

MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 12, 2015

www.mulberrymethodist.org

Risk vs. Reason: A Reflection on Joshua

Joshua is probably best known to us, not because of scripture, but because of the African-American spiritual, “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho.” But Joshua did not simply pop into scripture for this one unusual battle. Joshua, who was the successor to Moses as leader of the Israelites, came to that role because he had great faith in God.

Joshua was one of twelve spies Moses sent into Canaan when the Israelites were nearing the Promised Land from Egypt. When the spies returned from exploring the land, they attested that it was a land of great fruitfulness. However, they said the people were huge and powerful. Ten of the spies could only see what was visible to them. Joshua and Caleb, the other two spies, trusted that God, who had promised them this land, would fulfill God’s promise.

Hebrews 11:1 says: *To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.* Joshua was certain of what he could not see. He trusted that God, who brought the Israelites out of Egypt with great power, had not become powerless or untrustworthy.

Voices of “reason” overshadowed voices of faith in God, and the consequence was that the Israelites remained in the desert until all the faithless alive at the time of the spies’ return died; only Joshua and Caleb remained. The short-sighted did not live to see God fulfill God’s promise.

How can we say we have faith in God if we, like the ten spies, only rely on what we can see and measure? By its very definition, faith is not sight. *We live by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)* When we hoard possessions instead of practicing generosity, we are living by sight. Our cautiousness and desire for security and certainty do not allow room for God to be God for us.

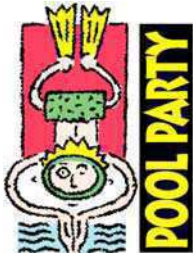
Faith involves risk. Jesus was not cautious and reasonable. He riled the Jewish leaders, knowing the consequences. Lest we excuse ourselves by saying we aren’t God and couldn’t be expected to do what Jesus did, consider the disciples. Faith enabled them to be bold for the sake of the gospel. Christianity spread not by cautiousness but by people who risked everything because they were sure of God’s love and faithfulness, even when discipleship was risky.

Christianity is kept alive not by caution and reasonableness, but bold, confident, risky faith. Do we believe God is trustworthy? Do our lives reflect this belief?

Ann Smith
Spiritual Director



Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries



FroYo Pool Party
Wednesday, July 22
 6:00-9:00 pm
 Location: TBA



August 16, 2015

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

All kids are invited to bring their backpacks for a blessing and prayer during our 11:00 am worship service. Third graders will receive their own Bibles.



Budget Report 2015

Month	Revenue	Expense	Net	Endowment	
				Revenue	Net
Jan	65,946	96,592	(30,646)	0	(30,646)
Feb	83,166	105,627	(22,462)	0	(22,462)
Mar	102,146	113,483	(11,337)	6,000	(5,337)
Apr	86,112	107,031	(20,919)	6,000	(14,919)
May	98,658	99,700	(1,042)	6,000	4,958
Total YTD	436,027	522,434	(86,407)	18,000	(68,407)



Pantry Needs
 Canned Tomatoes
 Canned Fruit

Help Needed to Pick Up Deliveries

Chipotle – Tom Hill Sr. Blvd.
 Saturdays – 2:00 pm – Pick up food

The food can be stored in your refrigerator and be brought to Macon Outreach the next day or on Sunday at church.

If you'd like to volunteer call Robin or Debbie at 478-743-8026 or email dtowson@mulberrymethodist.org

DAYBREAK

There is a bucket in the atrium to receive donations to Daybreak.

Supply Needs:
 sugar powdered creamer spray deodorant
 shower supplies toilet tissue paper towels

Wear

Your dollar makes change.

Macon's best kept secret for new and gently used clothing, designer brands, shoes and accessories!

Men's, Women's & Children's

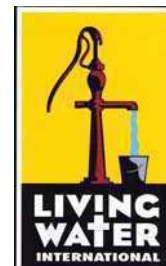
Monday-Saturday

11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Wear Location: 464 First Street

#DonateShopRepeat

Proceeds from Wear support DAYBREAK, Depaul USA's day resource center for homeless men and women in Macon, GA.



Living Water Well Mission Trip to Nicaragua

PRICE DROP Announcement! October 24-31 we are sending a team to drill a well and teach hygiene for a community in need. The cost is \$1000 + \$29 online LWI background check. Spots are currently available! Please contact Drew Mercer (478) 919-3842 or drewmercer@gmail.com and visit www.water.cc.

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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Our 11 a.m. service is broadcast live
over Radio Station AM 940 WMAC.



Rev. Jimmy Towson (538-9067)
Rev. Tommy Perkins (615-691-3171)
Rev. Bill Culpepper (803-673-7860)

This Week at Mulberry

Sunday, July 12

9:00 am Worship/Chapel
9:40 am KIDSPRAISE
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 14

8:30 am Prayer Group/Prayer Rm
10:00 am – 4:00 pm CCM Training/Parlor
10:30 am Staff Meeting/Conf Rm
12:00 pm Kiwanis/F-Hall

Wednesday, July 15

9:15 am CCM Chapel
10:30 am M/O Worship
12:30 pm Centering Prayer

Thursday, July 16

9:30 am Circle of Friends Sewing Group/Rm 232
11:30 am Fuller Housing Mtg/Rm 323
1:00 pm Carlyle Place Communion

Friday, July 17

12:00 pm Miller High Luncheon/Parlor

Sunday, July 19

9:00 am Worship/Chapel
9:40 am KIDSPRAISE
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Sanctuary



memorials
& gifts

Memorial Fund

In memory of Wendell Barnes by Mrs. Patricia C. Watson
In memory of Margaret Tucker by Harold L. Downs

Mulberry Street UMC Staff

Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Bruce Bishop, Church Administrator *Camille Bishop, Music Director/Organist*
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Betsy Abbott, Director of Hospitality *Erin Frazier, Director, Children's Center*
Ann Smith, Spiritual Director *Johnny Hathcock, Director, Macon Outreach*
Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary *Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary*
Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian
Custodians
Clifton Carswell *Jeffrey Smith*