



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**A Year of Growth and Grace:
Celebrating Bullard Methodist
Church in 2023**

Dear Church Family,

As we turn the page on 2023, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the blessings that filled our church walls and spilled onto the streets of our community. This past year, we witnessed not just growth in numbers but also the depth of our faith, the strength of our connections, and the impact of our collective spirit.

Let us rejoice in the numbers that tell a story of a growing congregation:

- **Worship attendance soared:** Our worship services combined welcomed, on average, 204 individuals each Sunday, a heartwarming increase from 181 in 2022. This surge extends beyond physical walls, as our total worship, including online viewers, reached 229 – a testament to the reach of our message and the enduring power of our message and worship.
- **Professions of faith proclaimed:** Six precious souls declared their faith, stepping into the warm embrace of our Christian family. Their journeys inspire us all, reminding us of the transformative power of God's love.
- **Baptisms celebrated:** Seven baptisms, most by immersion, marked the beginning of exciting new chapters for youth and adults alike. Witnessing these acts of faith brought joy and renewed our commitment to nurturing every stage of the spiritual journey.
- **Our circle widened:** We welcomed 23 new members and one restored member into our fold, strengthening our ranks and enriching our shared experience. Each new face is a blessing, enriching our life together as disciples of Christ.
- **Membership blossomed:** Our church family grew from 368 to 382, a testament to the vibrant life within our walls. This growth is not just numerical; it reflects the dedication of each member, who contributes their unique gifts to build a stronger, more impactful faith community.

These numbers are not mere statistics; they are stories of lives touched, bonds strengthened, and faith deepened. They are the echoes of laughter in fellowship halls, the quiet

reflections during prayers, and the hands reaching out in service to the world.

In 2023, we embraced opportunities to serve those in need, sharing God's love through our various ministries. Whether feeding the hungry, comforting the grieving or guiding the lost, every act of kindness left a ripple of hope and reminded us of the call to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

As we step into 2024, let us carry the momentum of this past year, fueled by our shared faith and the commitment to grow even stronger. Let us continue to open our hearts wider, welcoming new faces and nurturing existing bonds. Let us be a beacon of hope and love, radiating God's grace in every act and every word.

Together, let us make 2024 a year of even greater growth, deeper love, and more impactful service for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom. May our church continue to be a place where lives are transformed, families are strengthened, and hope finds a home.

In Christ's unwavering love,

Your Pastor

DAVID BRASHER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy February 😊 In February we are looking forward to Club M&M on **Sunday, February 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Harper Hall** and Club 118 on **Sunday, February 25, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Morris home!** If you plan to attend, please let Deirdre know at 903-343-2857.

In January we enjoyed making Valentines at Club M&M and Club 118 for the KVNE Valentine drive which will distribute valentines to patients at local hospitals and long-term care facilities. Inside the Valentines, we glued scriptures expressing the love that Jesus has for them! The kids did a great job. Also, in January we had a great planning meeting. We've set some dates for some upcoming Children's Ministry events. Please save these dates and let me know if you would like to participate or help!

SAVE THE DATES:

Easter EggStravaganza: The egg hunt will be **Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Vacation Bible School: **June 24-27**

Blessings to you,

Deirdre Leung
903-343-2857

STUDENT MINISTRIES

BIBLES AND BITES

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

ADULT MINISTRIES

JOIN US FOR ASH WEDNESDAY ON FEBRUARY 14 AT 6:45 PM!

Begin your Lenten journey with reflection and renewal at our special Ash Wednesday service. We'll gather for worship, receive the ashes, and reflect on our mortality and God's enduring mercy. This is a meaningful time for personal growth and spiritual commitment.

2024 BOARD OF STEWARDS

Teri Rogers, Board Chair
David Brasher, Pastor
Jason Jones, Lay Leader & Lay Delegate
Andy Williams, Finance Char
Richard Dinwiddie, Treasurer
Patti Maxwell, Financial Secretary
Tammy Woodard, SPRC Chair
Becky Tompson, SPRC Member
Judy Donnelly, SPRC Member
Rob Sheldon, Trustee Chair
Jim Gill, Trustee Member
Bob Burnett, Trustee Member
Brittany Allen, Member At-Large
Landon Grogan, Member At-Large
Mike Walker, Member At-Large
Venus Burns, Secretary

BIBLE STUDIES

Epic of Eden Bible Study

Join pastor David as he leads us through a study of the Old Testament with Dr. Sandra Richter 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 next meeting of the Methodist Men will be **Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m., 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, February 7, 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 Barbara Gotcher. Bible study, based upon the book of Luke will continue. This month we will study Luke 22:47-23:56, Jesus, God's Word from the Cross. This is chapter 25 of our study guide.

During the January meeting, officers for 2024 were installed; Susan Hatley (President), Judy Donnelly (Vice President), Frances Cox (Secretary), and Barbara Gotcher (Treasurer). We approved and distributed our annual charitable distributions to various charities. We supplied condiments for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry patrons. We will be supplying those again in February. Don't forget ranch dressing and BBQ sauce are condiments too!

Please bring 10 valentines to the February meeting to be sent to our Sideline Saints. No envelopes are necessary.

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

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Missions Ministry East Texas Food Bank All Ages Serve

Our next Missions Ministry opportunity will be at the East Texas Food Bank on **Saturday, February 17, from 8:30 to 11:30 am**. We welcome all ages to join us! We chose a Saturday this time so families with kids could join us as well. No pre-sign-up is required, just show up at the food bank ready to serve! Children under 8 will need to have their guardian with them, and ages 8-18 will need to sign a guardian release form prior to their serving.

MISSION BARREL - FEBRUARY

February Mission Barrel will benefit Fostering Bridges located right here in Bullard. This organization aims to recruit, equip, assist, and promote God's redemptive purposes throughout the world of foster care, bridging our community to its most vulnerable children. Volunteer opportunities are available on the Fostering Bridges website. <https://fosteringbridges.com/>

Items needed to help are listed below. Please place in yellow mission barrels in FLC and Harper Hall.

- Bibles (new)
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers
- Books (new or like new)
- Hair and Makeup Products
- Hygiene Products (toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.)
- Journals (new)
- Stuffed Animals (new or like new)
- School supplies (crayons, pencils, sensory items, etc.)
- Suitcases & Duffle bags (new or like new)

"We are in the community for the community."

FOSTERING Bridges

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.

Interest Form

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

- Becoming a Foster Parent
- Our Neighbor (adopt-a-family)
- Becoming an Adoptive Parent
- Becoming a Respite Provider
- Becoming a Certified Babysitter
- Sponsoring a Child for Christmas
- Event Planning or Volunteer Team
- Meal Delivery Team
- Handyman/Handywoman Team
- Technology Team
- Leadership Team
- Prayer Team

SCAN ME

POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The February dinner will be the second Wednesday of the month, **February 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center**. Bring a dish to share and a nonperishable donation for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry. This month, bring a "protein packed" item for the food pantry.

This is a time for fellowship and the opportunity to meet new people. We have begun to wear our nametags so everyone will know your name. Perhaps you will meet someone who attends the other service or is new to the church. It will help others to remember your name.

We had around 55 people attend our January dinner. It turned into a serenade when everyone sang Happy Birthday to Judy. February will be special also, it is Valentine's Day (take your sweetheart out earlier in the week, the crowds will be smaller) and Ash Wednesday. We will finish the meal a little earlier around 6:25 and clean up so that we will be able to make it across the street for the Ash Wednesday service at 6:45 pm.

If you would like to provide the decorations in the future, please contact Judy to sign up for a month.

Our "muscle crew", aka set-up/clean-up team has had various additional commitments and health restrictions this year. **We could use some additional help.** If you are available to come a little early, at 4:45 pm, to help set up it would be greatly appreciated.

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, on **Thursday, February 8, 2024, from 9:00 to noon**. This month, the way the calendar fell, it is the week prior to the Potluck with a Purpose.

In January we had a good turnout with experienced quilters and those eager to learn. It is a new year and a new activity offering fellowship and creativity. 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. With the donations we have already received, the fabrics are being paired and prepared to sew.

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 FEBRUARY

Joe & Patti Maxwell
Pam Morton
David Parker

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

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBERS OF BUMC



Charles & Barbara Davis
(joined January 14)

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

We had a great time at our first annual chili cook-off and supper. Congratulations to our first-place chili chef, Tony Blakeney! If you would like to help plan our next Fellowship time together, be sure to join us at our next Fellowship Ministry Meeting tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, March 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Harper Hall.**

Missions Ministry

Our next Missions Ministry opportunity will be at the East Texas Food Bank on **Saturday, February 17, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** We welcome all ages to join us! We chose a Saturday this time so families with kids could join us as well. No pre-sign-up is required, just show up at the food bank ready to serve! Children under 8 will need to have their guardian with them, and ages 8-18 will need to sign a guardian release form prior to their serving.

Outreach Ministry

On **Monday, February 12**, we will deliver lunch to our local police and fire departments. We are asking for volunteers to help drop meals off that day. Please reach out to Grant if you have questions or would like to help.

Join us for our next Outreach Ministry Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, February 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Harper Hall.**

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 December:

	December	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 56,093.70	\$ 586,383.26
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 43,463.00	\$ 567,800.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 56,251.50	\$ 560,915.63
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 52,259.00	\$ 567,800.00

SPECIAL GIFTS

(Gifts as of January 31, 2024)

In Memory of Cora Martin

Given by:
Connie & Billy Evans
Gloria Jones

In Memory of Neal Thompson

Given by:
David & Diane Fritsche

OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

December:	225
Year to date:	205

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Thursday, February 15, at 4:30 p.m.** for the March 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

Old Wine Skins

You can't put new wine in old wine skins,
The word of the Lord does say.
For new wine has such power within
It will blast those old skins away.
But if they're washed by the water of the word,
Oiled with the oil of the spirit,
Those old wine skins will be pliable then
And can stretch to the power within.

God is pouring out new wine,
Get in the flow from His glorious vine.
But if your wine skin is brittle and cold
New wine it cannot hold.
It must be washed by the water of the word,
Oiled with the oil of the spirit.
So that your wine skin will be pliable then
And can stretch to the power within.

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
February	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	
March	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	
April	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

- 3 Gary Shultz
- 4 Jane-Ellen Morris
- 6 Lois Evans
- Bruce Woodard
- 7 Brody McAdoo
- Grant & Kelly Rollins
- 9 Reagan Brasher Duvak
- Rob & Theresa Sheldon
- 10 David Allen
- Maggie Nordyke
- 11 Elayna Burns
- Jim Gill
- 12 James & Kathleen Kyles
- Mahlon Parker
- 14 Clay & Stefanie Clevenger
- 16 Nick Lamberth
- 17 Jerry Rightmyer
- 18 Pat Dunklin
- 19 Luke Alexander
- 20 Steve & Cheryl Plybon
- Angela Roper
- 23 Sherry Perry
- 25 Kathleen Bunce
- Lynn Summers

26 Carl & June Coleman
29 David Lawson

RECENT EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP "CHILI COOKOFF" EVENT



1st place – Tony & Jan Blakeney



EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER DAY



METHODIST COFFEE CLUB



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY





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