

# The Vine

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

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Dear Family in Faith,

This month we celebrate one of my favorite days (and, no, not just for the food)—Thanksgiving. For my family, Thanksgiving is actually a month-long event that leads into Advent, another time of preparation and thanksgiving. It begins November 5<sup>th</sup>, with the celebration of Joshua’s, our eldest son’s, birthday. It sets the stage for giving thanks for the rest of the month. But to be truthful, Thanksgiving should be a daily event. While it’s wonderful that we set aside a time in the midst of our run-amuck world to pause and give thanks, as Christians we are called to do this every day of our lives. We have so much to be thankful for: God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ should be top of the list (and everything else we do should be a response to that), followed by family and friends, the gift of the church itself (and we haven’t even mentioned our freedom and other blessings that we as citizens of this nation enjoy). So as you read this, pause and give thanks to God.

I want to say another word of thanks to all those who made the Fall Fun Festival happen this year. The children’s area was filled with happy kids, the garage sale was amazing and all the food venues sold out of their wares. It was a good day all the way around and it took many people working together to bring it together. Thanks to you all. It was a great backdrop to the end of our stewardship campaign on “Making His Garden Grow” as people used their time, talents and treasures to live out a faithful witness in making this outreach to the community a success.

Finally, I want to thank all who have turned in your pledge cards and ministry menus to the church

office and remind us all that it is not too late to help “Make HIS Garden Grow” right here at Bellaire United Methodist Church. The ministry seeds offered and the harvest we can work towards are in correlation to what you bring. Again, thanks for being in ministry with Bellaire UMC through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

“Give Thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever” (1 Chronicles 16:34).

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Jim*

### WORSHIP AT BELLAIRE UMC

for November 13, 2011

#### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Tori Butler will preach “More Than Enough” using 1 Kings 17:8-16 (NRSV) as the scripture reading.

#### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 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](http://www.bellaireumc.org)

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## We Pray For Those...

### Hospitalized

Ann W–San Jacinto Manor (Deer Park)

### In Need

Coty, James 1:27 and all others listed at [bellaireumcprayer.org](http://bellaireumcprayer.org)

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### Just Desserts

Did you know that, nationally, less than 50% of all foster care children graduate from high school? The kids who “age out” of the foster system are surviving and, in some cases, thriving, despite the huge odds against them. They don’t have the safety net of a family. Yet, they are working, going to school, studying and paying rent. Those that age out and continue on to higher education in the Houston area are supported by a state-funded system to help them with their college tuitions, but they are still left without a family during the important “family” holidays throughout the year.

We want to take care of that. So we’re providing all the traditional items—turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes and rolls on Tuesday, November 22. We’d like to also have an array of desserts. **Can you help us by bringing a Thanksgiving pie or other dessert?** You can drop off your donation on Monday, November 21, before 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen with a label that reads “Foster Kids.” If you have questions, please email Barbara Nowotny at [fosterkids@bellaireumc.org](mailto:fosterkids@bellaireumc.org) or call 713–666–5088. Thanks in advance.

### 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.

### 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 Family Life Center 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 anyone who wants to attend, AND IS FREE. If you’d like more information, please contact [bhinshaw@bellaireumc.org](mailto:bhinshaw@bellaireumc.org).

### The Times They Are A-Changin’

Starting with the first Sunday of Advent (November 27), the Bellaire UMC Sunday worship schedule will have a new look.

9:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

11:11 a.m. – Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

11:11 a.m. – International Worship (Chapel)

SUNDAY SCHOOL start times are also affected by the worship schedule changes. New times beginning November 27:

10:05–10:55 a.m. – Children’s Sunday School

10:05–10:55 a.m. – Adult Sunday School\*\*

\*\*Adult classes may “flex” their start and end times to fit their class member needs.

10:45–11:05 a.m. – Sanctuary Choir Warm-Up Time  
*Parents, you will be notified by our Children’s Choir leaders about rehearsal times.*

These changes were recommended earlier this year by the Music Ministry Task Force and approved by your Administrative Council at its meeting on November 1.

Mark your calendars now, so you won’t be late—or in this case, early! Join us for worship and Sunday School in this season of anticipation of our Savior’s birth. We’ve saved a place for you.

### Thanks a Million

We want to thank everyone who had a part in the success of Fall Fun Festival’s Coffehouse Bake Sale! Thanks to the bakers, makers, baggers, pricers and sellers! So many people contributed their generous and bountiful gifts to make this a fun and profitable event for our community and our congregation! We needed and appreciated every offering!

The Coffehouse Bake Sale Committee

### Garage Sale Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who made our garage sale so successful! Thanks to the 31 volunteers who sorted, priced, lifted and arranged all of our treasures. Thanks to the men who drove out each night to pick up furniture. Thanks to the cheerful workers on Saturday who greeted and took care of our customers. Thanks to the Boy Scouts who helped clean up. And a special thanks to the entire congregation for bringing us so much merchandise! The FLC is clean now and our few remaining treasures were picked up by Harbor Ministry, an inner city mission.

Barbara Nowotny

## A Season for Thanksgiving

For the two Vines during the month of November, we will be including stories of our family's thankfulness. If you'd like your story included, email [newsletter@bellaireumc.org](mailto:newsletter@bellaireumc.org) the things you are thankful for and we'll include it.

We are thankful for the people who donated platelets and blood (or tried to do so) and for the UM ARMY friends who came up and implemented a special way to encourage us. We are thankful for the prayers, visits, cards, transportation, food and encouragement of our church family during the past year. We are thankful for healing and for the many ways that you all have been Jesus "with skin on."

Blessings,  
Bill & Natalie Lamont

## What's for Breakfast?

Muffins, blueberry scones, breakfast bars, orange juice, flavored coffee and so much more were all on the Breakfast Bar on Sunday, November 6, between early and late services. Did you miss it? Don't worry! From now until January we will be "test driving" a Breakfast Bar at the Connection Center in the main hall of Bellaire UMC to see how it's received. And if the first trial run is any indication of its success, it's a hit!

Thanks to everyone for the donations dropped into the baskets at the Breakfast Bar. You have helped defray the start-up costs for the equipment and helped us purchase items for next time. Yes, even though Starbucks is donating day-old pastries to us (thanks, Starbucks!), there are other costs involved. The goal is to have the Breakfast Bar be self-sustaining and we are off to a great start. Again, thanks.

So bring a friend to church, share a scone and a cup of hazelnut coffee with them!

If you have any questions or comments, send an email to [food@bellaireumc.org](mailto:food@bellaireumc.org) or call Robbie Roach at 713-668-0911.

## 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](mailto: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.

## We Need You!

Planning is under way for this year's Bethlehem Village event where Bellaire UMC will open its doors to the community and become Bethlehem Village for two nights. We will tell the amazing story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of a Shepherd (a great way to start the holidays and remember the reason we celebrate Christmas). There will be live animals, music, snacks and crafts. The stage is set, the only thing missing is YOU. There is a job for everyone: setup, cleanup, greeters, singer or even being a character (Baker, Angel, Inn Keeper, Mary & Joseph, Carpenter, Potter, Weaver, Tax Collector, Centurion or Shepherd). We really need your help. Say yes and sign up at the Connection Center on Sunday morning.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a costumed character, costumes are provided.

ANIMALS NEEDED: We need a few good animals, mainly sheep, lambs or goats (with handlers). If you have a source, let us know. (713-667-6310)

HAY NEEDED: If anyone has some hay they could loan us, we need six bales for props.

Your Bethlehem Village Steering Team

NEWS FLASH: Humphrey the camel and Domino the donkey will be at Bethlehem Village this year!

## Stewardship Thanks

I wanted to send a huge thank you to everyone who attended church on commitment Sunday and turned in their commitment cards. Without members like you supporting the church, we are unable to perform the ministries that are so vital to serving God's people and making disciples for Christ. I also wanted to thank those of you who attended the Celebration Lunch. It is so important that we take advantage of every opportunity that we can to celebrate the life of the church and come together as a community of believers. Stewardship is not just a time to decide how much money you are going to give the church for the upcoming year, it's a time to re-commit yourself to the ministries that make our church so active and vital.

I wanted to personally thank the Stewardship Committee: Ted and Gabrielle Pate, Robbie Roach and Iska Wire. They began meeting back in the spring to plan this wonderful campaign. Thanks to Pastor Flagg for his excellent leadership during the planning for the campaign as well as during the campaign itself. And a special thanks to Michael Ervin for all his hard work designing the graphics and helping the theme to flow into the services. These people truly helped make this campaign happen and it would not have been possible without them.

I also wanted to take an opportunity to thank those of you who attended and participated in the Fall Fun Festival. We had a great turn out and were truly able to reach out to many people. Thanks for making it a priority to attend and support this event.

Yours in Christ,  
Chrissy Ervin  
Stewardship Chair

## Calling All Carolers!

We're gearing up for Bethlehem Village and we need YOU! We'll be singing Christmas carols around the piano each evening and we'd like to have at least 5 carolers and a piano players throughout the evening. The signup sheet is at the Connection Center, so please sign up when you are available, on Friday evening (December 2) and Saturday evening (December 3). If you're already signed up to be a part of this wonderful ministry event in a different capacity, come join us for a song or two when you can. Questions? Contact Cynthia Oberlin or Liz Atkinson at [carolers@bellaireumc.org](mailto:carolers@bellaireumc.org).

## Jingle Bell Express

Jingle Bell Express began as one of the first outreach programs of the Christian Community Service Center. In 1980, volunteers got together to act as Santa's Helpers, making dreams of Christmas a reality for 40 needy families. Due to the resounding support of many wonderful Houstonians, this program has blossomed over the years. In December of 2010, holiday joy reached 967 families and their 3,224 children through Jingle Bell Express (JBE).

JBE is unique in comparison to other Christmas programs, as it is organized in a manner where parents "shop" for their children. We believe that this design lends dignity to families. Each parent chooses one or two toys and new books for each child. In addition, the entire family receives food for a holiday meal.

Children in need who live in our 32 zip code service area, up to age 15, are eligible for enrollment. At Registration, parents demonstrate financial need (must be at or below poverty guidelines) and proof of residency.

Held annually in December, JBE involves hundreds of volunteers. Help is needed in every phase of the program, from registering clients to organizing toys, setting up the "store" and even helping parents select toys. Many churches, local companies and individuals donate goods and in-kind services for this tremendous undertaking, and CCSC can always use more contributors.

For more information about JBE, please see our bulletin board (in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and the Family Life Center). Please take one of the information slips to help you shop!

## School for Little Children

### 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book Bash

Come celebrate the School for Little Children in a night of fun and fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with School for Little Children families and show your support for the school. There will be plenty of activities for children. Grown-ups, you won't want to miss the amazing variety of gift baskets at the silent auction... come prepared to bid! Remember, 15% of your purchases at Barnes & Noble will come right back to the school! Part of this year's profit will be used for an entryway sign for the school.

*Chick-Fil-A Benefits SLC All Day!*

Come hungry and be ready to take advantage of the great deals at Chick-Fil-A on Book Fair Day when 15% of all purchases will be given back to SLC! Don't miss it!

## What's My Motivation?

Just like actors work for years trying to portray their favorite roles with the right attitude, we are called to ask ourselves why we do what we do.

Do I attend worship because my mother used to make me?

Do I help with mission work out of guilt or pressure from others?

Do I make myself read the Bible just because I heard that it makes God happy?

Whereas I am tempted to say that any reason is a good reason to do something good, that is not always completely accurate. Starting with guilt, persuasion or a desire for peace in the household is putting the cart before the horse.

All things we do, we should be day out of an abundance of love and appreciation for all that God has done for us. Whether that is attending church, going to work, disciplining children or ANYTHING. All should be done with the glory of God leading the way.

As you take each breath, each step and each moment think about how much you love God, and thank and praise Him for all He has done. It should not be hard to find something!

Then, after God is first, go out and do whatever He is calling you to do. It may be the same stuff you were doing, but with Him first, you will find a new spirit in all you do.

Ben Hinshaw

## News from the BUMS

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 will begin signing up this Sunday 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

Cafeteria—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.

## Our Ministry of Time, Talent and Treasure

### Sunday Worship

	for 10/30	for 11/6
8:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship		73
10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship		144
11:00 a.m. International Worship		61
Nursery	1	4
<b>Unity Worship (10/30)</b>	<b>252</b>	

**Total Worship Attendance 252**

Guests worshipping with us	19
Received into Membership 2011	33

### Sunday School

Children (Nursery - 5th Grade)	49	52
Youth (6th - 12th grades)	28	22
Adults	171	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>245</b>

### Weekly Funds Update

2011 Budget	\$1,258,855.00
Weekly Budget Needs	\$24,208.00
Amount Received Sunday, November 6	<b>\$27,271.45</b>
Pledges and Other Gifts	
Received through 45 Sundays	\$1,004,848.11
Expenditures through 45 Sundays	\$976,641.67
Designated Account Balance as of Nov. 7	\$167,336.72

**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](http://www.bellaireumc.org/forms). To sign up or receive more information, contact Elizabeth Lloyd at 713-666-2167.

#### 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

## Sunday School News

**GOOD NEWS**–(235/236)–“Does Your Church Have a Prayer?” That’s the thought-provoking title of the new study we’ve just begun. Sunday’s class focused on Jesus’ prayer (from John 17) for the church and for all communities of Jesus’ disciples who stand on the edge of God’s Promised Land. Please try to read lessons 1 & 2 in preparation for this week’s discussion.

**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.

## 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

November 23/ November 16

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](http://www.bellaireumc.org/vine).



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