

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 17 NO. 4 APRIL, 2009 Serving God 116 Years

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
 10:30 A.M.

**Living Lord's
 Supper Drama**
 April 9, 8 p.m.



Easter Egg Hunt
 April 12, 11:30 a.m.

**What's
 Inside**

Church Calendar.....	2
Financial Report	2
Birth Announcement.....	2
Sympathy Note	2
Children/Youth.....	3, 4
Men's Pancake Breakfast	4
Membership Care	4
Infant Baptism.....	4
Evelyn's Inspiration.....	5
UMW.....	5
Pink Basket Day.....	5
Easter Lilies for Worship	5
Living Lord's Supper Drama	5
New Acolytes	5
Correspondence	6
Preschool Report.....	6
Birthdays, Anniversaries	6

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Easter is fast approaching, which means special music, confirmation, and egg hunts are appearing on the calendar. All these point the church to the promise of resurrection and new life given to us through the Risen Christ.

The current sermon series and the focus on our United Methodist membership vows has come to an end, but I hope that it has given us all a deeper understanding of what it means for us to be Christian in the United Methodist tradition. It also gives the opportunity to think through how we are to live out our faith in the community of Poteau. How do our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness impact our relationships with our neighbors? How do these bring focus to our ministries?

Over these past few weeks, my appreciation for all that this congregation does has been affirmed. There are many effective ministries in which a person can and do participate. Yet, at times it seems as if these ministries are isolated from one another, having little connection. Several members have asked about our purpose and mission beyond just being First United Methodist Church or being followers of Christ in this particular congregation. What is our purpose and mission as a congregation? The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church says that it "is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (BOD 2008, Paragraph 120). What does that mean for us in Poteau, OK?

To help us discern possible answers, I will be facilitating a six week study on mission and purpose beginning Tuesday, April 14, at 6:15. All are invited, but I especially want to encourage those persons who serve in leadership roles to participate. As we continue to look to our future, perhaps the most important piece is to seek out a purpose and vision of our role in God's work in this community. Again, I believe this to be of such importance, that I anticipate high participation. Please contact the church office by April 9 to register your attendance.

As most of you are aware, I am currently working on a Doctor of Ministry degree from Saint Paul School of Theology. The topic of my thesis is Holy Communion and our participation in the sacrament. I need some feedback after our next communion service and so I would invite you to

(Continued on page 2)

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



a time of discussion on Monday, April 6 at 6:15. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall. I appreciate your assistance in this effort.

Finally, one last date that I want the congregation to be aware of is Sunday, April 26. We will have a church conference as part of our Sunday morning schedule to meet with our District Superintendent, Dr. Sandy Wylie and our architects, Tim A. Risley and Associates to take action on a proposed building plan. A detailed schedule for that day will be available soon. Also, look for preliminary plans and drawings in the next few days.

Grace & peace, *Greg*

It's A Girl! Justin and Jaime Pickle announce the birth of their second daughter, Maci Jane, born March 5, 2009. Maci weighed 8 lbs. 14 ozs. and was 19-1/2 inches long. Grandmother is Judy Peerson and great grandmother is Clyta Britton. Maci's big sister is Alexe Lee.



Sympathy Extended

The congregation extends their love and sympathy to Ted Kilgore and family on the recent death of his brother.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for February, 2009

2009 Average Attendance Figures for February: 146
 2009 Budget Requirements: \$346,911.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,671.37
 Needed through February: \$53,370.96
 February Receipts: \$27,652.50
 February Expenditures: \$24,208.51

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953
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 Sunday School 9:30 – Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Sanford (Sandy) Wylie
Pastor	Gregory J. Tener
Youth & Children's Director	Kimberly Hardaway
Music Director	Steve Clark
Church Secretary	Brenda Ferguson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Ted Kilgore

District web page: 222.gbgm-umc.org/mc-dist/

• CHURCH CALENDAR •

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
 10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
 Third Friday of each month

• SUNDAY •

Church Chat, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
United Methodist Youth Fellowship
Living the Questions Study, 5 p.m.
(C.H.A.O.S.), 5:00 p.m.

• MONDAY – THURSDAY •

Christian Preschool, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

• MONDAY •

Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m.
Boy Scouts, 7:00 p.m., CFLC

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS, 3:30 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 4:00 p.m., CFLC
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

• FRIDAY •

Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Except April 10, Good Friday)

- 5 Potluck Lunch – UN/DC trip girls will share
- 6 Communion Discussion, 6:15 p.m., F.H.
- 9 Living Lord's Supper Drama, 8 p.m.
- 10 Office Closed for Good Friday
- 12 Easter Cantata, 10:30 a.m.; Egg Hunt, 11:30
- 14 Membership Care Meeting, 11 a.m., CFLC
- Pastor's Mission & Purpose Study, 6:15 p.m.
- 15 United Methodist Women, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
- Logos Closing Service, 6:30 p.m., CLFC
- 16 Letters From Dad, 6 p.m., CFLC
- 18 UMM Annual Pancake Breakfast, 6 to 10 a.m., CFLC
- UMW District Meeting, 9:30, F.H.
- 19 Confirmation and Bell Dedication, 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Church Council Meeting, 5:15 p.m., CFLC
- 26 Church Conference, 10:30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 5 Jerry and Phyllis Kemp
- 12 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- 19 Wayne and Judy Moore
- 26 Lloyd and Dana Lee



LITURGISTS

- 19 Jake McMillin
- 26 Kade McMillin

MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- 5 Taryn Shelton
- 12 Lily Shore
- 19 Katie Redhage
- 26 Morgan Bandy



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (C.H.A.O.S.)

April

- 5 UN/DC teens share at Potluck following worship
Ugly Outfit Contest and Silent Auction begins as fundraiser for poverty
C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m. (Meal: Ted and Laurie Bandy)
- 12 Easter Sunday - Youth will host an egg hunt following church on the east lawn
No evening meeting for C.H.A.O.S.
- 19 Soup kitchen visit (Note: This is a date change) We will leave the church at 12:45 p.m. and be back at an undetermined time (5 or 6?)
- 24 and 25 - Our **30-Hour Famine Lockout** starts at 7 p.m. Friday night and ends at 7 a.m. Saturday morning. The entire 30 hour famine begins after lunch on Friday and ends at 6 p.m. Saturday evening.
- 26 No evening meeting for C.H.A.O.S.

May

- 3 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m. (Meal: Tom and Dee Kemp)
Please see Kim if you would like to help with the youth meal ministry.

LOGOS

LOGOS is from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. for K thru 8th grade. Preschool meets from 3:30 until 5:00. Dinner is optional for preschool if a parent or family member stays and eats with them. There is an option for snack at 3:15 p.m.

LOGOS themes this month:

- 1 Jokester Night (Stand up comics, get ready to share)
- 5 All ages lead in worship for Palm Sunday
- 8 Missions: Please bring a canned food item to share with the soup kitchen
- 15 LOGOS closing celebration and spring musical. Dress rehearsal from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:15. Musical worship service at 6:30 p.m.
- 22 LOGOS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Location TBA.

Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out is for 1 to 3 year olds on

Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms. Cost is \$10 per visit or \$35 per month. Parents bring a snack sack, diapers and wipes.

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Monthly Food Drive

We can help local schools who send home food with children who need it. Each month two different items are collected so a steady supply of the necessary foods is maintained. **April's food items are: fruit snack packages.**

Collection boxes are placed in the Chapel room adjacent to the sanctuary, and inside the gym door of the CFLC.

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Camp Dates for Summer

District Camp for 7th-12th: June 15-19
Wilderness Camp for 7th & 8th: June 18-24
(This is a survival-style camp with 7 days in the backwoods living in tents and preparing own food.)

6th Grade Camp: July 13-17

3rd - 5th Grade Camp: July 13-15

1st - 2nd Grade Camp: July 25-26

Youth Force Mission Work Camp for grades 6th-12th: July 19-24 (This camp will be based out of our Poteau church. Participants will be housed at CASC)

The church covers half the cost of all camps for our kids.

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UN/DC Teens Host Potluck

On April 5th, following morning worship, there will be a church potluck. Meat and bread will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert and join us for a delicious lunch. The teens who attended the UN/DC study tour with our Oklahoma conference will share about their trip. Thank you again for your generous support and come see what they learned.

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Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Egg Hunt for children up through 5th grade on the east lawn following church. The eggs will be hidden for three groups: toddler/preschool, primary school, and upper elementary.

If you would like to contribute candy to stuff in the eggs, please bring it to the church by April 8th. The candy should be individually wrapped pieces. Thank you!

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30-Hour Famine

On April 24 and 25, the youth and their



friends are embarking on a famine experience. Right now, more than 840 million people around the world don't have enough to eat. Annually, more than 9 million children under the age of five die from disease and malnutrition as a result of hunger. But world hunger is 100% preventable and our teens are ready to be a part of the solution.

They will be joining the efforts of hundreds of thousands of young people all over the nation who will set aside the usual "stuff" that fills their daily lives. Instead, they "WILL STARVE FOR FOOD" – the theme for World Vision's 30 Hour Famine this year – by going without food for 30 hours to get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families face everyday. Prior to the event weekend, students raise funds with the knowledge that every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for a child for a month. Groups also are encouraged to perform hands-on service projects during the weekend in order to make a difference in their own community as well.

As part of the Famine, some of the events our teens will do:

1. Host an Ugle Tie & Outfit Contest. They will be on display in the Chapel room off the main sanctuary with milk jugs under each for you to vote with your dollars and coins (checks are accepted, as well). Each penny = one vote. The ugly tie and outfit selected will be worn by Rev. Greg Tener on April 26th, the Sunday following our famine.

2. Hold a Silent Auction. The teens will donate service time in yardwork, housework, babysitting, etc. Church members write in a bid under the service they would like, then on Sunday, April 26th, winners of the services will be announced. If any church members would like to donate an item to the silent auction (art, gift basket, etc.), please bring to church by April 6. The Silent Auction will also be located in the Chapel Room.

3. Build a cardboard city on the church lawn during the weekend of the famine where they will sleep during part of their famine. There will also be other visuals placed around the church during this weekend as an awareness campaign.

4. Have a food scavenger hunt to help our local food pantry and a "Go for Garbage" collection contest to help beautify our community.

5. Some teens have even chosen to approach

people for individual pledges in a personal effort to raise funds for hunger. Their personal goals are based on the knowledge that all it takes is a dollar a day to feed a starving child through the World Vision organization.

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LOGOS Spring Musical

On April 15th at 6:30 p.m. the LOGOS children's choir and handbell choirs will present an evening worship of music. Different age groups will be featured with musical instrument arrangements and the children's choir will present the musical, "I Am a Promise." This service is the closing service for LOGOS which will resume again in September.

Infant Baptism

Logan Jacob Cravens, son of Jennifer and Chad Cravens, and grandson of Wayne and Joanne Neuharth, was baptized March 29, 2009 surrounded by his loving family.

Membership Care Committee

***Meeting Tuesday, April 14,
11:00 a.m.***

The purpose of the Membership Care Committee is to minister to the needs of those who are in poor health, homebound, or bereaved. The goal is that these persons will experience God's goodness through the kindness of others. We seek to offer reassurance that they are still connected to the church. Not only are we able to share our faith, but we can be recipients of the blessings of faith, wisdom, and love of the older adults with whom we minister.

We had an excellent turnout for our first meeting in March, and we welcome anyone who was unable to attend last month to join us in April. Also, if you know of someone who could benefit from a visit, a phone call, a card, or a prayer shawl, please let us know by calling Kay Thomas (647-3491) or Virginia Stanley (647-2618).

Poteau First United Methodist Men's

21st Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, April 18, 2008



6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Christian Family Life Center

Pancakes - Bacon - Sausage - Beverages

Adults \$3.00 • Children \$2.00

Proceeds To Benefit Poteau Christian Free Clinic

Evelyn's Inspiration

By Evelyn White

My Daily Needs and Prayer

I need more faith! Every day I need to trust you more and more. Every day I need your love and your forgiveness. No matter how much I need, your supply is never diminished. Your love and care is as plentiful as the water that flows over Niagara Falls, and the mist that covers the area. Thank you, dear Lord. Please, dear Lord, take my hand and lead me into the promised land. Thy will be done. Amen

United Methodist Women

By Jane Kilgore, President

Poteau UMW is excited to welcome the Spring District Meeting of McAlester District UMW on April 18. All women of the church are invited to attend this meeting. These gatherings give a wide view of the strength of United Methodist Women, which we would love to share with you!

Coffee and refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will open in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. and reconvene there after lunch. Morning speaker will be Julie McDonald of Circle of Care in Tulsa who will tell us about Pearl's Hope. Pearl's Hope is a new ministry which provides support for young mothers who, with their children, face the specter of homelessness.

Lunch will be in the Christian Family Life Center at a cost of \$5.00 and child care will be provided

The district mission project for this meeting is donating any size women's business clothes (freshly cleaned) for interview wear, black shoes and bags, as well as hygiene items such as deodorant, toothbrushes, etc. (If you cannot attend and would like to donate items, call 647-9570.)

The afternoon speaker will be Deanna Chancellor, Director of the LeFlore County Child Advocacy Center.

Pink Basket Day

There will be a Pink Basket Day for Maci Jane, daughter of Justin and Jaime Pickle immediately following morning worship on May 3 in the Fellowship Hall. You can meet little Maci Jane and bring cards or gifts if you like.

Refreshments will be served.

Easter Lilies For Worship



If you would like to place a lily in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, please have them delivered on Thursday, April 9.

Contact Brenda at the church with the names so that they can be listed in the church bulletin.

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER DRAMA

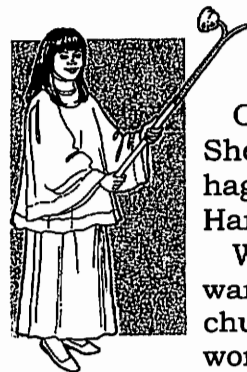
One of the important events of Holy Week at our church is the annual Living Lord's Supper Drama. The first presentation was in 1991. Since then it has evolved, improved, and developed into what it is today – a meaningful, thought-provoking experience for the community. This is an evening that will prepare your heart for Easter morning.

This presentation creates the scene of Da Vinci's famous painting of The Last Supper. Thirteen men of our church depict the twelve disciples and Jesus at the last supper at the point just after Jesus has told them that one of them would betray him. They are shocked and each in turn tells his story and wonders if he will be the traitor.

Disciples vary each year but three have been in the drama since the beginning. They are Alan Ware, Ken Hammond, and Mike Lee.

New disciples this year will be Jason Bandy, Versile Johnson and David Barnes. They will join David Redhage, Chad Bridges, Tom Kemp, Gary Hageman, Mark McMillin, and Matthew Houston. Randy Matos will portray Jesus.

Please plan to attend this unique drama.



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

Our new acolytes are Taryn Shelton, Lily Shore, Katie Redhage, Morgan Bandy, Kylanna Hardaway, and Allison Matos.

We are proud of these girls for wanting to serve God and their church by lighting the candles for worship. The flame they carry in represents bringing the light of Jesus into our worship service and the flame they carry out represents carrying the light of Jesus out into the world.

If there are other children, third grade and older who would like to be acolytes, contact Kim Hardaway or Carol Baker.

Correspondence



Thank you to our wonderful, kind, and caring church family for all the cards, calls, and prayers and the beautiful flowers in the recent passing of Ted's brother, Jerry.

No one could ask for a more loving church family than we have here at Poteau First United Methodist. God bless you all.

Ted and Jane Kilgore

Dear Church Family,

My grandson, Grayson Bradshaw, and I have been on our church prayer list since the Fall of 2006. My spinal tumor condition and Grayson's Stage 4 Neuroblastoma presented grave prognoses.

My surgery and radiation seem to have arrested the tumors, but significant spinal cord damage persists. I have been told that it is remarkable that I can function like I do.

Grayson's surgeries, chemo, and radiation have presently arrested the cancer but with some damage to his growing body. As long as any cancer is undetectable he is receiving an experimental "antibody stimulant" in New York City's Sloan Kettering Hospital for one week every 6 to 8 weeks. This should continue for 18 months.

Recently Dallas Children's Hospital told his mother, Sarah, that they didn't think he would have made it this far.

I want you all to know that because of your commitment to the church in prayer and support, Grayson and I have an unexpected quality of life. The love and support is "worth" as much as the applied modern medicine.

God bless you all and thank you for your continued support.

Ken and Susan Hammond

To My Church Family,

I wish to extend thanks to the church as a whole, and especially my Sunday School class and the Prayer Chain following my illness. I and my family all appreciate the prayers, cards, and expressions of love, but especially the prayers. Thank you so much.

Jo Gee

Christian Free Clinic Volunteers

May is our church's month to provide receptionists for the clinic. If you would like to volunteer, call the church office soon at 647-2217.

Congratulations to Genny Dorsey,

Poteau Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year!

April Birthdays

- 4 Dortehea Sue O'Neal
- 6 Dora Baldwin
- 7 Dana Wheat
- 10 Jaxon Bradshaw and Jace Bandy
- 11 Drew DeCamp
- 12 Rachel Ware
- 13 Chad Bridges
- 14 Jean Whigham and Cindy Woolbright
- 15 Brian Shore and Kylanna Hardaway
- 18 Ron Cofer, Wayne Neuharth, and Lily Shore
- 19 Melissa Reyes, Katie Cox, and Joshua Mixon
- 20 Brandon Fruen and Jaimie Downing
- 23 Marilyn Meek
- 24 Khia Brookfield
- 26 Mark Barkley and Ashley Plumlee
- 27 Katie Redhage
- 29 Kody Whitehead and Dorothy James



April Anniversaries

- 9 Gary and Linda Brown
- 11 Charlie and Katie Rust
- 16 Ellis and Jean Whigham
- 18 Keith and Patty Wright
- 27 Andy and Aimee Baker
- 28 Preston and Laney Plumlee
- 29 John and Nikki Perry



United Methodist Church
PRE-SCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

April will be a busy month for the Preschool. We have field trips planned for the Police Station, Cakes and More, and Poteau Pets. The class pictures are also scheduled for the end of the month.

Weekly themes for April include: 1) Doing Good; 2) Celebrating Easter; 3) Caterpillars and Butterflies; 4) Tadpoles and Frogs; 5) April Showers Bring May Flowers.

The April memory verse is "God made us to be good." We will be learning the rest of the alphabet V-Z, the colors black and gray, the shapes oval and diamond and reviewing the numbers 1 to 10.

The Preschool recently got new tables and new kitchen centers for the children. Lloyd Lee put them together. A big thank you to him. He is a wonderful support person in the church, always willing to give a helpful hand.