

MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 6, 2009

www.mulberrymethodist.org

THE UNEXPECTED SURPRISES OF CHRISTMAS

Charles Swindoll says, *"Christmas scratches the itch of grace deep within us."* God's angels spoke grace that first Christmas and to us now. In the gospels an old man, a teenager, an ordinary carpenter, and some lowly people were touched by God's heavenly host. Zechariah's response was one of unbelief. The old priest, whose turn had come by Lot to serve in the temple dared question the Almighty (in hearing the angelic announcement he would become a father, that Elizabeth would bear a son): *"How can I be sure of this?"* In answer, God enforced an eloquent silence on Zechariah . . . And, when at last Elizabeth's nine months were complete, the first words Zechariah spoke were praise to God.

The bottom line is: God hears us! Young Mary also heard the angel's voice and felt the warmth of God's grace pour over her. *"You have found favor with God!"* Mary questioned God, too, but hers was a query of logistics, not unbelief. *"How shall this be since I am a virgin?"* she blundered. The reply? *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you."* Mary affirmed the *"great things"* God had done for her!

The bottom line is: God is pleased with us! Jesus made it so!

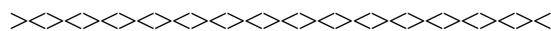
Is there something difficult you are facing this season? Some uncertainty? The angel's message to Joseph will comfort you. *"Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife."* (Mt. 1:20) Though confused and scared, Joseph heard the angel's cry, *"YOU CAN!"* We too can find help in all things, at all times, having all we need.

The bottom line is: God walks with us, enabling us as we go.

The long awaited one, the King of Kings, the expected Messiah sent his envoy to the lowliness of people. The call was clear. *"Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord . . . You will find Him . . ."* (Luke 2:10 - 12) There is *"good news of great joy"* for all the people! God's touch of grace comes in unexpected times, ways, and places. Where will we find it this Christmas?

This Sunday, the Gospel lesson is from Luke 3: 1 - 6

The message: Preparing Our Way: "Spiritual Road Construction"



Our Children In Ministry to the Church

Plum Pudding Festival

Cherub & Carol Choirs Singing

Covenant Choir: Radio J-O-Y

December 6 ** 6:00 PM

The Fellowship Hall

Tommy

Paula Motes Circle

The Paula Motes Circle Christmas Luncheon will be Wednesday, December 9th, 12:00 Noon in the parlor. Please remember to bring items in Christmas bags for children at the Methodist Children's Home.



The Chrismon Trees this season
are provided by the
Andrew Lyndon Endowment Fund.

Joy Class Christmas Dinner

The Joy Class Christmas Dinner will be Tuesday, December 15th, starting at 6:30 p.m., in the Rumford Center dining room at the Methodist Children's Home.



Helen Marie Schubert
November 19, 2009

Welcome New Members

Dan & Miriam Hagan
312 Somersby Lane
Macon, GA 31210
475-4226

Ministries Budget Report 2009 General Fund

Month	Gifts	Expense	Net	Last Year
Jan	80,288	102,289	(22,001)	(24,726)
Feb	72,070	99,174	(27,104)	(23,690)
Mar	102,764	102,991	(227)	6,979
Apr	81,652	107,761	(26,109)	229
May	85,482	97,177	(11,695)	(5,960)
Jun	103,693	98,451	5,242	28,813
Jul	81,424	96,769	(15,345)	(31,955)
Aug	86,459	96,383	(9,924)	(18,589)
Sep	108,276	102,097	6,179	(22,466)
Oct	71,745	93,023	(21,278)	(702)
Total YTD	873,853	996,104	(122,251)	(92,067)



Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

Family Caroling and Christmas Party

December 13, 4 pm

Meet at the church at 4 to ride on the bus to 2 nearby spots so we can go caroling. Last year we visited St. Paul's and Magnolia Manor--both the folks living there AND our kids were so blessed by it. Please plan for your family to join in. We will probably need for a few people to follow along in cars. Then we'll return to the church at 6 for a taco bar in the Fellowship Hall and a short Christmas party with games and goodies for the kids. Bring a friend, RSVP to Pam by Dec. 9, and have a happy holiday!



It Takes A Village to Stock a Food Pantry!

Holiday help is coming from all directions these days, and we are so grateful to community groups who donate their time and food to the Emergency Grocery Pantry. We extend a special thanks to those who have recently shared canned goods: Publix (Tom Hill, Sr. location), Stratford Academy Key Club and 5th grade, Springdale Elementary, Tattnall Square Academy 3rd grade, Boys & Girls Club, Central HS Beta Club, Mulberry Children's Center, Area Agency on Aging, Windsor Academy, Robins AFB, and others.

We still remain in critical need of mac & cheese, pork & beans, and canned greens (spinach & turnips).



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

The weather outside is frightful, but inside Outreach, it's delightful, thanks to your gifts of prayerful support. Can you help us provide Christmas cards & stamps for our guests this season? The holidays are often a warm reminder of better times, and can be an important way to reconnect with family and friends. Your donations of Christmas cards and 44c stamps will help guests make these important links back to people who care about them. Donations can be mailed or delivered to Macon Outreach, M-F.

Watch this space for future details on how you can help this Christmas season!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT MULBERRY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

CHILDREN PRACTICE THEIR CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATE THEIR TREE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

PLUM PUDDING FESTIVAL

CHERUB & CAROL CHOIRS SINGING
COVENANT CHOIR PRESENTS RADIO J-O-Y
6:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

"CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS"

AINSWORTH CHOIR

11:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

CHILDREN & FAMILIES GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING
4:00-6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

THIRD TUESDAY ORGAN INTERLUDE

LEWIS KING, ORGANIST - 12:00 NOON - MULBERRY SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - 9:00 A.M. - FELLOWSHIP HALL

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY - 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

MORNING COMMUNION - 10:00 A.M. - CHAPEL

SERVICE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES - 4:00 P.M. - FELLOWSHIP HALL
A BRIEF COMMUNION SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

BETSY FITZGERALD, HARP
5:30 P.M. - SANCTUARY
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
6:00 P.M. - SANCTUARY

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
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www.mulberrymethodist.org

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Pastor on Call

December 4-6

Tommy Martin

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E-mail (home): tomflomartin920@aol.com

THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY

Sunday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

4:15 p.m. Young Spirit Singers

5:00 p.m. UMYF

6:00 p.m. Plum Pudding Festival/Children's Choirs Sing

Monday, December 7

12:00 p.m. Mondays at Mulberry Luncheon –

Speaker: Tripp Self/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 8

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

7:00 a.m. Men's Sermon Starter Group/Bob Lovett's Office

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

9:15 a.m. Chapel for Daycare/Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting/Conf Rm

12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Club Luncheon/Fel-Hall

Wednesday, December 9

12:00 p.m. Paula Motes Christmas Luncheon/Parlor

7:15 p.m. Ainsworth Choir

Thursday, December 10

12:00 p.m. Young at Heart

5:30 p.m. Devotional Group/Panera Bread

6:00 p.m. Children's Center Christmas Party/Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 11

7:00 a.m. Market Place Men's Ministry/Joshua Cup

Sunday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:40 a.m. KIDSPRAISE/Children's Assembly Rm

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Caroling/Children & Families

4:15 p.m. Young Spirit Singers

5:00 p.m. UMYF



February 19-21, 2010
"Near to the Heart of God"

Registration forms are
available in the church office.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MACON, GA

MENS STATE PRISON, KAIROS # 7

Kairos is a prison ministry founded upon Mathew 25:36. Bruce Bryant, Sam Lamback, Bob Lovett and Jim Smith are going into Men's State Prison in Baldwin County on December 10-14. Kairos is Greek for "God's special time." The Kairos team will minister to 24 inmates on a four day walk. Our Mulberry Kairos members want to invite you to support and participate in this ministry by giving Agape gifts and by participating in Mulberry's prayer vigil; signing the Mulberry poster giving an encouraging word to these 24 participants. You can further support us by:

- (1) cooking cookies (without nuts and raisins) placing them in zip lock bags of six cookies;
- (2) writing a letter of encouragement to these 24 participants signing it with your first name or initials and using the return address of KPML Kairos of Georgia, 500 Bass Road, Macon, Ga. 31210. Please fold your letters and do not place them in envelopes;
- (3) making a monetary gift of any denomination to "KPML Kairos of Georgia" sponsoring us in this ministry (Please mail checks to: Kairos of Georgia, 500 Bass Road, Macon, GA 31210). We are required to sponsor two inmates and raise our own support for the weekend at a suggested cost of \$175.00 per participant. Therefore, any support would be greatly appreciated by the team;
- (4) signing the Mulberry prayer vigil and committing at least 15 minutes to pray for and remembering the Kairos team and inmates; and
- (5) you or your child drawing or coloring a picture on an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper with words of encouragement or a Bible verse to the inmate. Again please only use your first name.

Please place your cookies, letters and drawings in the Kairos boxes in the Atrium entrance way on or before December 9 at 4:00pm. A team member will see that your Agape gifts get to the inmates. We thank you for your support.

Bob Lovett

YOUTH NEWS!

Upcoming Events and Dates:

We have a busy December, filled with fun and service.
Can Drive for Macon Outreach: Saturday, December 5
Christmas Holiday Lock-In: To be Announced
Progressive Dinner: December 20
Winter Ski Retreat: February 12-14, 2010
Get these dates on your calendar!
-- Glenn Smith

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
Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & 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
Custodians
Clifton Carswell, Arnold Freeman & Sherman Ivry