

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 16 NO. 12

DECEMBER, 2008

Serving God 115 Years

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



**Don't Miss the
 Drive Through
 Living Christmas
 Story
 December 14**

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

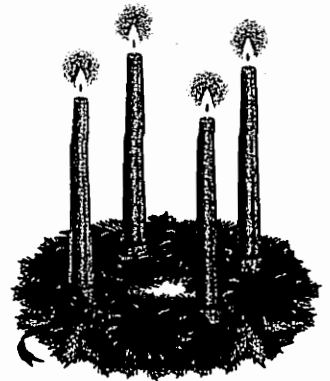
In just a few short days, the church will have the opportunity to begin her preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ. We have children practicing for the LOGOS program, handbells ringing, and the chancel choir singing. Scripture lessons for the Sundays of December point us toward the good news that God came to be with us.

One of my favorite hymns of the season is Charles Wesley's *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* because it signals for me the meaning behind all of that preparation. Wesley's poetry captures the expectation that through Jesus Christ God offers humankind freedom, rest, comfort, and hope. The birth of this particular child brings deliverance from the bondage of sin and establishes God's gracious kingdom in human hearts. The essential mission of Jesus Christ and his church is setting people free so that God might be made known.

One new opportunity that I am looking forward to for 2009 is a study called *Letters From Dad* being sponsored by the United Methodist Men. It is based upon the best selling book of the same name, written by Greg Vaughn. The purpose is to help men learn to leave a legacy by saying the things they've always wanted to say but just didn't know how. There will be a Kickoff BBQ Event to introduce *Letters From Dad* in the Family Life Center on Thursday, January 15. I know that seems like a long time from now, but I hope that all of the men of our congregation will set aside that date to learn more about the study.

Grace & peace.

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



Welcome New Member!

Our newest member is Joni Griffith who joined the church on November 9. Be sure and let her know how happy we are to have her as part of our church family.

Bus Ministry

Nina Sizemore is planning to revive our church's bus ministry for Sunday School attendance beginning in January.

In January if your children need a ride you can call the church office by noon on Friday 647-2217, or for last minute notice, call Nina at 413-2142 by 8:30 on Sunday morning.

We appreciate Nina for this ministry.

Poinsettias For Worship



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, please have them delivered on Dec. 18 or 19. Contact Brenda at the church on the 18th with the names so that they can be listed in the church bulletin.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for October, 2008

2008 Average Attendance Figures for October: 148
 2008 Budget Requirements: \$336,245.22
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,466.26
 Needed through October: \$278,049.18
 October Receipts: \$25,878.89
 October Expenditures: \$26,014.56

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Sunday School 9:30 – Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Sandford (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.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/

• CHURCH CALENDAR •

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
 10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
 Third Friday of each month

• SUNDAY •

Church Chat, 9:35 a.m., CFLC
Handbell Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m.
United Methodist Youth Fellowship
(C.H.A.O.S.), 5:00 p.m.

• MONDAY – THURSDAY •

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

• TUESDAY •

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

• WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS, 3:30 p.m.
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.,
Sanctuary

• FRIDAY •

Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- 13 United Methodist Men, 8 a.m.
- 14 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- 15 Preschool Christmas programs this week at 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
- 24-26 Church offices closed for Christmas

(Note: Church offices will be closed Wed., Thurs., and Fri., Nov. 26 - 28 for Thanksgiving)

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 7 Keith and Kay Thomas
- 14 Frank and Grace Dehart
- 21 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- 28 Liz Perry and Peggy Talley



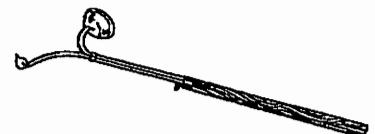
LITURGISTS

- 14 Hayley Redhage
- 21 Keely Redhage
- 28 David Oehlschlager



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- 7 Josie Garrett
- 14 Dawson Perry
- 21 Charlee Gilliam
- 28 Maci McMillin





News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

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

The schedule is as follows:

December

- 7 C.H.A.O.S. meets from 5 to 7 p.m. (Caroling and visit to Oaks Healthcare Center)
- 14 Helping with Drive-through Living Christmas Story
- 21 Christmas Progressive Dinner Party (Please bring \$5 gift to share)
- 28 6:30 p.m. Movie Night as a group for anyone interested. Meet at church.

January

- 4 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.

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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 option 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 for December:

- 3 "Pajama Party". Wear your pajamas.
- 10 "Happy Birthday Party for Jesus". Bring a toiletry item for missions (see list below)
- 17 "A King is Coming". Wear your "King is Coming" shirt for our service.
- 17 A Children/Youth Christmas Service at 6:30 p.m.
- 18 2:00 p.m. 3rd thru 5th grade LOGOS students will sing at Oaks Healthcare Center
- 24, 31 NO LOGOS - We resume January 7

List of toiletry items needed:

Shampoo, conditioner, bar and liquid soap, lotions, small make-up items (like lip balm, lipstick, mascara, fingernail polish, etc.) **NOTE: NO** toothbrushes or toothpastes are needed.

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Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out is for 1 to 3 year olds on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms. Cost: \$10 per visit or \$35 per month. Participants will need to provide a snack sack, diapers and wipes. **(Note: No Mother's Day Out on Dec. 26th)**

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MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

Locally there are children who do not get enough to eat when they are not in school. In response to this need, a clearinghouse in Ft. Smith coordinates with local schools in making "sacks" of food to be sent home each week with children who need food. Each month different items are collected so a steady supply of

the necessary foods is maintained.

December's food items are Toaster Pop Tarts. Thank you for your generosity.

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

"A King is Coming to Town"

The Children's Christmas musical service by the LOGOS kids will be held Wednesday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This year it is called "A King is Coming to Town." It is an exhilarating 45 minute musical.

Come along to the little town of Rumor's Mill, USA, where the whole town has gathered in the town square because a sign has appeared announcing that a king is coming to town. Just who the king is, no one seems to know, but that doesn't stop the residents from getting ready for the upcoming event. The town reporter, Greta Van Popcorn, is on the story. Mayor Bigwheel is using it for publicity. Sheriff Badge is trying to keep order, and Barbara Booster is hoping this will get Rumor's Mill in the top 100 best towns in America. Is it KING TUT, KING KONG, or the KING of ROCK AND ROLL? Two people have the answer as they want to tell the REAL story of Christmas.



The Drive Through Living Christmas Story has been set for Sunday, Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It is so much more than a nativity scene. It is the whole Christmas story as people drive around the church. This presentation is a highlight of the Christmas season and is a much anticipated event for the community. It has been a blessing to hundreds of viewers each year as well as those who participate.

Because of the magnitude of this Christmas display, we need as many people from our church as possible to participate.

Set-up for the scenes around three sides of our church begins immediately after lunch on Sunday. Cast members are needed to stand in the scenes at various times during the evening. Food and warm drinks are always being served in the fellowship hall. There are many things for volunteers to do.

If you have not been called upon, please call the church and volunteer your time for this important ministry. Thank you.

Correspondence

Dear Church Family,

It seems that I'm destined to remember you – not only do I have the picture of the church and the so cuddly prayer shawl (much used in this cold climate) but SOONER PRIDE is written in the sidewalk in front of my house! You have given me wonderful memories.

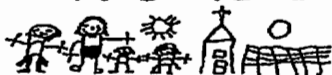
As I'm listening to the handbell CD, I'm thankful that I was able to be a part of that group, of UMW, and of the Ross Sunday School class. I'm grateful that the church members accepted John with his debilitating disease and comforted me and my family after he died. Then after I made the decision to move to Portland, Lloyd and his crew of men and youth painted my house and mowed the yard. I am still in awe of the number of people who came over.

You are a special group of people and I miss you. I know this is where I'm supposed to be at this stage of my life's journey and I'm thankful you were (and are) a part of my life.

May God's blessings be with you.

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dulabaker@gmail.com

United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

December Preschool themes are 1) Jesus came to earth as a baby; 2) Advent: Getting ready for Christmas; and 3) The Christmas Story.

Letters focused on this month are I and J, the shape is a star, and the colors are red and green. The number is 7.

Our memory verse for December is "God's son is born for us."

Christmas programs for the different classes will be held during the week of Dec. 15th at 10:30.

• Poinsettias For Sale •

The Quarter Note Club will be selling poinsettias for Christmas. They are \$10.00 for a 6 inch pot. Please contact Mallory or Susan Mixon to order. They will be available for pick up or delivery on December 3.

Contact Matthew Houston at 405-706-1016 for information on piano lessons at the church.

December Birthdays

- 1 Connie Sabatucci
- 2 David Roberts, Marilyn Johnston, Ted Kilgore, and Mike Sullivan
- 4 Judy Moore and Sam Shore
- 7 John Perry
- 8 Virginia Stanley, Shelley Johnson, and Chloe Rolens
- 9 Sheri Zabala
- 11 Cindy Stoughton
- 12 Jo Gee, Cole Forsberg, Curtis James
- 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 Donna Kendrick
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 Gary Brown, Jr., Seth Garner, Steven Sockey, and Heather Emery
- 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

By Jane Kilgore, President

Thanks from UMW:

The open hearts and hands of our congregation are awesome!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Fall Festival this year. We did not run out of food this year due to the generous response for food items to be served. The bake sale sold out completely - \$660 worth. Our total is around \$3,800 - a little money is still coming in.

This money will enable us to meet our District pledge for missions and also donate to the local organizations we support. PRAISE GOD!!