

The Messenger

of Munholland United Methodist Church

1201 Metairie Road, Metairie, Louisiana 70005 834-9910

December 1, 2008

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Music Director
Julianne Korn
9:45 Music Leader
Phil Sparks
Organist

Contacting the Church--

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I believe this Christmas season has the potential to be one of the most meaningful we've experienced in a long time. With the downturn in the economy, retailers are indicating that sales are off substantially, which granted, is not good for the economy. This could be an indicator that there will be fewer gifts given this year, perhaps lessening the stress that comes with being sure that an adequate to an excessive number of gifts have been purchased.

Could this be the year we put our focus more on the joy of God's gift of his son Jesus the Christ than all of the gifts we feel compelled to purchase. Difficult times make us more aware of the importance of our faith and our relationship with God. We have many opportunities here at Munholland during the Advent/Christmas season for you to enjoy the beauty of the church, to experience the presence and peace of Christ, to celebrate the birth of God's Son, and to be with friends and family during this special season. Rather than lamenting bad economic news, let's celebrate God's Good News. After all, this is what really matters the most.

Sincerely,

Gene Finnell



Christmas Eve - Wednesday, 12/24

4:30 pm Family Candlelight Service

6:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Infant Nursery will be available for both services



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There will be no Executive Meeting, General Meeting or Circle Meetings scheduled for the month of December.



Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 am until noon at the home of Sarah Kreutziger.

If you have been considering joining the UMW, this would be an excellent time to meet the ladies and learn more about who we are and what we are all about.

For more information, please call Phyllis Zansler at 455-9942.

ADULT CHRISTIAN STUDY

CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINES

Author: Richard Foster

Wednesday, 12/3/08

6:15 pm in Room 210

Leader: Rev. George Duerson

This 6 week study examines the inward disciplines of prayer, fasting, meditation, and study in the Christian life, the outward disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service, and the corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration...



Munholland would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Shirley on the death of her husband, Andrew McWhorter, to David and Lisa McWhorter & Patricia McWhorter Broussard on the death of their father, and to Allyson, Brindley & Olivia on the death of their grandfather.

Andrew was a long time member of Munholland and sang in the Church Choir for over 30 years.

You are in our thoughts and prayers...

MISSION COMMITTEE MTG
December 8th at 12:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

CARE TEAM MEETING
December 16th at 6:00 pm
in room 211

SHAWL MINISTRY
December 20th at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

"Blue Christmas"

"For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering important persons and other parts of our lives that are changed or gone.

We will offer a quiet, meditative "Blue Christmas" service on Sunday, December 21st, at 6 p.m. Bring your hurting places to God, and we will prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. There will be times of special music, scripture, silent reflection, and healing prayer."

Rev. Janet Davis



Family Christmas Funday will be held on Sunday, 12/7/08 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.



Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Party will be held on Sunday December 14th at 4:00 pm. Hosted by the Mission Committee with assistance from the Munholland United Methodist Youth.



"Caroling Under the Oak"



Munholland's "Caroling Under the Oak" will be held on Sunday, December 14th from 6:00 until 7:00 pm in front of the Sanctuary.



The Living Nativity will begin on Sunday, December 21st from 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm and will continue nightly through Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th.

If you would like to be a part of the Living Nativity as a Shepherd, Wisemen, Mary, Joseph or an Angel, please sign the sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheet can be found on the board located to the left of the Welcome Center by the Elmeer

Entrance or call the church office at 834-9910.



All adults and youth are cordially invited to:

Munholland Adult Sunday School Classes' Christmas Party

Sunday, December 21st

9:30 - 10:50 am

Fellowship Hall

9:45 worshippers are invited (after their service) to join us in the Fellowship Hall for continued fellowship and caroling with the children.

Nursery and 9:30 am Children's Sunday School classes will meet as usual...



The "Angel Tree" deadline of December 7th is approaching fast. Please place your gift (with tag attached) on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.



WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

a James W. Moore Advent Study

This three week study will explore the question of what people really want for Christmas - which on Christmas can give: peace, joy, love, and forgiveness.

This class will be led by Rev. Janet Cavalier and meet on December 4th, 11th, & 18th at 10:00 am in room 200. Study books cost \$7 and may be purchased in advance or at the first class session.

On Sundays during Advent, Brother John Deschner will be preaching at the 9:45 service on the meaning behind each Advent candle.

THANK YOU MUNHOLLAND for helping to support the UMW and our Missions!!

Our recent White Elephant Sale was a success in large part because of YOU AND YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS. This year your "trash" netted us approximately \$8,700 by becoming someone else's treasure.

We couldn't have achieved this without our many angels that work so hard every year to sort, clean, price and pick up donated items. A huge thanks also to those that came out to help us set up tables prior to the sale and to our workers on Saturday. It was a true team effort. Items not sold were again donated to the UMW at St. Paul's UMC for their garage sale and the rest was picked up by North Rampart Community Center for their After School Program.

As most of you know, the call of United Methodist Women is to be in mission service to women, children, and youth. One such place that would probably close without our annual support is Clanton Chapel Christian Pre-School in Dulac, LA.

We are also blessed to be able to support North Rampart Community Center (formerly St. Mark's), Charity (CCC), Angels' Place, Methodist Children's Home (N.O./Ruston), MacDonell's Children's Services (Houma), Samaritan's Purse (shoe boxes), UMCOR, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministries at Tulane and Grambling, Bridge House, LAVIM/Munholland mission trip and KIVA (www.kiva.org) Loans that Change Lives. Because of YOU and our White Elephant Sale we can continue to be in ministry to these and others.

A new night circle is being formed, The Hope Circle, which will meet for the first time in January, date and time TBA. United Methodist Women are women who serve, study, pray, and fellowship together. To our sisters in Christ, we "hope" you will seek us out next year as we begin this new journey within our unit. We know this will be a challenge, but we know that God will give us the guidance we need. We covet your prayers for all United Methodist Women and what they bring to the Lord's table.

God Bless, Phyllis Zansler

Weekly Worship Attendance

	Nov. 02	Nov. 09
Sunday		
8:30 am	108	68
9:45 am	39	44
11:00 am	<u>163</u>	<u>155</u>
Other	15	15
Total	325	282
Sunday School	167	162

Meetings and Special Events

Dec. 01	Poinsettia Order Deadline	
Dec. 04	7:00 pm	Gtr. N.O. Photo Soc (FH)
	8:30 pm	Cursillo (Sanc)
Dec. 05	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
Dec. 5-6	"Taking it to the Streets" Mission Wknd	
Dec. 07	4:30 pm	Family Christmas Funday Angel Tree Deadline
Dec. 08	12:30 pm	Mission Comm Mtg (FH)
Dec. 10	5:15 pm	Midweek Meal
Dec. 11	7:00 pm	UMM (211)
	7:00 pm	Gtr. N.O. Photo Soc (FH)
Dec. 13	10:00 am	UMW Christmas Brunch (at Sarah Kreutziger's home)
	Set up the Nativity	
Dec. 14	4:00 pm	Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Party (FH)
	6:00 pm	Caroling Under the Oak

"GIVING BACK"

HURRICANE IKE DISASTER RECOVERY MISSION TRIP

If you are interested in helping with the recovery efforts, please plan to join us for this important mission trip. Financial assistance in making this mission possible is also needed.

**Thursday, January 15 – Sunday,
January 18, 2009**

Contact: Rev. Janet Cavalier 504-834-9910
janetc@munholland.org



KID'S PAGE

DECEMBER'S CHOIR SCHEDULE

Littlest Angels – Wednesday (Rehearsal- Rm. 111)

12/03/08	Choir Time	6:00 pm–6:45 pm
12/10/08	Choir Time	6:00 pm–6:45 pm

Altar Choir – Sunday (Rehearsal-Elementary Music Room)

12/07/08	Choir Time	10:15 am–10:45 am
12/14/08	Choir Time	10:15 am–10:45 am



CHILDREN'S
CHOIR
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Littlest Angels and Altar Choir will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 6:30 pm following Midweek...

(KIDS NEED TO ARRIVE AT 6:00 PM IN THE ADULT CHOIR ROOM)

Chancel Choir – Wednesday

12/03/08	Choir Time	6:30 pm–8:00 pm
12/10/08	Choir Time	6:30 pm–8:00 pm

MUMY CALENDAR

(Munholland United Methodist Youth)
December 2008

- Dec. 07 Lunch followed by Miracle on 34th Street at East Jeff High School (starring Ford!!)
- Dec. 14 Angel Tree Party at 4:00 pm, Caroling Under the Oak at 6:00 pm - Youth in the Living Nativity at the end of Caroling.

Meetings begin at 5:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted. **Please bring \$2 for supper.**

For more information, call Ford Dieth at 834-9910 or e-mail at laxbagotricks@yahoo.com.



Family Christmas Funday on Sunday December 7, 2008 4:30-6:30 pm

During this time, parents and children will kickoff the holiday season with a few traditions, some will be old and some will be new, but all will remind us of the "reason for the season". When Jesus was born, it is written that he received 3 gifts, therefore, on this day we will make our theme "3".

We will give three presents: one to give to a family member, one to give to someone in need and one to give to children that visit our church.

The family present will either consist of a clay ornament, jewelry, clay pot saucers for keys or rings, or handmade cards. The gift for someone in need will be donations of gloves, hats, socks, and/or blankets for the homeless shelter. And the third gift is for the visitors to our church - a beaded "candy cane" ornament with a card containing the poem explaining the significance of the candy cane to Jesus. We will play some games like "Living Tree" and "Snowball Fight" and have cookies and milk.

KIDS DAY OUT



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Theme for December: Jesus' Birthday

KDO will be closed for Christmas beginning on Monday, December 22nd - Wednesday, January 7th.

We will return on Thursday, January 8th.

Pitrina Messina
KDO Director

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

If Santa Clause can visit millions of chimneys in one night, we ought to be able to hang 3000 door hangers in one week! I know, I know ... we have to walk, not fly, but still ...

WHO: Forty to sixty of *US*. And 3000 people who may be looking for a good church this Christmas Eve. Research suggests that Christmas Eve is one of those moments when many unchurched or dechurched people really *want* a church. We need to help them find a good one.

WHAT: Each volunteer takes one (or more) pack of 50 door hangers to hang on their home block. There are typically about 25 houses on each side of a neighborhood block. Be sure to mark the intended street with highlighter on the map, so that we don't duplicate.

WHEN: Door hangers will be available on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30). We ask that volunteers do their best to place the hangers during the first week of December. Each 50 pack should take an hour, more or less, depending on how fast you walk.

WHERE: Wherever you live is a good place to start. If you can do more than one 50 pack, pick an un-highlighted street on the map. The target for special emphasis is any street within approximately 3 miles of the church.

WHY: To help members walk-off Thanksgiving dinner ☺, and to reach out to neighbors about a place where families can experience God's love in fellowship, worship, and study.

HOW: How is up to you, if you are willing.

Do you remember stories about how Christmas might not come because Santa's sleigh broke down, or because Christmas night was too stormy (Rudolph solved that one)? In a way, that's our story. If we don't get our message out, a wonderful Christmas might not come for some families.

We can do this! Let's step up to the plate!

Rev. John Deschner

The next edition of *The Messenger* goes to print on, **Wednesday, December 10th**. We will include in the newsletter, all articles received by **10:00 am** on Tuesday, December 9th. Any article received after the due date will be included in the next edition of *The Messenger*. Thank you for your help in imparting ministry news to the congregation.

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