



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 28, 2008

[www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)

## The Blessing of Christmas

*And it came to pass on a Christmas evening, while all the doors were shuttered tight.  
Outside standing, a lonely boy-child, cold and shivering in the night.*

*On the street every window, save but one was gleaming bright.  
And to this window walked the boy-child, peeking in, saw candlelight.*

*Through other windows he had looked at turkeys, ducks and geese and cherry pies.  
But through this window he saw a gray-haired lady, table bare and tears in her eyes.*

*Into his coat reached the boy-child, knowing well there was little there.  
He took from his pocket his own Christmas dinner, a bit of cheese, some bread to share.*

*His outstretched hands held the food and they trembled, as the door it opened wide.  
Said he "Would you share with me Christmas dinner?" And gently said she "Come inside."*

*The gray-haired lady brought forth to the table, glasses two, her last drop of wine.  
Said she "Here's a toast to everyone's Christmas, and especially yours and mine!"*

*And it came to pass on that Christmas evening, while all the doors were shuttered tight.  
That in that town the happiest Christmas, was shared by candlelight.*

**(Christmas Dinner – Peter Paul and Mary,  
From the CD, "Peter Paul & Mommy")**

This is a simply story of a shared Christmas. It has left an impression on me that speaks to the heart of Christmas' meaning: it is not what you have, nor even what you give away that defines the true gift of Christmas. It is rather allowing the spirit of Christ to determine what and how you give.

Best wishes for a joyful and peace-filled Christmas. May the blessing of a shared Christmas be yours. May the Gift of Christ be at the heart of all you give and receive.

Joy!

*Tommy*

# Sunday Worship

December 28, 2008

Nine O'clock - Chapel  
Eleven O'clock - Sanctuary

*"In His Service"*  
Luke 2: 22-40

Rev. Cile Mitchell

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## Assisting with Worship

### Ushers for Nine O'clock

Tim Anderson and Denny Julius

### Ushers for Eleven O'clock

Gary Dunn, Emory Dunn,  
Keith Fackler, Chad Hancock,  
Scott Huggins, Jim Manley,  
Don Ream, Vaughan Smith,  
Bill Sparks, Lee Stevens and  
P.M. Watson

### Sunday School Greeters

Youth

### Children's Church

Austin & Karen Carter

### Mulberry's Muggers

Russ & Carolyn Barber  
Chris & Leslie Brown  
Jim & Ann Smith

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## Altar Flowers



The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Andrew J. Lyndon.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. Andrew J. Lyndon.

### Attendance Last Sunday

Nine O'clock Worship	54
Eleven O'clock Worship	429
<b>Total Worship Attendance</b>	<b>483</b>



Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist

## Back to Choir

Children's Choirs, Music for Threes,  
and Ainsworth Choir will resume  
Wednesday, January 7.  
Young Spirit Singers will resume  
Sunday, January 11.

## Last Call for Christmas Offering

Our gifts will go to the missions' budget. The missions committee would like to expand the mission opportunities to make them accessible to the entire church regardless of age. In addition, the committee would like to provide scholarships for individuals who can not afford the entire cost of the mission trips. Involvement in missions builds relationships and strengthens the faith of those involved. It provides a wonderful opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please give generously. Mark your checks "Christmas Offering".



Cameron Bishop,  
Director of Youth Ministry

[www.mulberryyouth.com](http://www.mulberryyouth.com)

## Thank You

A Huge thanks to everyone who made the youth Christmas Party a success!

## Evaluations

Please remember to visit the youth website and complete the year-end evaluations. Help us know what we can do to improve!

## Summer Mission Trip

Remember to turn in your \$100 deposit for the trip this week!



Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> until January 5<sup>th</sup>. In western Christian Tradition, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. The season of Epiphany extends from Jan 6<sup>th</sup> until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known." It remembers the coming of the Wise Men who brought gifts to the Christ child, and who were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as the incarnate Christ. This was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few. The season is now observed as a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

## *Wednesday Night Supper*

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*



### Menu

Baked Chicken  
Fat Back  
Black-eyed Peas  
Turnips  
Wild Rice  
Cream Corn  
Potato Salad  
Cracklin' Cornbread  
Regular Cornbread  
Carrot Cake

### Program

Musical Entertainment  
with Billy Bishop and  
Bryson Holloway

### Mission Jars

Open Hands Partnership  
with East Africa

## Circle Meeting

The Esther Circle will meet Thursday, January 8 at the home of Carol Pope. Please bring canned goods for Macon Outreach.

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## Young at Heart Luncheon

Thursday, January 8 - 12:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall - Cost: \$5

All adults 55 or older are most welcome. Program: Dr. Linda Hall Smyth – a great jazz pianist. You do not have to be a member of Young at Heart to attend. Call the church office (745-8601) for reservations by Monday, January 5.

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## December 31 Deadline

Gifts to be credited to your 2008 tax deductible giving record must be received by December 31 in order to be claimed as a charitable gift for 2008. If you would like to make a prepayment on your 2009 pledge and receive credit for the gift in 2008, mark your check 2009 prepayment.

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## Your Generosity Appreciated

The church budget predicts we will end the year in the “red” both this year and the next. On the other hand, our financial history reveals that many of you intentionally overpay your pledge each year. Within the past 10 years expense has exceeded gifts only twice. The financial status of the world is unpredictable. Your faithfulness, however, remains steadfast. Thank you for going “the extra mile.”



*Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

## KIDZTOWN PARTY

Friday, January 9, 2009  
6:00-9:00 PM - Riverside UMC

Come join the Children's Department as we start the year off with a night of fun and excitement at the Kidztown Party at Riverside United Methodist Church. We'll meet at Mulberry at 5:30 and ride together over to Riverside, where food, games and Brandon Rushin--otherwise known as HeyYa!, the cooler-than-cool game show host--will be waiting. All kids from 1st-5th grade (younger, if accompanied by an adult) are invited. We'll have a blast together!

## Children's Council Meeting

Sunday, January 11, 2009  
12:00 Noon (following worship service)  
Children's Assembly Room  
Lunch and child care provided.

## Small Groups - Spring 2009

### Sunday Nights\*

#### **Faith Questions**

Led by Tommy Martin

Begins: January 11, 2009 (9 sessions) - 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00 for book Place: Rosser II Classroom

#### **SERVING FROM THE HEART:**

#### **FINDING YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR SERVICE**

Led by Cile Mitchell

Begins: January 18, 2009 (8 sessions) - 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00 for book Place: Small Conference Room

#### **THE WAY OF DISCERNMENT**

Led by Ann Smith

Begins: January 18, 2009 (11 sessions) - 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00 for book Place: Forum Classroom

#### **BETH MOORE: ESTHER:**

#### **IT'S TOUGH BEING A WOMAN**

Led by Lee Triesenberg

Begins: January 18, 2009(11 sessions) - 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$15.00 for book Place: Parlor

#### **SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK AND WHITE**

Led by Jim Coleman

Begins: March 15, 2009 (6 sessions) - 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$22.00 for book Place: Conference Room

#### **Godly Play: HOW TO LEAD**

Led by Julia Magda

Begins: June 7-July 12, 2009 (6 sessions) - 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Place: Children's Department

*Participants:* Teachers for the fall children's Sunday school.

### THURSDAY MORNINGS\*

#### **INVITATION TO PSALMS**

Led by Flo Martin

Begins: January 8, 2009 (10 sessions) – 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Cost: \$10.00 for book Place: Rosser II Classroom

*\*Childcare provided*

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (745-8601)  
TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES.**

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### MACON OUTREACH FUND

IN MEMORY OF LANE MADISON BENNETT BY TRINITY CIRCLE

IN HONOR OF JAMES A. BERG, SR. BY MRS. EVELYN BERG

### MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF MARY ELIZABETH MCCRARY BY  
MRS. LUCY E. MILLER MRS. ROBBIE KIRK

IN MEMORY OF LANE MADISON BY MR. & MRS. JAMES P. BARKER

### ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF RUTH JENNINGS BY MRS. WILLIAM P. SIMMONS

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## Happy New Year from Macon Outreach!

Thanks to your financial and prayerful support, we are able to look forward to 2009 with great thankfulness and confidence. Because of what you have generously shared with us, we are able to share with those who need it most.

Phase II of the exciting Outreach renovations will begin in January, to provide us with a new grocery pantry and office space. These changes will allow us to improve and increase our services to the community. Please keep us in your prayers during this time of transition and anticipation.

**Mulberry Street United Methodist Church**  
719 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201  
P.O. Box 149, Macon, GA 31202  
Office (478) 745-8601  
[www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)

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MACON, GA

**NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our 11 a.m. service is broadcast live  
over Radio Station AM 940 WMAC.**

### **Pastor on Call**

December 26-28

Cile Mitchell

Home: 745-9657 Cell: 986-7107

E-mail: [cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org)

## ***THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY***

### **Sunday, December 28**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Disciple 1/Conf Rm

6:00 p.m. UMYF

**Monday, December 29 - Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday, December 30**

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Conf Rm

7:00 a.m. Men's Sermon Starter Group/Panera Bread

8:30 a.m. Prayer Group/Conf Rm

12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Club Luncheon/Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, January 1 - Church Office Closed**

### **Sunday, January 4**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Disciple 1/Conf Rm

6:00 p.m. UMYF

### **Reminder...**

The church office will be closed

Monday, December 29

and Thursday, January 1.

### **The Shack**

Have you read *The Shack* by William P. Young? Want to discuss it? Join Tommy and Cile after church on January 4, 2009 for a book discussion. Sack lunches will be available for \$5.00. Come and share your insights, thoughts and questions. Call the church office, 745-8601 to sign up.

### ***Church Council Dedication***

***Sunday, January 11, 2009***

***11:00 a.m. Service***

### ***"Near to the Heart of God" Women's Retreat***

***February 20-22, 2009***

***Ebenezer Retreat Center, Ricon, GA***

Register by December 31, 2008 to receive a discounted rate.



### **Just for Information...**

We will not be publishing a newsletter for January 4, 2009.

The next newsletter will be dated January 11, 2009.

Below is information for Sunday Worship for January 4, 2009.

## ***Sunday Worship - January 4, 2009***

Nine O'clock - Chapel    Eleven O'clock - Sanctuary

*"Looking Farther Than You Can See"*

*Matthew 2: 1-12*

Rev. Tommy Martin

### **Assisting with Worship in January**

**Ushers for Nine O'clock** - Warren Dunn & Scott Wangen

### **Ushers for Eleven O'clock**

Jason Anthoine, Charles Bridges, Austin Carter, Scott Davis, Ken Harper, Gary Hobby, David Mann, Bob Middleton, Mack Minton, Jim Rice, Blake Sharpton, Chris Uren

### **Sunday School Greeters** - Berg-Brenner Class

**Children's Church** - Jim & Kathryn Manley (January 4)

**Mulberry's Muggers** - Jack Head & Paige Mann (January 4)

### **Flowers for Sunday, January 4, 2009**

The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. George Middleton and Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Yandle, Sr. by Bob and Susan Middleton.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Cohen James by Dot James and family.



## ***MULBERRY STREET UMC STAFF***

*Tommy Martin, Senior Pastor*

*Cile Mitchell, Associate Pastor*

*Bishop C. W. Hancock, Bishop in Residence*  
*Dr. William H. Hurdle, Senior Pastor Emeritus*

*Bruce Bishop, Church Administrator*

*Camille Bishop, Music Director/Organist*

*Cameron Bishop, Director of Youth Ministries*

*Pam Johnston., Director of Children & Family Ministries*

*Erin Roberson, Director, Children's Center*

*Betsy Abbott, Director of Hospitality*

*Johnny Hathcock, Director, Macon Outreach*

*Sara Colvin, Financial Secretary*

*Linda Parker, Administrative Secretary*

*Doris Andrews, Church Cook/Custodian*

*Clifton Carswell & Arnold Freeman, Custodians*