BY REV. TOM GILDEMEISTER

Many of you know that my mother broke her hip recently. Her injury was “catastrophic” (doctor’s word) and it required two surgeries. And then there were complications from the surgery—we were in the intensive care unit for six days. She is now settled at West Meade Place for rehabilitation and long term care, both of which are complicated by dementia.

First, on behalf of my mother and my family, thank you for your thoughts, prayers, visits, and cards. They mean the world to us. I have written that Belle Meade UMC is a family, and you all have proved that truth once again.

Throughout these past few weeks, I have had a lot of time to reflect. As a pastor and former hospital chaplain, I have been sensitized over the years not only to human suffering, but also to the stress and fear that accompany medical crises. As we went through our ordeal, I became so aware that we are not alone. Many of you are traveling the same road. Many more have traveled this road in the past. Every hospital and long term care facility is filled with people who endure these same difficult times. We are all in this together.

The care that my mother continues to receive has been remarkable. I started to watch these care-givers closely. Their compassion wasn’t limited to my mother. The people who work at hospitals and other treatment facilities have a calling on their lives by God. The doctors, nurses, “techs,” social workers, and maintenance staff have a ministry, not a job. Their work is demanding, but their spirit remains filled with love. They didn’t know it, but each one of these people served as an exemplar for me. I want to be like them.

God is good. In the last three weeks, I was undergirded constantly with the absolute conviction that God was with me, and that God would provide for my mother—whatever that might mean. And when God is with us, who can stand against us? See you at the House come Sunday.
Church Spring Cleaning Is March 23rd
Spring is scheduled to arrive soon and with it the Belle Meade UMC Great Spring Clean Up. On Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 AM until about noon, we’ll gather to accomplish both indoor and outdoor tasks designed to help the appearance of our church property. Indoor folks will meet in the Sanctuary to clean pews, etc. Outdoor folks will assist with tasks needed in a particular area of the grounds. If you have some garden tools, bring them to prune, rake leaves, spread mulch, etc. A couple of pickup trucks would also be helpful for moving debris. We’ll accomplish great things and have fun and fellowship doing it! Ask anyone who has participated in the past. Kristin and Tom are in charge of the weather - sunny, 68 degrees. Let’s dress-up for a glorious Easter!! See you on the 23rd!!

Easter Plant Dedication
If you’d like to remember or honor a loved one on Easter Sunday, order forms for the Easter Lilies and Caladiums are now available. Forms can be found at the reception desk in the administrative wing. The deadline to purchase your plant(s) is Friday, March 22nd. The cost will remain $12 per plant. If you order more than one plant, you may write one check but please use one order form per plant dedication. All dedications received by the deadline will be printed as an insert on Easter Sunday.

Dear Church Family,
Easter Sunday is March 31st this year. We would love to have volunteers in the nursery so that we can properly welcome the guests we expect. If you can help at either the 8:30 or 10:30 service, please contact Lori Likens at lori likens@gmail.com or 615-425-9257. As always, your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your devotion to our church family and our mission. Lori Likens, Nursery Coordinator

UMW General Meeting This Sunday
The Belle Meade United Methodist Women (UMW) will hold a General Meeting and Luncheon this Sunday at 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall for members and guests. Lunch is $7 and is payable at the door. (First time attendees are our guests.) Register at the reception desk in the lobby or call 352-6210. Betty Craft, from our West Nashville neighbor church Barth Vernon UMC, will speak regarding their neighborhood missions. Contributions or cash for their Food Box Program will be collected at the meeting with ongoing support from our UMW. A list of items is located at the Belle Meade UMW corner next to room 125.

Construction Update
We hope you have noticed a lot of wonderful construction happening around the church over the last few months. Thanks to Church Mutual Insurance Company and a hail storm last spring, our church has a wonderful new roof and shiny new copper on both spires. The ceilings in the sanctuary and chapel have also been repaired and repainted. With just a few more items on the repair list to go - painting soffit and fascia boards and touch up work - our contract team will be wrapping up the final details soon. Thank you for your patience during the construction as we upgrade and improve.

Acolyte/Crucifer Training for All Youth This Sunday
This Sunday during the Sunday school hour all youth will go to the sanctuary after our breakfast for an acolyte and crucifer training. Been doing this for years? We still want you to attend to make sure we are all on the same page. We want all youth to join us and receive this training. See you on March 10th at 9:15 for breakfast in the youth lounge or 9:35 in the sanctuary.
Wednesday Night Together
The menu for next Wednesday is: baked chicken spaghetti; green salad; broccoli; rolls; dessert; and kid’s table. Supper is served beginning at 5:00 PM and programming begins at 6:00 PM. To make a reservation for dinner, call the church at 352-6210 or sign up at the front desk in the lobby. Vespers are at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary.

Vespers in the Sanctuary at 6:15 PM
Join us each Wednesday in Lent at 6:15 PM for Vespers. This candlelight service includes Scripture readings, time for silence, and Holy Communion.

Wednesday Night for Kids!
The game room for children is open on Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 6:15 PM in the Children’s Wing. Kids Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to come and find their favorite board or card game and play with friends, or bring your own game! This is also a great place to pull out those electronic games everyone loves to play.

The game room gives children a great place to hang out if they are bored waiting on parents or just tired of being in the Fellowship Hall before choir begins. This is also the perfect spot for kids who don’t want to go to choir. Parents, please remember to have an adult or youth sibling sign-in your child when they come upstairs.

Wednesday Work Nights
Each Wednesday, starting this week, we will tackle a project to keep the Children’s Wing neat and clean. Directions will be posted. Volunteers can begin working anytime after 5:30 PM and work until 7:00 PM. If you have the full 90 minutes, or just 15, your help will be greatly appreciated. See you in the Children’s Wing!

VBS Planning Team
Would you like to help plan Vacation Bible School for July 2013? We are currently building a great team to create the best VBS yet! To join in the fun, contact Erin Seay, Director of Children’s Ministries at erin@bellemeadeumc.org or 299-7997.

LENT 2013
Each Wednesday in Lent
VESPERS at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary
March 28 - Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM
March 29 - Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM
A Service of Scripture and Music with choir, soloists, instrumentalists, and members of the Grace Dance Company
March 31 Easter Sunday -
Identical worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Prayer Concerns
The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues. You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the e-mail newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail please contact the church office at 352-6210 or sign up at the church website, www.bellemeadeumc.org, under the newsletter and events page.
WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

8:30 AM - Worship in the Chapel
  Sermon: Tom Gildemeister
  Music by BMUMC acoustic ensemble

8:45 AM - Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
  A 15-minute time of communion with prayers and liturgy.

10:30 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary
  Sermon: Tom Gildemeister
  Music: Belle Meade Choir and Instrumentalists

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

Thank you to Carrie Duborg for leading the youth in Painting with Purpose Sunday night. The youth had a great time!