



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we flip the calendar to January, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new year. A fresh start, a clean slate, a chance to begin anew. This time of new beginnings is a natural point for reflection and resolution.

We look back at the past year, acknowledging our joys, triumphs, stumbles, and shortcomings. We look ahead with hope and anticipation, wondering what the new year holds

In the Christian faith, new beginnings are not simply a matter of new calendars or resolutions. We believe in a God who is constantly making all things new. As the prophet Isaiah declares, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). This new thing is the ongoing work of God in our lives, transforming us from the inside out and making us new creations in Christ.

As we enter this new year, I invite you to consider three ways in which we can experience this newness in Christ:

1. Renewal of our faith. The hustle and bustle of daily life can sometimes dull our sense of wonder and awe for God. This year, let us make a conscious effort to nurture our faith. This might involve setting aside time for prayer, attending church services regularly, or reading scripture daily. By immersing ourselves in God's word and presence, we can rekindle the fire of faith within us.

2. Recommitment to our community. As followers of Christ, we are called to love and serve one another. This year, let us renew our commitment to the Bullard Methodist Church community. This might involve volunteering our time and talents, participating in ministries, or simply showing up and being present with our brothers and sisters in Christ. By building deeper connections and offering our gifts, we strengthen the fabric of our community and create a space where everyone feels loved and supported.

3. Reaching out to the world. Our faith is not meant to be confined within the walls of our church. This year, let us step outside our comfort zones and share the love of Christ with the world around us. This might involve volunteering in our community, helping at the Mission House or Mission Clinic, or simply being kind and compassionate to those we encounter daily. By sharing the light of Christ with others, we can make a positive difference in the world.

As we embark on this new year, remember that we are not alone. We have each other and the unwavering support and guidance of our loving God. May this year be filled with blessings, joy, and the transformative power of God's grace.

In Christ,

PASTOR DAVID

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy New Year! In January we are looking forward to Club M&M on **Sunday, January 21 from 4-5:30 p.m. in Harper Hall** and **Club 118 on Sunday, January 28 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Rollins home!** If you plan to attend, please let Deirdre know at (903) 343-2857.

In December the kids did a great job in our children's Christmas Musical! Thank you to the kids for all their hard work! Also, in December we participated in the Bullard Christmas Parade, and we hosted our Christmas community event "Have yoursELF a Very Merry Christmas" and our Children's Christmas Market! 2023 was a great year and we are looking forward to what God has in store for our ministry in 2024! Please make plans to come alongside us 😊

Blessings to you,

Deirdre Leung
903-343-2857

STUDENT MINISTRIES

YOUTH BONFIRE

To kick off our spring semester, the youth will have a bonfire hosted by Lanes Chapel on **Sunday, January 14, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** We'll have a cookout and worship outdoors. (If there is nasty weather, we will move inside.). This event is for 6th – 12th grade students.

BIBLES AND BITES

A middle school girl's Bible study meets **alternate Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.**

ADULT MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDIES

The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way Study

Everyone is invited to attend The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way Study. Join us as we explore John Wesley's life, his core theological message, and the legacy of Wesley's leadership in the Methodist church. Join Pastor David for this 12-week study on **Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. beginning January 16, 2024**. There is no cost for this study. Sign up on our church website or Facebook page.

Epic of Eden Bible Study

Join pastor David as he leads us through a study of the Old Testament with Dr. Sandra Ritcher on video. We did this study several years ago and had many requests to do it again. Classes will be on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning February 7, 2024**. The cost for workbooks is \$25. The sign-up link will be on the church's website and Facebook page.

METHODIST COFFEE CLUB

Everyone is invited to join the Methodist Coffee Club, which meets here in Bullard on **Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Coffee Around the Corner**. This is a time of fellowship and coffee drinking. Everyone is welcome.

METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men will hold the first meeting of 2024 on **Tuesday, January 23, at 6:00 pm at Milano's Pizza**. All the men of the church are invited to join us for food, fellowship and ministry activities.

METHODIST WOMEN

Bullard Methodist Women will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in The Parlor**. We begin each meeting with a prayer and devotional, this month they will be given by Elizabeth White. Bible study, based on the book of Luke will continue. This month we will study Luke 22:1-46, Jesus, Our Passover Lamb. This is chapter 24 of our study guide.

During December (11/29) members brought cards, treats, and small gifts for our Sideline Saints. Great joy was spread with small gestures. We "spiced" up the holidays for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry patrons by collecting and donating spices for their use in their holiday cooking. We had a holiday luncheon at Hidden Gardens Tea Room at the conclusion of the meeting.

At the January meeting, we will be collecting condiments for the Mission House Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, contact Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

MISSION BARREL - JANUARY

In January, we are collecting socks, scarves, gloves, and hats to be donated to Jesus' Closet/Church Under the Bridge. These donations help clothe the homeless and needy in Tyler and surrounding areas. Please put your donations in the Mission Barrels located in the foyer, Harper Hall, and the FLC.

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed on **Tuesday, January 9** to help organize food for distribution to local food banks. We meet at ETFB at 3210 Robertson Rd, in Tyler. **Our Shift is from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** If you need a ride or more information contact Mary Kay Bailey (253) 740-7666 or Brett Hatley (713) 301-1231.

On February 17, Saturday Morning we invite families with children aged 10 or older to join our Volunteers at ETFB.

POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

On December 14, 65-70 people attended our Festive Potluck Supper! Pantry favorites were collected for the Mission House Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who showed up early to help set up and to those who stayed late to help clean up/set up for the Reindeer Games.

Other Potluck Suppers are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month in the Family Life Center. On January 11, we will meet at 5:30. January is usually a month associated with resolutions and starting healthy fitness habits. Please bring cake & brownie mixes and icing to donate to the Mission House food pantry. This combines our fellowship time with a purpose! Can openers collected earlier were distributed as needed and were greatly appreciated by the recipients.

No reservations are required. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The prayer quilt ministry is just starting. We will meet on the second Thursday of the month. We will be meeting in the **FLC from 9:00 to noon beginning Thursday, January 11, 2024**. Even if you are unable to sew, we have thread that needs to be sorted and seams need pressing.

We are asking for donations from the congregation. We will be collecting cotton fabric, thread, batting, tools used for sewing (thimbles, threaders, long pins, etc.) or cutting fabric (rotary cutters) in plastic crates near the mission barrels in Harper Hall and the FLC.

The lap-size quilts will be sewn at the church and/or at home by the group. The quilts will be prayed over at the end of each session. Recommendations for distribution to recipients will be taken from the Prayer Group, the Grace Notes, and church members recommendations. A quilt may be requested directly from a member of the group for a recipient.

We have several tasks associated with making quilts. Not all of them require being able to sew! We need people able to use a rotary cutter, iron, machine sew (straight stitch), and hand sew (blind hem). All are welcome to stop by at around 11:45 to pray with us for the ones who will be the recipients of these quilts for their healing and comfort.

If you have any questions, please contact Flo Tarrant at (903) 894-6416 or Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS FOR JANUARY

Justin & Jade Morris
Walter & Jane-Ellen Morris

The full church calendar can be viewed on our website at <http://bullardfumc.org/calendar-2>

NEWS AND NOTES

THANK YOU



We wish to thank our precious church family for all of the diapers and wipes that were collected for Karis, as well as the incredibly generous gifts so many of you already gave us. We would not have made it through this season without all of you, and we are so grateful for your love and kindness towards our family when we needed it most. We pray God's blessings fill each and every one of your lives.

-David, Kelsey, and Karis Thrasher

CHURCH CONNECTIONS



Contact grant@bullardmethodist.org with any questions.

Volunteer Interest Survey

Our Ministry Interest Survey is on the church website under volunteer if you select the "Serving" tab. Your response is instrumental in allowing us to align your ministry and service goals with our current opportunities through our various missions, outreach, and fellowship ministries. Please feel free to reach out if you need help utilizing the online format. Hardcopies are available, or if you know where you'd like to be, let me know, and I will connect you with the right person.

Fellowship Ministry

Brrr...It's Getting Chili! Come inside and join us for a Chili Cookoff on **January 20 in the FLC from 6-8 pm!** Feel free to show up and enjoy, but for those interested, the signup sheet includes a spot to register to compete for the 1st place prize. The signup sheets are in Harper Hall and the FLC, where there are also spots to bring your favorite cornbread or chili fixings. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

Missions Ministry

We are thankful to those who joined in for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing that happened on November 30 at Bullard Brookshire's, and our community really came through! The bucket was overflowing by the end of the day. Be on the lookout in our Sunday Bulletins for our next Missions Ministry Meeting on **Monday, January 8 from 6-7 pm in Harper Hall.**

Outreach Ministry

We have some incredible opportunities planned for BMC! In February, we will deliver a meal to our local first responders, and in May, we are planning a community class in the FLC.

OUR PRAYERS

Our Homebound – Side-Line Saints - Members & Friends:

Tommie Aulie
Velma Carson
James & Kathleen Kyles
Linda Pierce
JoAnn Smith
Emilie Stroble
Jean Weatherly

Active Military Personnel:
Benjamin Barbour, Bryton Blakeney, Jessica Roper, Tyler Scarborough, Victor B. Sheldon and his wife Katy Sheldon, Grant Troxell, and others

OUR GIFTS

The Board of Stewards has authorized the Finance Committee to establish a brokerage account for securities donated to the church. The purpose of this is to be able to accept donations of stocks and bonds and convert them to cash for use by the church as designated by the donor.

If you have securities you wish to donate to the church and avoid capital gains taxes, please consult with your financial advisor and then contact the Finance Secretary, Patti Maxwell, or the church office.

Financial Results for November:

	November	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 48,554.76	\$ 530,265.28
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 46,167.00	\$ 524,337.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 45,231.93	\$ 504,447.67
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 52,105.00	\$ 515,541.00

SPECIAL GIFTS

(Gifts as of December 31, 2023)

In Memory of Ermal Tedder Clark

Given by:
Randy & Leslie Jones
Blair Thomas

OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

November:	187
Year to date:	186

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Monday, January 15, at 4:30 p.m.** for the February newsletter.

Email articles to bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org

NEED A NAME TAG?

Active members' and visitors' name tags are located on the shelf (in alphabetical order) in the foyer of the Sanctuary and the entrance of the FLC. If you need a name tag, please put a note in the offering plate, or call Venus at the church office at (903) 894-6762.

UPLIFTING WORDS

Fruit of the Spirit

"L" is for our Lord who died on Calvary'
"O" Our Redeemer who came to set us free.
"V" is the victory that's ours if we receive,
"E" it is for everyone, each one who will believe.
"J" is for Jesus whom I love with all my heart,
"O" are the others in whose life I play a part.
"Y" is you, my friend, if you're lost in sin today
Just give your life to Jesus and joy will come your way.
Peace in your triumphs, and peace in your trails,
Patience to endure all of Satan's evil wiles.
Kindness and goodness will flood your very soul,
Thankfulness and gentleness and self-control.
These are the Fruits of the Spirit, the Fruits of the Spirit,
You are the basket He'll place His fruit within.
So let God's Spirit have control, yield your life to Him,
And your fruit basket will be filled to the brim.

By Carole Myers

WELCOME TEAM

We need volunteers to serve on our Welcome Team each Sunday. This group of volunteers makes sure every person who comes through our doors is warmly welcomed and that our first-time guests are given a gift. You simply need to be at worship a few minutes early and wear a smile. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: POLICY & PRICE

Altar flowers are a way of honoring a beloved person, remembering the deceased, or recognizing an anniversary or birthday.

To participate in this expression of your appreciation, complete an Altar Flower Form found below the glass case in Harper Hall near the children's wing, or go to our website, bullardmethodist.org, and drop down the Online Giving tab. A payment of \$45.00 must accompany your request. To pay online, use a credit card. To pay by check, indicate on the subject line that it is for altar flowers and place the check with your request in the offering plate, or take it to the church office.

When you take the altar flowers home, please leave the green plastic containers at the church. These are reused each week.

The next three months are listed below. Check the glass case in Harper Hall for the calendar.

Month	Sunday	Name
January 2024	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	
February	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	
March	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY

- 1 James & Alma McBride
Joe & Linda Samford
- 2 Taylor Burns
Tom & Lori Day
Paul & Judy Donnelly
- 3 David & Diane Fritsche
Gary LeVrier
Margaret Ann Spier
- 6 Jerry & Susanna Hale
- 7 Brooklyn Lamberth
Ruth Sheppard
- 8 Phyllis Koopman
- 10 James McBride
- 14 Dean Mason
- 16 Bryan Willis
- 18 Cecil Boren
Larry Perry
- 19 Jim & Lynn Summers
- 20 Linda Roper
- 26 Myrna Braly
Dirk Streely
- 27 David Marshall
- 29 Rich Paddack
Kim Shultz
- 31 Alex Leung

RECENT EVENTS

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS



ADVENT READERS FOR TRADITIONAL SERVICE



Bruce & Tammy Woodard
Dec 3 (1st Sunday in Advent)



The Leung Family
Dec 24 (4th Sunday in Advent)



Stephen & Patty Foose
Dec 10 (2nd Sunday in Advent)



The Brasher Family
Christmas Eve



Jerry & Susanna Hale
Dec 17 (3rd Sunday in Advent)

CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about how to become a member of Bullard Methodist Church, contact our Pastor.

Bullard Methodist Church
P.O. Box 152
204 S. Rather Street
Bullard, TX 75757

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

903.894.6762 (*office*)
903.894.3245 (*fax*)

Office: bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org
Pastor David: david@bullardmethodist.org

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Encounter (FLC)
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional
5:30 p.m. Youth

*Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
who worship passionately, love extravagantly,
and witness boldly.*

*All members of the church are ministers of the Gospel,
equipped for sharing the grace of God with the assistance
of:*

CLERGY

Pastor, Rev. David Brasher

PROGRAMS

Student Ministries Director, Katie Rankin
Children's Director, Deirdre Leung
Director of Connections, Grant Rollins

WORSHIP

Director of Traditional Music, Robert Boren
Encounter Worship Leader, David Thrasher
Pianist, Kerry Baham

SUPPORT

Administrative Assistant, Venus Burns
Financial Secretary, Patti Maxwell
Nursery Supervisor, Kimberly Brasher
Custodian, Louis White

EASTERN TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones
Area Presiding Elder, Rev. Nick Sholars
Circuit Presiding Elder for BMC, Rev. Bryan Harkness