



January 2010

# Greater Things

## Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

4809 Bell Hill Road, Bessemer, AL 35022

www.pleasanthillumc.us

# January

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### One Last Gift - by Pastor Alan Head



Christmas is over, and all the gifts are gone from under the tree. It feels a little empty, but there is one more gift to come. The gift of a new year.

As 2010 approaches, I reflect on the joys and disappointments of the year that too quickly passed us by. There was loss, there was triumph, there was sadness, and there was celebration. Then, I start to feel hopeful, because of

this special gift of a new year to come. With newness comes possibility, and with possibility comes hope.

Even though 2009 is behind me and the hope of 2010 lies ahead, I am assured of one thing that never changed and never will. It is the Truth that sustains me, and I pray sustains you: God is with us through it all. Let's pray together...

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows. We praise You for Your unequalled greatness. Thank

You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us. We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You have called us to do. Amen.

Peace

- Wednesday Night Dinners Begin Again January 6th
- New Member Welcome at January 13th Dinner
- Hispanic Ministry Begins Sunday 11:00 a.m. Services
- Servicios en Español Domingos a las 11:00 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study Kick Off - Saturday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

### Kids News

There will be no Wednesday night activities for the children until the Wed. Church suppers begin again January 3rd. There will also be no Sunday night Kid's Club for the children on Dec. 27. We will resume again on Sunday, Jan. 3 with our New Year's Kick-off Party. There will be inflatables, hot dogs, popcorn & lots of fun! It all starts at 5pm and ends at 7pm.



### Consecration Sunday - Report

Thanks to all of you who made our Consecration Sunday Stewardship campaign a huge success. We received over 150 pledges for a total of \$630,345 to be used for both our building debt and ministries budget. In an uncertain economy,



it is a great sign of faith that you continue to give generously with your time, your talents, your gifts and your service. During this campaign, we were challenged to ask God, "What would you have me give?"

Some of us answered that question through the pledge cards, and others felt the response to be more personal, only between themselves and God. As we all continue to faithfully give, we know that Pleasant Hill will continue to grow and reach out more and more to our community. The message of Christ and His faithfulness compels us to share His love and show His grace to this community. Let us continue to ask God "how do you want to use me this year in our job, our relationships, and our church." God bless us as we continue our journey in faith to follow Him and bring His Kingdom to this earth.

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## A New Resolve - Rev. Monica Harbarger



“Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation”

The practice of making New Year’s resolutions goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. It is not as if something mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st, yet it has become the marker in our culture for change.

Common New Year’s resolutions are: to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year’s resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. In addition to these, many Christians make New Year’s resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend

church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year’s resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year’s resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity.

Philippians 4:13 tells us, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” John 15:5 declares, “If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” If God is the center of your New Year’s resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it.

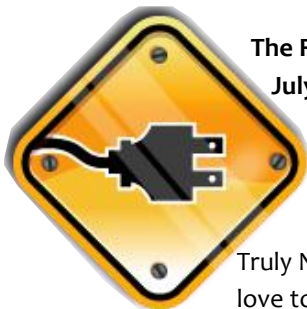
So, with this understanding and our knowledge that we will

make a resolution, how then should we approach it? Here are some suggestions: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God’s strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don’t become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don’t become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6,

Invite God into this process of your life and see how this new beginning gives way to new perspectives, new opportunities, new growth, and a renewed sense of peace. May your 2010 be filled with faith, hope, and love.

Blessings! - Monica

## Looking for a place to “Plug In?” This is it!



The Family Life Committee helps with church wide activities such as New Member Dinners, 4th of July, Trunk or Treat, Tannehill Picnic and others as needed. This is a great way to get involved!

Assist with food preparation  
Assist with serving

Assist with decorations  
Assist with kitchen clean-up

Assist with clean-up in gym

Truly Needed: ( A Margaret Lloyd Clone) Someone who is available during the day who would just love to be in charge of the kitchen for Family Life Events - to plan meals, purchase food and direct cooking. We know you are out there! Be brave and talk to us about helping! Call Dale Gilmore- 938-7772 to volunteer!

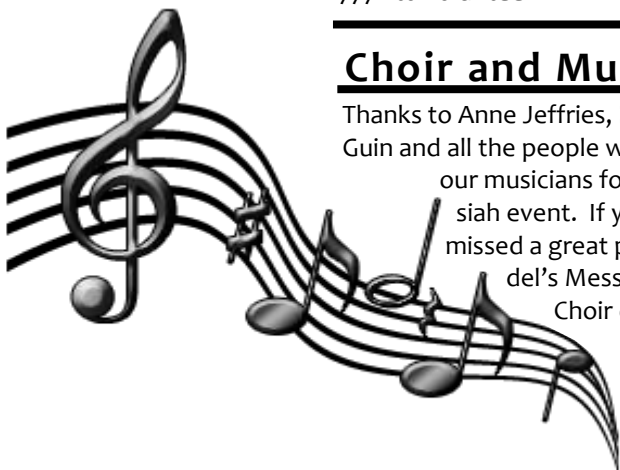
## Choir and Music News

Thanks to Anne Jeffries, Barbara Rigby, Lynette Guin and all the people who sent food to feed our musicians for the “One Day” Messiah event. If you didn’t attend, you missed a great presentation of Handel’s Messiah by the Community Choir of McCalla.

“Chronicles of Suburbia” was fantastic! We have several gifted children that will one day be the voices of the Pleasant Hill Chancel Choir. Keep up the good work, Tonya, Kelli, and all the volunteers that made this program such a success.

Alan Brooks

Also, the Children’s presentation of



## **New Member Dinner 2010—Wednesday, January 13, 6:00 pm**

The first Wednesday Night Dinner of 2010 will be honoring the newest members of our church family who have joined since June of last year. (The list may be incomplete as we expect to add more members before January !) This is a great time to connect a name with a face! Laura Jean will be preparing the meal. (Adults: \$6.00) New members will be our guests.

### **Welcome to our newest members !**

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Glen & Shirley Cooper   | Ronald & Charlotte Handley |
| Scott & Greyson Davis   | Jennie McBride             |
| Charlotte Cobb          | Louise Harris              |
| Carolyn Jolly           | Barbara Penney             |
| Faye Speakman           | Sharon & Tiffany Pardue    |
| Paul & Sandi Mashburn   | Duane & Keri Bush          |
| Bill Veitch             | Steve Jeffries             |
| Mike & Stefany Allison  | Eli and Zac Stanfield      |
| Dave & Linda Holt       | David & Cody Holt          |
| Jonathan & Wendy Baskin | Lindsey Buckner            |
| Janice Roberts          | Charlie Buckland           |



**Dinners for Eight**  
groups will meet together and then reorganize in 2010.

## **Youth News**

This has been a great month for the youth. We have been taking part in much of the church family's Christmas festivities and enjoying every moment. We participated in the Posada Navideña Sunday Dec 20.

Instead of our annual New Years Eve lock-in, we will be taking a day trip to Snow Mountain in Atlanta, Georgia. We will be spending New Years Eve there and the cost

will be \$50 and I need to know if you are planning to go so that I can buy group tickets. Please email me at [MonicaHarbarger@pleasanthillumc.us](mailto:MonicaHarbarger@pleasanthillumc.us) or call the church office.

**Our Red Envelope Fundraiser** was December 13th and we have raised almost \$4000 so far. We will continue to take your donations and there are red envelopes in the gathering area of the sanctu-

ary. Make checks payable to Pleasant Hill UMC and mark them youth. Thanks for your continued support of this ministry.



*“Our Red Envelope Fundraiser was December 13th and we have raised almost \$4000 so far.”*





# Greater Things

## Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

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Our Church Media Library is open every Sunday 9:30-11:30  
Wednesday 10:00 am-1 pm and 5:30 pm—6:00pm.

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### Food Bank—Caring for Our Community

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Our food bank started in May of this year and con-

tinues to grow. Judy Fillebaum has graciously offered to take over the organization of this ministry. We have collected a list of individuals who are interested in helping and we will be contacting

you soon. If you would like to be added to this list, please email Monica: [MonicaHarger@pleasanthillumc.us](mailto:MonicaHarger@pleasanthillumc.us)

or Judy: [JAFillebaum@aol.com](mailto:JAFillebaum@aol.com). Our pick-up dates are changing beginning in January of 2010. The Food Bank will be open the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Please help us in spreading the word.



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### Regularly Weekly Events

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#### Sunday Morning Regular Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship—Old Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship—New Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Children's and Adult Sunday School Classes  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship—New Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Servicio en Español—Old Sanctuary

**Wednesday January 6th is  
our FIRST Wednesday night  
dinner of 2010—  
6:00 p.m. in the FLC.**