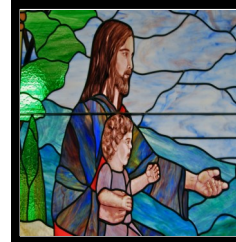


Saginaw United Methodist Church  
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Discover Jesus  
Develop Faith  
Deploy the Message

# FOCUS

Saginaw United  
Methodist Church

Volume 1, Issue 11

December 12, 2011

Making Faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World...One Person at a Time

THIS NEWSLETTER CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR

YOU!

8:25 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages



December 18

December 25

**Liturgist:** Don Browning and Kristen Warthen  
**Sound System Operators:** David Wilson and Charles Stephens  
**Ushers:** Cristina Lang and David Collins, Ed & Pam Reedy, Jerry Avery, Amber Haltom  
**Doorstep Visitation:** Lenny & Jane Moore  
**Acolytes:** Kailee Guillebeau, LeAnn Lytle  
**Greeters:** Jean James, Debbie McDonald, Rita Roberts and Evelyn Hudgens, Kristin Warthen, JoAnn Avery  
**Counters:** Don Browning, Bill Anderson

**Liturgist:** Pam Phinney and Josh Warthen  
**Sound System Operators:** Ralph Fockler and Keith Carter  
**Ushers:** Jim Cox and Michael & Kelly Powers, Donna Webb, Norma English  
**Doorstep Visitation:** Dee Griffith  
**Acolytes:** Meghan Lewis, Jeremiah Hagen  
**Greeters:** Johnny Mackey, Cyd Baumgardner and Charles & Shirley Stephens, Tammy Line  
**Counters:** Dale Pontius, Jim Cox

*M*el's *o*ments~ This is the time when people are more kinder, more loving, more generous and more thoughtful than any other time, and we ask and wonder why it can't be Christmas all the time

The sounds of the celebration of Christmas are loud and clear in many places all around the world. It comes around every year to be sure. As we think of Christmas as a season of joy, peace, love, and hope, for some it's not as cheerful, especially those who are experiencing difficulties, pain, grief, turmoil, separation, war, famine, hunger, and loneliness in their lives. People experience a whole mixture of emotions this time of the year, which reminds me of the scripture where "the hopes and fears are met..."

My prayer for you is that in your darkest nights, and in your brightest days, remember Emmanuel (God with us), to remind you that you are not alone.

I wish you the Merriest Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ's service and love

Mel Bishara

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year*

Rev. Mel Bishara, Mary Nell Partin, Leigh Ann McClure, Kathy Slick, Shelley Collins, Kristin and Josh Warthen, Cheryl Venter, Barbara Henley, Orlando Martinez, and Linda Johnson.



Candlelight Communion Services  
6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE  
The office will be closed on December 26 and January 2



Helen Carr, Lois Horton, Mary Nell Partin, Linda Ganong for preparing the last edition of the *FOCUS* for mailing; Lois Horton, Linda Ganong for preparing the Sanctuary for worship; and Claire Watson for sending acknowledgements of Memorials and Honorariums.

## ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

### NEW ADULT CLASS FORMING

Attention all interested adults! The kick-off for a new adult Sunday school class is January 15<sup>th</sup>. The class is for people of all ages and stages in life. The class will be bible study based but will decide its learning focus as the class develops and they get to know each other.

Our first lesson series is *Gospel SUBPLOTS: Story Sermons on God's Grace* lead by Mary Nell Partin. The class will meet in the Hospitality Room located in the Fellowship Hall. If you are looking for a class please join us on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:45. If you have any questions you may contact Mary Nell in the church office.

### WISH LIST!

Are you interested in helping with a *Wish List*? The Education ministry of our church would like to enhance the Hospitality Room in the Fellowship Hall. A new adult Sunday school class is being formed and we need that room for that purpose. It would be nice to have an **8' x 10' area rug** for that space. Also, we have outgrown the space for the adult curriculum library, therefore we need to secure **3 or 4, 6' x 2.5' bookcases** to place in the Hospitality Room. If you are interested in helping with the rug or bookcases please let Mary Nell know. The assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## GOD SQUAD

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH?

December 20th, 21st, & 22nd - Youth Week!!!! Every night from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. There is a FREE event every night. Bring a friend or two. Games, Prizes, Stars and More.

Follow us on Facebook @Saginaw United Methodist Church Youth Group and on Twitter @ YouthSUMC

## "PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR"

"Thank you" seems inadequate to express my appreciation to so many who made our cantata presentation all I could have dreamed it would be. I am so thankful to have so many talented people who sacrificed so much to make yesterday's presentation possible.

- Choir, what can I say? You are an amazing group of people and are so generous with your talents, your time, and your finances. Thank you for showing God's love not only through music but also through the way you welcomed our visiting musicians. MANY of them told me how much they enjoyed being at SUMC yesterday and you are the reason! Thank you for supporting *me*--literally and spiritually--when I didn't think I could pull it off. The response I heard from the congregation was great, but it was what I heard and saw that blew me away! You all were totally invested and we saw it on your faces and heard it in your voices. Thank you for expressing God's gift of grace so beautifully.
- Saginaw Ringers, you all met a challenging piece of music head-on and played *so* well! You have been so patient with me and have taught me so much in the past ten months. I could not have been happier with your performance and can't wait to hear you present the beauty of your craft again in 2012. Thank you for all you put into ringing for the church!
- Jacob Haltom and Kathleen Apgar, great job of narration. Your expression of the story added so much.
- Kathy, you are a blessing to SUMC and to me. Thank you for always playing so beautifully!
- The orchestra was wonderful! All of them were college students (UNT, except for our own Molly Owen) and, as I said before, they were so complimentary of the church and the reception they received. Thank you, SUMC! Special thanks to Jason Birkner who contracted all the wind players.
- Jen and Adrian Cardenas, Lindsay Foster, and Kay Carroll,
- Special thanks to Cheryl Venter and Mary Nell Partin for all their help with the bulletin and to Tom Griffith for helping me get the orchestra paid so promptly. Thank you for putting up with me!

To GOD be ALL the glory!  
Leigh Ann

## SUMC Trustee Report

The SUMC Trustees met Monday December 5, 2011.

Highlights from the September SUMC Board of Trustees Meeting:

Temporary building outer doors will be replaced by Methodist Men and the Boy Scouts.

Small playground swing set to be removed.

Replacement being considered by Children's Ministry.

Van spec selected and financing now being considered.

T. Weaver Eagle Scout project started to add Youth Area partition door.

Storage buildings cleaned and organized.

If you want to know more, stop by the church office and have a look at the SUMC Trustees' Initiative book or contact one of the Trustees. The church office has a list of all the Trustees and their responsibilities.

## Our Thought and Prayers

Ed Reedy

Terry Timms, [tstimms@att.net](mailto:tstimms@att.net) to add people to the email prayer list.



Thank you card's have been received from the Blount & Robertson Families and Northbrook Elementary and are posted on the bulletin board.

## SUMC OUTREACH

- **Weight Watchers** - Fellowship Hall: Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
- **Daisy Girl Scouts** - C20: Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (August - May); **Girl Scout Troop 2702** - C20; 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (August - May) <http://gstroop2702.webs.com>
- **Cub Scouts** - Scout Building: **Webelos I** Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., **Webelos II** Mondays at 6:00 p.m., **Tiger 1** Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., **Tiger 7** Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., **Wolf** Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., **Bears 3** Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., **Bears 4** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Mondays at 7:00 p.m. [www.cubscoutpack151.org](http://www.cubscoutpack151.org)
- **Little Blessings** - Children's Wing: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (August - May)
- **Community Link Mission (CLM)**: Hours of operation: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; CLM Board Meeting is held the second Monday of each month.
- **Habitat for Humanity** - For more information, visit [www.trinityhabitat.org](http://www.trinityhabitat.org)
- **Water Wells** - funding the building of three wells And one church in the Congo over the next few years.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

#### In Memory of Carl Blount

Given by Wanda Blount, Tim & Jane Kret, Angie Averhoff, Pat & Jean James, Mel & Susan Bishara, Bill & Yvonne Flippo, Gary & Donna Anderson, Andrew M. Besterman, Malcom & Marsha Rasure, Joseph & Judith Kuhn, Ruth Henney, Warren & Elizabeth Harrison, C.B. & Alice Davidson, Tom & Karen Jumes, Walen & Christine Sessom, Linda Johnson, Richard Blount, Shirley Blount Wilson and Families

#### In Memory of Berniece Campbell

Given by Mel & Susan Bishara

#### In Memory of Sidney Roberts

Given by Mel & Susan Bishara

#### In Memory of Kenneth Reed

Given by Linda Johnson

#### In Memory of Kevin Robertson

Given by Tim & Jane Kret, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Tompkins, Angie Averhoff, Bill & Yvonne Flippo, Mel & Susan Bishara, Evelyn Hudgens

#### In Memory of Pat Thompson

Given by Tom & Karen Jumes

#### In Memory of Pete Carne

Given by Tim & Jane Kret

#### Memorial Garden

#### In Memory of Carl Blount,

Given by Claire Watson, Joyce Spindor, Bill Anderson

#### In Memory of Kevin Robertson

Given by Claire Watson, Joyce Spindor, Bill Anderson

#### In Memory of Pete Carne

Given by Claire Watson, Joyce Spindor, Bill Anderson

#### In Memory of Berniece Campbell

Given by Bill Anderson

#### Church Van Fund

#### In Memory of Carl Blount

Given by Danny & Rosa Jordan, Jon Ed & Frankie Robbins, Art & Jane Crawford, Ron & Linda Brown, Mrs. Mildred Vick, Dale & Londa Pontius, Bill & Lois Horton

#### In Memory of Pat Thompson

Given by Danny & Rosa Jordan

#### In Memory of Kevin Robertson

Art & Jane Crawford, Ron & Linda Brown,

#### Love Offering

#### In Memory of Carl Blount & Kevin Robertson

Given by Jerold & Terry Timms

#### Sisterhood

#### In Memory of Carl Blount

Given by Charles & Shirley Stephens

#### Community Link

#### In Memory of Kenneth Reed

Given by David & Suzanne Hoopin and Linda Johnson

#### Staff Appreciation

#### In Memory of Pete Carne & Berniece Campbell

Given by Jerry & Terry Timms