



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 27, 2009

www.mulberrymethodist.org

"MAY CHRIST BE BORN IN YOU!"

In her wonderful little book, *When the Heart Waits*, Sue Monk Kidd tells of visiting a monastery sometime around Christmas. She recalls walking past a monk outside the church and greeting him with the traditional, "Merry Christmas." To which the monk replied: "May Christ be born in you." The words, over the years, became for her a discovery of what she calls "the real essence of transformation."

Today, with our "politically correct," economic-driven festivities around Christmas, we are more likely to hear "Happy Holidays", and much less "Merry Christmas." To hear someone say, "May Christ be born in you", would be very out of the ordinary. And, yet, it is a greeting that, once you have heard it, sticks in the soul.

Four hundred years before Jesus, Socrates said: "The unexamined life is not worth living." He was on trial for heresy because he encouraged his students to challenge the accepted beliefs of the time and think for themselves. Each time we celebrate Christmas, Christ challenges us to examine the priorities that have been set for us by a consumer driven culture that has little use for the real meaning of this Christian season.

There is a better way, and that is what Emmanuel, God with us, is all about. The birth of Christ is about the real essence of transformation.

As I write this, Christmas is only a week away. I am still seeking to travel faithfully to that place – and that holy night – where life for all humankind changed forever. I want to meet Jesus again, and again, in that place, and in my own heart. I wish that for each of you, and for all your family. "Christ is born in Bethlehem", so that He might be born in us!

So, as this Advent season draws us closer to the manger, let me wish you a truly merry Christmas --
"May Christ be born in you!"

And from all the church staff, and their families, may this be for you and your family, a very blessed season, even into the New Year.

Tommy

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)
Nov	147,038	90,326	56,712	(17,607)
Total YTD	1,020,891	1,086,430	(65,539)	(109,674)

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.

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. 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".

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.



Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

Christmas Mission Project a Success

Thank you for coming through in a big way with items to stuff our bags for Macon Outreach. We had 72 bags of candy, gum, bears and toys, and the kids learned a wonderful lesson: sometimes it's worth giving something up you'd like to keep for yourself in order to bring someone else joy.

Needed: Godly Play Doorkeeper

We are still in need of a permanent "doorkeeper" for the 4- and 5-year old Godly Play Sunday School class to assist Julia Magda. This person would be responsible for sitting at the door and helping the children prepare to hear the story each week before they enter the circle. The doorkeeper also helps serve the "feast" each week. Call Pam or Julia if you're interested.

Macon Outreach Fund

In memory of Shirley Butler by Ken and Jackie Harper

In honor of Mickey Pope by Joy Class

In memory of Dr. Richard Fehlenberg by
 Mac Stout Carole Chase Bernard Family Foundation
 Ray Dominy Shelli Inzer

In honor of Frances Kite by Ken Hall

In memory of William Walker by Ken & Jackie Harper

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sid Middlebrooks by James V. Turner, Jr.

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. John Barrow by James V. Turner, Jr.

In memory of Allen Jackson, Sr. by Ken & Jackie Harper

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Tommie Halliburton by James V. Turner, Jr.

In memory of Hannah Person by C.M. & H.S. Carter

In honor of Nancy Taylor by Carole Chase

In honor of Mary Anne & Tom Richardson by Lanier & Nancy Anderson

In honor of Tony & Judy Becham by Rev. & Mrs. Guy Parrish

In honor of Virginia Witherington by Marian E. Lewis

In honor of Kathie Marsh & Ann Maxwell by Peggy DuBose & Bob Rush

In memory of Betty Ballard by

Al & Shirley Greenway Edyth & Cubbedge Snow
 Shelly Inzer Mrs. Margaret P. Smith

In memory of Marian Gibson by Al & Shirley Greenway

In honor of Joe & Iris Jones by Elois & Jim Bothe

In honor of Cam and Bruce Bishop by Ron & Barb Knight

In memory of Emma Richardson by Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Johnston

In honor of Kay Wangen by Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Johnston

In honor of Our Teachers by Solomon Fellowship Class

Cyberspace Bible Pilgrim

Interested in reading through the Bible in a year? Send me an email to: 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.

Young at Heart Luncheon

Thursday, January 14, 2010

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Cost: \$6

All adults 55 or older are most welcome. 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 11.

Circle Meeting

The Esther Circle will meet January 7, 2010 in the church parlor at 12:00 p.m. After our meeting we will tour Macon Outreach in lieu of our usual book study. Please bring items for Macon Outreach.

A Note From Cameron...

Throughout this holiday season I have become increasingly aware of the tremendous blessings God has placed in my life. I am incredibly thankful for the love and generosity Mulberry has shown me and my family as we try to discern where God is leading us. We thank you for the concern and support you have provided us over the past few months. Likewise, we are overwhelmed by the generosity you have offered us through the love offering. Finally, we sincerely appreciate your prayers as we move forward in our journey. It is with confidence that we move forward knowing we have the support of our church rooted in the love of our God.

Peace,
 Cameron Bishop

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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED WEEKLY
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Pastor on Call

December 25-27

Cile Mitchell

Home: 745-9657 Cell: 986-7107

E-mail: cmitchell@mulberrymethodist.org

THIS WEEK AT MULBERRY

Sunday, December 27

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

Monday & Tuesday, December 28-29

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 3

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

5:00 p.m. UMYF



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

Registration forms are available
in the church office.

Memorial Fund

In memory of Dr. Richard Fehlenberg by Gordon Hospital

In memory of Betty P. Ballard by

Joy Class Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wile Mr. D. Melson Butler

Dr. & Mrs. William H. Somers Mrs. Gloria McAfee Wynn

Mrs. Carolyn C. Kennedy

In memory of Helen Schubert by Mr. Steve Bell

Music Fund

In memory of Betty P. Ballard by

Mr. & Mrs. T. Baldwin Martin, Jr.

Just for Information...

We will not be publishing a newsletter for January 3, 2010.

The next newsletter will be dated January 10, 2010.

Below is information for Sunday Worship for January 3, 2010.

Sunday Worship - January 3, 2010

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

"Looking For God In All the Wrong Places"

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

Charles Bridges, Austin Carter, Scott Davis, Ken Harper, David Mann,

Bob Middleton, Jim Rice, Blake Sharpton, Chris Uren & Jim Wilson

Children's Church - Pat & Misty Rhodes (2/3K) - Austin & Karen Carter (4/5K)



Flowers for Sunday, January 3, 2010

The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Dot and Bruce Yandle
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.

**Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic
March 11-18, 2010**

For more information please contact
Lee Triesenberg or Rev. Cile Mitchell.

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