

This will be the last edition of our newspaper for this year. The offices of *The News* will be closed December 22-25 so that our staff may enjoy the holidays with their families. Our next issue will be January 1.

WEST SIDE NEWS



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Bethlehem Centers to celebrate 114-year history with celebration and open house

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville will host "Come to Bethlehem and See," a special open house celebration and communion service on Sunday, December 21 at 2 p.m.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will celebrate the Bethlehem Centers' 114-year history since its founding by the predecessors of today's United Methodist Women.

The program will run from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at BCN's main campus at 1417 Charlotte Ave. in North Nashville. Organizers expect to welcome 300 to 400 attendees including Mayor Karl Dean.

"We invite everyone in Nashville to come to the Bethlehem Centers and see the positive results of our renewed commitment to ministry," said Phyllis Hildreth, chair of the BCN Board of Directors. "As God provided us with the miracle of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, he continues to perform miracles (today).

"These miracles are changing the lives of the 6,000 people we serve each year, from providing hot meals to tutoring

after-school children and caring for our seniors. We see God's blessings in all the work that we do - giving hope, help and healing to those in need."

The December 21 celebration is the beginning of the Bethlehem Centers' "Come to Bethlehem and See" commitment campaign. The faith-centered campaign seeks to reconnect United Methodists and ambassadors of goodwill with Bethlehem Centers through faith partnerships, volunteering and financial support. This commitment campaign is designed to tell the Bethlehem Centers story in ways that will inform, inspire and invite local religious institutions, church and community groups, and individuals to become involved in the life and work of Bethlehem Centers.

The Sunday event will begin with a celebratory service at 2 p.m., led by United Methodist Church Bishop William Morris and Nashville District Superintendent Rev. John Collett. BCN staff and board members will be on hand to lead tours of the facility, while children will partici-

pate in hands-on activities and be entertained by local gospel choirs.

At 3:30 p.m. Morris and Collett will lead a worship service and celebrate Holy Communion with BCN staff, directors, friends and supporters to signify the Centers' renewed focus on Christian ministry. The celebration will conclude at 5 p.m. with a special Star Child Party, during which BCN staff, board and community members and United Methodist supporters will enjoy music and fellowship together.

"Our Christian mission is clear: to take care of our children, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide hope and help to those in need," said Bethlehem Centers' CEO Joyce Espy Searcy. "It is in the spirit of our mission and commitment to the Nashville community that we are inviting everyone to 'Come to Bethlehem and See.'"

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