

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

REV. WILLIAM T. JOWERS, MINISTER

web site: [www.TrentonUMC.org](http://www.TrentonUMC.org)

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas is an extremely sacred and meaningful season of the year, especially to all believers who welcome the birth of Jesus Christ. I believe that Christmas can easily provide us with an opportunity to celebrate the Father's profound love for humanity. Actually, Jesus gave up a royal kingdom to come and abide as a suffering servant. Prophecy was truly fulfilled when He said: "Foxes have their holes; the birds have their nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." There was no room for mother or son except a crude manger used to feed farm animals, yet the Father provided the necessary accommodations.

We become bitterly angry at the innkeeper who directed His parents to the stable, yet we allow other priorities to overshadow the Savior's coming, such as unbridled spending and gift buying and excessive indulgence in food and drink.

One important question still remains to be answered as we near the time of this yearly remembrance! Will this Christmas be any different from last year's Christmas? I hope that everyone will practice some "intentional discipleship." We, as a church family and also as individuals, can reach out to the needy, the depressed, the shut-ins, and the lost by the sharing of our resources of love and compassion. It is not overly difficult to keep Christ in Christmas when you truly love Him as your personal Savior and desire to serve as instruments of His love and grace!

In Christ's Service,

Rev. William T. Jowers

## COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our church family has made a financial commitment of \$145,182 to date with only a few outstanding or undecided stewards. We have committed a little over 73% of our \$198,161 new church budget. Thank you for your faithful and generous commitments, and we obviously know that most of our stewards will give even more than they have indicated. May God bless and enable us to raise the small amount that we lack toward funding this new budget.

## OFFERING ENVELOPE PACKETS FOR 2009 FOR ADULTS, YOUTH, CHILDREN

Every contributing adult, youth, and child has been assigned a personal offering packet for 2009. The packets are in alphabetical order and can be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. If you did not receive a packet, please let the church office know this week!!

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

There will be only one worship service on Christmas Eve, and it will be held at 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This worship service will consist of Christmas hymns, special music, a brief devotion, the Sacrament of the Lord's

Supper, and a candlelight conclusion. Please invite all your friends and relatives!

## OUR FREE CLINIC LOOKING FOR TECHNICIAN TO ADMINISTER BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS

Our monthly free clinic is not going to be offered until we find new leadership for the blood pressure readings. Due to the illness of Janice Singleton, we are not now able to offer the free clinic each month until we find someone to perform this part of the testing.

## MARCH TO THE MANGER OFFERING

We are excited and honored to be giving and receiving such a holy offering on Sunday, December 21st, during the conclusion of the morning worship service. Please remember this should be an extremely generous offering because of its spiritual significance. The Scriptures affirm how the wise men brought their most valuable gifts to Bethlehem. Christmas Offering Envelopes will be enclosed in your newsletter about a week before we receive this offering. The special envelopes will also be in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 21. Our church received \$2,982 in last year's March to the Manger! **IF YOU HAVE MISSED SEVERAL SUNDAYS AND NEED TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR OFFERINGS, THIS SPECIAL OFFERING WOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND BLESSING FOR YOU!**

## UMYF NEWS by Jacob Ross

Our youth went to Jackson on "Black Friday" to raise awareness about the crisis in Uganda. Here are some thoughts by Sara Mischke:

*"We handed out flyers until we had no more. We met several different types of people while handing them out: people who stopped and listened, people who didn't stop at all, and people who listened and took interest in what we had to say. Several asked questions about where the money would go and what was happening to the children in Uganda. One couple asked what church we were from, and we proudly said, 'Trenton First United Methodist.'*

*It was an experience like I have not had before. These people did not have an obligation to stop or listen, much less make a donation. We raised \$102.50.*

*I was very happy with how the day turned out and I had a lot of fun."*

Youth who participated were Sara Mischke, Alex Jones, and Sam Raines. Rachel Taylor helped make the flyers.

## OUR HANDBELL CHOIR PERFORMS THIS SUNDAY

The Love Notes Handbell Choir will perform during this Sunday's worship service. We are extremely proud of these dedicated musicians and their willingness to share their talents with other churches. You are invited to attend two concerts by quartets from our handbell ringers: Bells Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian on Dec. 14 and Westside Baptist on Dec. 21. Both concerts are scheduled at 6:00 p.m.

## Christmas Party for the New Adult Class Saturday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jim & Debbie Grant

Call 855-0561. There is a prize of a golden dollar to the first person to identify this "young man." Give your childhood photo to Gary Blankinship. The previous photo was of Bill Joyner.

**PRAYER AND CARE:** Carol Ann Halliburton, Joe Hammonds, Bruce Hinton, Rachel Lambert, Bea Lowery (mother of Janice Dickey & Pat Goodrich), Robert Sidney Phelan, Terry Rivas (younger sister of Lori Michel), Janice Singleton, Charles Scruggs.

**IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY:** Otto and Hans Bauer (nephews of Gina Williams), James Patrick Inman, Paul Michael Ross (brother of Jacob Ross), Chris Smith, Chais Milligan Wallsmith.

**HOSPITAL NEWS:** Janice Singleton are in Gibson General Hospital, Room 143.

**IN RETIREMENT HOMES:** Agnes Evans, Greenbriar Meadows, 436 Hannings Lane, Martin, TN 38237; Dorothy Hardaway, Room 5, Harlan Morris Home, 400 Harlan Morris Drive, Trenton, TN.

**IN NURSING HOMES:** Finis & Mattie Carr, Dyer Nursing Home, 1124 North Main Street; Vivian Hight and Bill Hight, Humboldt Manor, 2031 Avondale Road., Humboldt

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER:** Bettye Jackson

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

*Sammy R.B. Hodges	Storm Johnson	Christian Roberts
Daniel Hodges	Alex Jones	Blake Estes

**MEALS FOR OUR YOUTH ON SUNDAY EVENINGS**

To volunteer to feed the youth, call Glenna Helms 692-3531

December 14	Carol Edwards
December 21	No UMYF
December 28	No UMYF
January 4	

Supper volunteers will need to be present from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The meal is served at 5:30. If you are unable to come at 4:30 or to stay after the meal, contact Glenna Helms at 692-3531.

**GREETERS**

December 14	Suanna Geater & Marion Pipkin
December 21	Judie & Roger Reasons
December 28	Virginia & Thomas Cherry
January 4	Joseta Barker & Betty Denton

**ACOLYTES**

December 14	Blake Estes & Logan Wallsmith
December 21	Sydney Phelan & Claire Rollins
December 28	Cade Roberts & Christian Roberts
January 4	Josey Gail Phelan & Bailey Williams

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LAY READERS**

December 14	I Thessalonians 5:16-24	Teri Maddox
December 21	Galatians 4:4-7	Diane McClanahan
December 28	TBA	Franky Hodges
January 4	TBA	Pat Goodrich

**CHILDREN'S SERMONS**

December 14	Betty Denton
December 21	Bro. Tommy Jowers
December 28	Teri Maddox
January 4	Bro. Tommy Jowers

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1- Noble Grant. 9- Cindy Taylor. 13- Dustin Phelan. 16- Murray Jones. 16- Jo Bowles. 20- Crystal Nicholson. 21- Brette Moore. 23- Dustin Phelan. 25- Faye Campbell. 30- Joyce Barton.

**NOTE OF THANKS**

*The ladies who ride the church van on Sunday mornings would like to express their appreciation to the van drivers:*

*Kari Alexander, Glenda Lane,*

*Judy Estes, and Roger Reasons.*

**COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT DECEMBER 11 AT "THE LITTLE THEATER," PEABODY HIGH**

Trenton's Community Band will give a free Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, in the Little Theater at Peabody High School.

**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, December 11**

7:00 p.m. - Trenton Community Band's Free Concert at Peabody High School

**Saturday, December 13**

10:30 a.m. - UMW Christmas brunch at the home of Judie Reasons

7:00 p.m. - Christmas Party for the New Adult Class at the home of Jim & Debbie Grant

**Sunday, December 14**

9:00 a.m. - Love Notes handbells rehearsal in the sanctuary

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

10:50 a.m. - Love Notes perform for worship

6:00 p.m. - Handbell Quartet at Bell's Chapel, Rutherford

**Monday, December 15**

7:00 p.m. - Administrative Board

**Wednesday, December 17**

5:30 p.m. Wonderific Wednesday Pot-Luck Meal

6:00 p.m. - Santa Claus's visit. Then children make ornaments.

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 21 (Please note corrected date.)**

10:50 a.m. - **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

6:00 p.m. - Handbell Quartet at Westside Baptist, Trenton

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 7, 2008**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 93 MORNING WORSHIP: 111**

**VISITORS IN WORSHIP: Wanda Fant, David Grant**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 7**

**TO IMPROVEMENTS DEBT DEC 7: \$25**

**TO DATE FOR SANCTUARY DEBT: \$15,820**

**TO YOUTH FUND ON DEC 7: \$150**

**YOUTH FUND TO DATE: \$3,918**

**MEMORIALS**

**Please note:** Memorial donations need to be on a check that is a **separate** check from your other offerings.

**IN MEMORY OF SHEILA COPLEY**

Dorothy & Charlie Lancaster

**SANTA CLAUS ARRIVES DECEMBER 17 AFTER WONDERIFIC WEDNESDAY POT-LUCK**

All children are reminded that Santa Claus will be at Wonderific Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m. It will be a fun night for the church family, and we are asking everyone to bring a "large serving" of your favorite meat, casserole, or dessert. This will be our Christmas dinner, and gifts will be exchanged, especially among the children.

We are also asking that on this night every child who attends will bring a new toy, doll, or other Christmas gift for a child. These gifts will go to children who have parents who are serving correctional sentences.

**UMW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**

Judie Reasons will host a Christmas brunch for all United Methodist Women on Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m. at her home, 19 Broadfield. If you are not a member of UMW and would like to join us, you are cordially invited to do so.