

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - September 14, 2009
The Pastor's Pen

This past Sunday I talked about holiness of heart and life as a practice of disciples of Jesus. In my sermon I said that, "Disciples seek holiness of heart and life by living a life of righteousness." Disciples choose right instead of wrong. Disciples follow a moral code. As was the case a couple of week's ago when I shared a couple of illustrations that did not make it into the sermon, so I also want to do this week.

From the preface of Aldous Huxley's book Brave New World comes the following quote. "Chronic remorse, as all the moralists are agreed is a most undesirable sentiment. If you have behaved badly, repent, make what amends you can, and address yourself to the task of behaving better next time. On no account brood over your wrongdoing. Rolling in the muck is not the best way of getting clean."

In the prior week's sermon I talked about repentance as one of the practices of a disciple. Repentance also has a place in holiness. If as Huxley says we find that we "have behaved badly," we repent. One does not have to continue in the wrong. We choose to turn from the wrong to the right. The great thing about prevenient and justifying grace is that they free us to make an informed choice. God's grace frees us to choose the good over the bad even though we may have previously chosen that which is unrighteous. So a part of holiness is making the choice to cease to roll in the muck.

A second part of holiness is choosing to do the right. The story is told of Mark Twain that he met a ruthless businessman from Boston who boasted that no one ever got in his way once he determined to do something. This businessman went on to say that "before he died he intended to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, climb Mt. Sinai, and there read the Ten Commandments aloud at the top of his voice." Unimpressed Mark Twain responded, "I've got a better idea. Why don't you stay in Boston and keep them?" [From Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes].

As disciples of Jesus liberated by grace, we have a choice. As Paul says, "In Christ we are no longer enslaved to or by sin. We can choose" (See Romans 6). And so holiness of heart and life has to do in some measure with our choosing. We can choose not to wallow in the muck, and we can choose to do that which is right. And we do have a quite good guide for choosing that which is right. It is called "The Holy Bible." Just something to think about.

Until next time,
Bro. Jim

PULASKI DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT

The Pulaski District will have a training event on Sunday, September 20, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. at Coleman Memorial UMC (322 North Military Ave.). Workshops include **PPRC Committees** (led by D.S. Jim Beaty for all local church and charge committees); **Children's Coordinators** (led by Patty Smith); **Youth Leaders** (led by Brad Fiscus); **Finance & Risk Management** (led by Jim Allen for Church/Charge Treasurers, Finance Committees and Boards of Trustees).

EVERYONE INVITED!

FAMILY & FRIENDS COMMUNITY SINGING ON SEPTEMBER 20TH,
AT 6:00 P.M.,
AT THE CRAFT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VISITORS FROM AMATITAN, NICARAGUA, COMING OCTOBER 2ND

Well, the tickets are bought, and our brothers and sisters from Amatitan will finally be here October 2nd. Our visitors include Pastor Juan Gonzalez, pastor of the Fountain of Life Church, and his wife Maria Leonor, Valentine Olivas, and Jacoba Sandoval. These four represent our Partnership Committee, and they will be in Lawrenceburg until October 12th. The CEPAD representative accompanying them will be Harold Blandon, translator.

During their stay, we will need invitations for meals, for outings, and for accommodations. If you can invite our visitors along with interpreters, please call Terri at the church office. Several families have already offered our visitors their hospitality, but more will be needed. We have tentatively planned to have breakfast at the Christian Life Center each morning or go out at a local restaurant. If you would like to be part of that, let us know. Each day there are activities planned. Many lunches will be at meetings where the group will speak, or traveling from one place to the next. Dinners will probably be in homes most of the time. If you invite part of the group to stay in your home for a day or two and don't speak Spanish, no problem. There will be someone there to help translate for you.

This is an exciting time for our Nicaraguan guests, but it will be equally exciting for all of us. Those of our church who have been blessed to visit Amatitan can all tell you what a wonderful joy it has been to have met these friends and what a life-changing experience it has been. We just wish that many, many more of our Partnership brothers and sisters could come.

The Outreach Committee will meet next Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. and begin to finalize plans for this great adventure. Come to the meeting and help us plan an experience that we will always remember.

Call Terri. God bless you all for your wonderful spirit of mission.

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Lay Leadership Committee will be meeting on Sunday, September, 27th, immediately following the **10:30 worship service**. Members of the Lay Leadership committee are: DeAnna Saliba, Leslie Hunt, Keri McMahan, Linda Newton, Judy Benson, Beth Benson, Ray Price, Chris Thigpen and John Johnstone.

JERRY THOMAS CLASS BREAKFAST - SEPTEMBER 19

The Jerry Thomas Class will have a breakfast on Saturday, September 19th, at 8:00 a.m., at the Square Forty Restaurant. All members and spouses, former members and spouses and spouses of former members are invited to attend.

CHARGE CONFERENCE PREPARATION

Our Charge Conference this year is on Sunday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m. The following Committee Chairpersons will need to complete a report form:

Finance Committee - Cliff Philpot

Trustees - Dean Erwin

Staff-Parish Relations - Bobby Belew

Parsonage inspection Form - Gracie Henson & Brenda Benson

Celebration of Missions - Jerry Gibbs

Martin Methodist Representative - Martha Jo Gibbs

Lay Speaker Form (Lay Speakers forms are available at the church office)

UMW DATES TO REMEMBER

October 10

- TN Conference Annual Meeting "Who's at Your Table?"

Shelbyville FUMC at 9:30 a.m.; Register by September 30. Cost is \$15.00; forms are in the church office. Everyone is asked to wear orange and bring a love offering for *Bethlehem Centers of Nashville. The church van will leave the CLC at 7:30 a.m.

***Bethlehem Centers of Nashville needs our help!** Christy Cookies has a contest going on that will provide \$10,000 to a charity with the highest number of votes, and \$5,000 to three other 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 per email address.

****Please start bringing in your Campbell's soup labels and the box top for education labels; these will be taken to the Fall meeting.**

November 14

- Autumn Harvest - 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon
- Bake Sale
- Breakfast
- Carry-Outs (Stew, Chili, Chicken & Dumplings, Chicken Salad, Pimento Cheese)

****Please start bringing in pint and quart jars for the Autumn Harvest**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER - SEPTEMBER 23

The Wednesday night supper menu for September 23 is: Beef tips w/rice, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls, and lemon meringue. The Upper Room class is serving.

HAND BELL NEWS

Youth Bells will begin September 20th, from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

Adult Bells will begin September 20th, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

LAY SPEAKING CLASSES - SATURDAY/SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26-27

There are still available spaces for the Lay Speaking classes (Basic and Advanced) to be held at East End in Savannah, on Saturday/Sunday, September 26-27. Interested parties may register online at pulaskilayspeak.com or via phone/voicemail to Elizabeth Eubanks at ***** or by faxing registration to (931) 269-4085 or email to Pulaskilayspeak@Aol.com. The church office also has registration forms for those who wish to participate.

WLX AND TEAM MOLLY CLAIR*
PRESENT A BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING
EPWORTH MOUTH SOUL
70 SOUTH & THE COUNTRY CAFÉ BAND
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT 6 P.M.
WLX COUNTRY CAFÉ
1212 NORTH LOCUST AVENUE
LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464

SPONSORED BY: PERRY BROS. TRACTOR CO.

***ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION**

*Molly Clair Stevens is the 2 year old granddaughter of Dani & Larry Johnson (who attend Pleasant Grove UMC). Molly has Cystic Fibrosis. Team Molly Clair includes members of the Johnson's church family

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson
Oscar and Agnes McCarter
Bill Evans

Thurs. Sept. 24, Joan Cochran, Joyce Holmes Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

***Now is the time for you to bring good, gently used coats and jackets to the Food pantry to give away for the fall and winter. Children's and Adult's (all sizes) are needed.**

ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY

We will be picking up trash on our Adopt - A - Highway spot on Saturday, September 26th. We will meet in the Wesley classroom at 7:30 a.m. This usually only takes a little over an hour and then we go for a Dutch treat breakfast afterwards.

CLC CLOSURE IN OCTOBER

The CLC will be closed on the afternoon of Oct. 15th, as well as Oct. 16 & 17th, so the floor may be stripped and waxed.

