



Celebrate Christmas With Us

As we get ready for the Christmas season, we want to remind you of the opportunities you and your family have to join us in worshipping our Savior.

On Sunday, Dec. 6th Les Sonnettes des Joie will hold their annual Handbell Christmas Concert at First United Methodist Church in Houma at 6:00PM.

On Sunday, Dec. 13th, the Children's Christmas program, *The Great Gift Exchange*, will be held at Mulberry at 5:00PM.

On Sunday, December 20th, MBC's Sanctuary Choir will lead in worship with *The Carols of Christmas* during that morning's worship service.

On Christmas Eve our annual Candlelight Worship Service begins at 5:00PM.

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth!

Coming in 2010

Throughout next year, MBC's Children's Ministry will focus on **God's Promises**. A new promise will be highlighted with the children each month. Vacation Bible School and Children's Music Camp will be centered around this topic. It's not just for the children; the church as a whole will be involved in this theme as well. So, get ready to explore **God's Promises** with us!

Free Vision Screening for Children

Representatives from the Louisiana Lions CubSight Program will be at MBC on Tues., Dec. 8 and Wed., Dec. 9 at 9:30AM conducting vision screening on preschoolers, age 1-5. This is a free event, open to anyone who would like to bring in their preschooler for a vision screening. A *signed consent form is required*. Additional information and consent forms are available in the church office. For more details, call 985-876-3204.

Christmas Giving

You can help those in need this Christmas by participating in three different charitable events here at MBC. We hope that you will consider taking part in one or more of these activities.



Bring a new children's book to be given to our friends at Live Oak Baptist Church in Pointe aux Chenes-donations will be taken through Monday, Dec. 7th.



Bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Good Samaritan Food Bank here in Houma-donations will be taken through Thursday, Dec. 11th.



Provide a Christmas experience for a local family in need (contact the church office if you are interested).

A Note from Steve...

I recently received a copy of Rick Warren's book *The Purpose of Christmas*. In it, he describes the miracle of Christmas this way:

If you stop to think about it, it is astounding that the simple, unassuming birth of a peasant baby boy more than two thousand years ago in the Middle East can today cause traffic jams every December in places like New York City, Tokyo, and Rio de Janeiro.

The night Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a small group of poor shepherds were quietly tending their flocks of sheep in a nearby field, looking up at the stars. Nothing seemed any different from a thousand other nights. But what was about to happen would transform not only their lives but billions of other lives as well. The world would never be the same again.

It is amazing to consider the paradox: this revolutionary event occurred in such a simple manner. The Almighty Creator came to earth, yet God came as a tiny baby. Life was changed forever for all of humanity, yet only a handful of humans were even aware initially. The Lord and King was born in a humble manger behind an overcrowded inn.

Today, lights, parties, parades, trips to see Santa, wall-to-wall baked goodies, and other holiday festivities abound. The annual celebration of this miraculous occurrence is a full production. My prayer for my family and for your family this Christmas season is that in addition to enjoying our holiday traditions, we are able to pull away from the festivities and simply reflect on the meaning of Christmas. May we encounter Jesus, our Lord and Savior, in the same humble, simple manner in which he became Immanuel, God with us. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,



Worship and Media

Authenticity: Conforming to reality and therefore worthy of trust, reliance, or belief. Truthfulness of origins, attributions, commitments, sincerity, and intentions.

Relevancy: a measure of how pertinent, connected, or applicable something is.

Engage: To employ the attention and efforts of; to occupy; to engross; to draw on. To come into gear with; as, the teeth of one cogwheel engage those of another, or one part of a clutch engages the other part.

Whether we acknowledge it or not, humans have a deep inner need for God. We fill our lives with just about anything in order to replace His presence. We worship money, cars, sex, relationships, music, etc.; the list goes on forever. We find ourselves attempting to fill our need for Him with other things when what we should be doing is seeking Him.

When you "worship" are you really seeking Him? Is worship part of your lifestyle? Are you intentionally engaging your life with God? Look at Webster's definition of the word "Engage" above. Are you engrossed in His presence? Does He have your attention? Are you in gear with God, moving as one?

Our worship is a lifestyle. It goes far beyond music and leads others to follow Christ. As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, we will be surrounded by family and familiar, warm, seasonal music. Don't let the "season" take attention from Christ. Focus on Him. Take the time to be authentic before God and others. Remember that God's Word is still relevant and that He is at work in our lives today. Engage God at every opportunity.

In Christ,



Children's Ministry

The holidays are upon us! Shopping, baking, decorating, parties, and family traditions are all fun at this time of year, but they can create quite a to-do list. The stress of creating the "perfect" Christmas or finding the "perfect" gift can take away the very joy that Christmas celebrates. There has been only one perfect Christmas, and it took place in a stable in Bethlehem. And there has been only one perfect gift: God's gift to us of our wonderful Savior. My prayer for you is that you will experience true peace in Christ Jesus this Christmas. And if your pie burns, just laugh it off and be thankful for the calories you saved. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Maryje



Awana Adult Challenge-Final Scores

Congrats to everyone that participated!
Your biggest achievement is having the
Word of God in your heart!

First Place: No Pressure-50 Points (Steve Graves, Chris Babb, Mary Dowden, Haley Kraemer)

Second Place: Tie...

The Two-Edged Swords-42 Points (Mike Gray, Hank Babin, Jennifer Bouilly, Amy Clemons)

Thor and Company-42 Points (Justin Dowden, Logan Dowden, Julia Dowden, Chelsea Price)

AAC-Round II-Coming January 2010

Calling all kids!
You are invited...
**Mulberry Children's
Christmas Party**



- Saturday, December 5
9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Pancake breakfast, crafts
and activities, treats, fun,
and birthday cake!
- Bring a new book for our friends in
Pointe Aux Chenes
and/or bring food for
the food bank!



Have fun and experience
the joy of giving!

Deacons to Serve
for December

Ronnie Voigt & Shannon Lewis



Merry Christmas

from The Staff of Mulberry Church

Mulberry Ministry Team

Church members: Ministers-at-large
Steve Graves, Pastor
steve.graves@mulberrychurch.org
Chris Babb, Minister of Music and Media
chris.babb@mulberrychurch.org
Mary Dowden, Children's Minister
mary.dowden@mulberrychurch.org
Charlene Patrick, Children's Day Out Director
charlene.patrick@mulberrychurch.org
Haley Kraemer, Secretary
info@mulberrychurch.org

Mulberry Baptist Church

A Place for Life!
2025 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, Louisiana 70360
(985) 876-3204 Fax (985) 876-3131
www.mulberrychurch.org

The Church Office will be
closed Thursday, **December 24th** (Christmas Eve), Friday, **December 25th** (Christmas Day), and **Friday, January 1st** (New Year's Day)

www.mulberrychurch.org

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November Statistics

Date	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	
	Amount	Sunday School	AM Worship
11-01-09	\$7,934.00	70	175
11-08-09	\$3,831.00	67	117
11-15-09	\$7,542.00	67	122
11-22-09	\$18,757.84	67	123
11-29-09	\$3,776.00	60	140

Budget Goal YTD: \$344,531.52

Budget Receipts YTD: \$287,415.38

There will be a **Business Meeting** on Wednesday, December 9th at 5:30PM and a called **Business Meeting** on Sunday, December 13th during the worship service to vote on the 2010 budget