

Melbourne Heights Baptist Church
 3728 Taylorsville Rd.
 Louisville, KY 40220



Melbourne Heights Baptist Church is an Accepting, Caring People Sharing Christ

News from Melbourne Heights for January 2016

Upcoming Events

Sun 27	Mon 28	Tue 29	Wed 30	Thu 31	Fri Jan 1	Sat 2
9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 7p Young Adult Study	6:30p Private Event		6:30p Private Event		
3 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	4 1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 7p Young Adult Study	5 10 Sr. Adults 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Private Event	6 6p Bible Study 7p Choir	7 6:30p Private Event	8	9
10 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	11 1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 6:30p Leadership Team 7p Young Adult Study	12 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Private Event	13 6p Bible Study 7p Choir	14 11 Women's Ministry Lunch 6:30p Private Event	15	16 10:15 Empower West Service
17 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	18 1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 7p Young Adult Study	19 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Private Event	20 6p Bible Study 7p Choir	21 6:30p Private Event	22	23
24 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	25 1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 6:30p Deacon's Mtg 7p Young Adult Study	26 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Private Event	27 6p Bible Study 7p Choir	28 8:45 S.E.A.M. 6:30p Private Event	29	30
31 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 6p Quarterly Business Mtg	Feb 1 8:30 Lifeline Screening 1p Art Ministry 4:15p TOPS 7p Young Adult Study	2 10 Sr. Adults 10 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Private Event	3 6p Bible Study 7p Choir	4 6:30p Private Event	5	6 9 Workday

3728 Taylorsville Rd. Louisville, KY 40220 | Phone: (502) 454-4681 | Fax: (502) 454-4842 |
 www.melbourneheights.org | Office Hours: Mon thru Thu 8am—4pm

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From the Pastor

by Adam Schell

As I sat in the sanctuary last Sunday morning, my eyes were drawn to the Advent wreath sitting on our communion table. As the service began I had lit the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the Love candle, and I was amazed to see how tall that flame burned. It actually dwarfed all the other flames by comparison.

It was almost as if God was pointing at that flame, drawing me in, so he could speak to my soul. Because as I looked at the flame on the Love candle, I was reminded how much God loves us all: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

And it's because of this great love that we are able to experience the hope, the peace, and the joy that typify the season of Christmas.

Of course, I also shared all of this last Sunday morning before our choir performed their cantata.

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From the Pastor

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Those are two things that aren't often appreciated in our culture today. Which is what makes a time of Thanksgiving that much more important.

In a culture that has programmed us to always want more, it's important to be grateful for what you have and to realize that what you have is enough. It's why Jesus teaches us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." As people of faith, we know that God will provide what we need for today...and that's all we really need.

So, as the Christmas machine begins ramping up all around you in the coming days and weeks, take time to appreciate what you have, and take time to say "Thank You" to the one who gave it to you.

January's Sermon Series



As January begins, the church is stuck between two seasons. We just celebrated Christmas, but Easter is just around the corner. But the Good News of Jesus Christ is not only found in the stories of Christmas and Easter.

The Good News of Christ is also found in the way he lived, the lessons he taught, the miracles he performed. So what do these stories teach us about who Jesus is?

This is what we'll be exploring together in worship throughout the month of January. We'll be looking at some of the events of Jesus' life that took place between the manger and the cross, we'll be examining his teachings, and we'll take a closer look at some of his miracles.

And together we'll discover how these stories shape who we say that Jesus is.

January's Bible Study



Our faith is a journey, it's not a destination. So everyday of this journey we have the capacity to move closer to God or to move further away.

At Melbourne Heights we want to help you move closer to God throughout this New Year. So our first Bible Study of the New Year will focus on the challenges of the Christian life - things that we're called to do or to become that can sometimes push us away from God.

So join us for this five session study, beginning Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00pm as we work together to make God the center of our lives and examine who God wants us to become.

Also note that regular Sunday night activities will not resume until February. We're taking a longer break in order to avoid some winter weather and to revamp Sunday nights at Melbourne Heights. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

Mission Update: SEAM

Over the course of the last year, we have built a relationship with South East Associated Ministries (or SEAM for short). SEAM provides emergency assistance for individuals and families throughout the 40220 and 40218 zip codes by providing assistance with food, utilities, medication, rents and more.

We began our partnership by collecting more than 400 pounds of food for their food bank, as well as household items (like paper towels) during our annual Lenten offering.

In June, members of our church began regularly volunteering at SEAM. In the months that have followed we have helped distribute food and sort donations.

However, we have found that there is not always enough work to accommodate our large group when we volunteer. So rather than volunteering as one large group each month, we will be dividing into two groups to serve at SEAM in the new year.

One group will volunteer on the second Thursday each month, and the other will volunteer on the fourth Thursday.

By dividing into two groups, we will ensure that everyone has plenty of meaningful work to do and that SEAM continues to benefit from our work.

With all of this in mind, we will be having a meeting for all SEAM volunteers following the morning service on January 10 to divide into our work groups. If you haven't been involved with this mission in the past now is a great time to come and get plugged in.

Looking Ahead



On February 7, a certain sports league will be hosting their annual championship game.

Due to trademark law we're not able to tell you the name of this particular game, but it involves an oblong ball that players throw, catch, and run with while trying to avoid getting tackled.

But even though we can't tell you what the name of the game is, we'll still be watching it together at Melbourne Heights.

We'll meet in the Banquet Hall on February 7 at 6:00pm to watch the big game on our 120" big screen. Even if you're not a sports fan, you can still come and enjoy the commercials. And don't forget to bring along your favorite snack foods for the party.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us as we watch "The Game that cannot be named" together.

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Youth News

by Joe Noland

Christmas Day has come and gone, a New Year is upon us. And our Youth will be celebrating both at our first ever "New Christmas Year" Party on January 3.

So, as the name of the party clearly implies, we'll be celebrating both Christmas and New Year's in one giant event. But beyond that "New Christmas Year" is a reminder that even though Christmas only comes once a year, the attitude and joy we feel during the season is something that should stay with us all year.

So my challenge to our Youth, and the entire church, is to hold on to the meaning and attitude of Christmas all year.

Our party will be at Sherry Talbot's home from 5:00 to 7:00pm on January 3. There will be food, games, and maybe even marshmallow roasting (if the weather permits). All of our youth and their parents are invited to attend.

Spotlight Event



In September of last year, the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship joined with Simons College and several Louisville churches to form "Empower West Louisville," a faith based initiative to promote economic development in Louisville's West End.

Part of the goal of Empower West is to bring

churches together, across racial and denominational lines, to work together to bring about sustainable and transformational development in the West End of our city.

With this in mind, our church has been invited to come together with other believers from across this city for a special time of worship on January 16 at 11:00am at St. Stephen Church (located at 1018 S 15th Street).

Dr. Walter Brueggemann - an ordained minister, professor emeritus at Columbia University, and one of the most influential Old Testament Scholars of today - will be the featured speaker for this service.

Anyone interested in attending this time of worship is invited to meet at Melbourne Heights at 10:15am on January 16 to carpool together.

January's Birthdays



January 4 | Martha Miller
January 10 | Becky Cain
January 10 | Jennifer Cain
January 11 | Dakota Crawford
January 11 | Cathy Thompson
January 12 | Dottie Beals
January 15 | Virginia Spradlin
January 17 | Karen Kinney
January 18 | Jim Tharp
January 20 | Virgie Bloomer
January 24 | Tim Cloud
January 25 | Jake Rieber

Women's Ministry Update



2015 was a great year for our Women's Ministry. We enjoyed plenty of time fellowshiping together, and we also launched a new outreach to the homebound members of our church.

We're looking to hit the ground running in 2016, and build on last year's success. So we're inviting all the Women of Melbourne Heights to join us for lunch on Thursday, January 14 at 11:00am at Buckhead's on Bardstown Road. If you'd like to attend please sign up on the Women's Ministry Board on the Information Kiosk.

After lunch we'll be updating our visitation list to continue to minister to our homebound members.

We look forward to seeing you all on January 14 as we begin another great year together.

Senior Adult News

Our first Senior Adult meeting of the New Year will be Tuesday, January 5. We will meet in Rogers Hall at 10:00am for announcements, and then we'll move into the sanctuary to spend time looking at and discussing our stained glass windows. Come and join us for a review of one of Melbourne Heights in-house "treasures." After our meeting, we'll carpool to

Becky Gardner's home to enjoy her Christmas decorations and other Christmas goodies.

At our February meeting, we will have Bob Mueller join us as our guest speaker. Bob is a familiar face for our Seniors and his programs are always educational and entertaining. So mark your calendar for February 2, and don't forget to invite a friend. Following the meeting we will go to Cattleman's Restaurant for lunch.

All adults age 55 and over are welcome to be a part of our Senior Adult group. We want you to join us, and know that you'll be blessed by our time together. So why not make 2016 the year you'll join our Senior Adults?

Kid's News

by Michelle Cloud



2015 was another great year for our Children's Ministry. Along with our weekly activities—like Sunday School, extended session, and the Children's sermon—we were also able to grow our ministry with our church's preschool.

We held a week of VBS just for Meriday kids. We hosted our annual zoo trip for 104 children and their parents. And we capped it all off with a Birthday Party for Jesus in December.

So thank you to everyone who helped out with our Children's ministry this year. And let's see how God uses us next year!