



Merry Christmas!

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 2007

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

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

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

"Happy New Year!"

I know what you're thinking; my greeting is a month early. That's true if we're looking at a calendar for 2008. However, if we are looking at the calendar of the Christian year, Sunday, December 2nd begins a new year as the First Sunday of Advent. The four weeks of Advent are a season of preparation for Christmas, as the Church moves from hope to joy. As described in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, "The season proclaims the comings of Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate." In remembering and acknowledging that the "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14), the Church proclaims and lives the message that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.

Poteau UMC has for many years helped prepare the entire community for the celebration of the Christ Child with its Living Nativity scene. Also, individuals and groups within the congregation participate in Angel Tree or similar ministries. As children's voices, ringing hand bells, the lighting of candles, are added to the worship service, our corporate worship of God is focused on preparation for the coming of Christ.

And so as we join together this Advent season, I offer this prayer from the *Book of Worship* for your usage:

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Greg



REV. GREGORY J. TENER



Thanks be to God for His
 indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

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 *Our Sympathy Extended*

We extend our love and sympathy to the Keith McCarver family and the Frances Caldwell family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

 *Christmas Love Offering*

Members and Friends of the Church:
A Christmas Love Offering is now being collected for the paid church staff.

Please mail your contributions to me at 105 Winridge Rd., or the church office at 109 S. Harper or you can drop it off at the church office.

Thank you, Jack E. Stanley

Welcome New Members!

We wish to welcome our newest members into our church. Terri Martin and daughters Kelsey and Heather Robinson joined on Nov. 11 by certificate of transfer; and then on Nov. 25 Keith and Kay Thomas transferred their membership from Community UMC in Ruidoso, N.M.

Be sure and let them know how happy we are to have them as part of our church family.

Notice:

We need old photos of our church or related to our church for a project of our upcoming 115th anniversary. If you or someone you know can provide some, please get them to us soon. They will be returned.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For October 2007

- 2007 Average Attendance Figures for October: 140
- 2007 Budget Requirements: \$317,292.00
- Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,292.00
- Needed through October: \$270,642.00
- October Receipts: \$39,719.38
- 2007 Receipts through October: \$383,921.34
- October Expenditures: \$56,062.18

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 | Kim 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 address: www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/



DECEMBER



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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
Sunday Worship Bulletin, 10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

In order to provide an informative newsletter, information must be turned in by the **third Friday of every month** so the newsletter can be prepared and delivered by the first of the month. Thank you.

• **SUNDAY** •

- Youth Bell Choir, 4:00 p.m.
- Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.

• **MONDAY – FRIDAY** •

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

• **MONDAY** •

Boy Scouts, 7:00 p.m., CFLC

• **TUESDAY** •

Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m., CFLC

• **WEDNESDAY** •

LOGOS, 3:00 p.m., CFLC

Handbell Rehearsal, 5:15 p.m., Bell Room

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

2 Service at the Oaks, 2 p.m.

Children's Council Meeting, 4 p.m., CFLC

8 Help Decorate the Parade Float, 10 a.m.

9 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

12 UMW Christmas Brunch, 10 a.m., F.H.

16 Christmas Cantata, 10:30 a.m.

Logos Christmas Program, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, 6 p.m.

Notice: The Strategic Planning Retreat scheduled for Dec. 1 has been changed to Feb. 2.

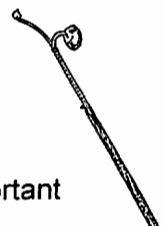
MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- Dec. 2 Lloyd and Dana Lee
- Dec. 9 Jim and Ruth Ann DeCamp
- Dec. 16 Bob and Vera Bullock
- Dec. 23 Jim and Nancy Shore
- Dec. 30 Joel and Peggy Talley



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- Dec. 2 Taylor Darneal
- Dec. 9 Kanaan Hardaway
- Dec. 16 Kade McMillin
- Dec. 23 Connor Matos
- Dec. 30 Maci McMillin



Thank you boys and girls for your important part in our worship service.

Youth and Children's News

Kim Hardaway, Youth and Children's Director

For more information, call Kim at 647-2217

Children's Council Meeting Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.

UMYF

This church has a dynamic, active youth council who has worked hard to make our youth program one with purpose and ministry. We have several opportunities to be in service the month of December as well as be in fellowship with one another. The schedule is as follows:

Dec. 1: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Shopping in Fayetteville. You must have at least 70% in points to attend this event. Ask Kim if you don't know if you have enough.

Dec. 2: 2 p.m. (Service) Caroling and Card distribution at Oaks Nursing Home. Meet at 1 p.m. at church for prayer and practice.

Dec. 8: 10 a.m. Decorate a float for the Christmas parade. (Note: The decorating is for all the congregation. Everyone is invited to come and help us.)

Dec. 8: 5 p.m. Come and ride the float in the parade! (Meet at church - dress warmly).

Dec. 9: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Service) Drive Through Living Christmas Story.

Dec. 16: 6:30 p.m. Christmas program at church.

Dec. 23: No UMYF

Dec. 30: 5 p.m. Holiday Bash. Bring a \$5 to \$10 gift.

LOGOS

The regular rotation schedule will not be followed for the remaining three weeks of Logos. Instead we will be preparing for the Christmas program. This gives our station leaders a much-needed break and our worship skill class extra practice for the program. It's a win-win plan! Each week will still have a theme for fun and family time will still occur.

The remaining themes are:

Dec. 5: Missions: "Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party". Please bring a gift for a needy child.

Dec. 12: Jingle Night. This is the opportunity to make up "jingles" to share.

Dec. 16: 4:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal

Dec. 16: 6:30 p.m. Worship program "Stranger in the Manger".

Christmas Program

On Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. the youth and children of Wednesday's Logos classes will lead in



worship using the program "Stranger in the Manger."

This is a Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth, That rhymes to explain how he came to earth.

We encourage everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, to come join in this worship experience of song and prose. It is a delightful and meaningful service.

HELP WANTED

If you are interested and feel a call in being involved with children's ministries on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons, please let Kim know. You are needed. We need more substitute Sunday School teachers; and starting in January we will need a middle school Bible leader or a middle school worship skill leader. We are also in need of people to help with remodeling the second floor of the Education Building.

Living Christmas Story

Our annual Drive Through Living Christmas Story is set for Dec. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30. This is a wonderful gift we give to the community each year and has become part of family tradition for many. It takes a lot of people to make it possible. Please say yes when you are called to take part.



Card of Thanks



Thank you from UMW -

We had cooks and bakers

Bringers and takers,

Servers and pourers,

Good humor restorers.

We had tickets and placemats,

Absolutely no trans-fats (?).

There was excellent service

And no one seemed nervous.

We had sellers and buyers

News time and flyers.

And best thing is true -

Most of all - we had YOU!

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2007 UMW Fall Festival.

Jane Kilgore, UMW President

Thank you for your prayers, cards, concern and well wishes while I was having tests. So far the tests have turned out fine. I thank God most of all.

Mary Folsom



United Methodist Church

PRECHOOL

By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

The preschool will be learning about the letters I and J during December. The colors we will be working with are red and green, the shape is a star and the number 7 will be studied. The memory verse for December is "God's son is born for us."

The annual singing at Community State Bank will be Dec. 12 and 13 at 9:30. The preschool will be singing Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

On Dec. 19 and 20 the preschoolers will be celebrating Baby Jesus with a program, a party, and a gift exchange.

We will be on Christmas break from Dec. 21 until Jan. 2. Preschool will resume on Jan. 3, 2008.

~ Evelyn's Inspiration ~

By Evelyn White

Joy Bells and Laughter

Awake! Awake! Christmas is coming! The earth is filled with God's glory; Christ our Redeemer is coming!

What do we need to make ready for His arrival? In our lives - in our homes and in our church?

This is a very serious and Holy time of the year. It is always or should be a growing time.

Is our Faith keeping up with our needs? Can we say "No!" to temptation more often now? Do we feel more secure now in God's love? Do we seek first God and His Righteousness so that we can truly have a Happy Christmas?

Peace, Joy, and Love to all.

Evelyn



Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide a poinsettia for the sanctuary, please have it delivered to the church after December 16th. If the plant is in honor or in memory of someone, call the office with that information so that it can be listed in the worship bulletin.

While your poinsettia is in place, it will be carefully tended by the worship committee.

While sending out your Christmas cards this year you might wish to send some here:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

December Birthdays

- 1 Connie Sabatucci
- 2 David Roberts, Marilyn Johnston, Ted Kilgore, and Mike Sullivan
- 4 Judy Moore and Samuel Shore
- 7 John Perry
- 8 Virginia Stanley, Shelley Johnson and Chloee Rolens
- 9 Sheri Zabala
- 11 Cindy Stoughton
- 12 Jo Gee, Curtis James, and Cole Forsberg
- 13 Robin Greenwood and Bryan Gilliam
- 14 Reedy Gothard, Elva Oehlschlager and David Redhage
- 16 Julie Lee, Judy Peerson and Kyle Matos
- 18 Justin Hebert and Jarot Garner
- 21 Jimmie Mason and Vera Bullock
- 23 Frances Caldwell and Donna Kendrick
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 Gary Brown, Jr., Seth Garner, Steven Sockey and Heather Emery
- 27 David Rolens and Wayne Atchley
- 29 Joe Sabatucci
- 30 Jerry Thompson
- 31 Jeanne Reed, Rosalind Kendrick and Ronnie Oehlschlager



December Anniversaries

- 1 Ed and Cindy Brody
- 3 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 4 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- 14 Fredrick and Nina Ritchie
- 18 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway
- 19 Kyle and Kimberly Hardaway
- 21 Jack and Elva Oehlschlager
- 23 Joe and Connie Sabatucci
- 26 Joe and Martha Renfro



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will have a Christmas Brunch at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring finger foods to share. All women of the church are invited.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men meet the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. for breakfast and a program in the CFLC. All men of the church are invited to attend this enjoyable activity.