

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Lawrenceburg, TN - OCTOBER 06, 2008**

Bruce Larson tells the following story. Once there was a Catholic priest who lived in the Philippines and served there. He was much loved, but what most people did not know about this priest was that he carried a heavy burden. He had committed a sin many years before while he was in seminary. That was the only time he had committed that sin, but despite the fact that he had prayed for forgiveness for his sin many times, he could find no peace. He continually carried a burden of guilt over that sin. He continued to suffer remorse for it, and that remorse robbed him of peace with God. And it robbed him of joy in his Christian life.

In this priest's parish was a woman who said that she had visions in which Christ would speak directly to her. The priest was somewhat skeptical of her claims, but he did not want to dismiss her claim without testing it. So the priest asked the woman to do him a favor. The next time she had one of those visions in which she spoke directly with Christ, he wanted her to ask the Lord what sin her priest had committed in seminary. No one but the priest knew what that sin was, that is, no one but the priest and the Lord Jesus.

A few days later the woman was back at the church, and the priest asked her if she had had another one of those visions in which she talked with Christ. The woman said that she had, and the priest asked if she had done as he asked her to do. She indeed had, and so the priest wanted to know what the Lord had told her. The woman replied, "The Lord told me he didn't remember."

The third stanza of the hymn It Is Well with My Soul goes like this. "My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul." In Paul's letter to the Colossians we find this passage. "And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14).

The image of our sins being nailed to the cross means that they are left there. Jesus was taken down from the cross, placed in the tomb, and he arose from the dead. The cross could not hold Jesus. All the cross could hold was the sin for which Jesus died, and that includes our sins.

So the next time you can't forgive yourself for something you've done think about this. When we surrender our lives to Christ, we surrender all that we are. That includes our sin. When we confess our sins to Jesus and we leave them with him, in essence they are being nailed to the cross and left there. Jesus doesn't remember our sins. Why then should we? Why then should we continue to dwell on them and not let them go?

This is what forgiveness through the cross is all about. Our sins are nailed to the cross in the fact of Jesus dying on the cross for us. But because Jesus was taken down from the cross and he rose again from the dead, our sins are no longer relevant. Jesus leaves them there on the cross, and he rises to new life.

And that's the way for us. In Christ, our sins are nailed to the cross, and with Jesus we rise to new life. That is the symbol of baptism, especially baptism by immersion. We die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, and in Christ we have new life.

The next time you come to the altar for the Sacrament of Holy Communion remember this. In Jesus crucified and risen we are forgiven. Our sins are remembered no more. They are left on the cross. We rise to new life. Just something to think about.

Grace and Peace

**Bro. Jim**

**CHRISTIANS CONNECT - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12**

Christians Connect will meet this Sunday following the 8:15 a.m. service. The Wesley class will host and everyone is invited for food and fellowship in the Friends & Fellowship classroom.

**CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday evening, **November 2, at 6 P.M.** The following written reports will be expected at that time: Committee on Finance; Trustees; Staff-Parish Relations Committee; Parsonage Annual Inspection Report; Lay Speakers Reports; Martin Representative's Report; and Celebration of Missions Report. **The forms for each are available at the church office.**

#### **ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY**

Please mark your calendars. The next scheduled Adopt - A - Highway is Saturday, October 25, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this highway clean-up.

#### **NEWS FROM THE HAPPY ELDERS**

The Happy Elders have 14 tickets to see the play "Tuna Christmas" on Dec. 4, 2008. We will leave the west parking lot of the church at 9:30 a.m.; have lunch at noon and then the play with dessert at intermission. We should be back in Lawrenceburg around 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Call Jean Robertson or see Terri in the church office. Sign up and money should be in by Nov. 14, 2008. Cost is \$25.00. First come, first served.

#### **LETTERS FOR OUR FRIENDS IN AMATITAN, NICARAGUA**

Beverly Duke will be representing our church at a Partnership Encounter in Managua, Nicaragua, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Encounter is a conference of U. S. Partners and Nicaraguan Partners in covenant relationships through CEPAD. She will travel to Managua on October 21<sup>st</sup>. If you write letters to your friends in Amatitan or to the church in general, she will take the letters on her visit to Amatitan, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Please write your letters and get them to her by October 10<sup>th</sup>. The letters will be translated into Spanish. Please continue your prayers for our covenant relationship church, The Fountain of Life Church, and for Beverly as she travels as your representative.

#### **NEWS FLASH - UMW BAKE SALE, BREAKFAST AND BEYOND**

is fast approaching on November 8, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 in the CLC. If you would be willing to make items for the bake sale, please contact Bonnie Thigpen at \*\*\*\*\*. Also, plant to join us on that Saturday to shop for breakfast, baked goods, and delicious **carry-out** items for lunch including:

**Homemade Stew, Chili, chicken's dumplings, pimento cheese, chicken salad, and desserts. Our new First United Methodist cookbook will be on sale!!!**

**\*\*\*Please remember to bring pint and quart jars that can be used for Carry-Outs.**

#### **TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - 5:00-8:00 P.M. CHURCH PARKING LOT**

Volunteers are needed to decorate trunks and you may sign up in the church office.

#### **LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY NEEDS WINTER COATS**

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry is in need of winter outerwear. During the winter months, we see several people who do not have coats/jackets and are very much in need. We would appreciate your donations of gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, and outerwear. Children's and adult sizes are needed.

#### **UMW NEWS**

UMW District meeting, Saturday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m. in Waynesboro. No pre-registration necessary. We will be taking the church van and will leave the CLC parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Hope to see you there.

#### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat for Humanity of Lawrence County has started a project at 514 1<sup>st</sup> St., Lawrenceburg, TN. The foundation will be completed sometime this week. For the next few months, volunteer workers will be needed to complete this home for Sandy Shultz

and her family.

If you are able to volunteer any time to help build this home, please call Pam Shaffer at \*\*\*\*\*. We need volunteers with varying skills, from sheet rocking, pounding nails, roofing, painting walls, putting up cabinets, plumbing, to cleanup and providing food and drink for the volunteer workers. Any amount of volunteer time will be greatly appreciated, even if it's just a couple of hours.

#### **LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY**

In the month of September, we provided food for 57 families and 231 individuals in the Loaves and Fishes food pantry. A total of \$1,128.00 was donated to the ministry.

#### **PARSONAGE COMMITTEE MEETING**

There will be a Parsonage Committee meeting on Thursday, October 16, at 4:30 p.m. Members of the Parsonage Committee include: Gracie Henson-Co-Chairperson, Brenda Benson-Co-Chairperson, Cliff Philpot III, Sid James, Cissy Holt, Bonnie Thigpen and Wayne Richardson. Ken Nelson (Trustees Comm.), and Chris Thigpen (SPRC) are also asked to attend this meeting.

#### **NURSERY WORKER NEEDED**

At the end of this year Ann Paley will be stepping down as our paid Nursery worker. Ann has been faithful to this part of the ministry of our church and has done a wonderful job. We express our gratitude to her. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested in keeping the nursery for our church, please leave this information at the office or convey this to a member of the Staff Parish committee.

#### **"NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM" VOLUNTEER MEETING**

There will be a of the "Night in Bethlehem" volunteers on Monday, October 20, at ? p.m. Everyone who signed up is encouraged to attend.

#### **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

(A letter from Earl Davis, Pastor at Antioch UMC)

Antioch UMC is looking for a church or churches to partner with them in the Backpack Program at Lawrence County Public School.

The Backpack Program is designed to provide food on the weekends for children who receive free or reduced price breakfasts and lunches at school. Several years ago, it was determined that many of these children were going hungry on the weekends. Antioch began working with Lawrence County Public School last year is continuing this school year. The number of children served has grown to 52 per week at a weekly cost of \$130 and is still growing. We try to provide nutritious snacks (such as juice, cereal, fruit cups, cereal bars, etc.) in individual bags each week. These bags are delivered to the school each Thursday morning and are distributed to the children on Fridays to go home in their backpack for the weekend.

We are committed to this program but could use some help. Would your church or UMW like to take on one week or two weeks a month? Or would you like to sponsor a week or two each month financially? I would be glad to answer any questions you might have. Contact me at 931-852-4658 (office), \*\*\*\*\* (cell) or at [brotherearl@lorettotel.net](mailto:brotherearl@lorettotel.net).

Grace and Peace,

Earl Davis, Pastor  
Antioch-Dunn UMC Charge

#### **WITH ONE ANOTHER**

David Robertson  
Freddie Mae Jackson  
Oscar and Agnes McCarter  
Bill Evans

Selene Crews  
Edythe Edwards  
Robert White  
Elmer Hackney  
Scottie McMackin  
Ivene Hammond  
Rev. Clifton Johnston  
Ruby Lopp  
T. J. Moore  
David Shaw  
Meredith Nordin  
Elmer Cooke  
Norman Marston  
Ellen Crews

**Congratulations** to Lynsey Burns on winning the Junior High Division of the Talent contest at the Middle Tennessee District Fair.

**A NOTE OF THANKS**

Thanks to everyone that sold tickets, worked in the kitchen, cleaned up or ate with us at the Swamp John's dinner, Sunday after church. We had a great turnout and fed approximately 290 people. We will make around \$1,000 for the Nicaragua Educational Scholarship Fund.

Thanks also to the youth for making desserts for the Swamp John's meal. They make \$172.00 for their efforts.

**UMW REMINDER**

UMW Conference Meeting will be Saturday, **October 11, at 9:00 a.m.** at Columbia-First Church. We will be taking the church van and will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Make plans to join us. Those attending are asked to bring items for the Bethlehem center which include: **Baby diapers & wipes, Children's books - new and gently used, and coloring books and crayons.**

**I Will Be Loyal  
To The United Methodist Church And  
Support It With: My Presence:  
Sunday, October 05, 2008**

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....41  
Sunday school Attendance.....85  
10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....118

**My Service: Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008**  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Benson and Katie Wayne

**Nursery Helper:** Volunteer needed

**Volunteers are needed in the nursery on the following dates:**

December 14  
December 21  
December 28

Please call Cissy Holt at \*\*\*\*\* or leave a message with the church office (762-3696).

**Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.**  
**Tues. 14:** Linda Newton & Ray Price  
**Thurs. Oct. 16:** Elmer Cooke & Jean Robertson

**LAWRENCE COUNTY LAITY CLUB**

