

**THANK YOU**

Dear Mullins Family,

My parents and son join me in gratitude for all of your love and support during Harold's illness and after his death. Your prayers, cards, notes, phone calls and attendance at his visitation and service were greatly appreciated. Harold's heart was in Mullins for over 50 years, and knowing you share my grief in his loss is very comforting. I am truly blessed to belong to such a caring church.

In Christ,  
Ann Smith



**CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Join us this Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. for the annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Family Life Committee. The children will present the program, which is always a special treat! Celebrate the joy of the Advent and Christmas season with delicious food, a wonderful program and great fellowship with church friends. We look forward to seeing you!



Poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary on December 14th, 21st, and 24th. If you would like to order poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones, please complete this form and return, with payment, by **Sunday, December 7th**. The cost is \$9 each.

In honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

# Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given to:

**BUDGET**

In honor of George Moreland for his birthday by Betty Lee Robison  
In honor of Bill & Betty Pickel by Bert Garrett  
In honor & in memory of Lena & Edward Melsa & Leslie Lee Melsa by Col. Otto Melsa  
In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sims, Mrs. John Grace, Mrs. Milton Addington, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Curry, Sammie Powell, Bob & Carolyn Bailey, Delores Quigley, James & Dorothy Bailey, Linda & Gus Morris, Bert Garrett  
In memory of Walter Rogers, Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sims

**LANDSCAPE FUND**

In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith, Sr., by Veda Kennedy, the Crossroads Class

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith, Sr., by Mrs. H. C. Williamson, Jr.

**PLAYGROUND**

In honor of Carol Griffin by Charles Griffin  
In memory of Col. Harold F. Smith, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Griffin, Mr. Bill Grissom, Betsey Camper

**Christmas Music**

with

**GRACE NOTES**

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

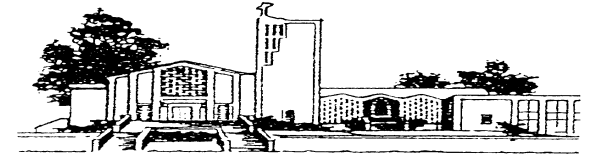
Mullins UMC Chapel

featuring guitar, flute, hammered dulcimer, piano, percussion, vocals and refreshments!

**PLEASE NOTE!**

Lambuth University is vital to our Memphis Conference, producing many of our lay and clergy leaders. Without our support, this rich legacy of leader development is endangered. Lambuth needs our help. Our beloved university is in crisis. Your immediate response is absolutely imperative! There will be a Most Urgent Meeting of clergy and laity of the Memphis Conference on the campus of Lambuth University Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:45 - 11:30 a.m. in the Lambuth Chapel. At this meeting you can expect to be provided with: a disclosure of the crisis and explanation of factors which produced it; plans, short-term and long-term, for Lambuth's immediate survival, as well as an outline for mid-term stability and long-term growth and prosperity; a word from Dr. Jerry Israel, new interim president of Lambuth; a statement of what we need financially from constituencies and specific challenges to the churches and members of Memphis Conference; information and tools for making an immediate response to this emergency appeal within our churches.

**MULLINS MESSENGER**



**4 North Mendenhall Road  
Memphis, TN 38117-2698  
(901) 685-8253**

Web Address: [www.mullinsumc.org](http://www.mullinsumc.org)

**December 3, 2008**

**Vol. 39 No. 49**

The Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel, Pastor

Mullins Pulpit - December 7, 2008

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1 - 11; Mark 1: 1 - 8

Sermon: 'FUNNY THINGS'

*Weekly Schedule*

*Sunday Worship* 8:45 & 10:50 a.m.  
*Sunday School* 9:40 am  
*Wednesday Dinner & Program* 5:45 p.m.

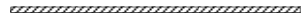
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Dear Friends,

Sunday, I heard one of my favorite old songs on the radio. A duet sang, "There's a new world somewhere they call The Promised Land and I'll be there some day if you will hold my hand." A large part of the Advent season is remembering our journey to that new world. God, who loves us, knows that we do not want to stay in a place of division and violence, oppression and sin. The promise God gives us time and again in the Bible is that we are not left in such a land. We have a Promised Land. Unlike my great-great-aunt who told us the Promised Land was the next life, the Bible tells us that when God took human form at the birth of Jesus, the Promised Land began to grow in this life. At her best, the church has always stated this truth. Some of you, for example, read J. B. Phillips' book from the 1950s, When God Was Man. Even the title of his book was shocking to more than a few people. In a large part, that is what the Advent journey is about. God the eternal becomes time bound. God the Creator becomes like one of us creatures. The God whose home was in heaven came to live awhile among us on earth. In that act of self-sacrificial love, God in Christ moves us off of dead center and on to the journey to the new world, the Promised Land, the new life. It starts here, not there, and it begins now, not then.

In His Service,  
Brad



Dear Friends,

A family in Mullins paid bills last night. As a family they reviewed where they were, prayed, added and subtracted and decided what takes priority and so on. It's the same sort of thing that you do regularly at your home. Last night the budget sub-committee of Mullins UMC met. The committee had no bills to pay, but we did have to look at what the church's projected income will be for 2009. The committee also had to look at what that income might be stretched to pay for. There is a gap between income and expenses. There is a rather large gap between income and expenses. Just like in your home, the Budget Committee, Finance Committee and then the Administrative Council will determine what the projected income can be stretched to pay in 2009. Church people, faithful members of Mullins, will pray, add, subtract and set priorities and come up with an answer. The dollars will help determine ministry. Your dollars will help determine ministry. But there is a gap between what we have pledged and current (not to mention, future) expenses. There is a rather large gap. If you have not yet pledged to the 2009 mission and ministry budget of Mullins, please do so as soon as possible. If you have pledged, and after prayer and adding and subtracting and setting priorities, you can pledge more, please do that as well. Your dollars will help determine ministry. God has no other dollars to do ministry from here. Mullins is a wonderful and serious congregation. Now is the time to be serious about our future.

Blessings,  
The Stewardship Committee

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Worship - Chapel  
9:40 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Youth  
5:00 p.m. Yoga Class  
5:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels - 117  
6:00 p.m. Church Christmas Dinner - FH
- MONDAY 10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Group  
6:00 p.m. PDO Board - 117  
6:00 p.m. Brownies - 100  
6:13 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts - FH  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Grace Notes Rehearsal - Chapel
- TUESDAY 8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym  
6:01 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal  
6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class - Gym  
7:00 p.m. Yoga Class  
7:00 p.m. Bowling  
7:00 p.m. Grace Notes Concert & Reception - Chapel and Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym  
5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner - FH  
2:00 p.m. PDO Program - FH  
6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs  
6:30 p.m. Program  
7:17 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- THURSDAY 8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym  
2:00 p.m. PDO Program - FH  
6:00 p.m. UMW Night Circle - Lamplighter Rm.  
6:30 p.m. Lamplighter/Friendship Party at Holiday Inn University of Memphis
- FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. Walking in Gym
- SATURDAY Basketball - gym  
8:15 a.m. Yoga - FH  
9:30 a.m. Private Event - FH  
5:00 p.m. PDO Parents Night Out  
New Directions Party

**MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 7**

Acolytes: Youth  
Communion: No Children's Message

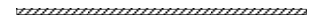


**THE MENU FOR DECEMBER 10**

**Adults \$5, 12 & Under \$3, Family Max \$20**  
Adults: Ham, Northern Beans, Turnip Greens, Cornbread, Salad, Dessert  
Kids: Pizza or adult menu

**OUR PRAYERS**

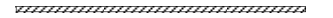
Continue to remember our homebound members and those in the military in your prayers.



**OUR SYMPATHY**

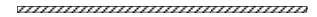
love and prayers go out to

....Martha Rice Siler in the loss of her sister, Sadie Norvelle Rice Conyers.



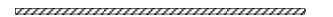
**OUR PRESENCE**

8:45 a.m.	47
Sunday School	79
10:50 Service	146



**JOE COOPER ON CHANNEL 3**

Joe Cooper will be a guest on WREG 3 Live at Nine on Wednesday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m. The hosts, Alex Coleman and Marybeth Conley, will interview Joe about the organ donor program and also about his book, Jesus, My Hero. Keep Joe in your prayers, and be sure to watch on Dec. 10th!!



**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

for this Sunday are being placed to the Glory of God

...in honor of my bride, Kathy,  
in celebration of our anniversary on Dec. 10,  
by Charles Carter

...in loving memory of Kenny Barnes  
in remembrance of his birthday,  
by Janet Williams

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**CHAPEL FLOWERS**

are being placed to the Glory of God

...in loving memory of Bidwell and Nancy Dean  
by their children and grandchildren