

# THE GRAPEVINE



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**January 2005**



***On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets.***

***Numbers 29:1***



## **Pastor's Column**

### **The World Needs You**

**Ye are the light of the world.**  
***Matthew 5:14***

You have the power to make the world a better place. You are authorized to minister your spiritual gifts in the Holy Name of Jesus. You are challenged to see and serve Christ in every person you encounter. You are privileged to have as close a personal relationship with God as you choose. You are commissioned through the laying on of hands at your baptism. You are united in cooperative service with the whole faith community through the forgiveness of sins. You are called to gather people into the fellowship of love. You are instructed in all these powers by the Master Teacher Himself.

The Gospel readings and church observances of this month center around the enlightenment offered to all humanity through Jesus Christ and His Church. The month begins with a celebration of the Holy Name of

Jesus on New Year's Day and of the Visitation of the Magi on the first Sunday as the Christmas Season comes to a close and the Season of Epiphany begins. We celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, and then observe Ecumenical Sunday. Fishers of Men and the Beatitudes are the themes of the last two Sundays of the month. In all of these services we are reminded of and encouraged to employ our gifts and graces for the good of all humanity, in unity with all the people of God.

The use of our spiritual powers is left entirely up to us. We may pray, worship, give and serve as fully as we choose. The extent to which we each live out our own spirituality is at our own discretion. Instead of living in the darkness of what we cannot do, we are invited to live in the light of what we can do. Whatever we do under the authority of Jesus Christ, no matter how small, makes a contribution to the good of all people reaching far beyond our ability even to imagine. How much light will you shine during these coming months? Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

Time is a dressmaker that specializes in alterations!

-- Unknown

Nothing is as far away as one minute ago.

-- Jim Bishop

Time is a very precious gift of God; so precious that it is only given to us moment by moment.

-- Amelia Barr

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff that life is made of.

-- Benjamin Franklin

# Announcements

●●●meetings ●●●news ●●●meetings ●●●news ●●●meetings ●●●news

Web page [www.Briensburg-MtCarmel.org](http://www.Briensburg-MtCarmel.org)

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.

Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



## Prayer Line

To **add or remove** a concern, or **to be on the prayer team** to pray for those concerns, please call the Prayer Line Leader, Mildred Nichols, at 354-6428.

### Prayer List

Neilan Moore	Freeman Collins
Geoff Lucas	Cindy Babb
Bob White	Amber Morris
Johnny Brandon	Robert Kosh
Sharon Nichols	Russ Bonadonna
Mary Gabriel Carmack	Angela Chambers
Family of Titus Malone	Wyatt Family
Joyce Workman	

Several Unspoken Concerns

### Parish News by Email

To receive postings of church news and info by email, please click on the "Receive Parish News & Info by Email" link on the Parish Website at <http://www.briensburg-mtcarmel.org>.

### Joint Christian Education Steering Committee Meeting

Everyone interested in Christian Education is invited to meet at the Family Life Center (Briensburg) at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, to help start the planning for Kids in Discipleship (KID), Confirmation Classes, and Vacation Bible School for the new year.

### DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE.

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd.  
Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ.

There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water.

When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight.

You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound. Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.

Then exit off onto Grace Blvd.

From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane.

Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road.

As you go on your way, Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave.

Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END.

Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue.

Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd.

However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave.

But that's all right, because VICTORY Street is straight ahead!

AMEN!!!!



## Women's Group

The Christmas Party at Marquita's was a success. Many were surprised to learn the identity of their Prayer Pal. If you do not yet know who was your prayer pal, see Toni Lucas. If you want to be a prayer pal for 2005 and have not yet received a prayer pal name, see Agnes Mitchell.



### From Your Editor

Send me your items via E-mail me to [kygrannie@yahoo.com](mailto:kygrannie@yahoo.com) or call me at 354-8871 (evening) or 442-1900 (days).

I hope that everyone had a wonderful **White** Christmas and there were no injuries from shoveling and no one got too stir crazy. Thanks to Mildred Nichols for her newsletter item. I would like to suggest a New Year's Resolution for each church committee -- submit a newsletter item at least quarterly. You needn't be elaborate or have it all typewritten -- just give me the information so that I can include it. May 2005 be blessed, peaceful and prosperous for all of you.

# **news around the church**

from **United Methodist News Service** – <http://umns.umc.org>

## **Peace award honors Fuller, Habitat**

ATLANTA – The man, Millard Fuller, and the organization he founded, Habitat for Humanity International – which will build its 200,000th house next year for a low-income family – were honored Dec. 8 with the 2004 World Methodist Peace Award. Presented by the World Methodist Council to Fuller and Rey Ramsey of Washington, president of Habitat's international board of directors, the award recognizes contributions to peace, reconciliation and justice.

## **Shipment of devotional book set for troops**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – U.S. military troops serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan were to receive a Christmas present from United Methodist Men in the form of 10,000 copies of a book of daily devotions first published for troops in World War II. The additional printing brings the number of copies sent to troops to 130,000. For information, write: Strength for Service, P.O. Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515 or call 1-800-321-5692. To order copies, contact Providence Publishing Corp., 238 Seaboard Lane, Franklin, TN 37067; Web page: [www.strengthforservice.org](http://www.strengthforservice.org)

## **Churches urged to join "Week of Prayer"**

NEW YORK – United Methodists are invited to join with Christians around the world in a week of prayer for peace. Congregations are encouraged to set aside Jan. 18-25 to participate in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for the 2005 observance is "All Things are Yours... You Belong in Christ... and Christ, the Unique Foundation, Belongs to God," reflecting Paul's letter to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 3:1-23.

## **Tax codes are moral issue, United Methodists say**

WASHINGTON – United Methodists want to start a moral discussion about state tax codes, a church executive told MSNBC viewers during a Dec. 15 news segment. John Hill, an executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, said the

denomination is urging a look at state funding priorities, how revenue is raised "and whether that is, in fact, done in a fair way." The six-minute segment featured Hill and Tim Kane, an economist with the Heritage Foundation.

## **Church books of law, resolutions, available**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The first copies of the English-language United Methodist 2004 Book of Discipline and the 2004 Book of Resolutions are in Cokesbury stores. The United Methodist Publishing House prints both books every four years, after each gathering of General Conference. The Book of Discipline contains the church's law, and the Book of Resolutions collects all of the denomination's current statements on social issues. Both books also include the church's Social Principles. The books are available as a two-pack for \$29 and with the United Methodist Directory for \$39. For details, visit [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

## **Students raise funds for chapel in Congo**

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. – A campus ministry is inspiring college students in Arkansas to build a Wesley Foundation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Bobby Jackson Memorial Wesley Foundation will be built at the University of North Katanga in Kamina with contributions from students at Arkansas Tech University. The new foundation is named in honor of a young staff member of the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas Tech who was killed in an accident last summer. The foundation increased its goal from an initial \$3,000 to \$10,000, and it has exceeded both of those amounts by raising \$15,000.

**+++++++ God's Boxes +++++++**  
I have in my hands two boxes, which God gave me to hold. He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black, and all your joys in the gold." I heeded his words, and in the two boxes, both my joys and sorrows I stored. But, though the gold became heavier each day, the black was light as before. With curiosity, I opened the black. I wanted to find out why, and I saw, in the base of the box, a hole by which my sorrows had fallen out. I showed the hole to God and mused aloud, "I wonder where my sorrows could be." He smiled a gentle smile at me. "My child, they're all here with me." I asked, "God, why give me the boxes. Why the gold and the black with the hole?" "My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, the black is for you to let go."