

# Bethesda Beacon

A publication of Bethesda United Methodist Church

[www.Bethesdaum.com](http://www.Bethesdaum.com)

**December 2018 & January 2019**



“You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why  
Santa Claus is comin' to town  
He's making a list and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice  
Santa Claus is comin' to town  
He sees you when you're sleepin' he knows when you're a wake  
He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake”

If we ever had any doubt, the decorations in the malls, in the parks, in the front yards all will reassure us, Santa is on his way. I personally have no problem with Santa, he has treated me well through the years. He works hard year-round, building toys, then works really hard, one night a year giving out those toys. I assume all his elves are getting paid an appropriate and fair wage and getting overtime pay in December. The old stories about Santa were all about his generosity (he never asks for so much as dime), his fairness (every child, rich or poor, black, white and brown all get toys), and his generally happy demeanor (Ho ho ho and that). There's nothing there that the Baby Jesus would object to...as Tiny Tim said, “God bless us, everyone!”

But of course through the years, people couldn't help adding on to the stories that surround this Christmas role model. That's where I find a troubling trend. For 1500 years, first as Saint Nicholas, then as Father Christmas, Santa Claus delivered toys to children without worry about watching them and deciding who was worthy of his gifts. But then in the 1930's people started messing with a good thing. Now, they said, Santa watched children all year long (a little creepy if you ask me), he decided who was bad and good (who made him judge?), and he kept their names on naughty and nice lists (is my personal information on those lists properly secured?). What gives?

Parents, and people in general, had gotten to the point in society, where good manners and behavior were paramount, where we felt comfortable watching and judging the actions of others, where good things needed to be earned, where gifts came through work not through belief, where we are okay with some people missing out on the joy because they don't meet our expectations. And suddenly Baby Jesus is crying in the manger, because these ideas have no place in Christmas or in any part of Christianity. The celebration of Christmas is based on the fact that Jesus' birth was God's single greatest act of grace (only to be surpassed later by Christ's death and resurrection), and grace is not deserved, it cannot be earned, and it is for everyone.

Does it matter if we tell our kids (and ourselves) that Santa is watching them like a hawk and judging their every action, their every thought? Yes it does, because at Christmas Santa and Baby Jesus are intertwined. And Jesus doesn't observe us, he walks with us. Jesus doesn't judge us, he removes judgement from us. Jesus doesn't withhold gifts, he gives them generously to all who will receive them.

Enjoy a Christmas season free from the worry of coal in your stocking, Jesus came for all mankind. Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation (including Santa Claus), will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And don't even get me started on that elf on a shelf....blech!

God bless us everyone!

Brother David

## Thoughts for December 2018 and January 2019 The Song of Joy

Commercial Christmas begins about mid-October in the USA. Stores move out their usual merchandise to make way for tinsel, toys and other treasures. We rush into the “Christmas spirit” as we buy, decorate and wrap gifts getting ready for Christmas. Then, comes December 26 when many of these treasures go to the trash, some to the thrift store, a small number to storage...and a select few to be actually treasured and used. Does any of it matter?

Perhaps the song writer Meredith Wilson had the right idea in 1951:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas;  
Soon the bells will start  
And the thing that will make them ring is the carol that you sing  
Right within your heart

*What is the carol that will ring in your heart this Christmas?*

In 1862 Thomas Oliphant penned these words:

Fast away the old year passes,  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!  
Sing we joyous all together,  
Heedless of the wind and weather

*How can we sing for joy, regardless of the wind and weather, the trials of life?*


J. G. Holland said in 1888:

There's a song in the air, there's a star in the sky;  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry;  
There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the Earth.

*The carol, the song of joy, is the realization that Jesus is the salvation of the earth.  
That salvation is open to any and all who believe, who will receive Him as Lord and Savior.*

**Pray that many will find the true song of joy this Christmas  
and will carry that joy with them into 2019 and always.**

Diane Wilhelm, Prayer Ministry Coordinator

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEC. NURSERY SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>2nd Cathy Hickman &amp; Wendy Zitttrauer 9th Wanda Evans &amp; Izzy Granat 16th Dencie Edgy &amp; Jana Fox 23rd Vickie Oliver &amp; Nichole Hadden 30th Peggy Kessler &amp; Joyce Wadsworth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy December Anniversary Wishes:</i></p> <p>12/3: David &amp; Gloria Kasabian 30 years 12/6: Charles &amp; Wanda Evans 49 years 12/29: Lee &amp; Carol Morgan 38 years</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy January Anniversary Wishes:</i></p> <p>20th Buddy &amp; Laura Grayson Married 24 years</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SPROUTS Dec. Schedule (K - 5th grade)</p> <p>2nd 4:30pm 9th 4:30pm 16th 4:30pm 23rd No Sprouts 31st No Sprouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JAN. NURSERY SCHEDULE (subject to change)</p> <p>6th Dencie Edgy &amp; Jana Fox 13th Vickie Oliver &amp; Nichole Hadden 20th Peggy Kessler &amp; Joyce Wadsworth 27th Martha Heinen &amp; Jennifer Granat</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SPROUTS Jan. Schedule (K - 5th grade)</p> <p>6th 4:30pm 13th 4:30pm 20th No Sprouts 27th 4:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children's Church Workers</b></p> <p>1st Sunday Tina Keener 2nd Sunday Lyna Morgan 3rd Sunday Lyna Morgan 4th Sunday Vickie Oliver 5th Sunday Kathy Morgan</p>	<p>NO Administrative Council Meeting during December</p> <p>Administrative Council Meeting in January will be on Monday Jan. 28th at 7:00pm</p>

THANK YOU - THANK YOU— A EARLY THANK YOU AS THIS GOES TO PRESS BEFORE THE ACTUAL PARTY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

WE AT BETHESDA HAVE BEEN BLESSED THIS YEAR AND THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR PASSING SO MANY BLESSINGS ON TO THE CHILDREN IN THE DFACS SYSTEM. YOU ALWAYS COME THROUGH WITH GIFTS, FOOD, AND DOING YOUR PART. YOU PUT LOTS OF SMILES ON FACES, AND YOU GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THOSE IN NEED. PLEASE JUST KNOW THAT WHATEVER PART YOU HAD IN MAKING THIS SUCCESSFUL IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. MANY BLESSING TO EVERYONE NOW AND IN THE COMING YEAR.

GOD BLESS!



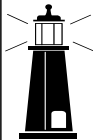
Sunday,  
Dec. 16th  
Kid's Christmas  
Party and Lunch  
at 11:15am



(NO Sprouts today)

## FEB. 2019 Newsletter

**Deadline is 1/15/19**



Please turn in all announcements, articles, or other information turned in by this date.

Thank you!!

Jan. 17th @ 11:30am  
Senior Adult Ministry  
Gathering  
in the Social Hall



**6:00pm**

1st Sunday of Advent - Hope  
2nd Sunday of Advent - Joy  
3rd Sunday of Advent - Love  
4th Sunday of Advent - Peace

## Prayer list:

Our Pastor

All Ministries at  
Bethesda UMC

Military

Leaders of America

Jack Adams

Carolyn Bannister  
Samantha Billeiter

Woody Brewster

Diana Cato

Justin Cox

Irma Davis

Lula Dixon

Monte Dixon

Jason Duboise

Kem & Linda Dugger

Harry & Reba Edwards

Emmory Ely

Ethan Ferguson

Tony Hickman

Betty Hinely

LouDean Hinely

Ashley Helme

Pam Jernigan

TJ Kessler

Mike Lance

Samantha LeNeave

Jake Long

Kevin McDaniel

Clayton Morgan

Scott Morgan

Caroline Morton

Janice Nease

Royce Nease

Eileen Olsen

Allen Perry

Tammy Saxon

Connie Shuman

Alice Smith

Stan Standefer

Irene Stanford

Bobby Wadsworth

Joyce Wadsworth

Judy & Dale Wolfe

Alma Zettler

Bernard L. Zipperer

Dwight Zipperer

George Zittrauer

If you have someone you want to add or remove from the prayer list please send me an email, call the office or leave a note on my desk.

Thank you,  
Linda

### Happy December Birthday Wishes

4th Harry Edwards  
6th Isabella Smith  
7th Madison Jenkins  
8th Wanda Evans  
8th Stephen Dickerson  
8th Aralyn Zittrauer  
8th Derrick Jenkins  
12th Greg Stephens  
12th Cole Schoonover  
16th Anita Kessler  
16th Judy Davis  
17th Melanie McCall  
18th Isabella Mensing  
19th Levi Zittrauer  
20th Randy Freeman  
20th Ray Kessler  
20th Carol Page  
21st Royce Nease  
23rd Britni Cress  
24th Hannah Jenkins  
25th Jesus  
29th Teresa Pierce

### Happy January Birthday Wishes

6th J.B. Wilhelm  
7th Marie Johnson  
8th Lula Dixon  
9th Sarah Grayson  
11th Jim Wilhelm  
11th Tara Shaufelberger  
15th Janice Nease  
15th Geraldine Jenkins  
17th Sean Morgan  
19th Weston Kessler  
23rd Courtney Granat  
23rd Marla Raffield  
24th Ricky Stringer  
24th Wyatt Bush  
27th Tammy Saxon  
30th Gavin Clements  
30th Linda Collins  
31st Thomas Granat

### Planning Day 2019! January 13th 11:30 a.m.

Our administrative board and our ministry committees will be getting together for an afternoon of planning on Sunday, January 13th. Each committee will be asked to set goals for the coming year and add their ministries to the church's master calendar. This will also be a time for our new leaders to find out more about their area of ministry. Lunch will be provided. Mark your calendar now and set aside this very important time of working together for God.

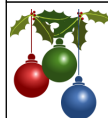
*United Methodist Women Hope Landry Circle will celebrate Christmas with a Brunch on Saturday, December 15th. We will meet at the Church at 9:30a.m. and all ride together in the church van to a surprise location where we will enjoy great food and wonderful company. Please bring your appetites and a miscellaneous gift for a fun gift exchange (no more than \$10.00). A great way to end the year.*



First meeting of 2019 will be  
**Tuesday, January 22.**

Questions:

Call Martha-Jean Heinen @ (912)713-2630.



Adult Sunday School Class  
Christmas Party  
Saturday, Dec. 8th at 6:00pm  
The Mueller's



**Bethesda United Methodist Church**

3608 Midland Rd.  
Guyton, GA 31312



**Developing Totally Committed Christians**  
by worshipping,  
winning,  
fellowshipping,  
disciplining  
and serving

Non-Profit Organization  
Permit #12  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Rincon, Georgia 31326

**Bethesda UMC Youth**  
We invite all youth (grades 6 - 12)  
to join us for the following  
**DECEMBER 2018**



Saturday, December 1	Paint and Possibilities Rincon (meet at Bethesda-time TBA-bring \$ for Project you pick---\$5.00-\$30.00)
Sunday, December 2	Worship/lunch/PHP Christmas - bring \$ for lunch and ice cream
Wednesday, December 5	Bible study 6:30-7:30pm
Sunday, December 9	UMYF-Decorate cookies/movie 4:30-6:30pm
Wednesday, December 12	Bible study 6:30-7:30pm
Saturday, December 15	Youth Christmas Party/Ugly Sweater Exchange (meet at Bethesda at 5pm - pick up at Saxons 10pm)
Sunday, December 16	UMYF-Coastal Botanical Lights (meet at Bethesda at 5pm-bring \$10 admission + snacks)
Wednesday, December 19	Bible study/PHP bags 6:30-7:30pm
Sunday, December 23	No UMYF
Tuesday, December 25	Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, December 26	No Bible study
Sunday, December 30	UMYF-Ice skating-TBA

**January 2019**

<i>Wednesday, January 2</i>	<i>No Bible study</i>
<i>Saturday, January 5</i>	<i>Youth leadership meeting 5pm</i>
<i>Sunday, January 6</i>	<i>UMYF-Youth/Young adult commando 4:30-6pm</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 9</i>	<i>Bible study 6:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Sunday, January 13</i>	<i>UMYF-Pizza/Games with Guyton/Mizpah 4:30-6pm</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 16</i>	<i>Bible study 6:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Sunday, January 20</i>	<i>Worship/lunch/PHP (bring \$ for lunch/ice cream)</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 23</i>	<i>Bible study/PHP bags 6:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Sunday, January 27</i>	<i>UMYF-Outdoor movie/firepit TBA</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 30</i>	<i>Bible study 6:30-7:30pm</i>

**“May the Lord bless you and keep you!”**

Questions?? Tammy Saxon / Jennifer Granat