

Christ United Methodist Church Newsletter

July 1, 2008

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Weekly Radio Broadcast (Sunday at 7:00 p.m.) - WGRV Radio & TV Channel 18

The Price of Freedom

As I was walking home from choir practice Wednesday night, Greg met me half-way. "Joseph called," he said, "He'll be home sometime next week."

Before I met Greg and the boys, Joseph had surgery to correct bones in both feet. He's done fine since the surgery, but then, the everyday life of a teenager just hasn't put his feet and ankles to the test that boot camp has these past four weeks. It seems that the rigors of boot camp have just been more than his feet and ankles can handle, and he is being medically discharged.

After the initial sense of worry as to why Joseph was coming home, I had to admit that I also had a sense of relief. We have been supportive of Joseph (and we are certainly proud of him!), but his choice to become a Marine wasn't exactly the choice we had hoped he would make - not with our current world situation.

I have found that in his decision, I have been confronted by my own selfishness. In John 15:13, Jesus says to his disciples, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." I've always thought, and often said, that there isn't a profession more admirable or more honorable than that of military service. Our men and women in uniform have been and continue to be, the epitome of this passage, laying their lives down so that others might live in freedom. I've admired parents who, knowing the risks and dangers their children face, have beamed with pride when talking about their sons and daughters serving in our armed forces. But, when it was my own son making the choice to "lay down his life for his friends," my perspective changed. All of a sudden, military service was honorable and admirable, as long as it was not my child in uniform. It was fine for other parents to give their children to serve, but I wasn't ready to be one of those parents. After all, I had only had Joseph for three years.

Around Mother's Day, as I was thinking of two mothers in one of my previous congregations who have sons serving, I came to a realization. While I saw our service men and women as living out John 15:13, I had never considered the fact that the parents of those same men and women were living out John 3:16, "For God loved the world so much that he gave His one and only Son, so everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." If anyone came close to knowing the heart of God, it had to be the parents of those in the armed services. While each of their hearts must have quietly broken at the prospect of losing their child in battle, their love for God's world, their desire for peace on earth and freedom for all had enabled them to let them go. Suddenly, I had a glimpse of God's heart when He gave His Son to lay down His life for us. As my heart had quietly broken at the prospect of losing Joseph, I heard the break of God's heart as He gave His Son for me.

As I celebrate our country's independence this month, I certainly have a deeper understanding of the price that was paid for my freedom as an American. Maybe more importantly, however, I have a deeper understanding of the price that was paid for freedom as a child of God.

Thank you, Joseph. I'm so very proud of you.

Grace and Peace,
Ginger Isom

Memorials

Dr. Don Henard: Gene & Jean King

Mildred Masengill: Lucille H. Paris

Tessie McCorkle: Lucille H. Paris
Ken & Helen Sager

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Jenny & Stacy Salyer on the birth of a son, Mason James. Mason was born on Sunday, June 29. He weighed 8 lbs. 9 ozs. and was 20 1/2 inches long. The grandparents are Charlie & Betsy Keller. The great grandmother is Jean Jenkins.

Pastor's Office Hours

The Pastor's Office Hours will be from 8:00 - 12:00 p.m, barring any emergencies or hospital visits that are outside of Greenville. After lunch, she will be out visiting. You are welcome to stop by the church office. However, you may want to call ahead in case any emergencies have come up. She will be off on Fridays. The office hours may change after the first few weeks.

Prayer Ushers

July

6 - Haden & Debbie Scott
13 - Tom & Cindy Paxton
20 - Betsy & Charlie Keller
27 - Rhonda Johnson & Kim Abelson

August

3 - Vicki Kirk & Brooke Rhea
10 - Haden & Debbie Scott
17 - Tom & Cindy Paxton
24 - Rhonda Johnson & Kim Abelson
31 - Betsy & Charlie Keller

Cover Prayer

July

6 - Kim Abelson
13 - Vicki Kirk
20 - Brooke Rhea
27 - Cindy Paxton

August

3 - Charlie Keller
10 - Betsy Keller
17 - Haden Scott
24 - Debbie Scott
31 - Kim Abelson

Thank You!

Greg, Luke, Brenden and I want to thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of love that you have shown us, both before and upon our arrival. The wonderful meals, the cards and e-mails, the prayers, the hard work that has gone into preparing the parsonage, the pounding, and your bright smiling faces have made us feel so loved and at home, already. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your graciousness.

Ginger

The Church Office will be closed Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Inspirational Group

The Inspirational Group will meet Tuesday, July 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Martha Bird will be the hostess. Ginger Isom will be the speaker.

J.O.Y. Group

There will not be any J.O.Y. Group get-togethers for at least the next two months (July & August). Joan has been the group's planner for over six years and feels that possibly it's time for someone else's leadership and ideas. Please volunteer your services to either take over the leadership or fill in, with your own ideas, for a few months or permanently. If you can, see the church secretary re. putting the activities in the Newsletter and Sunday Bulletins.

Trustees' Meeting

The Trustees will meet Sunday, July 13, directly after morning worship. Please meet in the parlor.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will meet Monday, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. Please meet in the fellowship hall.

Action Group

The Action Group will meet Tuesday, July 15, at 9:00 a.m. Please meet at the church.

Scrapbook Ministry

The Scrapbook Ministry will meet Tuesday, July 15, and Tuesday, August 5, at 5:30 p.m. Please meet in the fellowship hall.

Calling All Men

The Morristown District has been asked to provide 30 volunteers for the *Calling All Men* event August 15-16, 2008. If you would be willing to serve, please contact Greg Isom, our pastor's husband, who serves on the District UMM Executive Committee.

You may contact him at (865) 805-8815 or at gregorymisom@yahoo.com. To learn more about the event and to register for the event on-line go to

<http://www.holston.org/ministries/lay-ministries/united-methodist-men/programs/calling-all-men/>.

Birthdays

July

- 4. Betsy Keller
- 6. Stella Hunter, Ralph Boswell
- 7. Carol Wood
- 11. John Seaver
- 12. Robert Venerable
- 13. Tammy Bowman, George R. Scott, Ann Stoebe
- 14. John Waddell
- 15. Barbara Weismantle
- 16. Hayley Gregg
- 18. Glenda Huntsman, Tony Owens
- 19. BethAnn Burns
- 20. Charlie Keller
- 22. Don Hyde
- 23. Lindsey Schofield, Kathy Hayes, Michael Ray Collins
- 24. Adrian Puleo
- 28. Michael Britton
- 29. Patty Hoyt
- 30. Amy Renner

August

- 1. Joshua Adams, Ben Kirk, Sue Perettie
- 2. Susan Jeffers, Suzanne Spradlin, Nancy Burns
- 3. Wayne Campbell, Kenneth Armstrong
- 4. Erin Perry, Jerry Renner
- 5. Debra Meade
- 6. Dr. Roberts Bradford, Tom Leonard, Amanda Armstrong
- 7. Samantha Venerable, Rev. Charles Hutchins
- 8. Gene King, Heather Allen
- 10. Kim Abelson
- 11. Dawn Hamilton
- 14. Nancy Worley, Pam Gentry, Louis Puleo
- 16. Thomas Adams
- 17. Shirley Eddington
- 18. Jennifer Buckner, Alec McGinnis, Kirk Hunter
- 20. Haden Scott, Mary Stiles Johnson
- 21. Virginia Goldasich, Joyce Hyde
- 24. Summer Peters
- 25. Laura Gosnell, Jacob Scheffers, Kelsey Leng
- 26. Carolyn McCarson
- 28. Dewey Thomas, Vince McDonald, Nathan Gregg
- 31. Richard Meade, Carolyn Kelley

August Ushers: Gene King, Franklin Stanton, Phil Hunter, Mark Abelson, Walter Johnson

This month's needs for:

FOOD BANK - dry or canned spaghetti or pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit and any canned meat or fish.

HOLSTON HOME SCHOOL SUPPLIES - spiral-bound notebooks and/or composition notebooks.

Any food or school items are always welcome. But, those listed above are the items of emphasis or need this month. You may place your donated items in the appropriate basket on the floor, across from the church office.

District Revival (August 17-20)

Reverend Mickey Rainwater, Preacher

First UMC, Newport - Sunday, August 17

Tate Chapel - Monday, August 18

First UMC, Jefferson City - Tuesday, August 19

Centenary - Wednesday, August 20 (Ice Cream Social)

Mark your calendars now!!

THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone who helped, contributed and prayed for VBS. It was an absolute success. We had approximately 60 children & 30 adults who attended VBS. Thanks again for all the support you gave me!
P.S. FROG!! (Fully Rely On God!)

Bada

Thank you for the Memorials given to Christ United Methodist Church in memory of Ann Bowen.

Sincerely,
Tommy & Geraldine Miles

Thank you so much for the wonderful baby shower. It was great to be back in my home church and be surrounded by my church family. We are so thankful for all the gifts, prayers and support!

God Bless,
Jenny & Stacy Salyer

Stewardship & Offering Reports (June 8 - 29)

STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 8, 2008

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	10
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	78
Sunday School	39
OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED	\$ 2,425.26
By Mail & Other	.00
Sunday School	37.26
Morning Worship	2,388.00
OTHER RECEIPTS	1,075.55
Memorial Fund	25.00
His Kids	50.55
VBS	100.00
Special Fund	900.00
TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED	\$ 3,500.81

STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 15, 2008

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	6
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	69
Sunday School	34
OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED	\$ 2,798.00
By Mail & Other	60.00
Sunday School	26.00
Morning Worship	2,712.00
OTHER RECEIPTS	915.55
Memorial Fund	40.00
Holston Home	100.
Africa Hunger	50.00
Rebekah Simmerman	25.00
His Kids	50.55
Conference Askings	625.00
Evelyn Murphy Class	25.00
TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED	\$ 3,713.55

STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 22, 2008

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	8
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	107
Sunday School	44
OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED	\$ 2,760.50
By Mail and Other	.00
Sunday School	40.00
Morning Worship	2,720.50
OTHER RECEIPTS	\$ 551.52
Conference Askings	431.52
Discretionary Fund	50.00
Africa Hunger	50.00
Kitchen Supplies	10.00
Pounding	10.00
TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED	\$ 3,312.02

STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 29, 2008

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	11
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	101
Sunday School	49
OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED	\$ 3,630.00
By Mail & Other	200.00
Sunday School	31.00
Morning Worship	3,399.00
OTHER RECEIPTS	\$ 1,039.60
Memorial Fund	5.00
District Askings	50.00
Africa Hunger	50.00
Holston Home	284.00
His Kids	50.05
Kids' Club	300.55
Prepare a Place	25.00
Elevator	25.00
Senior High Youth	250.00
TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED	\$ 4,669.60