



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
United Methodist Church

A Newsletter from St. Stephen's  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

# The Weekly Messenger

December 4, 2011

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

4th Annual St. Stephen's UMC Presents

## A Interactive CHRISTMAS STORY™ Event!

Bring your favorite movie snack to share, dress as your favorite character, get out your pink bunny jammies, bring your Red Rider BB gun, and help us act out the funniest scenes with Ralphie and the whole gang. This will be a hilarious night of Christmas fun, for all ages, don't miss it.

**Sunday  
Dec. 18th,  
5:00-7:30  
PM  
Children's  
Worship  
Center**

Join us as we watch this Christmas Classic interactively with a fun, family-participation twist!

### ON THE CALENDAR



**Solid Grounds  
Coffeehouse**  
Saturdays at 6:30  
Free Coffee - Live Music

**Saturday, Dec 10**

**6:00—8:30 pm**

*Night in Bethlehem*

Step back in time and relive that miraculous night – the night when Jesus was born. Explore the busy marketplace. Meet Roman soldiers, census takers, townspeople, shopkeepers, and beggars on the street. An unforgettable hands-on experience!

**TODAY! 12:15 pm**

*Old-Fashioned Methodist Potluck  
Fellowship Hall*

If you can stay to help set up for Night in Bethlehem immediately after the potluck, we would be so grateful!

**TODAY! 8-12 pm**

*Blood Drive*

**In the Bloodmobile**

**Friday and Saturday,  
December 9-10**

**from 6-8:30 pm**

*Night in Bethlehem*

**Sunday, December 18  
from 5-7:30 pm**

*Interactive "A Christmas Story"  
Children's Worship Center*



**Upcoming**

**SUNDAY  
MESSAGE**

### DECEMBER 11 MESSAGE: PASTOR TODD

*"Journey to Bethlehem: Mary's Visit to Elizabeth"*

When Mary visits Elizabeth, we witness an amazing amount of perseverance on Mary's part. In addition, Elizabeth provides Mary with comfort, wisdom, and constant encouragement. Through Elizabeth's example and words, we are all offered a call to serve those in need. How might we be used to offer those same gifts locally and abroad?



**Friday,  
December 9  
and  
Saturday,  
December 10**

**6:00-8:30 pm**

This is a great opportunity to personally invite friends, neighbors and coworkers to join you as you experience *A Night In Bethlehem!* And, it's not too late to donate needed supplies or to volunteer! For more information, please see the Welcome Station (or just contact a staff member).

**Celebration Sunday:** December 11 — Two services at 9 and 11 am.

## Christmas Services SCHEDULE

**December 24—Christmas Eve  
"the manger"**

4:00 pm: Family Service  
6:00 pm: Solid Grounds Service  
8:00 pm: Traditional  
11:00 pm: Communion (Pastor Reuben)

After all the talk and preparation, at some point we are called to action. Often times, we don't feel ready or adequate to the task. Mary and Joseph surely felt the same way! And I'm sure that they revisited those same feelings throughout the rest of their lives! After all of the prayer, learning, and anticipation, we too need to put our faith into action. But we also need to realize that this will be an ongoing venture in our "journey"!

One service at 10 am  
**December 25  
Christmas day**



## YOUTH NEWS & CALENDAR

**As Christmas is fast approaching, I wanted to let you know about several youth activities in the coming weeks:**

December 9-10 from 6-8:30 pm – A Night In Bethlehem

December 10 from 1-4 pm — Youth Service Project at Harwood UMC's Free Christmas Store

December 11 from 5-7 pm — Youth Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange

December 18 from 3:30-4:30 pm — Sing Christmas Carols at Elmcroft  
5-7:30 pm — Watch "A Christmas Story" movie interactively  
8:00 pm- 8:00 am — The Youth Lock-In

December 25: NO Youth Group, Merry Christmas!

January 1, 2012: NO Youth Group, Happy New Year!

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Roach at mroach@ssumc.com.



**SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 31  
6:00-10:00 pm**

**Solid Grounds  
Coffeeshouse New Year's  
Eve Party!**

*Dance to the music of  
Los Radiators!  
Appetizer and dessert buffet,  
door prizes,  
family-friendly!*



**Check it out!** The new chairs for the Lower Worship Center have arrived! They look great with the new tables and expand our seating capacity. Over \$5,000 was donated by patrons of Solid Grounds Coffeeshouse to purchase the tables and chairs. Also, thanks to Chris Lewis and Chuck Beery for the new "bar." Come down and take a look!



**SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 1**

**Special Wesleyan  
Covenant Service  
Two services at 9 and 11 am**

## DISCIPLE IS COMING ... COME AND SEE!

**Another key element when studying "Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" are the Marks of Discipleship.** In the first week of the study, it is as follows: "Disciples of Jesus Christ place themselves under the power and authority of Scripture." Scripture is an important part of discipleship. It provides a colorful picture of our heritage, challenges us to be in constant communication with the Holy Trinity, and provides examples of our Savior's actions.

**COME AND SEE.....**

We will be holding a preview for this class (whether online or off) at St. Stephen's sometime in the month of January. Please contact Shelly Boeglin for further information.: 293-9673 x106.