

# Montgomery ~ Prattville District News of The UMC

*"making disciples for the transformation of the world."*

May 2011



## Special Points of Interest:

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



## WHAT THE STORMS TEACH US

In light of the storms that cost hundreds of precious lives and catastrophic damage, what on earth can the storms teach us? Unfortunately, we have had too much experience dealing with storms in our conference on both the Florida Gulf Coast and throughout Alabama. I find myself an unwilling veteran of many storms and the brutal aftermath. We cannot change the wrath of storms but we can change the way we respond. What do the storms teach us?

First... storms teach us to sensitive to all people in making theological judgments. I have heard people say "God heard my prayer and the storm went the other way and did not harm my family or my house." It is a blessing to pray and survive a storm and be unscathed. Yet, there are some fine people who prayed and lost loved ones and everything in the storm. Storms teach us that not everyone has the same outcome in a storm. Jesus said it in the Sermon on the Mount ... ***"It rains on the just and the unjust."*** This is surely true with storms.

Second... storms reveal it is an opportune time to be a good neighbor. Jesus teaches the virtues of being a good neighbor in the gospels. The value of every person is more understood when a storm strikes. Fences are knocked down by the wind and this is an excellent time to remove barriers and make new friends. Through our connection as United Methodists we can also be a good neighbor through supporting UMCOR, work teams, and participating in other events that build up our neighborhood and world. We are so fortunate to have leaders such as Dr. Chris Perry (Montgomery/Prattville District) and Amelia Fletcher (Alabama West Florida Conference) lead our disaster response.

Third... storms teach us that God can use the aftermath of storms for His higher purposes. Violent weather is the result of random atmospheric conditions which make severe storms inevitable. My belief is God created the world but does not send messages through storms. However... after the storm is over... God can help us heal and work toward redemptive purposes. Storms remind us life is a gift. Our worth is not in our possessions that can be here today and gone tomorrow but in our relationship with God and each other. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount... ***"do not lay up for yourself treasures on earth but in heaven."*** Storms remind us of the myth of possessions and the goal of relationships.

Fourth... storms teach us to sleep sound while the wind is blowing. In Pensacola, my family and I survived Ivan but we endured a fearful night we will never forget. Don Lehman, a mentor for me, slept through Hurricane Ivan's 135 miles per hour winds. I once heard someone say the definition of peace is being able to sleep well in the midst of the storm. Storms help us remember peace in our soul is the best way to face trouble.

Finally, storms remind us God will help us through the storms of life. There are storms of life such as death, illness, economic peril, losing a job, stress, and worry. Sometimes these storms of life are worse than facing the actual storms. At least real storms go away. Storms of life can continue. The facing up to storms of life are handled the same way. We endure and get through trusting God. In the storm or calm, trust God everyday and in every way!

I would invite everyone to keep all those impacted by the storms in your constant prayers and keep open the possibility of volunteering on a work team in the future. Helping others is a great way to respond to the storm. Please read the latest updates for how you can be of most help. If limited physically, our prayers and gifts to UMCOR are also an excellent avenue to work together in helping make a real difference to those devastated by the storms.

Shalom,

Philip

# Calendar

May 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>2</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>  <a href="#">MTOPT &amp; MTPT Joint Clergy Meeting -Canceled</a>	<b>3</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>4</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>  National Day of Prayer	<b>5</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>6</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>
<b>8</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>9</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>10</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>11</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>14</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>  09:00 AM <a href="#">UM-VIM mission leader training</a>
<b>15</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>16</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>18</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>20</b> <a href="#">Don't forget to Register Online for AC</a>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <a href="#">MTPR Orientation for 2011 Annual Conference</a>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**Montgomery ~ Prattville Blog Spot - Dr. Philip McVay**

[www.montgomeryprattvilledistrict.blogspot.com](http://www.montgomeryprattvilledistrict.blogspot.com)

[Montgomery ~ Prattville Facebook](#)

**Montgomery~Prattville Spouses Blog Spot - Mrs. Karen McVay**

<http://mpspouses.blogspot.com/>



become a Fan

## **MTPR Orientation for 2011 Annual Conference**

Start Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011

End Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011

[Please Register for Annual Conference Here](#)

Orientation for 2011 Annual Conference



## Secretary's Corner October

1) **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 15<sup>th</sup> and Montgomery-Prattville District will have their meeting on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Huntingdon? 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

*Please Pray For Us:*

*Our Nation, Our Leaders, Our Churches*

*To submit a Prayer request Please visit our website @ [www.themontgomerydistricts.com](http://www.themontgomerydistricts.com)*



Please be in prayer for Bethlehem UMC, The tornado totally destroyed Bethlehem building. The church members will decide their future in the coming weeks, since they did not have insurance. They are devastated at how quickly they lost this building for a church that was organized in 1834.

Also, if your church was damaged, please contact Chris so he can help with clean-up teams and make an informed report to the Conference. We know that Bethlehem UMC in Georgiana was damaged but we have not been able to reach anyone there yet.

Dr. Chris Perry's contact information is 334-328-7021 (C) or his e-mail is [chriswperry@charter.net](mailto:chriswperry@charter.net)

## **ALL Areas Affected By the recent Storms and Tornado's**

**Montgomery ~ Prattville** Due to the massive storms throughout Alabama, there will be some major clean-up needed. Dr. Chris Perry, Montgomery-Prattville Disaster Coordinator, has asked that all available teams be on the alert and notify him if they are available to work. He will pull some groups together as soon as the need is clear and we have authorization to work.

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## **An Update from the United Methodist Children's Home**

The needs continue at the Tuscaloosa Group Home for boys. They are working to supply them with plenty of bottled water and food. Donations are welcome to help cover their costs for immediate and long-term needs, as we are not sure how long it will be until all services are restored to the home. Visit our [online donation page](#) and designate gifts for "Storm Response."

# Local Church Needs

## **The Korean Church of Montgomery ~**

This is our goal to “make disciples and transform the world” through the doors of the Korean Church. On behalf of all, I would like to appeal to our 102 other churches to receive a special offering for transition costs for Dr. Yong, Dr. Chun, and to help meet some glaring needs of a congregation wanting to move forward.

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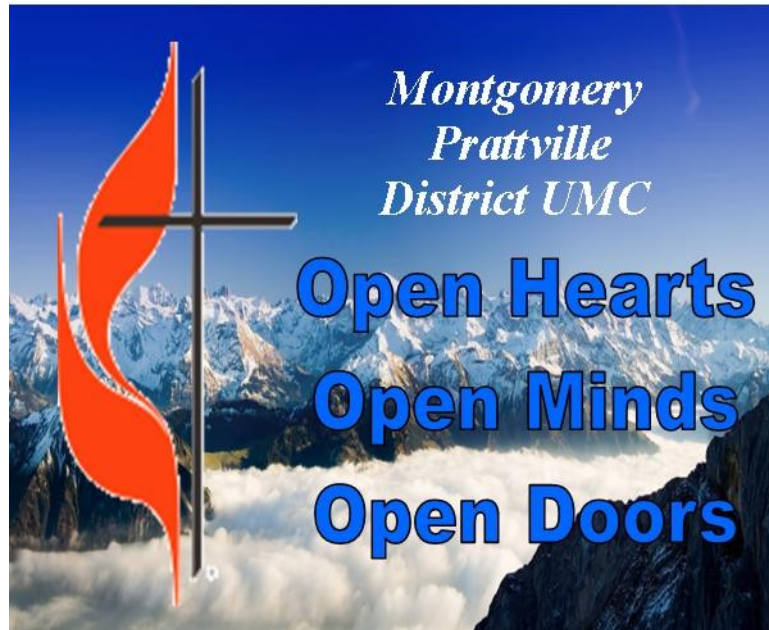
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To submit a need or answer a need send email [mtptds@knology.net](mailto:mtptds@knology.net) or fill out the short form online [www.themontgomerydistricts.com](http://www.themontgomerydistricts.com) Help –A—Church Page. We post these needs on the website 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](mailto: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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