



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 5, 2015

www.mulberrymethodist.org

Armor and Clay Pots: A Reflection on the Story of David and Goliath

My favorite part of the story of David and Goliath is when Saul puts his own armor on David. The armor was too big and heavy for David to move well, which tells me just how small David really was compared to the soldiers in Israel's army, much less Goliath.

When I read this story, I think of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:7: *But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us.* We have a hard time admitting that we are clay pots, fragile and easily broken. We encase ourselves in armor—the armor of financial security, moral superiority or respectability—to present a confident self to others. We do not want to be seen as weak and vulnerable.

Yet it is reliance on such armor that God criticizes when he condemns the lukewarm church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:17: *You say, 'I'm rich, and I've grown wealthy, and I don't need a thing.' You don't realize that you are miserable, pathetic, poor, blind, and naked.*

What God wants is not our strength or respectability or morality. God wants clay pots—weak, vulnerable, fragile pots—so that we rely on God, not ourselves. Watchman Nee, in *The Normal Christian Life*, recounts what he said to a man who struggled to please God: *"The trouble with you is that you are weak enough not to do the will of God, but you are not weak enough to keep out of things altogether. You are still not weak enough. When you are reduced to utter weakness and are persuaded that you can do nothing whatever, then God will do everything." . . . A drowning man cannot be saved until he is utterly exhausted and ceases to make the slightest effort to save himself.*

When we recognize that we cannot save ourselves, that our goodness and morality and wealth have weighed us down like heavy armor until we are utterly exhausted, we may finally realize that freedom is found in weakness. The very first Beatitude, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*, says that we experience heaven here and now only when we live in poverty of spirit, which is the acknowledgment of our own helplessness, coupled with complete trust in God's strength.

Armor keeps God out. Like David, we have to be weak to know God's strength.

Ann Smith
Spiritual Director



Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries



FroYo Pool Party
Wednesday, July 22
 6:00- 9:00 pm
 Location: TBA



August 16, 2015

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

All kids are invited to bring their backpacks for a blessing and prayer during our 11:00 am worship service. Third graders will receive their own Bibles.

Budget Report 2015

Month	Revenue	Expense	Net	Endowment	
				Revenue	Net
Jan	65,946	96,592	(30,646)	0	(30,646)
Feb	83,166	105,627	(22,462)	0	(22,462)
Mar	102,146	113,483	(11,337)	6,000	(5,337)
Apr	86,112	107,031	(20,919)	6,000	(14,919)
May	98,658	99,700	(1,042)	6,000	4,958
Total YTD	436,027	522,434	(86,407)	18,000	(68,407)



Pantry Needs
 Canned Tomatoes
 Canned Fruit

Help Needed to Pick Up Deliveries

Chipotle – Tom Hill Sr. Blvd.
 Saturdays – 2:00 pm – Pick up food

The food can be stored in your refrigerator and be brought to Macon Outreach the next day or on Sunday at church.

If you'd like to volunteer call Robin or Debbie at 478-743-8026 or email dtowson@mulberrymethodist.org

DAYBREAK

There is a bucket in the atrium to receive donations to Daybreak.

Supply Needs:
 sugar powdered creamer spray deodorant
 shower supplies toilet tissue paper towels

Wear

Your dollar makes change.

Macon's best kept secret for new and gently used clothing, designer brands, shoes and accessories!

Men's, Women's & Children's

Monday-Saturday

11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Wear Location: 464 First Street

#DonateShopRepeat

Proceeds from Wear support DAYBREAK, Depaul USA's day resource center for homeless men and women in Macon, GA.



Living Water Well

Mission Trip to Nicaragua

PRICE DROP Announcement! October 24-31 we are sending a team to drill a well and teach hygiene for a community in need. The cost is \$1000 + \$29 online LWI background check. Spots are currently available! Please contact Drew Mercer (478) 919-3842 or drewmercer@gmail.com and visit www.water.cc.

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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY
Our 11 a.m. service is broadcast live
over Radio Station AM 940 WMAC.



Rev. Jimmy Towson (538-9067)
Rev. Tommy Perkins (615-691-3171)
Rev. Bill Culpepper (803-673-7860)

This Week at Mulberry

Sunday, July 5

9:00 am Worship/Chapel
9:40 am KIDSPRAISE
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 7

8:30 am Prayer Group/Prayer Rm
10:30 am Staff Meeting/Conf Rm
12:00 pm Kiwanis/F-Hall
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, July 8

9:15 am CCM Chapel
10:30 am M/O Worship
12:30 pm Centering Prayer

Thursday, July 9

9:30-11:00 am CCM Summer Event/F-Hall
9:30 am Circle of Friends Sewing Group/Rm 232

Friday-Monday, July 10-13

Youth Summer Retreat

Sunday, July 12

9:00 am Worship/Chapel
9:40 am KIDSPRAISE
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Sanctuary



Mulberry Street UMC Staff

Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Bruce Bishop, Church Administrator *Camille Bishop, Music Director/Organist*
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Betsy Abbott, Director of Hospitality *Erin Frazier, Director, Children's Center*
Ann Smith, Spiritual Director *Johnny Hathcock, Director, Macon Outreach*
Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary *Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary*
Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian
Custodians
Clifton Carswell *Jeffrey Smith*