

# Hillcrest Highlights

A publication of Hillcrest United Methodist Church

*Hillcrest United Methodist Church is a family of diverse people, with a variety of gifts, called to discipleship, led by one spirit, and united in service and mission to God.*

## A Message from Cherie

It's already the beginning of February 2014 and we find ourselves in the midst of Ordinary Time; at least according to the Christian church calendar. In our worship and programming, the Christian church calendar helps us remember the life of our Lord and to celebrate it with some sense of chronological order. According to that calendar, Ordinary Time is ordinary because of what it is not about. It's not about Jesus' birth or his baptism; nor is it about his passion and death; it's not even about his resurrection. It's more about his life and teachings. And as we heard last Sunday, it was in ordinary time and space that Jesus called the fishermen—from their ordinary lives and from their ordinary relationships to live an extraordinary life with him.

If February is like January this year, we have before us more cloudy days of polar vortex cold -- which is beginning to get old. There are no Christmas lights to brighten the still dark skies of winter. Easter lilies are a long way off. These days of being cooped up inside to stay warm seem rather ordinary, don't they?

In this Ordinary Time between now and Ash Wednesday (March 5) in the worship life of our church, I invite you to consider with me some of Jesus' teachings. In worship, we will look at parts of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where he teaches about what might be considered some of the more ordinary things about our lives.

2/2	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
2/9	Jesus' teachings on salt and light	Matthew 5:13-20
2/16	Jesus' teachings on anger, fidelity and oaths	Matthew 5:21-37
2/23	Jesus' teachings on loving enemies & being perfect	Matthew 5:38-48

During these same weeks, our Church Council will begin its ordinary task of overseeing the life of discipleship, study and service of the congregation. We will be planning and preparing for the ordinary life and work of our church – ordinary in the sense that this is the work the church is called to live out every day; extraordinary because as we live it out we will be working with our Lord.

If you were elected last fall to be a member of the Church Council, I hope you have marked **Saturday, February 8, 8:30 – 12:30**, on your calendar to meet at the church for the first **Church Council Meeting and Planning Retreat of 2014**. Anyone in the church is welcome to join us for that morning as we plan the ministries we have before us in 2014.

Bishop Bill McAlilly has challenged every congregation in the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences to understand itself as a mission outpost in our community. Each lay person and pastor of each outpost is a missionary. This is the ordinary task to which Christ has called each local congregation. We are already doing extraordinary ministry here at Hillcrest. Let's make the rest of this Ordinary Time between now and March 5 extraordinary for our church and for our mission field. See you Saturday, February 8.

Blessings,



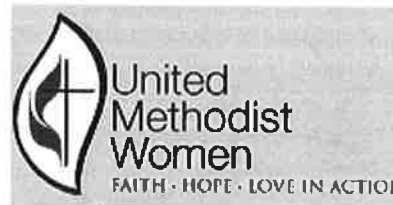
I grew up in a tradition that was pretty comfortable ignoring topics like social justice, ecological issues, and the plight of the poor, etc., so sometimes I am sure I can be perceived as someone who carries on about them a little too much, even at times maybe creating the need to apologize to groups of people who might not feel as strongly about such things- who may be more focused on things like spirituality and study.

To make myself feel better (or justified), I would retreat to my study and take comfort in writings of people like Søren Kierkegaard who described us by saying “we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand (the Bible)... because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly... Herein lies the real place of Christian scholarship. Christian scholarship is the Church’s prodigious invention to defend itself against the Bible, to ensure that we can continue to be good Christians without the Bible coming too close...”

The truth of the matter is that I am as guilty as anyone else at picking and choosing the parts of the Gospel to either embrace, rant on about, or try to apply to my own life and walk. Paul was called to carry the Good News to the Gentiles, without much benefit of all the “other stuff” in the Gospels. We were called to take it everywhere and live it: all the time. It is because we’ve shrunk the New Testament to fit these particular, much, much later models that we’ve then allowed ourselves to collapse into the Enlightenment “either-or” of either spirituality or social justice, but not both... and we know the damage that has happened by that division.

As we are walking together this month through the Sermon on the Mount, I covet your prayers for me, our church family, and for the greater family of God beyond our walls. Pray that we learn (scholarship & spirituality), and live (take action). Let’s be people that live, love, and carry on just like we believe ALL of what Christ told us to do...

Yea, he meant that other stuff, too.



**Hillcrest United Methodist Women  
Give To Missions**

Have you ever wondered what the United Methodist Women really do??? Besides making Health Care kits for UMCOR, and layette kits for General Hospital, and taking care of the Food Pantry, and doing the Angel Tree for Reconciliation House, and countless other things? You should know that at the end of every year, our UMW donates all the money they have earned during the year at the bake sales to different missions and charities. Here is the amazing list of donations this year!

- \$300 – AMAZIMIA Ministries
- \$400 – Walmart Gift Cards for Food Pantry Boxes at Hillcrest
- \$300 – Youth at Hillcrest
- \$200 – Bethlehem Center
- \$200 – Hospitality House
- \$100 – Nashville Rescue Mission
- \$100 – Miriam’s Promise
- \$100 – Safe Haven Family Shelter
- \$100 – Mercy Ministries
- \$100 – Vacation Bible School at Hillcrest
- \$100 – Martin College
- \$200 – Hearts of Worship School in Haiti

Total \$2,200.00

The UMW has grown this year by adding several new members. Please come join us on the third Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m. This is a wonderful group of women who are mission-minded!!

Charlene Eubank

**Our Tithes and Offerings as of  
January 26, 2014**

Weekly Offering	\$5,279.00
YTD Offering	\$28,329.73
Weekly Wattie Fund Offering	\$270.00
YTD Wattie Fund Offering	\$2,000.00

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## February Birthdays

02/01 Jackie Pyburn  
 02/01 Hailee Rhoads  
 02/02 Eleanor Harper  
 02/03 John Burke  
 02/03 Betty Poirer  
 02/04 Mary Ferrell  
 02/04 Delaynie Rizer  
 02/04 Kylee Stewart  
 02/04 Nathan Broquist  
 02/05 Katie Reese  
 02/06 Scott Frank  
 02/06 Rachel Dillard  
 02/06 Adam Doezema  
 02/07 Craig Mulvey  
 02/07 Jordan Corea-Martinez  
 02/08 Isaac Mercer  
 02/09 Neil Letson  
 02/09 Dot Bass  
 02/09 Troy Crawford  
 02/10 Paula Johnson  
 02/12 Phillip Sickles  
 02/13 Debra Linehan  
 02/14 Colin Smith  
 02/14 David Deckard  
 02/15 Christal Lucas  
 02/15 Jean Burnside  
 02/15 Elaine Kline  
 02/15 Avery Keene  
 02/18 Kayla Smith  
 02/19 Sandra Strickland  
 02/19 Tonia Bush  
 02/19 Isabella Willis  
 02/20 Kai Ramos  
 02/20 Trey Long III  
 02/21 Kenneth Long Jr.  
 02/21 Elexius York  
 02/22 Carl Hester  
 02/22 Michael Junard  
 02/23 Willie Ryan  
 02/23 Marcus Stewart  
 02/25 Jon Paul Christensen  
 02/25 Keri Cress  
 02/27 Rita Chavez  
 02/28 Jim Brown  
 02/29 Adam Guidry



## February Anniversaries

02/01 Betty Williams  
 02/02 Homer Rodriguez  
 02/07 Chris and Amy Smith  
 02/10 Brian and Kim Sanderson  
 02/14 Kim and Lee Nixon  
 02/17 Alan and Lois Morrison



## Save The Date

Coasters— February 12th  
 UMW— February 17th  
 Honeys— February 18th  
 UMM Breakfast - February 22nd

## Committee Meetings

- Trustees Mtg. Tuesday Feb 4 - 6:30 pm
- Church Council planning Meeting Saturday Feb 8, 8:30 am
- Discipleship Mtg. Tuesday Feb. 11th 10:00 am
- SPRC Mtg. Tuesday Feb 11th 6:30 pm
- Finance Mtg. Tuesday Feb 18th 6:30 pm

## Prayer Concerns

The following requests were received from our Hillcrest family. You may add a concern to this list by filling out a Prayer Concern form located in the pew and placing it in the offering plate or in the prayer box at the front of the church. **In order to keep our Prayer List current, please contact the church office when it is time to remove a name from the list.**

Family of Frank Bernard	Jennifer Lynn DeCerbo
Family of Michael McCleod	Lindsay Adams
MacKenzie Carson	Teresa Chandler
Judy Dillon	Mitch Shelton
Mac Markland	Bobby Harper
Sam Hagen	David Kulp
Carlene Diggs	Pat Davis
Jean Blankenship	Maud Quartey
Linda Graham	Dot King
Reyes Gonzalez Rios	Betty Williams
Diana Hanvy	Rev. David Streets
Barbara Barton	George Dauberman
Mary Margaret Lovell	

## Discipleship Committee Report



As new chair of the Discipleship Committee, I want you to know what is ahead in the way of Bible studies at Hillcrest.

Most of you are aware of the Invitation to Romans, a short-term Disciple Bible Study, that is being led by Bud Whipple. It is being offered on Sunday nights at 6 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. There are openings in both if you still want to attend. Week one is being discussed January 26.

Starting February 9, we are offering a Beth Moore study – “Esther – It’s Tough Being A Woman.” This is a 10 week study and will go through April 13. Tentative time will be 5:15 to 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings. This will be led by Sheila Harrison. Sign-up sheet in Welcome Area, or call the church office.

There will be some new offerings also in the next few weeks, like a Pastor-led Sunday School class during February for prospective members; a Lenten study offered one night a week and again on a week day; some topical studies being offered, etc. Be on the lookout for announcements and updates!!

If you have a “want” in the way of a study, please let me know. Let me know days and times that work best.

Blessings,  
Charlene Eubank

## *Notes of Appreciation to Hillcrest*

### **Serving Our Community at Hillcrest**

Hillcrest has recently been involved in several opportunities to serve and encourage others. When you become involved in an area of service, it never goes unnoticed because God sees it all. However, our outreach this last month was received with great appreciation by the community we serve. We received four responses that are shared below.

#### **Nashville Rescue Mission**

*“Sometimes we may have a tendency to wonder if some of the homeless we serve will ever change. ‘When will they stop doing drugs?’ ‘When will they ‘get it together?’ Only God knows the answer to those questions and we can only ask Him to help us display longsuffering as He works. Thank you for doing that through your generous financial support. We appreciate your partnership with us in ministering to the bodies and souls of the homeless”*

#### **Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County**

*“Dear Congregation, Nashville experienced dangerously low temperatures two weeks ago that put the most vulnerable among us, those living on the streets or in unstable situation, at heightened risk...Hundreds of Nashvillians offered hospitality, food, clothing, and blankets... More than 1,300 community members were cared for at shelters, congregations, and on Metro property. Your part in this successful response was crucial. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to serve your neighbor.  
Very truly yours, Mayor Karl Dean.*

#### **Congregation Member, Teresa Chandler**

*I will be forever grateful to the Hillcrest family. Your prayers, cards gifts, visits and concerns to Mom and Dad, BJ and Randall, have helped me on the road to recovery. I began 2014 treatment free! Continued prayers will be most appreciated. God is so good!!  
Sincerely, Teresa Chandler*

#### **Hospital Hospitality House of Nashville**

*Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your boundless generosity and support of Hospital Hospitality House of Nashville. Please know that your aren’t just providing temporary housing for families—you help to provide a **home away from home**... and we can’t thank you enough for your gift.*

## Looking to the Future -- Nashville District Challenges and Opportunities Analysis

Monday, February 17th at Calvary UMC, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

*Do you ever wonder how you and your congregation can increase your impact for Christ? Would you like to know more about the challenges and opportunities your congregation will face in the future? Are you hungry for an overview of a strategy and action steps that are tailored to your setting?*

Whether you are looking for confirmation of the course you are on or whether you do not know where to begin so that you can live into God's vision for the future, you will want to come and hear **Lovett Weems of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership on Monday, February 17, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Calvary UMC, 3701 Hillsboro Pike.**

Dr. Weems will both guide us through the big picture of membership trends and patterns in the Nashville District and provide us with strategic insights and actions that can help us move forward. The Lewis Center has a proven track of helping congregations enhance their service, vitality, and growth. This event is open to clergy and laity of the Nashville district. I believe it is one district event that you won't want to miss this year. **Childcare provide by reservation.** Please email [carol.ruckman@tnumc.org](mailto:carol.ruckman@tnumc.org) to reserve a spot for your child.

**Coasters** Hey y'all, This month on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, we will have Terry Kornman from Fifty Forward's *Victory over Crime* area come and talk about crime, fraud etc. as it relates to us folks that are just a little past middle age. This is a topic we all need to know more about in terms of what to look for and be aware of. We see on TV way too often, where someone has taken advantage of our seniors. Please mark your calendars for Feb. 12, 2014 at 10:30am for fellowship and Terry Kornman at 11:00am. I look forward to seeing you all there. **Remember** to sign the registration form in the Welcome Area so we know how many folks to plan food for.



**Honeys**—The Honey's will meet on February 18th at 10:00 a.m. After prayer and announcements, we will go to Nolensville to eat lunch at Nana's. We will do some planning for trips for this year. Please bring your ideas, wants and wishes for places to go. For more information call Dot Crawford at 941-8056.



### United Methodist Men Breakfast

The Hillcrest United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast and meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 8:00 AM. **All men are invited!**



### How To Submit Information for the Newsletter

Information for the newsletter may be submitted by e-mail or by completing an Activity/Event information form and leaving the completed form in Administrative Assistant's mailbox. Please note that the deadline to submit information is firm. Any submission received after the deadline will be published in the following month's edition. If the submission is time sensitive, it will be published in the daily e-mails and bulletin. Activity/Event forms are located in the outer office on the book shelf to the right of the copy machine, and on the church website ([www.hillcrestumc.org](http://www.hillcrestumc.org)).

### Newsletter Publication Schedule

Time Period Covered	Deadline for Information/
For the period covering March 1st—March 31st	Articles need to be submitted by February 25th at Noon. Newsletters will be mailed out on February 28th
For the period covering April 1st—April 30th	Articles need to be submitted by March 24th at Noon. Newsletters will be mailed out on March 28th.
Please email articles to: <a href="mailto:martie@hillcrestumc.org">martie@hillcrestumc.org</a>	

## Youth Ministry

God has this great story for all of us. It happens when we walk in the light, when we take risks on people and leaps of faith in the big and small areas of our life. When we do this we receive life, abundant life; a life of just enough and just in time. It is a life filled with love and beauty. A life filled with all the colors of grace that get missed when we live in black and white rules of legalism. A life where there are no guarantees but that God is with us and loves us and that is enough. This is the life we have been exploring in Youth Ministry this school year. We began talking about living a life of worship; we are now in the middle of looking at what a life of servant hood looks like. During Discovery Weekend we will take time talking about living into the story that God has for our lives and as we begin preparing for Mountain TOP we will begin a journey that challenges us to “live a life that is worthy of our calling.” These youth lessons are life lessons, lessons that we hope will carry through in all of the best and worst times of the rest of their life.

We hope that all of our youth will come and be a part of the story in and outside of our youth ministry! There are opportunities for you to get involved with telling the story of God pursuing those whom He created in love. There will be several opportunities to get involved in planning and orchestrating Discovery Weekend in the spring and there are opportunities each week to be in Sunday School, Sunday night PUSH, and Wednesday Night Bible study!

### Upcoming Youth Events:

Warmth in Winter	January 31 <sup>st</sup> -February 2 <sup>nd</sup>
DW SR High Planning Retreat	February 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>
Discovery Weekend	March 28-30
Alleluia Auction	May 4 <sup>th</sup>
Vacation Bible School	June 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
Mountain TOP	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>

## Children's Ministry

There is always something going on in our Children's Ministry! Our Children's Ministry Team is busy planning for our upcoming events, including the Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in getting involved in serving in this way please contact Kendall Crosslin or Keri Cress.

### On Sunday mornings...

We are teaching a great curriculum that allows us to tell the story, to experience it through hands on activities, and even to be a part of the story by acting it out! We are currently following along with the lectionary which means we are able to connect our lessons with our children's experience in worship!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders have a chance to **Connect** as well. They are studying how different themes connect through the Old and New Testament. Chip Parsons does an excellent job teaching our tweens how to use their Bibles and look for how God's story of pursuing his people flows through the Bible. This group will spend the next 6 weeks looking at the stories in the Bible that are about FREEDOM and what freedom means for us as Jesus followers!

### Rock the House is our Sunday evening ministry!

Robin Dyer is with our **3-6 graders** as they explore the Bible in very hands on ways as well as pray and play together! They are doing the active piece of the Connect curriculum that we use in Sunday School.

Our **Pre K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** leaders are Keri, Carla Richards, and Sandra Strickland. We are looking at believing in the UNSEEN for the next month. We will be doing some really fun activities together as we learn about *God, Love, Faith, and Hope*.

### Upcoming Children's Ministry Events

April 13<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt

June 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Vacation Bible School

# HUMC Calendar of Events

*Our nursery is open for Sunday School and Sunday Worship with no reservations needed. Additionally, we seek to provide childcare for parents attending Bible studies or meetings. Leaders, please reserve your event two weeks in advance. Highlighted (\*) events have childcare provided. For other events, parents must call the church office at 832-0157 to reserve a space for your child. Although we always try to accommodate last minute situations, we need your reservation 48 hours in advance.*

## **Saturday Feb 1**

### **Warmth In Winter (all day)**

8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Sunday, February 2**

### **Warmth In Winter (till noon)**

9:00am \*Sunday School  
10:15am \*Worship  
3:00 pm Disciple I  
5:00 pm \*Fellowship Supper  
5:30 pm Youth PUSH  
5:45 pm Rock the House (Children)  
6:00 pm Adult Short Studies

## **Monday, February 3**

9:30 am Refugee ESL Classes  
9:30 am Refugee Agricultural Program  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

## **Tuesday, February 4**

10:30 am Staff Meeting  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting  
7:00 pm Men's Basketball  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troup Committee Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Wednesday, February 5**

10:00 am Dulcimer Group  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities Afterschool  
6:00 pm Hillcrest ESL Classes  
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study

## **Thursday, February 6**

9:30 am Refugee ESL Classes  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:00 pm Men's Volleyball

## **Friday, February 7**

6:00 pm RITI

## **Saturday, February 8**

8:30 am Church Council Planning Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA/AIAnon

## **Sunday, February 9**

9:00 am \*Sunday School  
10:15 am \*Worship  
3:00 pm Disciple I  
3:00 pm Scout Pack 1161  
5:00 pm \*Fellowship Supper  
5:30 pm Youth PUSH  
5:45 pm Rock The House (Children)  
6:00 pm Adult Short Studies

## **Monday, February 10**

9:00 am Refugee Agricultural Training  
9:30 am Refugee ESL classes

3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

## **Tuesday February 11**

10:00 am Discipleship Mtg  
10:30 am Staff Meeting  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:30 pm SPRC  
7:00 pm Men's Basketball  
7:00 pm Tusculum Rd. Nghhhood Watch  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Wednesday, February 12**

10:00 am Dulcimer Group  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities Afterschool  
6:00 pm Hillcrest ESL classes  
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study  
7:00 pm Wesley Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, February 13**

9:30 am Refugee ESL Classes  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
7:00 pm Men's Volleyball  
7:00 pm Dan Bear District Round Table

## **Friday, February 14**

5:00 pm Open Table

## **Saturday, February 15**

8:00 am JFON  
8:00 am Students With a Mission (GYM)  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Sunday, February 16**

9:00 am \*Sunday School  
10:15 am \*Worship  
3:00 pm Disciple I  
5:00 pm \*Fellowship Supper  
5:30 pm Youth PUSH  
5:45 pm Rock The House (Children)  
6:00 pm Adult Short Studies

## **Monday, February 17**

9:30 am Refugee ESL HOLIDAY  
9:30 am Refugee Agricultural Program  
10:00 am UMW  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:30 pm District Ministers mtg.  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

## **Tuesday, February 18**

3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:30 pm Finance Meeting  
7:00 pm Men's Basketball  
7:00 pm Tusculum Rd. Nghhhood Watch  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Wednesday, February 19**

10:00 am Dulcimer Group

3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:00 pm Hillcrest ESL Classes  
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study  
7:00 pm Wesley Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, February 20**

7:00 am Recycling  
9:30 am Refugee ESL Classes  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
7:00 pm Men's Volleyball

## **Friday, February 21**

6:00 pm RITI

## **Saturday, February 22**

8:00 am UMM Breakfast  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Sunday, February 23**

9:00am \*Sunday School  
10:15am \*Worship  
3:00 pm Disciple I  
5:00 pm \*Fellowship Supper  
5:30 pm Youth PUSH  
5:45 pm Rock the House (Children)  
6:00 pm Adult Short Studies

## **Monday, February 24**

9:30 am Refugee ESL Classes  
9:30 am Refugee Agricultural Program  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

## **Tuesday February 25**

10:30 am Staff Meeting  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
7:00 pm Men's Basketball  
8:00 pm AA & AI Anon

## **Wednesday, February 26**

10:00 am Dulcimer Group  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities Afterschool  
6:00 pm Hillcrest ESL classes  
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study  
7:00 pm Wesley Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, February 27**

9:30 am Refugee ESL classes  
3:30 pm Catholic Charities After School  
6:00 pm Men's Volleyball

## **Friday, February 28**

5:00 pm Open Table



Hillcrest United Methodist Church  
5112 Raywood Lane  
Nashville TN 37211  
(615) 832-0157  
Fax: (615) 832-9442  
Preschool: 831-1001  
info@hillcrestumc.org  
www.hillcrestumc.org

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Hillcrest Worship**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SUNDAY MORNING

10:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 A.M.

**Church Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Cherie Parker

**Minister of Music:** Mike Castellaw

**Minister of Children & Youth:** Keri Cress

**Organist:** Carl Hester

**Pianist:** Sarah Williams

**Nursery:** Susan Gebhardt, Leah Watkins,  
Debbie Rhoads

**Administrative Assistant:** Martie Rader

**Pre-school Staff**

**Preschool Director:** Robin Dyer

**Teachers:** Teresa Parsons

Jennifer Allman

Kellie Gifford

Heather Hobbs

**For information about the preschool call 831-1001.**

*Our building is maintained by BMCS. If you find any area of the building in need of attention please let us know by calling the church office.*