

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - April 27, 2009

The Pastor's Pen

Meet a man named Zechariah. Zechariah is a little known character in the Bible, but Zechariah sings a song of praise to God. That song of praise is recorded at the very end of the first chapter of Luke. Zechariah starts out with these words. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably upon his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David." But it had not always been that Zechariah could sing a song of praise to God.

Zechariah was a priest in Israel. He was of the tribe of Levi and of the priestly order of Abijah. His wife, Elizabeth, was a descendant of Aaron. So Zechariah and his wife were firmly ensconced in the tribe of Levi, the priestly tribe.

One day while Zechariah was serving as priest in the Temple (evidently they rotated Temple duty); he went into the Temple to offer a sacrifice. While there, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son. But Zechariah couldn't quite believe what Gabriel said because both he and Elizabeth were on in years and past child-bearing age. But because Zechariah doubted he was struck mute.

People were waiting for Zechariah outside the Temple that day. Maybe some of them were his fellow priests, and when Zechariah stayed and stayed inside, no doubt some of them got worried. There was a tradition in the Temple service that a priest entering the Holy of Holies go in with a rope tied around his ankle and extending back out into the Temple. In the event that priest was struck dead in the presence of God, the other priests could pull him out without entering the Holy of Holies themselves. On this day I wonder if some of the people thought Zechariah might have been struck dead. But alas, Zechariah came out, and he couldn't talk. He hadn't been struck dead, but he had been struck mute.

Well, time went by, and sure enough Elizabeth conceived. More time went by and a child was born to them. Elizabeth named the child John, but that just simply could not be. There was no one in their ancestry named John. His name couldn't be John. So the people who had gathered round for the naming of the child asked Zechariah about the child's name. He motioned for them to give him pen and paper, and Zechariah wrote on the paper, "His name is to be John." And immediately Zechariah could talk again. And then Zechariah sang his song of praise.

Sometimes we don't feel like singing. Life gets tough. We don't feel like praising. Things don't go just exactly right. But have you ever stopped to think that the tough times in life may just be preparing us for the time when God will loosen our tongues to praise him? It surely would seem that way for Zechariah. He was held mute until the appropriate time for him to give voice to his song of praise, and when it was time, his tongue was loosed. Faith had returned.

So the next time things are not going so well in life, just think about Zechariah. Maybe God is preparing you for the time you are to sing your song of praise to him. Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

HEAR, YE! HEAR, YE!

All maidens are cordially invited to attend the Royal Princess Breakfast on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. All ages are welcome, bring your daughters, sisters, grandma, friends and of course your mother. Come and celebrate with us as we honor mothers and celebrate that we are all Royal Princess's in God's eyes. (Princess dress is optional). To register individually or to book a table of 8, call the Church office or email Alecia youth911A@hotmail.com

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 6th, 2009.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER MENU - MAY 6

Ham, Hash brown Casserole, Vegetables, Pineapple upside-down cake
Workers: Volunteer Group

Attention: Linda Sowell continues to send cards to church members/new people, but she needs people to call her with information (on those who have missed, are sick or are visiting the church) Linda's number is *****

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
 Freddie Mae Jackson
 Oscar and Agnes McCarter
 Bill Evans
 Scottie McMackin
 Rev. Clifton Johnston
 T. J. Moore
 Norman Marston
 Jean Cone
 Gracie Henson
 Scott Dean
 Georgia Childress
 Brian Beller
 Al Harlan
 Barbara Harlan
 Elويد Brock
 Flossie Looper
 Hannah Englett
 Olivia Grace Moody
 Herman Dunkin (Cissy Holt's uncle)
 Herb Magee

A NOTE OF THANKS

Bro. Jim and First UMC,

Thank you for your cards, your calls, your visits, the flowers, your thoughts and especially your prayers on behalf of both of us during the time of my accident. It's so good to have a church family like ours.

In Christian love,
Al & Barbara Harlan

HAPPY ELDERS TRIP TO DICKSON

The Happy Elders have 14 tickets to the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN to see the play 'Tuesdays with Morrie', May 7, 2009. The best-selling memoir of all time comes alive in a stage adaptation of Mitch Albom's touching visits with a former college professor who is dying from Lou Gehrig's disease. This is a Senior lunch matinee. The cost is \$30.00, which covers the play, lunch, gas for the van and ticket for the driver. Sign up and pay should be made at the church office or call Jean Robertson at ***** **by May 1, 2009**. We will leave the church west parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and we usually return by 5:00 p.m.

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**I Will Be Loyal
 To The United Methodist Church And
 Support It With: My Presence:
 Sunday, April 19, 2009**

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....45
 Sunday school Attendance.....83
 10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....82

**My Service: Sunday, May 3, 2009
 Acolytes:** Katie Rochelle & Maggie McKnight

Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.
Tues. May 5 Loulie Brown, Anita Marston and Jerry Gibbs
Thurs. May 7 Joan Cochran, Joyce Holmes and Jerry Gibbs

VBS - JULY 20-24, 2009

Check out our website for more information, to register or to volunteer.

www.vacationbibleschool.com/firstumclawrenceburg

CHURCH PHONE TREE

First UMC is in the process of implementing a phone tree to be used for prayer concerns, announcements, reminders and other messages. The service will contact the church family through their phone numbers (home phone or cell phone) but can also text message and email messages. **If you would not like for your phone number to be given out and would prefer not to participate**, please contact the church office and let Terri know. If we do not hear from you, we will be providing phone numbers to the service as a means of communication for our church family.

