

# THE OPEN DOOR

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12 EARLY DECEMBER 2008

## FROM THE PASTOR

Several days ago, on a cold Friday afternoon, looking out from my new office window, the air filled with the smell of fresh paint and our furnace purring, I said to myself “WOW!!” Thank you, God, this really IS about to happen – all the plans and hopes and details and discussions, the donation of money and ideas and TLC, even the disagreements along the way, are about to be history as we are NOW so near to moving into our new church!! Speaking as one who had been unable to enter the building site for about a month because of my recent bout with cancer, I am confident that my own feeling of quiet euphoria last Friday is something you will feel, too, as we prepare to return to our familiar pews and sing the old songs of praise and thanksgiving, dine on food from our expanded kitchen, fellowship in the gathering area and welcome old and new alike into that glorious, spacious area. There’s going to be so much to offer everyone!

According to our site supervisor from Rick Cox Construction, Dick Maynard, it looks like the sanctuary pews will be reinstalled around the middle of January. The pews are currently under the care of Roane Refinishing, and we can’t wait to see how good they’re going to look! And finishing touches in other parts of the building may be completed even a few weeks before pews are back in the sanctuary. As of this past week, the ends of the pews and the inside shutters for the windows were being painted, most all the gypsum board had been hung, the wood ceiling for the narthex/gathering area (which will match the sanctuary ceiling) had been mostly hung, there

is heat throughout the building, a working elevator (awaiting inspection), and details such as window sills and the final coat of paint around the office and music rehearsal areas are a few other details nearly done.

Let me say that I am convinced that the sanctuary has become a huge win/win situation – retaining the best of the old while embracing Bethel’s 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for worship and ministry. Not only will we have an enhanced pew layout for those with special mobility needs as well as a cry area for families with young children, but the enormous gain in the chancel area for pulpit, table, musical instruments, choir, chairs, baptismal font, and organ console will visually make the sanctuary seem much larger and deeper. At the same time, the “feel” of the old sanctuary with the light

streaming in through the shuttered windows, that sense of balance between light and shadow and simplicity of form and style, will continue as strong testimony to the kind of church built long ago in Kingston by our forbearers in the Presbyterian tradition. More than that, the theme “Welcome Home” and our sanctuary as a wonderful icon in our local community seem to capture the sentiments of belonging felt by many within and outside the circle of our particular congregation.

It’s a time of great expectation. May we each embrace the growing desire to join whole-heartedly in what God is doing among us and through us... I am very glad to be back in better health as I trust my personal healing, as well as others in our community who have suffered, will continue to show improvement and free us all with the energy and enthusiasm God promises as we turn over this new chapter in our history.



*Bethel Presbyterian Church — a community of faith,  
fellowship, study and service...seeking God’s peace, justice, and love.*

## PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Our third Evangelism Committee workshop organized around the theme of "Planning for Growth" will be on Saturday, December 6, from 10-12 noon at KUMC. We have looked at the role of the building, signage, and special events in welcoming/inviting newcomers. Perhaps the most important thing we do on a weekly basis, however, concerns the way we greet individuals and help them find their way around. Donna Hoppstead, marketing and evangelism consultant for our Presbytery, will be with us for this workshop. We'd like to have 20-30 greeters available as a pool of folks who could assist in this critical ministry, having maybe 5-7 each Sunday who could rotate, "staff" critical entry ways, and to have them trained when we open the doors come the middle of January!



The season of Advent is upon us — a time for watchful waiting, a time to ponder the meaning of God's greatest gift to us. At the same time, the month of December, as always, is crammed full of things to see and do; a time for sharing, for reaching out to others, and for enjoying the fellowship and glad tidings that the season brings. As we make room in our calendars for all of the busyness, let us all be sure to leave room in our hearts for the coming of the Christ!



## December Events

Here are some of the events that are coming up:

Kingston's Christmas Parade will take place on Monday, December 1st. Youth from Bethel/KUMC will have a float in the parade.

Roane Choral Society will present their annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 5th at 7 PM at South Harriman Baptist Church. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

There will be a congregational meeting for the election of officers on Sunday, December 7th after 10:30 worship.

Christmas Baskets and Angel Tree

Many thanks to those of you who have already helped with the 2008 Christmas Basket fund and are sponsoring an angel. We still have some angels who need sponsors.



Wrapped gifts can be dropped off at the church office between 9: a.m.-1:00 p.m. M-F or brought to the church Sunday morning. Please attach your angel to the gifts. We need all gifts by Monday, December 8. We plan to set up the baskets and gifts in the KUM Fellowship Hall Friday, December 12 with distribution taking place Saturday, December 13. If you are willing to purchase a turkey, please contact Peggy Sheppard. Please contact Jane B. Walsh if you have any questions.

Bethel's book discussion group will meet for a holiday lunch at 11:30 on December 10 at Gibson Girls. (That is on Highway 70 just before you come to the new bridge on the way to Midtown.) Please contact Sibyl Nestor if you can attend so she can make reservations. There will be no formal book discussion in December; we will discuss *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd, in January.

The children of Bethel Presbyterian and Kingston United Methodist will combine to present "Twinkle and the All-Star Band" on December 14 at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to attend and prepare to be delighted! (If you have children taking part, times of note are: dress rehearsal Dec. 10 at 6:00; report at 5:00 on the night of the play).



Roane County High School and Cherokee Middle School band concerts will take place on December 14 in the RCHS gymnasium.

Bethel's Annual Christmas Caroling will start at 4:00 p.m. at the Bethel parking lot Sunday, December 21.

The annual fellowship time following the caroling will be at the Vic King residence beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please bring yourself and finger food. Drinks will be furnished. If you need a ride to the King home, please call Ruth Ann Ludwig at 376-5333.



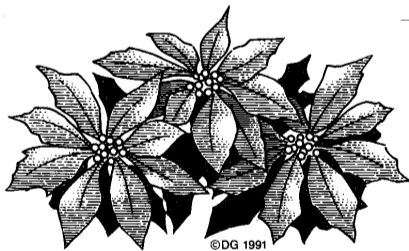


# December 2008

Please note that schedules may change due to the holidays. Please check the Sunday bulletin for the latest times.

	<b>1</b> Kingston Christmas Parade	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Roane Choral Soc. Christmas Concert 7:00 @ South Harriman Bapt.	<b>6</b> Planning for Growth/Greeter Workshop 10-12 Noon
<b>7</b> Congregational Meeting after worship	<b>8</b> Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts CE Mtg. 5:00 S&F Mtg. 7:00	<b>9</b> No Parish Life meeting in December	<b>10</b> Book Group Lunch @ Gibson Girls Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Christmas Basket Assembly 1:00 / KUMC Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b> Christmas Basket Distribution 9-12 Noon
<b>14</b> Band Concerts 2:00 Twinkle and the All Star Band 6:00 Session 7:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> P&P 5:30 No Fellowship Supper in December	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Cantata Joy Offering Christmas Caroling/ Fellowship at Kings'	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>EACH WEEK:</b> Seniorcize: M-W-F 9:00 AM Spanish: Mon. 6 PM, Kingston Library Wed., 7 PM, KUMC Handbells: 5:30 PM Wednesday Choir: 7:00 PM Wednesday Childrens' Choir: 8:30 AM Sunday		

## In Our Prayers



### December Birthdays

- 1 Mac Robbins
- 2 Chuck Allen\*
- 12 John Walker
- 14 Bob Jones
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 23 Madge Mounger
- 26 Reid Hutchison
- 28 David Standridge
- 29 Brennan Foy  
Jim Schall

### Hospital

Kelli Buckholtz ..... Roane Medical, Room 310  
Anne Smith ..... Brakebill Room 217

### Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

**Jamestowne** 851 Lawnville Road, Kingston 37763  
Nelle Griffith, Room 206; Louise Pickel, Room 209; Mac Robbins, Room 305

**Wellington Place** 1098 Bradford Way, Kingston 37763  
Joan Pemberton, Room 306B; Jan Parker, Room 107

**Baptist Healthcare** 700 Williams Ferry Rd 45 Lenior City 37771  
Evelyn Waldrup, Room 42A

**The Bridge at Rockwood** 5580 Roane State Hwy Rockwood 37854  
Marnie Shields, Room 314; Bruce Murr, Room 207A;  
Roberta Cash, Room 201B; Margaret True, Room 212B;  
Gene Pierce, Room 209

**Harriman Healthcare** 240 Hannah Rd Harriman 37748  
Anne Robertson, Room 209; Ruby Hunter, Room 305A

**NHC Oak Ridge** 300 Laboratory Rd Oak Ridge 37830  
Wanda Carter, Room 212

**Greenfield Assisted Living** 360 Laboratory Rd Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Doris Barber, Room 245

### Home

Dot and Al Davis, Fern Stackpole, Danny Skinner, Molly Cooper, Glenda True  
Everett, David Cross, Betty Baird Brown, Marc Sherrod, John Carter, Lucy  
Webb, Nelda Toon, Marianna Oonk.