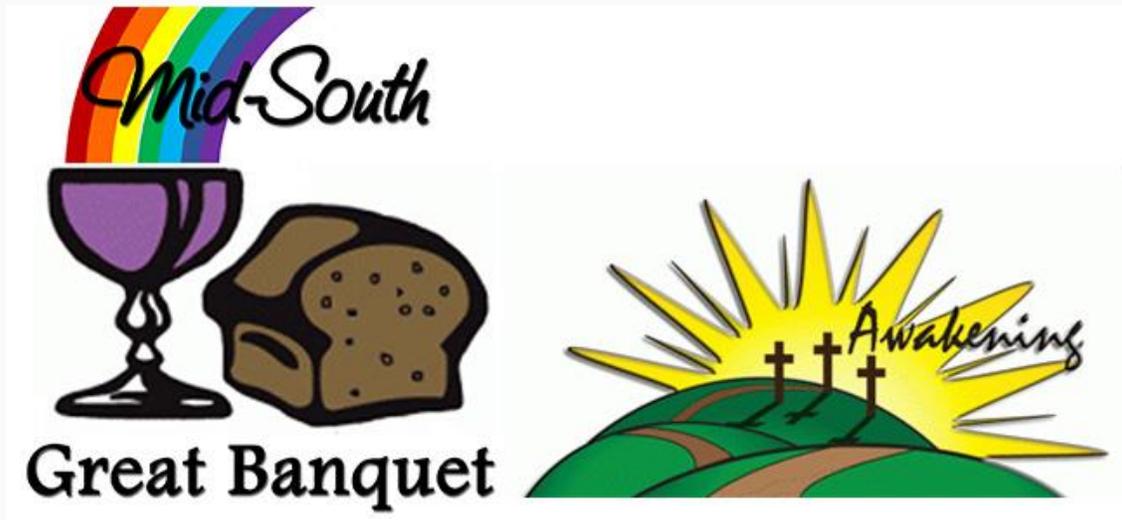


Subject: ❁ Winter Newsletter

Date: Monday, March 5, 2018, 3:25:11 PM CST



A Note from the Community Spiritual Director

Before the dawn of creation the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good... (Genesis 1:2-4a)

A pastor friend of mine was called to assist a grieving family. The widow's house filled with supporters and friends. The only place they could find for a few moments of privacy to plan the service was a small bathroom right off the living room. She sat on the edge of the tub. **My friend sat on the only other seat...the toilet. They worked through the details and he** prayed for her. They stood to exit the tiny bathroom. Just as she opened the door into the living room filled with people my friend stood up and, force of habit, pushed down on the handle. He stood in dazed embarrassment as everyone turned to stare. "I learned something that day," he said. "You just can't take back a flush."

When EF Hutton speaks...people listen. Maybe, maybe not. But when God speaks...

In the opening verses of our bible God is seen as hovering, brooding, incubating the life that was about to come forth. I picture a loving mother looking down at her infant child, filled with admiration and imagination for the life that is unfolding. Into the primordial white noise of the pre-dawn God spoke.

And when God speaks, NOTHING BECOMES SOMETHING. It is hard to imagine nothing. **We build, we plant, we “create” but always we begin with something. According to Genesis** there was nothing until God spoke. So that everything that abounds for us to enjoy and marvel over—the stars, plants, sky and sea—came to exist because God spoke. Chaos gives way to order. Things that were not, take shape and become apparent. A purposefulness unfolds and it is very good.

When visiting Hawaii everyone told us we must go to the top of a volcanic mountain, Haleakala, at dawn or sunset to experience the beautiful view. We chose the evening because, well, it falls at a more reasonable time in the day. We rented a car and drove two hours up to the peak, arriving around 4:00 pm. The clouds were thick. It was misting rain. You could hardly see your hand in front of your face. There was nothing visible. We were so disappointed we had come on the wrong day. As we got back in the car for the drive down, suddenly, the scene began to change. The clouds seemed to be breaking up. We waited a few more minutes as the clouds thinned and, as if prompted by some off-stage director began to roll back down off the mountain. What a wonder to behold! Volcanic mountains that we did not know were there began to appear all around us. Soon the clouds rolled right out to sea revealing one of the most amazing views all the way down to a gorgeous seascape, white sand beach, and blue ocean waters. What a treat! As it turns **out, that performance happens each and every day. (That’s why they say sunrise or sunset, duh!)** And to think, we almost missed it.

Do you think God is through hovering? Is God done with bringing life and light out of the darkness and void we trudge through? Of course not! God continues to hover lovingly over us. That creative Spirit continues to speak, calling forth something good out of nothing. Can you picture that same Spirit who hovered over creation hovering over your life right now

anxious to see it unfold? Let us open our eyes today to the wonder our Creator is revealing all around us. Let us open our ears to the clarifying voice of our loving Parent willing us to be reborn!

Decolores,
Michael

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Note from the Community Spiritual Director
Carrie's Corner
Spring Gathering at For the Kingdom
Ways to Demonstrate the Love of Christ
Upcoming Events & Gatherings
Board Members & Contact Information



Carrie's Corner

2018 Updates

As you all know, this year got off to an unexpected start with the ice and snow storm the weekend of the Awakening. It was disappointing to all, as the teams had worked hard and there were a lot of sleepers signed up. However, we're excited to redeem the misfortune by planning for the FIRST EVER summer Awakening the weekend of July 21-23

at Pinecrest. This will be a whole new experience, for the sleepers and teams alike, as they have opportunity to enjoy the camp facilities in way we never have before. Teams will meet on a VERY abbreviated schedule this summer. Stay tuned for further details...

Another exciting "first" for 2018 will be having the fall Great Banquets at a new facility, the For The Kingdom (FTK) camp in Memphis. We are hopeful that being in Memphis will allow for more community participation during the weekend, as well as being more convenient (at least for the Memphis folks!). To kick things off, we have re-scheduled the spring Gathering for March 24 at the FTK facility. We plan to do it picnic-style (hopefully outdoors) in their pavilion in the early afternoon. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move into the dining hall. We'll gather at noon for lunch and some time together and then have the rest of the afternoon to explore the facility, play games, and otherwise enjoy ourselves. Please see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for all the specifics and details, but plan to be there next month and see what you think of the camp. The board is excited to try out a new place and hope you will be too!

I'll look forward to see all of you on March 24, and as Joy would say, "Bring a dish with something in it!" :)

Blessings,
Carrie





12:00 PM – Picnic Lunch

March 24, 2018 – For the Kingdom – Memphis, TN
4100 Raleigh Millington Rd, Memphis, TN 38128

Join us for our Spring Potluck Gathering at our newest facility, For the Kingdom!

We are excited to facilitate our fall banquets at FTK and invite you to come out and enjoy this beautiful site with the community, friends and family.

After lunch everyone is free to explore the facility.

Ways to Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Be His Unseen Hands and Feet – The Great Banquet and Awakening are amazing experiences, and we all want others to have that same type of unique encounter with God that we did. Since there are many ways to be involved, the challenge is deciding the right fit for you.

Since the teams are made up of around 30 people, not everyone can be on a team. Plus,

teams are a mixture of people who just went through the weekend, those who have served on a few teams, and those who have served on many teams. As much as we'd like, we all can't serve on all the teams.

So, begin prayerfully considering now how you can be an unseen servant and help someone experience Christ's unconditional love. Opportunities to serve include: serving and/or decorating for meals, being a part of the prayer vigil, assisting the agape team, writing letters, making gifts of agape, providing snacks, attending community events, and making banners. Keep in mind that Christ's love is best demonstrated by as many people as possible having an opportunity to give of themselves.



Now is the time to start making agape for the spring weekends. Please make 65 for each weekend. If you would like to give something special for guests only, the maximum number of guests each weekend is 30.

Scholarships for the Weekend

Remember that scholarships are always a need for the Banquets and Awakenings. There are many needs for the weekend and oftentimes we have guests or sponsors who are unable to pay the necessary fees. If you feel led, please email the board at boardofdirectors@midsouthgb.com to notify them of your desire to make a donation for a scholarship.



2018 Spring Weekend

Men's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #86

Thursday, April 19 - Sunday, April 22

Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, 21430 Hwy 57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: Larry Bryant

Women's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #87

Thursday, April 26 - Sunday, April 29

Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, 21430 Hwy 57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: Sylvia Henry

4th Day Event

Saturday, May 5, 6-8 PM

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 3427 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133

2018 Awakening Weekend

Saturday, July 21 – Monday, July 23, 2018

Lay Directors: Kristy Scarbrough & Bradley Karel

Awakening 4th Day Event

Thursday, July 26, 6:30-8:30 PM

GATHERINGS

6:00 PM – Potluck Dinner followed by fellowship & worship.
Childcare will be provided.

August 11, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church – Jackson, TN
1573 N Highland Ave, Jackson, TN 38301

November 10, 2018 – First Cumberland Presbyterian Church – Olive Branch,
MS
8161 Germantown Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654

*Keep in mind that **Gatherings aren't just for the community.**
It's a great place to bring friends or family that might go through a future weekend.
This gives them a great opportunity to meet members of the community
prior to going through their weekend.*



The teams have begun meeting for the spring weekends and are in need of our prayers. Please pray for this group of leaders as well as for potential guests. Ask God to lay upon your heart friends and family in your life that you could sponsor for the spring banquets. A list of team members is on the Mid-South Great Banquet website.

The 72 hour Prayer Charts for both weekends are now available on the website. Click on *Pray for Men's Team #86* and *Pray for Women's Team #87* found at the top, right

of the home page - scroll through to find an available time that works best for you.

Prayer Charts, as well as Sponsor and Registration Forms, can be found on the website, www.midsouthgb.com.

Special Note from the Board

If you or someone you know who is a member of the Mid-South Great Banquet has recently changed email address, physical address, or phone numbers, please contact John Bean **and let him know so that he can update the database.** John's contact information is listed below with the board members.

2018 Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Community Spiritual Director | Michael Qualls | 901-239-5674 | mqualls@memphisseminary.edu |
| Assist. Community Spiritual Director | Diann White | 901-870-6777 | diannwhite12@yahoo.com |
| Chairman of the Board | Carrie Whaley | 731-431-4805 | whaletales@att.net |
| Community Lay Directors | Kellie Evins | 901-317-9393 | kelloves31@gmail.com |
| | Joy Karel | 901-270-5686 | joyakarel@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Lisa Murdock | 901-496-5344 | lmur0504@gmail.com |
| FACILITIES | Chris Cave | 901-238-7530 | ccave@bellsouth.net |
| | Rodney Kirkwood | 901-827-9420 | rkirkwood777@gmail.com |
| | Mike Patten | 901-233-9836 | mikepatten007@outlook.com |
| LEADERSHIP | John Bean | 901-870-0356 | beandude33@yahoo.com |
| | Sylvia Henry | 901-674-1080 | shshenry@bellsouth.net |
| | Kevin Jenkins | 662-609-1755 | bonedrum@gmail.com |
| COMMUNITY | Kelly Blevins | 901-485-8398 | tazchee@hotmail.com |
| | Paula Denbow | 901-461-4400 | paula.denbow@mosaik.com |
| | Karen Randall | 901-489-8023 | ksrandall1949@gmail.com |

Please feel free to contact any of the board members with any questions or concerns you have concerning the Mid-South Great Banquet or the Awakening.

Newsletter published quarterly for the Mid-South Great Banquet and Bartlett Awakening Communities.



[Website](#)



[Great Banquet](#)



[Awakening](#)



[Awakening](#)

Copyright © 2018 Mid-South Great Banquet, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you submitted your email address when you registered to attend the Mid South Great Banquet.

Our mailing address is:
Mid-South Great Banquet
P.O. Box 343357
Bartlett, TN 38184

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp