



Heritage United Methodist Church

4322 Popps Ferry Road
D'Iberville, MS 39540



December 2009 Newsletter

In This Issue

Pastor Doodle.....	1
Youth News.....	3
News	4 & 5
UMW News.....	6
UMM News	6
December Birthdays..	7
Calendar.....	7

Pastor Doodles December 2009

Last Sunday evening was a special time as we prepared the sanctuary for Advent. This year the Praise Band led the worship and we celebrated the traditional service of the Hanging of the Greens. Does that make it a contemporary traditional service or a traditional contemporary service? Either way the music was inspiring, including the carols the members of the band sang while we were decorating the sanctuary, and we managed to get through without anyone falling off a ladder. The Chrismon tree is beautiful; it is so full of lovely white and gold symbols of Christ that you can barely see the green coming through. Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men have taken up residence on the front lawn again in their straw and hay stable.


Do any of you still remember when you had to wait a full 12 months, 365- 24 hour long days for Christmas to come around again? Time just seems to fly by these days. Can you believe this is my 7th Christmas here a Heritage? Nowadays it seems we go from Christmas to Lent to Easter, to Pentecost, to Thanksgiving and back to Advent in the space of a couple of months. I suppose some of it may be my fault. When I was a child and got impatient waiting for the weekend, or a camping trip, or my driver's license and would voice that impatience in front of my mother she would say, "Son, you shouldn't wish your life away like that." I didn't realize at the time that all those impatient wishes were compounding and would speed life up so much when I got older.

Advent is here again. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, of God coming to live among us. It is a time to remember again what it is like to wait patiently for something very special to happen. It should be a time of joyful expectancy, but it often becomes a time of haste and hurry as we hustle and bustle, worry and fret, shopping for presents, sending out cards, attending parties, agonizing over meals and generally working ourselves into a silly stupor.

Here are some suggestions on how to restore joyful expectancy to the season:

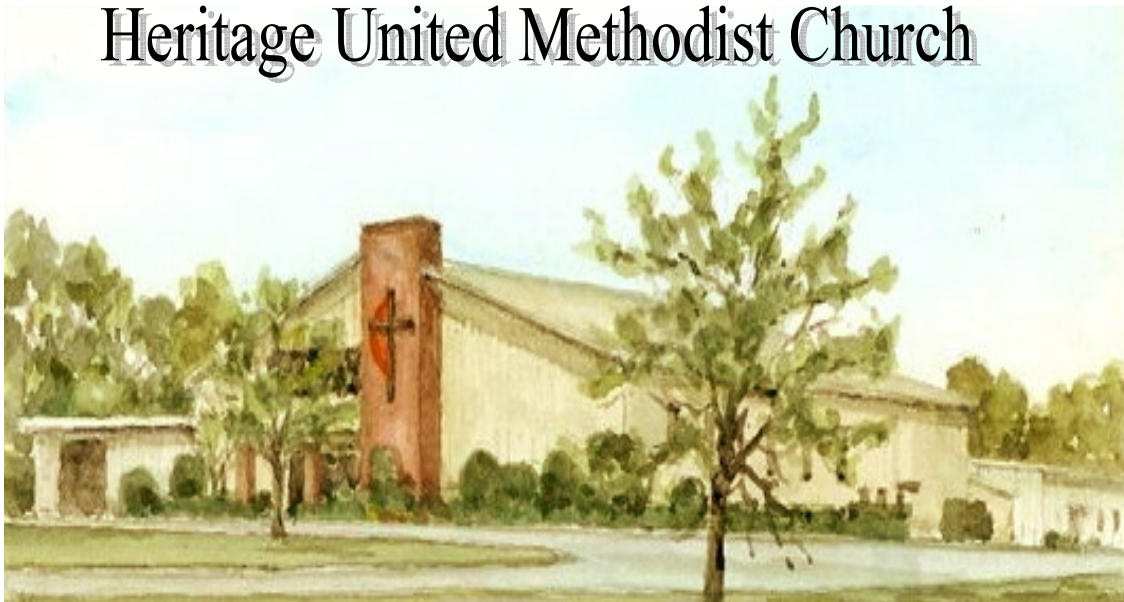
- Spend more time deciding what you can give to Jesus this Christmas than on what you will get for Christmas.

Heritage United Methodist Church
4322 Popps Ferry Road
D'Iberville, MS 39540



NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1116
BLOX, MS

Heritage United Methodist Church



"At the intersection of God's Grace, and Your Needs"

- Take some of the time you would spend worrying about what present to buy for whom and instead give your friends and family the gift of being truly present with them this season.
- Do not under any circumstance go in debt to finance your Christmas. Chances are what you spend the money on will not outlast the payments anyway.
- Instead of buying presents for people you are trying to impress or who you expect to give you something in return, spend some of your resources helping those who can really use the help.

One of my favorite things we do during this season is the Active Adults white elephant party. You just pick something to wrap up out of your discard pile and you know, what you come home with will probably not be anything significant, but the great gift of that time is the fun and fellowship we share together.

Have a joyfully expectant Advent.

Bro. David



<u>General Fund</u>		
November Offerings		\$22,496.00
Spending Rate		<u>-18,068.00</u>
	Balance	4,428.00



-2-

DECEMBER Calendar of Events

- Dec 5 **Adult Christmas Dinner**
- Dec 7/6 p.m. **Shalom Circle Christmas Party**
- Dec 8/ 10 a.m. **Morning Glories Circle - gift exchange**
- Dec 12/6 p.m. **Adult Christmas Party – Lucille Matta’s home**
- Dec 16/6 p.m. **Genesis Circle Meeting**
- Dec 19/7 a.m. **UMM Breakfast**
- Dec 21/6 p.m. **NACCC Board Meeting**
- Dec 24/6 p.m. **Service with Communion**
- Dec 25 **Christmas Eve Service**
- Dec 27/12:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Meeting**
- Dec 31 **Boxing Day**



December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Barbara Lacoste | 13 | Terry Hill |
| 2 | Aaron Thomas | 15 | Chelsea Fortenberry |
| 3 | Courtney Reid | 17 | Tyler Schwartz |
| 5 | Remington Tucker | | Vincent Catalanatto |
| 6 | Jason Hendren | 19 | Norma Allen |
| | John Reid | 21 | Sandy Murden |
| 7 | Duane Pinkerton | 23 | Vicki Perry |



- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 8 | Andy Sabol | 24 | Shelly Graham |
| 10 | James Gillies | 26 | Dean Mattina II |
| | Callie Stewart | 27 | Tammy Murden |
| 12 | Sheila Gillies | 29 | Hillary Anseman |

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: This year's Christmas Party will be held at Lucille Matta's home on Saturday, Dec. 12th at 6 p.m. This is the Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please mark your calendars for this fun filled evening. Bring "finger foods" and drinks. Contact Jack Anderson at 872-3471 for any additional information.

-6-

-7-
UMW news



CIRCLE MEETINGS:

- Shalom Circle Monday, Dec. 7th at 6 p.m. (Christmas Party)
- Morning Glories Circle Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 10 a.m.
- Genesis Circle Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 6 p.m.
- Agape Circle Sunday, Dec. 27th at 12:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY FUNDRAISER: Sponsored by Shalom Circle. The last Sunday for drop off is December 13th. This is an "in church" ministry. Cost is 25 cents per card. All proceeds will support the Food Pantry. Thanks in advance for your participation – Shalom Circle.

MORNING GLORIES CIRCLE: The Morning Glories Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, December 8th at 10 a.m. for the monthly meeting. They will go to White Cap restaurant in Gulfport for lunch and gift exchange.

UMM News



UMM BREAKFAST: All are invited to attend the UMM Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 19th at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Good food, good fellowship, short meeting. Join us.



HERITAGE ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER: The dinner, formally known as Ladies Night Out, will be hosted by the United Methodist Men and is scheduled for December 5th. Reservations are required by advance purchase of tickets. Tickets will cost \$5 per person and can be purchased from Jack Anderson. You will have a choice of pork roast or baked chicken. The meal will be prepared by Richelle Weiland and Patty Fortenberry. The youth will be in charge of set-up, serving, and clean-up. Entertainment will be provided by Cindy Williamson, with a special reading of the *Cajun Night before Christmas* by Vicki Perry. Reservations are limited to 100 people, so reserve early. A limited number of complementary tickets will be available. Donations will also be accepted to help cover costs. Call Jack Anderson at 872-3471 for additional information.



Youth Schedule for December

Every Sunday 3-3:55 p.m.	Youth Choir
Every Sunday 4-6 p.m.	UMYF
Every Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m.	Bible Study
(Unless otherwise stated)	

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Dec 5/6 p.m. | Service Project – Adult Christmas Dinner (setup, serve, and cleanup) |
| Dec 6/11 a.m. | Children's Church by Youth – Wade Reeder & Lindsay Dunaway |
| Dec 10 | Happy Birthday, Callie Stewart |
| Dec 13 | Worship Activities |
| Dec 13/12-2 p.m. | Youth Administrative Council (YAC) |
| Dec 17 | Happy Birthday, Tyler Schwartz |
| Dec 21-Jan 5 | School's Out for Christmas Break |
| Dec 21/9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Service Project – Paint SS room for Richelle Weiland |
| Dec 22/6 p.m. | Youth Christmas Party |
| Dec 23 | NO Bible Study |
| Dec 24/6 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship |
| Dec 25 | Happy Birthday, Jesus |
| Dec 27 | NO Youth Choir or UMYF |
| Dec 29/9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Service Project – rake leaves for the Bocek's |
| Dec 30/9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Service Project – move Cindy Gibbs |
| Dec 31 | New Year's Eve |

YOUTH NEWS:

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY: Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. Bring a \$15 gift for Dirty Santa and something good to eat. See Ms. Nancy for sign up sheet.

"CHANGE FOR CHANGE": Each Sunday before and after worship, there will be a "Change for Change" jar sitting in the church foyer. Please save your loose change

during the week and put it in the jar on Sunday. These funds will be given to the Youth Service Fund (YSF). Since December 2008, you have helped the youth raise \$1,306.33 for the YSF. \$500 will be given to Rev. Galina for the Revival Church in Russia to purchase a projector and the rest of the money was contributed at Convo 2009 to be used with the Conference YSF funds.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VAN MINISTRY UP AND RUNNING: Dawn Peebles has volunteered to pick up children for Sunday School and the 11 a.m. Worship Service. A permission form must be completed in advance of the child riding in the church van. Forms are available in the foyer of the church. Completed forms can be left in the office or given to Cathie Ownbey or Dawn Peebles.

HERITAGE "U": On break for December, but returns on January 26 at 6:30 p.m. with information from the Senior Planning Group. Make your plans now to attend. This is an outreach ministry of Heritage so spread the word to co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family to attend. If there is a topic you would like to see presented, contact Nancy Gentry (424-0043) or leave your suggestion with Linda in the office.



FOOD PANTRY: The first Sunday is Communion Sunday. Don't forget to bring your donations for the food pantry. Items needed are: rice, dried beans, oatmeal, canned vegetables and potted meats, peanut butter and jelly. The need is great! Last month (November) Heritage handed out 60 bags of food, and 20 Thanksgiving baskets complete with turkeys purchased by the youth. The donations are greatly appreciated.



FOOD CHALLENGE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!! FOOD CHALLENGE WINNER . . . THE FOOD PANTRY: As far as UMYF/KFC/CSR versus the rest of the congregation . . . we have to call it a draw!! The food was removed from the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens service and not counted. Some adults will do just about anything to try & win!! ☺



FUNDS ARE NEEDED: We would like to purchase a second projector so that all in worship can easily see what is projected. We would also like to do some much needed repairs on our sound system. Any donation toward A/V Equipment is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, ask Brother David, Matt Butler, or Aaron Thomas.

HELP PAY APPORTIONMENTS: There is a listing of unpaid apportionments displayed outside the sanctuary doors. If you would like to pay off any area of giving, just put your name beside your choice and put your money in the offering plate and note the specific designation. Make this your Christmas gift to your church!!



-4-

HERITAGE HEROES: Heritage Excellence Rewards Others with Exceptional Service is a program to recognize those "angels" & "unsung heroes" that keep Heritage running and looking good. Nomination forms are available on the table in the foyer next to the "HEROES" deposit box. Please take time to nominate the person that you know goes above and beyond over and over and over again!!! And be sure to check out the HEROES Bulletin Board in the hall next to the white mailboxes.

THE METHODIST ADVOCATE IS NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION: However, the "Circuit Rider", a weekly online Newsletter, is now being published. If you are interested in receiving this publication, sign up at www.mississippi-umc.org and click on "Sign up for newsletter here." You will receive up-to-the minute news and information from the Mississippi Conference. Your Circuit Rider will arrive at your email address weekly.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP & COMMUNION SERVICE: Please join us at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 24th for our Christmas Eve worship service.

NOAH'S ARK BOARD MEETING: There will be a Noah's Ark Child Care Center Board Meeting on Monday, December 21st at 6 p.m.

WE'RE ON HUNT: We are looking for pictures, information about the pictures, for history. If anyone you might know has pictures of the old North Biloxi Church or

Merry Christmas

THE are looking and about the Heritage's you or might know of the old Church or

pictures of our current church please get them to our church historian, Dot Ellis, who can be reached at 392-2586, or leave them in the church office with Linda.