

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 02, 2011

The news Sunday night caught me by surprise. When I switched the channel to watch the local news, I found the networks all reporting that Osama bin Laden had been killed and that his body was in the possession of the United States. I frankly had come to the point of thinking that he would never be caught, and so to hear that news was indeed a surprise. And I must admit that it was a pleasant surprise for me. And that brings me to the topic I want to address.

As I was getting ready to come to the office Monday morning I began to reflect on my feelings from the night before. Had I been glad to hear that news of bin Laden's death, I asked myself? And thinking about that I began to chide myself a bit. How can you be glad about someone's death, even though the man had clearly been an instrument of great evil? And as I continued to reflect on my feelings I decided that it was not joy I felt at hearing the news of bin Laden's death, but more of a kind of sigh of relief and a satisfaction. And even that may not be quite appropriate for one who belongs to Christ.

And yet I cannot help but feel some satisfaction that bin Laden has been killed, and I cannot help but feel a sigh of relief. This man was responsible for a terrible injustice against our nation. The people who died in New York City, Washington, D.C., and in Pennsylvania on September 11<sup>th</sup> had never done anything to Osama bin Laden either directly or indirectly. There was nothing that warranted what he helped to plan for that day, nor for many other days as well that may have taken the lives of innocent people. So I could not help but feel a sigh of relief that this particular chapter as relates to Osama bin Laden and the evil he perpetrated has come to a close, and I cannot help but feel a degree of satisfaction that some justice has come to the one who perpetrated the terrible evil we know as 9/11. I think these feelings have to be considered normal for us as human beings.

And yet there is another side that I think we must consider. Isn't it a sad thing that we are brought to a point in human life that we feel a sense of satisfaction and breathe a sigh of relief that someone has died? I find that a less-than-desirable state of affairs, and yet it is our human reality. It is the reality of our human sinfulness that when it is taken to great lengths it results in great evil like that which we have seen.

And there is still another side to the death of Osama bin Laden that I think we as Christians must come face to face with, and that is that despite the terrible things this man has done, he is still a person for whom Christ died. And because we believe that Christ died for all and Christ died because God loves humanity, we must as Christians believe that Osama bin Laden is and was a person whom God loved. As those who believe that God created all that is we have to believe that Osama bin Laden in the sense that he is human being is a child of God. That, however, by no means is to say that what bin Laden did is acceptable to God, and that is by no means to be construed as saying that bin Laden is "saved."

In Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 5 Paul talks about two prototypes. Adam is one of those prototypes. Adam is the prototype for the human being seeking to find his own way. Adam is the prototype for the person desiring to be like God and thus sins against God. Adam is the prototype of disobedience to God, squandering that which God has given him for the desire to have the knowledge of good and evil that God has. Adam is the prototype of the person who refuses to trust God that God will lead him or her into green pastures, beside still waters, and in paths of righteousness. Adam is the prototype of the one who refuses to believe that God is worthy of our trust and that God will provide. Adam is the prototype of the one who refuses to live by faith.

On the other hand Christ is also a type. Christ is the type for those who are humble, who give themselves, not in part, but wholly to God. Christ is the type for those who trust God and who give themselves in full obedience to God because they do trust God. Christ is the type for those who do not rebel against God, who do not seek to be like God, and take matters into their own hands. Christ is the type for those who are willing to trust God, who believe God worthy of our trust, and who will live by faith. Christ therefore becomes the type for righteousness while Adam becomes the type for sin.

So what does this have to do with Osama bin Laden? Just this. Because of what Jesus has done in dying on the cross and being raised by God we human beings have a choice about which type we will follow. Osama bin Laden had a choice to follow good or follow evil, and he chose evil. So while Osama bin Laden is a person for whom Christ died, he is also a person who by all evidence chose the ways of evil. And thus we breathe a sigh of relief when we hear of his death, and we find satisfaction in thinking that justice has finally come for some terrible wrongs he has committed. And at the same time we mourn because the choice he made leaves us no other way to think about him. Just something to think about.

Until next time,  
**Bro. Jim**

### **SUNDAY'S SERMON**

Title: A Failure to Trust

Texts: Exodus **20:15**; II Samuel **12:7-8**; Matthew **6:25-33**; Philippians **4:4-7**

**WANTED: ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 26 THROUGH 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### **CONGRATULATIONS 2011 GRADUATES!**

Our Lawrence County High School graduates for 2011 are:

**Laine Philpot** - 2011 recipient of the UMW Scholarship (plans to attend Ole' Miss)

**Andrew Cheatwood** - 2011 recipient of the May Jones Scholarship (plans to attend UT-Knoxville)

**Wyatt Boston** - 2011 recipient of the Jackson-McClanahan Scholarship (plans to attend UT-Knoxville)

**Cass Crews** (Ellen Crews grandson) will be graduating from Rogers High School and is also Valedictorian of his class.

**Katie Lyn Beasley** will be graduating with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Duke University.

**Scott Beasley** will be graduating from UT-Knoxville with a B.S. in Finance.

**Jill Brewer** will be graduating from Columbia State Community College with an Associate's degree in Business Information Technology.

**T. J. Moore** will be receiving his associate's degree of Applied Science Business Management from Columbia State Community College.

**Tracy (Ezell) Wise** will be receiving her Masters in School Social Work from UT-Nashville.

### **A GRADUATION INVITATION**

You are invited to commencement exercises for Timothy J. Moore Receiving his Associates of Applied Science Business Management Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.  
Columbia State Community College  
Billy Webster Gymnasium  
1665 Hampshire Pike  
Columbia, TN

### **HAPPY ELDERS TRIP TO DICKSON - MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

Those signed up to go to Dickson for the play "Over the River and Through the Woods" on (Thursday) May 12, please be at the west door of the CLC to leave by 10:00 a.m.

**CHRISTIANS CONNECT WILL NOT MEET THIS MONTH**

### **NOTES OF THANKS**

**Dear FUMC,**

Your prayers, visits, calls, flowers and gifts have been so comforting during my stay at Scott NHC-thank you. The Easter lily has been a bright addition to my room.  
I keep you all in my prayers. Yours in Christ, **Bea Thigpen**

**Dear Rev. Gardner,**

Again, Ron, my brother Bob Stone, and I want to thank you for conducting such a beautiful Christian Memorial Service for our uncle, Frank Lumpkins. He loved music so your song was meaningful and touching and something we'll always remember.

We want to make a small contribution to be used toward the church's ministry in whatever way you feel would be most helpful, so I am enclosing a check made to the church. Thank you again, so very much. Sincerely, **Carol Rebman**

(A donation for \$200 was made to the church by the family of Frank Lumpkins)

### **UMW LEMONADE STAND**

This past Saturday our UMW embarked on a new endeavor to finance our mission projects and college scholarship fund. We sold fresh squeezed lemonade on the square at Main Street's Green Street Market. Business was good! Thanks so much to the ladies who manned the booth, and a special thanks to Tresia McWhirter for her super deluxe lemon squeezing machine and to Mark Tietgens for donating the sugar and lemons. Look for us again at Heritage Days on the square **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### **A NOTE FOR THE ALDERSGATE CLASS**

A gathering for the Aldersgate class which was scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Dean and Joanne Erwin, has been postponed until a later date.

### **YOU'RE INVITED TO...**

Greenwood UMC (98 Greenwood Rd.) invites everyone to their church's semi-annual Fish Fry on May 14, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Plates will be \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for kids (age 6-12). Plates include fish with all the trimmings, drink and dessert. For more information, please call \*\*\*\*\*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE WESLEY CLASS**

We are pleased to announce that we have a new member in our class, Susan Fisher. She has become an active member and recently attended the mission trip to Henderson Settlement. The Wesley Class recently hosted a breakfast for our local Habitat for Humanity as well as the Martin Methodist Choir. We maintain a prayer list in our class and pray for those in need and brighten their day by sending cards. At present, we are studying the Gospel of Matthew. Each week one of our members acts as facilitator for that lesson. If you need a Sunday school home, please come and join the fun.

### **STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The District Superintendent, Jim Beaty, has informed our church that Rev. Jim Gardner has been reassigned as Pastor for the coming year. We rejoice that we have he and his wife Brenda, in our church community for another year.

Rev. Alecia Fischer has also been reassigned as Associate Pastor with an emphasis in Children and Youth Ministries. As we rejoice with Alecia on her reassignment, the Staff Parish Committee is working to fine-tune the job description to reflect the position of Associate Pastor.

**\*\*\*Adult Bells will meet and practice on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. through May 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Scott Healthcare

&nb sp;

**Mrs. Scottie McMackin**

&nb sp; **Mrs. Bea Thigpen**

&nb sp; 2380 Buffalo Road

&nb sp; Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

&nb sp; **Mrs. Freddie Mae Jackson**

&nb sp; (Rm. 111A)

&nb sp; 2380 Buffalo Road

&nb sp; Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

NHC Healthcare

&nb sp; **Mrs. Jean Cone** (Rm. 212)

&nb sp; P.O. 906

&nb sp; Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

&nb sp; **Martha Whitten**

&nb sp; (Lettie Richardson's mother)

&nb sp; 374 Brink St.

&nb sp; Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

The Summit

&nb sp; **Mrs. Vernon Belew**

&nb sp; (Bobby Belew's mother)

&nb sp; 186 Prosser Road

&nb sp; Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Wayne County Assisted Living

&nb sp; **Mrs. Ruby Lopp**



**Loaves and Fishes**

**Tues. May 10:** Linda Newton, Ray Price Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

**Thur. May 12:** Bruce & Barbara Edwards, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

**WANTED:** ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS YEAR.  
**CONTACT ALECIA**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS**

This week's (May 4) Wednesday night supper was the last meal until the Fall. Thank you to all those who participated as well as the classes who served and cleaned up each week.

