

The Spire

Belle Meade United Methodist Church
121 Davidson Road . Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 352-6210 . (615) 352-6319(fax)
November 19, 2008

To know God through Jesus Christ...To build believers with love...To relieve suffering...



ADVENT CALENDAR

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO ANY AND ALL SERVICES

- November 30 First Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: "The Darkness We Create"
- December 3 Advent Vespers 6:30 PM in the sanctuary**
- 4 J.O.Y. Christmas Luncheon**
- 7 Second Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: "Memories of Home"
- A Christmas Gathering for all ages 4:00 - 6:00 PM**
- 10 Advent Vespers 6:30 PM in sanctuary**
- 14 Third Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: "Party Hearty"
- 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Single Service at 11:00 AM - Christmas Pageant
- 23 Community Care Fellowship Christmas Lunch**
(see insert for more information)
- 24 Christmas Eve Services:**
4:00 PM - Family Friendly Service in Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM & 11:00 PM - Candlelight and Communion Service
(music begins 30 minutes prior to the 7:00 & 11:00 service)
Sermon: "Christmas Makes Sense"
- 28 Single Service at 11:00 AM**

Epistling

“Merci”

Merci. It is French for “Thank you.”

Mercy. It is English for “undeserved favor, love, forgiveness, compassion.” We Christians also call it, “grace.”

There is a connection between mercy and merci. Between being aware that we don’t deserve what we’ve been given and a response from deep within us that says, “Thank you.”

It was the Monday after the time change. I was driving home for supper before a meeting. It happened at the entrance to Edwin Warner Park on Highway 100. All I recall is suddenly becoming aware that a car was stopped in front of me. I plowed into it. Three cars were involved. Two of them were totaled.

Maybe you’ve known the feeling. First, the feeling that you know what is about to happen and there’s nothing you can do to prevent it. Second, the awareness that you’ve caused the lives of others to be disrupted. They are innocent. You are guilty.

I can’t remember what I was doing prior to the accident. Had I taken my eyes off the road? Was I in one of my preoccupied, “Earth to Daddy,” mental trips to who knows where?

I apologized to the two drivers of the cars involved. Each replied, “Accidents happen.” When I apologized a second time, both said, “Stop beating yourself up about it.”

Merci. Grace. Undeserved.

And from a place deep within my soul came a voice, “Thank you.”

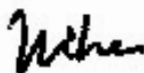
Later that same week Suzanne and I kept Jack and Annie, so Julie and Carlos could have a night together without children. On Saturday morning Jack and I built towers with his building blocks. Annie joined us. Each time I built a tower for Annie, Jack threw one of his cars at it and knocked it down. Then he threw his biggest car and, instead of hitting the blocks, it hit Annie in the head.

I fussed at Jack. Sent him to “Time Out” in another room. He cried uncontrollably. Even when I went in and held him.

As I held him, I remembered the previous Monday night and the mercy I’d received. I wondered why I’d not initially offered it to Jack. He had not intended his accident any more than I’d intended mine.

His sobbing eventually ceased. He rested against my chest. It was his way of showing his Papaw mercy.

And deep within me I heard a voice say, “Merci.”



The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
will be at St. Henry’s on Tuesday,
November 25, 2008 at 7:30 PM
Handicapped/Valet parking available.

GOOD

GIFTS

MARKET

Give a gift that changes lives. You can make a difference.

Just to give you an example of what your money can do: At Siloam \$5 buys a supply of Kleenex tissues for the exam room to wipe runny noses or catch children’s tears. \$15 buys a 2-liter bottle of hand sanitizer to reduce infection. \$30 buys a Bible in another language for their diverse patient population. \$100 buys a new stethoscope. There are many local organizations who can benefit from your help. Pick up a form in any of our church lobbies. **Deadline is December 7th** for cards to be mailed to recipients by Christmas.



The Belle Meade Travelers

...are going to the Renaissance Center for a festive holiday night. Join us for a trip to the Gaslight Theatre on Friday, December 12th for a 6:30 PM dinner presentation of *A Tuna Christmas*. Reservations are limited and the cost is \$35 per person. The deadline is December 1st, so call Rufus Gann now at 297-9241.

Children’s Ministry Safe Sanctuary

We are in the process of becoming a *Safe Sanctuary Church*. For our childrens’ continued safety every child fifth grade and under must be supervised at all times.

This means children will not be allowed anywhere on campus unattended. Any child found unsupervised will be escorted to their parents. Also, remember all children must be signed into their program (Sunday school, Wednesday night or children’s church). We are very thankful for all the hard work our Safe Sanctuary Committee has contributed towards this endeavor.



Children's Church finishes a great year!

What a wonderful year it has been in Children's Church! We are very thankful for the dedicated leadership of Erin Seay and Lisa Crony and the wonderful team of volunteers who have made the first year of Children's Church a huge success.

Sunday, November 23rd will be the last Children's Church until next year. We believe it is important for families to celebrate Advent and Christmas together, allowing time for children to attend worship with their parents, and to give our volunteers a season of rest. We look forward to Children's Church starting back on January 11, 2009! Many Blessings, Melia Warren



Marie Brown
 Tim Cloyd
 Judith Engels
 Nancy Fisher
 Edgar French
 Mike Gallagher
 June Geddie
 Virginia Green
 Paul Jacobs

Carol Kilburn
 Stan Lake
 Sue Lewis
 Marie Olmstead
 David Osgood
 David and Lori Persons
 Caroline Weismueller
 Melissa Olmstead Wilson

Sympathy to the family of Mary Louise Douglas, whose granddaughter, Hillary McVay Adams' husband, Dillion Adams, died on November 15, 2008.

The weeks of Nov. 23rd & Nov. 30th

Sunday, November 23

Thanksgiving Luncheon/FH 12:00 PM
 3rd Grade Bible Training/Library 1:00 PM

Tuesday, November 25

Community Thanksgiving Service 7:30 PM
 at St. Henry's

Wednesday, November 26

Church Offices close at noon

Thursday, November 27

Friday, November 28

Children's Center & Church Offices closed

Saturday, November 29

Miriam Circle to decorate Chrismon Tree 10:00 AM

Sunday, November 30

UMW Board Mtg./Rm 123 12:00 PM

Wednesday, December 3

Vesper Service 6:30 PM
 "Extra Polish" Christmas Eve Choir 7:00 PM
 Christmas Eve Festival Choir 7:15 PM

Thursday, December 4

J.O.Y. Lunch/FH 11:15 AM

Saturday, December 6

Room In The Inn Begins 5:00 PM

Attitude of Gratitude

Special thanks to those who worked hard to make the Paul Saik concert possible: Dick Page (our newly elected Chancel Choir President), Michael Shacklett, Jim Stith, Debbie Stein, Thresa VanZant, Ernie Dixon and Eddie Saeed. All of these people helped make Paul's concert run smoothly.

Thank you to Helen Babb who donated an electric pencil sharpener for our work room.

Church Offices Closed

The church offices will close at noon on Nov. 26th. The Children's Center and church offices will be closed on Nov. 27th & 28th. There will be no *Spire* the week of Nov. 23rd.

Memorials

General Fund

In Memory of:

Marjorie Johnson

Given by:

Sissy & Frank Wade
Henrietta Baughcum
Nancy & Gerald Fisher
Betty Hadley
Pat, Allyson, McKay, Anna,
& Carmon Proctor
Marie Lawrence
Sue & Louise Hardin
Gerald & Nancy Fisher
Gerald & Nancy Fisher
Gerald & Nancy Fisher
Gerald & Nancy Fisher

Lou Collins

Bob Selph

Bill Robertson

Iris & Bill Albright

Charles Capps

Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Marjorie Johnson

Given by:

Durand & Evelyn Hite

Christmas Eve Festival Choir adds New, Improved and Ergonomic Features!



Christmas Eve Festival Choir is filling up!

Come join us while seats are still available!

We've had our first rehearsal, but there's still time to catch up. Our regular Christmas Eve rehearsals are:

- each Wednesday from 7:15 PM until 8:00 PM.
- Childcare is available during this time.
- We will take a break next week (Wednesday, November 26) on Thanksgiving Eve.

Starting this Wednesday, (November 19), we're adding a new "feature" to Christmas Eve Choir. For those who would like to put a little extra polish on the music, or even do a little catching up, we will offer an "Extra-Polish" rehearsal on Wednesdays, starting at 7:00 PM and continuing through the Christmas Eve Rehearsal.

Call for details – operators are standing by (Ken Stein – 352-6210). Or email for information:

ckennethstein@comcast.net

This offer is not available in stores anywhere! Join us!



Thanksgiving Luncheon

This Sunday, November 23rd

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 service. Please reach out to a person or family that is on your heart and invite them. All are welcome as we give thanks for our blessings. To make your reservation, call the church at 352-6210 or sign up at the front desk. If you are able, bring a dessert to share. Frances Harvell, 352-9471.



If you are not affiliated with a Sunday School class, you are invited to join the WOW (Women of the Word) class for a special advent study, "Hark, the Herald Angels" taught by Tracey McAlister. It begins on November 30 at 9:45 AM in room 211. Questions? Call Betty McAlister at 352-4102.

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A Weekly Publication

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(615)352-6210

www.bellemeadeumc.org

DECEMBER Birthdays

Doris Solesby	1	Rachel Parker	12	Bruce Anderson	27
Ken Stein	1	Brian Butler	14	Blake Childress	27
Sarah Metzger	2	Katie Morrow	14	Andrea Reid	27
Betty Cloyd	3	Nancy Adams	15	Cooper Bice	28
Mary Louise Douglas	3	Amelia Croney	15	Emily Parker	28
Toodie Hahn	3	Natalie Croney	15	Rachael Reynolds	28
Elizabeth Bacon	4	Cynthia Dunn	16	Mark Stubblefield	28
Kimberly Chigumira	4	Gretchen Jolly	17	Natalie Thomas	28
Rob West	4	Emily Little	17	Ernest Heard	29
Clare Harney	5	Jennifer Phillips	17	Evelyn Hite	29
Brian O'Connor	5	Spencer Williams	17	Miles Mason	29
Iva Brown	6	Ethan Gilbert	19	Sandra Mason	29
Diann Adams	8	Brandon Robinson	19	Wayne Pirtle	29
Celia Miller	8	Lenita Wixson	19	Rip Sutton	29
Blair Tramel	8	Louis Hardin	20	Ethan Brown	30
David Harney	9	Phil Lee	20	Paula Lucas	31
Bill Means	9	Leigh Ann Schmidt	20	Marshall Wilson	31
Bobbie Norton	9	Alice Gaines	21		
Jim Rubin	9	Jon Jordan	21		
Gayle Bandy	10	Chuck Lukehart	21		
Horace Bass	10	Patrick Schipani	21		
Geoff Germino	10	Shelby Meador	22		
Betty Lassing	10	Spencer Seay	22		
Suzanne Ripski	10	Evelyn Savage	23		
Connor Shope	10	Marthie Heath	24		
Linda Dial	11	Laura Barnes	25		
Phillip Forrester	11	Harris Hatcher	25		
Scott Hearon	11	Holly Jordan	25		
Bob Ruth	11	Bill Reid	25		
Bettye Bruster	12	Gerlinda Roland	25		
Peter McAlister	12	Dan Buttrey	26		



Report from Trustees

Coming out of the productive year of 2007, where many much-needed capital improvements were made around the church (new carpet in Administrative/Sunday School building, new sound systems in the sanctuary and chapel and new handrails at the front of the church), the 2008 Board of Trustees focused mainly on items of safety around the church that needed attention. This year, we have child-proofed stairwells in the Sunday School building and replaced the outside doors to the Fellowship Hall that are stronger, yet give us needed visibility. We are also in the process of repairing the Children's Center roof and giving the outside woodwork a long over-due repainting.

We have also been discussing the church's long-term need to address access into our church facilities and the different ways we can improve that access. As you can imagine, a true overhaul of our access points will take a great deal of planning and prayerful determination of a source of funding. Kristen Harney, a member of the Trustees whose term expires at the end of this year, has graciously agreed to head a committee we are calling the "Long Range Church Access Committee". This Committee will answer to the Board of Trustees, but its members will not be limited to the Trustees. If you have any desire to serve the church in this area and on this Committee, please contact me or Kristen and let us know of your interest.

In the meantime, you can help us have an immediate impact on improving the access to the church. We would like to install push paddle handles on two entrances into the sanctuary – one on the side entrance off of Davidson Road and the other to the side door nearest the Children's Center. The cost of installation is around \$5,000. Two church members who wish to remain anonymous have graciously agreed to match contributions up to \$3,500 to fund the installation of these push paddle handles and to start the seed money for the long-term access plans of the church. Would you please consider a gift to help make the church more accessible to our church members and visitors? Your gift will be matched by our anonymous donors, thereby doubling the funds available to the church for this worthy cause. I ask for your prayerful consideration.

Thank You. Cindy Forrester, Chair

HELP NEEDED FOR CCF 2008 CHRISTMAS DINNER

BMUMC will prepare and serve Christmas dinner for Community Care Fellowship, our homeless shelter, on Tuesday, December 23, 2008. The Missions Committee will coordinate and organize the meal, but WE NEED YOUR HELP! We have been asked to prepare for approximately 300 homeless people. Community Care Fellowship is located in East Nashville, just off Shelby Ave. at 511 South 8th Street.

If you want to help, please complete this form and return it to the church or place it in the offering plate, or call Sarah Gossard at 352-3864 or e-mail at esgossard@comcast.net before December 15.

_____ I will donate money. (We will buy some meal items in bulk).

_____ I will cook a turkey. (We need 15 turkeys – 15 lbs. each.) Please remove meat from bones, place separated white meat and dark meat in an aluminum pan, and send us any juices to be used in dressing and gravy. If you are unable to carve the turkey, please have it in the church kitchen as close to 8:30 AM as possible so a kitchen helper can do it before time to transport all of the food to CCF. We need all turkeys before 9:30 AM on December 23.

_____ I will bake a homemade pie(s). We need 20 chocolate and 20 apple pies brought to church before 10:00 AM on December 23. May be brought to the church kitchen on Monday, December 22.

_____ I will help prepare the food at BMUMC, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Monday December 22. (Need 6)

_____ I will help with final preparation & heating of food to be taken to CCF on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 8:30-10:30 AM. (Need 6)

_____ I will help deliver the food to CCF, 9:30 – 1:00 AM on December 23. Meet at BMUMC. (Need 4)

_____ I will help decorate tables at CCF and serve dinner from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM on December 23. (Need 9)

_____ I will help cleanup at CCF from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM on December 23. (Need 4)

Name _____ Phone _____



A Christmas Gathering December 7th 4:00 - 6:00 PM

A variety of adult and childrens' crafting will be offered from 4-5:00 PM for a time of intergenerational fellowship. Joining us for the evening will be the Nancy Webb Kelly kids. Rabbi Lemuel will be sharing his stories of Christmas from 5:00-5:30 PM, followed by the singing of favorite carols led by David Cassel from 5:30-6:00 PM. A delicious spaghetti supper made by our own Susan Meador will be served at 6:00 PM. Come join this celebration of the Advent season!