

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 4, 2010

The Book of Deuteronomy starts out this way. "These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan - in the wilderness..." (Deuteronomy 1:1a). Verse three in that same chapter continues. "In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the Israelites just as the Lord had commanded him to speak to them."

I like to think of the Book of Deuteronomy as Moses' farewell address to the Israelites. They have come to the fortieth year of their wilderness wanderings and almost to the end of that fortieth year. The Israelites have just defeated King Sihon of the Amorites and King Og of Bashan. They are knocking on the door of the promised land. They are just across the Jordan River from it in the land of Moab. The time has come for them to enter that long sought promised land.

In giving his farewell speech Moses reminds the Israelites of all the things they are supposed to do to be faithful servants of God in this new land they will occupy. He reminds them of things that have happened on the way from Egypt to the promised land and what they should have learned from these things. Moses is preparing the people of Israel for a new day. He's preparing them for their new life in this new land. Moses, himself, has come as far as he can go. He will not enter the promised land with them, and so he must send them forward in the hope and the confidence that Israel will become the people he knows God wants them to be.

In this farewell speech Moses reminds the Israelites that God has a purpose for them. As the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob they are now the bearers of the promise and the covenant that God made with Abraham. While it was true that the impetus for God sending Moses and Aaron to lead them out of Egypt and their slavery was that God heard their cry, as descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob their purpose is more than just being brought out of a hard life to one of greater comfort and greater justice just for their sake. Their purpose is to enter the promised land and possess this land promised by God to the descendants of Abraham. And once in the land they are to become a witness for God as the God of all that is.

We, the church, have a purpose as well. We are to be the body of Christ in the world. We are to be the people who belong to Christ, and we are to witness to the love and grace of God through Christ for the salvation of individual persons and for the salvation of the world. Now just how we carry out that purpose is not always crystal clear, just as the Israelites purpose for going to the promised land was not always crystal clear as they journeyed toward that land. The Israelites of necessity had to walk by faith, and so do we. For as we journey toward that purpose God has for us, more and more about that purpose unfolds and becomes clearer. In hearing Moses' farewell address the Israelites are at one of those points in their journey when the focus on their purpose is becoming an ever sharpening image. Moses wants to help them see.

Now there are a couple of faith lessons here for us in the beginning of Moses' farewell address to the Israelites. One is that we as the church have a purpose, but we don't yet have the full picture of that purpose. Therefore we, like the Israelites have to continue discerning. And the second faith lesson is that we, like the Israelites, must continue walking by faith. We must continue to be obedient to the vision God gives us and trust that God will show us as we travel each step of the way the direction we are to take and how these steps fit in with the continuing unfolding of God's purpose for us.

So we need to be reminded from time to time, as Moses reminded the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan, that we have a purpose from God and that such a purpose is a continually unfolding thing. And we need to be reminded that we must continue to walk by faith.

As we move forward into the future as a church, and as individual disciples of Jesus, let us be reminded that we must walk by faith in God. We must be open to discerning that which God has for us, and we need to be obedient as well as hopeful. God is leading us toward His purpose for us. God is leading us toward the promised land. Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

WINTER COATS FOR FOOD PANTRY

It is the time of year when we start collecting coats for the food pantry. We have already had several calls about when we will be giving them away. If you have any gently used or even a new coat you would like to donate to the food pantry, it would be much appreciated. All sizes-children and adult are needed.

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US SATURDAY, - NOVEMBER 13, 2010

8:00 A.M. - 12 NOON

Again this year our UMW is busy planning our traditional November Harvest which includes these events:

- **Bake Sale** - tables full of goodies including homemade breads, cakes, pies, cookies, candy, spiced tea and hot chocolate mix. Also, look for an assortment of jellies, jams, canned fruits and vegetables. Plenty of great gift choices! Our latest cookbook is still available.
- **Breakfast** - Sausage & biscuit, juice and coffee to be enjoyed while you shop.
- **Lunch** - Homemade lunch items such as pimento cheese, chicken salad, stew, chili, chicken & dumplings, and desserts **conveniently available for carry-out.**

Prayerfully consider how you can plug in. Success depends on everyone's participation.

****Please bring in pint and quart jars and ½ pint jelly jars to the CLC that can be used for carry-outs.**

"NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM" ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A "Night in Bethlehem" organizational meeting will be held on **Monday, October 18th** in the CLC, at **6 P.M.** Please plan on attending this organizational meeting. We need lots of volunteers. A "Night in Bethlehem" is December 10-12, 2010.

NEWS FROM THE HAPPY ELDERS

GREAT NEWS! The Happy Elders are having a "hearty lunch" on **October 14th @ noon.** Our menu will include a beef stew and side dish accompaniments with great desserts like pumpkin pie or cake, gingerbread, breadsticks, rolls salads and such. Volunteers, use your own ideas. I'll be calling you soon and sincerely appreciate all those who participate.

Joyce Holmes

UMW PULASKI DISTRICT FALL MEETING - OCTOBER 23, 2010

The Fall meeting of the Pulaski District United Methodist Women will be held at St. Andrew UMC on Saturday, October 23rd, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The theme for the day will be "Let's Get Together to Join Hands in Christ's Mission." Our focus will be joining together to support Bethlehem Center of Nashville. Our speaker will be from Bethlehem Center of Nashville. Our speaker will be from Bethlehem Center and our offerings will go to their ministry. We are also asked to bring school supplies, art supplies, used clothing in all sizes, and jewelry for their shop to raise funds. At this meeting, we will install officers for 2011 and celebrate the organization of a new unit. We will recognize faithful UMW members in a program of Lifetime Service Recognition. Please plan to come. We will take the van. Call Mary Ann Clayton today if you plan to go.

CHRISTIANS CONNECT - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Christians Connect will meet this Sunday, October 10th, following the 8:15 a.m. service. We will meet in the Friends and Fellowship classroom. This month's gathering will be hosted by the Upper Room class. Please join us for snacks and fellowship.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

UMW Executive Committee meets on Tuesday, October 12, at 4:15 p.m.

Finance Committee meets on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Board meets on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30 p.m.

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING

The Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 19th, at 6:30 p.m.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO JEAN GRIMSLEY

A heartfelt "thank you" to Jean Grimsley for the inspiring mission study on James she presented this past Saturday. There were around fourteen ladies in attendance for the study and all agreed that the study was very thought provoking. Thanks again to Jean for all her efforts to make the study a success.

COLEMAN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Coleman United Methodist Men are sponsoring a 4-man golf scramble on Sunday, October 17th, at the Lawrenceburg Country Club. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start to follow. Cost is \$200 per team (\$50 per person). Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to participate, please contact Coleman UMC @ 762-3771. Proceeds will be used for church repairs at Coleman UMC.

NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

(By: Lynsey Burns)

The past two Wednesday's the youth of FUMC have been discussing the topics of worrying and friendship. We also talk about our covenant. We have been writing down some Acts of Compassion, Acts of Justice, Acts of Worship and Acts of Devotion.

On Wednesday, September 15, the youth sermon was led by Abby Clayton and she spoke about worrying. She mentioned some of her worries and we all spoke about ours. The youth agreed on two things: people worry too much and we should all pray more and worry less.

The next Wednesday, September 22, our sermon was led by Katie Wayne and she spoke to us about the topic of Friendship. She spoke about how Christians should have friendships. Christians should love unconditionally. We should accept. Christians should trust in their friends. We should be truly friendly. And Christian friends keep and respect their boundaries. Katie also mentioned that over a period of time we need to stick with a Christian friend. We also should forgive and be forgiving.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The Hispanic Ministry at FUMC will soon be in full swing again. Classes for adult English Language Learners (parents) are slated to start at the end of September or first of October. FUMC volunteers provide child care so that parents can take full advantage of the English classes offered at the Adult Learning Center on Mahr Avenue. FUMC volunteers care for the children in the CLC from 5:25 until 7:35, one night per week (tentatively Thursday). The schedule for ELL classes follows the school calendar, so when school is out Hispanic Ministry does not meet.

Children are from preschool to preteen age. Various church and UMW members have provided toys and craft supplies for the ministry. The ELL teacher provides snacks for the children each week. The children enjoy all types of activities and are very polite.

In compliance with the Safe Sanctuaries policy adopted by FUMC, there must always be two adults present when working with children and youth. This means there must be two volunteers there each night. Naturally the more volunteers the better. Volunteers can take turns weekly, or split the time nightly, as long as there are two people there.

FUMC has supported this unique ministry for quite a few years now. Several people have responded to God's call to care for His children by volunteering for this ministry. If you feel called to volunteer, it is a very special way to serve God; your service will be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Judy Benson. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's ministry will resume on October 20th.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Come and join us every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Alecia's office for the prayer shawl ministry. We knit and crochet prayer shawls for those in need of a little loving care and prayers. NO experience necessary. Patterns provided.