

**PARKWAY HILLS**  
United Methodist Church  
Post Office Box 1721  
Madison, MS 39130

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VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5 THE NEWSLETTER OF, FOR AND ABOUT THE MINISTRIES OF PARKWAY HILLS UMC WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2010

## Giving....

A few months ago, I became enmeshed in a little book by Brennan Manning called *The Furious Longing of God*.

Here is a little excerpt from the book that really caught my attention.

Once or twice in a lifetime you hear a story that leaves an indelible mark on your heart and mind. Such is this story. I first heard it in 1967. It is Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*. "Once there was a tree....and she loved a little boy." And so begins the story of a tree being happy because she is able to make the boy happy. At first the boy desires nothing but to climb on her branches, eat her apples, and lie in her shade. But as the boy grows, so do his desires. But because of the tree's love, she gives her apples for him to sell for money to have real fun; her branches that he might build a house for a wife and family; and her trunk so he could build a boat and sail away from the boredom of life. And then one day, the prodigal returns to the tree that loves him. By now, she has given him everything; all that remains of her is an old stump. The boy, an old man, needs only quiet place to sit and rest. And the Giving Tree gives once more.

Ever since hearing that story many years ago, I've loved Silverstein's parable. It reminds me of Jesus, of whom Paul wrote in Philippians, "He emptied himself." He cried from His heart, nails in His hands, and poured out His blood that we might believe His love for us. Significantly, Jesus chose the giving tree, His cross, as the demonstrative sign of His absolutely furious love for men and women. In the words of one early church father: "the mightiest act of love ever to arise from a human soul."

How is it then that we've come to imagine that Christianity consists primarily in what we do for God? How has this come to be the good news of Jesus? Is the kingdom that he proclaimed to be nothing more than a community of men and women who go to church on Sunday, take an annual spiritual retreat, read their Bibles every now and then, vigorously oppose abortion, don't watch x-rated movies, never use vulgar language, smile a lot, hold doors open for people, root for the favorite team, and get along with everybody? Is that why Jesus went through the bleak and bloody horror of Calvary? Is that why He emerged in shattering glory from the tomb? Is that why He poured out His Holy Spirit on the church? To make nicer men and women with better morals?

The gospel is absurd and the life of Jesus is meaningless unless we believe that He lived, died, and rose again with but one purpose in mind: to make brand new creations. Not to make people with better morals, but to create a community of prophets and professional lovers, men and women who would surrender to the mystery of the fire of the Spirit that burns within, who would live in every greater fidelity to the omnipresent Word of God, who would enter into the center of it all, the very heart and mystery of Christ, into the center of the flame that consumes, purifies, and sets everything aglow with peace, joy, boldness, and extravagant, furious love. This, my friends is what it really means to be a Christian. Our religion never begins with what we do for God. It always starts with what God has done for us, the great and wondrous things that God dreamed of and achieved for us in Christ Jesus.

David

## PARKWAY HILLS WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Thursday, February 4, 2010

7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Beagle Bagel in Madison  
4:00 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
6:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Friday, February 5, 2010

6:00 pm PTY Movie Night

### Saturday, February 6, 2010

9:00 am Prayer Quilt Ministry

### Sunday, February 7, 2010

8:30 am Blue Jean Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Morning Worship Service  
4:30 pm Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off

### Monday, February 8, 2010

9:00 am Women's Bible Study  
12:00 pm Prayer Quilt Ministry  
4:00 pm SYNAGO  
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

### Wednesday, February 10, 2010

11:30 am Staff Serves at Our Daily Bread  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Dinner & Activities  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 11, 2010

4:00 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
6:00 pm Women's Bible Study

## PARKWAY HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

POST OFFICE BOX 1721  
1468 HIGHLAND COLONY PARKWAY  
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E-MAIL: [info@parkwayhillsumc.org](mailto:info@parkwayhillsumc.org)  
[www.parkwayhillsumc.org](http://www.parkwayhillsumc.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday — 8:30 to 4:30

RICHARD ROBBINS, SENIOR PASTOR  
DAVID MORRIS, YOUTH MINISTER/ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
PHILIP MESSNER, MINISTER OF MUSIC  
CYNTHIA GIBBS, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY  
TINA OATES, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
CATHY ROBERTSON, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

**CORE VALUES OF PARKWAY HILLS**  
**WELCOME—GROW—SERVE—CELEBRATE**

**CALL TO ACTION**

The Parkway Hills UMC family will be packaging Health Kits for Haiti. The following items will be collected and packaged.

- Hand towels (15"x 25" up to 17"x 27")
- Washcloths
- Comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- Nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- Bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- Toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper. No child size brushes)
- Adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Place your items in buckets in the foyer by Feb 10th.



**PTY's Movie Night This Friday**  
**February 5th from**  
**6:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

**Wednesday Night Menu**  
**for February 2010**

\*All meals are served with drink, roll, salad and dessert

- 02/10 Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans
- 02/17 NO Wednesday Night Dinner (Ash Wednesday)
- 02/24 Baked Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Mixed Veggies

**Adult Meal - \$6.00    Child Meal- \$4.00**  
**Pizza Plate - \$4.00    Additional Slices - \$1 each\*\***

For standing reservations for the month, take a form from the posters or print one off of the church website, and return it with your check. Standing reservations must be paid in advance!

\*\*Additional slices of pizza can only be bought

**AFTER** the purchase of a plate!

\*\*\*Let's us know if you are getting a to go plate.\*\*\*

**Deadline for making weekly reservations is NOON on Monday!**

**3rd Annual Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off Contest**

**Sunday, February 7th**  
**at 4:30 pm**



*If your chili is the BEST recipe in town then sign up and put it to the test!*

*Email Tiffni Woodward at [tiffni@earthlink.net](mailto:tiffni@earthlink.net) to get you chili in the contest.*

**Confirmation Mentor Orientation**

**February 14th at 5:00 pm**

**Confirmation Session 1**

**"How We Believe"**

**February 21st at 4:00 pm**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

**February 16 - 5:30 pm**



**Ash Wednesday Service**

**February 17 - 6:00 pm**

(No Regular Wednesday Night Activities this week)



**Katrina Team For Spring Break**

We will be sending a team to Vancleave, Mississippi to work on home repairs for Katrina victims.

Our Team will join two teams, one from Virginia and one from Alabama.

Information is as follows

- Date - March 14 thru March 20
- Adults and Youth may attend (ages 14 and up)
- Cost - \$75.00 (includes housing and meals)
- Location - Camp Hope in Vancleave, MS
- Transportation - Church Van

Pick up your registration form from the missions bulletin board in the education building and return to office by February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Craft at 601-856-6338.

**MEETING NOTICE**

Church Council - Mon, Feb. 8th - 6:30 pm

**John Wesley comes to Parkway Hills UMC**

**Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00p.m.**

Through the powerful medium of drama THE MAN FROM ALDERSGATE with BJ Johnston, brings to life John Wesley and his dynamic ministry. Wesley tells how his transformation through faith in Jesus Christ sparked a revival that changed England and America. As John Wesley shares, you will gain new insights into the importance of prayer, how personal failure can teach us to trust Christ, how religion is the most dangerous idol of all, and how a mother's faith can shape a child's destiny.

Join us for regular dinner and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. and for this special Wednesday night presentation by B.J. Johnston at 6:00p.m. All ages are invited and encouraged to come.

**MEMORIAL GIFT**

*A memorial gift was given to the general fund in memory of Linda Fancher.*

**Record of Our Faithfulness**  
**Sunday, January 31, 2010**

Attendance: 8:30 am - 82 10:45 am - 150 SS - 150  
 Amount Received: \$ 12,822.37  
 Haiti Offering: \$3,145.00

Year-to-date - December 2009  
 Income \$810,910.02 Expenses \$798,449.28

**This Sunday's Worship Services**  
**Sunday, February 7, 2010**

*Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11*

**Acolytes 8:30**.....Allie Kate Williams  
**Acolytes 10:45**.....Emily Shows, Clark Templeton  
**Nursery Volunteer**.....Amie Harris  
**Greeters 8:30**.....Johnny & Deanie Fanning  
**Greeters 10:45**.....Alan & Janet Leach, Thomas & Alicia Moak  
**Welcome Team**.....Bob & Judy Russell  
**Ushers 8:30**.....Les England, Tommy Murphy, Tom Stewart, Greg Taylor, Kevin Thompson  
**Ushers 10:45**.....Paul Nader, Greg Shows, Melvin Spell, Gray Swoope  
**Offering Counters**.....Teresa Chappell, Ron Farris

**Prayer Concerns**

**Elisha Adcox**  
Betsy Yarbrough's daughter  
**Jay Alexander**  
Kevin & Tiffni's friend  
**Patrick Anderson (Iraq)**  
Henry & Ann Weissenborn's friend  
**Jim & Ruby Atwell**  
Terri Cribb's friends  
**Mary Lou Ballard**  
Marilyn Collins' friend  
**Eric Baumgartner (Iraq)**  
Kermit & Julie Baumgartner's son  
**Bruce Bohne**  
David & Margo Bowers' friend  
**Gordon Brown**  
Terri Cribb's friend  
**Jean Burson**  
Elkanah Burson's mother  
**The Carroll Family (Kelsey Carroll)**  
Debbie Burson's friends  
**Brian & Alison Chapman**  
Bob & Kay Abney's friends  
**Betsy Clarke**  
Nita Miller's co-worker  
**Ronnie Coleman**  
Horace & Betsy Yarbrough's nephew  
**Bill Cook**  
Bob & Kay Abney's friend  
**Mary Dent Deaton**  
Paul Nader's aunt  
**Nell Dismuke**  
Lisa McLain's mother  
**Judd Drewry**  
Jan Brister's father  
**Libby Fain**  
Terri Cribb's friend  
**Bill Farris**  
Ron Farris' brother  
**Sherry Felder**  
Sarah Watts' mother  
**Al & Carol Fielder**  
Gene & Barbara Kreuz's friend  
**Ann Fornet**  
Gene & Barbara Kreuz's friend  
**Henry Fox**  
Scotty Irby's friend  
**Larry Franck**  
Bob & Kay Abney's friend  
**Claudia Fugler**  
J. O. Gibbs  
Chris Gibbs' grandfather  
**Demetris Gibson**  
Janet & Alan Leach's brother-in-law  
**Will Graves**  
Mark & Lisa McLain's friend  
**Tara Griffith**  
Chere Peel's friend  
**Tom Guest**  
Lucy Slaughter's father  
**Betsy Hardy**  
Beth Duff's mother  
**Alice Harvell**  
Terri Cribb's aunt  
**Rexine Henry**  
Rick & Sherry Dallas' friend  
**The Horne Family**  
Lucy Slaughter's sister  
**Linda Carol Hudson**  
Bruce Kirkland's sister  
**Merilyn Kagelmacher**  
Lynn Dean's mother  
**Madeline Kelly**  
Susan Taylor's co-worker's daughter  
**Joyce Leonard**  
Wayne Johnson's sister  
**Georgi Marlowe**  
Lisa Sanderfur's brother  
**Bill Martin**  
Boyce Christopher's son  
**Sabrina Martin**  
Marilyn Collins' friend  
**Jo Ann MaxLiner**  
Wayne Jones' sister  
**Mitch McCaskill**  
Nita Miller's nephew  
**Melinda McClinton**  
Debbie Burson's friend  
**Don McConnell**  
Jim & Cathy's Robertson's brother-in-law  
**Bo McLeod (Iraq)**  
Angie Williams' brother  
**Bill McMonus**  
Paul Nader's brother-in-law  
**Ray Montreuil**  
Pat Franklin's cousin  
**Laura Moon**  
Casey & Corey Allen's friend  
**Evelyn Moore**  
Ron Farris' relative  
**Tim Moore**  
Ann Moore's brother  
**Manita Morgan & Family**  
Debbie Case's friends  
**Johnny Peet**  
Pat Franklin's friend  
**Jewel Pettus**  
Terri Cribb's friend  
**Roxann Reidel**  
Tina White's cousin  
**Nell Ricker**  
Roy & Pat Ryals  
Angie Ryals' parents  
**Cynthia Sherman**  
Susan Taylor's friend  
**Lucy Slaughter**  
Wayne & Louise Johnson's daughter-in-law  
**Geneva Smith**  
Boyce Christopher's friend  
**Sid Spiro**  
Dorothy Stegura  
Margo Bowers' mother  
**Harry & Kathleen Stroud**  
Terri Cribb's friends  
**Dot Taylor**  
Jeana Taylor's mother  
**Peggy Taylor**  
Lisa Agent's aunt  
**Susan Taylor (Bruce & Susan)**  
Paula Ticcio  
Dave Cannimore's friend  
**Mike Vaughn**  
Anita Lewis' co-worker  
**Michelle Villarrubia**  
Savannah McDonald's friend  
**Julie Walker**  
Rick & Connie Moore's step sister-in-law  
**Gene Wardlaw**  
Beth Taylor's friend  
**Andi Webb & Sherry Webb**  
Richard Robbins' friends  
**Chris Wheeler**  
Savannah McDonald's friend  
**Andrew White**  
Evelyn White  
Thomas White's mother  
**Bob Wilkinson**  
Henry & Lisa Agent's friend  
**The People of Haiti**

*\*For our nation, our leaders, our service men/women and their families and the conflicts in Iraq and around the world. For those in nursing homes or homebound. For our church. For each other. For ourselves.*