

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -

July 20, 2009

The Pastor's pen

Last week I wrote about the first four of the Beatitudes. As you may recall, it was requested that I write a synopsis of the sermons on the Beatitudes for the Newsletter. We complete that synopsis with this issue and the last four of the Beatitudes.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” I interpret being merciful as being kind and practicing kindness in all that we do. The merciful become recipients of mercy, or kindness, because they set out to treat other persons with kindness. It's basically what Jesus said when he said that the way we treat others is the way we will in turn be treated. If we are harsh and mean to others, they most likely will be that way with us. If we are kind, patient, and gentle, then that is most likely what we will receive in return. The merciful are blessed in that they receive back what they give, kindness.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” The pure in heart are those who set their minds on things that have goodness to them. To set one's mind on that which is opposite of goodness is to put oneself on a path that goes away from God rather than toward God. One cannot see God's work in our world when one has one's back turned toward God or when one puts a veil between oneself and God. Lifestyles that lead us away from goodness are in fact a veil between us and God. Lifestyles that lead us away from things good lead us away from God. Thus those who set their hearts on things that are pure and good and honorable and trustworthy and excellent get to see God through God's work in the world. Those who don't set their minds on these things can't see God because they've put an obstacle between themselves and God. Those who set their minds on goodness see God. There is no veil and there are no obstacles placed between them and God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” There is no greater work one can do than to be a peacemaker. Anyone who can help to bring peace to a situation whether it be in a family disagreement, a dispute between friends, a legal matter, or peace in our world will be thought of kindly. It is a work that is blessed just for the doing of it. And in becoming a peacemaker one just has to be connected to God, for after all, that is God's aim for the world and for those whom he has created. God wants us to know peace in our own hearts, and God wants us to know peace in our world day by day. So, yes, those who give themselves to being peacemakers are indeed children of God. They do a godly work.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” No one wants to suffer. No one wants to be persecuted for their faith, but in the real world such persecution does come. Sin and evil cannot abide goodness. Goodness, grace, and mercy are antithetical to sin and evil, and therefore persecution in some form will most likely come to those who follow Jesus. For in following Jesus we are about goodness, grace, and mercy. But even in persecution there can be

blessing, for through persecution God's goodness is revealed in and through us, sin and evil get exposed for what they are, the opposite of good, we come to realize that faithfulness is in itself its own reward, and through our suffering Jesus crucified is revealed. In all these things God is exalted and lifted up, and it becomes obvious that those who suffer persecution are indeed children of God and heirs of the kingdom.

The Beatitudes are themselves the characteristics of those who surrender their lives to Jesus, trusting him as their Savior and following him as their Lord. And these characteristics are gifts. They are gifts of character given to us as we submit ourselves to the ways of our Lord. That's a part of what it means to trust Jesus as Savior and obey him as Lord. My prayer is that these characteristics will be a part of each of our lives. Definitely something to think about.

Until next time, *Bro. Jim*

### **TUESDAY LUNCHES**

**June 30** was the starting date that lunch will be provided to people who participate in the Loaves and Fishes program. **Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., each Tuesday through the month of July. Anyone who is interested in helping cook, serve, clean up, or would like to make a dessert for a particular Tuesday, please call the church office (762-3696) or Carol Beasley \*\*\*\*\* and give the date you are available. We are also accepting donations to help with the cost of the lunch - please label you donation "Tuesday lunches."** Thanks so much for you help with this new ministry and please remember us with your prayers. "The king will say to those at his right hand, '...I was a stranger and you welcomed me...just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:34-35, 40)

### **PULASKI DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION EDUCATION EVENT**

Please mark your calendars. The Pulaski District UMW Mission Education event will be held at Coleman Memorial United Methodist Church on **August 15<sup>th</sup>**. The church office has registration forms for this event. You must register by August 11. You do not have to be a member of the UMW to attend the study.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FISH FRY**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 4 UNTIL 7 P.M.

\$10.00 PER MEAL (DRINK INCLUDED)

CLC BUILDING OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

212 WATERLOO STREET

TICKETS PRESOLD AT TASTE OF THE TOWN, CHURCH OFFICE OR

HABITAT BOARD MEMBERS (ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR)

PLEASE SUPPORT LAWRENCE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BUILDING HOUSES/BUILDING HOPE

FOR MORE INFO: 762-8185

### **WITH ONE ANOTHER**

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson

Oscar and Agnes McCarter

Bill Evans

Scottie McMackin

T. J. Moore

Norman Marston

Jean Cone  
 Scott Dean  
 Georgia Childress  
 Brian Beller  
 Robert White  
 Flora Benson  
 Lanny Hurst  
 Aaron Kirby  
 Jerry Moore  
 Rob Nelson  
 ...Sharon (Tim & Maggie Spencer's niece) ...Jim Weatherford

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

A new list of nursery volunteers is being prepared. If anyone would like to be added to the nursery list, please contact Cissy Holt at \*\*\*\*\* or the church office at 762-3696.



**I Will Be Loyal  
 To The United Methodist Church And  
 Support It With: My Presence:**

**Sunday, July 19, 2009**  
 8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....32  
 Sunday school Attendance.....72  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....98

**My Service: Sunday, July 26, 2009**  
**Acolytes:** tba

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

**Tues. July 28** Loulie Brown, Jean Grimsley, Anita Marston & Jerry Gibbs  
**Thurs. July 30** Joan Cochran, Joyce Holmes, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

**Attention: Someone has contacted the church office with a small refrigerator to sell. Would be good for office, small apartment or dorm room. If you are interested, please contact the church office.**

**The church office also has been contacted by someone who is looking for light mechanic work.**

