

Wheatland's Wit & Wisdom



December, 2009

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WHEATLAND'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 2 nd	10:00 a.m.	Sunshine Fellowship
December 4 th	6:00 p.m.	Trip to Waxahachie - Bethlehem Revisited
December 5 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilting
December 6 th	4:00 p.m.	Children's program/dinner/Church party
December 12 th	9:00 a.m.	United Methodist Men's meeting
December 13 th	10:30 a.m.	Last day to turn in Poinsettia order form
December 13 th	10:30 a.m.	Choir's Cantata during morning worship
December 13 th	11:45 a.m.	Staff parish meeting
December 13 th	2:00 p.m.	Christmas caroling - dinner
December 19 th	10:00 a.m.	Women's Christmas luncheon/party sponsored by UMW
December 20 th	11:45 a.m.	Permanent Endowment meeting
December 24 th	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve candle lighting worship service
December 31 st	8:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve party and worship at midnight

SERMON SERIES

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS

Children's Christmas pageants are enjoyed immensely by adults because little children do such a great job of depicting the nativity scene. They see Christmas with different eyes than adults do. They see the wonder and the joy of a baby in the stable. During the Sundays of advent and on Christmas Eve, Pastor Kay will take a look at Christmas in the eyes of others. How did/do they see Christmas? And how does that affect the way we view Christmas?

November 29 th	Christmas through the Eyes of Mary and Joseph
December 6 th	Christmas through the Eyes of the Shepherds and the Wise Men
December 13 th	Christmas Cantata, written and arranged by Bob Brooks
December 20 th	Christmas through the Eyes of the World
December 24 th	Christmas through the Eyes of God

Pastor Kay's Korner

I had said in last month's newsletter that I wanted to do an all church study on evangelism written by Bill Hybels. It was on back order at Cokesbury so it was just last week that I received it. It is an excellent program, but it is also very involved and I don't want to rush through it. The lessons take 2 hours, so rather than a four week study as it is advertised, it would be an 8 week study for us, taking two weeks to do a lesson in our small groups and Sunday School classes. We will do it next year when I will have had more time to prepare for it. But that doesn't mean I'm not concerned about our Christmas Eve service not being attended by visitors.

Our Christmas Eve service is a beautiful service. Other churches have record attendance on Christmas Eve. They have visitors. Why don't we have visitors on Christmas Eve? We advertise in the paper, we hang our banner. I read that people are looking for a place to attend worship at Christmas. They are waiting for an invitation. But I also think that visitors like to remain anonymous and perhaps in a small church they feel they would stick out like a sore thumb. I don't know, I only know that I read today that 73% of unchurched people are waiting for an invitation to church this Christmas. And I think it is sad if they don't feel welcome at the church in their neighborhood. That in some way we have not let them know that we would love to have them worship with us.



Is there someone you could invite to church this Christmas? There will be small cards that you can give to your neighbors and friends to invite them to Wheatland. If they like music invite them to the Christmas Cantata on the 13th. If they love to sing, invite them to go caroling with us on the 13th. If they have children, invite them to the children's program and the Santa visit on the 6th and then invite them to stay for the party.

However you want to do it, just do it. The cards to hand out will be available next Sunday, the 6th of December. In the meantime, give them one of the bulletin inserts. Offer to give them a ride. Tell them how beautiful the church looks all decorated for Christmas. Tell them that the candle lighting service on Christmas Eve is a very special service loved by all. Tell them that you feel God's love at Wheatland (I hope you do, I do.)

Whether we have visitors or not on Christmas Eve, I hope to see you there. I love the service in part because I enjoy looking out into the congregation to see faces all aglow in the candle light singing "Silent Night". It is a beautiful tender sight.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

See you in Worship,

Pastor Kay

THE PASTOR INVITES YOU TO DINNER AND A CHRISTMAS PARTY

The children's Christmas program will be December 6th at 4:00 p.m. It will be delightful, you won't want to miss it! After the program, the children will have a visit from a very special guy and then we will come over to fellowship hall for dinner and a party.

Dinner is a present from the pastor. She will serve her usual...chili, chicken soup, hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips and crackers. There will be a birthday cake for Jesus...there won't be 2009 candles, but there will be candles!



Bring a gift for the gift exchange. Everyone that brings a gift will get to draw a number out of the hat. That number gives the order that the gifts will be chosen. Number 1 gets to choose the first gift. Number 2 then gets to either steal the number 1 gift, or chooses a new gift. Each gift may only be stolen 3 times. Gifts should be wrapped and always vary in usefulness and substance. You probably have something in your home that you really don't want any more...dust it off, wrap it up and get rid of it at our Christmas party! Your trash, can be someone else's treasure! This is much fun and always provides entertainment as gifts are stolen and retrieved! And it is so much fun when everyone wants the gift you bring, so bring something you think everyone will want.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – THURSDAY – DECEMBER 24TH – 7:00 P.M.

Our traditional Christmas Eve service celebrates Christ's coming with communion, special music, and inspiring words through the liturgy, scripture, and message, and will end with passing the light of the new born child to your neighbor as we light our candles and sing Silent Night. Come sing your favorite Christmas carols, hear beautiful vocalists portray the Christmas message in song. Invite your family and friends and then take them home for snacks or dinner. Or start at your home and then everyone come to church. Remember your purpose in life is to bring others to Christ. This is a wonderful service and many people have a desire to go to church during the holidays...they just aren't sure where to go, they are waiting for someone, for you, to invite them.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED

(your children are always welcome too)

**Oak Cliff Churches
for
Emergency Aid**

Wheatland United Methodist Women are once again planning a terrific Christmas brunch for the women of the church and their children. Games, story telling, prizes, as well as great food are planned for the morning. Come celebrate Christmas with other women in the church on December 19th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. To celebrate the birth of Jesus at this party, we encourage everyone to bring a box of disposable diapers (all sizes needed), formula or baby wipes to be given to families in need. These will be given away at OCCEA.

WATCH NIGHT/NEW YEAR'S EVE

Come join us on the last day of the year, December 31 for games, snacks and fellowship. We will start around 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall then go to the sanctuary for communion and prayer time...what a way to bring in the New Year! Bring your family and friends and join in the fun.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 6th at 4:00 p.m. the children will perform!!! This is always an entertaining event as all the children regardless of their age are involved. View the Christmas story as seen from their eyes. This is a good way to teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and we as a church enjoy supporting their efforts. Plan to stay for the all church Christmas party, please see the article about that party elsewhere in this newsletter.

**TRAVEL BACK TO OLD WORLD BETHLEHEM.**

This Christmas season will be like no other you have ever experienced! Imagine being able to step back in time, 2000 years ago, and walk the streets of ancient Bethlehem as Mary and Joseph did on the night of Christ's birth.

Looking for a room, they not only encountered innkeepers on their journey, but also merchants, food vendors, craftsmen, tradesmen, clergy, and many other citizens as well as live sheep, camels, and donkeys. The streets were bustling, they will be for you, too, at Waxahachie's newest city within a city, "Bethlehem Revisited."

Stroll around the walled city and see demonstrations of historic crafts as you journey to the site of the nativity. You can also visit Herod's Court and await the nightly parade of the three kings bringing their treasures to Bethlehem's newest citizen.

"BETHLEHEM REVISITED" CHURCH WIDE FELLOWSHIP EVENTFriday, December 4th

Step back in time and walk the streets of ancient Bethlehem as Mary and Joseph did the night of Christ's birth. FREE Admission- Donations Welcome. Performances are repeated every 30 minutes. Also on display at the Central Presbyterian Church, "The Supper Quilt" by Dr. Donald E. Locke, DDS. For more information, call 972-937-2390 or visit:

<http://www.waxahachiechamber.com/bethlehem/bethlehemrevisited>

Bethlehem Revisited is located behind Central Presbyterian Church at 402 N. College Street, Waxahachie, Texas 75165.

POINSETTIA ORDER:

Poinsettias are being purchased to decorate our sanctuary at Christmas. If you would like to purchase one in memory or honor of a loved one, you may do so by filling out this order blank. Poinsettias are \$10.00. You may pay by check or cash. The name of the honoree and donor will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please print legibly and word it as you would prefer it to appear in the bulletin. Requests must be turned in by December 13th. (This form will also be an insert in the bulletin.)



Given by: _____

I enclose \$_____ for _____ Poinsettias in honor or memory of the following persons. (you may write on the back if necessary.)

In honor of:

In memory of:

Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve evening service and taken home by the purchaser.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA – DECEMBER 13TH – 10:30 A.M.

Plan to enjoy the worship service through the sound of music on December 13th. This year's cantata has been written and arranged by our choir director's husband, Bob Brooks. It is a beautiful piece of music and the choir has worked hard on their music, and they sound wonderful! Be sure you don't miss it and do invite your friends!



CAROLING TO THE SHUT-INS

What a treat to be sung to! What a treat to get to visit our shut-ins to demonstrate our love for them! Join us for Caroling for our shut-ins. We'll be meeting at the church on Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. After caroling we will return to fellowship hall for hot soup and lots of fun and fellowship. All ages welcomed. See you there.

2009 Wheatland UMC Cookbook
"A Taste of Tradition"
Now On Sale

This cookbook is a must-have for members and a great gift for family and friends. Everyone knows what good cooks are at Wheatland from the taste of any Fellowship Event they have attended. Now you can make these great recipes yourself in your own home. This is a fundraising effort of the United Methodist Women, so your purchase helps support missions.

Includes over 280 recipes from members and friends

16-page Cooking Hints bonus section

Professionally printed with full-color cover and section dividers

Plastic comb binding

Preorder copies of the 2009 Wheatland UMC Cookbook
with this order form and your cash or checks payable to "UMW".



Please reserve _____ copies of

A Taste of Tradition

\$10.00 per cookbook

Add \$2.00 per cookbook for shipping

Total check or cash: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

This is a fundraising effort of the
Wheatland United Methodist Women

8000 South Hampton Road

Dallas, TX 75232



Bryan's Little Socks of Love

In the 1980's, a baby named Bryan was dying of AIDS here in Dallas. His parents' hope was that he would live through Christmas. Bryan and his family did celebrate Christmas together that year, but Bryan died shortly after the New Year.

In remembrance of their special little boy, Bryans' family has treasured one thing...the tiny red socks he wore at Christmas. Bryans' House is named after that little boy.



Bryan's House offers loving care for children and families affected by AIDS. Their mission is to respond to the needs of these children by providing medically managed childcare and family support services. Some children come to Bryan's House for day care or overnight temporary care. For other children, Bryan's House is their home 24 hours a day. Children and families find love and warmth at Bryan's house when they often have no other place to turn.

We here at Wheatland UMC can warm the hearts of children battling AIDS by joining the **Bryan's Little Socks of Love** campaign.

Each family is asked to take a little sock from the basket in the foyer on December 6th, fill it with coins, cash, or checks and hang it on the Christmas tree the following Sunday. If you have children, encourage them to participate—they can take their own sock!

Thank
you

A big thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We dropped off 26 shoeboxes for children in poverty stricken nations around the world. The volunteers that helped us unload at Oates Dr. Baptist Church sent a message of "Thank you and Blessings" (So consider yourselves "thanked" and "blessed"). We were met by smiling faces in a very organized and well run operation. They had volunteers waiting to help us, and our boxes were immediately placed in large boxes and then put in a semi awaiting transport.

Our first year participating in this unique mission's outreach project was a great success. I look forward with all your continued help to doing it again next year. Again, thank you very much.

Kathryn Estrada

Thanks to all of you at Wheatland for having Lanette on your prayer list. I'm very happy to let you know she is currently cancer free. My family truly appreciates every prayer throughout this last year that's helped her through this journey.



KT

Wheatland United
Methodist Church

*Wheatland United
Methodist Church – the
country church in the city
– strives to be a
welcoming congregation
worshipping God
together; increasing in
faith and discipleship
through prayer, Bible
study and fellowship;
caring for one another;
and reaching out to the
community and the
world.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wheatlandumc.org

**WHEATLAND UNITED METHODIST
8000 S HAMPTON RD
DALLAS, TX 75232**

DECEMBER, 2009



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Sunshine Fellowship 10:00 am Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm Bob Brooks' Birthday	3	4 Bethlehem Revisited 6:00 – 9:00 pm	5 Quilting 9:00 am Linda Madding's Birthday
6 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Communion Sunday Property Mgmt. 11:45 am Children's Program / Gift Exchange 4:00 pm	7	8 Verda Wright's Birthday	9 Lightseekers 11:00 am Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm	10	11	12 UMM 9:00 am
13 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir 11:45 am Staff Parish 12:30 pm Lunch for Carolers 1:30 pm Caroling 2:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm CANTATA Poinsettia Deadline	14	15	16 Lightseekers 11:00 am Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm	17	18 Rehearsal Dinner 7:00 pm	19 UMW Christmas Party 12:30 pm Wedding 4:00 pm
20 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Permanent Endowment 11:45 am	21	22 Cathy Gruebbel's Birthday	23 Lightseekers 11:00 am Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm Bob & Carla Moyer's Anniversary	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Barbara Podmajersky & Beckie Wilson's Birthday Luther & Ellen Berry's Anniversary	25 CHRISTMAS Baby Jesus (observed) Joe & Charlie Parker's Anniversary	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	28 Newsletter Article Deadline George & Kay Hord's Anniversary	29	30 Lightseekers 11:00 am Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm	31 NEW YEARS EVE Watch Night Party & Late Night Worship 8:00 pm	1	2 Take Down the Christmas Decorations