Students bring snack foods (No meal provided)

Location TBA

Sunday, July 18

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery Available)
10:50 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Available)

Wednesday, July 21

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. -- UMYF

* Students bring snack foods (No meal provided)

Location TBA

Sunday, July 25

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery Available)
10:50 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Available)
2:00 p.m. - Harlan Morris Home Devotion

Monday July 26

Loyal Workers - Girls Night Out

TIME & LOCATION TBA

Wednesday, July 28

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ---FUMC Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. -- UMYF

* Students bring snack foods (No meal provided)

Location TBA

Friday - Saturday, July 30-31

"Back to School Bash" This is a lock-in to celebrate the end of the summer and the beginning of a new school year. This will be a chance to welcome the new 6th graders to the program.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 77 MORNING WORSHIP: 57

VISITORS: 4

Ralph and Sandra Cochran

Keith and Leigh Butler

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations are expressed to Thomas and Virginia Cherry because on Sunday, July 4th, will be their 58th anniversary.

MEMORIALS**TO THE TRUSTEES MEMORIAL FUND****IN MEMORY OF VOLLIE HARBER**

Neil and Mary Ernest

IN MEMORY OF VOLLIE HARBER

Luther and Anne Coble

IN MEMORY OF JOANNE MISCHKE

Fisherman's Class

IN MEMORY OF VOLLIE HARBER

Harold and Barbara Griggs

FLOWER FUND**IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BECTON**

Frank and Barbara Parker

IN MEMORY OF VOLLIE HARBER

Frank and Barbara Parker

IN HONOR OF 90th BIRTHDAY OF ROD WILLIAMS

Frank and Barbara Parker

HANDBELL CHOIR FUND**IN MEMORY OF VOLLIE HARBER**

Harold and Barbara Griggs

NOTE OF THANKS

To all the ladies, who hosted and attended the tea:

Thank you all for such a wonderful tea. The decorations, food, and fellowship were very enjoyable. You all have impacted my life in many different ways throughout the years. Thank you for all the love and support throughout this special and important time in my life.

Sincerely,

Jordan Leigh

DEADLINE DATES FOR THE WEEKLY BULLETIN**AND THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

The new deadline dates for these two publications are as follows:

Bulletin, every Monday by 12:00 noon

Newsletter, every 25th of the month by 12:00 noon

Note: If we do not receive your data by the above dates, we cannot guarantee that your article will be printed.