

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - OCTOBER 19, 2009

From the Pastor's Pen

Halloween is not far away, and it is time to think about carving pumpkins and making Jack-O-Lanterns. From the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church newsletter came this article. I don't think they will mind us borrowing it.

[After Liz Curtis Higgs wrote the popular children's book The Pumpkin Patch Parable, people began using her analogies to say a prayer while carving their Halloween pumpkins. The pumpkin prayer, a Christian alternative to Halloween traditions, reminds people of all ages what God has done for us. Use it when your family makes jack-o-lanterns.

- While cutting off the top of the pumpkin pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you." (See Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.")

- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do, and help me forgive others." (See Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.")

- While making the eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24 - "O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.")

- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17 - "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.")

- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (See Psalm 19:14 - "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.")

- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord help me show your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16 - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.")

After carving your pumpkins, display them as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See II Corinthians 5:17 - "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!")]

While carving your jack-o-lantern, you might also think about this.

A woman was asked by a co-worker what it is like to be a Christian. The woman answered this way. "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes the dirt off. Then God cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, and so forth, and then he carves you a new joyful, smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

Halloween doesn't have to be "the devil's holiday" as it sometimes depicted by some Christian groups and by parts of the secular world around us. After all, Halloween was in its origin "All Hallows Eve," a time to scare away the evil spirits in preparation for the celebration of "All Saints Day" on November 1st. That was very much a Christian perspective. Just something to think about.

Until next time,
Bro. Jim

YOUTH FUND RAISER INNISBROOK WRAPPING PAPER, GIFTS & CANDY

The youth will be selling Innisbrook wrapping paper, gifts and candy for the next two weeks. You make buy from any of the youth, Alecia, or come by the church office and order from the brochure there.

MISSING, HAVE YOU SEEN?

As you look around First United Methodist church there seems to be an age group of young people that are often missing at Church. Occasionally we see them, on weekends, holidays and if we look closely we even have a few actively involved in our church. Who are these young people? Our college students.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of our college students; if you know of someone and would like them to be added, please contact the church office or email Alecia at youth911@hotmail.com. We would like to send mail and keep our students updated on the goings on of First United Methodist Church. We would also like to send them a package in the next month, so addresses are very important for the Church to have.

Katie Lyn Beasley is the daughter of John & Carol Beasley and she is attending Duke University in North Carolina and is working on her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Jill Brewer is the daughter of Mark & Judy Brewer and she is attending Columbia State Community College where she is studying business. Jill sings in our choir every Sunday and she recently was teaching our first ever 4-6th grade Sunday school class. Thanks Jill!

Julie Wright is the daughter of Steve & Gayle Wright and she is attending the University of North Alabama in Florence Alabama. Julie is studying general studies. You might not see Julie, unless you take a peak in our Nursery on Sundays. Julie is our Nursery worker for the Church. Thanks Julie!

Ann Paley is the daughter of the late John Paley and Beverly and Cliff Philpot; she is attending the University of Mississippi in Oxford Mississippi. Ann is studying Linguistics with a minor in intelligence and Security Studies.

Caroline Boston is the daughter of Ben & Shelley Boston and Lisa Boston; she is attending Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro Tennessee. Caroline is studying Elementary Education.

Kate Boston is the daughter of Ben & Shelley Boston and Lisa Boston; she is attending Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. She is studying English and Political Science.

Scott Beasley is the son of John & Carol Beasley and is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Tennessee. Scott is studying Mathematics.

Catherine Cheatwood is the daughter of Jay & Carole Cheatwood and is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Tennessee. Catherine is studying French with minors in Spanish and Secondary Education.

Jack Johnstone is the son of John & Kathy Johnstone and is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Tennessee. Jack is studying Food Science & Technology.

Megan Johnstone is the daughter of John & Kathy Johnstone and is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Tennessee. Megan is studying Microbiology with a minor in Nutrition.

Mary Clare Smith is the daughter of Wendell Smith and the late Melissa Smith. Mary Clare is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Tennessee.

Kameron Slater is the daughter of Heather Fisher and Kevin Slater. Kameron is attending the University of Tennessee in Martin Tennessee.

Boomer Harris is the son of Mike and Alanna Harris and is attending Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro Tennessee. He is studying Agri-Business and Agri-Science.

Anna Benson is the daughter of John & Judy Benson. She is attending University of Memphis Law School.

Daniel Hawkins is the son of the late Rev. David Hawkins. Daniel is attending MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Cory Crowell is the son of Matt & Debbie Crowell and is attending MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Angela Hawkins is the daughter of the late Rev. David Hawkins. Angela is attending Memphis Theological Seminary.

Will Massey attends Middle Tennessee State University and is a Pre-Dentistry major. Will is the son of Chris & Kris Fann and Skip Massey.

And let's not forget Miss **Dara Smith**, not technically a college student, but yet far away from home. Dara is the daughter of Wendell Smith and the late Melissa Smith. Dara is attending Governor's Academy at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting for Bethlehem 2009 on October 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC

NOVEMBER HARVEST - NOVEMBER 14TH

Although the name has changed from Breakfast, Bake Sale and Beyond (BB & B) to November Harvest, one thing hasn't changed and that is your unfailing support.

Many of you have already been asked to make chili or chicken & dumplings. If you have not been contacted and wish to help in this way, please call me or the church office. We are asking for at least 4 quarts of chili or chicken & dumplings. We can provide a recipe and the jars to put it in. You will need to bring your filled jars before 8:00 a.m. the morning of November 14.

A big part of our November Harvest is the bake sale. Start making your list now of those delicious baked goods you can donate. If you need inspiration, look in our newest cookbook. Cakes, pies, cookies, candy, jelly and especially breads are most welcome.

If it isn't possible for you to cook or bake, you can support us by coming and buying some of the wonderful food. Homemade chicken salad and pimento cheese will also be available. There will be something for everyone. See you there! **Layde Ezell**

****Please start bringing in pint and quart jars and jelly jars for the Autumn Harvest.**

A NOTE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE
ABOUT OUR NICARAGUAN GUESTS

On Monday, October 12, 2009, our guests from Nicaragua boarded an airplane in Nashville and headed home to Nicaragua. They just completed a ten-day visit to our church. And what a visit it was! They were welcomed with open arms to our church and to our town. Your hospitality and the hospitality of the people of Lawrenceburg were truly amazing. While here, they were invited to the Presbyterian Preschool, Lawrence County High School, and E O Coffman Middle School. They either spoke or were guests of the Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club. They were guests in your homes for meals or for overnight stays. They had meals and fellowship with you in our CLC as well as the Fellowship Hall. They received gifts and brought us gifts. They were busy and learned a lot about us and about our country.

But we learned a lot about them, too. We learned that, because of God's call to us to be in Partnership with them, their church building has been completed. And because of our Partnership, their school building is completed. Because they have these facilities, they have been chosen by an organization out of Canada named *Compassion International* to take part in a nutrition program that feeds all the school children in Preschool through Sixth Grade three days a week. The nutrition program includes medical checkups and dietary supplements that are needed for the more than 80% of the children who were malnourished. The rate of malnourishment has fallen each six months period since the onset of the program. An organization out of Colorado, *Living Water*, has dug a well at the school so that the children and the cooks have clean water. Each year since the year 2000, the funds that you provide for the Nicaraguan Educational Scholarships through our church enable these children to have the materials needed for school that their parents do not have money to buy.

Because of your initial and continuing involvement in this Partnership, 181 children have the opportunity for hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ, for going to school, for having nourishing food for their bodies, for having regular medical checkups and treatment, for having school supplies, and for having clean water to drink and wash with.

Truly our God is an awesome God. And you are an awesome church. The love of God fills your hearts. God bless you all.

WITNESS & HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING

There will be a Witness & Hospitality Team meeting on Thursday, **October 29th**, **at 6:00 p.m.** Members of this committee are: Beth Benson, Barbara Edwards, Helen Dorsey, Cinde Lucas, Carla Clayton, Beth Lerner, Star Garner, Kim McKnight, Anita Marston, Keri McMahan and Mark and Judy Brewer.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson
Agnes McCarter

