

Montgomery ~ Prattville District News of The UMC



Special points of interest:

- Montgomery Prattville Upcoming Events
- Charge Conference schedule
- Secretary's corner
- Thanksgiving November 25

"Convergence of Circumstances and Conversations Indicate God is at Work...Are We?"

What is going on? Have we ever encountered such challenging circumstances and such passionate conversation about ministry? Circumstances such as a difficult economy have driven us to change our conversations. There seems to be a growing number of people who are pushing away from the institutional church and beckoning for a purely missional movement. Also, there are those loyal to the institution with great conviction stating transformation of the institution is the future of the church. Whether we look more through the eyes of mission or institution we cannot argue with the convergence of circumstances adding passion to these conversations. If we need a word picture just look at what happened to the bankrupt claim of the Crystal Cathedral this week. What does the convergence of circumstances and conversations mean?

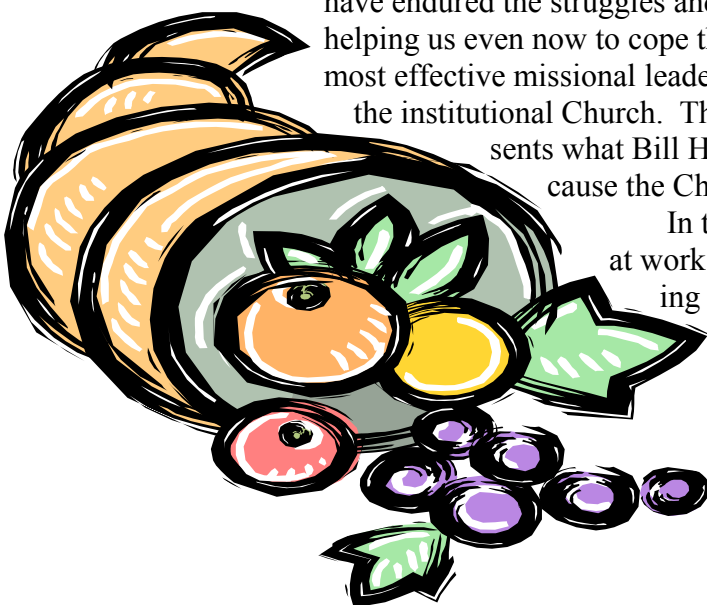
The conversations to be more missional and transform the institution plays into our strengths as United Methodists. We began in fields, coal mines, classes, and societies reaching people for Christ. Our early days were strong because we were missional. We also grew institutionally as Methodism grew in churches as fast as post offices across our country. We need not fear the challenge to be more missional or transform the institution. In all likelihood these conversations will help us focus on why we are the church in the first place. In our United Methodist context we state our mission as "making disciples and transforming the world." This is why we do what we do.

In my personal life in ministry every fruitful season has been preceded by a season of challenge or difficulty. In fact, I try to remember difficulty is the prelude to a future season of fruitfulness in which God is preparing me. I see our times as no different. God is preparing us for a fruitful season of ministry ahead. As Jesus indicates in John 15, some branches are cut away because they are unproductive and some are pruned. All branches are to abide in Jesus to bear fruit. This abiding and bearing fruit confirms we are the Church.

Having made an argument for becoming more missional let me also share I believe our tradition and institutional church is also essential for fulfilling the mission. The church is not perfect but we must look at our track record. We as an institution have endured the struggles and fears of 226 years. My thoughts are the institution is helping us even now to cope through the economic downturn. Ironically, even the most effective missional leaders are in their position to lead because they are related to the institutional Church. The institutional church is far from perfect but still represents what Bill Hybels says..."The best hope for the world." Why? Because the Church is able to lead people to Christ.

In the trying circumstances of today I anticipate that God is at work opening doors for us to become more missional in making disciples and transforming our denomination. The evidence seems to be everywhere that God is at work...are we?

Shalom,
Philip



Please Pray For Us:
Our Nation, Our Leaders, Our Churches

To submit a Prayer request Please visit our website @ www.themontgomerydistricts.com



Blog Spot News!
Our Blog 365 Days Through the Bible is now finished, we will be starting a new blog with weekly news and information about our district, as well as messages From Dr. Philip McVay. We hope this will be an easy way to stay connected throughout the district. See you on the

Montgomery ~ Prattville Blog Spot - Dr. Philip McVay
www.montgomeryprattvilledistrict.blogspot.com

[Montgomery ~ Prattville Facebook](#)

Montgomery~Prattville Spouses Blog Spot - Mrs. Karen McVay
<http://mpspouses.blogspot.com/>

Montgomery~ Prattville Pacesetters
www.mpumc.blogspot.com



MTPT District Conference

Date: Sunday, November 14, 2010

Time: 03:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Location: Dexter AVE
THE MONTGOMERY-PRATTVILLE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 14, 2010
 3:00 ~ 5:00 PM

Dexter Avenue UMC

All pastors, delegates and church leadership are expected to attend.

All church members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This is the business meeting for our District and we plan to have an exceptional worship service.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

Charge Conference November

<p>November 1</p> <p>05:00 PM MTPT CC: West Highland/ Union CHG Lowndesboro CHG Marion JUNCT CHG</p> <p>06:00 PM MTPT CC: Combined Worship</p> <p>07:00 PM MTPT CC: Church Street, Barret Road, Memorial</p>	<p>November 7</p> <p>05:00 PM MTPT CC: Trinity, Providence, Harmony, River's Chapel</p> <p>06:00 PM MTPT CC: Combined Worship</p> <p>07:00 PM MTPT CC: Wetumpka First, Cain's Chapel, Wallsboro, Mulder Memorial</p>	<p>November 14</p> <p>03:00 PM MTPT District Conference</p> <p>03:00 PM MTPT District Conference</p>	<p>November 21</p> <p>06:00 PM MTPT CC: Millbrook First, Robinson Springs, Elmore</p> <p>07:00 PM MTPT CC: Combined Worship</p>
<p>November 22</p> <p>06:00 PM MTPT CC: Whitfeild Memorial, Dalraida, Perry Hill, Snowden</p> <p>07:00 PM MTPT CC: Combined Worship</p>	<p>Thanksgiving November 25</p>  <p>Offices will be Closed</p>	<p>November 29</p> <p>MTPT CC: Clanton First UMC</p>	<p>November 30</p> <p>06:30 PM MTPT CC: Prattville First</p>



Philip & Karen McVay,

MTPT District

&

Ron & Charlotte Ball,

MTOP District

Invite you to be their guests at the Montgomery-Opelika and Montgomery-Prattville Districts Clergy's Christmas Party St. James United Methodist Church Montgomery, Alabama **NEW DATE:** **Thursday, December 9, 2010 6:00 p.m. RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 30th** Nursery available with reservation of number of children & ages. Please respond by calling the District Office at 334-239-7329, by using the RSVP option on the District website at www.themontgomerydistricts.com or by e-mail mtopds@knology.net



Secretary's Corner November

Charge Conferences are almost over!! Yea! Some of you have finished and some are putting on the final touches to the paperwork in preparation for your meeting. NOW it's time to look ahead – just a little.

The DISTRICT CONFERENCE is scheduled for Sunday, November 14th at Dexter Avenue UMC from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is THE Business Meeting for the District where we will elect officers for the coming years, vote on a budget and celebrate our God as a District. Plan now to arrange your church's evening programs so everyone will be able to attend this meeting. Pastors are expected to be there, church leadership is encouraged to attend, and everyone is invited! In addition to the business meeting, we will worship with our singing, worship in our prayers, and worship in a special message brought by our DS, Dr. Philip McVay.

For those of you who have finished your Charge Conference, it is time to up-date your leadership information on the Conference database. This is the information used by the District, Conference, and General Church to send information to you and the appropriate leadership. If you have trouble up-dating this or have never done it before, call me. I will be glad to help you get started.

Thanks so much for your ministry to your church and to your District,
Linda
334-239-7329

Our Children's Home White Christmas Banquets were a great success! We talked, we laughed, we sang, and we ate! Our speakers were wonderful and informative and the video was very touching. We are so proud of the churches that gave at least \$10/member and received a certificate. Hope the rest of you will get busy and meet that requirement for 2010 – the children need our help!

A special thank you goes out to the churches that hosted our Banquets: Auburn First for the Montgomery-Opelika District and Prattville First for the Montgomery-Prattville District. These two churches gave their all by decorating for Christmas (way before the Christmas season), by providing a delicious Christmas dinner, and by making us all feel so welcome in their church. The Auburn First music group had us all laughing and in the mood for "children" and at Prattville First the Clemency Group from Millbrook First led us down a snowy, sentimental journey headed straight for Christmas joy.

Thank you all for coming and celebrating our White Christmas Kick-Off.

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You





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