

The VISION

NEWSLETTER

BROADMOOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3715 YOUREE DRIVE • SHREVEPORT, LA 71105 | (318)861-0586 | WWW.BROADMOORUMC.ORG

December 14, 2017



CELEBRATE
Christmas Eve
BROADMOOR UMC

3:00 pm
Contemporary Family Service
in Anderson Hall

5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Traditional Candlelight Services
in the Sanctuary

Holiday Office Hours and Emergency Contact

The Church Office will be closed Christmas Day through December 29, New Year's Day and January 2. If you need to get in touch with a pastor, please call this number **318-347-9506** and leave a message with a phone number and your call will be returned.

Our next Vision will be coming out January 4, due to the office being closed the week of Christmas (25th - 29th).

Please have any donations you want in 2017 delivered to the church or post marked by December 31, 2017. Gifts will be received December 27, 28, & 29 at the church office from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.



DR. GREG DAVIS
Senior Pastor

Christmas in All its Weirdness

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary

set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country. – The Gospel of St. Luke.

We just read those words and go, "Ok, cool. Virgin pregnancies. And Medicare pregnancies. That's normal, it's Christmas."

Maybe we better rethink Christmas.

It's like one church's nativity scene: they had a living nativity one day a year during Advent ... it was a little manger scene in the parking lot you could drive by. It was filled with straw and live animals and people dressed as Mary and Joseph and the other typical nativity characters. It was usually pretty cold so the shifts only lasted 20 minutes before new folks would step in. One year the pastor's wife was helping the different folks get dressed when a 7 year-old boy came in from his shift. The pastor's spouse asked him how he had liked being a shepherd in the nativity scene. "It was ok," he answered, "but I think next year I wanna be a pirate".

You remember, right? The pirate that was at the birth of our Lord.?

This of course is absurd, but let's be honest, a pirate was just about as likely as a Drummer boy. Seriously, the Little Drummer Boy? It's the perfect example of weird things creeping into nativity scenes. Like when along with the sheep and goats you occasionally see a pig in a crèche scene as though there were swine at the birth of our Jewish Lord. Maybe the worst are those awful nativities that include a pious little Santa Claus kneeling at the manger.

Placing drummers and pigs and pirates and Santas in nativity scenes is inappropriate if not just Biblically illiterate. But, but, but: is a drummer boy any less strange than a magi? Think about those astrology-obsessed sharp-dressed gypsy dudes from St. Matthew's Gospel. Whoa.

All that to say, does our over-familiarity with the Christmas story prevent us from understanding how weird it really was? I mean, if it involves virgin pregnancies and old ladies from the hill country and soothsaying magi and rank shepherds and fearsome angels and celestial choirs and God being born as a refugee in straw and mud then who's to say a pirate or a drummer is so weird?

Don't miss Christmas in all its weirdness.

Memorials

Building Fund

In memory of **Sharon Thomas**
from Randy George.

Music Fund

In memory of
Rosemary Baldrige from
Rick & Sandra Githens

First Gift

In memory of
Oscar Edward Cloyd, Sr.
from Martha Cloyd Peal

In memory of
William Ralph Peal
from Martha Cloyd Peal

Honorariums

Building Fund

In honor of
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Merkle
from Tom & Carolyn Murphy &
Martha Storer

Our Sympathy To:

Will and Lori Beth Rhodes and their
children, Addison & Caroline
in the death of his grandmother,
Doris L. Rhodes.

Blue Christmas Service **Thursday, December 21, 6:00 pm |** **Kilpatrick Chapel**

Christmas and winter seasons are a complicated and difficult time of year for many people. From mourning what has been lost, to what was never had, from life circumstances such as illness, the death of a loved one, unemployment, and the excess of expectation during the holiday season, this time of year can be a very "blue" season. Join Dr. Jack O'Dell as he leads us in a time of worship reminding us that there is always light in the midst of the darkness.

Coming Soon in Missions...

Common Ground | 6806 Southern Ave. | Wednesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am (Winter Hours)

Attention: No Highland Blessing Dinner in December!

Do to the high number of events during the week of Christmas, the Highland Center has decided not to host the Highland Blessing dinner on the day of the month we normally host. We will host again on Thursday, January 25.

Pat Ferguson's mother,
Lurline Folk, was Broadmoor UMW President in the
80's and wore this special pin. Many thanks to Pat for
donating her mom's pin to be worn by future UMW
Presidents in memory of Lurline.

Allison Wray



Events Coming Soon...

Adam Hamilton Study on "Why"

The Covenant Tiger's Sunday School class will be studying Adam Hamilton's book "Why". In it he addresses questions such as "where is God when the innocent suffer? Where is God when my prayers go unanswered? Why is God's will so hard to understand? The Covenant Tigers meet in room 312 in the three story building and welcome all who are interested.

Christmas Caroling | Thursday, December 21

Hanna and Reece Roark will host a gathering in their home at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 21, 2017 for anyone interested in Christmas Caroling. Bring your favorite Christmas hors d'oeuvres or desserts to the Roark's home to share with other carolers.

The Roarks are members of the River worship leadership team and lend their incredible talents to that service faithfully. Now they are sharing their faith and abilities in continuing this century old Christmas tradition.

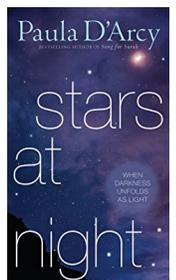
After sharing Christmas snack foods, hot cider, and hot chocolate; Hanna and Reece will lead us in a brief carol rehearsal. As soon as we are warmed up, we will jump in cars and travel caravan style to homes of persons who have experienced a major life passage and for whom this Christmas season may be different from Christmases past. If you play an instrument, please bring that along as well. For more information, please contact Benny Vaughan, 318-751-7563 or Hanna Roark, 318-286-2286.

"Silent night, holy night..!"

Women's Retreat:

"Stars at Night: When Darkness Unfolds as Light" | Saturday January 6

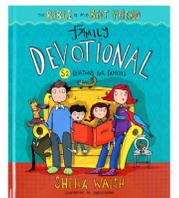
At some point in life, we all find ourselves lost and disillusioned, seeking to find our way. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job, facing the unexpected illness, both mental and physical, the pain of divorce or aging... Each of these has the potential to alter the way we look at ourselves and the way we think about the journey. Join us from 9 - 3:30 p.m. as we kick off the New Year sharing our stories, studying scriptures, and experiencing creative ways that we can rekindle our joy. Together in community we will find hope and love holding us in the midst of difficult times. We will be using the book, "Stars at Night: When Darkness Unfolds as Light" by Paula D'Arcy as our resource. A copy for you is included with your registration. Cost \$30.



First Graders

Save the Date January 7th!

We will celebrate you during our 11:00 services. To kick off the new year, you and your family will be presented with a family devotional. Don't miss this milestone and opportunity to gather as a family and spend time in God's Word. For questions or more information contact Kristin at the church office or by email kristin@broadmoorumc.org



To Russia With Love

This summer, thousands of people will be traveling to Yekaterinburg Russia to watch several matches of the World Cup.

Over 20 years ago, James Gillespie and members of his mission trip got off the train in the same city... by mistake. The grace filled result of that trip has led to a relationship between Broadmoor United Methodist Church and First Yekaterinburg United Methodist Church that continues to this day.

First Yekaterinburg now shares its building with another congregation, Holy Trinity, who joyfully work to invite people into a relationship with Christ.

This Advent season, Olga Fateeva, one of the members of Holy Trinity had the opportunity to visit her friends in Louisiana.



She was able to visit with me on Friday to connect and share what's going on in Russia. She was excited to share about the home groups her church is growing. They are a wonderful way to grow leadership in Christian communities. She and James also shared the plans for an upcoming Mission Trip to Yekaterinburg, Russia.

This year's trip will coincide with the end of the World Cup in Yekaterinburg. Our mission team plans include visiting home groups that practice speaking English, assisting with Bible Camp (known to us as Vacation Bible School), and offering support to a leadership retreat hosted by the United Methodist Bishop of Russia.

I asked Olga what we could do to support her and her church family. Without hesita-

tion, she asked us to pray for them. Prayer is a powerful way to keep the connection between our churches strong. We can also support them with supplies for their Bible Camp. In addition, Olga emphasized the importance of us visiting our Russian brothers and sisters. As Olga began attending church she remembered how important it was for her to see guests from other countries. There is great support found in fellowship as Christians from around the world share their beliefs and their struggles.

This Advent season, remember to pray for Olga, Holy Trinity, and First Yekaterinburg United Methodist Church. Take a moment to see how the Spirit is calling you to strengthen our connection with a church on the other side of the globe. If you'd like to hear more stories and get connected to this ministry in any way, contact **James Gillespie** at wgilles293@aol.com.

Monday Pathways | Led by Laura Vaughan and Callie Hamm | Begins January 8

Grounded in being present to how God is working in our lives, we share our stories, our heartaches and our joys in a safe space. We will kick off the New Year with Anne Lamott's Book "Hallelujah Anyway" (Cost \$15.) Monday mornings from 10:30 am – 11:30 am in the Parlor.

Monday Women's Bible Study Led by Bonnie Daniel | Begins January 8

Join us from 10:00 - 11:30 in the meeting room beginning January 8 – Feb. 26 as Bonnie Daniel leads us in the study of Kelly Minter's, "No Other God's – Confronting our Everyday Idols." Our lives revolve around our deepest needs and greatest treasures; relationships, family, financial security, private hopes and dreams. No Other Gods offers a revealing look at the heart of a woman. Author Kelly Minter explores what happens when good desires become false gods, robbing us of an intimate relationship with our heavenly father. So discover the freedom in surrender. The healing in worship. And the joy found in exchanging everyday gods for the one true God. Cost is \$20

Wednesday Pathways

Led by Mary Virginia Taylor | Begins January 10

Join us as we listen for God's presence and voice through Lectio divina, a slow, contemplative praying of the scriptures or of various spiritual writings. Meets on Wednesday evenings from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm in the library.

More than a Mom | Led by Kelie Taylor and Laura Vaughan | Begins January 10

Our young mom's group meets on Wednesdays from 9:15 – 10:45 to share the joys and struggles of being a mom. Join us for a time to grow deeper friendships with other women, share life stories, and encourage each other on our faith journeys. We will kick the new year off focusing on "Tips for Taking Care of Yourself: Eight Weeks of Wellness"! As we begin a new year, the tradition is to make resolutions, usually in order to lose weight or become more physically active. But what about the rest of who we are? Join us as we learn about the eight areas of wellness and work together to explore how we can live a more balanced, healthy life."

These sessions will be led by therapists Ashley Drew (LMSW) and Shannon Huertas (PLPC) who work at the Family Counseling Center in Shreveport.

Child Care is provided.

Discerning the Voice of God by Priscilla Shirer | Led by Betty Hochstetler Begins Jan. 10 – March 1

Join us from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room beginning Jan. 10 as Betty Hochstetler leads us in the study of Priscilla Shirer's, "Discerning the Voice of God." Together we will discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. Cost is \$20.

Enneagram Introductions | Led by Sarah Duet | Begins Wednesday January 10th (5 weeks) 6-7:30 p.m.

Are you interested in being a better version of yourself? In having healthier relationships? Are you ever perplexed by yourself, loved ones, or coworkers? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Enneagram could be a valuable tool for you! Join us for a 5-week study on the value of self-knowledge and the role of personality in our relationships with God, one another, and our own selves. You can expect to gain valuable insights and practical tools with which to grow and mature in your spiritual journey. Cost \$25.

Tiptoeing with Tiny Tim | Led by Dr. Greg Davis | Begins January 9 or 10

You are invited to a four week study of Timothy with Dr. Greg Davis. There are two time options: 6 p.m. on Tuesdays or 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Cost is \$20.

Board Game Night | Young Adults | January 12

The Vine Sunday School Class is hosting "Board Game Night" on Friday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. and the home of Peter and Leah Gaughan. For more information, please contact Rachel Sherman at racsherman@gmail.com.

Women's Ministry Fundraiser January 19

Join us on Friday, January 19th from 6-8 p.m. for our annual Women's Ministry Fundraiser! Individual tickets (\$30) will go on sale Sunday, January 7th at Broadmoor UMC. To reserve a table (\$300), call 318.861.0586 or email laura@broadmoorumc.org. All proceeds will go to fund our Women's Ministry.

BROADMOOR
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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INVITING, NURTURING, EQUIPPING and SERVING to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



What a Fantastic Weekend!

Last weekend Broadmoor was filled with the anticipation and excitement of the Christmas season. We kicked off the weekend on Saturday with the Big Man himself. Santa took time to spread some holiday cheer at our Pancakes and Parents' Morning Out. Kids had the opportunity to get that last gift request in and to make some gifts of their own. On Sunday we celebrated March to the Manger as a church family. After a time of fellowship, we watched the story of the first Christmas unfold, a story of God's promise of a Savior sent to redeem His people. Our greatest gift, God's love and grace, came as baby. Just as the Wisemen brought gifts to honor baby Jesus we brought gifts to bless children in our community. It truly was a weekend full of joy. Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend so special!



Want to Volunteer?

Haven't found the right place to volunteer?

Consider running sound for the traditional service.

It's FUN!
and easy.

Don't think you can?
We can show you how easy it is.

Contact Stephanie @ 861-0586
or stephanie@broadmoorumc.org

FIRST GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD A Great Way to Enter Advent

During December it has been a custom at Broadmoor UMC to receive a special offering called First Gifts. In this season of gift giving some find it most fitting that their first gift of Christmas is a gift back to the One who has given all for us. This special offering comes at an important time of the year for our church. It is a time when we are completing the financial year of the church by receiving the final donations and taking care of the last expenditures. In the last few years, with your First Gifts and other second-mile giving, we have been successful in covering all expenses and beginning each New Year with sufficient funds to move forward. It is out of your generosity that this has been possible. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of your First Gift this Christmas. Please have any donations you want in 2017 delivered to the church or post marked by December 31, 2017. Gifts will be received December 27, 28, & 29 at the church office from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Here are some opportune ways to give at Year-End:

- **Cash** – gifts of cash are easy and may be eligible for a federal tax deduction.
- **Securities** – gifts of appreciated assets are appealing, because long-term gains are not taxed, and the gift is generally deductible from income tax at the full value on the date of the gift (and can offset tax up to 30% of AGI). Please consult your professional advisers on how this gift would fit into your overall plans and your eligibility for tax benefits. For those over 70 ½, Federal legislation allows you to give from your IRA directly to a public charity
- **Life Income Gifts** – may bring many benefits: your generous support for our work, fixed income for life, and potential tax benefits.* Check our website for more information about gift annuities.