

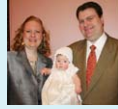


THE WORD

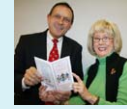
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Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
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(918) 583-5181 - www.bostonavenue.org



Baptisms
8A



Open Tables
8A



Epiphany Sunday: Magi's visit, God's revelation

As Logan Dill, Christopher McMurry, and William Smiley demonstrated at the Service of the Bells on Christmas Eve, the Magi who traveled to Bethlehem were the first Gentiles to visit and worship Jesus. This Sunday celebrates their visit and God's revelation.

New Year's Service is Sunday at 6:00

Dr. Bill Tankersley will preach this Sunday at the Vesper Communion and Covenant Renewal Service, also known as the "Burning Service." It begins at 6:00 p.m.

The service includes Holy Communion and an opportunity to put the past behind and ask God's help as the new year begins. Based on John Wesley's Covenant Prayer, it includes a "burning" of those things in the past that we wish to let go of or turn over to God.

Each person will receive a piece of paper to write down his or her requests. They will be burned in a small fire as worshippers come for communion so that only God sees them.

The service is patterned after John Wesley's covenant service, first held in 1870 in London. Wesley led the service annually on New Year's Day and whenever he visited Methodist societies, because he felt it important that Christians renew their commitment as each new year begins.

Church to be open on New Year's Eve

Our church will be open and our business office staff will be working on New Year's Eve this year. The church's holiday will be Monday, January 3.

All who want to make a donation to be counted in 2010 will need to bring it to the church by close of business next Friday, December 31, or mail it so that it is postmarked by that day.

It's also not too late to participate in this year's Christmas offering. The full amount of each gift will go to meet needs through United Methodist ministries.



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

We are now living the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Tradition holds that it took twelve days for the Magi to reach Bethlehem. They were the first Gentiles to see Mary's child Jesus. They fell down on their knees in adoration and offered expensive gifts to him.

The liturgical color for the twelve days is white - God has arrived in Jesus of Nazareth. God's willingness to include us Gentiles in his mission brought new life and growth. (We will not wear the white stoles again until Easter Sunday and the Sundays of Eastertide that follow.)

Our calendars signal a New Year of 2011. It holds much promise, and we count on God to lead us through every one of its 365 days.

As you regular worshippers know, I am preaching all of this year from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament, the "first" Testament! Our new year begins with a text from the "third Isaiah," the one who wrote after King Cyrus and his Persians defeated the Babylonians and allowed the Israelites to go home.

I am calling the sermon I am writing, "LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK - THEY COME!"



Youth mission team returns Saturday

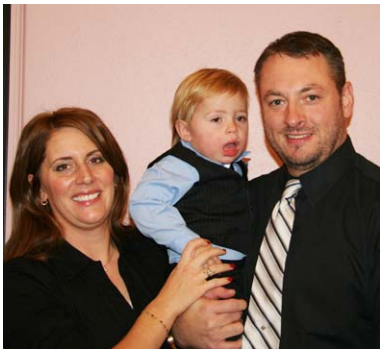
Our senior high youth mission team has been working diligently this week to complete the construction of two casitas - small houses - and host a Mission Bible School for children in Rio Bravo, Mexico. They return Friday afternoon, December 31, and will be available to share stories and pictures from their trip in Sunday School classes in the near future. Their theme this year was "Lumos: We are called to be bearers of Christ's light at all times."

B.A. family update

Baptisms



Chloe Grace Whinery, daughter of Chris and Andrea Whinery, was baptized Sunday with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr., officiating. She was born July 18, 2010. Proud grandparents are Denny and Connie Whinery.



Robert Jack Merten, son of Michael and Christy Merten, was baptized Sunday with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. He was born July 20, 2009, and has an older sister, Katherine Rose.

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of **Sammie Rhodes** from Paul

and Rachel Dolan and family. Sharon Butler Sawyer, Laurie, Dave, Maggie and Emily Hembree, and Brooke, Christian, Zachary, Gabriel and Jonah Hargrove in memory of **Bill and Emily Butler**.

Terry and Pam Carter honor in honor the marriage of their daughter, **Lauren Louise**, to **David Ryan Sherry**.

Deaths

Evelyn G. Roberts died December 17, 2010. Services were held December 21 in West Fork, Arkansas. Survivors include her cousin, Sandy Buehner of South Dakota.

Patrick Dolina died December 17, 2010. Services were held December 22 at with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include his daughter, Krista Cook.

Births

Lilly Nicole Staat was born December 20, 2010, to Nick and Megan Staat. Proud relatives include grandparents, Paul and Mary Staat and Chris and Becky Lincoln; aunts and uncle, Emily and Justin Crooks and Kate Staat; and cousins, Lincoln and Lauren Crooks.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. Francis - June Hughes Metcalfe, Megan Staat, Westin Wood

Youth News!

Senior High

This Sunday our mission team will share pictures and a brief recap during Sunday School! Join us for donuts and lots of pics! In Rio Bravo we built 2 casitas and led a Bible school. We are excited to share our stories of God at work in Mexico!! Want to get involved now for Mission 2011? We'll tell you how!

DTBA will be back in full swing this Wednesday, January 5th, in 420. Made resolutions to get involved in church? Start the year strong! Get your homework done and come celebrate the new year with your faith friends!

District Youth Lock-In Friday, January 14th, at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. Registrations available on the fourth floor.

Leaping into 2011! - Audra

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Lots of exciting things are planned for you in 2011 at Boston Avenue! Make it your New Years resolution to be present on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to be part of our youth ministry.

For today....

I wish you the love of friends and family

I wish you the beauty of nature to enjoy God's work.

I wish you wisdom to choose priorities

I wish you generosity so you may share all good things.

I wish you happiness, joy... and blessings for the New Year.

Happy New Year, friends!
Debbie

UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

The **Executive Committee** will meet Thursday, January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the Oxford Room. Both new circle chairs and new Unit officers are asked to attend. It will be an exciting session to start 2011.

Lectionary Readings

January 2, 2010

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Registration begins Sunday

Open Tables features new format

Open Tables will begin enrolling for 2011 this Sunday in Bishops' Hall. The program will feature a new format this year.

Instead of going to private homes, there will be three potluck dinners in Jubilee Hall. Each participant will bring dish to share, then each table will include a diverse group of people from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu faiths. Discussion questions will help lead the dialogue.

There will also be guest speakers and programs to share holidays and customs of the different faiths.

"This year we've eliminated the stress of hosting," says Vicky Langston.

Participation is just \$5 per person.



Dr. Bill Crowell and Vicky Langston will help host Open Tables this year.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - January 2

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 Communion Service

9:40 Sunday School

10:40 Children's Worship

11:00 Worship Service

12:10 p.m. Communion and Service of Healing

6:00 Vesper Burning Service

Monday - January 3

Closed - New Year's holiday

Tuesday - January 4

9:00 Weekday School

9:00 Overview of the Bible

Wednesday - January 5

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

5:00 Jubilation Ringers

5:00 Capriccio Ringers

5:30 Religion and Race

5:30 Interfaith Concerns

5:50 Festival Ringers

6:00 Chapel Choir

6:00 LIFE Group for children

6:30 Yoga class

7:00 DTBA

7:00 Carillon Ringers

7:00 Chorister Ringers

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday - January 6

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

9:30 UMW Executive Committee

12:00 Staff luncheon

1:00 Program Staff

3:00 p.m. Church Women United

5:30 Celebration Ringers

5:30 Sr. High boy's basketball

6:00 PCCT Parenting Classes

Friday - January 7

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

10:00 Quilting for Others

5:30 Gamblers Anonymous

Sunday Worship

January 2, 2011
Epiphany Sunday

9:30 a.m. Communion Service

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Sermon: "LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK - THEY COME!"

Isaiah 60:1-6

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: March of the Kings arr. Kenneth Kosche
Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Anthem: O'er the Hill and O'er the Vale.....Antony Baldwin
Rob Reck, soloist; Debra Pascoe, flute

Offertory: Go, Tell It on the Mountain..... arr. John Behnke

Anthem: Do You Hear What I Hear? arr. Harry Simeone
The Chapel Choir (8:30)
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright arr. M. Burkhardt

Hymns: 254 We Three Kings

239 Sing We Now of Christmas

249 There's a Song in the Air

12:10 p.m. Holy Communion & Service of Healing

6:00 p.m. Covenant Renewal Service

Sunday School at a glance...

Adult Classes for Sunday, January 2, 2011

Visitors are welcome in all classes.

Dr. Biggs' Class - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages

College & Career - Rob and Suzy Morgan

Cornerstone - Linda Alegria

Disciples - to be announced

Ephphatha - to be announced

Heritage - Judy Rowell

Homebuilders - "Orthodoxy: Mystery, Liturgy, and Tradition"

Horizons - to be announced

Maranatha - to be announced

New Covenant - Dr. Don Forsman

New Frontiers - Bryan Harrington

Pilgrimage - Brenda Reed

Roundtable - brunch, installation of officers

Seek & Discover - to be announced

Wesley Fellowship - Dr. Joel Panciera