



Congratulations to Natasha and Greg Griffin on the birth of their daughter, Hadley Grace, on Monday, July 20, 2009. Hadley weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches. The very proud grandparents are Donna Delong and Carol and Charles Griffin. Very proud aunt is Diana Griffin.

**THANK YOU!!!**

The ladies of Mullins United Methodist Women met Tuesday, July 21, to assemble Healthcare Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). A total of 55 kits were assembled and will be sent to aid in disaster relief where needed. The United Methodist Women express their thanks and gratitude to the congregation for financial support of this project.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY**

On Saturday, August 8, at 3:30 p.m. , we will once again provide the meal at St. John UMC for the homeless in our community. Please volunteer a few hours of your time in this very important ministry! Call Ginny Wilcox at 276-8467 and let her know you will help.

**IMPORTANT NOTES TO REMEMBER!**

Be sure to write your name on the envelope when using pew envelopes for your offering!

The deadline for newsletter articles is Noon on Mondays.

Church Office hours are 8:30 - 2:30, Monday - Thursday.

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given to:

**ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY**

In honor of Thalina Marques by Mr. Aaron Foster

**PLEASE HELP!!!**

We have an on-going problem with lights being left on in the facility, as well as doors not being securely closed and locked. Please be sure to turn off lights and make sure the building is secure when leaving! Thanks for your help in this matter!

**DON'T FORGET!!!**

Please remember to put your meetings, social events, etc. on the church calendar. This will help to make sure there's no conflict with times, events or meeting rooms. Also, if your group changes meeting times, dates or places, **PLEASE** let the office know. Call 685-8253, and we'll be glad to assist you with scheduling.



**IT'S SHOW TIME!!!**

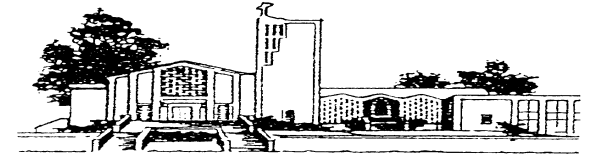
Summer Stage presents, "PLACES, PLEASE!" . This is an original show performed by children of Mullins United Methodist Church Summer Stage Theatre Camp. Please mark your calendars to volunteer and attend on July 31. Shows are at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Twenty-five volunteers are needed for hospitality. Contact Kimberly Dunigan, at 681-9217.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES!**

Were you ever bullied as a little girl or even as a big girl or a grown woman? If you were, you know how hard it can be to stand up for yourself. On Sunday August 2, at 1:45 p.m. in the church library, we'll find out how a girl named Chrissa learns to stand strong so that a group of "mean bees" will stand down. Girls, bring your mom, grandmother, aunts, sisters and friends for the movie. After the film, we'll have a time to talk about ways we can stand strong. We'll also have library books you can check out about Chrissa and other American Girl heroes.

Margaret Carbaugh  
Church Librarian

**MULLINS MESSENGER**



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

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

July 22, 2009

Vol. 40 No. 30

The Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel, Pastor

Mullins Pulpit - July 26, 2009

Scripture: John 6: 1 - 21

Rev. Scottie Brafford, Guest Minister

*Weekly Schedule*

Sunday Worship 8:45 & 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:40 am  
Wednesday Dinner & Program will resume in August

## REFLECTIONS ON FIRST HALF OF 2009 AND A LOOK AHEAD

Mullins UMC has much to celebrate this year. We have just concluded a record VBS with great sets, wonderful programs and a cast of volunteers that Disney would love to have! The feedback is all positive. A 30 week Disciple Bible Study: Jesus In the Gospels, concluded in June. The hardy souls who made it through got to know Jesus, themselves, and the Bible so much better! We have started an after-worship conversation and coffee time, as well as a new class for college and young career age people. The choir is growing. After challenges, the youth program is back to growing and the members are excited about Lauren Gam's leadership. Thanks to volunteers, the church office is becoming an ever more welcoming place physically, so as to match the personality of the office staff and Mullins church. There is so much more to celebrate.

Churches naturally go through seasons of life. We are on the edge of a growing season. With the changes of a growing season come opportunities and challenges. Our immediate neighborhood has new residents. Through several groups in the church, we are looking seriously at what must be done to be the gospel community in the new world around us.

My hope is that as the summer winds down we will look to a series of Wednesday night programs that will center on Bible study. I hope we will be able to offer at least two small group studies this fall for spiritual and social growth. I hope that we will be at least able to plan, and set a date for, a church-wide retreat to celebrate our shared life and look to 2010.

We know the challenges we face. In a stressed economy much of what Mullins, and every other church in America, must have to do ministry, is money. Utility bills, paper products, salaries, insurance and the like are requirements. Sacrificial giving is so much more a reality in the current marketplace. We need a part-time Director of Children's Ministry to provide clear, coherent and consistent programming. We need to be open to new relationships with sister churches who are in dire straights and can benefit from our resources. We absolutely must connect directly and at all levels with the surrounding neighborhood. Mullins must be seen as the center of the community without ever becoming simply a community center. The balance can be tricky. We also have to address the Sanctuary roof.

Mullins has faced challenges greater than these in the past. One does not live to be 164 years old without facing some trials. This church has survived yellow fever, civil and world wars, social and economic stress and upheaval. We have survived, and even thrived, when churches deemed by others to be more solid have foundered and faded, by the simple fact that you walk by faith not by sight; you know that God is not finished working through you, and you believe that when you open your lives to God's presence you will be shown where the work is to be done and how the tasks are to be accomplished, and you will be gifted with the means to do the work of the saints.

Thanks be to God for your witness, worship and work.

Blessings,  
Brad

<b>SUNDAY, JULY 26 - SATURDAY, August 1</b>	
SUNDAY	8:45 a.m. Worship - Chapel 9:39 a.m. College & Career Class - 209 9:40 a.m. Sunday School All Ages 10:50 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary 4:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Yoga Class – Fellowship Hall
MONDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 9:30 a.m. Church Women United Bible Study at Buntyn Presbyterian
TUESDAY	6:30 a.m. Career Support Group - Lamplighter Rm. 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 6:00 p.m. Tech Rehearsal for Summer Stage 6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class - Gym 7:00 p.m. Yoga Class - Gym
WEDNESDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 6:00 p.m. Tech Rehearsal for Summer Stage 6:13 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (optional)
THURSDAY	6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group - Parlor 8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 5:00 p.m. Stage Set-up - FH
FRIDAY	8:30 a.m. Summer Stage 5:30 p.m. Summer Stage Performance - FH 7:00 p.m. Summer Stage Performance - FH
SATURDAY	8:15 a.m. Yoga - Gym

### MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR JULY 26

Children's Message : Tammy Williamson  
Children's Church Leader: Lisa Weaver

### ATTENTION, PARENTS!!!!

There will be a very important meeting on Sunday, August 9, 1:30 p.m., in the church library, for all parents of elementary age children. Please mark your calendars with this time and date!

### BREAD MINISTRY

Many, many thanks for restocking our bread shelves! At the moment, we have an adequate supply of bread for our first-time visitors. Take a break from baking for a week or two, then we'll replenish the shelves again!

### OUR PRAYERS

**Baptist Women's Hospital**  
Natasha Griffin & Hadley 432

**Methodist Germantown**  
Kathryn Black

### OUR SYMPATHY

love and prayers go out to

...family and friends of Elizabeth Burns

...Jim Bland in the loss of his daughter, Martha Ishee

### OUR PRESENCE

8:45 Service	35
Sunday School	59
10:50 Service	112



### CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the Glory of God

...in honor of Betty Simpson,  
for her devotionals and faithfulness in teaching for many years,  
by the Lamplighter-Friendship Class

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Second quarter financial statements are available on the table in the Hall of the Apostles. Please pick up your statement this Sunday. Check it carefully and call the church office if you have questions.

### COLLEGE AND CAREER CLASS

Return to the Yellow Brick Road! Christian meaning and spiritual insights in the land of Oz! This Sunday, July 26, we will begin viewing the original *The Wizard of Oz* as part of our summer series focusing on faith in films. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 209. We may find some insights from *The Wiz* and *Wicked* along the way!