



Please give a warm Mullins welcome to Saja Mason, who joined our Mullins family on December 14, 2008. Saja's daughters, Addison and Evan Furst, are preparatory members. The Mason family lives at 2149 Knoll Lane, Germantown, 38138

**THANK YOU**

Dear Friends,  
Wow!! What an awesome family we have at Mullins! I felt surrounded by your prayers and blessed by your calls and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you only begins to express my family's gratitude.

Gerry & Dick Gardner  
Beth & Kris



Mullins' youth will have a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 21, from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m., at the Masons' house, 2149 Knoll Lane, Germantown. All guys should bring chips — girls should bring a 2 liter soft drink. EVERYONE please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) for the Dirty Santa game! We'll have lots of fun, so plan to be there!!

**REFLECTIONS**

Ordinary. That word describes the way Christ came that night long ago.  
Ordinary sheep. Fat ones. Scrawny ones. Barrel-bellied ones. Sleeping shadows on a Judean hillside.  
Ordinary shepherds. Peasants. Despised and shunned by most of their world. They were considered so unreliable, they were not allowed to give testimony in the law courts.  
Ordinary couple. A carpenter with calluses on his hands and love in his heart for an ordinary small-town girl.  
Extraordinary message! "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!" Amazing! Astonishing! He came! He comes! And, he is coming again!

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**  
Gifts have been given to:

**BUDGET**

In honor of Dr. Brad Gabriel by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Stephanie Bowen by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of David Campbell by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Kimberly Dunigan by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Bryan Dunn by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Christie Entrekin by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Geraldine Finley by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Aaron Foster by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Lauren Gam by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Crystal Hankins by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Craig Tate by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In honor of Amber Mock by Kathy Earl, Susan Tutt  
In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith, Sr. by Jan & Ed Castillo, Mary Jane Melton  
In memory of Jack Vawter by Mrs. Milton Addington  
In memory of Sadie Rice Conyers by Mrs. Milton Addington

**LANDSCAPE FUND**

In memory of Col. Harold Smith, Sr., by Mr. & Mrs. Larry Clayton

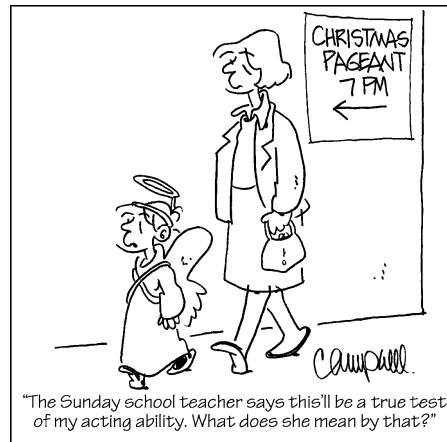
**MUSIC FUND**

In honor of Lucille Givens by Stan and Joyce Givens

**PLAYGROUND**

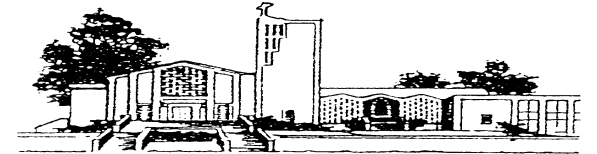
In honor of Lucille Givens by her grandchildren, Gregory, Emily, Nathan, Gina & Kevin  
In honor of my nieces, Jennifer Lynn and Jessica Ann Pickel by Ann Smith  
In memory of my husband, Col. Harold F. Smith by Ann Smith  
In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith by Mr. & Mrs. Dick Gardner

A gift to the Playground Fund has been received from Faith Sharers Class



"The Sunday school teacher says this'll be a true test of my acting ability. What does she mean by that?"

**MULLINS MESSENGER**



4 North Mendenhall Road  
Memphis, TN 38117-2698  
(901) 685-8253

Web Address: [www.mullinsumc.org](http://www.mullinsumc.org)

December 17, 2008

Vol. 39 No. 51

The Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel, Pastor

Mullins Pulpit - December 21, 2008

10:50 A. M. LESSONS AND CAROLS

*Weekly Schedule*

Sunday Worship	8:45 & 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School	9:40 am
Wednesday Dinner & Program	5:45 p.m.

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Dear Friends,

Here we are three-quarters through Advent, racing to Christmas. So much has happened and so much is still to happen, that we need to pause and look at both. The church Christmas Dinner was a real treat. The children's play captured so much of the joy we associate with this time of year. We are all grateful to the children and to the adults who assisted them in learning lines, making costumes, and everything else! Well deserved thanks also go to those who prepared our meal and decorated Fellowship Hall. They put so much into making the night a success — you will certainly want to give thanks that Mullins UMC has such servant leaders.

Looking forward, we see that SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, we will celebrate "Lessons in Carols" at the 10:50 service. The 8:45 service will be as regularly scheduled. Song, scripture and brief sermon will present the Christmas story. As a congregation, we will also participate this Sunday in our **March to the Manger**. This is a special Christmas offering, beyond our normal tithes and offerings. The Christmas offering will go to retire the building debt so that both we who are here now, and those faithful ones who will follow us, will enjoy the blessings of meeting in this holy space of Mullins United Methodist Church. We are privileged to have received this location from those who came before us. As faithful stewards of this gift, our task is to maintain the building, improve it where needed and pass it on to the next generation, secure and debt free.

**Christmas Eve** we will have two Candlelight Communion services, 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Church offices are closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26.

There we are. December 25th is right around the corner. Be sure to make time for God and His church.

In His Service,  
Brad

**5 WAYS TO AVOID HOLIDAY BLUES**

Are your holidays filled with joy or sorrow? Are you so stressed that you can't even enjoy Christmas? Do you secretly dread the holidays because of the sadness it brings you? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you could be suffering from a depression that affects thousands of Americans. Below are five ways to manage your emotions during the holidays.

1. Decide who you'll see during the holidays. If you come from a troubled family, decide in advance how you will deal with relatives.
2. Set financial goals. Your holidays should be marked with how much love you give to others instead of how much you spend on presents.
3. Take time out for yourself. Take time to just sit alone and meditate, read or listen to music.
4. Set a schedule. Schedule times for shopping and visiting with family and friends.
5. Set realistic expectations. Your vision for the holiday season must be based on your own life. Decide what is important to you and focus on it.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**

SUNDAY	8:45 a.m. Worship - Chapel 9:40 a.m. Sunday School 10:50 a.m. Worship: Lessons & Carols 4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party at the Masons' 5:00 p.m. Yoga Class 5:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels - 117
MONDAY	PDO Closed 10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Group 6:13 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal
TUESDAY	PDO Closed 8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym 6:01 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class - Gym 7:00 p.m. Yoga Class 7:00 p.m. Bowling
WEDNESDAY	Church Offices & PDO Closed 3:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Svc - Chapel 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Svc. - Chapel
THURSDAY	Church Offices & PDO Closed <b>Merry Christmas!</b>
FRIDAY	Church Offices & PDO Closed
SATURDAY	8:15 a.m. Yoga - FH

**MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 21**

Acolytes: Marylynne Carmichael, Ellen Weaver  
Lessons & Carols - No Children's Church

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward  
men."

**OUR PRAYERS**

Continue to remember our homebound members and those in the military in your prayers.

**OUR PRESENCE**

8:45 a.m.	33
Sunday School	85
10:50 Service	137
Prayer Breakfast	11
Prayer Service	71



**November, 2008**

<b>Budget Needs to Date:</b>	<b>\$529,309</b>
<b>Budget Received to Date:</b>	<b>\$440,543</b>



Sign up now for Chancel flowers for 2009. The cost is \$30 per arrangement. The flower calendar is posted on the office window for your convenience, or you may call 685-8253, and we will be glad to assist you.

**2008 CONTRIBUTIONS**

All contributions for 2008 must be in the church office by December 31, 2008. Everything after that date will be credited to 2009.