



Mullins Messenger

A Publication of
Mullins United Methodist Church
4 North Mendenhall Road
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www.MullinsUMC.org

This Issue Published as of Wednesday, December 7, 2011



Sunday Morning Worship Service
December 11, 2011

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

Scripture: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "Had Mary Been Full of Reason . . ."

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. Growing up we were told this is "Mary" Sunday. Okay, given that the words to Mary, her response, and our joy in it all is the focus, I can accept what I was told as a child. Historically, this is "gaudete."

Gaudete is the first word in a psalm traditionally sung on the third Sunday. The word is "Rejoice." So, this is joy Sunday, a day to rejoice. Mary will rejoice and tell us why we have reason to rejoice.

One acquaintance of mine put it this way:

This is a story designed to hold a truth – that this Jesus wasn't just a bright kid from the boonies who turned out to be a really popular preacher. And the Hebrew way of doing theology was to tell a story. It's true that miraculous birth stories were common in the Mediterranean culture of that era. That's interesting, but not really relevant. The better question is – what was it about Jesus that made it necessary for people in the early church to tell this story? Was it simply their way of saying that Jesus was both human and divine?

Mary's song has its roots in Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2:1) and in singing it, Mary

connects the birth of Jesus to the great line of Hebrew prophets.

"Whenever I hear the Magnificat, I remember an incident some 50 years ago where a Christian minister somewhere in Latin America, was arrested for reading this on the radio. The dictator of the country found this passage threatening, as well he might, especially the part about bringing down "the powerful from their thrones."

So, we rejoice on December 11. We find joy in the birth of the Savior or we have missed the birth of the Savior. We rejoice in giving our lives back to God or we have missed God. We feel joyful in Church; filled with the Holy Spirit or we have missed the Spirit.

Join us this Sunday as rejoice in God our Savior and find joy once again in the story of salvation.

Grace for the Way,

Brad



Prayers

As members of the body of Christ, we are always in prayer for one another. At this time our thoughts and prayers go out especially for:

Margaret Carbaugh, at home

NOTE: Prayer is a wonderful gift from God. We are always willing to add friends and family to our prayer list. However, please help us keep the prayer list up to date by letting the church office know when names can be removed from the list. Thanks for your help in this matter.



Reimbursements and Receipts

For your convenience, the blue forms for reimbursement of expenses are now available on the table outside the church office. Please complete the form, with your name clearly printed on the top line, and sign at the bottom of the form. Remember to attach your receipts to the back.

You may leave your completed copy in the tray or bring it by the office weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Upper Room

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

Visit from LifeBlood

Mullins has the opportunity to give our community a wonderful Christmas gift this year—the gift of life. LifeBlood will return to Mullins Wednesday, December 14. Your gift can help save lives in our community.



The signup sheet to donate will be in the Hall of the Apostles on Sunday and in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening. When donating blood remember to have your LifeBlood ID or photo ID. LifeBlood will be giving all donors a holiday T-shirt.

Also if you have a dinner reservation that evening your dinner will be free.

Thank-You Note from United Methodist Neighborhood Centers

I would like to extend a gracious and hearty THANK YOU to all that helped to get us through Thanksgiving either through donations or baskets. We made it with three to spare (thank you, Sharon L.).

Regarding the toy store progress, it appears as though applications taken in are slower this year, and I'm not forcing the issue as toy donations are also down somewhat. I have no fear at this point that God's grace and mercy will bring the whole process together just as has happened in the past two years. I have posted and told folks they have until December 9 for any toy or donation to be delivered to 3000 Walnut Grove. This is also the day for decorating and setting up the toy store. If anyone would also like to help with this task, let Neighborhood Centers know, and again, THANK YOU!

Grace Notes Concert

Join us Tuesday, December 20, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel for an evening of Christmas music with the Grace Notes. You'll enjoy guitar, flute, hammer dulcimer, piano, percussion, vocals, and refreshments. This concert is always one of the highlights of the Christmas season here at Mullins. Don't miss it!

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary on December 18 and 25. If you would like to order poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones, please complete the form and return it to the church office, with payment. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.00, and the deadline to order is **this Sunday, December 11.**



Name: _____

In honor () or memory () of: _____

Number of Poinsettias ordered: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

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 24Worship at 3 p.m. in the Chapel and 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December 25One worship service at 10:50 in the Sanctuary—No Sunday School

January 1One worship service at 10:50 in the Sanctuary—we will have Sunday School

Thank-You Notes

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for the cards, food, visits by Dr. Gabriel, and especially the prayers during my hospitalization, rehab, and recuperation at home. Paul and I are blessed to be part of such a thoughtful congregation.

Nancy Blankenship

Dear Dr. Gabriel and Mullins Members,

Thank you so much for your visit when I was in the hospital. I also enjoyed receiving all of the get-well cards while I was recovering at home. All of your thoughts and prayers will help me have a speedy recovery. God bless.

Carrie Likley

Coffee with the Clergy

Membership in a church family is a significant decision. Here at Mullins we offer "Coffee with the Clergy" to help interested adults learn about Mullins, our larger church family, the staff, and expectations that come with membership. *Coffee with the Clergy* is four sessions. They are held at least quarterly each year. There is no need to take them in any particular order. The sessions take place during the Sunday school hour so children may attend their own group or stay in the nursery. For more information about a specific session, please contact the church office at 901.685.8253 or email Pastor Gabriel at brad@mullinsumc.org. Sessions meet at 9:45, Sunday mornings, in Room 210 on the second floor of the Education Wing. Tell your friends!

- January 8: The Story of Christianity
- January 15: Packing for the Journey, Spiritual Practices
- January 22: The Story of Methodism
- January 29: Much Ado About Mullins—the Mullins Story

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: Debi Gray

Chancel Flowers for December 11

are being placed to the glory of God in honor of my beautiful bride Kathy, in celebration of our 23rd anniversary, December 10, by Charles Carter.

The Worship Committee

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



The Menu for December 14:

Chicken
Creamed Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad
Bread
Dessert

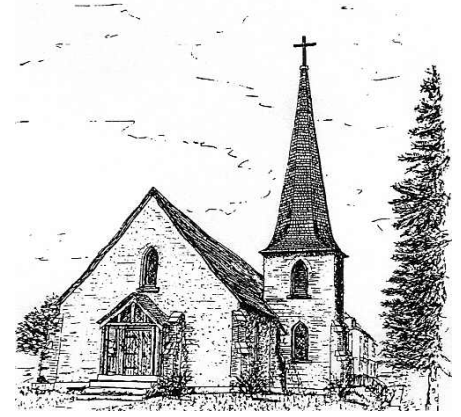
Adults-\$6, Children 12 and under-\$4,
Family Max-\$23

Dinner is held on Wednesday nights at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a brief prayer service and an interesting program. Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy the fellowship. Your first dinner is complimentary!

If you're not already on the list, please call the church office to let us know you're coming so we'll be sure to have plenty of food.

Don't Stay Away from Church . . .

- Because you are poor; there's no admission charge.
- Because you are rich; your church can help you cure that.
- Because it rains; you go to work in the rain.
- Because it's hot; it's hot on the creek bank and the golf course, too.
- Because it's cold; It's warm and friendly inside your church.
- Because no one invited you; people go to movies without being asked.
- Because we have an emotional religion; how about the ball games?
- Because you have little children; the church has a program and a responsibility to help you rear them in the Bible and the teachings of Christ.
- Because you don't like the preacher; he's human, like you, and besides, he's God's man for this church at this time.
- Because your job makes you tired; you could lose your job.
- Because there are hypocrites in the church; don't you associate with them in every other phase of life? (If a hypocrite stands between you and God, he's closer to God than you are.)
- Because you have company; your company might admire your loyalty if you bring them to church with you.
- Because you need a weekend vacation; if your soul takes a vacation from God, that's not good.
- Because your clothes aren't good enough; your church isn't supposed to be a fashion show anyway.
- Because the church always wants money; well, so does the grocer and others that help to make life worth living.
- Because you have plenty of time ahead of you to get right with the Lord; now, can you be sure of that?



--submitted by Mary Winton

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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.

Announcements for Sunday

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

Church Christmas Dinner and Choir Cantata

We hope you will join us for our Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 11, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy Christmas songs, a special program by our children, and a visit from Santa himself! Please contact the church office by December 7 to make your reservations.

Preceding the Christmas dinner, the Chancel Choir will present its Christmas cantata in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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 and explore the site.

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel
brad@mullinsumc.org

Minister of Spiritual Formation:

Rev. Scottie Brafford
scottie@mullinsumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries:

Vicki Gandee
vicki@mullinsumc.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Bryan R. Dunn
bryan@mullinsumc.org

Director of Parents Day Out:

Kimberly Alston
kimberly@mullinsumc.org

Church Secretary:

Susan Tutt
susmullins@bellsouth.net

Organist:

Aaron Foster
aaronf@bellsouth.net

Custodians:

Geraldine Finley
David Campbell



OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):

Sunday:

8:45 Worship Service 17
10:50 Worship Service 70

Wednesday:

Fellowship Dinner 54

This Week at Mullins:

Sunday, December 11

- 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—Room 117
- 5:00 p.m. Choir Cantata—Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Church Christmas Dinner and Children's Program—Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 12

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 14

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Lifeblood at Mullins—see page 2
- 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall
(NOTE: This is the last Fellowship Dinner until January 4)
- 6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Program—Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Lamplighter/Friendship Class Party at Bill Phillips'
- 6:15 p.m. Wind Ensemble—Choir Room

Friday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 17

- 11:00 a.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, December 20

- 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes Concert

Saturday, December 24

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

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

