

"What Would Jesus Say About Direct Bill?"

Dr. Philip McVay

Special points of interest:

- Montgomery Prattville Up-coming Events
- Featured Churches
- Secretary's corner
- Mother's Day May 9th



Inside this issue:

Pray For US	2
MTPT News	2
MTPT News	2
MTPT News	3
Web News	4
Secretary's Corner	5
	6

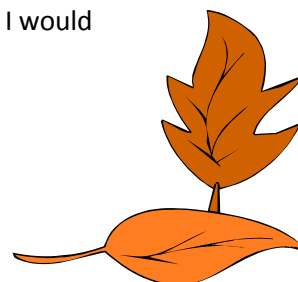
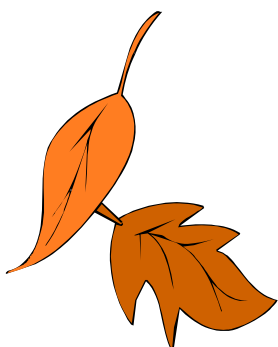
I had a crazy thought today. What would Jesus say about direct bill? He might quote Luke 9:58... "***Foxes have holes and birds of air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head***" or Matthew 10:10... "***You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,***" and, "***The laborer is worthy of his wages.***" Or Luke 2:59... "***I must be about my Father's business?***" Perhaps He would lift up the wisdom of the building a tower... "***For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?***" (Luke 14:28) I am not sure which of these passages Jesus might quote but this I know Christ loves the Church and He want us to be about "***making disciples and transforming the world.***"

Our annual conference session in 2009 approved direct bill as the best way to move into the future funding our clergy health and pension benefits. Direct Bill is still a few months away but the "buzz" in conversation has been going on for months. Churches are now engaging direct bill conversations in the budget planning for 2011. I hear concern in the statements ... "how much?" ... "how can we?" ... and "I am not sure we can do it!" In hopes of calming anxiety about direct bill let me share some realities and perspective.

First of all direct bill has some realities. The first reality is churches will pay directly for their appointed clergy health and pension benefits each month. How much will this be? The final amounts will be mailed out in December. We do know generally health insurance will be around \$650 a month. The pension amount is determined by taking the pastors salary and adding another 25 percent if he/she lives in parsonage. The annual pension amount is then determined by taking 16% of that combined figure. If the pastor has a housing allowance the entire housing allowance figure is added with salary... and then 16% percent of the combined total is determined for the annual pension benefit.

There is some good financial news as churches will notice a reduction in the conference missional apportionments. This reduction will help churches transition into direct bill. Every church will not have the same reductions because church budgets and pastors salaries are not all the same. If the final amounts to pay seem daunting I would encourage pastors and churches to not to be anxious about the future but rather ... "plan well and go forward trusting God."

Continue on Page 4



Please Pray for Us:

Rev. & Mrs. Glenn Smith, Memorial UMC. Glenn & Ivey's son-in-law, Major Jeffery Martin (USAF), TN, was killed suddenly in a motorcycle accident a few weeks ago leaving a wife and two children.

Mrs. Beth Osgood, wife of Rev. Mark Osgood, Eclectic UMC, had surgery on Friday, August 27th and it turned out to be a little more invasive than they expected. She is home now and doing well.

Rev. John Brannon, Harmony UMC. John's mother passed away on Thursday, September 2, following a prolonged illness.



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 BlogSpot

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/>



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To Learn more please visit us online www.themontgomerydistricts.com or call
 Montgomery Prattville Pacesetters - Olivia Poole 334-365-5977

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 October

October 3

05:00 PM [MTPT CC: Dexter Avenue, Korean, Bolyston, St. Paul](#)

06:00 PM [MTPT CC: Combined Worship](#)

07:00 PM [MTPT CC: Capitol Hieghts, St. Luke, Metropolitan](#)

October 10

05:00 PM [MTPT CC: East Tallassee, St. Paul, Oak Valley](#)

06:00 PM [MTPT CC: Combined Worship](#)

07:00 PM [MTPT CC: Tallassee First, Oak Valley Station](#)

October 17

05:00 PM [MTPT CC: Lime Springs Mt. Pisgah, Maplesville, Cox Chapel Chg](#)

06:00 PM [MTPT CC: Combined Worship](#)

07:00 PM [MTPT CC: WalnutCR/Thronby CHG Verbena/Pleasant HillCHG and](#)

October 24

05:00 PM [MTPT CC: Eclectic, Benson-Bethel, Pierce Chapel CHG](#)

06:00 PM [MTOPT CC: Pine Grove, Beulah](#)

06:00 PM [MTPTCC: Combined Worship](#)

(Continued What Would Jesus say about direct Billing)

Back to the question..."What would Jesus say About Direct Bill?" I have one more passage that seems very relevant. It comes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6. Jesus teaches..."***Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life "***

The teaching of Jesus..."do not worry" is good for all times and especially with all the unknowns of the coming of direct bill. Can we ever remember a time when there wasn't something to worry about? Has God not been faithful in the past? Are we not at our strongest when we trust God with the future? Our conference and churches have grown through many changes in the past when the future was uncertain. I am most assured that direct bill will be no different. Jesus loves the church and I am thinking He would not want us worried about institutional requirements but rather a world that needs saving! Let us be that Church focused on ministry and not our worries! We can with God's help not only get through this time but get through even stronger!

Shalom,

Philip

MTPT Children's Home White Christmas Banquet

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2010

Time: 06:30 PM -

Location: Prattville First United Methodist Church



MTPT Children's Home White Christmas Banquet

Thursday, October 21, 2010 6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church Prattville A delicious meal; entertainment; inspirational speakers and a wonderful night of fellowship will be the flavor of the night! Nursery is provided for infant ~ 6-years old (must reserve spot in appropriate nursery when making reservations for the meal) We will need your reservations in by Thursday, October 14th in order to prepare for the evening. We also need to know if you require a nursery. When you make your reservation we need to know who will be coming and, if you need a nursery, how many children and what age. You may make your reservations by calling Linda at 334-239-7329, on the website at www.themontgomerydistricts.com or by e-mailing me at mtptds@knology.net (If you e-mail me and I do not respond – I DID NOT GET IT – try again.) Plan now to attend and bring a friend or two!

*****Pay Pal is available on our website if you would like to pay online*****

WEB News

Well we have some very exciting Web News for the Month of September. The Montgomery District have hit the social media scene making an effective way of faster communication with our district. If you haven't joined us we are on Facebook. The Montgomery ~ Prattville District is gearing up for the new blog which will start any day. Stay tuned to the website for updates.

We have featured a new page that I hope will be of assistance to the local churches. Its Called Help-A-Church. This page was created to help churches that have more than they need share with other churches in the area that are in need. It really simple if you have things to share let us know, and if you have a need we may be able to help. Just this past month, we have helped Maplesville UMC furnish the church with a piano. You can even send information right from the page on our website.

We would also like to hear from local churches if you have events happening, we will send these events out in the newsletter, post them on our website, and share them with fans on facebook. We love to share about what's going on in the district. It helps other churches get creative ideas, as well as invites people to your event. The more people that come the more people are witnessed to, and can become disciples for Jesus themselves.

****If your church has a facebook page or a website, please send it to us. We are in the middle of updating the website local church page and would love to include a website address and a facebook link. If you would like to send the embed code for your facebook page, we would be happy to put your badge under your church too.****

Our newest feature on the website that we hope will help us serve our local churches better is Pay Pal. You now have the option to pay for events hosted by the district On-line. This will make some transactions easier for you we hope. You may still register for events by email, Phone, or through the website and mail checks. The Pay-Pal option is for added convenience.

Please as always let me know if there is anything that will help improve the website, you may email me directly www.web316llc@yahoo.com or fill out the site survey.

Tanya Murphy

Web Administrator

www.themontgomerydistricts.com

www.web316.org



Secretary's Corner October

The time of Charge Conferences is upon us! Be sure your pastor has given you the documents or go to the District website at www.themontgomerydistricts.com and click on "Charge Conference 2010" to find all you will need. Following your conference, update your leadership on the database at www.awfumc.org using your username and password at the "church login" site. If you would like, I will help you with this – just call me. I can help you over the phone or come to your office and guide you and your helpers through the process. It is very important that we have your local officers updated by the first of December.

Please advertise the **Children's Home Banquet** scheduled for Thursday, October 21st at 6:30 at Prattville First UMC and encourage your congregation to attend. The cost is \$8 per person and a nursery will be available with registration – which is due in by the 14th. We now have the District website set up for you to register AND pay on-line. We are trying to make this as convenient as possible for you and your clergy.

Be sure your clergy have the Clergy Christmas Party on their calendar. It will be on **Thursday, December 9th, at 6:00 PM at St. James UMC**, Montgomery. (This is a different date than was originally advertised due to scheduling conflicts.)

Thank you for all your hard work. Please feel free to call me if I can be of assistance in any way.
Linda

*****NOTICE: The Evaluation Forms, Advisory Forms, and Profile Forms will all be mailed together sometime the first of November. Each Document will specify when it is due in the District Office. *****

UP-COMING DATES TO REMIND YOUR CLERGY ABOUT:

- 1) Your Charge Conference - sometime soon.
- 2) Children's Home Banquet – Thursday, October 21st, 6:30 pm at Prattville First UMC~ NOW Accepting PayPal
- 3) November 24th - Charge Conference paperwork due in the District Office and your leadership up-dated on the Conference database (if you need help with this, call me).
- 4) Clergy Christmas Party – December 9th (new date), 6:00 pm at St. James UMC
- 5) Lay Leadership Academy - January 23rd, 2:30 to 5:00 pm at Montgomery First
- 6) January 31st - Year End Reports due online (no exceptions) If you have trouble with this call me early in January – don't wait until the last minute.

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

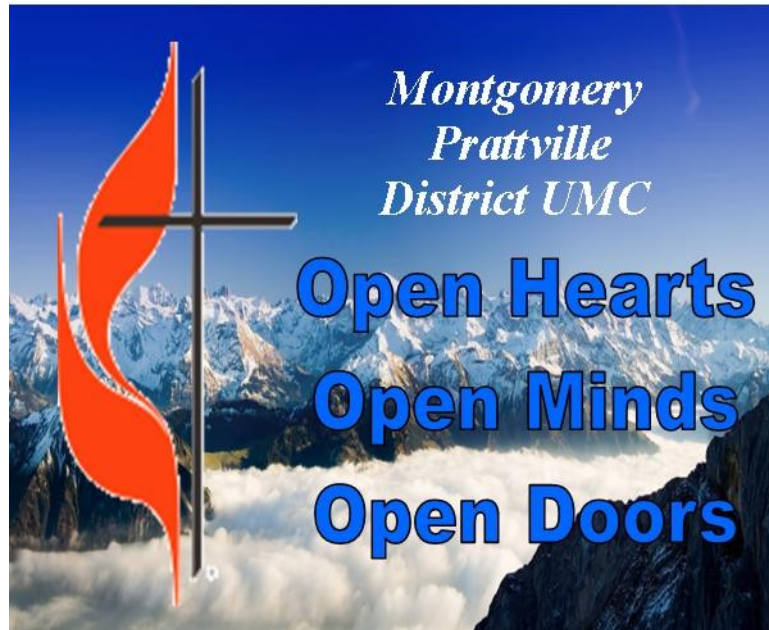
Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Just in case you aren't told enough, thanks so much for all you do.



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