

# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 20, 2009  
www.mulberrymethodist.org

## A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER

We receive many invitations during this season but none is more important, or equal to the one sent by God at Christmas. In Jesus Christ each of us has a personal invitation from God with an RSVP. There is evil in the world, but we can rise above it. There is much that is ugly and indecent, but it is possible to live a good life. Grief and sorrow still exist, but death no longer has power over us. New life begins in Jesus Christ.

*That night when in Judean skies, the mystic star dispensed her light  
A blind man moved amid his sleep, and dreamed that he had sight.*

*That night when shepherds heard the song of hosts angelic choring near  
A deaf man stirred in slumber's spell, and dreamed he could hear.*

*That night when in the cattle stall, slept child and mother cheek by jowl  
A cripple turned his twisted limbs, and dreamed that he was whole.*

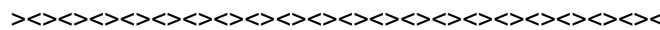
*That night when o'er the newborn babe, the tender Mary rose to lean  
A loathsome leper smiled in sleep, and dreamed that he was clean.*

*That night when in a manger lay, the Sanctified who came to save  
A man moved in the sleep of death, and dreamed there was no grave.  
- author unknown*

God made Christmas for us. But there is a sense in which each of us has to make it our Christmas. All the salvation of God is finished and complete, but it is not mine until I claim it.

*No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

I look forward to our time in worship as we welcome the Christ Child. Come and make God's gift to the world your own! You are forgiven. You are loved. Peace on earth and goodwill to everyone. Merry Christmas!



## THE GIFTS THAT CONTINUE TO GIVE

**Thank you!** - to all individuals and families who have committed to support the ministries of Mulberry in 2010 through our Consecration Sunday campaign. You have so far committed \$870,674.00 and we are very grateful. Included in those commitments are 21 new and 52 increased pledges. That is good news in a time of economic uncertainty. There are 58 giving units from who we had cards last year who have not yet returned one this year. If these committed at the same level as last year, we would be in a very positive position going into the new ministry year. If you would be a part of this story of service and do not have a commitment card in hand, please call Bruce Bishop at the church office.

## YEAR END GIVING

This is also an opportunity that presents itself in this "season of giving" and thanksgiving. The support we give begins with our basic tithe and offerings to God through the general fund of the church. Those funds support Christ's ministry and mission. Special gifts go above and beyond, but without the general fund, we can't go anywhere. We need your pledged and un-pledged gifts to conclude the year in a strong position that you have insured over the last few years. Many will find themselves blessed and in a position to make additional gifts as the year closes. Give so that others may know Jesus Christ. Thank you for your love and faithful commitment.

*Tommy*



# Advent Wreath

The Advent wreaths being displayed during this season continue a tradition adopted by Christians during the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The evergreens that make up the wreath signify continuous life; and the circle shape of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four candles around the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent, symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love. The white candle, placed in the center of the wreath, is lit on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Christ, the light of the world. The Advent wreaths are in memory of Cecil Robert Kelly (Sanctuary), and W.P. Stevens, Jr. (Chapel.)

## 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)
<b>Total YTD</b>	<b>873,853</b>	<b>996,104</b>	<b>(122,251)</b>	<b>(92,067)</b>



*Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries*

## Breakfast With Santa

**Sunday, December 20**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**



Join us for a church-wide pancake breakfast followed by a visit from the man in red! Everyone is invited!

## Nativity Practice

**Saturday, December 19, 10:30 a.m.**

There will be a mandatory practice in the sanctuary for all those participating in the Nativity scene Sunday morning as well as for those in the 4 pm Christmas Eve Service. Please don't be late! You will receive instructions and costumes, as well as practice the order of service.



## Merry Christmas from Macon Outreach!

As 2009 draws to a close, we are so thankful to each of you who has responded to our year-end appeal. Your donations help us move confidently into 2010, even in this ongoing uncertain economy. At the top of the Outreach New Year's resolution list is a commitment to continue being good stewards of what you have shared so faithfully. Thank you!

**Prison Ministry:** The Mervyn Dasher Memorial Library at the Bibb County LEC is well-stocked with Bibles, but needs crossword and find-a-word puzzle books. Paperbacks only, please. These donations can be dropped at Macon Outreach, M-F, 9am-4pm. Thank you!

## Macon Outreach Fund

In memory of Betty P. Ballard by  
Mrs. Linda M. Sankey Esther Circle

In memory of Richard Fehlenberg by  
Mrs. Linda M. Sankey Sid Middlebrooks Joy Class  
David Jeffords III Carolyn Kennedy

In memory of Jack Head, Sr. by Ray Dominy

In memory of Charles McCrary by Ray Dominy

In memory of Mary Park by Ray Dominy

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Whitten by Margaret P. Bell

In honor of William A. Fickling, III by Tom Wight

In honor of Shannon K. Fickling by Tom Wight

In honor of Dr. Seth Bush by Carys Josephine Fonner

## Memorial Fund

In memory of Betty P. Ballard by

Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Jones Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy McCook  
Mrs. Jeanette W. Gunn Mr. & Mrs. James Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Powell Mr. & Mrs. Justis Brogan & Zoey  
Ms. Eleanor McLean Mr. & Mrs. Haydn McLean  
Ms. Ann Fitzpatrick Ms. Sally Murphey Heard  
Mrs. Dorothy G. Ellis Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Yates, Jr.

In memory of Richard Fehlenberg by Mrs. Linda M. Sankey



To Don and Heidi Ream upon the death of Heidi's grandmother, Grace Wilson on November 2, 2009 of Abbeville, GA.

## Year End Giving Deadline

2009 contributions must be received or postmarked December 31 if you wish for your gift to be applied to your 2009 tax record. Thank you for your generosity.

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)

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

### **Pastor on Call**

December 18-20

Tommy Martin

Home: 254-6530 Cell: 397-4743

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

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

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

### **Sunday, December 20**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Recital/Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. UMYF

### **Monday, December 21**

3:00 p.m. Cottages on Wesleyan Communion

### **Tuesday, December 22**

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

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

### **Thursday, December 24**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Communion/Chapel

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion for Children, Families  
and Friends/Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Betsy Fitzgerald, Harp

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion/Sanctuary

### **Friday, December 25**

**Church Office Closed**

### **Sunday, December 27**

9:00 a.m. Worship/Chapel

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. UMYF

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## **Cyberspace Bible Pilgrim**

Interested in reading through the Bible in a year? Send me an email to: [symiddleton@bellsouth.net](mailto:symiddleton@bellsouth.net) and find out how to become a Cyberspace Bible Pilgrim, by reading a passage a day and exchanging an email response with the other pilgrims.

## **Senior Adult Day for Mercer Basketball**

Saturday January 9, 2010

2:30 PM Free Up Close Parking

3:00 PM Popcorn & Pep Talk

3:30 PM Men's Game with East Tennessee

5:30 PM Pizza in President's Dining Room

All activities are free. Call 301-2992 to register by January 4, 2010.

## **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



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

Registration forms are available in  
the church office.