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Briefly

DUAL CRYPT MAUSOLEUM AVAILABLE IN MEMPHIS

Dual Crypt Mausoleum available at Memphis Memorial Park Cemetery-Tranquility Gardens, Tier E, #12 & 13. Price includes interment and inscription fees. Market value: \$13,374. Sale Price- \$5,000. Call United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis, Inc., 901-323-4993- **Becky Foote**.

'FIRST CHURCH' INVITES EVERYONE TO NOV. 19 THANKSGIVING DINNER

Memphis First UMC Senior Pastor **Rev. Martha B. Wagley** announced that the congregation will celebrate Thanksgiving on Sunday Nov. 19 at the crypt at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, 700 Poplar Avenue. They will first worship at their temporary sanctuary at the Barry Building on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital campus. Wagley said, "We are attempting to maintain the many ministries and traditions of First Church despite being displaced by the fires of Oct. 6. We thank so many who have opened their doors to welcome us to use their facilities for worship and meals. Being invited to have our annual Thanksgiving meal at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is just one example of how we will continue our traditions. They simply said, 'ya'll come.' Our hearts are warmed." The public is cordially invited. The cost is \$6 per person or \$15 per family.

FLETCHER TO SIGN BOOK AT LAMBUTH ON DECEMBER 8

On Friday, Dec. 8, author **Hayes Fletcher** will be at the Lambuth University Luther L. Gobbel Library discussing and signing his wonderful book filled with colorful West Tennessee characters and history. The event will be held at

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University of Memphis Wesley Foundation students compete in 5K 'Race for Grace'

By CAROLINE M. AVERITT

On Saturday, Nov. 4, a bunch of college students from The Wesley Foundation at The University of Memphis did an odd thing. They woke up early in the morning... to run.

Why would they do such a thing? The "Race For Grace," which supports the Church Health Center in Memphis, was held at 9:00 am that morning at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church.

Eleven students and three volunteers from the University's Wesley Foundation took part in the 5K event.

Despite the allure of a free shirt and Powerbar, the motivation behind this phenomenon was the chance to do something good for the community while supporting a worthwhile cause. This is the second year in a row that students from The Wesley Foundation have participated in the race, increasing participation by almost one hundred percent.

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University of Memphis Wesley Foundation students run in 5K "The Race for Grace" to help support the Church Health Center. Photo by Dan Hoag, a member of Emmanuel UMC.

Perceptions gains national prominence

Radio outreach ministry birthed in Memphis to be featured on PTGTV

By CATHY FARMER & ALYS DRAKE

Because *Perceptions*® Radio ministry is an effective tool for reaching the unchurched for Christ across the United States, PTG-TV recently decided to highlight the ministry on its innovative, educational television

series, *Today's Family*. The radio outreach ministry will be featured in a segment called "Reaching Your World for Christ" in the series *Until the Whole World Hears*.

Perceptions produces radio spots for churches to use in their local market on secular radio stations. The spots are designed to reach the unchurched without being "preachy."

Mr. Durelle Durham, a former member of Memphis, Tenn.'s Christ United Methodist Church, is the originator of the program which was conceived in 1972 and first used successfully in 1985 by Dr. Maxie Dunnam as a vehicle to

draw the unchurched to Christ UMC. Germantown UMC and Jackson, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church are the two Tennessee churches presently airing *Perceptions*' radio spots.

"I've had a good bit of feedback from the community since we started airing *Perceptions* in April," said the Rev. J. Ted Leach, senior pastor of Jackson First UMC. "When I'm checking out at a store or the bank, people will say, 'I hear you on the radio.' I'm very pleased with it."

Leach's radio spots are aired on WZDQ, WTNV and WLSZ,

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Durelle Durham

Briefly

(Continued from 1A)

12:15 p.m. on the main floor. There will be copies of the book available for purchase. Fletcher, the son of a Methodist minister, grew up in Memphis and rural West Tennessee. Playwright, author of a children's book and a former newspaper columnist, he holds degrees from Lambuth College and Garrett School of Theology. After educational and career sojourns in Chicago and New York, he returned to West Tennessee where he spent two decades in college and health care administration. He now lives in Weaverville, NC, with his wife, **Anita**.



Hayes Fletcher

THREE FILMS ON LIFE IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS AT LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY

Lambuth University will be showing three documentaries depicting life inside Nazi concentration camps as part of the Tennessee Commission on Holocaust Education's *Days of Remembrance*. The films will be shown at the Hamilton Performing Arts Center, free to the public. Two of the films will be shown on Nov. 27 beginning at 7 p.m. *The Fuhrer Gives a City to the Jews* is the only film known to be made by the Nazis inside an operating concentration camp. This 1944 film is about Theresienstadt, the "model" ghetto established by the Nazis in 1941 in the former Czechoslovakia. The film is an elaborately staged hoax presenting a completely false picture of camp life. Upon completion, the director and most of the cast of prisoners were shipped to Auschwitz. Only a few survived to attest to the film's falsity.

Next on the program is *Prisoner of Paradise*. It's the true story of Kurt Gerron, a beloved German-Jewish actor, director and cabaret star in Berlin in the 1920s and '30s. The film follows his career and remarkable odyssey.

The last film, *Tennesseans Remembering the Holocaust*, is a chance to hear the stories of Tennessee Holocaust survivors and liberators. It will be shown on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., in the Hamilton Performing Arts Center. Pedigo, the director, Heller, the photographer, and the films producers will be on hand. •



Kert Johnson, Jan Vining Johnson and Jennifer Baldwin turned up winners in the 5K 'Race for Grace.' Kert finished second in his age group, Jan finished first overall for women, and Jennifer placed first in her age group for the second year.

Photo by Rebecca A. Wood

Emmanuel United Methodist Kindergarten (EUMK) is currently accepting applications for the position of Director. EUMK has a long history of excellence, and is looking for a motivated professional who will continue to lead EUMK to new levels of achievement. If you or someone you know would be interested in applying for this position, please send a resume and salary requirements to: Kindergarten Director Search Team, Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 2404 Kirby Road, Memphis, TN 38119.

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Students compete in 5K 'Race for Grace'

(Continued from 1A)

The Wesley students did very well in the race. Jennifer Baldwin, a sophomore, placed first in her age group for the second year in a row. We also had two volunteers that left the pack in their tracks. Kert Johnson finished second in his age group and Jan Vining Johnson blistered the course, finishing first overall for the women.

The Rev. Justin Allen shocked his students by beating them all save Baldwin.

"They call me old and ask me what Jesus was like when he was

alive. Finally I had a chance to ask them what my back looked like from a mile behind," said the Rev. Allen.

All of our racers finished in the top half of the race. "It was a good chance to help the community and get some good exercise," said Aaron Smith, a junior mechanical engineering major.

So it was a good day. We were all glad that we sacrificed our precious sleep for fresh air and sunshine. We ran, we sweated, we cheered. And then we went home to take a nap. •

Perceptions continued from 1A

country, rock and contemporary stations that target an audience 40 years of age and younger.

"The people at *Perceptions* believe by the age of 40 most people have generally made up their minds about church. We're trying to catch them before that happens," Leach said. Jackson First UMC plans to stay with the program for at least three years.

The Rev. Rick Kirchoff, senior pastor of Germantown UMC, said, "We'll probably receive 175-200 new members this year. Most of them say *Perceptions* had an influence on their coming to Germantown. For some, it was the primary influence.

"Almost everywhere I go," Kirchoff said, "someone will ask 'Aren't you the guy who does that radio program?' and then they'll tell me how important it is to them.

"They tell me they don't go to church but *Perceptions* keeps them connected to the church. Many say it's their daily devotional."

Kirchoff added that the scripts provided by *Perceptions* are "excellent", but that he occasionally writes his own devotionals when he has something he particularly wants to emphasize.

Small churches can succeed with *Perceptions*

While most of the churches using *Perceptions* are large, with memberships of well over 1,000 and growing, its effectiveness is not limited to the large church. The Rev. Bill Calhoun of West Virginia saw the program work tremendously for his small congregation. Calhoun was interested in bringing *Perceptions* to Moundsville because he needed to reach the youth of rural West Virginia.

"There's a high rate of suicide among the youth in this area and through *Perceptions*, our youth program went from 0 to 22 people," said Calhoun. This was a major accomplishment for a church with less than 250 members in worship.

In order to fund the program, not only did the congregation hold fund-raisers like bake sales, the "membership sacrificed greatly to have *Perceptions* on the radio and made life-style changes so they could give to the program," Calhoun said. It was during this time that the minister also saw a change in the congregation's attitude about themselves.

Due to the increased awareness of the church in the community, the congregation's self-image radically improved, said Calhoun. The program put the church in the minds of the community in a way it had never been before. The public began to see the church as a positive power. Though the church isn't large, through *Perceptions*, its impact became substantial.

"We will never be a mega-church and that's OK," summed up Rev. Calhoun. "It's kingdom work, and *Perceptions* does change people's lives."

Perceptions, now based in Clearwater Beach, FL, balances secular, local radio with an evangelistic message. When used properly, local radio allows a church to target specific age groups and life-styles. Radio is cost effective and can reach large numbers of people regularly. Churches benefiting from the program are located throughout the United States. Durham says, "Stop preaching, start communicating." www.perceptionsoutreach.com