



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we move into the month of November, our hearts and minds naturally turn to the theme of thanksgiving. Whether it's gathering with family around the dinner table,

preparing for the holidays, or simply reflecting on God's goodness, this season invites us to focus on gratitude.

Scripture teaches us that gratitude is not just a seasonal practice but a way of life for believers. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* This passage reminds us that gratitude is not contingent upon our circumstances. Whether we are in times of abundance or facing trials, God's will is for us to give thanks in all things.

But how do we live with a thankful heart in all seasons? Especially when life's difficulties weigh heavily on us. There are three important perspectives we can cultivate to foster gratitude, regardless of our situation:

### 1. Gratitude for God's Provision

Often, we associate thanksgiving with material blessings—food, shelter, and health. And while these are wonderful gifts from God, His provision goes far beyond the physical. God provides us with His presence, His love, and His grace every single day. James 1:17 tells us, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* When we focus on the spiritual gifts God has given us—salvation, His Word, the fellowship of believers—we begin to see His hand at work in ways we may have overlooked.

### 2. Gratitude in the Midst of Trials

Paul's exhortation to "give thanks in all circumstances" is a reminder that even in hardship, we can find reasons to be grateful. It doesn't mean we are thankful for the pain, but that we can be thankful *in* the pain. Romans 8:28 assures us that *"in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Even when life feels overwhelming, we can trust that God is working for our good. This knowledge allows us to approach trials with a spirit of thanksgiving, knowing that God is refining us and drawing us closer to Him.

### 3. Gratitude as a Witness

Finally, our gratitude is a powerful witness to the world. In a culture that often focuses on what we lack, a heart of thanksgiving stands out. When we choose to express gratitude—whether it's in our conversations, our prayers, or our attitudes—others will notice. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* A thankful heart reflects the peace of God, a peace that is attractive to a world in need of hope.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, may we all be reminded that gratitude is not just a momentary expression but a lifestyle rooted in God's goodness. Let us practice gratitude in every season, for our God is faithful and worthy of our praise.

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 10

Join us on **Sunday, November 10**, for a special Stewardship Commitment Sunday at Bullard Methodist Church. We are blessed to welcome Diane Fritsche as our guest preacher in both worship services. As we reflect on our commitment to God's work, please bring your completed commitment cards to present during worship. This will be a meaningful opportunity to reaffirm our dedication to supporting the mission of our church together. We look forward to seeing you there!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy November! We enjoyed our traditional Children's Ministry trip to the Lanes Chapel Pumpkin Patch in October! We played pumpkin games, rode the pumpkin train, and had a devotional. After our pumpkin fun, we went to Andy's for a sweet treat. Also, in October we had a wonderful Trunk or Treat! Thank you to everyone who brought candy/prizes, and cakes! And for those of you who worked at the game booths or the food booths! This is a great way to show love to our community and I am so thankful for the way everyone helped make this event happen.

Coming up on Sunday, November 10, will be our Children's Ministry Bake sale! The money raised will go toward our Christmas mission project which will be to purchase gifts for children receiving services at the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County. We plan to have lunch together on **Sunday, November 17 in Harper Hall** then together go shopping for the gifts we will give! Please plan to bake then shop with us!

In November, we will continue practicing music for our Christmas musical! We will perform on **Sunday, December 8 in both worship services**. We will practice music part of the Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings, and we will also have practices on November 6 and 20.

**Sunday, December 15** will be our Children's Christmas Market **from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in Harper Hall**. During the months of October-December kids of our church earn "tickets" by participating in Sunday School and other Children's events. They use their tickets at the market to "purchase" gifts for their family and friends. We hope all of our kids will participate and we are also looking for a few adults who do not have children participating to help with this event so parents can have some surprises on Christmas morning. If you can help, please let me know!

Blessings to you,

Deirdre Leung  
(903) 343-2857

## ADULT MINISTRIES

### NEW CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Jesus taught his disciples to care for each other by his own example of servant leadership, banding his followers together in mutual love and support. Today, as his disciples, we are still called to care for one another. To help us more effectively accomplish that, we are forming a new lay-led congregational care team, led by Tammy Woodard, whose goal will be to come alongside Pastor David in providing

visitation and prayer support to our ever-growing congregation. If you are interested in joining this team, please talk to Tammy Woodard, or sign up in Harper Hall or the FLC Welcome Table.

### EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to help at East Texas Food Bank on **Tuesday, November 5, from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.** We help organize food for local food banks and schools. The address is 3201 Robertson Rd. Tyler 75701. For more information contact Mary Kay Bailey or Brett Hatley.

### METHODIST COFFEE CLUB

Everyone is invited to join the Methodist Coffee Club, which meets here in Bullard on **Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m., at Coffee Around the Corner**. This is a time of fellowship and coffee drinking. Everyone is welcome.

### METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men will not meet in November or December. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** All the men of the church are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and ministry.

### METHODIST WOMEN

Bullard Methodist Women meets every **first Wednesday of the month in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m.** Our next meeting is **November 6**. We begin each meeting with a prayer and devotion. This month they will be given by Frances Cox.

We began a new study on the Sermon on the Mount in September.

We will continue with Chapter 3, The Importance of Obeying God's Law? based on Matthew 5:17-20. Books may be purchased at the meeting for \$10.

We will be supporting the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry in November. Please bring items for a holiday dinner such as stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, pumpkin, and spices to the meeting.

If you have any questions, contact Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

### MISSION BARREL - NOVEMBER

November's mission barrel will be collecting items for Hunger for Love. These items will be distributed throughout the month to their friends who are homeless in Smith County. Their needs are shampoo, conditioner (any size), toothbrush, toothpaste, AAA batteries, wipes, and socks.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Our Proverbs 31 Ministries Bible Study group has been studying "Where Do I Belong?" It has been very interesting and we are all learning something about being in exile. October 21 we will begin a new study on 1 and 2 Timothy. We will be studying about the clarity we need when life feels chaotic, confusing and out of control through the scriptures in Timothy. Coming in November, "A New Beginning - Genesis". Please call Sherri Henry at (903) 474-4934 for more information,

## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The Potluck with a Purpose dinner will be the second **Wednesday of the month, November 13, at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.** Bring a dish to share and a nonperishable donation for the Bullard Mission House Food Pantry. This month, bring items to make a holiday meal special, pumpkin, yams, stuffing mix, cream-style soup, and gravy mixes.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship. We wear nametags so we will be able to meet those we do not know by name and put names with faces. We had around 60 people at the October dinner. There is plenty of time to eat, help clean up, and make it to the Bible study at 7:00 p.m.

If you know anyone who does not drive after dark, offer to bring them with you. The time change is on November 3, and it will be getting dark earlier.

*We are doing the setup a little differently this year, we are asking people to stay after the second service, walk across to the FLC, and help set up tables on the Sunday before the dinner. This month will be **November 10.***

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The prayer quilt ministry is new in 2024. We meet on the **second Thursday** of the month. We will be meeting in the **FLC, on November 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., this month.**

Between February 25 and October 16, we have distributed **102** quilts including the 25 we took to Sager Brown on a mission trip in October. We distribute to those in the military, with health issues or going through a rough time. We depend on feedback from all of you to know who may be in need of prayers for healing and a quilt for comfort. If you have a close friend or relative who lives out of town, you may request a quilt, and we will give it to you to forward it to its final destination. If you would like a service member to

receive a patriotic-themed quilt, or an alternative color, please contact us.

The lap-size quilts are sewn at the church and/or at home by the group. The quilts are prayed over at the end of each session. All are welcome to stop by at around 11:45 to pray with us for the ones who will be the recipients of these quilts for their healing and comfort. A quilt may be requested directly from a member of the group.

During our October meeting, we surprised Pastor David with a liturgical-colored stole for pastor appreciation.

If you have any questions, please contact Flo Tarrant at (903) 894-6416 or Judy Donnelly at (281) 450-2300.

## TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Tony & Jan Blakeney  
Greg & Maggie Nordyke

The full church calendar can be viewed on our website at <http://bullardfumc.org/calendar-2>

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BLUEBONNET MINISTRY

There were eleven residents and guests present at the October 6 Communion Service. Singing was led by Lisa Escola with Gloria Jones at the piano. Devotional was given by Mike Walker. Carole Myers sang one of her songs. Communion was led by Lisa Escolas, assisted by Mike Walker and Mike Dunklin.

We are looking for persons from our church who would like to help by sharing a brief devotional with the residents of Bluebonnet Place. We go **every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.** to serve communion and share a devotional. If you can help, please sign up today!

If you would like to participate, please contact Lisa Escolas at (774) 226-6153.

## CHURCH CONNECTIONS



Contact [grant@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:grant@bullardmethodist.org) with any questions.

## Volunteer Interest Survey

Our Ministry Interest Survey, a crucial tool for aligning your ministry and service goals with our current opportunities, is available on the church website under the "Volunteer" tab. Your response is instrumental in shaping our various missions, outreach, and fellowship ministries.

Please feel free to reach out if you need help utilizing the online format. Hardcopies are available, or if you know where you'd like to be, let me know, and I will connect you with the right person.

## Fellowship Ministry

Our fellowship ministry provides the opportunity to grow relationships within the church! This month, we have a Fellowship Ministry Meeting on **Tuesday, November 5** from **6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Harper Hall**, where we will finalize our Veteran's Day bingo and discuss our annual chili cook-off in January.

We are hosting Veteran's Day Bingo in the **Family Life Center on Saturday, November 9** from **2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.** with "White Elephant" prizes for each Bingo winner.

## Missions Ministry

The next opportunity to serve with our East Texas Food Bank mission team is **Tuesday, November 5**. If you'd like to join, please meet at the food bank at **8:30 a.m.** For more information, contact Brett Hatley or Mary Kay Bailey.

From September 29 to October 4, we had a team of nine people travel to Sager Brown (South Louisiana) to assist with their local needs and assemble hurricane relief kits. This had such a huge impact! Thanks to those who joined! Contact Grant if you'd like to learn about this organization or discuss another trip.

On October 12, we served a brisket lunch at the Hiway 80 Rescue Mission. The Methodist Men, Methodist Women, and the Missions Ministry team joined together to provide this meal and fellowship time with the men of Hiway 80. Thank you to everyone who cooked the briskets, contributed time and effort, and served their community!

## Outreach Ministry

Our Outreach Ministry team had the opportunity to serve at a Bullard High School Football concession stand on October 18. We thank everyone who helped serve the Bullard Community and show others God's love!

## BULLARD METHODIST NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

Applications are available in the church office. Please contact Kimberly Brasher for additional information.

## BULLARD METHODIST CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Karyn Heath   |
| 4  | Frances Cox   |
| 5  | Emerson Siler   |
| 6  | Saide Stanley   |
| 8  | Billy Newburn   |
| 9  | Harrison House<br>Bobby Vermillion  |
| 10 | Joy Mason<br>Patti Maxwell  |
| 11 | Mike Redman   |
| 14 | Jerry Hale<br>Art Henry   |
| 15 | Julie Lamberth  |
| 16 | Lyla LeVrier  |
| 18 | Jennifer Blakeney<br>Phil Heath   |
| 20 | James Shipp   |
| 21 | Glen Sheets<br>Elizabeth White  |
| 22 | Miranda Pierce  |
| 24 | Billy & Myrna Braly<br>Charles & Barbara Davis<br>Gary & Belva LeVrier<br>Nelda Perry |
| 26 | Linda Samford<br>Warren White   |
| 27 | Tom & Jean Bray<br>Kellie Marie Burns<br>Janette Johnson                              |

- 28 Amber Alexander  
Layne Alexander  
Brittany Allen  
Dan & Nancy Campbell  
Bill House
- 29 Mike Dunklin
- 30 Jill Siler

## UPLIFTING WORDS

### Holy Spirit, Come

Holy Spirit, come now, come to us today.  
Come and make thy dwelling in our hearts, we pray.  
Holy Spirit, come now, overflow our hearts.  
Come with all thy fullness never to depart.

The Master said that He would send  
A Comforter, a Guide, a Friend.  
And on that day at Pentecost  
The power came down to reach the lost.

Let us be vessels of God's love on high,  
Reaching out to others with life before they die.  
Holy Spirit, come now, fill us with Thy power,  
Quicken all the body in this final hour.

By Carole Myers

## OUR PRAYERS

Our Homebound – Side-Line Saints - Members & Friends:

Tommie Aulie  
Velma Carson  
James & Kathleen Kyles  
Dirk Streely  
Emilie Stroble  
Nellene Tannert  
Bobby Vermillion  
Jean Weatherly

Active Military Personnel:  
Benjamin Barbour, Matt Pearce, Jessica Roper, Victor B. Sheldon and his wife Katy Sheldon, Luke Sprinkle, and Grant Troxell

## OUR GIFTS

BMC has a brokerage account for securities donated to the church. The purpose of this is to be able to accept donations of stocks and bonds and convert them to cash for use by the church as designated by the donor.

If you have securities you wish to donate to the church and avoid capital gains taxes, please consult with your financial advisor and then contact the Finance Secretary, Patti Maxwell, or the church office.

Financial Results for September:

	September	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 45,677.79	\$ 519,120.10
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 45,667.00	\$ 458,653.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 49,944.30	\$ 444,982.59
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 50,470.00	\$ 443,761.00

## OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

September:	214
Year to date:	228

## ALTAR FLOWERS: POLICY & PRICE

Altar flowers are a way of honoring a beloved person, remembering the deceased, or recognizing an anniversary or birthday.

To participate in this expression of your appreciation, complete an Altar Flower Form found below the glass case in Harper Hall near the children's wing, or go to our website, [bullardmethodist.org](http://bullardmethodist.org), and drop down the Online Giving tab. A payment of \$45.00 must accompany your request. To pay online, use a credit card. To pay by check, indicate on the subject line that it is for altar flowers and place the check with your request in the offering plate, or take it to the church office.

When you take the altar flowers home, please leave the green plastic containers at the church. These are reused each week.

The next three months are listed below. Check the glass case in Harper Hall for the calendar.

Month	Sunday	Name
November	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	reserved
December	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	
January	5	
	12	
	19	
	26	

## NEED A NAME TAG?

Active members' and visitors' name tags are located on the shelf (in alphabetical order) in the foyer of the Sanctuary and the entrance of the FLC. If you need a name tag, please put

a note in the offering plate, or call Venus at the church office at (903) 894-6762.

## WELCOME TEAM

We need volunteers to serve on our Welcome Team each Sunday. This group of volunteers makes sure every person who comes through our doors is warmly welcomed and that our first-time guests are given a gift. You simply need to be at worship a few minutes early and wear a smile. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

## DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The Vine deadline is **Thursday, November 14, at 4:30 p.m.**, for the December newsletter.

Email articles to [bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org)

## RECENT EVENTS

### TIME CHANGES



On Sunday, November 3, Daylight Saving Time ends. Please set your clocks back one (1) hour before going to bed on Saturday Night.

### BIBLE & BITES & PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The Quilting Ministry made aprons and potholders for the Bible and Bites Bible Study members.



### METHODIST COFFEE CLUB



### POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE



Donation to the Bullard Food Pantry

## Hiway 80 Rescue at Triumph Village Lunch (October 12)



**Hiway 80 Rescue Mission exists to glorify God by providing a safe and supportive environment where hurting and homeless men, women and children can experience LIFE TRANSFORMATION through Christ.**





## Sager-Brown Mission Trip

September 29-October 6, 2024

A group of eight people went to the UMCOR supply depot at Sager-Brown in Baldwin, LA to help with facility maintenance, community outreach, and hygiene kits and cleaning buckets (Flood Buckets).

Paul Donnelly and Carl Coleman must have raced around the depot on mowers. They did it in two days, which usually takes all week long to get done!

June Coleman, Judy Donnelly, Leah Williams (and three of her college friends; Margaret, Nancy, and Carolyn) chose to work on hygiene kits at the depot and participate in outreach programs. They went to a local nursing home with a group from Oak Harbor, WA, and sang praise songs to the residents (we will not be joining the choir, it was more of a joyful noise). After singing we distributed some of the quilts to three residents and left the other 22 for the director to distribute as she saw fit. We also visited a women's shelter. We used our skills learned at the Bullard Mission House to sort and hang up donated clothes as well as box up food orders for the families in residence. They prepare their own food in their individual apartments.

We participated in the Kitchen Ministry three times. Your group is responsible for the blessing each time you serve, and you get to go first in line! Some of the participants put it this way, it is almost like being on a cruise, they serve you three meals a day and you are never hungry.

In the morning, we had devotion time. Every presenter chooses their own scripture and related it to our work for the week. In the evenings we played games, cards and worked on puzzles.

On Thursday evening we had a service and communion.

In our free time afternoon, we went to Avery Island. We took the Tabasco factory tour, visited the extensive gardens on the grounds, and ate Cajun food. Now don't you wish you had gone too?





## PASTOR'S APPRECIATION FROM PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



## CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about how to become a member of Bullard Methodist Church, contact our Pastor.

Bullard Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 152  
204 S. Rather Street  
Bullard, TX 75757

*Office Hours:*  
Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

903.894.6762 (*office*)  
903.894.3245 (*fax*)

Office: [bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org)  
Pastor David: [david@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:david@bullardmethodist.org)

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Encounter (FLC)  
9:30 a.m. Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Traditional  
5:30 p.m. Youth

*Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.*

*All members of the church are ministers of the Gospel, equipped for sharing the grace of God with the assistance of:*

### CLERGY

Pastor, Rev. David Brasher

### PROGRAMS

Student Ministries Director, Katie Rankin  
Children's Director, Deirdre Leung  
Director of Connections, Grant Rollins

### WORSHIP

Director of Traditional Music, Robert Boren  
Encounter Worship Leader, David Thrasher  
Pianist, Kerry Baham

### SUPPORT

Administrative Assistant, Venus Burns  
Financial Secretary, Patti Maxwell  
Nursery Supervisor, Kimberly Brasher  
Custodian, Louis White

### EASTERN TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones  
Presiding Elder, Rev. Nick Sholars  
Presiding Elder, Rev. David Brasher  
Connecting Elder for BMC, Rev. Ed Wandling