

# THE WHITFIELD



# SPIRIT

For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church

November 27-December 3, 2016

## *“God Is With Us”*

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Reverend Robin Crews Wilson and I have been friends since childhood and grew up together at First United Methodist church in Prattville. We are two of four women from our youth group who serve as pastors. Robin serves as pastor of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile. In her newly-released book, *God Is With Us*, Robin shares the following words about the importance and wonder of Advent.

*Each Advent season, the church offers these weeks at the beginning of our Christian year to remember that we worship a God who loves the world enough to become flesh and walk on this earth. Our God walked and talked among us in the person of Jesus Christ to teach us, through His life and through His death, about the depth of His love for the world. This incarnate God lived as a refugee in a foreign land, associated with sinners and outcasts, befriended both men and women and reached out to religious elites and those outside His faith. He endured arrest, physical torture, humiliation and death, all to save the world. The liturgical season of Advent grants us the space at the beginning of our Christian year to remember and to anticipate the One who is the Messiah.... There is a God who loves us enough to send the One into the world who will walk among us and show us, with His life and with His death, how much God loves this world. It is time, this Advent, to slow down and experience the wonder of the coming of the Christ into our world and show the world that Jesus actually matters. Our eyes should light up with anticipation of the joy that comes from knowing that the One who comes to bring salvation to the world is approaching! As we prepare to celebrate the natal entrance of Jesus, the moment when God came in human form and dwelt among us, we cannot help but wait for the return of Christ who promises to come again for His people. And, as we wait, God is with us....Advent is to help our finite minds begin to grasp the incredible reality that God is with us. From the beginning of creation through the covenant with Abraham, the admonitions of the prophets and the granting of kings, God was always with God's people. Throughout our biblical history, God proves God's faithfulness to us....We are never alone. We are loved, called and strengthened by God who is always found faithful to God's people....So, this Advent: Act like our God really matters. Instead of shop, stress, dread, rush and worry, choose to worship, reflect, pray, study and serve. Show the world what it means to live like God is with us.*

As individuals, families and a family of faith, may we take the time and make the effort to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child. Patty, Angie, Telsie and I look forward to sharing meaningful worship experiences with you. Our entire Whitfield family will gather for one combined worship service at 10:00 each Sunday, beginning this Sunday, November 27, through Sunday, January 1. Please make every effort to attend and bring others with you.

Montgomery's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Nativity Exhibit will take place November 30 through December 4 from 1:00-8:00 (free admission). It is hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 3460 Carter Hill Road (next to Jefferson Davis High School). I attended this event for the first time last year and was greatly blessed. It took my focus from the busyness of the season toward Jesus Christ, the reason for the season. I am displaying multiple nativities in this year's exhibit. Our adult and children's choirs will sing at this event on December 4 at 5:00. For more information, please visit [www.MontgomeryNativity.com](http://www.MontgomeryNativity.com) and the Montgomery Nativity Facebook page. Please come and bring others with you.

I look forward to our celebration surrounding Advent, Christmas and the New Year. Moment by moment and day by day, God is with us. Thanks be to God for the most precious and priceless gift of Himself to the world!

Advent Joy,

Carolyn

*God Is With Us* by Reverend Robin Crews Wilson is available for purchase through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

**Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer:** Please pray for the children and their families who will receive our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.



Finlee Joyce Hutchinson  
 Born 11/20/16  
 Granddaughter of  
 Everett and Briana Hazen

**POINSETTIAS!**



It is time to order your Poinsettias! Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins and in the church office or feel free to call Jennifer (281-2467) with your order. The cost of the plants is still \$10.00.

**Hanging of the Greens—Special Musical Guest**

We are delighted to let you know that, by popular request, Vic Bradsher will be playing the piano for the gathering music this coming Sunday, for the Hanging of the Green service.

**The Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Please mark your calendars for these special services and events:**

- November 27 - Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 am**
- December 4 - Holy Communion, 10:00 am**
- December 4 - Interfaith Nativity Exhibit, LDS  
(WUMC performs 5:00 pm)
- December 8 - Kempters Christmas Concert, Frazer UMC  
6:00 pm
- December 11 - Children's Christmas Pageant, 10:00 am**
- December 16 - Kindergarten Program, 11:00 a.m.
- December 18 - Chancel Choir Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 am**
- December 24 - Candlelight Communion Service, 4:00 pm
- December 25 - Christmas Worship, 10:00 am**
- NO Sunday School**
- January 1 - Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 am**
- New Year's Day Covenant Renewal Service, 10:00 am**
- January 8 - Epiphany Service, 8:15 & 10:30 am

**Bold Sundays are Advent Schedule:  
 9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 Worship**

**Attendance November 20, 2016**

Sunday School 52      Morning Worship 87

**Wednesday Night Suppers will resume  
 January 11, 2017**

**The United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon**

December 12, 2016

Arrival Time: eleven."ish"

Time to Eat: Eleven thirty a.m.

Cost: \$12.00 each - payable to Louise Forrester

We look forward to gathering together for a Merry Christmas & tasty luncheon in the Sheppard Center of Whitfield United Church. All ladies of Whitfield United Methodist Church and friends are invited...the more the merrier!

**Look for our Offering Angels during our Advent Services.**



**UMW Auction Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2016 UMW Auction fundraising event a great success! The amount raised is \$4165.50.

**Christmas Begins with Christ**

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



FREE Admission  
 Open Daily from 1-8 pm

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Christmas Nativity Exhibit

Nov 30 - Dec 4, 2016

[www.MontgomeryNativity.com](http://www.MontgomeryNativity.com)

HOSTED BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
 3460 CARTER HILL ROAD • MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36111

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar for November 27th are offered to the Glory of God and in honor of Dan & Elaine Dillon's 57th wedding anniversary.

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

### **Sunday, November 27**

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
UMYF	11:00 a.m.

### **Monday, November 28**

Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.
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### **Tuesday, November 29**

Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.
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### **Wednesday, November 30**

Prayer Group	2:30 p.m.
PoP Prayer Group—Last 2016 meeting	4:30 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, December 1**

No events currently scheduled

### **Friday, December 2**

Sew n sews	10:00 a.m.
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### **Saturday, December 3**

Gatsby Lane HOA Party	10:00 a.m.
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## **Youth News**



Looks like the Holidays are upon us with Thanksgiving coming up this week! I know we have a lot to be thankful, I am especially thankful for my Whitfield Church family and the Christian fellowship we get to enjoy . Coming up , the Youth will welcome in the Christmas season with a trip to the Zoo on Saturday December 10 to see the Christmas lights and then the Youth Christmas party will follow the next weekend on December 18<sup>th</sup>. All Youth and College age folks are invited no matter how busy you have been lately!

Praise The Lord!  
Beverly

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

Peanut butter, Jelly, Dried Beans, Dried Milk, Large cans of Fruit, Large Cans of Vegetables and Paper Towels.

**PLEASE BRING ANY EXTRA PAPER GROCERY BAGS YOU MAY HAVE.**

Thank you, Kay Littlepage

## You Are In Our Prayers!!

### **Whitfield Members**

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, Jay Byrd, Peggy Brown, Martha Parker, Henrietta Cusick, Elmer Rogers, Alma Reynolds, Jo Moody, Peter Brambir, Betty Woodson, Libby Richardson, Joan Rodgers, Thursa Brown, John Woodson, Dottie Suber, Charlotte Brambir, Mildred Jones, Betty Fuller, Kay Littlepage, Brownie Brown, Lib Cain, Tom Burns, Caryll Carrick, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Sawyer Johns, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Louise Gargus

### **Home Bound Members (in-town)**

Lois Payne, Nealie Pruitt, Emmett Turner, Teresa Chavers, Rubye Solomon, Margaret Deacy, Wayne Read, Delores Dodson, Mitzi Warren

### **Home Bound Members (out of town)**

Elaine McBride, Martha Payne, Juanita Pritchett, Katie Hopper

### **Friends of Whitfield**

*Wayne Russell, Verna Stevens, Mary Mellott, Bill Miller, Jeff Varner, Doug Dennis, Sharon Brugh, Margaret Ann Batley, Emma Hope Shaw, Joy Lushington, Marty Trawick, Doug Estes, Dan & Kate Lindsey, Myrtle Knight, Mona Pirsig, Kenneth Means, Nathan Hamilton, Mary Ellen Millis, Paul Lanier, Myles Wright, Ashley Dunwoody, Beverly Cornwell, Walter Albritton, Jean Cantey, Teresa Kempter, Mac Macready, Darlene Fox, Judy Snyder, JoAnne Westery*

### **Peace for the nations and protection for all those who live and serve in harm's way.**

**Note:** Please submit any names you would like added to the church via telephone (281-2467) or e-mail (whitumc@bellsouth.net) All names submitted are kept on the prayer list for **four weeks** unless otherwise notified. *Those names in Italics are in need of long term prayers.*

Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church  
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www.whitfieldumc.org

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WHITFIELD STAFF MEMBERS**

**Pastor**

Reverend Carolyn Nelson  
cnelson@whitfieldumc.org

**Music Director**

Angie Mitchell  
amitchell@whitfieldumc.org

**Youth Director**

Beverly Brown  
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

**Financial Assistant**

Kristi Milano  
kmilano@whitfieldumc.org

**Nursery Director**

Daisy Stelk

**Administrative Assistant**

Jennifer Andrews  
whitumc@bellsouth.net

**Program Director**

Patty Macready  
pmacready@whitfieldumc.org

**Organist**

Telsie Davis  
tdavis@whitfieldumc.org

**Kindergarten Director**

Jane Ruud  
jruud@whitfieldumc.org

**Nursery Co-Director**

Mary Stone

**Custodian**

Larry London

**Phone:** 334-281-2467; **Fax:** 334-281-2698

**E-mail:** whitumc@bellsouth.net

**Church Office Hours:**

8:15-12:30 and 1:30-4:15, M-Th

8:15-12:30 p.m. Friday

**Sunday Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**

**Worship Assistants - November 27  
(4th Sunday)**

**Ushers:** (10:00) Youth

**Counters:** Martha Pippin, Ida McCain

**Van Driver:** Pam Merritt

**Soundboard:** (10:00) Jimmy Lee

**Readers:** (10:00) Barbara Reed

**Children's Worship:** Patty Macready