

# THE CIRCUIT WRITER

Volume 35

Issue 3

## "Giving Up vs. Giving In"

In his book The Mustard Seed Conspiracy, Tom Sine shares the story of his parents' friends and their love for gathering wild mushrooms. One weekend this couple came home with several baskets of mushrooms. Relishing their good fortune, they decided to invite others over to their house for a mushroom party. The turn-out was terrific, and they had a wonderful time eating mushroom crepes, omelets, and soufflés. They ate until they could not eat another bite, they raked the leftovers into the cat's dish and moved to the den for conversation.

As the guests were getting ready to leave, someone went into the kitchen and noticed the cat sprawled out on the floor in convulsions. Next to the cat was an overturned dish of mushrooms. The guest screamed, "The cat!" Everyone ran into the kitchen to see what was causing all the commotion and, after seeing the cat, decided to call the doctor, fearing they would meet the same doom. The doctor advised them not to take any chances, but immediately go to the hospital and have their stomachs pumped.

About 1:30 a.m., they dragged back to the host's house to get their belongings. Sick and exhausted, they made their way to the front door to leave when one remembering, asked, "What happened to the cat?" They tip-toed with dread to the kitchen, quietly opened door and peeked in, only to find the cat curled up asleep in the corner.... with eight kittens. At times, it is difficult to distinguish between dying and giving birth.\*

The more subtle message couched in this story may be the difference between giving in and giving up. The cat gave up eating mushrooms to give birth to eight new lives. It was hard work, but her travail paid off. The diners by comparison, gave in to the gluttony of eating to the point of mild discomfort, and then gave in to the fear that they might suffer as did the cat.

In the 40 day season of self-discipline preceding Easter, Christians often ask of one another, "What are you giving up for Lent." The idea is that, by voluntarily doing without something (some thing, or some activity, or whatever little luxury one may afford one's self) we can make room for something better to happen in us.

Those outsiders who live less intentional lives might not understand. To them, we may seem to be wallowing in self-imposed suffering to show off how strong we are, or how devoted, or how resolute (but resolutions are for New Year's). Lenten discipline is a change in our routine lives that cause us to remember how blessed we are, where those

blessings come from, and draw us closer to that Source. This awareness should birth in us a more lively prayer life, a more constant conversation with God.

It might take a while for others to come around and see our satisfied and fulfilled lives bearing the fruit of peace and joy and hope, but as we focus more on our spiritual dependence on God, sooner or later someone will remember to ask, "What happened to those Christians?" May we have something to show for our efforts when they do.

Peace, tom

\* *This story comes from Sermon Suite, a liturgical resource website*

## A RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS      FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2014

### By Our Gifts

2014 Budget income received	\$1,674.00
2014 Budget income needed	\$3,122.00
2014 Budget income weekly (under)	\$1,448.00
2014 Budget income year to date (under)	\$6,577.66

### MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist	Linda Jensen
Ushers	John & Marion Barwick
Youth Liturgists, Acolytes, and Ushers:	Matthew Webb, Clair Webb, Megan Moore, Cody Dove, & Craig Raymond

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS -SPRING FORWARD-</b>	<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Wednesdays, starting March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm</b>
Men's Breakfast	Sunday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am
<b>Wesley Singers/Fellowship luncheon</b>	<b>Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup></b>
Cub Scout Yard Sale	Saturday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>

### MONTHLY & WEEKLY CHURCH SCHEDULING

Pastor's Scheduled Day off	Fridays, starting in March
Sunday School	Sundays at 10:00am
Staff Meeting	Mondays at 9:15am – 10:30am
Cub Scouts #15	First Monday of each month at 6:00pm
Garden Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30am
Civitan Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm
Standing Stone	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
AGAPE Chapel	Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:00pm
Girl Scouts #1581 - First Wednesday of the month	at 4:30pm
Choir Rehearsal	<b>Wednesdays at 6:00pm</b>
Bible Study ( <i>starting March 12<sup>th</sup></i> )	Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Discipleship Meetings	Fridays at 2:00pm
Cub Scouts #15	Fridays at 6:00pm
Cottage Ministry	Fridays & Saturdays 9:00am-3:00pm

**MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION,**

Our Mom Hedy J. Reeves passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 31, 2014. When our parents, Hedy Reeves and John Fisher, retired and moved to Monterey, becoming part of your church was like having a second family. We want to thank you all for the camaraderie, friendship, and support you offered to our parents.

John and Hedy's Children,  
Theresa, John, Mike, and Rebecca

**MONTEREY'S MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

In an effort to update our records and to include your information in the newsletter, please send the church your birthdays and anniversaries. *(Please list the name(s) and date(s) of all in your family who are connected to the church. Thank you!)*

- |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Chris Kniep       | (3/1)  |
| Jack Talbot       | (3/1)  |
| Kristen Wiggins   | (3/3)  |
| Kathleen Airhart  | (3/3)  |
| David Looper      | (3/4)  |
| Kathryn Kniep     | (3/4)  |
| Janice Grosklaus  | (3/8)  |
| Heather Houston   | (3/14) |
| Rebecca Powell    | (3/15) |
| Ken Welker        | (3/17) |
| Susie Cournoyer   | (3/18) |
| Jessica Denton    | (3/19) |
| Morgan Mountain   | (3/20) |
| Michael Targosz   | (3/21) |
| Clara Broughton   | (3/22) |
| Donald Sauls      | (3/22) |
| Marsha Hedgecough | (3/23) |
| Keith Dennis      | (3/24) |
| Joan Axen         | (3/25) |
| Linda Goddard     | (3/30) |

**GIRL SCOUTS COOKIES FOR SALE:**



SHHH!..YOUNG MINDS AT WORK.

**Ten Things You Should Know About the Agape Preschool**

10. The AGAPE Preschool was opened January 31, 2011.
  9. We have served over 60 families since opening.
  8. We currently have 15 students who come to school to have fun and learn about their Best Friend Jesus, every day.
  7. The students can say "Hello" in 8 languages.
  6. Monterey has approximately 16 churches but AGAPE is the only faith based preschool.
  5. Our Lead Teacher, Ms. Elaine, was a missionary in Africa for 9 years. Also, our Teacher Assistant, Ms. Diana is a Native American.
  4. We have earned a 3 Star rating from the State of Tennessee Quality Child Care Program. This is the highest possible rating. We have to be especially diligent with health and safety matters, record keeping, parent communication, children's activities, interaction with the children, and the overall structure of our program. We have received this rating for the past 2 years!
  3. All of our students have Passports!! They are well traveled in the town of Monterey. Ask them where they have visited.
  2. We have a few dedicated volunteers that love to come and read, cook, and plants flowers with the students.
- The most important thing that you should know about the Agape Preschool,*
1. The Agape Preschool is a mission of Monterey United Methodist Church and our doors are always open to share the love of God with you. Come by anytime or just drop in for breakfast, lunch, or chapel. You will have a wonderful time and you might just learn a few things!

**CUB SCOUT SUNDAY**



THE CUB SCOUTS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THE WORK THEY'VE DONE TO HELP OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**JOURNEY TO ISRAEL**

Have you considered what it would have been like to live in the time of Jesus?

Consider booking a trip with fellow congregants to explore the last 24 Hours of Jesus' life on earth with Pastor Gibson as he offers you the opportunity to listen to God speak through His son's story. Experience new insights and understanding as Jesus is revealed along the way.

**Please call the church office to register your intent to walk with us as we**

- Walk with Jesus on his final day**
- Sit beside Christ at the Last Supper**
- Pray with Jesus at Gethsemane**
- Follow Jesus to the cross**
- See Jesus denied and deserted**

**Where: Monterey United Methodist**  
**When: Wed. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Time: 7:00pm**

**The Discipleship Team is pleased to see offered the 1<sup>st</sup> of many trips we will take on our journey in growing together with God and one another.**

**NOTE FOR THOUGHT FROM JOHN BARWICK**

It's not knowing what the future holds but knowing who holds the future

**Put The "Son of God" on Your Calendar**

Now playing in theaters is the passionate story of Jesus produced by Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, makers of the much watched television series taking us on the 33 year journey of Jesus Christ. The Downey's have skipped the traditional method of marketing films. This one is driven by passion. The hope is that this will prove to be a church-driven grassroots event and that theaters will boast a full house, filled with persons who truly believe and those who are seeking God's truth. At this time "Son of God" has already drawn \$4 million in group and advance sales - and Colorado-based child sponsorship agency Compassion International alone has distributed more than 250,000 advance tickets.

**REAL TIME MAGIC HELPS TO MEET REAL TIME NEEDS**

Professional Christian Magicians/Illusionists join in supporting the work of the Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland County where Connie, Monterey's Minister of Discipleship, serves on the Board. This fast paced family friendly event will host our own Pastor, Tom Gibson, along with other gifted magicians: Stephen Bargatze, Robert Jones, Jason Michaels, Tom Vorjohan, and Jason Murphy. **Abacadabra ... It's Magic!** promises to be a night of fun and laughter leaving you a little spell bound and a lot mystified.

This fund raising effort magically drew the attention of the caring hearts of six magicians who will dazzle and dazzle you because they chose to help in providing children, teens, adults and couples a full range of professional counseling services. They knew well, that persons benefiting would otherwise be unable to receive quality care and services in meeting their particular needs. Persons attending the Center pay on a sliding scale which is based on a family's income. Local churches, grants, and civic organizations along with individual donations underwrite the Center which is now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year.

Counselors provide services from a distinctively Christian perspective offering hope to many who find themselves in less than hopeful circumstances. Clients do not have to be of a particular faith, or proclaim to even have faith, to be served. Offices are located in the United Fund Building on Taylor Street in Crossville, and satellite offices are in Sparta and Fairfield Glade. For referrals or to have questions answered, you can call 707-8200 or go on the website at [www.christiancounselingotp.org](http://www.christiancounselingotp.org)

So come on out and give a helping hand while you enjoy a night of magic!

**Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**  
**Stone Memorial High School**  
**Crossville, TN**  
**\$10.00 per person**  
**(3 years and under free)**

Tickets will be made available at MUMC.

# ABRACADABRA!

It's Magic!



**ONE SHOW ONLY! \$10 per ticket**  
**Friday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m.**

Stone Memorial High School  
2800 Cook Rd, Crossville, TN

**Come see some of the world's greatest magicians,  
illusionists, and comedians perform a hilarious  
and spellbinding, family show!**



**Get your tickets TODAY as a  
COMPLETE SELL-OUT is expected!**

(Proceeds go to support Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland County)

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The people of The United Methodist Church\*

Church office: 931-839-2597  
Church e-mail: [church@montereyumc.com](mailto:church@montereyumc.com)  
[www.montereyumc.com](http://www.montereyumc.com)

Come worship with us at Monterey at 11am



*The mission of Monterey United Methodist Church is to make  
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Monterey United Methodist Church  
124 North Holly Street  
Monterey, TN 38574

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The people of the United Methodist Church

# Monterey United Methodist Church

## March 2014



Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy. Psalm 99 (NIV)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
2 Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	3 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale	4	5 Ash Wednesday 4:30p-Girl Scouts #1581 6:00p-Choir Rehearsal 7:00p - Ash Wednesday Service Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	6	7 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 2:00p-Discipleship Team 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	8 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
9 Daylight Savings Time Psalm 23 Matthew 7 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	10 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale	11 10:30a-Garden Club	12 6:00p-Choir Rehearsal 10:30a-Girl Scouts #1581 7:00p-BibleStudy	13	14 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 2:00p-Discipleship Team 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	15 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
16 Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Music Service	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale	18 6:00p-Civitan's	19 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:00p-Choir Rehearsal 7:00p-BibleStudy	20 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:00p-Girl Scouts #385	21 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 2:00p-Discipleship Team 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	22 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
23 Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 8:30am-Men's Breakfast 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	24 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale	25 6:00p-Standing Stone	26 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:00p-Choir Rehearsal 7:00p-BibleStudy	27 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel	28 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 2:00p-Discipleship Team 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	29 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
30 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Wesley Singers	31 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale					