



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 26, 2015

www.mulberrymethodist.org

The Costliness of Call – A Reflection on Mark 2:13-17

Jesus was a terrible salesman. At the time when his star seems most on the rise, he says that to be his disciple, to follow him, means a willingness to give up all one's possessions, lose one's life and carry a cross (Luke 9:23-26, 14:25-33). Even before that, Jesus called followers to a life of uncertainty, itineracy and lack of control.

St. John of the Cross was a priest who was tortured and imprisoned by fellow priests because his theology did not match with what the Church deemed appropriate. His book, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, reveals an awareness that when one is shoved into the utter depths of darkness through betrayal, mistrust and the seemingly righteous motivation of eliminating nonconforming doctrine, God is there. The darkness is actually light so bright that it appears as darkness to us. To remain true to Jesus' teachings in such darkness is witness to the costliness of call.

We trivialize the term "dark night of the soul," using it to describe all kinds of things, just as we do with the term "persecution," attaching it to stores opening on Sunday or the inability to pray before a football game. We similarly sanitize the cost of following Jesus. We see nothing wrong with indulging ourselves in material possessions beyond our need while at the same time claiming to be a follower of Jesus. We seem to forget that he was poor himself, and lived and ate and moved among the poor, the diseased, and others avoided by polite society.

Matthew was one of those outcast by the religiously pure. When Jesus said to him, "follow me," he heard love and acceptance, not the scorn he was used to receiving. No wonder he followed. He saw in Jesus something so compelling that he walked away from his tax collector's booth without hesitation. By the time he hears Jesus speak of giving up everything, he's experienced such depths of love that walking away is not an option.

Call is costly; at times the cost is exacted in betrayal, ostracism, misunderstanding, and even death. So what keeps us from despair? What holds us to our call when we find ourselves in utter darkness, with no guarantee of improvement this side of heaven? It is nothing less than knowing in the depth of our being that the one who calls us to follow went to the utter darkness because of his love for us. He is in the darkness with us.

Ann Smith
Spiritual Director

Sunday Worship

July 26, 2015

9:00 am Chapel
11:00 am Sanctuary

Once Upon a Time...
Bible Stories You Need
to Know:

Matthew Meets Jesus
"Who Me?"
Mark 9:13-17 (NLT)

Rev. Jimmy Towson

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Assisting with Worship

Usher for Nine O'clock
Clay Washburn

Ushers for Eleven O'clock

Art Banks, Waverly Golson, Mel Jamison,
Martin Magda, Darin McClure, Ian McMullen,
Jason Mott, Ed Powell, Doyle Powers,
Bert Thompson, Ben Vaughn
& Tom Woodcock

Children's Church

Ken & Amanda Smith (2/3K)
Jim & Candi Wilson (4/5K)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her brother, Thomas E. McDonald, and their parents, Mr. & Mrs. E. A. McDonald by Hannah Greene.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of John H. Kennington by Charlotte and John Kennington.

Gospel Reading
for the Week
Mark 9:38-50

Attendance Last Week

Nine O'clock Worship	56
Eleven O'clock Worship	191
Total Worship Attendance	247
Sunday School	169



Mulberry Ministry Fair

Are you looking to support or get involved in some of the ministries at Mulberry? Are you interested in getting closer to Christ as a community? Our church has so many different ministries that not even our staff can count them! You are invited to come to our Ministry Fair after the 11:00 service on August 16. Each of our ministries will have a booth in the courtyard with information about the ministry and how you can be a part of it. We will also have lemonade and snacks! Come see how you can get plugged in! Here are some of the booths that you will see that day:

- Choir
- Macon Outreach
- Youth & Teenagers
- Children & Families
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Missions
- Ushers

If you are part of a ministry that is not listed, please call Bill at the church office (745-8601) so that we can reserve a booth for you!



Rev. Bill Culpepper,
Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries

Anchored
Sundays 5:00 pm
(Beginning August 2)

Pathways to Discipleship

August 8, 2015

Trinity UMC
(Warner Robins)

10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Churches looking for new ideas, networking opportunities and practical, quality training for their pastors, parishioners, staff and leaders need look no further than this year's Pathways to Discipleship conference. The training event will offer participants more than 30 workshops, plus five all-day workshops, to choose from, each designed to help congregations become healthier and to fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The registration deadline is July 26, and the conference costs \$20 per person. A boxed lunch from Chick-Fil-A is included in the registration fee. Safe Sanctuaries compliant childcare is available for newborn to fifth-grade children at a cost of \$10 per child, which covers the cost of their lunch.

Registration forms are available in the church office or go to www.sqaumc.org to register.



The
righteous
live by their **faith.**

HABAKKUK 2:4, NRSV



Memorial Fund

In memory of Margaret J. Tucker by
Howard, Moore & McDuffie, P.C.
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Patterson, Sr.
In memory of Henry "Pink" Persons by
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jones



Beginning August 19



To Steve & Laura Bell upon the death of Laura's mother, Elizabeth R. Puckett on July 16, 2015.

To Timothy Mathews upon the death of his mother.



Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries



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.

The following are the students we know who will be entering the third grade. Their names will be engraved on the Bibles, so please make sure we have spelled your child's name correctly.

- John Hampton Carter
- F. Stebin Horne, IV
- Chase Elaine Kiernan
- Jackson James Kinross
- Thomas David Mann
- Hannah Spencer Mayfield
- Alice Elizabeth Rauls
- Lewis Matthew Tharp
- Stewart Crowell Vernon, Jr.
- Laura McCutchen Wilson

If for any reason your child will not be participating in the service, please contact Pam Johnston (745-8601).

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
Peanut Butter
Rice

Help Needed to Pick Up Deliveries

Sundays – Fresh Market – 12:30
Tuesdays – Bone Fish and Chipotle
Thursdays - Chipotle

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.

Supplies Needed:

- Paper Towels
- Disinfectant/deodorizing Spray (Lysol)
- Baking Soda
- Disposable Razors

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.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Riverside UMC

September 16 – October 28, 2015
and January 13 – February 24, 2016
10:30-11:30 am

Edith Schwartz will lead the Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Riverside UMC in a study of The Gospels as depicted in the stained glass windows of Mulberry Street UMC.

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
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www.mulberrymethodist.org

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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 26

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

Monday, July 27

1:00 pm Cottages on Wesleyan Communion

Tuesday, July 28

8:30 am Prayer Group/Prayer Rm
10:30 am Staff Meeting/Conf Rm
12:00 pm Kiwanis/F-Hall

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

9:30 am Circle of Friends Sewing Group/Rm 232

Sunday, August 2

9:00 am Worship/Chapel
9:40 am KIDSPRAISE
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Sanctuary
5:00 pm ANCHORED



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Taste & See

7:00 am

Join Jimmy & others each Thursday as we study together.

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*