

From the Pastor



Dear Folks,

Well it's here! Christmas! We have had the celebrations, the parties, gatherings, work and church socials all in the name of the season. Now the day is near and the next great part will be the days off that come with it. You know what I am talking about! But, what about Christmas?

We will celebrate Christmas with those around us and with memories of those that have been dear to us. Yet the strongest memory will be the story. The story of God calling to very common people in society to carry out a mission that would change the world. Not just part of the world, but all of it. To call upon Mary, a virgin, and Joseph who was understandably confused and wondered what to do. They both followed through with what God had called them to do, though. Then in the silence of a night, through the doors of a smelly, unclean barn, the cries of a baby could be heard. A baby that would change you and me. A baby that would grow in a world that needed change and forgive-

ness and a new relationship with God. And his name shall be called Jesus. Can you imagine what Mary and Joseph must have been thinking while holding their new born and the dreams they had for that child, not knowing what the future held for him or them? But, through the messengers of God they knew that there was something about that name.

So as we near the celebration of Christmas take those moments with God and give thanks for the Word becoming flesh; that the Word had been there since the beginning. For baby Jesus came into this world so that you and I shall be loved, have grace, and praise the Holy One. Jesus changed my life. It does not matter what I shall encounter, that baby has given me the gift of life and that of salvation. What greater gift could we ask for? So for the gatherings, parties, and all the days that we take to remember. Let us truly remember, Christmas for what it is - It is his Birthday!

Blessings,
Jim



Merry Christmas!!

Mindy and I, Megan and Jacob send you greetings of great joy. For we truly serve a living Christ. May these days ahead be days of blessings for you and yours. Our family thanks each of you for the gift of letting us be a part of the family at Donelson Heights. You are a special people and will always be dear to us. May each of you have a very Merry Christmas!





Marie Ballard
By
Deedy Crabb

~~~~~  
*David Wells*  
By  
*Morning Watch Circle*  
*Sarah Griggs*

~~~~~  
Cecil Quinn
by
Orman & Peggy Crabb

~~~~~  
*Keith Chandler*  
by  
*Sarah Griggs*



**CHRISMON TREE  
& DECORATIONS**

We will soon be taking down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary. Tentative plans are for **Sunday January 8 immediately after morning Worship.** This is almost as monumental as putting the decorations up. All help will be appreciated.



*Deaths*

**Joan Wells and family** in the death of her youngest son on December 10.

The family of **Marie Ballard** who passed on December 10.

*Surgeries & Illnesses*

**Phyllis Street** in Baptist after a fall, breaking her hip. They are still deciding on a hip replacement.

**Luke Kirkpatrick**, at McKendree for rehab after a fall  
**Barbara Hood**

**Tammie Williamson's father, Steve Campbell** injured his back and is unable to work.

**Bob Adwell**, Velda's son.

**Becky Staggs' brother, Johnny Beasley**, who has skin cancer.

**Sharon Weller**, who grew up here at DHUMC and is wife to Rev. Alan Weller, who is having heart problems.

**Katie Stamm's sister-in-law, Carol Stamm Howell**, undergoing chemo.

**Joan Upchurch,**

Lynda Correll's sister, **Sandra Hudspeth**, who is dealing with Alzheimer's and not doing well.

Bill Mooney's sister, **Virginia Nobel**, with critical health problems.

**Joan Upchurch's sister Jennie Evans**

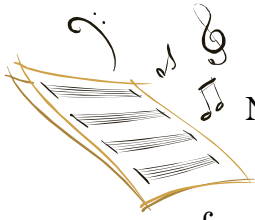
**Gary Brock**, pastor of Hickory Bend UMC, battling throat cancer that has spread.

**Chas**, little 12 year old boy whose brain cancer has left him blind and for whom there is no more chemo available to try. More tumors have appeared. (Chaz is a nephew of Linda Williams son-in-law.) If you would like to send a note to Chas, here's the addy: John Pierce, 3982 Wimbledon Park, Mobile, AL, 36608

People who have lost their jobs or are underemployed.

Please remember these persons for whom we have been praying for some time, but still need our prayers: **Linda Cook Berrong, Raymond Anderson, Debbie Archer, Florence Denniston, Donna Frost, Vickie Kimberlin, Andrea Moore, Janet Turner, Jim Roberts, Sally Williams, Tom Upchurch, Rhea House, Everett Medlin, Ted Vdorik** and **all Homebound Members**

Prayers for family members (known to us) in the military serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere: **Austin Street** (grandson of Phyllis Street and Ann Tate) deployed to Afghanistan as well as **Austin Moore** (Freddie & Melanie Moore's grandson) also deployed to Afghanistan. *Yes, we have two "Austins", both member grandsons, serving at the same time!* ;**Katie Davenport, Yvonne Jones.**



## MUSICAL NOTES FROM GARY



Wishing you and yours the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years. As you think about New Year's resolutions, consider joining the Chancel Choir as one of them. We had a full choir loft for the special Lessons and Carols Service, and the choir sounded full and beautiful. There is plenty of room for you, plenty of music, plenty of robes, and lots of really great people ready to welcome you.

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** There is no Wednesday rehearsal on Dec. 28. Rehearsals will resume on Jan. 4, 2012!

### A SIDE NOTE ABOUT HANDBELS

1. There will be no bell practice until January 8. Any one who is interested in joining will be welcome. If you can not read music, we will teach you.

2. There will be a new children's and youth activity beginning January 8. Time will be announced later. We will be forming a Junior Bell choir. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to join. We will be teaching how to read music, rhythms, and ringing techniques. It will be a fun time of learning and fellowship. The goal of this is to ring for Worship Service.



## 'Tis the Season of Giving and Giving Thanks...

⊕ Thanks to all our children and adults (Linda Carney, Holly Stroud, Susan Barnett, Dale Wells) who brought us an insightful Christmas message with their bell choir and program, *What Would You Give Baby Jesus?* The lunch was delicious and everyone enjoyed having a dinner theater. Kudos to Jan Cook who prepared the menu and oversaw the cooking and serving. If you missed this delightful Christmas offering, make a New Year's resolution to join us next year.

⊕ **Cold Hands/ Warm Hearts -**  
The Children's Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who donated items hanging on our tree in the Narthex. The Cold Hands/Warm Hearts Project will keep others warm this winter thanks to your warm hearts. Our congregation is always very generous helping others in need. We appreciate your help in making this mission a success!

⊕ Thank you so much for the Christmas bag! My PA and I have a ball going through the whole thing seeing what goodies would come up next. You have really lifted my spirits!

Blessings,  
Deborah Archer



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

## Warmth in Winter 2012 is January 27-29

“Warmth in Winter” is the premiere winter retreat for United Methodist youth groups across the Tennessee Conference. It is a weekend of worship, fun, games, fellowship and workshops designed to challenge youth groups to grow in their faith. This year’s theme is “Think Big” and the retreat will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Murfreesboro TN the weekend of January 27-29. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rick Quinn as soon as possible. Currently the cost of registration is \$50 per person but after this week the conference will raise the registration to \$60 per person. If you could let Rick know if you plan on attending and get your registration to him it would be helpful in the preparations. We are planning on staying in Murfreesboro at a lock in at Fellowship United Methodist Church on Friday and Saturday night during the event. The cost of the lock in will be \$50 (in addition to registration for the event) and needs to be paid by January 23. If you need assistance with some or all of the registration and lodging cost, please contact Rick Quinn, Director of Christian Education about scholarship opportunities.

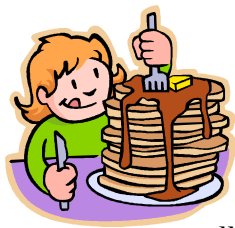


### Sunday Night Youth Will Not Meet December 25 and January 1

Meetings will resume Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 5:30pm.

### Youth Council Meeting Sunday, January 8 at 4:30pm in JOY classroom

### The Next Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Mountain TOP is Sunday, January 22 at 8:00am



Our next Pancakes (and More!) Breakfast Fundraiser will be Sunday, January 22 at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, biscuits, gravy, eggs, bacon and more feast begins at 8:00am and costs \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 per children under 12 with a \$15 family max. Children under 3 are free. Youth need to show up no later than 7:30am to help with set up and cooking.

### Mountain TOP “Fish Camp” for rising 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders Informational Meeting Sunday, January 8 After Worship

We will be having an informational meeting about a new initiative Mountain TOP has begun for rising 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders (those currently in 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade during 2011-2012). *Fish Camp* is mission experience for 6th - 8th graders! Mountain TOP developed this camp week in response to the needs of churches.

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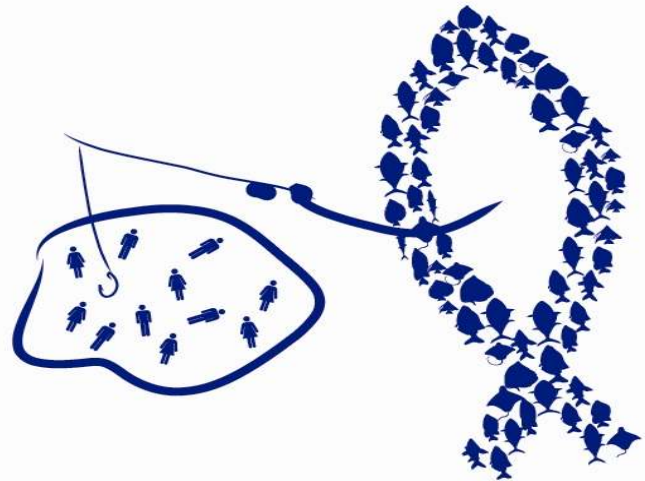
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Most people have a great mission trip for Senior High youth, but struggle in finding a similar experience for JR High youth members. Through Fish Camp, JR High youth will get a taste of combining acts of service with a place to explore their relationship with God in a supportive and loving Christian community. Mountain T.O.P. is intentional in connecting “what” they do with “why” they do it through morning devotionals, mid-day devotionals, sharing and worship. On the work-sites, youth are encouraged to engage in problem solving and work as a members of a team moving together to accomplish a hands-on task. Youth are also encouraged to interact with families from lower socio-economic backgrounds, often opening their eyes to issues of poverty within our nation for the first time. The experience is transformative because youth are putting their theological convictions and beliefs into practice. Here, the words and meditations of Jesus, “I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me...” are brought to life.

Fish Camp will be offered June 5th - 9th, 2012, and will be similar to the YSM (Youth in Summer Ministry) program. Youth ministers bring their youth groups from around the country where they join to form one large community. These communities consist of 50-100 Junior High youth and adults that are divided even further into what we call Major Groups. A staff member is then responsible for coordinating projects for and leading a Major Group of participants. Within Major Groups, volunteers are divided for the final time into what we call Youth Renewal Groups or YRGs. YRGs are determined based on gender, age, church, skill and experience. Campers will arrive Tuesday around noon, work in the community Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and depart Saturday morning after breakfast and clean-up. Projects will vary based on need, but will include service such as painting, yard work and/or small construction projects. We are hoping to draw in churches within two - three hours of Camp Cumberland Pines, located in Altamont, TN. Cost is \$160 per camper, which includes all meals, lodging, material and staffing fees.

Fore more information there will be a meeting on Sunday, January 8 immediately following worship in the Young Adult Classroom for those currently in 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades and their families to learn more about this ministry and to determine interest on sending a team to Fish Camp. Contact Rick Quinn, Director of Christian Education for more information.

## Fish Camp 2010



### Donelson Heights UMC Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve Service,  
December 24 at 5:30pm

No Sunday School  
December 25

Christmas Day Service  
at 10:30am

Sunday School Resumes  
January 1, 2012

# INFORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship

### Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. M-F

### Library Hours:

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Phone & fax number:** 883-6103

**ECP Direct Line:** 883-1257

**Church e-mail:** dhumc@earthlink.net

**Church Website address:**  
www.dhumctn.org

### Newsletter Deadline:

9:00 a.m. every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

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The mission of Donelson Heights UMC is to be an open community of faith as we grow in knowing, believing and serving God in the loving Spirit of Jesus Christ.

In the loving spirit of Jesus Christ, we:

1. Know God through the study of the Holy Bible, prayer, community worship, sharing our stories of faith and experiencing God in our lives;
2. Believe God by choosing to trust God's promises and God's unconditional love for all people; and
3. Serve God by being committed to knowing and responding to the needs of our diverse world and sharing God's promises.

## 2012 Flower Chart

As the 'new year' of giving altar flowers is upon us, there will be a \$10 increase in the price. \$35 has been the fixed price for well over 6 years and it has to go up. Please note that altar flowers are \$45 in 2012 and as always, are to be paid **prior** to the Sunday you plan to have them on the altar.



Please respect and pay attention to when you've signed up in advance so you will remember to prepay. We don't get these arrangements for free and Dick's Flowers sends us a monthly bill that needs to be covered.

Thanks so much! If you have any questions, contact Dale Wells.



### Church Financial Giving Report

#### December 11

Gifts for Regular Ongoing Ministries \$12,691.80  
Gifts for Designated Projects \$1,535.00

#### December 18

Gifts for Regular Ongoing Ministries \$4,967.90  
Gifts for Designated Projects \$740.20

NEEDED WEEKLY About \$8,000

| ATTENDANCE: | Sunday School | Worship |
|-------------|---------------|---------|
| December 11 | 84            | 150     |
| December 18 | 91            | 198     |

*Donelson Heights United Methodist Church*  
84 Fairway Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214-2145

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
**Permit #1062**  
Nashville, TN 37214-2145

## Address Service Requested

### CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Jim Hamilton, *Pastor*  
Rick Quinn, *Director of Christian Education*  
Gary Alan Smith, *Director of Music Ministries*  
Carolyn Jarrett, *Organist*  
Valerie Shybllosky, *Director, Early Childhood Program*  
Jodi Cassidy, Rose Hoak, *Nursery Workers*  
Jodi Cassidy, *Custodian*  
Katie Stamm, *Office Administrator*