



# *Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church*

*Sunday December 4, 2011*

*Sunday School 9:45 a.m.*

*Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m.*

*Common Ground 4:00 p.m.*

*“Cahaba Heights UMC is called to share God’s message of love and grace with all people in our community and beyond, by using our gifts and our resources in each ministry opportunity to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”*

## *The Church Staff*

*Rev. Reagin Brown, Intentional Interim Pastor*

*Mr. David Busby, Choir Director*

*Dr. Ginger Dismukes, Organist/Pianist*

*Ms. Lora Parker, Youth Director*

*Mrs. Jana Cook, Children’s Director*

*Mrs. Gwen Johnson, Secretary*

## *MDO/Preschool*

*Mrs. Jana Cook, Director*

3139 Cahaba Heights Road, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35243- (205)967-0470  
[www.CahabaHeightsumc.org](http://www.CahabaHeightsumc.org)

*Sunday - December 4, 2011  
Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday of Advent*

*If you are visiting with us, please take a moment and jot down your name, address and phone number so that we may thank you personally for being with us. Our minister or a Cahaba Heights UMC member will be at the doors as you leave today.*

**Traditional Worship**

*\*indicates to stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“People, Look East”

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*[Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.]*

*Delane Parris*

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Mark 1:2-3)

And John, the messenger of God, proclaimed to all the people who came to him in the wilderness that they must repent of their sins and be baptized. Many people heard his message, repented, and were baptized in the river Jordan.

It has become our custom to prepare for the birth of the Messiah by decorating our cities and homes, hanging the lights inside and out, singing "Frosty the Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and measuring the quality of our Christmas morning by the number of gifts we receive.

*[Light the second candle.]*

As we light this second candle in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, perhaps we need to listen again to John the Baptizer's message, preparing the way of the Lord:

...make straight the paths

...repent of your sins

...be baptized

...and live holy lives devoted to God.

**ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.*

**Glory to God. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORDS ABOUT CAMP SUMATANGA

Rev. Paul Messer

CALL FOR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”  
Accompanied by Katie Gardner on Oboe

arr. K. Lee Scott

(Children are invited to go to Children’s Church at this time.)

\*DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

Brandon Busby

SPIRIT OF PREPARATION

“Alleluia, Alleluia”  
Verse 1

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SERMON

“Getting Ready for Jesus?”

Rev. Reagin Brown

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION “Advent of Great Thanksgiving”

See Insert

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

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BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You & Keep You”

by: Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

*This week in the life of our church:*

**Sunday**

9:45 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Coffee & Fellowship  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
5:00 pm Youth  
6:30 pm Choir Practice

**Monday**

Meals on Wheels  
8:00 am Men’s Prayer Group

**Tuesday**

Meals on Wheels

**Wednesday**

Pastor’s Bible Study & Evening  
Bible Study cancelled until after  
Christmas  
Meals on Wheels  
11:00 am Women’s Prayer Group

**Thursday**

Meals on Wheels

**Friday**

Meals on Wheels

**CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**December 12, 2011  
6:30 pm**

**The purpose of this meeting will be to authorize the Trustees to sell of the parsonage on 3422 Moss Brook Lane. All Members can vote. Please make plans to attend.**

**Rev. Reagin Brown  
Interim Minister**



*Christian Condolences to the family Virginia Butler who passed away on November 23, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow.*

## Those We Are Praying For

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* Philippians 4:6

**Our New Prayer Concerns:** The Family of Virginia Butler

### **We Continue to Pray for:**

Joan Bidanset (Debbie Ponder), Betty Sanders (E. Roberts), Jack & Mary Maze (Bill Maze), Helen Gilbert (Myra Harper), Beth Perry, Steven Simms, Ruby Davis (Reita Davis), Alice Scott, Larry Schoenacher (Frances Cobb), Edna Stevenson (Myra Harper), Terry Harmon, Frances Cobb, Edith Stone, Mandy Best, Linda Tippens, Jacqueline Cockrell (Myrna Swain), Nancy Robinson, Dawn Barrow, Bea Carlton, Pauline Darce, Vernon Bolen (Jill Butler), Walker McCain (Anita Bolding), Don & Pam McGill (Susan Maxey), Myra Franklin (Susan Maxey), Cecil Hare (Mike Mizerany), Ruth Peer, Gaston Wright, Luke Arrington (Savannah Busby), Dwight Crisson, Jonathan & Melody Hogan, Mike Mizerany (Mike Mizerany's father), Karl Harper (Myra Harper's husband) Stacey Daniel (niece of Norma Staple), Nancy Hazelrig (Sylvia Barrow), Elliott Williams (Faye Owens) Kaitlyn Moore (Betty Moore, Larry Wheeler (Sylvia & Richard Barrow), Betty Gilmore

### **Shut-Ins:**

*Mary Jack McNeel/Greenbriar Alt., Betty McGibboney, Columbia Cottage, Jim Donovan/State Veteran's Home/Alex City, Mary Ellis/St Martin's, Dick & Mildred Humphrey/Kirkwood*

## Children's Christmas Program

December 11, 2011

At 11:00 am

This service will be followed by a 'light lunch'. Volunteers are needed to furnish finger sandwiches, chips dip and cookies. Anything suitable for a 'light lunch' will be acceptable. Please let Jana know or call the church office. Thanks, *Ms. Jana*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 5:00 PM**

**We have a great opportunity. Christmas Eve is one of the highest attended services in the church year. It is a time many people who do not ordinarily attend worship feel a yearning to worship, sing, pray and share communion. This is a great opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to be our guest at this very sacred service. As we develop posters and cards for our cantata, we will do the same for this service. One thing to note, as United Methodist we believe in an open communion table. All, including children are invited to take communion. We welcome all.**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 10:00 AM**

**This is one of those rare times Christmas comes on Sunday. We will not have Sunday School that day only a worship service at 10:00. This will be informal time of singing carols, remembering the Christmas story. We'll also have a special time of blessing of the toys. Each child is invited to bring one toy to be blessed. Some of you may think, "I came on Christmas Eve, I'll skip this service." The reality is by 9:00 on Christmas Day all the presents will be open, everyone is bored and wondering what to do. The answer is "Come to Church!!!" This will be a casual service, wear that new sweater you received.**