

THE GOOD NEWS

A Publication of Hermitage United Methodist Church
Mission of the Church: "To glorify God and make disciples of Jesus Christ"

"Hooray for Baby Jesus" and "The Great Christmas Giveaway" A NIGHT OF JOY

The Sanctuary was filled (standing room only) as our children shared the message of Christmas on Sunday evening, December 11. Our 3's, 4's and Kindergarten filled the platform area and sang their hearts out to Jesus! Following their presentation, the children and middle schoolers presented an awesome message through their musical. It IS better to give than receive and they reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. May we be ever mindful as we celebrate!

Many, many thanks to all who participated! It is wonderful to have such willing people who give of their time and talent. The children will hopefully keep this message in their hearts forever. May the joy and serenity of that first Christmas be yours today and always!

Merry Christmas
From Your
HUMC
Staff!!!



**Coffee with Pastor Allen
& Pastor Chris
Sundays in the Gym
9:20 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

*Take a moment to say "hi" to our
pastors in between the first and
second worship services.*

One Worship Service

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 25

&

Sunday, January 1

Sunday School Classes Will Not Meet

**Are you interested in serving on the HUMC
Puppet Team? If you are in the 4th grade
or older, please contact Toni Beard at
754-8125 or TBeard8146@aol.com.**

**Reminder: For 2011 contribution
credit, your gift must be received in
the church office by Friday, December
30 or postmarked by December 31.**

**Also, it's not too late to return your
blue pledge card for 2012!**

H.E.L.P.

Hermitage English Learning Program

This program has been a great success with 19 students participating the first time it was offered!!! Not only has a difference been made in the lives of the students, but our HUMC member's lives have also been positively impacted.

Want to make a difference? H.E.L.P. will resume in mid-January. For information on how you can "help," contact Mary Humber at 975-4215 or mrandmrshumber@yahoo.com.

**"Guess Who's Coming to Breakfast?"
A HUGE SUCCESS**

We had an awesome time together last Saturday at our first annual "Guess Who's Coming to Breakfast?" sponsored by our Children's Ministries and HUM School. Lots and lots of pancakes and bacon were eaten and loads of wonderful fellowship and activities for the children!

We were extremely happy that we had nine of our H.E.L.P. families (Hermitage English Learning Program) come and join us! What a great time with church and community!

A special thanks to ALL who took a leadership position to make all this possible. ALL our food was donated. We give thanks to:

Houston's Meats - Bacon
Cracker Barrel - Pancake Mix
IHOP - Syrup
Kroger (Old Hickory) - Orange Juice
Our own Agape Sunday School Class - Milk

Fred and Esther French took on the task of getting all these items donated.....we love you dearly! Sue and Jerry Crosslin headed up the pancake flipping team, along with Jim Harding, Greg Sugg, and Walt Vandergrift. And how about those SPARC elves? Weren't they incredible? Our puppet team did an outstanding job (7 shows and tired arms) but each presentation was filled with energy!

We are pleased to tell you that we made \$1,545.00 that will go towards purchasing new children's chairs for the Kirby and South Wing classrooms! Thanks for your support and love for our children!

**Children to Sing on December 18th
Christmas Celebration Evening**

The children will share "Joy, Joy, Joy" from "The Great Christmas Giveaway" for our Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. Our SPARC Choir (grades 5 and 6) will share "Sing with the Angels" on Dec. 18th.

**WE WILL BE GOING CAROLING FOLLOWING
THE PROGRAM WITH OUR YOUTHhow fun!!**
If you are going caroling, please email Mrs. Rita at rita@humc.org or call 883-3918 ext. 107 and leave a message. We need drivers, too!

Record of Faithfulness

“I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.”

Hospitalized
(As of December 12)
Debby Payne

In Our Prayers

- Wilda Street & family, on the death of her mother
- Evelyn Tade & family, on the death of her husband, David

Our Gifts: 12/04/11

Budget\$38,528.81
Debt Elimination..... 4,605.00
Other Designated Gifts.... 1,104.00
Total\$44,237.81

Our Gifts: 12/11/11

Budget\$22,513.00
Debt Elimination.....920.00
Other Designated Gifts.....608.00
Total\$24,041.00

Our Presence:

	12/04/11	12/11/11
8:15 a.m.	385	389
9:45 a.m.	156	136
11:00 a.m.	241	243
Total	782	768

Blue Christmas Wednesday, December 21 Sanctuary 6:30 p.m.

A Service of Remembrance, Comfort and Hope

Many people are hurting and the holidays are a difficult time instead of merry. If you have lost a loved one, or experienced divorce, job loss or other difficulties which make Christmas a challenge, we invite you to come. Invite someone you know to come. Stephen Ministers will be present.



What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?

Beginning on Sunday, January 8, 2012, the members of the Agape Class (meets in Room 307 at the Fellowship Building) will embark on an exciting journey. The members will read and discuss an engaging new book about mainline and moderate Christianity titled *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?* The author is Rev. Dr. Martin Thielen, Senior Pastor of Brentwood United Methodist Church. Dr. Thielen authored other books, primarily on worship.

During this unique study we'll discuss several things Christians don't need to believe. For example, we don't need to believe that good Christians don't doubt or that it's OK for Christians to be judgmental and obnoxious. However, we'll spend most of our time studying what Christians do need to believe. In short, Christians need to believe in Jesus—his life, teachings, example, death, and resurrection. A great benefit of these beliefs is that they provide promising answers to life's most profound questions, including, what matters most? Am I accepted? Where is God? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? And is there hope?

Members of Hermitage United Methodist Church currently not participating in the life of a Sunday school class are cordially invited to join the members of the Agape class in this most thought-provoking study. A study book is gladly made available for a nominal fee. The study will be led by Rev. Norman Weber.

UPCOMING EVENTS at HUMC

HUMC Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Crackers
- Target Bags

December 18	Christmas Celebration with Music
December 21	Blue Christmas - Helping Hurting People Cope with the Holidays
December 24	Christmas Eve Services - 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm
December 25	One Worship Service at 10:00 am
December 26-27	Church Office Closed
January 1	One Worship Service at 10:00 am
January 2	Church Office Closed

Pastor Allen read this message from Max Lucado at the conclusion of his sermon on Sunday, December 11.

O infant-God. Heaven's fairest child. Conceived by the union of divine grace with our disgrace. Sleep well. Sleep well. Bask in the coolness of this night bright with diamonds. Sleep well, for the heat of anger simmers nearby. Enjoy the silence of the crib, for the noise of confusion rumbles in your future. Savor the sweet safety of my arms, for a day is soon coming when I cannot protect you. Rest well, tiny hands. For though you belong to a king, you will touch no satin, own no gold. You will grasp no pen, guide no brush. No, your tiny hands are reserved for works more precious:

To touch a leper's open wound, to wipe a widow's weary tear, to claw the ground of Gethsemane.

Your hands, so tiny, so tender, so white—clutched tonight in an infant's fist. They aren't destined to hold a scepter nor wave from a palace balcony. They are reserved instead for a Roman spike that will staple them to a Roman cross. Sleep deeply, tiny eyes. Sleep while you can. For soon the blurriness will clear and you will see the mess we have made of your world. O eyes that will see hell's darkest pit and witness her ugly prince ... sleep, please sleep; sleep while you can. Lay still, tiny mouth. Lay still mouth from which eternity will speak. Tiny tongue that will soon summon the dead, that will define grace, that will silence our foolishness. Rosebud lips—upon which ride a starborn kiss of forgiveness to those who believe you, and of death to those who deny you—lay still. And tiny feet cupped in the palm of my hand, rest. For many difficult steps lie ahead for you. Rest, tiny feet. Rest today so that tomorrow you might walk with power. Rest. For millions will follow in your steps. And little heart ... holy heart ... pumping the blood of life through the universe: How many times will we break you?

You'll be torn by the thorns of our accusations. You'll be ravaged by the cancer of our sin. You'll be crushed under the weight of your own sorrow. And you'll be pierced by the spear of our rejection. Yet in that piercing, in that ultimate ripping of muscle and membrane, in that final rush of blood and water, you will find rest. Your hands will be freed, your eyes will see justice, your lips will smile, and your feet will carry you home. And there you'll rest again—this time in the embrace of your Father.

(615) 883-3918 ~ The Good News Editor: humc@comcast.net ~ www.humc.org

Don't miss the Christmas Celebration on December 18! Come to the kid-friendly Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided for ages 3 and under.

Seek the
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011
4:00 PM

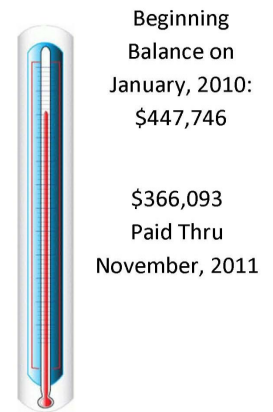
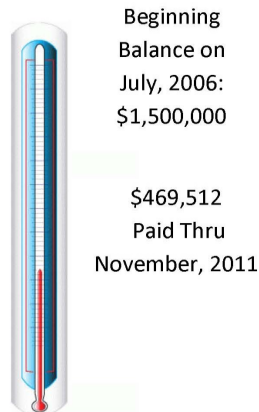
Nursery Provided

CELEBRATION CHOIR	CHANCEL CHOIR
CARILLION HANDBELLS	SPARC CHIMES
SPARC CHOIR	CROSSFIRE CHOIR
CROSSFIRE HANDBELLS	A FEW SURPRISES!

**Hermitage United Methodist Church
Indebtedness**

Permanent Fixed Loan
(Budget)
Started: July, 2006
Matures on July, 2021

Line of Credit
(Debt Elimination)
Started: January, 2010



Outstanding Balance:
\$1,030,488

Outstanding Balance:
\$81,653