



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 5, 2009

www.mulberrymethodist.org

THOUGHTS OF FREEDOM AND FAITH

As July 4th, Independence Day, approaches, the world situation reminds us of just how fortunate we are. Questionable elections in Iran and subsequent violence against protesters, continued war in the Middle East, threats against neighbors by North Korea, and more, all suggest a world that is far removed from the "peaceful" struggles for life and liberty we experience at home. Though imperfect, our country is governed by a constitution whose very nature is to guarantee open debate, the right to dissent, and provide "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for every citizen. Independence Day should remind us all of the sacredness of those rights and the gratefulness of a nation for those who have sacrificed to insure them for us all.

One of those guarantees is freedom to worship and practice our faith. In many countries, that right has been forsaken, and faith has been forced "underground", if it is practiced at all. Yet in the final analysis, no government can take away our faith. Belief is between us and God. No law or decree can govern my heart. The greatest of all freedoms is given by the one true God – the gift of his Son who came to forgive our sins, and proclaim real life.

God is bigger than any nation, any principality, circumstance or political persecution. The Apostle Paul reminds us of how powerful God is, and how great His love: *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8: 38 – 39)

And we remember also that God's love is for all the people of the world. One of my favorite hymns is *"This Is My Song"*. It is in our UM Hymnal. Its words celebrate our country's beauty and grandeur, but also God's infinite, universal, and magnanimous love and authority – God is the ultimate sovereign of all people and all things:

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

This holiday weekend, may we be truly thankful, *"under God"*, for the freedom we have, for our country and liberty, and for the One who is ruler of all.

And may peace be with us and the world,

Tommy



Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Children's Council Meeting

Sunday, July 12, 12:15 pm

Pot-Luck in the Children's Assembly Room

Planning for upcoming year. Yes, we need you there!

Family Trip to Splash in the 'Boro

Thursday, July 16

Meet at the church at 8 am, and we'll take the bus to Statesboro to ride water slides, a lazy river, a surf machine, and visit splash island. The price is right, too--only \$10/person! We'll bring our own packed lunches (or buy reasonable food at their concession stands) and then stop for fast food as we leave. All kids must be accompanied by a parent or responsible party. Must RSVP to Pam by July 13.

Extreme Games and Blizzards

July 28

Bring your already-fed kids to the church at 6 for an hour of fun Bible Quiz Bowl Games, and then we'll go to the Marble Slab. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by parent. The cost is \$5, and you can pick them up at the ice cream places at 9.

Godly Play Workday

Saturday, August 8

Meet at the church from 9 until 3 to help prepare our classrooms for the upcoming year. We need you to make our rooms look great and stock the shelves with Godly Play supplies. Call Pam for more details.

Parent Meeting/Orientation

Monday, August 10, 6-7 pm

Come hear about all our plans for the coming year. We'll explain how Children's Church, SMAK, Wednesday night activities, and Confirmation will work. We need your input, too. Childcare and pizza will be provided.

Kids Lock-In the Summer

Friday, August 14

Meet at the church at 5 pm. We'll go on a mystery fun trip, return to the church for a movie and snacks, have a devotion, get some sleep (yeah right!), and then help give out school supplies at Macon Outreach on Saturday morning. The cost is \$15 and some school supplies of your choice. You can pick up your kids at 11 am.

Promotion Sunday and Bibles for 3rd Graders

Sunday, August 16

This is a big day in our children's department! We'll be kicking off our new Sunday School classes and the Godly Play program, unveiling the renovated Children's Assembly Room, recognizing the children in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour, and then proceeding with the "Blessing of the Backpacks" liturgy and presenting Bibles to our third graders during the worship service. More details later. . .

Guidance from Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791) offered the following "Rules of Conduct" for Christians:

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.



Adult Sunday School Classes

Are Building "CanCastles"
for Macon Outreach
This Summer!

*Bring food items each week
to help build a masterpiece!*

Ministries Budget Report

2009 General Fund

Month	Gifts	Expense	Net	Last Year
Jan	80,288	102,289	(22,001)	(24,726)
Feb	72,070	99,174	(27,104)	(23,690)
Mar	102,764	102,991	(227)	6,979
Apr	81,652	107,761	(26,109)	229
May	85,482	97,177	(11,695)	(5,960)
Total YTD	422,256	509,381	(87,125)	(47,168)



The Children's Center at Mulberry would like to thank Pam Johnston and Courtney Baskette for their continuous support and hard work while serving on the Advisory Board. We would also like to welcome our new Board members Tip Barfield, Wesley Rauls, and Kathryn Manley.

Welcome New Member

Grace B. Martin
606 Chastain Place
Macon, GA 31210
254-6530



When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hour's pay for our efforts, that is a WAGE.

When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a PRIZE.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an AWARD.

But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award – yet we receive such a gift – that is unmerited favor. That is underserved kindness. That is GRACE.

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
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www.mulberrymethodist.org

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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our 11 a.m. service is broadcast live
over Radio Station AM 940 WMAC.

Pastor on Call

July 5-7
Cile Mitchell
Home: 745-9657 Cell: 986-7107
E-mail: cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org

THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY

Sunday, July 5

9:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm
11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, July 6

6:00 p.m. Senior High Bible Study

Tuesday, July 7

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Conf Rm
8:30 a.m. Prayer Group/Conf Rm
9:15 a.m. Chapel for Daycare/Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Club Luncheon/Fel-Hall

Thursday, July 9

12:00 p.m. Young at Heart
5:30 p.m. Devotional Group/Panera Bread

Friday, July 10

7:00 a.m. Market Place Men's Ministry/Joshua Cup

Sunday, July 12

9:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm
11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Leadership Council Mtg/Youth Rm
12:15 p.m. Children's Ministry Council/
Children's Assembly Rm
5:00 p.m. UMYF
5:30 p.m. Godly Play Training



Scampers

Scamper reservation deadline for
Bald Mountain trip is **July 15, 2009**
(fall trip) October 9-11, 2009.
See bulletin board for sign up sheet.

Dianne & Bobby Greene,
Wagonmasters

Music Fund

In memory of David Hancock by Mrs. Barbara C. Every

Memorial Fund

In memory of Charles H. McCrary, Jr.
by Mr. & Mrs. Dennis E. Julius

In memory of Mrs. Minnie Sapp by Mrs. Grace B. Martin

Macon Outreach

In honor of Cile Mitchell by Dorothy M. James

In memory of David Hancock by Carey & Lolita Rutland

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MULBERRY STREET UMC STAFF

Tommy Martin, Senior Pastor
Cile Mitchell, Associate Pastor
Bishop C. W. Hancock, Bishop in Residence
Dr. William H. Hurdle, Senior Pastor Emeritus
Bruce Bishop, Church Administrator
Camille Bishop, Music Director/Organist
Cameron Bishop, Director of Youth Ministries
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Erin Roberson, Director, Children's Center
Betsy Abbott, Director of Hospitality
Johnny Hathcock, Director, Macon Outreach
Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary
Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary
Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian
Custodians
Clifton Carswell, Arnold Freeman & Sherman Ivry