

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Lawrenceburg, TN - NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

**The Importance of Thanksgiving**

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever,” says the Psalmist in Psalm 106. There are a number of the Psalms that we could easily categorize as Thanksgiving Psalms. The best known in that category is probably Psalm 100 that calls us to worship saying, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Come into his presence with singing; know that the Lord is God, and that God is good.” The Psalms of Thanksgiving were part of Israel’s hymn book. Giving thanks was definitely a part of ancient Israel’s worship life. In fact, in the different categories of sacrifices that Israel had, there was one that was called a thanksgiving offering.

Likewise in our Christian worship thanksgiving is important. We have hymns in our hymnal that we could classify as hymns of Thanksgiving. Hymns like “For the Beauty of the Earth,” “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” and “This Is My Father’s World” all fit in that category along with other hymns. And as we come to worship each Sunday I try to include in the opening part of our worship a song that conveys a spirit of thanksgiving to God or the praise of God. Thanksgiving is important.

Thanksgiving is also important to our daily lives as well. Being thankful in our hearts can go a long way toward determining whether we are positive in our outlook or negative. Granted there are times when we all get discouraged and get a case of the negatives, but if we have thanksgiving to God abiding in our hearts, then our attitude is more than likely going to be positive most of the time.

A man named V. Norskov Olsen tells of reading a legend that goes like this. A man found the barn where Satan kept his seeds ready to be sown in the human heart. Among the seeds that the man found to be most numerous were the seeds of discouragement. The man learned in exploring Satan’s inventory that the seeds of discouragement were the easiest to get to grow. They could be sown almost anywhere and would grow (sounds kinda like Johnson grass). But in questioning Satan the man found that there was one place the seeds of discouragement would not grow. Satan reluctantly admitted that the seeds of discouragement would not grow in the heart of a grateful person.

So thanksgiving is important. Thanksgiving keeps us pointed in the direction of a positive attitude, and thanksgiving won’t give place for discouragement to lodge. And without discouragement in our hearts we are not as susceptible to the wiles of the devil. So I would say that a spirit of thanksgiving is pretty important. An attitude of gratitude surely must be deemed as quite important to the Christian life. Thanksgiving won’t allow evil to find a place in our hearts.

Just something for us to think about during this Thanksgiving Season of the year.

Until next time, ***Bro. Jim***

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

There will be a Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. All

members of the Finance committee are asked to attend.

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

I would like to ask everyone to please make sure that you have your offering envelopes filled out with the proper information. The church office gets them sometimes with a name but no amount, sometimes with an amount but no name, and sometimes with only a check mark. I can't give you proper credit for your contribution if you don't put all the information on the envelope. I would appreciate your help with this.

Thank you, Terri

### **COMMUNITY WIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Mark your calendars. First UMC will host a Community-wide Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Don Goodrum, pastor of Calvary Hill Church of God and president of the Ministerial Association will be preaching. A number of other clergy will be participating also. Each person attending is asked to bring one non-perishable food item to be given to God's Storehouse. A time of fellowship with finger foods will be served in the CLC following the service. Please make plans to attend this time of community fellowship and thanksgiving.

### **"A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM" UPDATE**

A "Night in Bethlehem" is fast approaching-only two weeks away. Letters and flyers have gone out and our guests are making reservations to attend. December 6 and 7, in the CLC, the town of Bethlehem will come alive, with market shops, the inn and the stable. First UMC has done a wonderful job in volunteering and pulling together the set, costumes, and crafts. If you would like to make a donation to offset the cost, please mark Bethlehem on your check and place it in the offering plate. God Bless First UMC for your outreach efforts.

### **CELL PHONE RECYCLING**

**The Youth will be collecting Cell Phones until the end of the year.** Bring your old cell phones to church and the youth will recycle the phones, (and earn a little cash in the process AND help the environment!) We are collecting only phones, no cords, no chargers, **ONLY PHONES.**

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE**

The SPRC has received a suggestion that childcare on Wednesday night might enable more people to be involved in Wednesday night activities, particularly Choir practice and Bible study. We need to know your opinion on that, especially those who have children. We also need to know if we have adults who would be willing to provide childcare, maybe on a rotating basis, should we decide it good to provide it. If you have an opinion on either subject, we invite you to speak with either Alecia or Bro. Jim.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY - ITEMS NEEDED FOR LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY (SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30)**

Toilet Paper  
Soap  
Diapers  
Toothpaste  
Laundry Detergent

### **FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING AT LORETTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The next scheduled Fifth Sunday Singing will be on Sunday, November 30, at Loretto United Methodist Church. The singing will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and music.

### **NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Special Thanks** - As many of you know, our current Nursery Worker, Ann Paley, has decided to resign to spend more time with the youth group before graduating. Staff-

Parish Relations Committee would like to thank Ann on her outstanding work with our nursery program and wish her continued success in the future.

**Nursery Worker Position** - The Staff-Parish Relations Committee at its last meeting on 11/17/08 completed its search in hiring a new nursery worker. Our new nursery worker is Julie Wright, who is a member of our church. The SPRC is excited and looks forward to working with Julie.

**2009 Official Appointment** - The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is at the time of year when the official appointment requests are being made regarding our current pastor. The SPRC would appreciate any comments or suggestions concerning keeping our current pastor. Please feel free to contact Chris Thigpen-SPRC Chairman.

#### **NEW CHURCH COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE**

If you are looking for a great (and reasonable) Christmas gift or gifts for someone, you may want to pick up a copy of the new First United Methodist Church cookbook. The cookbook, which sells for \$8.00, is filled with wonderful recipes from appetizers to main dishes to desserts. There are also sections on side dishes, breads and rolls, cookies and candy, and even a this & that section. Cookbooks may be purchased in the church office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until noon, and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

#### **YOUTH TO SPONSOR TRIVIA NIGHT**

The youth are sponsoring a Trivia Night (general knowledge) and silent auction to benefit the summer mission project, on Sunday February 15, 2009. More details to come in January. What the youth need right now, is Sunday school classes or individuals to donate baskets or items for the silent auction. To donate or for more information, contact Alecia at the church office, or email her at [youth911@hotmail.com](mailto:youth911@hotmail.com).

#### **ADVENT READERS FOR ADVENT SEASON**

We will need Advent readers for both services during the Advent season. Please call the church office or let Bro. Jim know if you are willing to do a reading.

#### **OPERATION SHOEBOX**

The youth have participated in Operation Shoebox (part of the Franklin Graham Ministries) the past few years. The youth would appreciate donations to send the 15 boxes they plan to send. The cost per box is \$7.00.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT THANKSGIVING WEEK - CHURCH OFFICE**

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day following Thanksgiving Day (Thursday & Friday - 26-27). In addition, due to the short week, there will be no church newsletter next week.

#### **UPDATE ON BRO. CLIFTON JOHNSTON**

Many of you have inquired about Bro. Clifton since he went to Baptist Hospital a few days ago. Bro. Clifton has been moved to Select Specialty, which is part of the Baptist Hospital complex. They hope to be home by Christmas. Those who would like to send a card to Bro. Clifton and Anita may send it to this address:

Select Specialty Hospital  
2000 Hayes St., Nashville  
Tennessee, 37203.

#### **THREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THE "TUNA CHRISTMAS" PLAY - DEC. 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**There are 3 tickets available** to see the "Tuna Christmas" play in Dickson, on December 4<sup>th</sup>, with the Happy Elders. The group plans to leave at 9:30 a.m. from the church parking lot and have lunch at noon. Dessert will be served at the intermission of the play. The group should arrive back at the church between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. The cost for the trip is \$25.00. If interested, please contact Jean Robertson, or the church office (762-3696).

#### **WITH ONE ANOTHER**

David Robertson  
Freddie Mae Jackson  
Oscar and Agnes McCarter



**Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.**

**Tues. Nov. 25:** Linda Newton & Ray Price

**Thurs. Nov. 27: Closed due to Thanksgiving Holiday**

We are always in need of more volunteers in the Loaves and Fishes Ministry. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

**LOAVES & FISHES MINISTRY**

In the month of Oct., the Food Pantry served 93 families and 268 individuals; many coats were also given away.