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# The Tower

Cahaba Heights UMC

December 2013

## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you participated in our Advent workshop just a couple of weeks ago. At the workshop, we made Advent wreaths and learned about the history and traditions of Advent.

The church year (which is quite different from our calendar year) begins with the season of Advent. This year, Advent begins on December 1st and lasts until Christmas. Advent means “coming” or “beginning,” and during this season we celebrate the coming of Christ on two levels: We remember with joy the arrival of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem, and we look forward with anticipation to the return of Christ to redeem the world.

The colors of Advent are purple or blue, which remind us of royalty or the night sky (where the star was seen), respectively. During this special season we light candles to remind us of the light of Christ coming into the world and we remember and share passages of scripture that anticipate Christ’s coming and relay the story of Christ’s birth. We take time to be with family and friends and to reflect on how life changes when we realize that God is with us and that we are never alone.

At Cahaba Heights UMC, we want to help you experience the full meaning of Advent. To that end, we have created a devotional guide for you to use during this season. We hope you will pick one up in worship on December 1st, or any of the Sundays thereafter.

Peace, and blessings to you during this holiday season.

Rev. Kelsey Johnson

## Special Services for the Holidays

**Dec. 8**

Join us at 11:00 am to celebrate the beginning of Advent with the traditional Hanging of the Greens. At 6:30 that evening, please return for our Service of Hope, where we will make room in the midst of all the “holly-jolly” to seek God’s healing and peace for those suffering grief and loss this season.

**Dec.15**

At 6:30 pm our chancel choir will present a special program along with a string quartet.

**Dec. 18**

A hot dog dinner at 5:15 pm will be followed by our children’s play at 6:00.

**Dec. 22**

Immediately after worship, join us for the White Christmas luncheon.

Then, at 6:30 pm, come enjoy a sampler of Christmas stories from Dolores Hydock. We will also sing some traditional carols and enjoy a short handbell performance.

**Dec. 24**

We hope to see you at 4:00 pm for our Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary. Merry Christmas!



John Wesley's Signet

*“There is enough time in every day to do God’s work...in God’s way.”*

*-Ted Engstrom*

## Watch Night Service

On December 31st we will celebrate a Watch Night Service. John Wesley and the early Methodists began celebrating a form of this service in 1755. John Wesley found the service

to be a rich and meaningful experience, writing in his Journal after one celebration (1765), “It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing.” We invite you to be a part of this remarkable

blessing at 8:00 pm on New Year’s Eve. We will take time to reflect on the past year and commit ourselves to God for the New Year at our Watch Night Service.

## December Missions

This month, CHUMC will be responding to several major needs in our community and in the world.

In the first week of Advent, please take home one of the ziplock bags provided in your bulletin to collect all your loose change. Bring the bag to church and we will change our coins into gift cards for those affected by the tornadoes in the Midwest.

Then, each Sunday in December, we will be collecting funds to send to the Philippines through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR is an extremely well-reputed organization and 100% of your donations will go to helping people in the Philippines (no donated money goes to pay staff or overhead).

Next, on December 22nd, please plan to stay after worship for our White Christmas luncheon. Proceeds donated toward the event will go to the United Methodist Children’s Home.

Finally, as always, all of the offering taken at our evening services during Advent will go to missions in our community.

## A Christmas Blessing

The Spirit Circle would like to thank the congregation for your generous donations towards the First Light Women’s Shelter Dinner we provided in August. Because of your overwhelming response we

were able to provide the meal and participate in the First Light Christmas Wish Program. We have purchased gifts on the list of one of the shelter’s members who has been able to relocate into

permanent housing. The woman asked for cooking pots with handles and a quilt, which we gladly fulfilled! Thanks so much to such a caring congregation. Your generosity is overwhelming!



*Reminder: All 2013 contributions must be received or post-marked by December 31, 2013 for tax purposes.*

**December Birthdays**

- 3 Susan Speer
- 8 Rusty Glasgow
- 10 Kaitlyn Harbison,  
Phillip Hamrick
- 14 Susan Maxey
- 17 Beth Scofield
- 19 Danny Taylor
- 20 Helen Lann
- 24 David Jeffries,  
Nancy Ray
- 29 Debra Welling-  
ham, Spencer Welch
- 30 Bill White
- 31 Reita Davis,  
Katrina Mohney

# DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir Practice	2 8:30 am Mt-Team Meals on Wheels (all week)	3 10:00 am Characters of Christmas Bible Study	4	5	6	7
8 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship— Hanging of the Greens 4:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Service of Hope 7:30 pm Charge Conference	9 6:30 pm Men's Club 6:30 pm Spirit Circle at Macaroni Grill	10 10:00 am Characters of Christmas Bible Study	11 6:15 pm Youth Christmas Party	12	13	14 Parsonage Open House 2:00-4:00 pm Or 6:00-8:00 pm
15 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Choir Christmas Pro- gram	16	17 10:00 am Characters of Christmas Bible Study	18 10:30 am C.H.U.M.S. Christmas Party at the Wright's 5:15 pm Hot Dog Dinner 6:00 pm Preschool Program/ Santa	19	20	21
22 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 12:00 White Christmas Lunch 6:30 pm Dolores Hydock Community Christmas	23	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28
29 10:00 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship	30	31 8:00 pm Watch Night Service				

## December Servants

### Readers:

12/1: Susan Maxey

12/8: Justin Banks

12/15: Micah Yoder

12/22: Brandon Busby

12/29: Richard Barrow

### Hosts/Greeters:

12/1: Lewis Eberdt, Mike Mizerany

12/8: Bobby Williams, Bill Maze

12/15: Freddie Huey, Lewis Eberdt

12/22: Marla Monk, Gerald Gann

12/29: Bill Maze, Mike Mizerany

## C.H.U.M.S.

The Cahaba Heights UMC Seniors will be having our Christmas Party on November 18th at Jan & Reggie Wright's house. Meet at the church at 10:30 am to ride over together!

### A note from the Trustees:

If you have a need to move a chair, table, or other item from any room in the church, it is your responsibility to return it to its original location.

## New Addresses

Dan Gilmore, 3456 Crossing Way, Hoover, AL 35242

Sue Fitzpatrick, 20640 Langford Road, Fairhope, AL 36532

Marshall Fitzpatrick, 2640 Langford Road, Fairhope, AL 36532

Return Service Requested

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