



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 15, 2009

www.mulberrymethodist.org

WHERE IS GOD WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

During my afternoon Bible study this past Sunday, we discussed the question above. It is a difficult one; how we answer it often says much about our perception of the character of God. Suffering is a fact of life; bad things do happen to the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, the young and the old. Often, there seems to be no reason or explanation.

The anonymous quote below, published in a church newsletter, is a helpful answer to the question of human suffering. It proclaims a God who is always with us in the midst of life's storms, and is willing and desires to bring healing and hope.

"Suffering is not God's desire for us, but it occurs in the process of life. Suffering is not given to teach us something, but through it we may learn. Suffering is not given to punish us, but sometimes it is the consequence of our sin or poor judgment. Suffering does not occur because our faith is weak, but through it our faith may be strengthened. God does not depend on human suffering to achieve his purposes, but sometimes through suffering his purposes are achieved. Suffering can either destroy us, or it can add meaning to life."

Years ago, I read the following appeal that came from a newspaper's classified ads:

*"Lost dog. Has only one eye.
Torn right ear. Left broken leg.
Goes by the name - "Lucky".
Reward offered*

I thought when I read it how ironic the name "Lucky" was. Yet that was so appropriate. Someone cared enough to search for "Lucky", to pay a reward to get him back. That is the story of our faith. God cares enough to pay a reward to save us, to "bring us home", no matter what shape we are in.

We are approaching the Thanksgiving season; we traditionally celebrate with family and eat in abundance. Maybe this season, we could give thanks for that abundance by searching for others in need. We have much; for others, even good people, bad things have happened. We can be the ones who offer the hand of Christ, the wealth of our faith, the real help of our wealth. Through us, people around us will know where God is when bad things happen. How will you respond this season? Macon Outreach? Operation Christmas Child Boxes? Visits to a nursing home? There are as many opportunities as here are needs! Giving back puts things in perspective.

Maybe a good place to start is by counting your own blessings!

Your servant, in Christ,

Tommy



Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

Club 56 at the Corn Maze

Calling all 5th and 6th graders to meet at the church at 5:45 on Friday, November 13. Bring a friend and \$12. We'll go out to eat and have some fun at Elliott Farms. Ever been lost in the dark with your friends? See who you can really count on!! No flashlights allowed.

Final SMAK Meeting

The Good Book Cooking School (our fall session of SMAK) will meet one more time before taking a break over the holidays. Come to the church from 5 to 7 pm this Sunday to learn what fruit Adam and Eve really ate in the Garden. And then we'll make a cobbler out of it to serve for Wednesday night supper. Even if you can't come Sunday night, come to **Wednesday night Supper on November 18 (5:45)** to get your special award!

Christmas Mission Project

We'll be stuffing gift bags for the kids at Macon Outreach this year as a holiday mission project. We need items for 72 bags, and we'll be putting the bags together at our Christmas Party on Sunday night, December 13 (after we go caroling). As you shop, let your children help pick out a small item that would be gender neutral. You can order on-line in bulk, too! We need the bags to be roughly equivalent, so volunteer for one of these items in some multiple of 12 (because often things sold in bulk come in sets of 12):

- toothbrushes
- packs of gum
- small stuffed animals
- balls
- small toy
- Christmas candy
- small notepad
- colored pencils or pens

With the help of children from each family, we should be able to fill all 72 bags (plus the church will add a Bible to each bag). Thanks for your help and let me know which item you plan to bring so we don't get 200 toothbrushes and no toys!



Pirate Party

Friday, November 20, 5:30-7:00 pm
Children's Assembly Room (2nd Floor)
For parents and boys ages 3-7
Girls/siblings welcome
Supper, games devotion and surprises!



Friday, November 20: A Celebration of Thankfulness

We kick off the Thanksgiving season early with a worship service at 11am on Friday, 11/20. This service offers great music and an inspiring message of hope. We hope you can join us!

Afterwards, we'll enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings in the fellowship hall. *We still need pre-baked turkeys and pies:* as some of you may recall, last year, our supply of both was exhausted! Donations should be delivered to Outreach by Tuesday, November 17. Thanks for helping provide an extra-special dinner for our guests.

Become a Fan of Macon Outreach!

Are you on Facebook? So is Macon Outreach. Join the conversation and keep updated with Outreach news and events.

Macon Outreach Fund

In Memory of Allen Head by
Northwestern Mutual: Central GA District Office
Beth & Waverly Golson Bruce & Cam Bishop

In Memory of E.J. Fried by John W. Ramsey

In Memory of Mary J. Hammontree by Nolia Watkins

In Honor of Freeda and Harold Chapman by Linda Sankey

Circle Meeting

The Grace Circle will meet Tuesday, November 17th at the home of Kay Wangen (2043 Graham Road). Members are asked to bring socks for Macon Outreach.

Mulberry Quarterly

The Christmas issue of the Mulberry Quarterly will be out the first week of December. Hope you enjoy its seasonal articles. Donations toward its publication are needed. Just send a check made out to Mulberry Street UMC and indicate "Quarterly" at the bottom. Thanks to all of you for your wonderful reception of the last issue. Remember that you can still find it on the Mulberry Street UMC web site.

**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)
Jun	103,693	98,451	5,242	28,813
Jul	81,424	96,769	(15,345)	(31,955)
Aug	86,459	96,383	(9,924)	(18,589)
Sep	108,276	102,097	6,179	(22,466)
Total YTD	802,108	903,081	(100,973)	(91,365)

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
719 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201
P.O. Box 149, Macon, GA 31202
Office (478) 745-8601
www.mulberrymethodist.org

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Pastor on Call

November 13-15

Cile Mitchell

Home: 745-9657 Cell: 986-7107

E-mail: cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org

THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY

Sunday, November 15

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

4:15 p.m. Children's Handbells

4:15 p.m. Young Spirit Singers

5:00 p.m. UMYF

5:00 p.m. S.M.A.K.

5:00 p.m. Beth Moore Study/Parlor

5:00 p.m. Seeing Gray Study/Conf Rm

Monday, November 16

10:00 a.m. Women's Club Mtg/Parlor

12:00 p.m. Mondays at Mulberry Luncheon –

Speaker: Jim Waters/Fellowship Hall

3:00 p.m. Cottages on Wesleyan Communion

Tuesday, November 17

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Conf Rm

7:00 a.m. Men's Sermon Starter Group/Bob Lovett's Office

8:30 a.m. Prayer Group/Conf Rm

9:15 a.m. Chapel for Daycare/Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting/Conf Rm

12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Club Luncheon/Fel-Hall

4:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg/Conf Rm

5:30 p.m. Wesleyan Heritage Group Mtg/Parlor

7:00 p.m. Grace Circle

Wednesday, November 18

10:00 a.m. Invitation to John Study/Flo's Home

5:00 p.m. Altar Guild Mtg/Conf Rm

5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper

6:30 p.m. Children's Choirs

6:30 p.m. Merry Bells

7:15 p.m. Ainsworth Choir

Thursday, November 19

10:30 a.m. Trinity Circle/Parlor

11:00 a.m. DAR Luncheon/Fel-Hall

1:00 p.m. Carlyle Place Communion

5:30 p.m. Devotional Group/Panera Bread

Friday, November 20

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

12:00 p.m. Macon Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner/Fel-Hall

5:30 p.m. Pirate Party/Children's Assembly Rm

Sunday, November 22

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

4:15 p.m. Children's Handbells

4:15 p.m. Young Spirit Singers

5:00 p.m. UMYF

5:00 p.m. S.M.A.K.

5:00 p.m. Beth Moore Study/Parlor

5:00 p.m. Seeing Gray Study/Conf Rm

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MACON, GA



Dear Mulberry Members,

Thank you for your gracious participation with flood buckets for the North Georgia flood victims. I know you are blessed and proud to have a congregation that truly acts as the hands and feet of Christ! Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to serving with you again in the future.

Heidi Griffiths, Jodeco Road UMC Disaster Response Team



Scampers will meet immediately following Wednesday Night Supper on November 18th in the Parlor to look over next year's schedule.

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

Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & 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