



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we enter the year's final month, December offers us a sacred invitation to reflect, rejoice, and renew. Advent is here, and with it comes the opportunity to prepare our hearts for the celebration of

Christ's birth. This season, we are reminded of the incredible gift God has given us in Jesus—Emmanuel, "God with us."

Advent is a time of expectation, anticipation, and hope. It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of shopping, decorating, and countless activities. Still, I encourage you to take intentional time to focus on the season's true meaning. The carols we sing, the candles we light, and the scriptures we read all point to the amazing truth that God stepped into our world to bring light to our darkness and peace to our chaos.

Our church is filled with opportunities to celebrate and share this joy this December. Our Advent sermon series, Carols of Christmas, will explore the rich theology and timeless messages found in some of our most beloved Christmas hymns. Each week, we will rediscover how these carols point us to God's promises and our hope in Jesus Christ. Please invite friends and family to join us for worship during this special time of year.

We'll also have several opportunities for fellowship and service. From our Children's Christmas Program to the Candlelight Christmas Eve Services, there is something for everyone to enjoy and participate in. Your generosity helps us share the love of Christ in tangible ways, reminding others that they are not alone during this season.

As we celebrate the gift of Jesus, we also give thanks for the many ways God has blessed our church throughout the year. Your prayers, service, and faithful giving have significantly impacted our community and beyond. Thank you for participating in what God is doing through Bullard Methodist Church.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, I am reminded of the words from John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." This powerful verse reminds us that God's presence is not distant or detached but right here with us, walking alongside us in every moment.

May this season be filled with the wonder of God's love, the peace of His presence, and the joy of knowing Christ as your Savior. On behalf of our staff and the Board of Stewards and my family, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Grace and Peace,

DAVID BRASHER

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Please make plans to attend these special Bullard Methodist events to make Advent and Christmas meaningful for you and your family!**

### Advent and Christmas Schedule 2024

Sunday, November 24

Hanging of the Greens (following Traditional Service)

Sunday, December 1 - 1st Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 7

Combined Choir Christmas Cantata at BMC, 3:00 p.m. (BMC and Emerald Bay Community Church combined choirs)

Sunday, December 8 - 2nd Sunday in Advent

Children's Christmas Musical, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Combined Choir Christmas Cantata at Emerald Bay Community Church, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11

Christmas Potluck with a Purpose, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

Children's Christmas Market, 3:00 p.m.  
Youth Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Blood Drive, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Encounter Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m.  
Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 p.m.

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual Charge Conference will be at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15**. Rev. Ed Wandling, Presiding Circuit Elder, will lead us. Everyone is invited to attend. We will be setting the pastor's salary and voting on our slate of officers. See Pastor David with any questions.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

### Join Us for a Heartwarming Christmas Cantata!

Experience the joy of the season with a special combined Christmas Cantata featuring the choirs of Emerald Bay Community Church and Bullard Methodist Church.

#### Performance Dates:

- **Saturday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m.** at Bullard Methodist Church
- **Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m.** at Emerald Bay Community Church

**Address:** 1234 Emerald Bay Rd, Emerald Bay, TX

Bring your family and friends to celebrate the magic of Christmas through beautiful music, fellowship, and the spirit of community. We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with you! **Don't miss it!**

## POINSETTIAS

Don't forget to order your Christmas poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. The plants will be placed in the sanctuary during Advent, and then you may take your poinsettias home on Christmas Eve. Order with the form available in the foyer or conveniently and securely online with the form sent by email. The cost is \$12.50 each. **Deadline is Sunday, December 16.**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy December! In November we had our Children's Ministry Bake sale! Thank you so much to everyone who baked and/or bought our goodies! We raised over \$1,000 which was then used to buy gifts for kids in our community. We purchased presents for 2 children participating in "Holiday of Hope" with the Children's Advocacy Center and we also were able to purchase gifts for 2 children on the Bullard ISD Angel Tree! The kids in our church did a great job at baking and working the bake sale table, then were very kind and thoughtful as they picked out gifts for these

children. They are truly shining the light of Christ this Christmas!

In November, we have been busy preparing for our Christmas musical! We will perform on December 8 in both worship services.

**On Sunday, December 15** will be our Children's Christmas Market from **3:00 until 5:00 p.m. in Harper Hall**. During the months of October through 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.

### EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to help at East Texas Food Bank on **Tuesday, December 3, 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. at Milano's Pizza**. All the men of the church are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and ministry.

## METHODIST WOMEN

### Meet on Wednesday, December 4

Bullard Methodist Women meet the **first Wednesday of the month in the Parlor**. This month we are meeting early, at **9:30 a.m.**, because we will also be honoring our Side-Line Saints with cards and a treat bag. Please bring 10 cards (without envelopes) and 5 gift items you signed up for at our last meeting. The extra time allows us to assemble these special gifts.

Our next meeting is December 4. We begin each meeting with a prayer and devotion. This month they will be given by Judy Donnelly.

We began a new study on the Sermon on the Mount in September. We will continue with Chapter 4, What's Wrong with Private Sins? based on Matthew 5:21-30. Books may be purchased at the meeting for \$10.

At our November meeting, we elected 2025 officers. They are as follows; Susan Hatley-President, Mary Kay Bailey-Vice President, Frances Cox-Secretary, and Barbara Gotcher -Treasurer.

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

Following our December meeting we will be having lunch at the Hidden Garden Tea Room in Bullard.

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

## MISSION BARREL – DECEMBER

Blood Drive for December Mission Barrel will be **Sunday, December 22 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in Harper Hall**. To the right is a link to sign up. If you have any questions or need help registering contact Jill Siler at (903) 780-0954.



## POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

### Wear Christmas Attire to Add a Festive Cheer!

The Potluck with a Purpose dinner will be the **second Wednesday of the month, December 11, at 5:30 p.m. 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, canned pumpkin, yams, stuffing mix, cream-style soup, French-style green beans, spices, brown sugar, 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 November dinner. If you know anyone who does not drive after dark, offer to bring them with you.

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 **December 8**.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Staten at (903) 752-3182.

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The prayer quilt ministry meets on the second Thursday of the month. In December, we would like to store our sewing machines and supplies out of sight and keep the threads off the floor for the holidays! We will start fresh with the New Year, on **Thursday, January 9, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center**.

Between February 25 and November 10, we have distributed **107** 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.

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

## TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Brandt & Meagan Goodwin  
Justin & Jade Morris

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

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BLUEBONNET MINISTRY

There were thirteen residents and guests present at the November 3 Communion Service. The singing was led by Lisa Escolas with Lois Evans at the piano. A Devotional was given by Lisa Escolas. Mike Dunklin and Jim Gill assisted with communion. Carole Myers sang "Holy Spirit, Come Now". We hope we are as much a blessing to those attending as they are to us.

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. In November, we planned

and had a great time at our Veterans' Day Bingo. Pictures can be found at the end of The Vine.

We also planned the Annual Chili Cook-off that we are hosting in January so be on the lookout for that date!

### Missions Ministry

We had such a great year volunteering at the East Texas Food Bank! Dates for volunteering in 2025 will be confirmed soon. For more information, contact Brett Hatley or Mary Kay Bailey.

Our Mission's Ministry will meet on **Tuesday, Dec 17**, to discuss our Salvation Army Bell Ringing opportunity, look back at our year, and discuss our future plans. Please join us from **6:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.**

Join us on **Wednesday, December 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Bullard Brookshire's!** The funds we raise as a Salvation Army bell ringer will impact our community year-round through social services assistance, homeless shelters, disaster relief, children's programs, rehabilitation services, anti-human trafficking, and more. Starting at 10:00 a.m., we have 1-hour time slots available until 6:00 p.m. to fit your schedule! Please go to the BMC app or use the QR code to sign up.



### Outreach Ministry

Our outreach ministry will meet in January to plan the next opportunity to show others our love for Jesus Christ and the community. Outreach is also intended to bring visibility to our church by serving those in our community. The date for our Outreach meeting will be posted in the Sunday Bulletin.

### BULLARD METHODIST CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

**We're seeking a CHILDREN'S MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Bachelor's degree in music or working towards one and/or experience working with Children's Choirs required.

**Bullard Methodist Church**  
Email: [bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org](mailto:bullardmethodist@bullardmethodist.org)  
for job description and application.

## **BULLARD METHODIST NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED**

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

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Bill Evans<br>Lindsey Smith  |
| 2  | Randall Druivenga<br>Joe Maxwell<br>Dori Vestal<br>Lila Walker     |
| 3  | Bob & Kathi Burnett<br>Linda Neuman                                |
| 5  | Lisa Escolas   |
| 6  | Bonnie Kate Long<br>Jonathan Stanley                               |
| 7  | Bill Cummings  |
| 8  | Jacob Walker   |
| 9  | Pam Morton   |
| 13 | Mike Hill  |
| 14 | Steve Bembenek<br>Jason Blakeney<br>Russell Geesing<br>Rob Sheldon |
| 16 | Susan Hatley   |
| 17 | Peter Boren  |
| 18 | John & Julie Lamberth  |
| 19 | Ronda Blalock<br>Jill Siler  |
| 20 | Sharon Marrs   |
| 21 | Tresia Holcomb<br>Debbie Staten                                    |
| 22 | Susanna Hale<br>Cindy Shultz                                       |
| 24 | Josh Lamberth  |
| 25 | Sean Parker  |
| 28 | Robert & Emily Boren<br>Kelly Rollins                              |
| 29 | Bob Burnett  |
| 30 | Mike & Susan Hill<br>Carley Pawlak<br>Danica Vestal                |
| 31 | Louis & Lisa Escolas<br>Bob & Kim Nimon                            |

## **UPLIFTING WORDS**

### **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

In a stable lowly a boy child is born,  
Oh, hear the angels singing.  
They know from whence He came, the Son of God,  
And the joy that He is bringing.

Shepherds bow before Him so reverently  
While village bells are ringing.  
Wise men from afar, have followed His star  
Their precious gifts are bringing.

None but the Father knew on that morn,  
The plan that was unfolding.  
In that simple setting and tiny form  
The King of Kings beholding.

Gather round the Babe all ye who seek  
The Lord of Heaven and earth.  
He has brought salvation to mankind,  
Dignity and worth.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For Christ has come down.  
He left His throne, He gave up His crown.  
He came to earth to live and to die  
To bring new birth to you and I.

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 October:

	October	Year-to-date
Contributions (Actual)	\$ 48,096.47	\$ 567,236.57
Contributions (Budgeted)	\$ 47,467.00	\$ 506,120.00
Expenses (Actual)	\$ 50,858.86	\$ 495,841.45
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 48,995.00	\$ 492,756.00

## OUR PRESENCE

Average Attendance (includes In-person & Online):

October:	218
Year to date:	227

## 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
December	1	reserved
	8	reserved
	15	
	22	
January	29	
	5	
	12	
	19	
February	26	
	2	
	9	
	16	
	23	

## 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 **Sunday, December 15, at 4:30 p.m.**, for the January 2025 newsletter.

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

## RECENT EVENTS

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SHOPPING TRIP FOR HOLIDAY OF HOPE





**EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK**



**POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE**



**METHODIST COFFEE CLUB**





**PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY**



Recipient of a Prayer Quilt

**VETERANS DAY BINGO**







## 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