



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we find ourselves in the embrace of spring, we witness the world around us bursting forth with new life. The barrenness of winter gives way to vibrant colors, fragrant blossoms, and the symphony of chirping birds. It is a season that reminds us of the inherent beauty of renewal and the promise of new beginnings.

In the natural world, spring is a time of awakening. Seeds that lay dormant in the cold earth suddenly sprout, pushing through the soil to reach toward the warmth of the sun. Trees that appeared lifeless now adorn themselves with tender leaves, symbolizing a fresh start. Flowers bloom in a kaleidoscope of hues, each petal whispering tales of resilience and growth.

As Christians, we are called to reflect on the profound parallels between the seasonal changes we witness and the spiritual truths they signify. Just as spring heralds the arrival of new life in nature, it also serves as a powerful metaphor for the transformative power of Christ in our lives.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, beautifully captures this essence of renewal: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV). Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has given us the ultimate gift—the promise of new life, both in this world and the next.

Spring invites us to shed the old, much like trees shedding their winter coats of leaves. It prompts us to let go of past hurts, regrets, and failures, embracing the forgiveness and redemption offered by our Savior. Just as flowers bloom in their unique beauty, we are each called to bloom in the unique purpose God has ordained for us.

The season of spring also teaches us about patience and trust. Before a flower can bloom, it must first endure the darkness of the soil and the uncertainty of weather. Similarly, our journey of faith often requires us to navigate through challenging seasons, trusting that God is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28).

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find the ultimate triumph of life over death, hope over despair, and light over darkness. Spring serves as an annual reminder of this

glorious truth—a truth that infuses our lives with purpose and meaning.

As we savor the beauty of spring, let us also take time to reflect on the richness of our faith journey. Let us embrace the new life that Christ offers, allowing His love to transform us from the inside out. May this season fill our hearts with gratitude, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose as we walk hand in hand with our risen Lord.

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hi! In April the kids in Club M&M finished up their gardening project for the church that they started in March! They are such great little gardeners. For Club 118 in April, we met at the McAvoy home! Thank you, McAvoy family, for hosting us!

In May, we are looking forward to the Bake Sale to raise money for church camp. We are also looking forward to the Bounce into Summer event to celebrate kicking off summer! Also, in May we will be working on preparing for SCUBA: Vacation Bible School: June 24-27 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please let me know if you would be available to help us make this VBS a success!

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.**

### BOUNCE INTO SUMMER

On **Saturday, May 18, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.** youth, kids, and families are invited! For. We are looking to borrow pop-up canopies to provide shade.

## YOUTH & CHILDREN'S FUNDRAISER



## SENIOR SUNDAY

Senior Sunday will be held on **Sunday, May 19** with the Seniors being recognized at both the Contemporary and the Traditional services. After the Traditional service, a reception will be held in your honor in Harper Hall with finger foods and desserts to help celebrate this milestone accomplishment with your church family. Any questions, please contact Katie Rankin or Miranda Pierce.

## ADULT MINISTRIES

### 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, May 28, 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.

### METHODIST WOMEN

Bullard Methodist Women will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor**. We begin each meeting with a prayer and devotional, this month they will be given

by Jeanne Johnston. The program will be given by Jerry Hale about his missionary work in Tanzania Africa and the Masai people building schools and drilling water wells. Items being collected for the Bullard Mission House this month are refreshing summertime snacks for when the kids are home from school. Suggestions are fruit cups, fruit snacks, and flavor ice.

After the meeting, we will be going to lunch at the Hidden Garden Tea Room.

We will begin a study on the Sermon on the Mount in September. Books may be purchased in advance for \$10. They will be available at the May meeting.

We supplied canned goods for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry patrons. Thank you notes from the Sideline Saints were read to the group. The Lenten offering was turned into the Treasurer, and a love offering in memory of Linda Pierce was collected to be given to the church. We will miss her. Paul and Judy Donnelly gave a program regarding the water well repair work they did in Malawi Africa.

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

## EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to help at East Texas Food Bank on **Tuesday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.** We help organize food for local food banks and schools. The address is 3201 Robertson Rd. Tyler 75701. For more information contact Mary Kay Bailey or Brett Hatley.

## MISSION BARREL - MAY

May's mission barrel will benefit Church Under the Bridge. They are in need of the following items:

- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- AA and AAA batteries
- Little flashlights
- Cheese crackers/snack crackers
- Feminine pads
- Bottled waters

Please place items in yellow barrels located in FLC and Harper Hall.

## Save the Date for Volunteer Day – Church Under the Bridge:

Saturday, June 15

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The May dinner will be the second Wednesday of the month, **Wednesday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.** After this month, we will be taking a break for the summer and will see everyone again in September. Bring a dish to share and a nonperishable donation for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry. This month, bring canned goods of your choice for the food pantry.

We had around 45 people attend our April dinner after days of rain, winds, and high water. Daylight Savings time is in effect and the days are getting longer, no need to worry about driving home in the dark! So come join us for fellowship. We wear nametags so we will be able to meet those we do not know by name.

In May, we are asking for assistance with decorations. The theme is **"A Few of My Favorite Things"**, if you would like to provide the decorations for **ONE** table, please contact Judy to sign up. If no one signs up, we will just have plastic sheeting on the tables. Get the kids involved, they have great ideas! The Muscle Crew will be at the FLC at 4:45 to set up the tables and chairs. You will be able to decorate your table immediately following setup.

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

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The prayer quilt ministry is new in 2024. We meet on the second Thursday of the month. We will be meeting in the **FLC, on May 9, from 9:00 a.m. until noon**, this month.

Each time we have met we have new faces show up. Some are experienced quilters while others are helpful in different ways. Even if you are unable to sew, we can use your skills for things like matching complimentary fabrics, pinning, and pressing. We always need prayer warriors!

**We are asking for donations** from the congregation. We will be collecting cotton fabric and sewing items in plastic crates near the mission barrels in Harper Hall and the FLC. If you would rather make a monetary donation and let us do the shopping, please designate so on the memo area of your check.

**Fabric yardage requirements:** To make a quilt we need *four* coordinating fabrics of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a yard each for the front. We need  $1 \frac{7}{8}$  yards for the back and the binding. This may be the same print as one of the four on the front. We need  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  yards of low loft batting to go in between those layers. The lap-size quilts are sewn at the church and/or at home by the group. The quilts are prayed over at the end of each session. 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. 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. Distribution has already begun. From February 25 through April 11, 2024, we have distributed 18 quilts. We are glad to bring comfort to those experiencing difficulties and health issues but at the same time, we are saddened by the great need.

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

## TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS FOR MAY

Tony & Jan Blakeney  
Justin & Jade Morris

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

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BLUEBONNET MINISTRY

We had a very nice turnout for our April 7 Communion Service. Present were 14 residents, 4 family members, and 6 members of Bullard Methodist Church. The singing was led by Lisa Escolas, with Lois Evans at the piano. The message was given by Gloria Jones. Communion service was conducted by Lisa Escolas, Mike Dunklin, and Mike Walker. Carole Myers sang a solo. This ministry is such a blessing to those who participate.

If you would like to participate, please contact Lisa Escolas at (774) 226-6153.

## CHURCH CONNECTIONS



Contact [grant@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:grant@bullardmethodist.org)  
with any questions.

## Volunteer Interest Survey

Our Ministry Interest Survey, a crucial tool for aligning your ministry and service goals with our current opportunities, is available on the church website under the 'Volunteer' tab. Your response is instrumental in shaping 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

Spring Bingo was so much fun, around 30 people braved the weather to join us! Be on the lookout for the announcement of our next fellowship (Hint: ice cream and competition) event this summer.

## Missions Ministry

The Missions Ministry met on April 23 for our quarterly planning meeting, during which we decided to bring non-perishable food kits with us during our summer volunteering for Church Under a Bridge on June 15.

We also made plans to join Marvin Methodist Church for their annual mission week. The event is from **June 1 to June 7**, and BMC will sign up to work on a community project. More details to follow.

On **Tuesday, May 7**, the monthly East Texas Food Bank team will continue serving the local community. Contact Brett Hatley or Mary Kay Bailey if you want more information.

We are also planning a trip to Sager Brown in late September, and if you would like more information, please contact the office or Carl Coleman, who is leading the team.

## Outreach Ministry

Join us on **Tuesday, May 28 from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m.** in Harper Hall for our quarterly Outreach Ministry meeting to help plan our next outreach event. Options include an evening of training, like internet safety, a special night of worship, etc. We would love to hear your ideas!

## DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Wednesday, May 15, at 4:30 p.m.** for the June newsletter.

Email articles to [bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org)

## OUR PRAYERS

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

Tommie Aulie  
Velma Carson  
Patsy Harper  
James & Kathleen Kyles  
JoAnn Smith  
Emilie Stroble  
Bobby Vermillion  
Jean Weatherly

Active Military Personnel:

Benjamin Barbour, Bryton Blakeney, Matt Pearce, Jessica Roper, Victor B. Sheldon and his wife Katy Sheldon, Luke Sprinkle, and Grant Troxell

## OUR GIFTS

BMC has 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 March:

	March	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 51,244.95	\$ 234,510.72
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 44,367.00	\$ 209,301.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 50,095.81	\$ 143,444.96
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 48,906.00	\$ 144,651.00

## OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

March:	259
Year to date:	241

## UPLIFTING WORDS

### You're Not the Only One

Many years ago as I traveled on life's way  
I thought I knew the answers and threw the Book away.  
My elders tried to show me where I was going wrong,  
But I ignored their warnings and stumbled on along.  
Now as I am older, my hair has turned to gray,  
I look around and see the path I've traveled on the way.  
The road was often rocky with dangers everywhere,  
And the secret that my elders knew I now with you will share.  
My child, you're not the only one whose traveled on this way,  
Who stumbled on the rocky road, fell and lost the way.  
But if you turn to Jesus, he'll help you bear the load.  
He'll lift you up, dust you off, and set you on the road.  
He'll set you on the right path where you'll do well to stay.  
But like those gone before you, most likely you will stray.  
And you'll ignore the warnings that your elders give to you,  
For after all, how could they know what you are going through?  
For each new generation thinks that they're the only one,  
To face such strong temptations, such battles to be won.  
But if you turn to Jesus, he'll free you from your sin.  
He'll lift you up, dust you off, and set you straight again.

By Carole Myers



## 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.

## 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](http://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
May	5	
	12	reserved
	19	
June	26	
	2	reserved
	9	reserved
	16	
July	23	
	30	
	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MAY

1	Kelsey Thrasher
3	Carole Myers
4	Jack Florence
5	Herb Jones
	Luann Smith
6	Emersyn Burns
8	David Crawford
9	Janet Burns
	John & Sharon Marrs
11	Matt Florence
	Tom & Candyce Phelps
	Larry Staten
13	Alison Walker
14	Dr. Meril & Melva Taylor
15	Piper Florence
16	Mary Kay Bailey
	Lucy Norlie
17	Sloan Willis
18	Steve & Debbie Bembenek
21	Dean & Hazel Mason
22	Ron Martin
24	Mike Walker
26	Alma McBride
28	Reggie & Luann Smith
29	Jason & Jennifer Blakeney
	Joe & Patti Maxwell
31	Larry & Nelda Perry

## RECENT EVENTS

### CLUB M&M – LESSON AND GARDENING PROJECT AT BMC





**SPRING BINGO**



**EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER DAY**



**POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE**



**PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY**



Ladies that met in April





Encounter Worship Service praying over the quilts



Traditional Worship Service praying over the quilts

## 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](mailto:bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org)  
Pastor David: [david@bullardmethodist.org](mailto: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  
Presiding Area Elder, Rev. Nick Sholars  
Presiding Circuit Elder for BMC, Rev. Bryan Harkness