

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - OCTOBER 5, 2009

From the Pastor's Pen

"Links in the Chain"

Once there was a blacksmith in a seacoast town who was working on a chain. The chain was a really large one, and the blacksmith was painstakingly working on each link to make it perfect. Some of the idlers in town would stop and watch him as he forged each link of that great chain, and some of those idlers even laughed at the smith taking such pains with each link. But the blacksmith just ignored them and went on about his work.

In time the smith finished the chain, and it turned out that the chain was used to fasten the anchor of an ocean liner to the deck of the ship. For a long time the chain was never used. It just lay there on the deck attached to the anchor, but then one day while the ship was near the coast its steering apparatus malfunctioned. That had to be fixed, and so the anchor was let down to hold the boat as the malfunction was repaired. While the repair was taking place, a great storm came up and threatened to blow the ship against the rocks of the coast.

Few on board the ship saw much chance of that anchor holding with the storm being so fierce, but it did. The ship was held steady, and none of the people on board were hurt nor lost their lives. What the people on board that ship didn't know was how meticulously each link of that chain had been forged. And that was the key. Because each link was strong the anchor held.

Allow me to draw an analogy from this story. God is like the blacksmith that forged the links in the chain. First United Methodist Church is the chain, and each of us in the church is a link in the chain. We as the chain are connected to the anchor, the anchor being our Lord Jesus Christ. God as the blacksmith has forged each of us as a link in the chain very meticulously and with great love and care such that none of us has to be a "weak link" in the chain. All of us through God's grace are a strong link, and our church can be strong given that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (See Psalm 139), that is fearfully and wonderfully forged by God's care and love. And as a meticulously forged link in the chain we each have an important role to play.

At present time we are in the Charge Conference season of our church year. One of the things we do at Charge Conference is to elect those who will serve the church in various positions of responsibility in the coming year, and it may be that during this season of the year someone from the Lay Leadership Committee will come and ask you to serve in a particular position in the church. I hope you will remember that you are a vital link in the chain forged meticulously by the care and love of God, and that our church can be strong because each of the links in the chain is strong.

So if you are asked to serve, I hope you will prayerfully consider the request, and if we don't hit the target in terms of your particular interests and/or abilities, help us to know where you think you might be effective. And I would encourage each of us to remember, whether serving in an office or on a committee or not, that we each are a carefully forged link in the chain that connects us, the church, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In short, this church needs you because God has placed you here. Just something to think about.

Until next time,
Bro. Jim

SWAMP JOHN'S
OCTOBER 18, - 11:30 - 1:30 P.M.
COST IS \$10 PER PLATE
SPONSORED BY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FOR THE NICARAGUAN EDUCATION FUND

UMW NEWS AND NOTES

- **UMW Executive Board** will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 4:15 p.m.

- **UMW CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women will be held in Shelbyville on October 10th. The church van will leave the CLC at 7:30 a.m. Please bring a love offering for Bethlehem Center and wear orange.

- **PULASKI DISTRICT UMW FALL MEETING**

THEME: VOICES OF CELEBRATION

What? UMW Pulaski District Fall Meeting

Where? Prospect United Methodist Church in Giles County

When? Saturday, October 17. The church van will leave the CLC parking lot at 8:00AM. The meeting begins at 9:00AM.

How Much? Register at the door \$5.00 for lunch.

Make plans for a fun day!

****Please bring in your soup labels and box tops for education to take to the Fall meeting. You may leave them in the box in the Wesley class or drop them off at the church office.**

- **UMW FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 14**

Autumn Harvest - 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon

Breakfast - Sausage & Biscuit, Juice & Coffee to be enjoyed while you shop.

Bake Sale - Tables full of goodies including homemade breads, cakes, pies, cookies, candy and spiced tea. Also, look for an assortment of jellies, jams, canned fruits and vegetables. Plenty of great gift choices.

Lunch to Go - Homemade lunch items such as pimento cheese, chicken salad, stew, chili, chicken & dumplings and desserts-conveniently packaged for carry out.

****Please dust off your favorite recipes and bring items to sell at our November Harvest. Our committee members will be contacting you.**

****Please start bringing in pint and quart jars and ½ pint jelly jars for the Autumn Harvest.**

AN INVITATION

Kenneth and Nancy Nelson

Along with Robert and Jeanette Spicer

Invite you to share and celebrate the marriage of

Emily Jean

To Gregory Haygood

Saturday, the twenty-fourth of October

Two thousand and nine at six o'clock in the evening

The Grande at Kennesaw

3030 North Main Street Kennesaw, Georgia

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Witness & Hospitality Team meets on Thursday, Oct. 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

Nurture & Membership Care Team meets on Tuesday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m.

Education Committee meets on Thursday, October 22, at 6:00 p.m.

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING

The Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

LYDIA CIRCLE

The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, October 12th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Friends & Fellowship classroom.

CHRISTIANS CONNECT - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

The next Christians Connect gathering will be on Sunday, October 11, following the 8:15 a.m. service. This month's gathering will be hosted by the Jerry Thomas and Stellar classes in the Friends and Fellowship classroom. Everyone is invited to join us.

FAREWELL SUPPER FOR NICARAGUAN GUESTS

There will be a covered dish farewell supper for the Nicaraguan guests this Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. All are invited.

LIBRARY NEWS

We have three books by Beverly Lewis, acclaimed Christian fiction author, who recently visited Lawrenceburg for a book signing. They are: **The Reckoning**, **The Crossroad**, and **October Song**. These books are located in the fiction section with the call number F/LEW.

We have added several biographies that have been donated to the library. Among them are: **Walter Cronkite**, **Katharine Hepburn**, **Barbara Mandrell**, **Thomas Jefferson**, **George Burns**, **Ronald and Nancy Reagan**, **Erma Bombeck**, **Lucille Ball**, **Barbara Bush**, **Bob Hope** and **Reba McEntire**. These are located in the biography section marked with a B over the first three letters of their last name.

When you find the book you want, sign the card and file it under the author's last name in the check-out box or leave it on the desk.

MMC CONCERT CHOIR OPENING FOR THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, the Martin Methodist College Concert Choir will once again open for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House. The show starts at 8:00 p.m., with the choir performing at 7:15 p.m. We have secured a number of group tickets for \$35.00 each. If you are interested, please make your reservation by Monday, November 16th. Please contact Mark F. Hagewood, Asst. Director of Choral Programs at 931-424-7368.

MT. ZION SUGAR CREEK FESTIVAL

The Mt. Zion Sugar Creek Festival will be Saturday, October 17, 2009 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Entertainment will include country music, gospel music, an Elvis impersonator and the Barnetts. There will be Arts & Crafts booths and fun for all ages. Good home cooking will include: white beans, beef & chicken stew and fried pies. Plus, hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken & dumplings and corn dogs. A handmade quilt will be given away by donation. There will also be a civil war reenactment/dedication ceremony and a living history dedication with the firing of the cannon.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson
Oscar and Agnes McCarter

Bill Evans
Scottie McMackin
T. J. Moore
Norman Marston
Jean Cone
Scott Dean
Brian Beller
Robert White
Aaron Kirby (serving in Iraq)
Charlie Krieger (serving in Iraq)
Rob Nelson & Family
Jim Weatherford
Tom Stillwell
Donnie Kilburn
David Bass

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers and cards I have received during my illness. I am feeling much better and hopefully on the Road to Recovery! Praise God!

Alecia Fischer

IT'S A BABY SHOWER!

Please join us for a baby shower

Honoring Sarah Gibbs

On October 10, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

At First United Methodist Church-CLC

212 Waterloo Street

Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Selections: Pottery Barn, Walmart & Target

LAWRENCE COUNTY LAITY CLUB

The Lawrence County Laity Club will meet on Monday, October 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Henryville UMC. A program of music will follow the meal.

- Did you know....Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday with Christmas being the first?

I Will Be Loyal

To The United Methodist Church And

Support It With: My Presence:

Sunday, October 4, 2009

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....53

Sunday school Attendance.....73

10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....102

My Service: Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009

Acolytes: tba

Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.

Tues. Oct. 13, Linda Newton, Ray Price, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

Thurs. October 15, Jean Robertson, Elmer Cooke, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

***Now is the time for you to bring good, gently used coats and jackets to the Food Pantry to give away for the fall and winter. Children's and Adult's (all sizes) are**

needed.

SIXTH ANNUAL RUTH AWARD

The church office has applications for the Country Cottage Ruth Award if you have someone you would like to nominate for the award. Nominations must be received by October 17th.

- Did you know....Pumpkins also come in white, blue, and green, which make them unique for monster carvings.
- Did you knowTootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

