



The Methodist Messenger



MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER



From the desk of our District Superintendent

I thought the fact that I was so familiar with the churches and people of the Lexington District from my previous service in and around Lexington would be a great advantage as I moved from the Ashland District to the Lexington District. And in some ways it has been. But on the other hand it has been a source of great frustration because as I have interacted with many of you that I knew before, especially from my days at the ECU Wesley Foundation, I have found myself in the uncomfortable position of seeing familiar faces whose names escape me. I'm sure that's not because I've gotten older. I prefer to think that after serving in several different churches, name and faces have merged together in my mind and left me unsure of who I am remembering from where and which names I am recalling. And sometimes I expect that a church has been locked in time - that the pews will still be filled with persons I have known and that no new persons have moved in - only to find that I am struggling to remember people who were not even there 15 years ago when I had been there last.

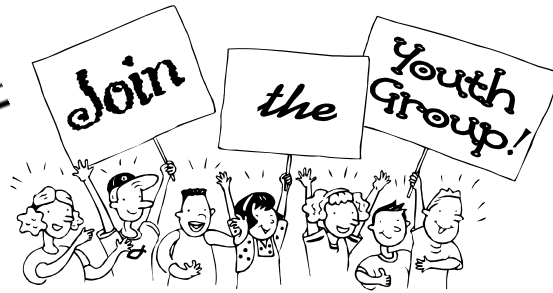
Perhaps you have had similar experiences. I find myself embracing that which is really unfamiliar and trying to convince myself that this is the church I knew back then. But, of course, times and people have changed and, if I am going to help churches, I've got to embrace those changes. Sometimes change is hard to embrace, especially in the church. We remember the faces from 15, 25 and even 50 years ago, and somehow we expect the church to be locked in time. We expect it to be the same as we remember, even though our world has changed so drastically in that time.

When I was growing up, my family moved several times. And whenever we moved, we would find a Methodist Church, and almost from the first Sunday we would feel at home. It wasn't so much anything the people would do, as much as it was the worship. No matter where you went, you knew that in the worship service you would have the Apostle's Creed, and Gloria Patri, and Doxology and Lord's prayer - that the order of worship would be the same. And you knew that you would sing the old familiar hymns. Those were the things you could count on. They were the "familiar faces" of the Methodist Church. But times have changed. And now the majority of the people who are in the church (or who are unchurched) have not grown up with the "familiar faces". My memories have little meaning to this new generation. This does not diminish my memories, nor does it mean that we must completely abandon that which is so familiar to us, but for the church to survive and thrive those "familiar faces" need to be joined by new faces, new worship traditions, new ways to reach out into the community. The church needs to be the source of new memories for new generations as it was for me in years past.

As I travel from church to church, it is wonderful to see familiar faces, even if I can't always recall the names, but, for the future of Christ's church, what a joy it is to see so many new faces. In all of the "faces" of the church, may His name be exalted today, tomorrow and forever.

Mark Girard, District Superintendent

JUST 4 YOUTH!



Check it out!

WINTER JAM 2010

Saturday, **March 13th** at Rupp Arena is the date, \$10.00 is the price at the door. The headline group for the tour is **THIRD DAY**. The other bands will be The Newsboys, Tenth Avenue North, and Firelight. The speaker for the event will be Tony Nolan. There will also be a few bands during the pre-jam party: Sidewalk Prophets, Robert Pierre, & Revive. The doors open at 5:00pm, so we will probably leave the church around 3:00-3:30pm.

Please sign up by FEBRUARY 27th so we have time to secure transportation.

**FUND
RAISER**

POTATO BAKE

**FUND
RAISER**

March 14th, immediately following the morning worship service. We need the Youth to bring potatoes, toppings, drinks, desserts, etc... Once again this is a fundraiser for our mission trip, but even if you are not going on this trip you are more than welcome to help out. Every dollar we raise for the Mission Trip saves us money to do other things.

RUSH

This used to be the big fall youth ministry event in Bourbon County. We have moved it to Spring (**March 19th-21st**) in an effort to shake things up a little. This event will bring together all the youth groups in Bourbon County for an awesome time of worship and fun fellowship. The speaker will be Jason Davidson. Jason is a middle school teacher, seminary student, & works with the ministry team at Russell Springs UMC. This is going to be an amazing event. Please plan to attend.

Bible Quiz

What is the shortest book in the Bible?

- a) 3rd John
- b) James
- c) Esther
- d) Micah

Answer: A (295 words)



Operation Food Basket

Please remember your food donations for Operation Food Basket there is a collection box at the top of the main stairs.

We take a special offering every 3rd Sunday for Operation Food Basket. Please write Operation Food Basket on your offering envelope.

A MOUSE TRAP STORY

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer & his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house!

There is a mousetrap in the house!" The chicken clucked & scratched, raised her head & said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the pig & told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do

but pray." "Be assured you are in my prayers." The mouse turned to the cow & said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So the mouse returned to the house, head down & dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house...like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The

farmer rushed her to the hospital, & she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows that you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends & neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So the next time you hear someone is facing a problem & think it doesn't concern you, remember...when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another & make an extra effort to encourage one another. ~ Author Unknown



Bible Readings *for the Month*



March 7

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 14

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Cor. 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 28

Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★
Men's News

Questions about United Methodist Men?
Contact Larry Klinefelter 987-6263 or 435-0123



March 11th

At 6:30pm

District Meeting at Trinity Hill UMC in Lexington.
A short business meeting followed by a program of gospel & country music sung by Curtis Williams.



Acolyte Training

March 7th and 14th after church.

The training will only take 5-10 minutes. This is open to children in 2nd-5th grades. Being an Acolyte is a great way to start involving children in the church service. Children will be doing this in pairs until they feel comfortable doing it alone.

There is no strict schedule for the children. Each Sunday a child who is present will be asked to Acolyte. If you know of a specific Sunday your child will be present + would like to Acolyte, please let Heidi Smits know.

Bourbon Heights

The Children will be singing + passing out Easter Cards at Bourbon Heights on March 24th 6:45pm-7:15pm. ALL CHILDREN are welcome to come. We will be taking the church bus. Permission slips will be passed out + collected before + on this date. If your child is required to sit in a safety seat you will need to provide that seat for the bus.

Palm Sunday ~ March 28th

The Children will be participating in the annual Palm Processional. All children 2years old -5th grade are welcome to participate. Children will have palms during the opening song while following each other around the church. Parents are welcome to walk with the younger children.

Easter Sunday ~ April 4th

There will be NO Junior Church. The Children will remain upstairs. There are clip boards with activities + crayons located in the black crate at the front of the sanctuary, right outside the church office.

Poetry Corner

ESCAPE TO A HIGHER PLACE

In the silence of our wilderness
When we're all alone with God,
We're afloat on a runaway cloud
Where His Spirit is left to prod.

Naked truth can easily be seen
Sweeping clean our cluttered mess,
Inner attire grows noticeably whiter
The moment we choose to confess.

Set to mend is our brokenness
As God wraps us in a humble cast,
He creates an atmosphere of trust & change
So our experimental growth will last.

At peace on this higher dimension
We're inclined to forever stay,
But God smiles, sends us back out,
And He gifts us with a heavenly ray.

By Sheila Wells Hughes

GEMS

Questions about the GEMS?
Contact Jayne Klinefelter 987-6263

Pancake Brunch

March 23rd @ 11:30am



First Sunday
of each
month

☆ WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ☆



Meal
6:00-6:45pm



Prayer Meeting
6:45-7:15pm



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

Send a Card to These Friends



Linda Maye
Dover Manor Nursing Home
112 Dover Drive
Georgetown, Ky. 40324



Paris First United Methodist Church

617 Pleasant Street
Paris, Ky. 40361
(859) 987-1630

www.parisfumc.org
secretarypfumc@praisinghim.com

MARCH Newsletter

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SUNDAYS

9:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 am MORNING WORSHIP
4:00 pm YOUTH
5:30 pm BIBLE STUDY
6:45pm ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE

WEDNESDAYS

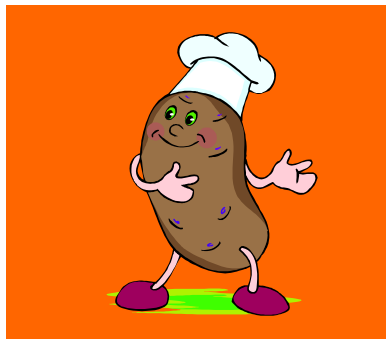
6:00 pm WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL
6:45 pm CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE
6:45 pm PRAYER MEETING

THURSDAYS

7:00 pm YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

★ YOUTH POTATO BAKE ★



**COME AND JOIN US FOR
THE ANNUAL
YOUTH POTATO BAKE!!**

The youth
provide a potato
lunch after
church with all
the toppings and
sides

★ THIS IS A
FUNDRAISER
FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

★ COME ON OUT & HELP THEM
RAISE SOME \$\$\$\$\$!!!