

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Lawrenceburg, TN - NOVEMBER 03, 2008**

It is Election Day 2008 as I write this column. Already in this week there have been two major news stories, and we're not even to the middle of the week yet. One of those news stories is sports related - the retirement of Phillip Fulmer as head football coach at UT, and the other is obviously political in nature - the election of a President. Some comments about each.

First, the retirement of Coach Phillip Fulmer. No doubt there has been and will be a lot of conversation and comment about Coach Fulmer's retirement, given that it has all the appearances of a forced retirement. Some will say that it was time for Coach Fulmer to step aside. Others will probably say that Coach Fulmer was treated wrongly by the University. He should have been given another chance. And frankly, I could make an argument for either side.

There is something in our world we call success, and sometimes success can be a monster. I'll never forget a comment former UT basketball coach Ray Mears made about success. He said, "In some sense you build your own monster, and then it turns around and consumes you." Success can sometimes become a monster that turns on you.

Success works kinda like this sometimes. You build a level of expectations. The more successful you are in your particular endeavor, the higher the level of expectation of you. And then there comes a time when you simply can't live up to the level of expectation that you helped build with your success. At that point you find that you have let people down. They are disappointed, and things are never the same.

That's in essence what has happened to Coach Fulmer. Some of us know the feeling of not being able to live up to the expectations that you helped set for yourself, just not on the same scale as that of a coach at a major university in college athletics. But the question one has to answer is this. Would you rather be the victim of expectations you helped build that you can't live up to or have no expectations of you at all? If I get a choice, and I think a lot of us do, I'll take the former every time. I would much rather have that opportunity than to not have it.

I think there is a lesson here for us. No matter what the specific area, whether it be one's work, family life, our commitment to the church, the church's ministry, our character, or our morals, wouldn't we much rather have high expectations to which to live up to than to have nothing expected of us at all? If our answer to this question is "Yes," then we must be willing to risk failure, and failure always hurts. But I think it is worth it to try to live to our highest and best in whatever we do. This is something to think about.

Today is Election Day. I am writing this column on the morning of Election Day, so we don't know yet who will be our next President, Barack Obama or John McCain. No matter which one wins, despite statements I've heard to the contrary, I think we have had two good candidates running for President this time. (What we get tired of hearing during an election season is the media and the spin they put on everything a candidate says or does).

Last night I watched a part of Monday Night Football on ESPN. At halftime Chris Berman had a short interview with both Senator McCain and Senator Obama. In those interviews each candidate said something I think is worth our hearing. Senator Obama, when asked about a memorable moment in sports in his life's experience, talked about a coach who pulled him aside one day and let him know in no uncertain terms that the game of basketball was not about him but about the team. Senator Obama went on to say that if he got elected President he wanted to try to remember that. It's not about him but about the team, about the country. And Senator John McCain said this in the course of his interview when asked about what he might like to be remembered for. He said, "I've always tried to put my country first."

Those two statements are gems of wisdom you can hang your hat on. Each has something important to say to us. I believe that both of these men running for President are good men, despite comments I've heard to the contrary about each, but especially about Senator Obama. My hope and my prayer is that whichever one is elected our next President, that man will be a good leader for our nation. That's what we need. It's

not about being a Republican or a Democrat. It's not about being a liberal or a conservative. It's about being a good leader for the nation. It's about the team. It's about the country. Something to think about for sure.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

### **CHRISTIANS CONNECT**

Christians Connect will meet Sunday following the 8:15 a.m. service in the Friends & Fellowship classroom. This month's gathering will be hosted by the Aldersgate class.

### **\*DUE TO CHRISTIANS CONNECT THIS SUNDAY; THE CHURCH FIRE DRILL HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED TO NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>.**

#### **GET ON YOU MARK, GET SET, GO!!!** **TO THE B - B - & B AT THE CLC**

**Saturday, November 8, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

- Breakfast - Sausage & Biscuit, orange juice and coffee
- Bake Sale - All kinds of goodies!
- Beyond - Homemade stew, chili, chicken & dumplings, pimento cheese & chicken salad (Carry-out only)

\*\*Bonus - New Church cookbook available for \$8.00

Bonnie Thigpen and Polly Marsh will be at the CLC on Friday afternoon, November 7, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., to receive bake sale items, or you may bring them on Saturday morning.

It is important that you label your items. You may also price them if you like.

**\*\*\*Please remember to bring pint and quart jars with lids that can be used for Carry-Outs. Jelly jars are also needed.**

#### **ATTENTION COOKS AND BAKERS FOR THE B - B - & B**

If you have signed up to make chili or chicken & dumplings for the B - B - & B on November 8, you can bring them to the CLC on Friday afternoon. I will be there from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Remember to label your items so we will know what kind of pie, cookies, candy, etc. that we are selling. If you can't bring your things Friday, please bring them early Saturday morning. I should be there by 7:00 a.m. Thank you to all who are cooking for us.

**Layde Ezell**

#### **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS STARTING THIS SUNDAY**

Beginning this Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Jill Brewer will be teaching a class for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Room 213 (the old youth room). Ben Boston, Laura Stanfill and Carol Cheatwood will still be on rotation for teaching the younger, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

#### **CELL PHONE RECYCLING**

Ever wonder what to do with that old cell phone, lying around the house? 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.**

#### **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.

#### **NEWS FROM NICARAGUA**

Beverly Duke returned from Nicaragua on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, after attending the Fourth Annual Partnership Conference sponsored by CEPAD. This Conference is a

meeting of representatives of Nicaraguan partners and U.S. partners. Attending the Conference from our Partner Church, the Fountain of Life Church in Amatitan, Nicaragua, were Pastor Juan Gonzalez and a member of the church, Francis Espinoza. After the Conference, there was a three day visit to Amatitan, a small village in the northwest portion of the country.

There are many exciting things happening in Amatitan. Their new school building is now being used for instruction in the preschool, first, second, and third grades. There is a lunch feeding program for around 140 children each week. Malnutrition is a problem for a large number of the children, and this feeding program is an effort by "Compassion", an organization from the U.S., to correct it. Some new housing is being built by a Christian organization out of New York State.

Soon there will be a presentation by Beverly to tell more of the exciting things happening in our Partner Church and Community. Plan to attend the presentation. Our church, led by God, is reaching out to many poor adults and children in this area and making a big difference in their lives. The people of Amatitan are so grateful and appreciative of the help that they have received. They send to you thanks from the bottom of their hearts. God bless you all.

#### **MEETING OF "NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM" VOLUNTEERS**

There will be a meeting of the "Night in Bethlehem" volunteers on Thursday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m., in the Christian Life Center. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS**

The Wednesday night food planning committee will meet on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. Two members from each Sunday school class are asked to attend this meeting.

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU FOR NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

The Wednesday night menu for Wednesday, November 12, is: Potato soup, Crackers, Pimento Cheese sandwiches and Chocolate cake. Children's menu is: Grilled cheese and Chips.

\*Please note-since the food must be purchased for Wednesday night early in the week, it is most helpful if you can turn in, or call with your reservations by noon on Monday.

#### **BIG NEWS!**

The coordinated mailing sent out by the Connectional Ministries office is going digital in January 2009!! The flyers, posters, bulletin inserts, calendars and brochures that are printed and included in the bi-monthly coordinated mailing will be available on the Tennessee Conference Web site at [www.tnumc.org](http://www.tnumc.org) through 'Coordinated Mailing' link.

Here are the ways it will be more beneficial:

- More people will get the information, not just the pastors and church secretaries. The information will be available for EVERYONE!
- Documents will be available in .pdf form so you can print as many flyers, bulletin inserts, calendars and brochures as you want.
- Churches can easily share the information with the 'people in the pews' through newsletters, e-mails, bulletins and the Web.
- Posters can even be printed on many local church copiers.
- Conference committee chairpersons will be able to check the conference calendar to see if conference rooms are available.

A printed version of the coordinated mailing will still be available upon request at not charge for pastors and churches who don't have printer capabilities or Web access. In addition, persons who don't have e-mail or Web access can pay a \$25 annual fee to receive a printed version.

You may send your address to:

Trish Myrick, Tennessee Conference Center; 304 S. Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 1  
Nashville, TN 37211.

#### **WITH ONE ANOTHER**

David Robertson  
Freddie Mae Jackson



