

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

REV. WILLIAM T. JOWERS, MINISTER

web site: www.TrentonUMC.org

e-mail: methodist777@bellsouth.net

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500 South College Trenton, TN,

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I was extremely delighted when Sheriff Chuck Arnold asked me to deliver an invocation for the open house event hosted at our new Gibson County Correctional Facility. We are so blessed to have Sheriff Arnold and his most competent officers and staff, who protect the residents of our county against those individuals who would destroy our tranquility! One of the most impressive acts of dedication was the recovery of a little girl, Katelyn Cole, who accidentally wandered off and became lost during a stormy night this past August. A massive ground search by our sheriff's department and other emergency agencies was conducted tirelessly throughout the night to find this precious little girl, despite tornado warnings and dangerous lightning. Since the helicopter could not be used due to the severe weather, it was not until the next morning that little Katelyn was found by the helicopter crew just at the edge of a soybean field.

You can be sure that this Christmas will be extra special for the Cole family! Christmas is all about the recovery of life! "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (St. John 3:16). Jesus is truly the Father's perfect Gift of love and life to this cold and sinful world. Yes, indeed! It was a long and frightful night for little Katelyn, but rescue came from above. No, it was not just the helicopter, but through a loving and compassionate Savior who always provides for all His children's welfare. Like the Christmas narrative, this local miracle reflects a positive and miraculous message of hope and deliverance. Since Jesus was always a person of others, let us give thanks for those dedicated and courageous men and women who serve locally or wherever the "storms of life are raging."

Merry Christmas!

Rev. William T. Jowers

MEMORIALS TO MARGARET JOWERS GIVEN BY OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Beverly and I, on behalf of our entire family, want to express our deepest and most profound thanks to everyone for your memorial gifts given to my home church, the mission, or Trenton First UMC. Mother would have been so proud that you wanted to remember our family in such a loving and compassionate manner. Merry Christmas and God bless you!

CHURCH OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

We will be closed for the Christmas holidays starting December 24 and will be open again on Monday, January 4.

OFFERING ENVELOPE PACKETS FOR 2010

Please get your new offering envelope packets this Sunday. These packets have been placed at the rear of the sanctuary and are arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience. Please pick up these packets today so that we can avoid the expense of mailing.

NEW TRENTON UMYF WEB SITE

Here is the web site address to the new website that was put together for The DIVE, our UMYF Student Ministries. The church has a very nice website with a page for youth, but we felt that this one would speak

more to the youth themselves. Take a look around and see all the exciting things going on!

www.thediveministries.com

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT TO PREACH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

Rev. Steve Cavitt, our District Superintendent, will be our guest preacher during the last morning worship service of this year, December 27th. Bro. Tommy and his wife, Beverly, will be visiting their son in Lebanon, Virginia, and also taking some time off to visit other relatives and friends. Bro. Cavitt wants to preach in all the pulpits of his district, and we are excited that we have this opportunity to become better acquainted as partners in the ministry of Christ.

MARCH TO THE MANGER OFFERING THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

This Sunday's Manger Offering will be used to pay our indebtedness regarding recent repairs to the sanctuary and the replacement of its two heating and cooling systems, about \$7000 still owing at present. We would like to pay the entire amount before the new year begins. We believe that if we can have some "significant gifts" from everyone who has been reasonably blessed and is therefore able to contribute, we can officially retire this indebtedness and move forward to initiate other needful repairs on our lovely church. Please remember that any offering above the tithe of 10% is considered a gift! As the wise men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, our church family will bring their most valuable gifts and place them in the manger. If you need to "catch up" on missing a few or numerous Sundays, your Lord and your church budget would be extremely joyous! Please use one of our offering envelopes for this and mark it MANGER. This offering will be received at the conclusion of the worship service.

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

and

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The above worship service will begin promptly at 9:00 p.m. on December 24. It is always an inspirational experience to have our church family, relatives, and friends assemble to celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas hymns will be sung; the Christ Candle (a.k.a. Nativity Candle) will be lighted; Bro. Tommy will present a brief message and the Sacrament; everyone will light their celebration candle as we sing the concluding hymn, "Silent Night."

OUR YOUTH TO HOST 30-HOUR FAMINE IN FEB CARDBOARD NEEDED FOR THEIR SHELTERS

Youth from area churches will be experiencing this year's 30-hour Famine at our church along with our own youth on February 26-27. All participants will sleep in cardboard shelters that they build for themselves on our parking lot. We need donations of really big boxes or big sheets of cardboard so that all the youth can build a shelter. All donations welcome!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Noble Grant. 12-Greyson Abbot Buchanan.

13-David Dollar. 13-Dustin Phelan. 16-Murray Jones.
 16-Jo Bowles. 18-Bill Goodrich. 18-Gracie Williams.
 21-Brette Moore. 25-Faye Campbell. 30-Joyce Barton.

HISTORY'S MYSTERIES

Help us keep the fun going. Lend your old photo to Gary Blankinship or Carolyn Blankinship so we can publish it here. Be sure to watch this space to win a gold-clad U.S. dollar by identifying one of our church family in a photo from the past. Phone the church at 855-0561 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Fridays, to identify the person in the photo.

The last photo in the newsletter was of Trudy Phillips.

PRAYER AND CARE: Robert L. Becton (brother of Noraine Becton), Finis Carr, Thomas Cherry, Bill Goodrich, Harold Griggs, Velma Hodges, Bobby Kilzer, Rufus Moore, Michele Phelan, Trudy Phillips, Barbara Shoaf, Janice & C.B. Singleton, Beverly Wallin.

SYMPATHY is shared with Adele and Bobby Moore and their family on the death of Adele's sister, Norene Kirk.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Taylor, who will graduate on December 19 from UT at Martin summa cum laude with a degree in early childhood development and elementary education. Rebecca is the daughter of Cindy and Frank Taylor and a granddaughter of Frances Taylor.

HOSPITAL NEWS: Harold Griggs is home from the hospital after a second minor stroke. Bill Goodrich is again home from the hospital. Dr. Rufus Moore is in Room 920, Jackson-Madison General Hospital. Trudy Phillips, Room 6447, Vanderbilt University Hospital, 1211 Medical Center Drive, Nashville TN 37232. Beverly Wallin, daughter of Frances Joyner, is home from the hospital.

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

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. Von Dabbs, State Veterans Home, 2865 Main Street, Humboldt, TN 38343, information 784-8405. Charlene Lemond, Apt. 258, Trezevant Terrace, 3437 Waynoka Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111, phone 901-746-5967. Helen McCormick (stepmother of Peggy Davis) Dyer Nursing Home. Dr. T. Wilson Haynes has moved to an assisted living facility in Jackson. Vivian Hight, Humboldt Manor, 2031 Avondale Road, Humboldt, TN 38343. Barbara Shoaf, Apt. 227 Life Pointe Village, 1782 Star Landing Road East, Southaven MS 38672, phone 901-606-5724

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY: Jim Proudfit

USHERS FOR JANUARY

*Sammy Dickey Ken Holder Henry Phillips
 Jimmy Milligan Charlie Lancaster Frank Parker

GREETERS

December 27 Betty Denton & Glenna Helms
 January 3 TBA
 January 10 TBA
 January 17 TBA

ACOLYTES

December 27 Cade Roberts & Spencer Vickers
 January 3 Bailey Williams & Gracie Williams
 January 10 Annie Bartholomew & Tyson Bartholomew
 January 17 Cydney Beth Lane & Claire Rollins

SUNDAY WORSHIP LAY READERS

December 20 Malachi 3:1-5 Kari Alexander
 December 27 TBA Sandy Hodges

CHILDREN'S SERMONS

December 27 Sandy Hodges
 January 3 Bro. Tommy Jowers
 January 10 Jeff Carr
 January 17 TBA

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 17 - 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - Mom's Day Out

Sunday, December 27

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery Available)

10:50 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Available)

Wednesday, December 30

No Wonderific Wednesday

No UMYF activities

Wednesday, December 30

No Wonderific Wednesday

No UMYF activities

Church office closed December 24 - January 1

We will be open again on Monday, January 4.

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 20

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 67 MORNING WORSHIP: 85
 VISITORS IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 20:

<u>TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20</u>	
TO SANCTUARY DEBT ON DECEMBER 20	\$6,031
YEAR TO DATE FOR SANCTUARY DEBT:	\$9,951
OWED ON LOAN FOR PAST MAINTENANCE	\$984
TO YOUTH FUND ON DECEMBER 20	None
YEAR TO DATE FOR YOUTH FUND	\$1,977
BUDGET OFFERING ON DECEMBER 20	\$3,060

MEMORIALS

TO THE TRUSTEES MEMORIAL FUND

IN HONOR OF BETTY & GROVER POTEET

Marilyn & Ken Holder

IN HONOR OF TRUDY PHILLIPS

The Fishermen Class

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA & TOM CHERRY

Mary & Neil Ernest

IN MEMORY OF NORENE KIRK

Becky & Billy George

TO THE SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENT DEBT:

IN MEMORY OF WALTER KILZER

Dorothy Kilzer

IN HONOR OF OUR TEACHERS: PEGGY DAVIS, JOSEPHINE

JACKSON, JUDIE REASONS, NEIL ERNEST

The WesleyAnn Sunday School Class

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET JOWERS

Dorothy Kilzer

Barbara & Frank Parker

Sherry & Gary Buchanan

TO THE HANDBELL FUND

IN MEMORY OF WALLACE & MATTIE VERA CANNON

Sallie & Ed King