

The Messenger

of Munholland United Methodist Church

1201 Metairie Road, Metairie, Louisiana 70005 834-9910

May 15, 2008

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Music Staff

Jan Schluter
Music Director

Phil Sparks
Organist

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munhollandUMC.org

Dear Friends,

On June 1, 2000, I retired as a full-time Minister in the United Methodist Church. Since June of 2001, I've had the privilege of working part-time on the staff at Munholland. It has been a wonderful opportunity. I've come to know and love many of you – both laity and fellow clergy – during these seven years. It has been a joy to be associated with such a dynamic congregation.

Now the time has come for me to move into a new phase of my retirement. More time is needed for family, especially grandchildren. So I'm re-retiring as of June, 2008.

I plan to remain active in the life and ministry of Munholland as needed. This is not a good-bye announcement; it's only an indication of a new direction.

I look forward to many more years of service to Christ and His Church.

God bless you all!

Rev. George Duerson

Musaica Concert

Thursday, May 22nd 7:00pm

MUSAICA, the chamber music ensemble featuring instrumentalists from the LPO, will play another concert at our church this month. Their program will be comprised of all Latin American music, as follows:

Fernandez: Musical Confrontations

Piazzolla: "Oblivion" for bass, bass trombone, and harp

Piazzolla: Dos Piezas Breves Para for viola and piano

Villa-Lobos: Quintet for harp, violin, viola, cello, and flute

d'Rivera: Aires Tropicales for wind quintet

Tito Puente: Oye Como Va (arranged by David Anderson)

Please Join Us!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next Circle Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20th. We are going on a field trip to the Methodist Home for Children of Greater New Orleans in Mandeville. We will meet at the church in the Elmeer Street parking lot at 9:00 am and have lunch in Mandeville.

The next UMW Executive Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 9:15 am in the Parlor. The General meeting will follow at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



Dear Church Family,

Recently a new CD recorder was installed in our sound system. We are now recording the 11:00 am service on CD. You may request a copy of a particular service by calling the church office. We charged a nominal fee for the cassette recordings, but have decided to do away with the fee.

If you would like one of the 8:30 am or 9:45 am services recorded, please call the office and leave a message for me during the week prior to the service.

Jan Schluter
Music Director

YOUTH SUNDAY MAY 18TH

YOUTH LED SERVICES AT 8:30 AM
AND 11:00 AM

BRO. JOHN DESCHNER WILL
PREACH AT THE 9:45 AM
SERVICE



Summer Midweek Meals

Everyone is welcome to join us for a great summer midweek meal and good fellowship. The time of the meal will be 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Mark your calendars for Summer Midweek Meals: June 18th, July 9th, July 30th, August 13th, and August 27th.

Janet Miller-Schmidt is our wonderful chef. If you are interested in cooking, please contact Janet at (504) 835-8253.



Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST 6:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

PLEASE JOIN US AS OUR CHILDREN
PRESENT THE SONGS THEY HAVE
LEARNED THIS SPRING.

LITTLEST ANGELS
JAN SCHLUTER, DIRECTOR

ALTAR CHOIR
FORD DIETH, DIRECTOR

Schedule of Ministry Events will not appear in this Messenger. Please see the church bulletin for the May calendar.



If you would like to become a part of the shawl ministry, our next meeting is on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please contact Carol Ruholl at 828-6096 or ruhollf@msn.com; or Joan Hall at 779-5598 or drhjr@bellsouth.net.

CARE TEAM MEETING

May 20th at 6:30 pm
in room 211

Come join us for a Summer Book & Bible Study on Philip Yancey's book **"Reaching for the Invisible God"**.

Classes will be held on Sundays beginning June 8th – July 20th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm in room 211.

Call Caroline or Reggie Saunders at 837-7425 for more information or to register.

Munholland would like to congratulate David Elmore upon receiving his Master of Divinity from St. Paul School of Theology.



Munholland United Munholland Church would like to recognize our 2008 High School Graduating Seniors during the 11:00 am Worship Service on Sunday, May 18th.

A luncheon will follow.

2008 High School Graduates

Brindley McWhorter, daughter of David and Lisa, graduating from Ursuline Academy.

Kevin Philip Zansler, son of Stephen and Phyllis, graduating from Grace King.

Zachary William Schmidt, son of Joseph and Marie, graduating from Ecole Classique.

Trevor McQueen, son of Dr. Matt and Mary Ann, graduating from St. Martin's Episcopal.



2008 College Graduates

Lisa Dobrovolny Krohn, daughter of Francis and Lorrie, graduating from UNO.

Adam Cavalier, son of Darryl and Rev. Janet, graduating from LSU.

Joseph Cavalier, son of Darryl and Rev. Janet, graduating with Masters Degree from Milsaps College.

Megan Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Albert and Laura, graduating from LSU.

"NOTHING BUT NETS"

As of Sunday, May 4th, our new total for "Nothing But Nets" is \$3,282.25. Our goal of \$5,000 is almost in sight!

Thanks to all.

General Conference: Looking Back, Moving Forward

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Ft. Worth, Texas, for ten exciting spirit-filled while exhausting days from April 23rd to May 2nd. One thousand delegates from over 70 countries, representing 14 million Methodists discussed, debated, and voted on over 1500 petitions affecting the ordering and social witness of our denomination for the next four years. Composed of half clergy and half lay delegates, the General Conference is the only official body that can speak for the Church. Ten of us represented the Louisiana Conference (five lay and five clergy.)

The theme of this quadrennial event, "A Future with Hope," played out with exciting worship, heart stopping sermons (the best given by our bishop, William Hutchinson), moving communion services, and breathtaking altars draped with scenes from nature. The central altar held the Katrina Cross, made of glass shards collected from hurricane damage by a Mississippi woman. Two "celebration moments" highlighted the vital work done on the coast by faith based volunteers, giving us a chance to say "thank you", in several media to those assembled. Another Katrina offering will be taken in August on the third anniversary of the storm. Delegates were constantly reminded of our Wesleyan heritage, especially our Founder's Three Simple Rules for the Church: "Do no harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God" as part of "Holy Conferencing." Holy Conferencing, one of Wesley's "means of grace," stressed speaking respectfully and prayerfully during the sometimes contentious discussions of hot button issues such as abortion, substance abuse, and homosexuality. As a result, this Conference (my third) was far more peaceful and spirit filled than the others I had attended. It was as if the Body had decided that even in disagreement, we are united in our mission to Make Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World—the second part, "for the transformation of the world," added this session.

The Council of Bishops had produced an aggressive plan to start new churches in the United States, emphasize ministry with the poor, attend to global health issues, and concentrate on leadership development. Since the fast growing conferences of the Southern Hemisphere, especially Africa, are doubling in size every few years, the Conference spent a great deal of time positioning our Church for global structure. We agreed to reduce the number of bishops in the US in order to pay for increased Episcopal areas in Africa and Korea. (Our South Central Jurisdiction will lose one bishop in 2012.) More controversial is a proposal to make North America one "region" among many; thereby lessening the dominance of the United States. That petition was referred for further study. Another petition to decrease the size of General Conference to 500 delegates was defeated. New members of the Judicial Council and University Senate were voted in. Status issues that had dominated previous conferences were less noticeable although there was an allowed demonstration on the floor of the conference center after the delegates had again voted to retain the current language in *The Book of Discipline*, prohibiting the ordination of "self avowed, practicing homosexuals." Language against partial birth abortion was strengthened, but a petition to abolish the General Board of Church and Society for its alleged promotion of reproductive rights and other challenging stands was defeated. Words that opened church membership to anyone were narrowly selected for addition to the *Discipline* in response to an earlier Judicial Council decision that allowed the pastor of each church to be the gatekeeper for membership. This addition has to be approved by two thirds of the Annual Conferences to take effect.

The orders of ministry were debated at length. Deacons were given more sacramental authority, local pastors were accorded voting rights for delegates to General Conference, the probationary length for deacons was reduced to two years, and most significantly, the "guaranteed appointment," was abolished. Guaranteed appointments, it was successfully argued, kept ineffective pastors in church positions long after their usefulness was complete. The retirement ages for clergy was extended to age 72 and for bishops, to age 68. This age extension means that our very gifted bishop may be able to stay in Louisiana for another four years. Bishop Hutchinson and his wife, Kay, are now in a discernment process to see if this is what God is calling him to do. Please pray for them.

There was a concerted effort to include young people in the Conference with four young adults selected for the first time to address the Body. Delegates were urged to help with a Culture of Call in the recruitment of clergy. Many initiatives to support ethnic groups were continued, money was put into many mission projects, and HIV/AIDS work was continued. Incredibly, almost a half a million dollars was raised for "Nothing but Nets" to protect children against malaria. Annual Conferences were challenged to bid for a basketball signed by the bishops until over \$200,000 was raised. The Melinda and William Gates Foundation matched that amount. William Gates, Sr. spoke at the Conference as did the president of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a committed and dedicated Methodist. A letter was read from President George W. Bush. We also enjoyed a Texas Gala with entertainment from the Texas Boys Choir on Sunday night (between legislative sessions) and heard different musical groups from all over the world, including a Deaf choir who sang to a drum beat. A children's chorus from an Angolan orphanage warmed hearts like no others did, as did an eight year old girl who had raised \$40,000 on her own for "Nothing but Nets." The Central Texas Conference baked over 144,000 dozen cookies for our breaks, infrequent though they were, and many volunteers were on hand to assist us. Prayer tents were arranged outside of our meetings and used frequently. Cokesbury was there with sale items supporting many of our missions. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of the UNITED Methodist Church and the 40th anniversary of United Methodist Men. Our Social Principles were heralded for their 100th birthday. Far more business was conducted than I am reporting because of space, but I am willing to answer questions about individual concerns and interests. Please don't be afraid to ask.

Like the present state of our fair city, General Conference has to be visited to really understand our progress and problems, possibilities and promise. Despite the sacrifice and difficulties of those who attend to the work of the General church, it is a worthwhile experience for strong hearted stewards. A new spirit is blowing in our tired old denomination, offering renewal and invigoration. It is up to the rest of us to pray for that Spirit to lift us up and point to new ways and wonders. If we accept God's guidance, then indeed we do have a future with hope. My prayer is that we listen for His word.

Sarah Kreutziger
Lay Delegate to General Conference

KIDS PAGE

MAY CHOIR SCHEDULE

(LAST CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHEDULE UNTIL THE FALL)

Littlest Angels – Wednesday (Rehearsal-Columns room)

05/21/08 6:30 pm Children's Choir Concert

Altar Choir – Sunday (Rehearsal-Elementary Music Room)

05/18/08 Choir Time 10:15 am–10:45 am

05/21/08 6:30 pm Children's Choir Concert

Chancel Choir – Wednesday

05/21/08 Choir Time 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

05/28/08 Choir Time 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

KIDS DAY OUT

KDO has had a wonderful school year! We are looking forward to our summer session starting June 2nd.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

Pitrina Messina
KDO Director

YOUNG YOUTH (4th, 5th & 6th graders)

On Sunday, May 25th, Young Youth will meet at the Didriksen's house after church for a swimming party.

If you have any questions, call Debbie Holman at 828-7436.

MUMY CALENDAR

(Munholland United Methodist Youth)
May 2008

05/18/08 No Youth Meeting
05/25/08 Youth Meeting

For more information, please contact Ford Dieth, Jr. at 834-9910.



MUNHOLLAND UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 23rd – Friday June 27th
8:45 am – 12:00 noon

Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures

Calling all surfer dudes and dudettes for the week of 6/23 – 6/27!

Would you like to spend a whole week this summer at a huge BEACH PARTY complete with surfing lessons, great beach music, beach-combing adventures, and so much more?

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School leadership role and you will be promised an incredible week of fun in the Sun as you help our children surf through the Scriptures and develop new Beach Be-Attitudes!

For more information, please contact Rev. Janet Cavalier at 834-9910 or Sara Scandurro at 738-3029.



Please attend one of the following training sessions:

Saturday, June 14th 10:00 am – noon
Thursday, June 19th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Sunday, June 22nd 4:30 pm (Youth Training)

For more information, please contact Sara Scandurro at 738-3029.

WORK GROUP UPDATE

JUNE 29-July 5

John Creek UMC Youth Group, Duluth, GA (50)

JULY 12-19

Jarrettown UMC, Dresher, PA (25)

ATTENTION: Any group/person planning to cook for Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Plymouth, MN

Due to some extenuating and unanticipated circumstances, Beautiful Savior Lutheran had to cancel their May trip to Munholland. This group was going to work on our church facilities during their stay here. They plan to reschedule their trip to work on our facilities in October.

If you wish to sponsor a team for one of our Midweek meals, please contact Betsy White 220-6541 or mark your check to MUMC "for volunteers Midweek"...

Thank you all for your "welcoming" presence and sharing our space with the MANY, MANY volunteers over the last 2 months... things will slow down closer to summer!

Thanks you.

Betsy White,
Volunteer Housing Coordinator

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