

We hope you enjoyed our Christmas Handbell music. The Youth/Adult choir played "O Come, All Ye Faithful" which was one of the hardest pieces we've ever played and they did an excellent job playing it on the 14th. The children did very well during the Chrismon Service playing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Now that Christmas is over the handbell choirs will be busy preparing for the Spring Festivals. The Young Ringers Festival for the children will be at Fairhope Baptist Church on February 28th and the Youth/Adult Festival will be at Bay Minette on March 13-14.

Springtime is also a time of bell maintenance. Tightening screws, changing out clapper heads and polishing all the bells. This is not one of our favorite pastimes, but when we have a polishing party, it actually becomes fun! Just one of those things you have to do.

There are not as many bell programs in the churches as there were a few years ago. We are one of the few churches that has a Children's Bell Choir. Thank you for your support toward our Handbell Choirs. Who knows? One of these children or young people that are playing now may just be a church musician or music director in the future.

Janean



## Looking Ahead to the New Year

As 2009 begins, it's also time for us to look ahead to another "new" year, of sorts - the new Kingswood Creative Learning Center school year for twos through fours that will begin in September. (This will be our twenty-first "new" year!) We're now busy preparing for our registration for our '09 - '10 school year. Registration will open on Tuesday, January 13, for Kingswood families. (This includes KUMC grandchildren!) Registration will open to the community on Tuesday, January 20. Please call Angie McLaney at 666-9644 for more information.

As our community and country enter this new year of economic uncertainty and political change, it's good to know that our church still offers a small, nurturing preschool environment for our little ones - one still dedicated to their educational and spiritual growth. Please help us spread this good news!

Thank you to everyone who helped with items for Mulherin Home in December. Because they have constant needs, we have decided to help them by doing a "Mulherin Need of the Month". January we will start with CLOROX BLEACH. They request the Clorox brand because it cleans better without leaving the towels, sheets, etc. with a yellow tinge. If you can help with this need, please bring this item to the church anytime during the month of January. Please double or triple bag it in case of leaks, we wouldn't want to bleach the carpet in the Sanctuary!!!! A little peek ahead—February will be TP! Thanks Bunches!

*Debbie Jordan*

### TRUSTEES TRIALS & TRIUMPHS

We're gearing up for a new year, stay tuned...

### FINANCE CORNER

Well, for the first time in a long time, the New Year's budget was approved before the New Year! I must say that 2008 was another blessed year for Kingswood. There have been many projects accomplished by the Trustees, and as we have done for several years now, we paid 100% of our apportionments. God has been so good to us as we have sought His will in the many different ministries of our church. We have met all of our financial commitments including making the final payment on the parsonage mortgage. Even with a huge increase in insurance premiums we have remained financially strong.

There is no doubt in my mind that the reason for the financial strength of our church is a direct result of the fact that we have a praying church family who seeks God's guidance as to what He would have us do with His money. I know that even in the midst of the financial problems that our nation is experiencing, when God's people seek His will and step out in faith, He will bless the ministries of His church and His people.

Each and every one of us as the Body of Christ has an important job in the ministries of the church. One of course is our prayers, but it goes way beyond just that; because God wants us to be active and participate personally in the ministries. We do this by the gifts and tithes we bring to Him, but it also includes our physical presence as an active participant. I pray that in this New Year, we will all be active wherever God can use us. While we may be seeking God for that one special area that we are called to be a part of, there are plenty of "No Experience Required" jobs in the church. If you are not sure what the list looks like, just call Audrey and I guarantee you there is something for everyone. Please come and be a part of the exciting ministries Kingswood has to offer. You will bless someone, but I promise you, YOU will be blessed. May God continue to bless this His Church at Kingswood.

Yours in Christ,  
Pete Prescott, Finance Chair



We hear a lot about the value of being open to change as we come to the end of The Year of Our Lord 2008, and look forward to a refreshingly different 2009. Not that this passing year has been totally negative. We have been alive to share the time as a congregation, and best of all: God has been with us sustaining us through all possible losses or gains. God's love has kept you and me here at Kingswood and alive for a purpose. I believe a key to that purpose can be found in the classical prayer composed by St. John Chrysostom way back in the Fourth Century. It lays out a Divine long range plan for change, both for 2009 and well thereafter.

"Blessed God...who makes all things and renews them; those who were captive yesterday are today free persons and citizens of the Church. Those who were formerly in the shame of sin now have boldness and righteousness. They are not only free, but saints; not only saints, but just; not only just, but sons; not only sons, but heirs; not only heirs, but brothers

of Christ; not only brothers of Christ, but his co-heirs; not only his co-heirs, but his members; not only his members, but his temples; not only temples, but instruments of the Holy Spirit."

What an opportunity for change and growth in 2009: to be instruments of the Spirit not only as individuals but also as a church. Happy New Year, and may John Chrysostom's prayer come true for us.

Pastor Joe



Wednesday night activities resume the regular schedule on January 7.

Pastor Joe will also continue his regular Wednesday night study. Both classes meet from 6:15 until 7:00.

The Study of Malachi is a new topic for Wednesday Night Bible Study. Sherryl Givens will once again lead the discussion beginning Wednesday night, January 21. God appeals to the people of Israel to understand that their lack of blessings is not due to His lack of concern, but due to their disobedience of the covenant law. This study is a great follow up to our study last fall, "Old Testament, 101".

*All Over but the Shoutin'*, by Rick Bragg, is the next choice for book discussion. Rick Bragg is from Alabama, and this book is based on stories his daddy told when Rick was growing up. We will probably all be able to recognize characters or characteristics of our own family stories and family members. The discussion will be at the end of January or first of February. Watch your bulletin for more details.

#### YOUTH NEWS FROM MISS MARTI

2009! Wow...I can hardly believe another year has come and gone. As we begin this new year, I look forward to all that is in store for us. Join me in praying that it is the best year ever for the KUMC Youth Group. I extend this challenge to each of you: ask yourself what YOU can do to improve our group. Here are some ideas to get you going, but don't limit yourself to these:

- ❖ Participate in Sunday School
- ❖ Talk to someone that you don't know
- ❖ Talk to someone that you haven't seen in a while
- ❖ Bring a friend to church
- ❖ Come with an expectant, positive attitude
- ❖ Visit youth choir or handbells
- ❖ Join in our Wednesday night program

Study the memory verse for January...it is an especially encouraging verse as we enter a new year. Read your bulletin carefully each Sunday to keep up with what's going on and let's make it a year to remember!

**January Memory Verse:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17

#### JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

January 7  
roast pork tenderloin,  
steamed cabbage, rice,  
blackeyed peas, cornbread

January 14  
spaghetti w/meat sauce,  
salad, garlic bread

January 21  
chicken tenders, (fried & baked),  
macaroni & cheese,  
green beans, rolls

January 28  
barbeque, corn-on-the-cob,  
baked beans, slaw

*dessert, tea and coffee offered at all meals*

Children Under 10 Years of Age  
Papa John's pizza and dessert