

Montgomery ~ Prattville District News of The UMC

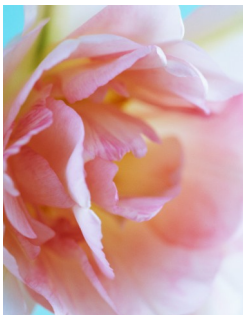
"making disciples for the transformation of the world."

April 2011



Special Points of Interest:

- **Blog Spot News**
- **Pray For Our District**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Local Church Events**



Choosing to Focus on All That Is Going For Us

It was a sermon that changed my life at Ministers Week at Emory University in 1982. The late Dr. John Claypool preached very passionately we have a choice..."we can focus on all that is going against us or all that is going for us!" God touched my life through this message and since then I have tried to live into an attitude of "focus on all that is going for you."

Today, in the midst of struggles, we could choose to focus on all that is going against us. We have economic challenges. We have a trend of fewer full-time appointments and more full-time pastors. Churches have resigned from fruitful ministry and anxiously move into survival mode desiring nothing more than to "make it" another year. Also, there are polarizing voices on both the left and right which make issues such as human sexuality, missional verses institutional, mediocrity over fruitful, and compassion verses fiscal responsibility all exacerbating a mind set of "all going against us." Natural disasters such as the recent Tsunami in Japan and the instability of Libya add tension to the future outlook.

These are anxious days. There is good news for the Church has done best in times of offering Christ in the midst of adversity. The message of the Christ is stronger than an struggling economy, tsunami, polarizing issues and political instability. Is this not time for the Church to rise up for the most important cause on the face of the earth..."making disciples and transforming the world?" Is this not a time to focus on all that is going for us?"

What is going for us? First of all, God is with us. In the words of Paul..."If God be for us who can be against us?"(Romans 8:31) Second, God wants every church to succeed. The only question is will every church get in step with how God is already at work. The question is not "how will we make it this year? Rather the question is ..."how does God want to use us this year?" God is already at work, are we? Third, adversity is often the times God uses as a prelude of the next season of growth. Are these challenging circumstances not an opportunity to get in step with God? Fourth, our United Methodist connection is already in place to make a local, national, and global impact. If we will work as one big team can we not leverage our gifts and resources to "making disciples and transforming the world?" There is truly no ceiling to our potential. Fifth, can we use this time to develop leaders? Are most of our challenges not leadership instead of resources? In these days of financial challenges we have an unparalleled opportunity to develop leaders. If we develop leaders, the resources will come.

Are we not living in remarkable times to be the Church? Is Bill Hybels not right that the local church is the hope of the world? Why? The Church offers Jesus the hope of the world! Is God not pruning us so we can become more fruitful in making disciples and transforming the world?

Our Annual Conference has much going for it in these times. We have a decisive Bishop with a heart for the Church. Our cabinet is spending more time with the quest to be missional and less time with forms. We have fruitful pastors and churches. We are moving toward developing leadership. We have churches just a step away from being more fruitful and generative. There are abundant opportunities to start new churches, multiply sites and restart some dwindling churches. I heard Bishop Leeland say the other day that he is senior pastor of 650 locations throughout Alabama-West Florida. If we have this kind of team understanding, how much fruit can hundreds of pastors and thousands of laity make? What if we really look to our people as our greatest assets and let our buildings just facilitate ministry? What if we can reach every soul for Jesus? All that is going for us is just a choice away!

Our Montgomery/Prattville District becomes more special to me by the day. There are many wonderful opportunities in our district. We have fruitful churches making a difference for Christ which can become generative and more fruitful. There are opportunities to start churches, restart churches, and initiate new ministry. Instead of asking where is ministry possible the question is really where is ministry not possible? We have so much going for us! Is it not time to focus on ALL THAT IS GOING FOR US?

Shalom,

Philip E. McVay

Calendar

March 2011

[Lenten Devotionals Millbrook First UMC](#)

[BRANSON ALL STAR SHOW](#)

Date

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Time

07:00 PM

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 SUPPORT MISSION Trip to ECUADOR MFUMC 08:00 AM Annual Spring Camp Stew and Boston Butt Sale St. Mark UMC 02:00 PM Spring Music Festival at White Water Camp
3	4	5	6 Lenten Devotionals Millbrook First UMC	7	8	9
10	11 09:00 AM Joint Clergy Meeting	12	13 Lenten Devotionals Millbrook First UMC 06:00 PM The Gungor Concert ~ St James UMC Montgomery	14	15	16 10:00 AM Lay Leaders and Delegates
17	18	19	20 Lenten Devotionals Millbrook First UMC	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30 12:00 PM Retirement Celebration at the University of Alabama Wesley Foundation

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/>



become a Fan

Joint Clergy Meeting

Date: Monday, April 11, 2011 **Time:** 09:00 AM - 03:00 PM **Location:** Dalraida UMC

Joint Clergy Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th. It will be held at Dalraida UMC from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The discussions will be led by Dr. George Mathison, Auburn UMC; Dr. Lawson Bryan, Montgomery First; Dr. Philip McVay, MTPT D.S.; and Rev. Ron Ball, MTOP D.S. The cost is \$10 which includes the speakers and lunch and you will receive .5 CEU's.

Please register [here](#) @ www.montgomerydistricts.com or call the office at 334-239-7329. You may also pay online by following this link, once you have RSVPed you will be taken to the Pay-Pal information.



Secretary's Corner October

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2) **Annual Conference** is coming up fast! Mark your calendars and let your church membership know that they are not only welcome but encouraged to attend. The worship services are very meaningful with a lot of activity, good music and fantastic preaching - especially the opening service on Sunday evening! So spread the word and plan to bring a crowd from your church. You can keep up with the growing schedule as it is confirmed either from the link on this website or from the Conference website.

ATTENTION: Delegates to Annual Conference & clergy need to be sure to mark their calendars for the Orientation and pre-registration meeting in May: Montgomery-Opelika District will have their meeting on Sunday, May 15th and Montgomery-Prattville District will have their meeting on Sunday, May 22nd at Whitfield Memorial UMC from 3:00 -5:00 pm. **This is an important meeting and you need to be there.**

Coming to Annual Conference? Not eating at the church? Not staying at Huntington? Don't have a child coming to the nursery? **YOU STILL MUST REGISTER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON-LINE!** There are just a few questions you need to answer concerning meals and lodging and you can order your Journal and Clergy Directory. Take care of this now so you won't forget. If you are bringing a guest (neighbor, friend, family member, wife, child) you must register them as well, especially if you plan to eat at the church. These things are important for preparation even though they don't seem important to you. Thank you for helping us with this small detail.

Thank you all so much for getting your 2010 Year End Reports completed before Cabinet Meeting this week. We were close but got them done! Yea! Some of you pastors need to send an extra thank you to those special people that help you with this report. Linda

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.

Prayer Needs

Page 5

Please Pray For Us:

Our Nation, Our Leaders, Our Churches

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

3/1/2011

We are sorry to report that retired United Methodist minister, Rev. Thomas J. (Tom) Sheppard, passed away this afternoon. Tom has served in this conference since 1954; beginning as a local pastor and retiring as a full elder in 1992. The service will be at Whitfield Memorial UMC but the date and time has not been determined. We will send that out as soon as we have it.

Please remember Jackie, his children and their extended family during this time of grief and healing.

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Living The Mission

June 5-8, 2011

Frazer Memorial UMC

Montgomery, Alabama

Special Guests include:

Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

Bishop Alfred Wesley Gwinn, Jr.

Dr. P. Alice Rogers



REGISTER NOW

Local Church Needs

Rivers Chapel UM Church 2/21/2011

Titus, Alabama

Contact: Ezekiel Crayton 334-303-0634

Need

We need an Electrician to wire our fellowship hall (1200 sq. ft.) Pastor Washington 334-399-5717

2/1/2011

Dear Fellow Pastors, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 28, 2010 Pentecost UMC in Camphill Alabama was completely destroyed by fire. The church did have some insurance and all claims have been paid. It is the intention of the congregation to rebuild and we are asking for your help.

The congregation of Pentecost UMC and their Pastor Rev. Bob Bachant are endeavoring to raise the additional funds needed to begin construction of our new building by asking our fellow United Methodist Churches in the Alabama W. Florida conference for your help financially. We are in need of an additional \$130,000.00 to pay for the **complete construction** of our new building. Any funds raised over this amount will go to furnish the church.

Due to the rising cost of fuel and building supplies we are respectfully asking that all donations, if possible, be made within the next 30 days. All gifts would be received with appreciation at any time. We would ask that you prayerfully consider this request. All donations should be made out to;

Pentecost UMC/Building Fund and sent to
Amanda Berry, Treasurer PUMC
290 County Rd. 38 Notasulga, Alabama 36866

I would like to thank each church in advance for your prayerful consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our rebuilding effort please feel free to contact me.

With much thanks and a grateful heart,

Yours in Christ,

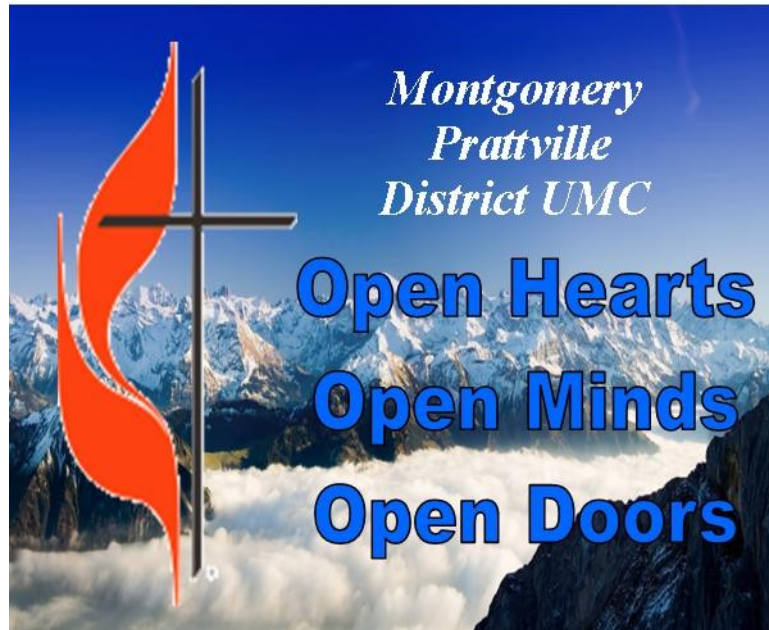
Rev. Bob Bachant

Pastor, Pentecost UMC

334-546-8176 – pastorbob67@yahoo.com

To submit a need or answer a need send email mtptds@knology.net or fill out the short form online www.themontgomerydistricts.com Help –A—Church Page. We post these needs on the website and Facebook, to maximize the potential for your need to be known. With lift these needs in Prayer and with faith God will provide what we seek to Glorify His name.

If you would like to submit an event to be placed in the monthly newsletter, please email it to mtptds@knology.net before the 15th of each month. We would love to feature what your church is doing. Community events like bible studies , Children and Youth functions, and special Services all help people find your church. These events are posted on the district calendar with any write ups about the event. Our newsletters are online and with google keywords, your events are searchable. Thanks for all you do!



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