



## *Hilltop Happenings*

### *Pennington United Methodist Church*

*2745 Pennington Bend Road, Nashville TN 37214*

Rev. Ray Newell  
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Church Website <http://pennumc.org>

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*August 3, 2011*

Office Hours M-W-F 8:30-12:30  
Office Phone 615-883-3074  
Church Admin: Judy Dahlgren

A couple of weeks ago, I unintentionally scared Hillary Butler. When she came to clean the church, she found blood smeared on the glass of the back door, and the door was unlatched. She was afraid of what mayhem she might find inside. In answer to a call, I had to admit it was my fault. I had left both the blood and the door.

You see, I've found that learning to use crutches while my broken foot heals is not an easy task. The first couple of weeks saw some falls and lots of bumps as I tried to learn to keep my balance on stairs and irregular surfaces. I especially had trouble with doors that close automatically, like we have at church. Trying to get through a door that wants to close quicker than I can get through it has been a trying experience. That's what happened when I scared Hillary. When I opened the back door, I didn't get the crutch in place quickly enough to block its closing. The door bar caught my left arm, gashing it and throwing me off balance so that I hit the other closed door. Once I finally got through the door, I forgot to make sure it was secured. I only realized I was bleeding some when I got into my vehicle. Sorry to scare you, Hillary.

I've come to realize that if we depend on crutches, we can lose our balance easily. This conclusion might also apply not only with real aluminum crutches like I have to use with my foot, but also with the various spiritual "crutches" we try to use to get through our lives. Many people have broken souls which they try to prop up with different types of crutches: "Plenty of money will keep me balanced, or becoming famous, or losing myself in some sport or hobby, or keeping up with the most recent fads in clothes, cars, or e-pads." But I have seen all these spiritual "crutches" collapse when one of life's heavy doors swings closed on us, and we stagger or fall under its impact.

The only way we can keep from falling in life is to cast off all these "crutches" and learn to walk upright and balanced with God. Contrary to what many people claim, God is not a crutch. God is the solid ground upon which we can walk and be upheld. God is our Father who created us so that life only stays in balance when we walk beside Him. God designed us so that we don't need any crutches if we accept God's love for us. God's love is never a crutch. Throw away all those other "crutches" and find out this truth.

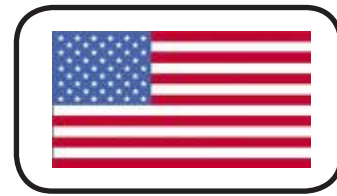
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*--Ray*

**ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011**  
**8:00 AM**



**Pennington**  
**United Methodist Church**  
 2745 Pennington Bend Rd.  
 Nashville, TN 37214  
 615-883-3074  
 pennumc@comcast.net



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- August 7 - 8:00am, Nominating Committee  
 \*Promotion Sunday  
 Teacher Appreciation
- August 11 - 6:30 am, Mens Meeting
- August 12 - 8:30 am, Eggbeaters
- August 21 - 8:00 am, Church Council
- August 21 - 11:30 am, Salad Luncheon  
 Donations of your favorite salad  
 would be appreciated
- August 25 - 6:30 am, Mens Meeting
- August 26 - Community Care
- August 26 - Game Night - Putt Putt Golf

**\*\*We need to raise more for our driveway/parking area project. We are asking for donations as soon as possible. Please give as you are able. You may either put your donations in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail to the church.**

**Put "Driveway" on the memo line of your check.  
 \* \* \* \* \***

**If you want to help on the final piece of the playground slide, you can make a donation and mark your check "Playground".**

**Ann Haines and Laura Smith are moving to Ohio. They have a dining room set they would like to sell. It is light pine. The set includes a table, an extra leaf, 4 chairs and a 2 piece china hutch. They bought it at Rooms To Go. Asking \$700--negotiable. Call 612-2602 if interested.**

**Welcome new member Zada Russ.  
 Her telephone number is 931-639-7454  
 if you would like to call her.**

**2nd HARVEST COLLECTION BOXES**

are at the front and back door of the Church. You can leave any food items (not necessarily those items listed in the newsletter) at any time. Canned meats (chicken, beef stew, etc.) are needed. Egg cartons are no longer needed.

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**CHURCH BUS**

Thanks from Sam McGuire for keeping the bus clean (this is a huge investment). Please check to be certain that all windows are closed when exiting the bus.

**VOLUNTEERS for the month of AUGUST**

- Nursery Volunteer:** Fredia McClellan Aug 7  
 Jennifer Moore Aug 14  
 Beverly Birdsong Aug 21  
 Willene Warner Aug 28

- Registration Pickup:** Weakley Class
- Church Lockup:** Ray Henderson
- Congregational Care Contact:** Ray Henderson
- Sunday Service Greeters:** Bill & Jo Hardison

**BY OUR WITNESS..."Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations."**

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**Please make sure all church doors are locked and all lights are off before exiting the building.**