

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - February 02, 2009

The Pastor's Pen

In the three previous newsletters I have written about first patience, then peace, and then love. By now you've probably figured out that I am writing a series of articles on the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22. The second in that list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians is joy. Love is first, and then joy. And joy just may be the most difficult of all the fruit of the Spirit to describe.

What, just exactly, is joy anyway? One might describe joy as feelings of ecstasy or feelings of pleasure, but I'm not sure that does justice to the word in a Christian frame of reference. Joy, I think and I hope, is somewhat broader than that. Webster's New World Dictionary says joy is "a very glad feeling; happiness; great pleasure; delight."

We've all seen joy. If you watch game shows on TV, when contestants win you see them jumping up and down, screaming, hugging, and all kinds of things because they are happy. They've won something. We see joy at athletic events when a team wins a game, and especially when it's an expected victory. The winner was an underdog. We see joy when we see the wonder on a child's face as they experience something good they've never experienced before. Brenda likes to tell about the time Nicole was first able to get a drink of cola through a straw. Brenda says the look on her face was priceless.

But then there are other places we can find joy and experience joy. I have experienced joy when in a special moment I realize how blessed I am. I have seen joy in the eyes of my dad and mother when all of us siblings and our families were at their house on a holiday. I have experienced joy in winning in a contest. I've experienced joy in simply watching the sun set over the ocean, or in taking in the warmth and sunshine of early spring day. I have felt the joy of accomplishment. I look back on my graduation from high school as a truly joyous occasion. I was fortunate to be the recipient of some awards totally unexpected. I remember feeling as though I was floating when I walked off the platform holding the diploma Dr. Ed Boling had just handed me for graduating from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy. And I have experienced joy in being with special people in my life. All these things are joy, but then there is one other source of joy.

By the time you are reading this we will know which team was victorious in this year's Super Bowl and which team was not. I heard an interesting statistic the other day about Super Bowls. The Pittsburgh Steelers are second only to the Dallas Cowboys in the number of Super Bowl appearances for a franchise. And that leads me to this story.

Years ago when I first began to watch the Dallas Cowboys, the Cowboys had two men who played for a long number of years together in the defensive backfield. These two men were Charlie Waters and Cliff Harris. I can't think about the Cowboys without thinking about the names of these two men. The story is told that after one very hard-fought game against their arch rivals, the Washington Redskins, Cliff Harris and Charlie Waters were sitting in front of their lockers absolutely exhausted, and Charlie said to Cliff, "By the way Cliff, what was the final score?" They had given their all in the game with such intensity that they didn't even know the

final score. They had just played the game with all they had.

There is no greater feeling of joy than to know you have given your all to something that you love and something that is important. When I go home at night and I know that I have given my all and given my best in my work, I find there is a no-more - satisfying feeling than that. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "There may be others who can do the job better than I," but there is joy in knowing you have given your best.

Maybe the Apostle Paul has given the best expression to this kind of joy when he penned these words. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearance."

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith." I have given my all and my best to something good, something I love, and something important. There is no greater expression of joy than to feel these things. Just something to think about.

Until Next time, **Bro. Jim**

CHRISTIANS CONNECT

Please join us this Sunday, February 8, for Christians Connect, which follows the 8:15 a.m. service. This month's gathering will be hosted by the Fellowship class and we will meet in the Fellowship classroom.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU FOR FEBRUARY 11

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic bread, and cake w/peanut butter icing

Workers: Wesley Class

Join us each Wednesday for a great meal and fellowship

Cost of meal is only \$5 (adults) and \$3 (children).

UMW NEWS AND NOTES

Reminder: NEED CARDS? A box of 10 note cards with a picture of First United Methodist Church on the front can be purchased in the church office for \$5.00. Also, church cookbooks are still available for \$8.00. Proceeds benefit UMW mission projects.

UMW ladies who are bringing storage containers to put clothes in for their foster children should go ahead and bring those.

HAPPY ELDERS NEWS

The Happy Elders have 14 tickets to The Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN, to see the play "Shirley Valentine", March 6, 2009. Middle-aged housewife Shirley gets tired of talking to the wall and gets her groove back on an adventure to Greece in the Tony Award-winning comedy by Willy Russell. After feeling like her life is stagnant and in a rut, Shirley drops everything and heads abroad with a friend, finding romance and what her existence can be with just a little effort on her part. This is a senior matinee luncheon and play. **They have gone up \$5.00 on the ticket and lunch, making the cost for the trip \$30 - \$25.00 for ticket and lunch and \$5 to cover gas for the van and ticket for the driver. We need to sign up and pay by the 28th of Feb.** We will leave the church west parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and usually get back by 5:00 p.m. You can sign up at the church office or call Jean Robertson at *****. First come, first served.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Divine Knitter, the pattern selected, the color chosen, the Knitter rejoices in loving anticipation. Jesus, The Knitter sits silently casting on the yarn, touching with reverence

its texture, feeling its softness flowing through His fingers. I, the pattern, I, the yarn held in loving anticipation. I am being knit into being. Into the image and likeness of God. God, who delights in my unfolding God, who finds joy in the shawl. I am becoming Jesus, the Knitter, loves me, cherishes me, and holds me close to his heart. For I am the shawl the work of his hands. If you are interested in being part of a prayer shawl ministry at First United Methodist church, join us at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11th, in the CLC. Just come and share with us your desire to become the Knitter. For more information, contact the Church office.

TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION - FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

\$10 per person or \$100 per table

All proceeds to benefit Youth Summer Mission Trip

Popcorn and drinks (coffee, lemonade, and water) provided

Call 762-3696 to reserve your table today!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Church has recently invited four members of our Sister Church in Nicaragua to visit with us. We have made several trips to their community and thought it would be nice to host them for a visit to our community. Hopefully, late this fall, four members of the Fountain of Life Church in Amatitan, along with a CEPAD translator will come and spend some time with us. None of these church members have ever been to the States before and they are now in the process of obtaining the necessary papers to make this trip. To help them with the cost incurred by this visit, the Outreach Committee will be very active this year, with several different fund raising activities. Our first fund raiser will be a **Sock Hop in the CLC** on Saturday night, February 28, from 6 till 9 p.m. A \$10 ticket will get you a burger, chips, soda and a trip down memory lane as you enjoy the sounds of the oldies but goodies. Priceless. **Go ahead** and start that Spring cleaning just a little early as we will be holding a **Church-wide yard sale** in the CLC on the on the 28th of March. Please be setting aside those treasures you have hidden in the closets, attics, basements and garages. We will start collecting these items the week of March 23rd.

TRADING SPACES

Sunday, February 8, at 4:00 p.m., volunteers will meet to decorate the 4-6th grade Sunday school classroom, upstairs in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome to come out and help.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

The following Sundays are available in the month of March for altar flowers: March 8, 15, 22 and 29. Please call the church office if you would like to place altar flowers on any of these dates.

UPCOMING EVENT

Lawrenceburg-First will host the first noon Lenten Service/Lunch on Feb. 25th.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to participate in a weekly Bible Study that will begin February 4th. This will be a time where we come together to study, pray, and experience God's love. Hope you will join us! Starting date is February 4, and time is from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. We will meet in the I AM FOR KIDS building (1403 Buffalo Rd., just south of THE WAY church). We will be studying a book titled "The Power of Positive Prophecy", by Laurie Beth Jones. Books can be purchased on Amazon.com for about \$5, including shipping. For more information, call Cinde at ***** or email CindeLucasAThotmailDOTcom.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson

Oscar and Agnes McCarter

Bill Evans
Edythe Edwards
Robert White
Elmer Hackney
Scottie McMackin
Rev. Clifton Johnston
T. J. Moore
Meredith Nordin
Norman Marston
Willodean Grinnell
Rosie Coleman
Jean Cone
Kris Fann
Gracie Henson
Landon Burns
Bro. Jim

UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The UMW Executive Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 10th, at 4:15 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING

The Administrative Board will meet on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, February 11, for those interested in starting a Prayer Shawl ministry.

I Will Be Loyal

**To The United Methodist Church And
Support It With: My Presence:**

Sunday, February 01, 2009

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....42

Sunday school Attendance.....82

10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....101

My Service: Sunday, Feb. 08, 2009

Acolytes: J. P. Story & Maggie McKnight

Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.

Tues. Feb. 10: Loulie Brown & Anita Marston

Thurs. Feb. 12: Joan Cochran & Pam Shaffer

**Attention: The Food Pantry has gotten so busy that three people are needed. If you would like to volunteer to work in the Food Pantry ministry, please contact the church office.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

The following Sundays are available in the month of March for altar flowers: March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. Please call the church office if you would like to place altar flowers on any of these dates. Flowers are not placed on the

altar the first Sunday, due to it being Holy Communion.

