

THE WHITFIELD



SPIRIT



For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
December 25-December 31, 2016

Merry Christmas
Jane Reed

Carolyn Nelson

Larry London

Daisy Stelk

Jennifer Andrews

THE STAFF OF WHITFIELD
WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Mary Boone

Telsie Davis

Kristi Milano

Angie Mitchell

Beverly Brown

Blessings,
Patty

Rejoice!

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope you experience a joy-filled Christmas celebration with loved ones. Please make every effort to take part in our worship services at 4:00 on Christmas Eve and 10:00 on Christmas Day. Please bring family and friends with you. I look forward to celebrating the joyous occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As Christmas draws near, God is using the following prayer by Saint Augustine to bless me. May this beautiful prayer bless you, as well.

Christmas Prayer by: Saint Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-440)

Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born.

Let the sick and infirmed rejoice, for their Savior is born.

Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.

Let the slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.

Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born.

Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.

Saint Augustine focuses on reasons to rejoice in the birth of the fully divine and fully human Jesus of Nazareth in Bethlehem's manger. His words remind me of the refrain in the well-loved hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," which we sang during our Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of Advent. After the pleading words "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear" come the expectant words "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." On Christmas Day and every day, may we rejoice in the prophecy fulfilled. Emmanuel has come and God is with us! Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rejoicing,

Carolyn

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11

Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer: Please pray for the joy of Christmas to abide in our hearts and be evident in our lives throughout the New Year.

The Holiday Season events:

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

Spiritual Formation by Gloria Wilson

Previously, I shared that Spiritual Formation is a "heart" issue. Out of the heart flow the springs of life, therefore, we are to keep the words of God's wisdom with diligence (Proverbs 4:20-24). Listen, pay attention, and attend, these are words connected to the word diligence and important in the area of spiritual formation. A word that may encompass all of these words is the word intentionality. Learning how to pay attention and how to be intentional will always be a part of the conversation surrounding spiritual formation. It is the intentionality of human effort working with God's grace that will produce the change necessary for love to reign in the human heart. Consider this statement by the late Dallas Willard: "We must find the means of receiving his grace and changing our inner being until it is substantially like his, pervasively characterized by his thoughts, feelings, habits and relationship to the Father. Overall, this amounts to a life organized around wise spiritual disciplines under grace."

Have a blessed Christmas!

Young People's Free Concert

featuring Peter and the Wolf

Saturday, January 14, 2017

3:00 p.m., Lanier HS Auditorium

2016 Contributions

All contributions to be included in the 2015 tax year must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2016.

Attendance December 18, 2016

Sunday School 62 Morning Worship 102

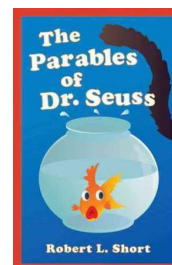
Wednesday Night Suppers and Programs

Resume January 11, 2017

Ladies Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Parables of Dr. Seuss

Beginning January 24, 2017



Bible Presentation

To get the New Year off to a good start, Whitfield will be presenting all of our 3rd and 4th graders with a new bible.

Bess Bosch Wes Crossley
Amber Edwards Michael Reese

New Year's Day Fellowship Breakfast

Join us for sweet rolls & coffee

Sunday, January 1, 2017

9:00 to 9:45 a.m.



Spirit Publication

There will be no Whitfield Spirit published the week of December 28 (next week).

Church Office

Christmas Season Dates

Dec 23-26 Office Closed
Dec 27-29 Normal office Hours
Dec 30-Jan 2 Office Closed
Jan 3 Standard weekly schedule resumes
M-TH 8:15-4:15, Friday 8:15-12:30

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar December 25 are offered to the Glory of God and in honor of the 61st wedding anniversary of Jan & Earl Heath.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!!!

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 26 - Office Closed

Walking Group (M-F) 7:15 a.m.

Tuesday, December 27

Prayer Group 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 28

Prayer Group 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 29

No Events Currently Planned

Friday, December 30 - Office Closed

No Events Currently Planned

Saturday, December 31

No Events Currently Planned

Sunday, January 1 - Happy New Year!

Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Covenant Renewal Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 2 —Office Closed

No Events Currently Planned

Youth News

Every year it is one of my tasks to take the Youth on a meaningful trip. This is an outreach opportunity to bring some young folks together for fellowship, and draw closer to God. We then hope this bond will continue throughout the year and encourage them to come to Church on a regular basis. This years (although a little late) trip back to Lake Junaluska we have been working on since May - starting with the Youth Car wash. We also added the Whitfield Tshirts as a fundraiser, and plan a Pancake Breakfast for Jan 8 as our last fundraiser. The trip is at a Methodist Retreat and will have several professional youth speakers, preachers, and bands. I will be providing more info about the trip in the next newsletter.

Thanks for your support of the Youth Ministry.

Praise The Lord!

Beverly

Food Pantry Needs:

Jelly (we have plenty of peanut butter), Cans of veggies, fruit and canned meat and cereal.



You Are In Our Prayers!!

Whitfield Members

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, 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, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Louise Gargus, Helen Maples, Bob Haack, Jay Byrd

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, Jean Cantey, Teresa Kempter, Mac Macready, Darlene Fox, Judy Snyder, JoAnne Westery, Wayne Merritt, Family of David Christenberry, Bailey Casteel

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

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Youth Director

Beverly Brown
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

Financial Assistant

Kristi Milano
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Nursery Director

Daisy Stelk

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Organist

Telsie Davis
tdavis@whitfieldumc.org

Kindergarten Director

Jane Ruud
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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 25
(4th Sunday)**

Ushers: (10:00) Youth

Counters: Martha Pippin, Ida McCain

Van Driver: Pam Merritt

Soundboard:

(10:00) Jeannie Anderson

Readers: (10:00) Jeannie Anderson

Children's Worship: Christmas

Advent Wreath: Jan & Earl Heath