

# Mullins Messenger

A Publication of  
Mullins United Methodist Church  
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*This Issue Published as of Wednesday, December 14, 2011*



Sunday Morning Worship Service  
December 18, 2011

8:45 in Mullins' Chapel – 10:50 in Mullins' Sanctuary

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

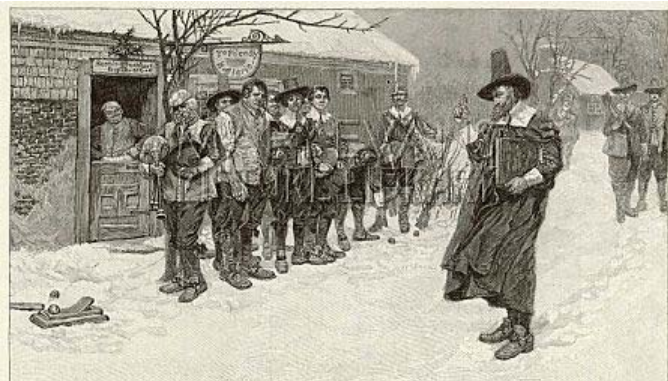
Sermon: "Another Viewpoint"



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Calendars can be tricky at times. Sunday, December 18, is the last Sunday of Advent. We will take a Walk to the Manager as we have for many years. Our Christmas offerings that day (above and beyond our regular pledges) will go to ensure that there is always a place for the gospel to be heard, experienced and lived here at the corner of Mendenhall and Walnut Grove. We have a few more years to retire the current note taken on building repairs. Then, we



can look at providing for current ministries more fully.

The next week we have Christmas Eve on Saturday and Christmas Day on Sunday. If it is Sunday, then it is time to go to church, of course. We might remember that for the Puritans, Christmas was always a day of worship. They wanted to avoid the excesses of gift giving, overeating, and generally suspicious behavior, as they saw it. Through most

of the 1800s, Christmas Day was just another workday or school day in many New England towns. You may, perhaps, recall Tiny Tim and his father Bob Cratchit going to church on Christmas Day. That was a scene in Dickens' 1843 classic.

So, going to church on Christmas Day is not out of all our history. This time around, though, we will spend most of the service singing and listening to the great story of salvation, planned by God from before the beginning of time. We won't have Sunday school on Christmas Day so that no one should feel rushed for time, as you get ready to attend our 10:50 service.

On New Year's Day, though (just one week later), we will have Sunday school and our 10:50 service only. Since we will have celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, on January 1 our worship will be organized around a traditional Wesley Covenant Service. Wednesday dinners and Programs (Mullins Midweek) resume January 4. Our program that night will be to observe Epiphany. Over the course of months on Wednesdays, we will spend a lot of time doing bible study in the gospel according to Mark. Bring your bibles and let's see what the story has to tell us, line by line. Our study will be punctuated with regular special programs and events, naturally.

All of that brings us to Sunday, January 8, and a return to our regular Sunday morning line up of 8:45 worship, 9:40 Sunday school and 10:50 worship with youth in the afternoon. Here's wishing you the best and holiest of Christmas seasons.

Grace for the Way,

*Brad*

## Honoring Our Loved Ones

Gifts have been given to:

### BUDGET

In honor of **Helen and John Russell** and in loving memory of **Bob Russell** by Nan Russell Woody and family

In honor and memory of **Lena and Edward Melsa and James Albert Melsa** by Col. Otto Melsa and Shirley and Larry Melsa

In honor of **Charles and Kathy Carter** by Mary Lee Curry

In honor of the **Kent Stratton Family** by Mary Lee Curry

In honor of **Bob and Susan Wilson** by the Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation



## Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2012 offering envelopes in the hall of the apostles.

## Announcements for Sunday

Please send all announcements for Sunday morning to the church office by Noon on Fridays. Email information to [brad@mullinsumc.org](mailto:brad@mullinsumc.org). Thanks for your help with this important matter.

## Upper Room

Current issues of the *Upper Room* are now available outside the Sanctuary. The cost is \$1 each. Don't miss out on this great devotional material.

## Welcome our New Youth Director

Chris Reinbold comes to us on Sunday, December 18, as our new Director of Youth Ministries. He has been a youth director for the past 15 years and comes to us from Highland Heights Baptist Church. Chris is 37 years old and an avid University of Tennessee fan. He enjoys playing golf and spending time with his two nephews Andy and Jackson. Chris looks forward to getting started here at Mullins with the youth group.



## Thank You Notes

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of Hannah's Hope Crisis Pregnancy Counseling Ministry through your participation in the Baby Bottles of Hope program. Working together you collected \$283.34! I give thanks to God for each of you and covet your prayers.

Rev. Trina Bell Morrison  
Hannah's Hope Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Your recent donation to Reelfoot Rural Ministries has been received. This continuing support is deeply appreciated. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you!

Michael Blake  
Reelfoot Rural Ministries Executive Director

## Cookbook Elf has a Heavy Heart

The Mullins cookbook elves have pressed hard to get the book in perfect order and to the printer for 47 of you to keep for yourself or give to friends at Christmas. The main elf reports, sadly, the books will not be printed until after January 2012.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study Resumes in January



The Thursday morning Bible study, begun almost a year ago, has seen the creation, the call, and the Exodus. We are taking a break now and will resume Thursday, January 12, at 10 a.m. beginning with the book of Joshua. We meet in the Church Parlor. Everyone is welcome.

## Fifty-Year Members

2012 brings many important events early in the year. One of those events is when Mullins U.M.C. recognizes all the people who have been members here for 50 or more consecutive years. We will celebrate these faithful saints and honor them during the 10:50 worship on a Sunday early in the New Year. If you are or if you know a member of Mullins who fits that category, please let the church office know so that we can be sure the computer records are up to date.

## Prayers at the New Year

Sunday, January 8, 4–6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

This will be a self-directed time for prayer and meditation, featuring the labyrinth, journaling, creative expressions, and contemplative music. It is designed to foster an environment for peaceful reflection and prayer. Written orientation and guidelines will be provided; come and go as you wish. All are welcome.

## The Ministry of the Acolyte

Acolytes are worship leaders who symbolically carry the Light of Christ in and out of the sanctuary using special candle lighters. Acolytes may be male or female, and acolytes may be of any age. At Mullins, acolytes begin the 10:50 Worship service by bringing the light through the congregation, and then lighting the candles on the altar. This simple and ancient act of liturgy reminds us, visually, of the presence of Christ during our worship.



At the conclusion of worship, the acolyte takes the light from the altar and again passes through the congregation, reminding us that we leave from worship to carry the Light of Christ into the world.

If you are interested in serving as an acolyte, please contact either Rev. Gabriel or Rev. Brafford. Training and helpful hints will be provided.

## New Paraments

Have you noticed the new paraments that have graced the pulpit, lectern, and altar in the sanctuary this Advent? Have you noticed the coordinating clergy stoles worn by Rev. Dr. Gabriel and Rev. Brafford? These lovely fabric pieces have been created by Mullins' member, Dr. Carolyn McCutcheon Carter and are given to glorify God and to point our hearts toward the Source of Life as we worship. Thank you Carolyn, for generously sharing your artistic gifts with us!

## Soulful Readers at the New Year

Thursday evening, January 12, at 7 p.m., the Soulful Readers will resume, and all interested readers are welcome. We've not shared a book to read through the holidays, so on January 12, we'll begin anew. Bring any book or article that you've read recently that turned your heart toward God. Each person will be invited to "share one insight and one question" from the reading. The diversity of interests and personalities always make these evenings fun, surprising, and meaningful. All are welcome.

We'll meet in Room 101, which offers safe and convenient access. Park in the east lot near the covered walkway to the gym; enter the Parents' Day Out hallway through the double glass doors. Room 101 is the first classroom on the right.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Scottie Brafford, at [Scottie@mullinsumc.org](mailto:Scottie@mullinsumc.org).

## Sunday Programming Change

Kids Konnect is over for this year. Watch the newsletter for more information.

## Members in Service for December 11, 2011:

**Liturgist:** Cyndi Watkins

**Ushers and Greeters:** John Weaver (Head Usher), Lisa Weaver, Wayne Brafford, Debi Gray, Sally Lehning, Terry Durham, and Rose Melsa

**Children's Message:** Rev. Scottie Brafford

**Chancel Flowers for December 18 and 25** are Poinsettias. Please refer to bulletin for honorarium and memorial information.



## The Worship Committee

invites you to join us on Sunday mornings in the Narthex for coffee and conversation following the 10:50 worship service.



## Wednesday Night Dinners

will resume on January 4, 2011.

## Celebrate Epiphany

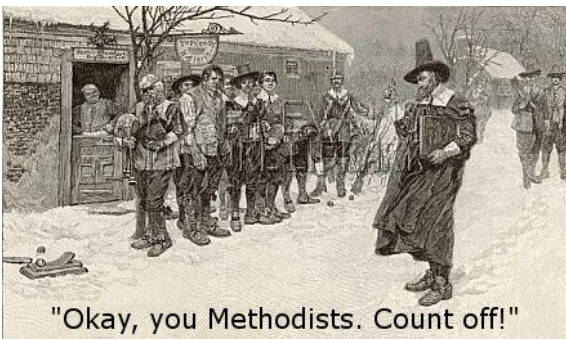
Wednesday, January 4, we will have dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a 6:30 p.m. program in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend this festive evening of light and song celebrating the arrival of the Magi and the 12<sup>th</sup> night of Christmas! (And first-time attendees at dinner receive their supper free of charge!) Reservations are appreciated; contact the church office.

## Call to Action and Church Reporting

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, seeking to help each local church and every member understand that ministry is the joy, opportunity, and responsibility of each baptized believer, is initiating a denomination-wide system of reporting.

Each week, every local church is to report on worship attendance, professions of faith, participation in small groups, members involved in mission, dollars given to mission. Even more importantly, we will report those numbers as they relate to goal numbers Mullins itself sets.

Obviously, no one can look into the heart or soul of another person. We cannot know the exact state of another person's walk with God. What we can do, though, is challenge ourselves, as a congregation; to believe and then act on the belief that ministry is the responsibility of every baptized believer. We will also need volunteers to help collect the numbers and enter them into the church computer system each week. If you are willing to help, please call the church office for more information.



## A Wonderful Day of Joy

Sunday, December 11, was a wellspring of joy at Mullins, and the anticipation of Christmas opened up service and song, and love and laughter, all day long. A few highlights? The rose-colored candle of joy was lit on the Advent wreath, and new paraments and clergy stoles created by Carolyn McCutcheon Carter lifted the Advent purple to festive shades of rose and gold.

At 10:50 worship, Barbara Southwell was commissioned for Christian Service in her ministry of advocacy with The Mid-South Food Bank. Estella Mayhew-Greer, Executive Director of the Mid-South Food Bank, surprised and affirmed Barbara by attending worship with us. In the late afternoon, we were treated to the sounds of Christmas music from the Wind Ensemble and from the newly-(re)formed Handbell Choir. The concentration and focus on the faces of the musicians gave witness to their service and love, and the diversity of ages in the Handbell Choir was simply amazing!

And Director of Music Bryan Dunn wasn't "dunn" with us yet! Following the Wind Ensemble and the Handbells, the adult Choir sang a lovely Christmas cantata, complete with soloists and readers and rich organ accompaniment – Wow! More joy!

Rev. Gabriel blessed the food, and we headed downstairs for a beautiful Christmas dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Lisa Weaver and her Family Life Team kept their cool, while serving nearly double the number of plates as our reservations had indicated, the tables were festive with red tablecloths and Christmas decorations. The dessert tables were not for the calorie-intimidated. And still there was more!

Next came the dozen-plus children and youth who offered a Christmas pageant, in costumes – AND with mostly memorized lines – AND with more music. All who attended will long remember the sheep, the elevation of the Christ Child by John Hare, and the beaming face of the angel, and then we all sang *Silent Night* to guitar accompaniment offered by Todd Gandee.

By this point, some Mullins folks were asking one another, "Who is that person?" and "Whose child is that?" as we realized there were more and more new faces in the room. And still there was more! The Jolly 'Ol Elf made his annual visit to Mullins, and children of many ages had moments for conversation, hugs, photos, and candy canes. A wellspring of joy that lasted all day, and that was created through the service and love of so very many people!

With Advent blessings,

*Scottie*



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## 2011 Contributions

All contributions for 2011 MUST be in the church office no later than December 31, 2011. The church office will be open very limited hours during Christmas and New Year's. Please check the schedule for office closings (immediately below).

## Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed December 22, 23, 26, and December 30. Bea Manning has graciously volunteered to be in the church office from 9 until noon on December 27, 28, and 29 while Susan is on vacation. Please note this schedule if you are planning to drop off contributions for 2011.

## Holiday Worship Schedule

December 24 .....Worship at 3 p.m. in the Chapel and 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
December 25 .....One worship service at 10:50 in the Sanctuary—No Sunday School  
January 1 .....One worship service at 10:50 in the Sanctuary—we will have Sunday School

## Visiting Mullins?

Check out our Visitor's Center in the Narthex. Exit the Sanctuary out the back doors and look for the sign. Information and a gift for first-time visitors awaits.

Have questions about the United Methodist Church? Check out [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) and explore the site.

## 2012 Flower Calendar

The Flower Calendar for 2012 is posted on the church office window. The cost for each flower arrangement is \$30. Please call or stop by the church office and sign up for dates you'd like to give flowers next year.

Note: The Sundays in Lent have been marked out—we will not have Chancel Flowers on those Sundays.

## CHURCH STAFF:

### Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel  
[brad@mullinsumc.org](mailto:brad@mullinsumc.org)

### Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford  
[scottie@mullinsumc.org](mailto:scottie@mullinsumc.org)

### Director of Children's Ministries:

Vicki Gandee  
[vicki@mullinsumc.org](mailto:vicki@mullinsumc.org)

### Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn  
[bryan@mullinsumc.org](mailto:bryan@mullinsumc.org)

### Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston  
[kimberly@mullinsumc.org](mailto:kimberly@mullinsumc.org)

### Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt  
[susmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:susmullins@bellsouth.net)

### Organist:

Aaron Foster  
[aaronf@bellsouth.net](mailto:aaronf@bellsouth.net)

### Custodians:

Geraldine Finley  
David Campbell

## This Week at Mullins:

### Sunday, December 18

8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel  
9:40 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Children's Basketball  
4:00 p.m. Youth—Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Party at the Carson's house

### Monday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym

### Tuesday, December 20

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group  
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Room 117  
7:00 p.m. Grace Notes Concert—Chapel

### Wednesday, December 21

No regular Wednesday activities  
EXCEPT YOUTH AND PRAYER  
BREAKFAST

### Thursday, December 22

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Friday, December 23

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Saturday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship in the Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary

## Upcoming Events:

### Sunday, December 25

10:50 a.m. One Worship Service—No Sunday School

### Sunday, January 1

10:50 a.m. One Worship Service—There will be Sunday School

## OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

### Sunday:

8:45 Worship Service .....23  
10:50 Worship Service ..... 113

### Wednesday:

Fellowship Dinner .....46

