



OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

April 2, 2008

From the Pastor's Pen



Several weeks ago, Cavit shared this story with me at our Tuesday Table Talk. I had seen it before, and every time it crosses my desk or my e-mail, I am challenged again to think about how I love, and how I withhold my love! Please enjoy this story and pass it along. In your enjoyment, think about the implications of loving, and what the world would be like if we all loved to the fullest of our God-gifted ability!

Paul

NAILS IN THE FENCE

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day, the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are very rare jewels, indeed! They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us."

Share this with everyone you consider a FRIEND, even if it means sending it back to the person who sent it to you. If it comes back to you, then you'll know you have a circle of friends.

~ author unknown ~

Just one more thing...

Please forgive me if I have ever left a hole in your fence!

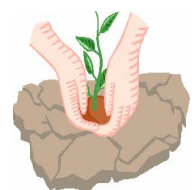
Shalom,

Paul

One to Grow On

This past Sunday, under the fantastic leadership of Nate Sawyer, our youth shared their stories of Christ growing in them and working through them! In 2007, most of our youth experienced participation in UM Conference events, Urban Mission workdays and a summer Mission/Outreach trip as well as good old-fashioned Lock-Ins, picnics and weekly Sunday evening group study meetings. All this and more was possible thanks to the support of the Blakemore/West Nashville UMC congregations. This year, the youth are already scheduled to leave in July for Mississippi on their summer mission trip and several are joining in the VIM trip to Nicaragua!

*Your gifts to the **One to Grow On** are very much appreciated and are needed so our youth can continue to grow in Christ by serving their home church, their local community and experience spiritual growth and fellowship with their peers. Your investment in our youth will insure this great program and community of faith will be there for the next generation of youth group members.*



*Yours in Christ,
Julie Shadburne*

Prayer List

If you or a loved one needs prayer, please call or e-mail the church office with your request. The name will be added to the prayer list in the newsletter and bulletin for 4 weeks. If notified that additional prayer time is needed, the name will stay on the list.

The Blakemore Family

Dani Aguila
Rosanne Awbrey
Butch Baldassari
Sadie Campbell
James Flatt
Dorothy Knowles
Ruth Moore
Norma Shepard
Ruthann Tigert
Kent Ussery
Nicole Ussery
Ruth Walker

Friends and Extended Family

Rick Brown (brother of Cheryl Brown)
Eric Castillo (friend of Mabel Higgins)
Robert Donigian (son of Kay Hanson)
Frances Eatherly (mother of Mike Eatherly)
Sally Fazenbaker (friend of Don and Shari Wiggins)
Oney Friddell (sister of Mike Friddell)
Angela Hilliard (friend of Karen Henderlight)
Yvonne Hill and Reed Loden (friends of Heather Thompson)
Lindsay Holst & Mike Leatherman (friends of Heather Thompson)
Lynette Key (sister of Evelyn Keller)
Betty Kremer (aunt of Kent Ussery)
Jeff Mabee (brother of Cindy Kleinrock)
DJ Marcellino (daughter of Jobie Phelan and niece of Rita O'Hara)
John Pile (son of Pat Pile and grandson of Ruth Walker)
Debbie Scharf (niece of Bessie Mitchell)
Janet Stone-Erdman (sister of Kay Hanson)
Joan Stone (friend of Lanette O'Brien)
Rev. Jack Stratas (friend of Jim Mitchell)
Bob Whitman (father of Deb Allen)
Margarite Lewis (friend of Heather Thompson)
Barbara Bonham (sister of Kathy Meador)
Caitlin Brison
Alma Spann & Val Kibler (friends of Gwen Holder)

In the service of our country:

Mike Leatherman
Derrick Milburn
Joel Ramsey Russ
Kathy Aguila Russ
Wesley Watts
Joseph Seward

CONFERENCE ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

The Nashville District of the UMC is holding a conference on Older Adult Ministries, Monday, April 14 from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Belle Meade UMC.

This gathering will allow area churches to worship and celebrate the good work they are doing, share new ministries that are emerging, and strengthen our connection one to another.

All interested Blakemore members are invited to attend. Meal reservations must be made to Lynn Taylor in the Nashville District office at 615-327-3582 or nashdistum@tnumc.org by Monday, April 7, 2008. Let's get a group together to participate.

From the Worship Committee

1. Join us April 13th @ 5:00 PM for this year's first SongFest. We will have a potluck dinner with music following with Wayne Rollins from the Gospel Quartet.
2. Anyone interested in participating in worship as a lay reader, please see Mike or Susan Eatherly, or call 394-1853. If you have been a reader in the past and would like to continue, please let us know.

Double Nickels to Learn More Nashville History

Join us for a visit to Fort Negley on Thursday, April 24. We will leave the church at 9:30 sharp to visit the newly opened Visitors' Center at Fort Negley.

We will begin with a leisurely walk from the parking lot to the top of the hill, stopping along the way to read the markers and enjoy the scenery. After viewing a 17-minute film, a guide will tell the history of the site and conduct a tour of the Fort.

This will take an estimated 1-1/2 hours. Following the free tour, lunch will be at the 8th Avenue Sylvan Park Restaurant.

For more information, call Mary Evelyn Cheshier at 383-7553.

Children's Mission Project

All children are invited to participate as we learn about caring and sharing the love of God with others.

When: Saturday, April 12
 Time: 10:00 am until 12:00 noon
 Where: Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served!
COME and join in the FUN!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Service Schedule, April 6

8:15-9:00 am	Prayer time in Sanctuary
9:00 am	Communion in Room 205
9:30-10:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Youth lead Worship/Communion
11:45 am	Mugs'n Hugs
5:30 pm	Youth

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Blakemore gathers every Wednesday to break bread around the table! Cathy and Billy Wilson prepare the meal. To reserve a meal, mark the attendance register and enter the number of adults, children and toddlers under "Wednesday Supper Reservation" or call the church office- 297-6519 by noon on Tuesday. The cost is \$6.00 for adult portions, \$3.50 for a child's portion, free for children four and under with an \$18 maximum charge for one household. Reservations need to be canceled by noon on Tuesday or payment for meal will be requested. We now begin serving dinner at 5:45. A variety of classes are offered following dinner so please join us.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

April 16 menu is meat loaf with tomato sauce or veggie grillers, mac & cheese, steamed mixed vegetables, salad bar, bread, and dessert.

Clean-up supervisors are needed. Please volunteer!

Dishwashers are Chris Yarbrough and Chuck Chellman

Youth News

Hey Blake'Ville,
 Wow, it was so amazing to see how God can use our youth to lead worship! It also very exciting to me to see so much of the rest of the congregation involved and engaged in sharing their stories! It truly was a community worship experience. That same night we had our regular youth gathering and I encouraged all the youth to go upstairs with me and read some of the stories, some of us were crying. We will leave them up for a while, so I encourage people to go check them out and read them. I want to thank all of the youth, parents, and leaders who helped make this possible. We look forward to participating more in worship together in the future. Also a special

Getting Ready for Sunday!

Sunday was a real blessing for us as we shared our stories and heard the stories of our youth and others. I want to thank each of our youth for their leadership, and especially Nate and the other adult leaders who were instrumental in organizing and leading.

Sunday we talk about Abundant Life! What makes life abundant? Some would say it comes from having plenty of money. Others might equate it with a good home and a solid social structure. In Acts 2:42-47, we see the experience of abundant living in the care each person had for one another! To prepare for Sunday, read this passage of Acts along with John 10:1-10. Additionally, the lectionary scriptures for Sunday include Psalm 23 and 1 Peter 2:19-25.

What abundance are you searching for in your life? Sunday we will explore together the abundance God has in store as we live into the Kingdom of God!

Keeping the Love You Find

April 12-13, 2008 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
 All Faith Chapel
 Vanderbilt University
 444 21st Avenue South

Keeping the Love You Find is an intensive 2-day workshop appropriate for singles and married individuals who are tired of making the same mistakes over and over again and want to learn the secrets to finding and keeping lasting love. This is a workshop for individuals who want to be the "right" kind of partner instead of trying to find the "right" partner or trying to make someone else into the "right" partner.

For more information, see www.ImagoMiddleTN.com.

**Annual Family Retreat
 September 19 – 21, 2008**



This is just a friendly reminder that even though we are enjoying spring today and planning summer vacations, our very special time to be together as a church family is coming!

Reserve September 19 – 21 on your calendar to hold those dates for the Retreat. The planning will soon start and we will need everybody to work together to make this the best Retreat yet.

Sent to you in the Love of Christ from:
Blakemore United Methodist Church
3601 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
(615-297-6519)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Endowment Committee will meet Monday, April 14 at 7 pm.
We will meet in an adult Sunday School Classroom.**

STEWARDSHIP

Our Presence
Sunday, April 6

Sunday School 86
Worship 150

Visitors: Melissa Barr, Nancy Hawthorne,
and Nick & Amelia Munn



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Sunday, April 13

Lay Reader: Rosanne Awbrey
Acolytes: Isobelle Kabiling
Cross Bearer: John Lewis
Bowling Ave. Greeter: Fred & Ruth Rowles
West End Greeter: Nancy Sneed
Mugs'n Hugs Host: Jennie Lea Dickens Circle

April Ushers: Mike Eatherly, Denny Petty, Daniel Aguila,
Chuck Chellman, Diane Hickerson, Maria
Hinchman, Doc Hooks, Franklin Haggenmacher,
Steve Sudberry, Jack Tenzel

April Offering Stewards:
Steve Sudberry and Betty Vogt

Stewardship Thought:

Real estate offers opportunities for giving to your church. Consider the gift of vacant land, condominium, commercial property, home, farm, or other types of real estate. You could be entitled to a federal income tax deduction for the fair

Erin Lewis will be Confirmed in May!

Erin Lewis, daughter of Morris and Lisa Lewis, will soon complete her Confirmation sessions and will soon be Confirmed.

As a special leadership project, Erin will lead the children in a mission study on April 12, 2008 from 10:00 am – Noon. All children are invited to participate. It will be lots of fun, learning and sharing. Lunch will also be served.

Erin will discuss with the children the meaning of mission and the ways the United Methodist Church participates in missions around the world. The children will engage in making relief kits to send to Nicaragua from the Blakemore Children's Ministry.

Please help Erin collect these small new items needed for the project:

Small hand towels	Soap bars
Gallon ZipLoc bags	Washcloths
Fingernail Clippers	Colored Beads
Toothbrushes	Silk Flowers
Band-Aids	Ribbon

Please leave these items in the plastic bag outside of the Children's Ministry Office. Thanks for your cooperation with this Children's Mission project.

Michele Morton & Emily Reeves



Church Staff

Pastor: Paul E. Gardner

Music Director: Rheatta Petty

Organist: Dawn Seidenschwarz

Administrative Assistant: Judy Lyon

Maintenance: David Hardy

Treasurer: George Bass

Children's Ed. Director: Michele Morton

Children's Intern: Emily Reeves

Youth Director: Nate Sawyer

Nursery Staff: Rita Mattox

Blakemore Children's Ctr. Dir.: Bonnie Spear