



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



A series where we get to know our church staff. This month, we're highlighting Robert Boren.

### **What is your role at Bullard Methodist Church, and what do you love most about it?**

Director of Traditional Music. I'm grateful for how vibrant and intergenerational our worship life is. It's a joy to see children active in the Traditional Service and many long-time members engaged in Contemporary—our community truly spans every stage of the faith journey.

### **How did God lead you into ministry or to serve in your current role?**

I fell in love with worship as a small child—especially the music. At twelve, I sensed a clear call to serve God through music ministry. Through high school and college, I stayed around the church, but I wasn't yet living fully into that calling. That began to change when I became a fellowship student at FUMC Nacogdoches. There, the Spirit nudged me to honor the promise I'd made as a kid. I started assisting the director, subbing when he was out of town, and discovering the quiet joy of simply showing up to serve.

While I was working on my master's at SFA, Dr. King forwarded a note from Pastor Brasher about a music minister opening at Bullard Methodist Church and encouraged me to apply—"good experience," he said. I had no idea that nearly ten years later I'd still be here, grateful and amazed to call this church home.

In that time, I've watched our congregation dream and build together through the Dream Campaign, helped launch our Contemporary Service (now led by my best friend—soon to be our associate pastor), walked with you through our transition into the Global Methodist Church, and, yes, seen more than a few sound boards replaced along the way.

Through it all, I've witnessed a church that loves to worship—vibrant, faithful, and intergenerational.

I'm thankful every day to serve alongside you. What a gift it is to make music with this family and to see God's faithfulness, year after year.

### **What's a Scripture verse that has shaped your life or ministry?**

Colossians 3:16.

### **If you could have dinner with any biblical character (besides Jesus), who would it be and why?**

Shamgar, for sure. I love how even a minor character in the Bible does something extraordinary—like defeating 600 Philistines with a pointed stick. It's a powerful reminder that faithfulness in ordinary people can lead to extraordinary things.

### **What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?**

I love making origami. I have quite a few little hobbies and quirks, but I'm not sure which one would surprise people the most.

### **When you're not serving at the church, what's your favorite way to spend a day off?**

Surrounded by my three handsome sons and my beautiful wife. "Surrounded" might not be the right word—dogpile is probably more accurate.

### **What's your favorite worship song or hymn right now?**

It Is Well. I'm really enjoying it right now.

### **What's a hidden talent or quirky skill you have that most people don't know about?**

I don't really have one outside of music. One-trick pony, I guess!

### **What's your go-to comfort food or favorite local restaurant in Bullard/Tyler?**

Jucy's is great! I love all their options.

### **What's one thing you hope people experience when they come to Bullard Methodist Church?**

I hope they experience the transformational love of Jesus Christ through every facet of worship—and, more importantly, through our congregation.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy January! I hope everyone had lovely Christmas and New Year's celebrations! In December, the children's ministry kids were able to go shopping AGAIN since we were able to sponsor 2 more kids for Christmas gifts, thanks to the very generous support of the bake sale! This time, we purchased gifts for a boy and a girl from the Bullard ISD Angel Tree. We had fun shopping, and we pray the kids who received the gifts will feel blessed and loved by Jesus.

Also, in December, the kids performed "But Why a Tree," which was a skit and musical that pointed attention back to Jesus, who is the real reason for Christmas, and pointed out the reminders that are all around us everywhere that He is with us and He loves us so much! Also in December, we went Christmas caroling at Breckenridge village! And we had the kids' Christmas Market, where the kids got to pick out gifts to give their families and friends.

During Sunday School time, the kids continue to enjoy music time together before we split into our age group classes. In January we will start learning some new music! All kids are encouraged to join us.

Please save these upcoming dates:

Club M&M: **Sunday, January 4 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in Harper Hall:** kids ages 4yr-3<sup>rd</sup> grade join us for devotional, mission project, crafts, music, and pizza!

Club 118: **Sunday, January 11 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., location TBA:** kids in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> join us for devotional, mission project, crafts, music, and pizza!

Children's Ministry Planning Meeting: **Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Harper Hall:** parents and volunteers, please join us to make plans for ministry events in 2026!

Any questions, please call or text me!

Blessings to you,

Deirdre Leung  
(903) 343-2857

## ADULT MINISTRIES

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### How to Worship a King - Important Links

Join David Thrasher Tuesday evenings, starting January 20th, at 6:00 PM in The Family Life Center, as we begin a video and discussion-based study of "How to Worship a King" by Zach Neese

Here are the links you'll need for the course.

- If you'd like to purchase your own printed or digital copy of the course guide from Amazon, click [HERE](#).

- To sign up for the class, please click [HERE](#) or call the church office. For more information, contact David Thrasher.

## 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.

## EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to help at East Texas Food Bank on **Tuesday, January 6, 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.

## METHODIST MEN

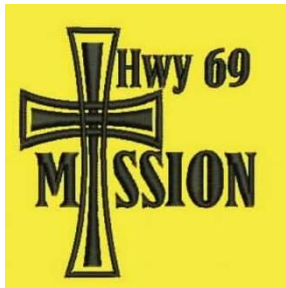
Methodist Men meet at **6:00 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbecue on Tuesday, January 27**. We meet each month on the fourth Tuesday evening except for November and December. All men are invited to attend. We participate in the Easter Eggstravaganza, cooking a pancake breakfast in coordination with the Easter Egg Hunt. We also cook hotdogs for the Trunk or Treat at Halloween. We are trying to provide a couple of evening meals for the Highway 80 Mission House, which has been greatly appreciated by the staff and clients at Highway 80 Mission House.

Come One, Come all. Enjoy some good food and fellowship.

## METHODIST WOMEN

Bullard Methodist Women will meet on **Wednesday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor**. If you have any questions, contact Mary Kay Bailey at (253) 740-7666.

## MISSION BARREL – JANUARY



In January, we are collecting socks, scarves, gloves, and hats to be donated to Highway 69 Mission in Jacksonville, a mission that helps anyone in need.

Please place your donations in the Mission Barrels located in the foyer, Harper Hall, and the FLC.

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The Potluck with a Purpose dinner will be on the second Wednesday of the month, **January 14, at 5:45 p.m. in the Family Life Center.** New time, to benefit our working members. Bring a dish to share and a nonperishable donation for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship. We wear nametags so we will be able to meet those we do not know by name and put names with faces.

We had between 55-60 people attend our December dinner. It was great to see everyone again.

Thank you to everyone who came over after the second service to help set up the tables and chairs for the dinner. ***For setup in January, we are asking people to stay after the second service and help set up tables on the Sunday before the dinner, which will be January 11.***

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

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The Prayer Quilt Ministry will be meeting on the second Thursday of January due to the New Year holiday. This will be **January 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the FLC.** **We will pray for the recipients of the quilts at 1:45 a.m.** At our December meeting, we photographed completed quilts, prayed, and learned to make Christmas ornaments with fabric scraps, pins, and Styrofoam.

In 2025, we distributed 151 quilts. Twenty-five were given out during a mission trip to Baldwin, LA. Fifteen were distributed at Bluebonnet Nursing Home in Bullard following the communion service. Since the ministry began, between February 25, 2024, and December 11, 2025, we have distributed 275 quilts. We distribute to those in the military, with health issues, or going through a rough time. We depend on feedback from all of you to know who may be in need of prayers for healing and a quilt for comfort. If you have a close friend or relative who lives out of town, you may request a quilt, and we will give it to you to forward it to its final destination. If you would like a service member to receive a patriotic-themed quilt, or an alternative color, please contact us.

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

Brandt & Meagan Goodwin  
Walter & Jane-Ellen Morris

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

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BLUEBONNET COMMUNION MINISTRY

There were ten residents and guests at the December Communion Service. Christmas carols were sung, led by Lisa Escolas with Lois Evans at the piano. The message was brought by Lisa Escolas. She, also led the Communion Service, assisted by Mike Dunklin and Mike Walker. Carole Myers sang "Rejoice, Rejoice". Others present from Bullard Methodist were David and Kelsey Thrasher.

We are looking for persons from our church who would like to help by sharing a brief devotional with the residents of Bluebonnet Place. We go **every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.** to serve communion and share a devotional. If you can help, please sign up today! If you would like to participate, please contact Lisa Escolas at (774) 226-6153.

### BULLARD METHODIST CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Children's Music Director**

**BULLARD METHODIST CHURCH**  
Bullard, Texas

- ✓ Do you have a love for music and a passion for working with children?
- ✓ Experience in vocal performance and leading children in song?
- ✓ We'd love for you to join our team!

**Position Highlights:**

- Weekly rehearsals (September–May)
- Lead children's music for Christmas & Easter programs
- Prepare kids to sing in church services every 6–8 weeks
- Help lead VBS music in the summer
- Collaborate with children's ministry & tech teams

**Salary:**  
**\$20-\$25/hour**

For more information or to submit an application, please contact Bullard Methodist Church at (903) 894-6762.

## BULLARD METHODIST NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

Applications are available in the church office. Please contact Kimberly Brasher for additional information.

## UPLIFTING WORDS

### The Only Way

Father, fill this longing in my soul, this longing for peace in a world that's out of control.  
Father, heal this aching in my heart, this aching for a love, a love that will never depart.

Father, such sadness now I see, please give me joy to keep depression from swallowing me.  
Father, there is danger all around, I need your strength to keep my feet on solid ground.

My child, my child, if only you'd listen to me,  
I gave you those very things that day at Calvary...  
That's why I sent my Son to die that day.  
So give your life to Him, that's the only way.  
Yes, give your life to Him, He is the only way.

By Carole Myers

## 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 Ellen Henson Gary LeVrier Margaret Ann Spier
6	Jerry & Susanna Hale
7	Freeman Jarrell Brooklyn Lamberth Ruth Sheppard
10	Judy Donnelly James McBride
11	Ty Allen
14	Dean Mason
16	Bryan Willis
18	Cecil Boren Larry Perry
20	Linda Roper
22	Austin McAvoy
25	Jonathan & Renae Brown
26	Myrna Braly Dirk Streely
27	Tim & Jennifer Haugh David Marshall
29	Rich Paddack Kim Shultz
31	Alex Leung

## OUR PRAYERS

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

James & Kathleen Kyles  
Dirk Streely  
Nellene Tannert  
Bobby Vermillion

Active Military Personnel:

Matt Pearce, Jessica Roper, Victor B. Sheldon and his wife Katy Sheldon, Luke Sprinkle, Grant Troxell, and 1-41 FA regiment

## 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 church's Finance/Business Administrator, Joyce Ponder, or 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	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	
February	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
March	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Thursday, January 15, at 4:30 p.m.**, for the February 2025 newsletter. Email articles to [bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org](mailto: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.

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.

RECENT EVENTS

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK



METHODIST COFFEE CLUB



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**



**SALVATION ARMY RINGING OF THE BELL**



**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**





## ADVENT 2025



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - November 30  
Tony & Jan Blakeney



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 7  
Brandon & Brittany Allen



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 14  
Leung Family and Elizabeth (Deirdre's sister)



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - December 21  
Brett & Susan Hatley



Christmas Eve  
Kelly & Venus Burns

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS





## 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 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.*

*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

### WORSHIP

Director of Traditional Music, Robert Boren  
Director of Contemporary Worship & Ministry, David Thrasher  
Pianist, Kerry Baham

### SUPPORT

Administrative Assistant, Venus Burns  
Finance/Business Administrator, Joyce Ponder  
Nursery Supervisor, Kimberly Brasher  
Custodian, Louis White

### TRINITY CONFERENCE

Bishop, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones  
Presiding Elder, Rev. Nick Sholars  
Presiding Elder, Rev. David Brasher  
Connecting Elder for BMC, Rev. Ed Wandling