



FELLOWSHIP



LaFollette United Methodist Church 808 East Central Avenue, LaFollette, TN 37766
Vol. 42 Issue 2 FEBRUARY 1, 2011

MEET THE CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Kenneth L. Falstaff
Pastor

Pam Olivio
Secretary

Ed Hatfield
Custodian

Karen Hendricks
Music Director

Donna Prater
Music Accompanist



From the Pastor: Claiming God's Favor

WHERE WERE YOU on the night of January tenth? Think. Remember? It was the BCS national championship game for college football. I didn't watch (though I did munch on some Tostitos). I'm not an Auburn Tigers fan, and the Oregon Ducks distracted me with their neon yellow socks! But, I confess that while I watched a program on Ulysses S. Grant on PBS I was also keeping check on the game with real time coverage on my computer. At least the SEC won (for the fifth time in five years)!

AFTER THE GAME (and the PBS program) I caught a few minutes of the post-game interview. Auburn's coach, Gene Chizik, made a point of declaring, "Man, God was with us". Not with the Ducks, mind you, but with the Tigers. So, God is an Auburn fan! Every time we cheer for Tennessee or Georgia or Kentucky, God is in the bleachers on the opposite side of the field cheering against us. What a shallow declaration! Why couldn't the coach (and others like him) say something semi-thoughtful or intelligent or spiritually informed? He could have said, "I am thankful that we, like Oregon's team, have been blessed with talent and opportunity and incredible privilege." He didn't. Like so many consumer Christians these days he declared, in essence, that "God loves us, not them . . . God blesses us, not them. God wants us to be victorious, not them. We are favored, not them." I'm sure there were (are) those Christians who think, "How sweet, the coach is a Christian." But many more will wonder about his theology.

IT EVEN CAUSED AN ESPN WRITER (Tim Keown) to wonder: *If the game contained an element of predestination, and if God was the ultimate factor in the outcome, will Chizik cash the \$600,000 bonus check . . . he will receive for winning the title? Or will he donate it to a deserving Christian charity . . . ? After all, how much did he have to do with it?*

COACH CHIZIK IS NOT ALONE. Too often we hear, after some tragedy where people have been killed or injured, someone declare, "Thank God I'M safe! God was looking out for ME. God was looking out for OUR family." I remember a number of years ago, after a devastating tornado, a survivor remarked, "God was looking out for US." A perceptive observer asked, "Then why was the local church destroyed and the local bar left standing?" Is this what we think of God? Really? The ESPN commentator observed: *"It's one thing to use the vast public forum to thank God for your success and give him the glory of the moment, but it's quite another to attribute the outcome of the game to some divine decision that dictated a last-second win."* I agree. One response is gratitude and the other is arrogance.

HOW DO WE GIVE THANKS for God's grace and faithfulness without implying (or declaring) that he cares less for others than he cares for us??? Every tragedy should force us to be reflective (and honest) in our faith, and every victory should prompt humility --- not an arrogant attempt to co-opt God to our side and dress him in our uniform.

Call me when you need me. I will come.

Kenny




**FIFTH SUNDAY
SINGING AT LUMC**



SUNDAY
JANUARY 30, 6:00 PM

**PASTOR-PARISH
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

MONDAY
JANUARY 31, 5:00 PM




WOMEN OF FAITH

FEBRUARY 2, 11:00 AM

Annie Caldwell
(Jail Ministry)

Hostess: Donna Baker




Happy Birthday

Brian Hendricks	2/1
Shelby Sharp	2/1
Sam Arnold	2/2
Jim Houston	2/2
Marie Kile	2/2
Lily Winchester	2/4
Gracie Stagnolia	2/6
Celeste Sharp	2/7
Josh Engle	2/8
Barbara Wright	2/8
June Goins	2/10
Thomas Robards	2/11
Lee Ann Sharp	2/12
Rachel Bullock	2/15
Billie Hill	2/15
Carol Cannon	2/16
Molly Ayers	2/18
Bill Cannon	2/18
Mike Rogers	2/19
Paul Shock	2/20
George Ellison	2/22

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

February 18

Mike and Shirley
Rogers



**INTERESTED IN
BECOMING A MEMBER
OF LAFOLLETTE UMC?**

Please speak with or call
the pastor at 423-562-7348
or 423-972-0210



The **FEBRUARY MISSIONS LUNCHEON** will be Sunday, February 6th. The menu will be: Baked Potato Bar, Salad, Dessert and Drinks. Join your friends for good food and fellowship following the worship service. Proceeds from the luncheon will be given to the *Belize Scholarship Fund*, established following the mission trip to Belize. It assists teachers at the Methodist School in Corozal, Belize, to continue their education requirements.



SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Boy Scout Troup #22 will collect food for **FOOD LIFE SERVICES** during February. Bags will be distributed next Sunday, February 6 and collected on Sunday, February 13. Your contribution of canned food are appreciated.



A special offering will be received (beginning next Sunday, February 6) to benefit the **PREGNANCY HELP CENTER**. You will be invited to "take a baby bottle", fill it with change, and return it to the church

The **CHET FAMILY SERVICES CENTER** will present Rick Lenzi and the Memphis Kings in a "Valentine Tribute to Elvis" at the LaFollette Community Center (West LaFollette School) on Friday, February 11th at 7 p.m. Concessions will be available. Tickets (\$10) are available from Phyllis Clingner or Marie Kile.

All proceeds go to help victims of domestic violence.



FINANCE COMMITTEE
February 21, 5:00 PM



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
February 21, 6:00 PM

THE SAWING CIRCLE has completed fifteen ramp projects. Thank you to the members of the "Sawing Circle" who have worked long and hard, even in cold and snow, to complete the projects. Also thanks to Peoples Bank of the South for assistance in obtaining grant funding from Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati to purchase materials for the ramps. Donations are appreciated as some projects do not qualify for grant funding.



Thank You

Dear Friends and Family,
I appreciate your making my 90th birthday such a wonderful, happy day. Thank-you for your presence, cards and gifts.

Love you all,
Dorothy "Dot" Michaels



Peoples Bank of the South presents a check on behalf of Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati for \$1,040 to the LaFollette United Methodist Church. Marie Kile, from the Church's Sawing Circle, accepts the check from Peoples Bank CEO Jack Reynolds and Bank President David Reynolds. The money is provided for residential handicap ramps. For more information on the ramps, please call the Church at

IN MEMORY OF MAXINE PRATER

Given By

St. Mary's Medical Center of Campbell County Pharmacy

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith

Dorothy Michaels

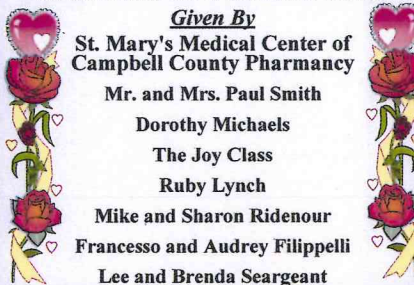
The Joy Class

Ruby Lynch

Mike and Sharon Ridenour

Francesso and Audrey Filippelli

Lee and Brenda Seargeant



E-Mail

THE CHURCH E-MAIL HAS BEEN CHANGED.

THE NEW E-MAIL IS lafolletteumc@yahoo.com

IN HONOR OF

Given By

Given For

Keith and Marie Kile to the Heifer fund in honor of their children, Vickie, Bob and Jenny Kile and Chuck and Andrea Stump.

Dorothy Michaels in honor of Mary Berry

Bill and Syondra Cox in honor of Nora Elizabeth Snodderly



PLEASE NOTE:

On-line giving to LUMC is now available.

Go to our home page (www.lafolletteumc.org) and click on the "E-Giving Icon."

MUSIC NOTES

This past Christmas Eve my parents celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary!! Can you imagine? Now that's a couple that seems serious about those wedding vows! And to think that I thought 35 years was something to brag about. In fact next year my mom and dad will both reach the ripe "young" age of 80 and will have been married 60 years! Sounds like a good year for parties to me.

Fifty-nine years is an extremely long time to be committed to and in a relationship. Mom and Dad's life together hasn't always been a "bed of roses". They have indeed had their share of issues; some more difficult than others. The fact is that their good times have outweighed their bad and they have been blessed beyond words.

Besides being taught that marriage vows are sacred and that "until death do us part" was a promise to be kept, their act of commitment has been a standard that I have lived by and passed on to my children and used in every aspect of my life. My parent's commitment has demonstrated that no matter what the circumstances are or how trivial the commitment may seem; that "bailing out" is never an option. Once you have made a commitment to something you stick with it and more importantly, you give it your BEST!

Can you imagine what our church would be like if we used this kind of commitment philosophy? That no matter how bad things get.... we still stay committed. That even if we seem to be unhappy about something or someone in the church.... we still stay committed. That even when something comes up that seems like more fun to do.... we still stay committed. That when we are just too weary.... we still stay committed. That even when Sunday's worship service is the best part of the week.... we still stay committed. Mmmm. Sounds like a plan to me!

Karen