

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - August 10, 2009

The Pastor's Pen

Last week in my column I printed some church marquee one-liners from a column called "Around Town" by a man named Don Lambert. Here are the remainder of those one-liners from his column. I hope you enjoy them and find them interesting, thought-provoking, and/or humorous.

Outside of traffic there is nothing that holds this nation back as much as committees.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

We don't change the message. The message changes us.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch em - God will clean em.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God has a period.

The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

The job ahead is never as great as the power behind us.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Prayer: Don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

God loves everybody, but probably prefers "Fruits of the Spirit" over "Religious Nuts."

He who angers you, controls you.

If God is your copilot - swap seats.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Hope you enjoyed these. They did present some things to think about.

Until next time,
Bro. Jim

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FISH FRY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE & SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

With school starting Wednesday, it is time to start thinking about our ministry for the fall. A meeting date has been set for Tuesday, August 18, at 6:00 p.m. All members of the education team and children and youth Sunday school teachers are asked to attend, to go over classes, curriculum, schedules, Promotion Sunday and other items. Please send an email to Alecia if you CAN or CAN'T attend the meeting.

BE PART OF SOMETHING GOOD

The Youth will be selling Coffee, Chai Tea and Hot Chocolate for the next month. They are raising funds for their next youth event, Warmth in Winter in January. The coffee and other items come from the company, Ugly Mug coffee. Portions of their sales goes back to the local coffee growers to provide a better life. They are involved in an ongoing effort to fund water wells in remote Peruvian villages. The coffee is available whole bean or ground. To place an order see any youth or contact Alecia at Youth911@hotmail.com. The church office also has an order form.

FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING

The next Fifth Sunday Singing is coming up on **August 30th**. New Prospect will be hosting this event and it will begin at **6 P.M.** Everyone is invited to come out and hear church choirs as well as individuals perform their musical talents. A time of fellowship will follow the program.

CHURCHWIDE MEETING

On Sunday evening, August 23rd, at 6:00 p.m., Bro. Jim would like to meet with those who attended the Wednesday night study last spring on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," plus all committee chairpersons, and any members of the congregation who desire to come. Bro. Jim has been working on an "Action Plan" for the church and will present it that night. The meeting will also be for the purpose of discussion of the plan and hearing the church's ideas and suggestions as relates to the plan.

FALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday evening study for this fall will be "In God's Time: The Bible and the Future." While this study will not be limited to the Book of Revelation only and will not be a Bible Study on The Book of Revelation as such, the bulk of it will come from that book. As the title implies, this study will be around the subject of end times which has been a prevalent subject of late. All who can are encouraged to attend. The Participant's Book will be in the neighborhood of \$8.00 per book. As we get closer to the start up for Wednesday night meals, a sign-up sheet will be provided.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR JUAN GONZALEZ - NICARAGUA

Respected Brothers & Sisters,

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord super abound in your lives. We pray to God that He prospers you in everything that you attempt in the ministry of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, Sister Nidia Parrilla will not be able to travel because she made a correction on her birth certificate and until today they have not given her the certificate with which she can continue the search for her passport. Then in place of her the decision was made that Sister Maria Leonor will be in place of her. Together with this letter we are sending you photocopies of the passports of the brothers and sisters (who will visit you).

Brothers and sisters, we are sending 83 letters answering the letters that you sent to us some time ago. These letters were much blessing since the brothers and sisters here await your letters. This lets us know that you are always remembering them. This is very good.

Brothers and sisters, we want to inform you that sister Francisca Mendez, a member of the Fountain of Life Church, died. It was all a surprise because the Sunday before she had prayed the prayer for us in the church and on Thursday of the same week she died. We could not imagine that this would happen. It was all so fast that we are still surprised.

The seventh day of June we celebrated baptisms in the church. On this occasion we washed well a large tub and we did the baptisms there. It was all a great blessing. Thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Without anything else to say, we sign off to you.

Sincerely, **Brother Juan Gonzalez, Pastor of the Church**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to all the children and youth who got to go on a fun outing with Miss

Alecia, Miss Jill and Judy Benson last Friday evening. Having had perfect attendance in Sunday school last quarter, Breonna Lindsey, Kelton Moore, and Lucy Benson were treated to pizza and games at Chuck E. Cheese in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. To make the outing even more special, they each got to invite a friend along. So from full stomachs to fake noses to new lyrics for old songs, everybody had a great time!

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
STEP FORWARD TO AID BETHLEHEM CENTERS OF NASHVILLE

Bethlehem Center of Nashville, a United Methodist ministry, serves a vital need for the poor, displaced, and disadvantaged of the Nashville area. Each year the Center serves over 6,000 people directly. Thousands of family and community members are indirectly served. It will cease to exist if its financial situation is not resolved **NOW**.

Throughout its history the United Methodist Women have stepped forward to create essential ministries and to help strengthen existing ministries when need arose. The executive team of the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women accepted Bishop Wills' challenge to assist the Center in its crisis and has developed a plan to help Bethlehem Center of Nashville. Each circle is being asked to take a love offering for Bethlehem Center at each of their monthly meetings.

In addition to funds being raised in each unit, Christy Cookies has a contest going that will provide \$10,000 to a charity with the highest number of votes, and \$5,000 to three runners up. All that is required to vote for Bethlehem Center of Nashville is to log onto www.christiecookies.com and follow the directions about how to vote. No purchase is required and only one vote can be submitted from one email address. Please spread the word, vote, and continue to help Bethlehem Center of Nashville.

YOU'RE INVITED

What: Mops Kick-Off

WHEN: Thursday, August 27th

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Coleman Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall

*Please call for child care reservations

**MOPS (Mothers of preschoolers) is a place that gets moms, knowing the unique joys and challenges of this early season of mothering. A MOPS group will offer you an authentic community where you can come and experience encouragement, support and hope with other moms just like you. Monthly meetings will be held every 2nd Monday and 4th Thursday throughout the school year.

To join the MOPS group, contact Lori at: [*****](tel:****)

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

Brian Beller

Robert White

Georgia Childress

Willodean Grinnell

Flora Benson

Lanny Hurst

Aaron Kirby

Rob Nelson & Family

