

The Vine

“I am the vine, you are the branches...” John 15:5

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Dear Family in Faith,

By the time most of you read this article, you will have leftover Thanksgiving dinner in the refrigerator and resolve to start that diet again on Monday. I do hope and pray that as you gather(ed) on Thanksgiving Day; however you celebrated it, that you took the time to truly be grateful for the blessings God has bestowed upon you. We all have things in our lives that we wish were different, but even in the current economy of life we have so much to be thankful for.

In speaking of thankfulness, I want to say thanks to all who worked on Sunday helping “green” the church for Advent. Bellaire United Methodist Church looks so pretty with all the greenery and festive bows and lights. It truly helps us remember that we are on a spiritual journey to see the “light of the world” in Jesus Christ. After all, that is what the season of Advent is about.

Advent—derived from a Latin word that means “coming”—is a season of preparation of Christmas—not the celebration of Christmas. This is why we don’t sing Christmas hymns stating Christ is born. For example, “Joy to the World,” which starts, “Joy to the world, the LORD is come...” will not be sung in worship until the end of the Christmas Eve service. In our world that has been “preparing” for Christmas since August, it seems strange but this is one way the church is different from the world.

Advent is also a time of spiritual preparation. It is a time that you do a little personal housekeeping so that as you journey closer to the celebration of Christmas, you will have room in your heart and your spirit to receive the Christ child. It is a time to reflect on what is the true message of Christmas and the “Good News” it brings. It truly is a journey, a pilgrimage of sorts, that we all make, beginning with the first week of Advent—the week of Hope. It is a time of forgiving and being forgiven, of finding Hope for the future.

I know there are those hurting and it seems hope is far away. But this is what we do as Christians—we are not perfect, but we are called to forgive one another just as we want to be forgiven by Christ; we are called to find Hope with Christ at our center. I have great hope for the future and I have hope that, in Christ Jesus, your hope is rekindled so that on Christmas you can sing, “Joy to the world, the LORD is come” and feel the love and joy that is ours as a people who are loved so much that God did not spare His own son but sent Him to be born in a manger.

Thank you God! Thank you, Church, for being an instrument of God’s blessings!

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Jim

WORSHIP AT BELLAIRE UMC

for November 27, 2011

1st Sunday of Advent

Rev. Jim Flagg will preach “The Journey with Mary” using Luke 1:26–38 (NRSV) as the scripture reading.

for December 4, 2011

2nd Sunday of Advent

Rev. Jim Flagg will preach “The Journey with Joseph” using Matthew 1:18–24 (NRSV) as the scripture reading.

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:05 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:11 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:11 a.m. International Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday Communion Worship

12:15 p.m. & 6:15 p.m. Informal Worship w/ Communion (with a sack lunch or light dinner)



BELLAIRE  *United Methodist Church*

Connecting People

4417 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401 713-666-2167 www.bellaireumc.org

We Pray For Those...

Hospitalized

Martha M - Clarewood ECC
Harriet R - St. Luke's

In Need

Coty, Emma, Luke and all others listed
at bellaireumcprayer.org

Grieving

The family of Peggy Marasek, who
passed away on November 19.
Services will be held on December 2 at
11:00 a.m. More info to come.

“Adopt” a Foster Child Gift Program

Close your eyes for a moment (but wait until you've finished this paragraph) and try to remember the look on your children's faces as they opened their favorite gifts that you picked out. Now, try to imagine if you didn't get a gift, because you had no Mom or Dad or even a relative to purchase something for you. We want to remedy that this year for at least some of the children in the foster care system in Houston. We have the names and wish lists of 80 Foster children who are living in foster homes or CPS Shelters. They've each written down three presents they'd love to get for Christmas.

If you'd like to sponsor one of these kids, just stop by our table near the Parlor. Simply decide on the child you'd like to sponsor, write your name down on the board next to his or her name, then go shopping! Return the gifts anytime through Tuesday, December 13.

Don't want to shop? No problem! Just put a donation in our collection jar and we'll be happy to do the shopping for you! This project is sponsored by the Community Service Group. For more information, contact Barbara Nowotny at fosterkids@bellaireumc.org.

Christmas Double Feature

Watching Christmas movies with the family is a time honored tradition to help prepare our hearts for this great season. Come join us for a Christmas Double Feature in the Fellowship Hall on December 10 from 5–7:00 p.m. We will be serving hot dogs, turkey dogs, chips, popcorn, hot chocolate and apple cider as we watch “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (the animated version) and “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Bring your blankets, family and friends and be prepared to have a great time. This event is open to everyone, AND IS FREE. If you'd like more information, please contact bhinshaw@bellaireumc.org.

Our Ministry of Time, Talent and Treasure

Sunday Worship

	for 11/13	for 11/20
Miner Retreat Youth Trip	33	
8:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	81	77
10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship	138	172
11:00 a.m. International Worship	72	72
Nursery	4	5
Total Worship Attendance	328	326
Guests worshipping with us	15	28
Received into Membership 2011	35	35

Sunday School

Children (Nursery - 5th Grade)	44	49
Youth (6th - 12th grades)	44	21
Adults	172	176
Total	267	246

Weekly Funds Update

2011 Budget	\$1,258,855.00
Weekly Budget Needs	\$24,208.00
Amount Received Sunday, November 6	\$11,790.06
Pledges and Other Gifts	
Received through 45 Sundays	\$1,031,724.31
Expenditures through 45 Sundays	\$1,010,553.67
Designated Account Balance as of Nov. 7	\$313,177.63

Pledge Update: \$479,970
in 85 pledges

For your convenience, monthly pledge payments may be made through ACH Pre-Authorized Debit. The Electronic Funds Transfer form is now available at www.bellaireumc.org/forms. To sign up or receive more information, contact Elizabeth Lloyd at 713-666-2167.

Upcoming Advent Special Events

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship (with a praise band)

10:05 a.m.—Sunday School (all ages)

11:11 a.m.—Traditional Worship (with a choir)

11:11 a.m.—International Worship (choir and praise band)

Worship service sermon topics are listed in **bold**.

NOVEMBER

27 Advent, Week 1: The Journey with Mary

DECEMBER

- 1** 6-8:30 p.m. **Holiday in the Park**
Come by and say hello at the City of Bellaire's annual Holiday in the Park. Bellaire UMC will be there serving hot chocolate, cookies, candy canes and passing out Christmas cheer and Christ's love.
- 2-3** 6-8:00 p.m. **Bethlehem Village**
Walk through Bethlehem Village and visit with bakers, potters, weavers, carpenters, inn keepers, ending at the manger. Come celebrate the coming birth of Jesus.
- 4** **Advent, Week 2: The Journey with Joseph**
4:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Service of Remembrance and Hope**
This service is for those who have lost loved ones and would like to celebrate their life through worship.
- 9-10** 8:30 a.m. (Family Life Center) **Jingle Bell Express**
Christian Community Service Center's annual toy distribution for underprivileged families is always looking for people to help. Go to ccschouston.org for more information.
- 10** 5:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) **Christmas Double Feature**
Join us for a Christmas Movie Double Feature where we will watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" (the cartoon). We'll serve hot dogs (beef and turkey), popcorn, candy and holiday drinks. The event is free. Invite your friends and neighbors. Don't forget to bring a blanket to sit on... it's like a picnic.
- 11** **Advent, Week 3: The Journey with Elizabeth**
5:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) **Family Christmas Sing-a-Long**
We're excited to present a night where we sing our favorite Christmas carols, celebrating the coming of the birth of Jesus with excitement. Dinner will be served and childcare is available for this free event.
- 18** **Advent, Week 4: The Journey Continues**
11:11 a.m. (Chapel) **International Worship Christmas Music Presentation**
- 24** **Christmas Eve: The Journey to the Manger**
3:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Traditional Worship**
5:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Contemporary Worship**
11:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Traditional Worship**
- 25** **Christmas Day**
Sunday School at 10:05 a.m. & Unity Worship at 11:11 a.m.
This service will also feature a Blessing of the Toys. Bring your favorite Christmas gift with you for a special blessing.

Sunday School News

DISCOVERY—(136/137)—Next Sunday, we will meet in the Family Life Center at 10:05 a.m., to hear Rev. Jim Flagg's new Advent series. The following Sunday (12/4), we will be cooking breakfast for the youth in the Fellowship Hall, after which we will prepare the gift boxes for the Seafarers Center at the Port of Houston.

GIBSON—(125/126)—We continue to miss Betty Z. and Bette D., and heard from Bob Z. that Betty should be home for Thanksgiving from Clarewood. Keep them as well as Mary Hope P. in your prayers for healing. Keep our Michigan snowbirds, Pauline and Jack C.'s daughter, Carly, in your prayers as well. Nancy J. continued our study of The Sermon on the Mount with the model of what we are to pray for and how to pray: The LORD'S Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13). She reminded us that we pray not to inform God, but to worship Him. Sally W. will close the quarter's study next Sunday, giving us ways Jesus tells us to live our lives without worry. Come join us (at the new time for Sunday School—10:05 a.m.). Be there at 9:30 a.m. for early fellowship, coffee and the breakfast bar. Have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

GOOD NEWS—(235/236)—Meet us in the Family Life Center this Sunday at our new time (10:05 a.m.) as we participate in the Advent Series led by Pastor Jim. (Note: we'll resume our current study after Christmas, so hold on to your book.) Thanks to Princess & Mark for coordinating and delivering our SEARCH sandwiches today and to everyone who helped with that and with "greening" the church. It was a full and fun morning! Happy Thanksgiving to all!

HERITAGE—(Parlor)—We continue to remember both Virginias, Linda, LeRoy and Bettye in our prayers. Please put Dec. 4 on your calendar for our annual Lessons and Carols event. We have been missing some of you and hope to see you back soon.

NEW HORIZONS—(220)—We will be attending "The Journey" Advent Series during Sunday School (10:05 a.m.) in the Family Life Center. Come join us!

UPPER/COVENANT—(238)—Happy Thanksgiving! Mandy will continue our lesson from the book [Love Wins](#) by Rob Bell this coming Sunday.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Church Building Hours

Sunday 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact Information

Bellaire UMC Church Office 713-666-2167
School for Little Children 713-666-1111
Church Fax: 713-663-6397
BUMC Information Email info@bellaireumc.org
Emergency Pastor on-call 713-666-2167 x142



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**
from your Bellaire UMC
Family

Church Staff

Dr. Janice Riggle Huie.....Bishop
Rev. Lawrence Young.....District Superintendent
Members of BUMC.....Ministers
Rev. Jim Flagg.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Tori Butler.....Associate Pastor
Virilene Martin.....Interim Music Director
Ben Hinshaw.....Christian Education Coordinator
Carolyn Reed.....Director of Youth
Elenor Coursey.....Organist
Rhonda Sampiere.....Director of Weekday Ministries
Alice Clark.....Assoc. Director of Weekday Ministries
Elizabeth Lloyd.....Business Manager
Michael Ervin.....Communications Coordinator
Michael Hutchinson.....Administrative Assistant
Debbie Baker.....Power Camp Director
Denise Johnson.....Nursery Coordinator
Whitney Joseph.....Building Staff Coordinator
Rosana Cruz.....Building Staff
Jose Pacheco.....Building Staff
Jose Pascual.....Building Staff

Upcoming Issues/Due Dates

December 7/ November 30
December 14/December 7

Vine articles are due by 5 p.m. one week before the Vine's publication date and should answer the questions **who, what, when, where** and **how/why** in the body. Full submission guidelines may be found at www.bellaireumc.org/vine.



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Bethlehem Village

Costume Fittings for all characters (costumes provided)

- Sunday, November 27: 10:55–11:10 a.m. (FLC)
- Monday, November 28: 6:30 p.m. (Bride's Room, across from Chapel)

(Characters with speaking parts, be sure to pick up your script at the costume fitting)

Rehearsal (All Characters):

- Monday, November 28, 7:00 p.m. (Chapel)

Day of Event: Friday, December 2 and/or Saturday, December 3

- Characters:
Report to Bride's Room by 5:15–5:30 p.m. to dress
- Other Volunteers (no costume required; Door and Parking Lot Greeters, Craft Table, Refreshment Table and Singers)
Report to table outside Bride's Room by 5:30 p.m. to receive your assigned location (and vest for parking lot greeters)

(Light snacks provided Friday night only)

Thank you to all our volunteers for being part of Bethlehem Village. If you have questions, call Ted and Gabrielle Pate at 713-667-6310.

Stewardship Reminder

Don't forget that we are still collecting pledge cards and Ministry Menus in the church office. Simply bring them by or mail them to us and we'll gladly get them where they need to go.

Philippines Emmaus Walk

Danny Hernaez will be leading a Walk to Emmaus in the Philippines and is currently in need of items to support those going on their walk. If you can provide any of the following, please email him at dhernaez@bellaireumc.org.

- 72 wooden doves (name tags)
- 72 wood prayer partner crosses
- 154 multi-colored wrist 'watches'
- 72 lanyards
- 15 talk banners

Any help you can provide would be fantastic. Our prayer is that everyone that goes on this Walk to Emmaus be changed by the Holy Spirit and leave there enabled to serve God more fully and experience Him more wholly in their lives.

Jingle Bell Express Toy Ideas

Please remember that the gift you provide may be the highlight of a child's Christmas. **Consider purchasing one or two "primary gifts" rather than several small "stocking stuffers."** *Items are requested for all age groups, but there is a particular need for teenage and preteen gifts.* We ask that donated items be new and unwrapped. Please avoid toys that are violent in nature. If a toy requires batteries, we invite you to attach them to the toy! **Looking for ideas? These items are quite popular:**

- Hair appliances (curling irons, hair dryers, flat irons)
- Large Makeup Kits, Bath and Beauty Items
- Jewelry Sets, Watches
- Large Art Sets
- Digital Cameras
- MP3 Players, CD Players, Boomboxes
- Belts, Wallets, Purses
- Lego Sets
- Scooters, Tricycles, Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Bike Helmets
- Dolls and doll accessories
- Train Sets, Miniature Car Sets
- Play Kitchen and Tea Sets
- Electronic Games
- Action Figures
- Sturdy Riding Toys
- Baby Toys that sort, make music, light up, stack
- Stuffed Soft Toys (with secure noses and eyes)

Holiday In the Park

Come help us with this awesome event at Bellaire City Hall! On **Thursday, December 1**, come greet our neighbors and pass out free hot chocolate at this fun annual event—a great way to kick off your Christmas season by showing Bellaire UMC's hospitality. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and we are still looking for volunteers to help. Watch for sign-up information in your Sunday School books. For more information, check the church web site or contact Alan Hemann (713-248-6250). Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

L.I.G.H.T.HOUSE Kids

Make Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

On Friday, November 11, the L.I.G.H.T.HOUSE Kids put together 20 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The children wrapped and filled the boxes with their donations of small toys, school supplies, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, small books, candy and stuffed animals. They also wrote notes and included a picture to each shoebox recipient. The boxes were then collected and will be sent out to countries all over the world for children to experience Christmas and learn about the love of Jesus.

The children really enjoyed this service project. This is our third year to participate in Operation Christmas Child. It teaches the children not only about giving, but “to love one another.”

Merry Christmas from the L.I.G.H.T.HOUSE

Building Closures

Thanksgiving

To allow our staff time to celebrate Thanksgiving with their families, the Bellaire UMC campus will be closed on the following dates:

November 23: 1:00 p.m.

November 24-26: ALL DAY

We will reopen on Sunday, November 27, for worship.

Advent Series

Join us for Rev. Flagg’s Advent series based on the book The Journey, by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Each week, we will explore a different portion of the journey toward’s Christ’s birth at Christmas. This study will take place during Sunday School at its new time of 10:05 a.m. and will meet in the Family Life Center.

Service of Remembrance and Hope

For those that have lost loved ones, especially recently, the holidays can be very stressful, as they think back on those who are no longer with us. To celebrate the lives of those we have lost and remember that they still live on with us in the Cloud of Witnesses and through Christ. Bellaire United Methodist Church will host the Service of Remembrance and Hope to support those living through the loss of a loved one. If you or someone you know has lost someone you love, please come join us on December 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for this service.

News from the BUMS

(Bellaire United Methodist Seniors)

Report on the October 30 Trip

Thirty-eight people climbed aboard the bus and traveled to Sudie’s Catfish Restaurant and enjoyed the great meal. Everyone loved the food and enjoyed the private dining room.

NEXT TRIP: NOVEMBER 30

We are signing up now for the next trip to: Santa’s Wonderland in College Station

Here’s the itinerary:

Arrive at Bellaire UMC: 3:00 p.m.

Depart: 3:30 p.m.

Arrive at Mallet Bros. BBQ (Hwy 20 & 105) self-pay

Leave for Santa’s Wonderland—5:30 p.m.

Arrive at 6:00 p.m. for the tour.

Return to Bellaire UMC at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Info for your consideration:

The bus will go through the tour twice with time to visit Santa’s Town. The bus will go through once before visiting the “town” which is in a U-shape with a large campfire in the center and live music entertainment. There are bales of hay to sit on around the fire. Then, everyone will switch sides on the bus and we will go through again. Dress according to the weather. Bring blankets if needed.

WE WILL NOT HAVE A BUS IN DECEMBER

Enjoy your Christmas with your families.

RESERVE THESE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Wednesday, January 25

Friday, February 24

Friday, March 30

We will keep you posted on the plans.

Texas Trivia Answer from the last Vine:

Denison, TX was the birthplace of Dwight D. Eisenhower

Texas Trivia:

What internationally popular candy bar is produced in Texas?

The wise old Sage speaks:

A subtle joke about a man’s character can ruin a reputation faster than an obvious lie.

Poinsettias



Poinsettias may be given “In Memory” or “In Honor” of loved ones. Checks are payable to Bellaire UMC with “Poinsettias” in the memo section. The last day to order poinsettias will be Sunday, December 4. The cost is \$7 each.

Purchaser’s Name: _____

Number: _____ Total Cost: _____

Check #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____
