

# THE WHITFIELD



# SPIRIT



For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church  
December 3-December 9, 2017

## *Advent: Past, Present and Future*

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Last Sunday, we enjoyed the first lesson of John August Swanson's "A Thrill of Hope" in Sunday school and the annual Hanging of the Greens service in worship. Throughout this Advent and Christmas season, I encourage you to take part in all of our special activities and bring others with you.

In his book *The Redemption of Scrooge*, author and United Methodist pastor Matt Rawle shares the following words. God is using these words to speak to me. May they speak to you and others, as well.

*The Advent season plays with our notion of time. The church gathers in the present to ponder the past for a future hope.*

The season of Advent is a combination of "hurry up and wait." Extra activities and responsibilities that accompany the season can cause us to be hurried. Yet, in the midst of the hustle and bustle, we remain in a season of waiting. As individuals, families and a family of faith, may we embrace and learn from this time of waiting. As Rawle reminds us, "Jesus came to save us from counting our past as our only reality." The birth of Jesus signifies "the promises of the past coming into fruition." Furthermore, with the birth of the fully divine and fully human Jesus of Nazareth, "the past and future unite in a blessed present." As we learn to embrace this time and live into this tension of "living in the wilderness between what was and what will be," may we remember God's promises and His faithfulness to fulfill them in His perfect timing and ways. God holds each of us and our past, present and future. Thanks be to God!

Waiting and Hoping,

*Carolyn*

"A Child is born to us, a Son is given to us, and authority will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever." Isaiah 9:6-7

"A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Isaiah 11:1-2

**Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer:** Please pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones and missing their physical presence during this holiday season.

## *12th Annual Nativity Exhibit*

November 29-December 3

3460 Carter Hill Road

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



## *Decorating Whitfield UMC for Christmas Saturday, December 2*



We will have our annual "Whitfield Decorating for Christmas" on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. The large Christmas Tree is in place with white lights (thanks to Karen Mashburn), and Larry London has all of the decorations removed from the attic and ready for us to hang.

Please come join us in decorating our church for the Christmas Season!

### Staff Christmas Gift



It has been our tradition at Whitfield to give cash gifts to our staff at Christmas. We would like to do so again this year. We will collect gifts through Sunday, December 17 and give the staff the gifts prior to the Christmas break. If you would like to contribute, please designate on your check or envelope "Staff Christmas Gift." You can place your donation in the offering plate on November 26, December 3, 10 or 17 or drop it off at the church office. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Earl Heath, Lay Leader

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

#### **December 3 - Holy Communion, 10:00 am**

December 3 - Nativity Exhibit, LDS (WUMC performs 5:00 pm)

December 5 - An Eclectic Christmas, 6:45 p.m.

#### **December 10 - Children's Christmas Pageant, 10:00 am**

December 14 - A Kempter Christmas at Frazer UMC, 6:00 pm

December 15 - Kindergarten Program, 11:00 a.m.

#### **December 17 - Chancel Choir's Christmas Around the World, 10:00 am**

#### **December 24 - Morning Worship, 10:00 am**

December 24 - Candlelight Communion Service, 4:00 pm

#### **December 31 - Fifth Sunday Carol Singing Service, 10:00 am**

January 7, 2018 - Epiphany Sunday/Covenant Renewal, 8:15 & 10:30 am

#### **Bold Sundays = Advent Schedule:**

**9:00 am Combined Sunday School in Sheppard Center**

**10:00 am Worship**

#### **Attendance November 26, 2017**

Sunday School 41                      Worship 71

### **Wednesday Night Dinner**

**December 6, 2017**

**NO SUPPER / PROGRAM THIS WEEK  
SUPPERS WILL RESUME IN JANUARY**

#### **AN ECLECTIC CHRISTMAS**

1733 Claude Road *Eclectic* AL, 36024

Tuesday, December 5

**Tour begins at 6:45 - please arrive by 6:30 so that our group can be counted. We still have spaces open.**

#### **Holy Communion - Sunday, December 3, 2017**

Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to our members who are unable to attend church at this time.

If you did not receive in October, but would like to receive communion on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, please call the church office by Friday, morning, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This ministry is being sponsored by the A+ Council at Whitfield UMC.

#### ***Thank You to Our Whitfield Family!***

The Whitfield Preschool Board would like to thank all of you who made donations to the crib/napping cot fund.

All the cribs and cots have been assembled and are in use by our babies and preschool children.

Your generous donations helped us complete one of the new requirements from the Alabama State Health Department. As always the Whitfield family gave assistance when it was needed.

We also encourage you to stop by and look at the playground. Matthew Tuck a Eagle Scout candidate has spent countless hours in the last couple of weeks refurbishing the playground. It looks wonderful, and we are very appreciative of all the hard work Matthew and other Boy Scouts put into making the playground safer and beautiful.

We appreciate all the support that you give to the Whitfield Preschool.

The Whitfield Preschool Board

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The December 3 altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God and in memory of Joan Miller by Pete Miller.

<b>WEEKLY SCHEDULED EVENTS</b>		
<b>Sunday, December 3</b>		The United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon December 11, 2017  Arrival Time: eleven"ish" Time to Eat: Eleven thirty a.m. Cost: \$12.00 each We look forward to gathering together for a Merry Christmas & tasty luncheon in the Sheppard Center of Whitfield
Sunday School - Keystone Class	9:00 a.m.	
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.	
Choir practice	10:00 a.m.	
Pageant Rehearsal	11:00 a.m.	
Ukulele Class	11:00 a.m.	
Homebound Communion	2:00 p.m.	
UMYF	RESUMES IN JANUARY	
<b>Monday, December 4</b>		
Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.	
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>		<i><b>THANK YOU!</b></i>  Words cannot express what a blessing it is to have the Susie Peach Sunday School class. You are the greatest! Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness. That goes for my Whitfield Family too.  God bless & I hope to see you soon. Love, Edna
Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.	
An Eclectic Christmas	6:30 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday, December 6</b>		
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Thursday, December 7</b>		
Staff Christmas Luncheon	Noon	
<b>Friday, December 8</b>		
Sew n Sews	10:00 a.m.	
<b>Saturday, December 9</b>		
Gatsby Lane HOA Party	Noon	
<b><u>SAVE THE DATE</u></b> A Kempter Christmas Thursday, December 14 Frazer UMC~~~~7:00 p.m.		<i><b>In Memoriam</b></i> Lois Braswell Payne May 13, 1923- November 24, 2017
		<b>PSALM 121:1-2</b>  <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

## You Are In Our Prayers!!

### **Whitfield Members**

Kirk Wood, Martha Parker, Alma Reynolds, Jo Moody, Peter Brambir, Joan Rodgers, Dottie Suber, Charlotte Brambir, Mildred Jones, Betty Fuller, Bill Fischer, Kay Littlepage, Brownie Brown, Lib Cain, Tom Burns, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Helon Haack, Telsie Davis, Jay Byrd, Daisy Stelk, Ann Cheney, Caryll Carrick, Alice Henley, Vivian Rogers, Edna Kohn, Charles Stone, Peggy Byrd

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

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

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

Elaine McBride, Martha Payne, Juanita Pritchett, Katie Hopper

### **Friends of Whitfield**

*Wayne Russell, Verna Stevens, Bill Miller, Jeff Varner, Sharon Brugh, Margaret Ann Batley, Emma Hope Shaw, Joy Lushington, Doug Estes, Kate Lindsey, Mona Pirsig, Mary Ellen Millis, Paul Lanier, Myles Wright, Ashley Dunwoody, Jean Cantey, Darlene Fox, JoAnne Westery, Wayne Merritt, Bailey Casteel, Susannah Jones Cleveland, Jack Behm, Douglas Nelson, Ella Marie Burns, Hunter Howell, Brock Woodham, Beverly Cornwell, Marilyn Spencer, Mac Macready, Jackie Parquette, Brad Ruud, Dan Sheppard, Jean & Gary Lee, Cindy Flowers*

### **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  
2673 Fisk Road, Montgomery, AL 36111  
Phone: 334.281.2467 Fax: 334.281.2698

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## WHITFIELD STAFF MEMBERS

### **Pastor**

Reverend Carolyn Nelson  
cnelson@whitfieldumc.org

### **Music Director**

Angie Mitchell  
amitchell@whitfieldumc.org

### **Young Adult Director**

Beverly Brown  
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

### **Financial Assistant**

Kristi Milano  
k milano@whitfieldumc.org

### **Nursery Director**

Daisy Stelk

### **Administrative Assistant**

Jennifer Andrews  
whitumc@bellsouth.net

### **Program Director**

Patty Macready  
p macready@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 - December 3 (Communion)**

**One 10:00 service only**

**Ushers:** Ken Carrick, Jim Solomon,

Jeannie Anderson, Brownie Brown

**Counters:** Jan Heath,

Gene Holsenbeck

**Van Driver:** Ron Capel

**Soundboard:** Jimmy Lee

**Readers:** Earl Heath

**Children's Worship:** Communion