

# THE SPIRE

BELLE MEADE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 22, 2013



BY ERIN SEAY

Each night at bedtime, my kids and I share a family devotional. We talk about things we can do to know God. One of those things is to read God's story. Last night, the first scripture was Psalm 19:14

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."*

As soon as the words came out of my mouth, Lucy gasped and said "That's Pastor Tom's Psalm!" (Then Spencer giggled because that rhymes.)

If you have witnessed our senior pastor deliver a sermon you will recognize the Psalm as the prayer he offers before the preaching begins. I have always loved this Psalm. It's a good reminder for me, especially when I'm feeling a little grumpy and beat down by life and my words and thoughts might not be so nice.

Psalm 19:14 helps me remember that this life is not all about me. It's about God. How can I be the servant God calls me to be? It seems the natural place to start is with my words and the meditations of my heart. If those two things aren't right with God, then nothing else will be.

Next we read Matthew 22:37-40 which also happens to be one of my very favorites.

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.*

*And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

I go to this scripture almost daily. To me, this is it. The most important commandment. The biggest idea. Everything else that the Bible teaches about how you should live comes back to this and it's really pretty simple. The most important thing you could ever do is to love God. If you aren't sure how to love God, maybe the best place to start is by loving the people God loves. God loves you. God loves others. It's like Jesus summed up everything you need to know by saying, *It's about three relationships: God. You. Others.*

Or if you want to simplify it even more, it's about one idea:

LOVE

Love God.

Love yourself the way God loves you.

Love others the way God loves them.

We are living out our story as we learn to love each other the way that God loves. On your adventure to know God, this is a good place to start.

## Congratulations to the Class of 2013

Last Sunday we celebrated our graduating high school seniors at a luncheon. Parents gave 'parent blessings' which included what they appreciate about their child, a message of well wishes and an important scripture. It was a wonderful show of support from immediate families and the church family for our students. Continue to pray for them as they begin a new chapter in their life.



Left to right: Leah Stubblefield, Sam Stubblefield, Aaron Stubblefield, Vincent Schipani, Thomas Gilchrist, Gerald Chigumira, and Colin Harney.

## Book and Puzzle Drive

Do you have gently used or new children's books and puzzles taking up space at home? Bring them to church! The children's ministry is currently collecting both new and gently used books and puzzles for children in need. A collection box is located outside the children's ministry office.

## Farmers Market

Johnny Howell Farms is again selling produce in the church parking lot. The stand will be available on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Ten percent of all sales will be donated to church ministries. Look for the tables and truck on the Davidson Road side of the church.

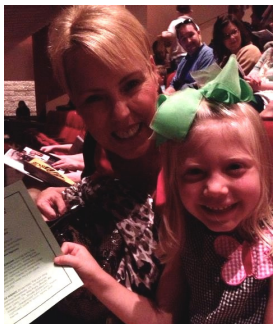


## Share the Love Choir Tour Prepares for a Great Week

Youth and adults who will be a part of this summer's choir tour are looking forward to a great week of giving love and inspiration to people in Chattanooga, Atlanta and Asheville. The power of music and the power of sitting down and talking with someone is what choir tour is all about - it is simply a "glass of cold water" to folks who are, in many cases, starving for inspiration and connection. We will sing for people at the following places: Eastridge Senior Residence in Chattanooga, the Frazier Center for Special Needs and Wesley Woods Retirement Center in Atlanta, Highland Farms Retirement Center and Camp Sunshine for special needs children in Black Mountain, NC, the Union Mission and Barton House in Nashville.

Choir tour is a unique week of fellowship and expanding our horizons, so the participants will also experience an Atlanta Braves baseball game, the Georgia Aquarium and the Coke Museum in Atlanta, and Sliding Rock in the Pisgah National Forest.

Each day includes a time of prayer, sharing and worship. Tour week is a unique experience, and your prayers for the youth and adults who will be a part of this trip will be appreciated. Many thanks to the Belle Meade Church family whose gifts through the "Share the Love" auction help make this ministry possible.



Joanie Clark and granddaughter Mackenzie

## The Lion King

The children's ministry took a trip to TPAC Saturday, May 11 to see the Broadway production of **The Lion King**. It was fun to see both kids and adults light up with amazement at the costumes and props. It was a great show!



Artwork by Amani D. Smith

## First Fruits Reminder

Kids!  
Remember to bring your banks with the money you have collected to church on *First Fruits* Sunday, June 2.

## Wednesday Night Together Schedule

Pot Luck Supper - May 29

May 29 is the last regular Wednesday Night Together of the year. We'll have a potluck supper together. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. The church will provide the meat and drinks. This will be the last night of regular programming as well. Our fall Wednesday Nights Together begins August 14.

Pot Luck Supper - June 12

Pot Luck Supper July 10

## Anna Carro To Serve As Summer Intern

Anna Carro, a member of Belle Meade UMC and student at the University of South Carolina, will serve as summer intern in the youth, children and music ministries. Anna will be a part of the "Share the Love" choir mission tour and the mission trips to Virginia and Guatemala. She will also help lead Vacation Bible School and the "How Great Thou ART and Music Camp." Anna will also assist in directing the choir, and gain experience in all aspects of various ministries of our church. We are excited to welcome Anna to this role as summer intern.

## Vacation Bible School

July 8 - 12, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Day camp for ages 3 years (potty-trained) to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. To register, contact Erin Seay at 352-6210 or [erin@bellemeadeumc.org](mailto:erin@bellemeadeumc.org).

## How Great Thou ART and Music Camp 2013

July 22 - 26, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

For children rising 3<sup>rd</sup> - rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade

To Register: [mark@bellemeadeumc.org](mailto:mark@bellemeadeumc.org) 352-6210  
or [carrieduborg@gmail.com](mailto:carrieduborg@gmail.com) 289-2343

## Young Adult Summer Study:

### *"The Least of These"*

Join the Young Adults this summer as we look at some of the little-known women and men of the Old Testament. From courageous midwives to passionate prophets, we will explore the stories of some of the Bible's ordinary and not-so-ordinary characters. We meet at 9:15 AM every Sunday morning upstairs in Room 213.

## Memorial Gifts

Gifts was made to the church in memory of T. Earl and Norma Hinton by Kem and Marilyn Hinton and in memory of Joe Lena Collins by Joan Conner.

## In Honor

A gift was made to the church in honor of James and Grayce Mabry by Kem and Marilyn Hinton.

# Prayer Concerns

The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues.

You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the e-mail newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail please contact the church office at 352-6210 or sign up at the church website, [www.bellemeadeumc.org](http://www.bellemeadeumc.org), under the newsletter and events page.

Congratulations to  
J.P. Barfield and Jennifer Mullen  
upon their marriage.

## Church Offices Closed on Monday

The church's offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. We will re-open at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.



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### WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

#### 8:30 AM - Worship in the Chapel

Sermon: Kristin Clark-Banks  
Music by BMUMC acoustic ensemble

#### 8:45 AM - Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

A 15-minute time of communion with prayers and liturgy.

#### 10:30 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary

Sermon: Kristin Clark-Banks  
Music: Belle Meade Choir and Instrumentalists

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School for all ages