

## **Tornado Memorial Service; February 5th**

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

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County Executive Shelby Linville announced at the County Commissioner's meeting on Monday night, January 26th, that a memorial service would be held on the east side of the public square at 5 p.m., on Thursday, February 5th, at the tornado monument located on the courthouse lawn.

This event will mark the one year anniversary of the deadly twister that took several lives and left a trail of destruction in its aftermath.

According to Linville, the Lafayette Police Department will block off the public square at 4:30 p.m. so friends and neighbors can gather to share in this special moment.

A candlelight vigil will begin the ceremony, then Linville will place a wreath on the monument and say a few words in remembrance of the citizens of Macon County who lost their lives as a result of the tornado.

Red, white and yellow balloons will be released for the living, the deceased and hope and prosperity. Jeff Hudson will sing "What the Storm Didn't Blow Away" and will end the service with "God Bless America."

"This is a special occasion in the lives of Macon Countians," said Linville, "to commemorate this tragic event and to let the tornado victims know that the people of Lafayette haven't forgotten them. We want to show our appreciation to everyone, and to hopefully help put lives back together so we can move ahead."

### **Memorial Service**

A Tornado Memorial Service will be held at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on Thursday night, February the 5th at 6:00 p.m. The church was completely destroyed in a deadly tornado that zig zagged it's way across parts of Macon County exactly one year ago this week. Pastor Dean Sircy cordially invites everyone to attend.

### **Musical Celebration**

A musical celebration called "Joy Jam For Jesus" to honor the Welch Family, will be held at the

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Lafayette United Methodist Church on Saturday night, February 7th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Pastor Michael Welch, wife Julie, and their two young children, Jesse and Hannah, were tragically killed on Thursday, February 7th, 2008, in a six vehicle accident on Hwy. 52 West, just two days after an EF4 tornado devastated parts of Middle Tennessee. After a day of disaster relief work, they were headed toward Lafayette, when their van was crushed between two tractor trailers. The community is welcome to attend.

### **“Surviving the Storm”**

On Thursday, February 5th, Nashville’s WSMV Channel 4 weather team will be hosting its public service program “Surviving the Storm” here in Macon County. On the one year anniversary of the deadly February 5th tornado that roared across parts of Macon County flattening homes and taking lives, the news team will be broadcasting segments from the Macon County High School auditorium at 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. The actual program will take place at 7 p.m. in the auditorium and will offer an informative look at tornadoes and how to protect your loved ones. Activities and a question & answer segment will also be included. The public is invited.