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The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

March 2023

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 206

From The Pastor

I was just looking at the calendar. Did you know that sunset on Monday night, March 6, starts Purim? This is the annual remembrance of the events from the Book of Esther. Set around 470 BC, Esther and the bulk of the Jewish population have been exiled to Persia where an adversary seeks to destroy them once and for all. This enemy even had the audacity to roll a dice, called a “pur”, asking his god to give the date to attack the Jews. Now, strangely, GOD is not named in this book. But through the most amazing and unlikely series of “coincidences” the Jews are saved. The dice date became the deliverance date, still celebrated as Purim. The big picture is that life is not just a roll of the dice. God is real, and God is working behind the scenes, showing his love to his people. The Apostle Paul would later write:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

I read an article last week from an Asbury University Student named Madison Pierce. He was writing on his experience of the “movement of the Spirit of God” that began in a regular Chapel service on February 8, and became an ongoing weeks long, 24 hour, praise and worship event. (Google Asbury Revival to find numerous articles on this amazing event.) Madison identified himself as Generation Z (born after 1997). He said that this outpouring of God’s Spirit has “given a tangible sense of peace for a generation with unprecedented anxiety; a restorative sense of belonging for a generation amidst an epidemic of loneliness; an authentic hope for a generation marked by depression.” This revival is spreading to other campuses.

I think God is reminding Generation Z, and the rest of us, of His reality. He is real! Life is not an accident; neither are we, nor are we alone.

I’m reminded of a poem from Lon Woodrom, whom I heard speak at Asbury in 1980:

Who knows what God has done for us today;
what wings of mercy lifted on our way;
against what foes God’s forces won before the busy day was done?
Our hearts beat and we breathed, quite unaware that heaven stalked us. Life was there!
Such good things happened – what if we were served by silent angels unobserved?
We have not been alone upon the way; who knows what God has done for us this day?

Grace & Peace, Pastor John

Discipleship:

We have several amazing study and discipleship groups here at Burns Memorial! All are open groups, and we hope you join us!

Bible Studies: After a brief break, the Bible Studies taught by the Pastor will begin again in the first week of March. There is an online class Tuesdays at 6 PM, and an in person class Wednesdays at 10 AM. The study is continuing to move through the gospel of Mark.

Sunday School: Our Adult Sunday School gathers at 9:30 for coffee and refreshments, and the class begins at 9:45. The Coordinator is Russell Sanders, and Bill Williams is the teacher. The curriculum this spring was written by Michelle Morris and in March it will focus on Matthew, chapters 21-22.

Women’s Circle Studies: We have two women's circles. On the 4th Monday of each month, the Women of the Flame meet at Carol Echol’s home at 6 PM. They are studying “Women of the Bible.” On the 4th Tuesday of each month, the LaTane Kirkley Circle meets at the church at 1 PM. They are studying “Forward” by Dr. David Jeremiah.

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore. -- Saint Patrick



The Flame Deadline: March 21st

FELLOWSHIP MEALS: BECAUSE FAMILIES EAT TOGETHER!

The **Family Night Supper** this month is March 15 at 6 PM. The menu is Hawaiian Chicken, Caribbean Rice, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert and Beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12, and children 3 and under are free. Please RSVP with the form in the bulletin or call the church office.



We are having a **Fellowship Lunch** following the Worship Service on Sunday, March 19. The meal is free, with participants asked to bring a side dish to share. This month we will be having grilled Chicken.



Let the United Methodist Men provide your Smoked Ham for Easter this year!

The spiral sliced smoked hams are 9-12 lbs. and the price is \$50.

Last day to order a ham is Sunday, April 2.
Date for pick up is Friday, April 7, from 10 AM - Noon in the Family Life Center.

To order, please fill out a form and place it in the offering box, give it to a member of the UMM or call the church office. This is a fundraiser for missions of the Burns UMM. Thank You!

Tour of the Augusta Rescue Mission:

On Wednesday February 8, ten of us from Burns Memorial participated in a tour of the Augusta Rescue Mission at 526 Walker Street. This is one of several Augusta area ministries that Burns supports. Director Chris Jones met us and walked us through the offices, dormitories, and kitchen, with the tour concluding in the chapel. Mr. Jones shared the mission of ARM, “exists to continue the legacy of helping break the cycle of homelessness in our community by offering the opportunity for life transformation through Christian discipleship and life skills.” It was clear in the tour that his ministry to the homeless is not just a place for emergency shelter, it is also a place where lives get turned around. We were pleased to see it for ourselves. Mr. Jones also shared about further volunteer opportunities. More information and a nice short video on the ministry can be found at their webpage at <https://www.augustarescuemission.com> or you can ask questions by calling them at 706-722-2058.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Search for the hidden words going up, down, left & right.

X	C	Q	S	O	U	I	O	N	C	E	C	W	Y	J	F	X
W	Q	F	Q	E	D	U	P	I	A	U	M	D	T	E	O	P
Q	Q	P	O	G	T	I	C	L	P	E	L	T	S	O	P	A
N	T	K	A	L	I	K	H	B	T	S	E	L	R	Z	S	Z
A	P	C	K	A	B	X	S	U	U	F	R	T	C	G	A	P
T	V	O	J	I	O	I	N	D	R	M	P	S	R	R	U	Q
F	A	R	Y	R	I	K	G	R	E	E	N	E	K	G	P	X
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CLOVER
ESCAPE
IRELAND
LUCK

CAPTURED
DRUM
EYES
JIG
SHAMROCK

CHRISTIANITY
DUBLIN
GREEN
LEPRECHAUN
SHEPHERD