



Pulpit and Pew

Our Mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Volume 21, Issue 10

October 2011

Being United Methodist Too!



Equipping the Saints?

Ephesians 4:11-13

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (NIV)

By now, I'm really hoping that you have heard this text from Ephesians and understand its implications. It is guiding our understanding of ministry here at MRUMC. In theory, it is pretty simple. It is based on the idea that God made us different in terms of giving each of us various gifts and abilities. It continues with the notion that we should be able to identify that which we are uniquely gifted and able to do, and that in offering those gifts and abilities to God in service to Him through the church, we all grow in unity with God and each other, and we grow together as Christ's body, stronger and more able to carry out Christ's mission here on earth. That is the simple part.

The hard part may be in determining what our gifts really are and how they might be used in service to God through the church amidst the competing demands on our time. Well, our next step is to help us through this process. The first step is for us to begin to understand what we mean by our "Spiritual gifts."

What do you hear when we say "spiritual gifts"? Do you hear "speaking in tongues" or some other strange phenomenon? What we mean in talking about spiritual gifts is simply the roster of abilities/qualities that come from scripture at several points. A list of some of the gifts that scripture lists includes:

Apostles	Prophets	Teachers	Miracle Workers
Healers	Helpers	Administrators	Evangelism
Giving	Faith	Hospitality	Service

When you look at this list, what do you think? Are you thinking that none of these apply to me? I believe that God has given us these gifts in various proportions and degrees. Is it time for you to discern your gift (s)?

Over the next few weeks I hope to help us discover the meaning of these gifts, and we hope to give you the opportunity and the tools to help you discover which gift or gifts you have. We have a plan in place to give you the opportunity to see for yourself. You'll be hearing more about this in the weeks to come.

One of the hopes is that we can use the analysis from this spiritual gifts assessment to help us select the officers and leaders of our church going forward. We believe that God has given us very qualified, gifted leadership in our church and we hope to match the church's leadership needs with those who have the right gifts for the tasks.

Your Staff will be away for additional training and instruction on equipping ministry during the week of September 26-29. We plan to come home more equipped ourselves! May the Lord continue to bless us each in growing in his likeness!

Grace and Peace,
Paul B. Thompson

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

are due

**Monday,
October 17**

Please email
articles to
fishrus8@morrisbb.net

Don't have email?

Please place
articles
in the Newsletter
mailbox at the
church. You can
send them any
time prior to the
deadline.
Thank you.

Volunteers

Nursery

October 2

8:15 Jon & Lori Hart
9:33 D King/K Maltby
10:55 Bandys/K McCartney

October 9

8:15 **need volunteer**
9:33 B Brown/C Dozier
10:55 McCalls/P Powles

October 16

8:15 Joyce Gorgas
9:33 L Gossett/D Chong
10:55 Statons

October 23

8:15 **need volunteer**
9:33 Pattersons
10:55 C Barnett/E Woodall

October 30

8:15 Jan & Maggie King
9:33 L Brittain/K Deckard
10:55 Kings/K Buchanan

Children's Church

Oct 2 The Rathburns
Oct 9 Children's Sabbath
Oct 16 The Stepps
Oct 23 **need volunteer**
Oct 30 **need volunteer**

Acolytes

Oct 2 Elizabeth Armstrong
Oct 9 Matthew Gladdin
Oct 16 Michaela Bradley
Oct 23 Shelby Frady
Oct 30 Johnathan Austin

Greeters

October 2

8:15 Estelle Whiteside
9:33 Lori Cavanaugh
10:55 David & Bev Parris

October 9

8:15 Carolyn Moore
9:33 K Cabe & D King
10:55 Jim & Anna Awald

October 16

8:15 Kimballs
9:33 Bill Bellamy
10:55 Chad & Bess Bandy

October 23

8:15 **need volunteer**
9:33 The Morrors
10:55 B Benfield/D Dwyer

October 30

8:15 Estelle Whiteside
9:33 Ciaramitaros
10:55 Rick & Beverly Wood

November 6

8:15 Carolyn Moore
9:33 Dale Thompson
10:55 Chapmans

November 13

8:15 Kimballs
9:33 Ippolitos
10:55 Siltzers

Music

Greetings to all the folks at MRUMC.

The music department would like to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Bill Bellamy and Bruce Arden. Bill Bellamy received the donation of a sheet of laminate from Wilsonart to use as a dry erase board. Bruce Arden did a wonderful job of installing the laminate to the back side of our staff board. This was a much needed project that will meet multiple needs in our choir room. God Bless you both.



Chancel Choir – Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:15 in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Choir is back in full swing on our regular schedule. We will begin joint rehearsals with Hope UMC in October to prepare our Christmas Program. This year we will present our Friday night worship service at Hope UMC. We are excited about this joint endeavor.

Youth Choir – Rehearsals are Sunday evenings at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. The Youth Choir has begun work on a wonderful Christmas Celebration as well as music to share in worship on Oct. 23rd. We still have room for a few more so please come and join the fun.

Jr. Choir – Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the Choir Room. We are so blessed to have a great children's music program. The Jr. Choir will be sharing in worship on October 9th during Children's Sabbath.

Cherub Choir – Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the Ed. Building upstairs. Our Cherub Choir is directed by Tammy Gross and Beverly Gladin. This year they are doing music related crafts and learning new songs to share both in worship and during Sunday School.

We are all so blessed with the gifts God continues to bring our way. Let us always be careful to give Him all the praise.

God's Blessings to All,
Steve Carson

Evangelism Team

Evangelism Team News



New Member classes begin Sunday, Oct 2 for all new members or those interested in becoming members. If you have been a member and have questions about being a United Methodist, our church history or would like to find out what your spiritual gift is please feel free to join us! The class will meet for 3 Sundays, Oct 2, Oct 9 and Oct 16. The time is 9:30 in the Chapel. Please join Rev. Doug Clewis and Merit Wolff for this informative class.

Joining Sunday will be held October 30. Anyone interested in joining the church should contact the church office to schedule a time to speak with a pastor. Following the 11:00 am service in the Fellowship Hall there will be a Welcome Meal for all new members, those interested in joining the church as well as Church Council. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend. mrumcchurchoffice@bellsouth.net

We look forward to meeting you!

Thanks! The Evangelism Team



After taking August off, the United Methodist Men returned to their monthly dinner meeting and covered a lot of business.

The UMM will be helping at the Welcome Table at Hope Methodist Church on October 25th.

The Pig Pickin' in support of the boy scouts was on September 24 and was very successful! Proceeds will be used by the scouts to purchase new tents and other equipment for the troop which has grown from 8 to 30 boys in the past year.

Arnie Goard reported that the golf tournament is coming along well and that he expects it to be a great success. Proceeds will go to MRLEC.

The UMM will be serving a steak dinner to the West Henderson High School football team on October 28th. This tradition started with Susan Thompson and continues in her honor.

The UMM will financially support the staff and lay leaders for their training in Louisville on equipping and changing the way churches get congregations involved in the ministry.

President Sweeney spoke of his new job and the time it takes in his life and asked to step down as President of UMM. Jim Chapman has agreed to step forward and will take over the position. Craig Kirkpatrick as VP agreed to help Jim through the end of the year. A discussion was brought up about the UMM meetings and if, in the future, the time and/or structure of the meeting (i.e. no dinner, just dessert, or dinner at 6 instead of 7) should change. This will be discussed more in the future.

John Hubbs, Secretary



United Methodist Women

The Luncheon and Fashion Show was a big hit for everyone! Paige Ann and Sarah did a good job tying together the purpose and missions we support with the beauty of looking good in the clothes and being a good Christian. We chose very well with our emcees. Their banter and humor as our emcees was just perfect.

McLain Rose sang The Lord's Prayer to start the show and her voice is beyond compare. Such a true talent and a really good model, too.

The individual table settings were a big hit with all. The Fellowship was lit with smiles and laughter. Chris Miller and Sherry Hooper were the ultimate team to work with in catering the lunch. They came early and stayed late to prepare the meal and clean up the kitchen.

The models showed off the Krismart Fashions in high style. The Krismart staff said our Fellowship Hall was the best place they had ever had to put on a Fashion Show.

The MRUMM dressed up in their finery and did an outstanding job serving the luncheon ladies. Bob Sweeney rounded up eleven or twelve men to serve. Thanks, Bob!

Saturday, October 8, 2011 will be the date for our annual Craft Bazaar. Please donate your homemade goods or desserts to support our missions. Please price and mark your items realistically. Our four circles are busy, planning, cooking, knitting and being creative!

The Christmas party this year will be hosted by the Maggie Jones Circle. We will have a short meeting to vote and install a new President and Vice-president for our Mills River Unit. The event will be a fun time with just a bit of business. We have a covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall. We have each lady bring an inexpensive gift to exchange, entertaining and finding out who that "Secret Pal" was and exchanging names for another "Secret Pal" year. Gets interesting when someone moves away and you are wondering who has your name when no gifts appear. So, if you choose to participate in the Secret Pal game, let someone know if you are leaving.

Thank you to our church for all your support. We spend your monies for missions locally and internationally. Each circle focuses on their individual mission as well as the missions our unit supports.

This year it seems there is an increased number of our unit members who are having health problems. Please keep us in your prayers.

Ladies of MRUMC, there is a group of the MRUMW that needs you!!

Dates to Remember:

October 8th - Annual Craft Bazaar.

November 16th - Thanksgiving Care Bags assembled/delivered to shut-ins in the Mills River community

December 10th - Annual UMW Christmas Dinner hosted by Maggie Jones Circle

-Anna Awald

Birthdays

- 1 Sara Blackwell
- 1 John Payton
- 2 Harold Boyd
- 2 Gabrielle Poeta
- 3 Shannon Barber
- 3 Sarah Smith
- 4 James Cannon
- 4 Tamra Crane
- 4 Phyllis Lytle
- 4 Jan Stanley
- 4 Gage Thompson
- 5 Amy Brewer
- 7 Rebekah Ellsworth
- 8 Hilda Hamilton
- 9 Shelby Frady
- 9 Febe Osteen
- 9 Bessie Walker
- 10 Katie King
- 10 Jeremy Pace
- 11 Paige Ann Miller
- 11 Bob Sweeney
- 11 Joyce Ward
- 12 Sami Pack
- 12 Leonard Poteet
- 12 Catherine Swift
- 14 William Bellamy
- 16 Lisa Tapp
- 17 Marlene Hubbs
- 17 Michael Meadows
- 17 Linda Westmoreland
- 18 John Albea
- 20 Cameron Crisp
- 20 Matthew Eills
- 21 Nicole Ciaramitaro
- 25 Kelvin Ham
- 25 Zachary O'Briant
- 25 Drew Thompson
- 25 Pat Tinsley
- 27 Elijah Bandy
- 28 Glenn Corhn
- 29 Michelle Combs
- 31 James Burnett
- 31 Sawyer Frady



Dear Mills River UMC Members,
 Thank you so very much for the school supplies that were collected and given to Rugby Middle School. They were quickly dispersed to students in need. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Kathy Koontz

Dear Friends of Mills River School,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies to help our less fortunate students start the school year with the tools they need to succeed. Starting a new school year with a new backpack, sharp crayons, and fresh blank notebooks always inspires hope and excitement, and having the right gear gives children more confidence and enthusiasm to learn. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. Your support makes a difference in the lives of children and their families !

Sincerely,
 Todd Murphy,
 Principal, Mills River Elementary School



Dear Church Family,

We would like to send a huge thank you to all of our church family for the love and support you have shown to us over the last couple of months during Rudy's illness and recovery. We are overwhelmed and blessed beyond measure to be a part of such an amazing community. You have made such a difference in our lives and we appreciate it so much. God bless each of you!

*With hearts full of love and gratitude,
 Rudy & Lisa van IJzendoorn*

A main focus for your giving should be your local church/ministry staff.

1 Corinthians 9:11-14 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?...Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17,18 Pastors who do their work well should be paid well and should be highly appreciated, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

1 Corinthians 9:10 Christian workers should be paid by those they help. Those who do the plowing and threshing should expect some share of the harvest.

Galatians 6:6 Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.

2 Chronicles 31:9-13 Hezekiah asked the priests about the heaps; the chief priest, answered, "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over." They faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts.

Deuteronomy 12:19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites (ministers) as long as you live in your land.

No church ever has a money problem, only a faithfulness problem.

Brian Kluth

Unexpected Bonus Fulfills A Faith Promise

Every year my church invited people to make an annual faith promise to help support missions. One year, I felt prompted to make a \$750 faith promise. When the year was almost over, I discovered I'd only given \$250 towards my \$750 commitment. I was a salesman and I'd gone a whole year without any sales! A few days before the last \$500 was due on my faith promise, my boss asked me to come to his office. Since I hadn't sold anything all year, I was sure I was going to get fired. Instead, my boss gave me a \$500 sales bonus check for all my hard work and the cheerful attitude I always displayed. I was amazed! I got a \$500 sales bonus and I hadn't had a sale in a year! I drove to the church rejoicing as I took the \$500 the LORD miraculously provided so I could fulfill my faith promise.. *This is a true story in a series of radio spots by Brian Kluth of*

www.GiveWithJoy.org and www.kluth.org

E-NEWSLETTER

A HUGE thank you to everyone reading the newsletter electronically for the first time this month! We welcome feedback! If you received a hard copy this month and are willing to read it electronically, please contact the church office at 828-891-7788 or erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net with your email address!

Jennie Corpening Circle's 3rd Book Extravaganza will be held in the Fellowship Hall on November 12th from 8 AM to 1 PM. Come and enjoy a good breakfast from MRLEC. Continue to enjoy your coffee as you peruse the great selection of books available for purchase. Prices are \$.50 for paperback books and \$1.00 for hardback books. What a great price!

Please help us with this missions fund-raiser by donating your gently used books to this effort. Starting November 1st, books may be delivered to the Sunday School room that is right of the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Your donations in past years have been so very much appreciated. Many have told me they reboxed their books from last year to donate. This is the truest form of recycling, as we resell, reuse, and continue to spread the joy of reading.

Help us get the word out. Tell all your friends and anyone you know who belongs to book clubs about the wonderful deals! Bring a carload for breakfast and stay to shop! Again, Thank you and we'll see you at the book sale on November 12th! Linda Westmoreland, Chair Jennie Corpening Circle

Givens Estates Mother's Day Offering

We received a note from Givens Estates regarding the Mother's Day Offering. The MRUMC congregation gave \$1,910.00 to the Mother's Day Offering in 2011, doubling what was given last year. So far, Givens has received over \$60,000 to the Mother's Day Offering with 135 (53% of the) churches in our conference contributing in some way to this fund. The support of our congregation is deeply appreciated, especially by the one in seven residents at Givens Estates who benefit from the financial assistance offered to them in times of need. Thank you for your support of this ministry to Gods people.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

We will again be helping Fishes & Loaves provide 125 Thanksgiving dinners for pantry clients.

The Lillian Hall Circle will meet on Tuesday, Oct.11,2011, at 7pm in the Osborne Room. Annette Phillips & Willie Fullam will be hostesses and have the program.

FALL FOOD DRIVE ! !

The start of school and turning leaves signal the upcoming food drive in October. The food drive is a vital part of providing meals for clients at Fishes & Loaves. Last year MRUMC helped provide about 2500 pounds of food for the F&L stores. With government cut-backs, these donations have become even more important to the pantry.

We will again be handing out grocery bags with instructions and lists to all of you. We would like you to take the bags and give them to your neighbors the week(s) before we collect them on October 8th and 9th. Bags will be handed out September 26th and October 2nd. You can bring them back to the church up to October 9th.

As always, you bless this ministry with your generosity and kind hearts.

Trunk or Treat
 October 29th 6:00pm-8:00pm
 Come, join us for a SAFE alternative to Trick or Treating. Please donate Back Pack snack items. Free food, Cake Walk, Hayride, Candy, Pictures, & More! Come back after 9 and have the Hunger scared out of you! (for older children only)

The Primetimers will travel to Pigeon Forge on 10/11/11. We will leave the church at 9am & return around 5pm. We will stop & tour the Bush Museum and have lunch there then travel on to Pigeon Forge for some shopping. If you would like to go call Evelyn at 891-3743 or

DIRECTORIES:
 THE COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ARE IN FROM BOTH PHOTO SHOOTS AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PACKET.



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Worship Services</u> 8:15, 9:33, 10:55 am <u>Adult Sunday School</u> 9:45 and 10:45 am <u>Youth Sunday School</u> 9:30 and 10:30 am</p>						1
<p>2 World Communion Sunday 12:00 Children's Ministry Meeting 5:00 Jr Youth 6:01 Community 6:01 7:00 Youth Choir 7:00 Lay Leadership</p>	<p>3 6:00 Handbells 7:00 SPRC Meeting</p>	4	<p>5 5:30 First Wednesday Meal 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6 Set-up for Bazaar No MRLEC 1:00 Visitation</p>	<p>7 Set-up for Bazaar 5th Quarter Youth Celebration</p>	<p>8 9:00—1:00 UMW Craft Bazaar 8:00 am Youth Labor of Love Baseball</p>
<p>9 Children's Sabbath 5:00 Jr Youth 5:00 S.U.R.G.E. 5:00 Visitation 7:00 Youth Choir</p>	<p>10 6:00 Handbells</p>	<p>11 11:00 Primetimers 1 Mission Comm. 6:30 Susan Thompson 7:00 Lillian Hall</p>	<p>13 5:30 Wed Night Meal 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:00 Lay Leadership 6:15 Prayer/Share 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation</p>	<p>14 5th Quarter Youth Celebration</p>	<p>15 9:00 Asheville District Fall Conference at MRUMC</p>
<p>16 5:00 Junior Youth 5:00 S.U.R.G.E. 7:00 Youth Choir</p>	<p>17 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Finance Mtg. 7:00 Jennie Corpensing NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>18 1:00 Maggie Jones Circle 6:30 Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>19 5:30 Wed Night Meal 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Prayer/Share 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 7:00 Finance Comm 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation 6:30 UMM Meeting 6:30 Worship Comm 7:00 Finance Comm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 5:00 Junior Youth Youth Fall Fling at Tekoa 30 Joining Sunday 12:00 New Member Lunch 7:00 Youth Choir</p>	<p>24 6:00 Handbells 31 Halloween 6:00 Handbells</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 5:30 Wed Night Meal 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Prayer/Share 6:15 Youth Bible St. 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation</p>	<p>28 5th Quarter Youth Celebration</p>	<p>29 6:00 FALL FESTIVAL 9:00 HAUNTED HAYRIDE</p>

Children's Ministry



Shannon Barber
 828-699-4210
 sbarbermrumc@bellsouth.net

G.R.A.C.E.

Guide, Respect, Appreciate, Celebrate, and Embrace As we prepare Children for their walk with Jesus so that they may shine his word into the World!



Join us Wednesday, October 5th as the Children's Ministry hosts the 1st Wednesday Meal. We will be serving homemade soups and cornbread for dinner; bring your favorite soup to share!

Important Dates to Remember

- October 2nd Jr. Youth 5-7
- October 5th Children's Ministry host 1st Wednesday
- October 9th Children's Sabbath Jr. Youth 5-7
- October 16th Jr. Youth 5-7
- October 23rd Jr. Youth 5-7
- October 29th Trunk or Treat Fall Carnival 6-8 pm (sign up to decorate a trunk!)

Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 9th The children will be leading worship in observance of the needs of our schools and the needs of the children. A special offering will be taken for the Back Pack Bunch. The following items are needed:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers | Applesauce Cups |
| 100% juice boxes | Boxes of raisins |
| Granola or Cereal Bars | Lunch Buckets |
| Pop Tarts | Packages of Snack Mixes (Chex) |
| Fruit cups | |



Youth Ministry Update

Paige Ann S. Miller, Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor
 Cell-424-0703 millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net

Upcoming Events for SURGE Youth

- Oct 2, 6-7 p.m. – 6:01 Youth Worship (Speaker/Musician – Dean Cavanaugh, Worship Leader)
- Oct 8, 8 a.m. – Labor of Love: Play Ball with the Special Needs Baseball League (need 25 volunteers!)
- Oct 9, 5-7 p.m. – Regular SURGE
- Oct 16, 5-7 p.m. – Regular SURGE
- Oct 23, 2 p.m. – Youth District Fall Fling at Camp Tekoa
- Oct 29 – Fall Festival (6-8 p.m.) and Haunted Hayride (9-11 p.m.)
- Oct 30 – No SURGE

Keep up with us on  at the S.U.R.G.E. Mills River Youth Group page!

Youth Update

Apple Festival - Your Mills River youth spent the Labor Day holiday weekend parking cars to raise money for youth mission work. Despite scorching heat followed by a rainy Labor Day, they raised \$1093.11. We still aren't sure who donated \$0.11, but what a great reminder that God will bless every penny when we put that money to work for the Kingdom!

5th Quarter - We held our first "5th Quarter" post-game celebration on September 9th at the Mills River Community Center. Tom Ciaramitaro donated his time and his amazing DJ skills to make it a night to remember. The dance floor was never empty, and I dare say every person who attended (chaperones included!) actually danced. Thanks to all the students who came out and who invited friends. Our second 5th quarter was a Bon fire on September 23 and was a huge success! Many, many thanks to our wonderful chaperones! Without you, that evening would not have been possible.

Taking Homecoming to the Homebound - Almost 30 middle school and senior high youth and 6 Jr. Youth (grades 2-5) met at the church on September 18th after Homecoming in order to visit some individuals in our church family who were unable to make it to church that Sunday. These youth were a blessing to so many who wished they could have been in church that day, but ultimately they were the ones who were truly blessed by that experience. They were reminded that our church doesn't stop at the walls or the property line. It extends as far as the heart can reach. That's what *home* feels like, isn't it?

- The Reverend Paige Ann Miller



Hula Hoop Contest - 5th Quarter



Dancing at 5th Quarter



5th Quarter Bonfire



Hanging at the Bonfire

Visitation Ministries

If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our church visitation teams, please call Paige Ann at 828-424-0703 or e-mail millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net. If you are willing to join a visitation team, we go out on Sundays from 5-7 pm or on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. You will be blessed, and you will certainly be a blessing!

John Wesley's Stewardship Formula: Give All You Can!

From *Radical Gratitude*, 9/5/2010.

As mentioned in previous issues of *Radical Gratitude*, this is the church season in which we focus on the third guideline in John Wesley's stewardship formula: (1) "Earn all you can," (2) "Save all you can," and (3) "**Give all you can.**"

We've discovered in previous seasons that Wesley never meant "earn all you can" and "save all you can" to mean "acquire all you can" and "hoard all you can." Likewise, he certainly never meant "give all you can" to mean "give what you can, after you've had your fill." To the contrary, given Wesley's true intent, his formula could be rewritten to say: (1) "use all the gifts that God entrusts to you to delight in and help unveil God's grace alive in the world," (2) "live simply in God's grace, conserve the gifts of God's grace" so that, (3) "you can share God's grace with others in ways that reflect God's own abundant gifting." This third guideline -- giving or sharing all you can -- is not a mere afterthought; rather, it gives meaning and purpose to the first two guidelines.

What does the "all" in "give all you can" include for Wesley? He writes, "**Render unto God, not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God's, be it more or less;** by employing all on yourself, your household, the household of faith, and all mankind, in such a manner, that you may give a good account of your stewardship when ye can be no longer stewards."

Discipleship and stewardship encompass the fullness of our lives -- every penny, moment, breath that God entrusts to us -- not just those portions of our lives that we feel like we can afford to "render to God."

The text from Luke 14:25-33 on "the costs of discipleship" provides a scriptural anchor for this Wesleyan ideal. The United Church of Canada comments, "This text suggests that **choosing to follow Christ is a decision that is not made with whatever time, money, or talents are left over after we have done other things. It is a costly priority that determines how we invest and spend the rest of our lives.**"** May this "costly priority" be the never-ending source of deepest meaning and delight in your life!

Mills River Life Enrichment Center

September Highlights:

Jay Siltzer, our favorite weatherman, provided the first program of the month on Geological Troubles, Earthquakes and Volcanoes. His presentation was of great interest to all who attended. A question and answer session followed.

Marguerite McCraw's program on recognizing local plants and trees added much knowledge to those in attendance.

The following three weeks of September, the MRLEC audience enjoyed the performances by bluegrass, classical and country musicians.

Ongoing Events:

In addition to the above programs each week, MRLEC provides Blood Pressure Checks - Chair Exercises @ 9:45am - Magazine Swap - A Nutritious Meal and Fellowship with Others.

Programs for September:

- 6 NO MRLEC
- 13 Biblical Perspective on Health and Wellness w/ Dr. James Crutcher
- 20 The Civil War in WNC w/ Tom Vernon
- 27 Identity Theft, presented by the Henderson County Sheriff's Department

All programs begin at 10 am and are held in the Fellowship Hall

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mills River Life Enrichment Center is to minister to the mind, body, and spirit of seniors in our churches and community by establishing a Christian based community center offering a place for fellowship, service, and enjoyment.

Lunch reservations are required for each program. Please call the MRLEC office (828) 808-5581 by noon the Tuesday before each program.



Welcome Table Updates

I would like to fill you in on some changes and upcoming events at the Welcome Table.

1. First of all the time has been changed to 5 – 6:30. The results of the surveys showed that the majority wanted the new time.
2. Help with homework will be starting soon. I am a retired elementary schoolteacher and I will help when I'm there and not cooking the meal. I will also be looking for some folks willing to help with this.
3. Sometimes the Welcome Table cooks will get a much deserved break:
 - Sept. 27 – Terry Maybin from Tomorrow's Hope will be cooking
 - Oct. 25 – MRUMM will provide the meal
 - Nov. 1 - Some of the gals from MRLEC will be cooking
 - Nov. 8 - Jennie Corpening Circle will be cooking
 - Nov. 15 – MRUMC youth will be cooking

Thank you guys soooooo much!

 - Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving meal provided by our Welcome Table cooks
4. We will be getting a wall-mounted diaper changing station for the bathroom across from the kitchen.
5. Several folks from Hope UMC helped with the Sept. 13 meal at the Welcome Table. I was out of town but I heard wonderful reports about it. In the Sept. newsletter at Hope UMC I appealed to everyone to become involved by committing to one Tuesday a month at the Welcome Table starting in December.

Thank you so much to my fellow cooks: Beverly and David Parris, Glenn and Karen Banning, and Will and Ruby McClung. Thank you to all my Mills River volunteers (32 plus), the dessert team, and some folks from other churches. I really appreciate all your support!

Thanks again. Carol West

**MILLS RIVER
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Sunday Worship

8:15 am Traditional
9:33 am Worship & Praise
10:55 am Traditional

Sunday School

Children: 9:30 am
10:50 am
Adult: 9:45 am
10:45 am

**Wednesday Night
Services**

5:30 pm Dinner
6:15 pm Prayer/
Worship in the Chapel

Ministry and Staff

The Rev. Paul B. Thompson Senior Pastor
Paige Ann Miller Associate Pastor/Youth Director
Steve Carson Director of Music
Dean Cavanaugh Worship Leader
Shannon Barber Children's Ministry
Ruth Williams MRLEC Director
Kevin Robinson Organist
Erica Woodall Administrator
Gina Long Custodian

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm Mon - Fri
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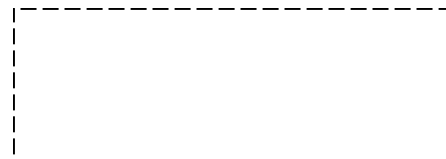


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Mills River, NC 28759

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MRUMC is now offering our newsletter electronically! If you are willing to receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the church office at 828-891-7788 or erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net.