

# THE WHITFIELD



# SPIRIT



For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church  
December 10-December 16, 2017

## *A Prayer From Santa To Jesus*

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Our first Sunday of Advent was full and blessed. We learned from John August Swanson's "A Thrill of Hope" Advent study in Sunday school. We shared Holy Communion and witnessed the lighting of the first Advent wreath candle during worship. We shared Holy Communion, Christmas carols, prayers and handmade Christmas gifts with our homebound members. We shared vocal and instrumental music with our community and enjoyed viewing beautiful nativities from around the world at the "Christmas Draws Children to Christ" Nativity Exhibit. Please continue to take part in our numerous special activities during this Advent and Christmas season and bring others with you.

Throughout this season, our mailboxes, inboxes and newsfeeds will be flooded with Christmas cards and pictures of family and friends whom we hold near and dear to our hearts. We have seen and will continue to see pictures of children with Santa. The following prayer by an unknown author is from Santa to Jesus. May God use these words to speak to you as He uses them to speak to me. Please share with others who would be blessed.

*My dear precious Jesus, I did not mean to take Your place.  
I only bring toys and things while You bring love and grace.  
People give me lists of wishes and hope that they come true.  
But, You hear prayers of the heart and promise Your will to do.  
Children try to be good and not to cry when I am coming to town.  
But, You love them unconditionally and that love will abound.  
I leave only a bag of toys and temporary joy for a season. But, You leave a heart of love, full of purpose and of reasons.  
I have a lot of believers and what one might call fame. But, I never healed the blind or tried to help the lame.  
I have rosy cheeks and a voice full of laughter, but no nail-scarred hands or a promise of the hereafter.  
You may find several of me in town or at a mall. But, there is only one omnipotent You to answer a sinner's call.  
And so, my dear precious Jesus, I kneel here to pray, to worship and adore You on this Your holy birthday.*



This prayer serves as a powerful reminder of Who and what are important during this season and throughout our lives. In the midst of numerous activities and responsibilities throughout this busy season, may Jesus and the celebration of His birth remain our focus. Furthermore, may we help the precious children whom God has entrusted to our care remember Jesus and His birthday. Indeed, Jesus is the reason for the season!

Kneeling before Jesus,

*Carolyn*

"Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11

**Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer:** Please pray for and take advantage of opportunities to tell children about Jesus and celebrate His birth with them throughout this 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

Church Office will be closed Christmas Week

Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1

No Spirit will be published that week and will resume on January 3

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

**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 December 3, 2017**

Sunday School 45                      Worship 80

### Wednesday Night Dinner

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

*Thank you!*

A BIG THANKS to everyone who came to decorate the church this past Saturday.

We appreciate everyone's help.

The Worship Team.



### SAVE THE DATE

The Kempter's ~ White Christmas  
Thursday, December 14  
Frazer UMC ~ ~ ~ 7:00 p.m.

### Griefshare Support Group

Starting January 22, 2018 (Every Monday for 6 weeks) Ending March 5, 2018

11:00-1:00

Wesley Hall Room 207

Box lunch served each session

Video and Discussion each week

No fee for the sessions

Call Laura Selby at 334-201-8286 or

Email [lselby@fumcmontgomery.org](mailto:lselby@fumcmontgomery.org) to register

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The poinsettias on the altar are offered to the Glory of God and in honor or memory of our friends and loved ones.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 10**

Sunday School - Keystone Class	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service - Children's Pageant	10:00 a.m.
Choir practice	10:00 a.m.
Ukulele Class	11:00 a.m.
UMYF	

RESUMES IN JANUARY

**Monday, December 11**

Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.
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**Tuesday, December 12**

Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.
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**Wednesday, December 13**

Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
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**Thursday, December 14**

No Events currently Scheduled

**Friday, December 15**

Sew n Sews	10:00 a.m.
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**Saturday, December 16**

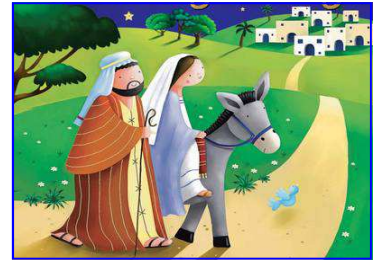
Jay Byrd Memorial Service	2:00 p.m.
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**Children's Christmas Pageant**

Come celebrate the Advent season with our children, as they present A Service of Seeking Shelter. You will be blessed and delighted by this retelling of the Nativity story.

Sunday, December 10

10:00 AM, Sanctuary



***In Sympathy***

We extend our sincere sympathies to Peggy Byrd and family upon the loss of her husband Jay Byrd on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in Montgomery, Alabama.

***In Memoriam***

Jennings "Jay" Byrd  
January 1, 1923 - December 2, 2017

A memorial service for Mr. Jay Byrd will be held at Whitfield UMC on December 16th at 2:00 pm.

**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, 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 10 (2nd Sunday) One 10:00 service only**

**Ushers:** Ken Carrick, Jim Solomon,  
Jeannie Anderson, Brownie Brown

**Counters:** Gene Holsenbeck,  
Jan Heath

**Van Driver:** Pam Merritt

**Soundboard:** Vic Bradsher

**Readers:** Tommi Holsenbeck

**Children's Worship:** Patty Macready

**Advent Wreath:** Reese Family