



# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 2008

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

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

Ash Wednesday  
Service  
February 6  
at 6 p.m.



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## PASTOR TO PEOPLE

As I look at February's calendar, I am reminded that even this "short" month is filled with many opportunities for worship, growth, and nurture. Perhaps by the time you are reading this article, the Strategic Planning day will have been completed and the naming of our ministry priorities will have begun. We will continue to pray through and consider how we might be most effective in our ministry together.

There are two other important dates in regards to the mission of our congregation. As many of you know, the conference has appointed a new minister to the Heavener Hispanic Fellowship. On Sunday, February 10 at 3 p.m. there will be a celebration to welcome Obed Alba and his family – wife Eunice and son Joshua. The celebration will take place at the Hispanic church at 303 W. Ave. C. This will be a great time for meeting our new neighbors.

The following Sunday, is the annual district training event at McAlester Grand Ave. There will be more information in the Sunday bulletin, but the highlight will be worship and workshop led by Bishop Robert Hayes. Bishop Hayes will be preaching here at Poteau on April 13th, so this would be an opportunity to get a foretaste of what is yet to come. We will be taking the church van at 12:30 and return after the workshop is completed.

Finally, the season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 6th with an Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter, lasting for 40 days, not including Sundays. The First Sunday of Lent describes Jesus' temptation by Satan and the Sixth describes Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his following death. So through these 40 days and nights, through God's grace, may we each be better prepared to greet the Risen Christ.

Grace & peace,

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



# United Methodist Men's Toy Drive

Most of you are aware that the UMM attempted to sponsor a toy give-away this past Christmas. Unfortunately, icy weather and late delivery trucks kept the toys from arriving until mid-January. The items are being stored until next Christmas, but in the meantime, the UMM invites the entire congregation to purchase and donate additional toy items for distribution.

We had received nearly 900 names through the Poteau and Howe school systems and other agencies. We know the need will continue to exist. Please support this important outreach to our community and county.

## United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men usually meet the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. for breakfast and a program in the CFLC. This month the meeting will be on February 16 instead.

All men of the church of any age are invited to attend this activity.

### Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For December 2007

2007 Average Attendance Figures for December: 148

2007 Budget Requirements: \$317,292.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,292.00

Needed through December: \$327,270.00

December Receipts: \$59,595.57

2007 Receipts through December: \$476,669.64

December Expenditures: \$32,182.52

### THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee  
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/

## FEBRUARY



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	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	

### 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 •

Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.  
Growing Kids God's Way and  
Reaching the Heart of Your Teen, 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., Balcony

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

- 3 Last day to vote for the "Ugliest Tie"  
Youth Council meeting following worship
- 6 Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
- 7 Youth experience "Famine"
- 10 Rev. Tener wears the "Ugly Tie" during worship  
Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser following worship
- 16 United Methodist Men, CFLC, 8 a.m.
- 17 District Training at McAlester. Leave church at 12:30

### MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

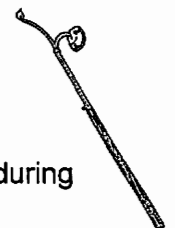
- Feb. 3 Bob and Vera Bullock
- Feb. 10 Frank and Grace Dehart
- Feb. 17 Jean Gaylor and Andi Burton
- Feb. 24 Curtis and Dorothy James



### MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- Feb. 3 Taylor Darneal
- Feb. 10 Josie Garrett
- Feb. 17 Sam Shore
- Feb. 24 Maci McMillin

Acolyte training for third graders during February. Come to Sunday School!



## Youth and Children's News

Kim Hardaway, Youth and Children's Director

*Prayer is needed for children. Children need to learn to pray, and they need to have their parents pray with them. If we don't do this, it will become difficult to become holy, to carry on, to strengthen ourselves in faith!*

Mother Teresa, 1910-1997

**Youth Council will meet Feb. 3 following the worship service.**

We appreciate the support of the congregation in our UGLY TIE contest. It concludes Feb. 3rd with votes being tallied that evening, and Rev. Tener wearing the winner the following Sunday, Feb. 10. Through the World Vision Organization, \$1/day feeds a child. Our group has a goal of raising at least \$365 with the contest in order to provide food for a child for a year. In conjunction with the contest, the youth will experience a 30 Hour Famine on Feb. 7 and 8. The Valentine's Dinner fundraiser on the 10th culminates our study and efforts on behalf of hunger through the World Vision Organization.

### UMYF

The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 3: Regular UMYF (Meal provided by Dana and Lloyd Lee)

Feb. 7 & 8: 30 Hour Famine Lock Out - Meet at the church at 6 p.m. on the 7th

Feb. 10: Valentine's Dinner immediately following worship. BBQ Brisket provided by Joe and Martha Renfro. Fundraiser for world hunger.

Feb. 17: Regular UMYF (Meal provided by Linda Lee and Alison Garrett)

Feb. 24: Soup Kitchen visit in Fort Smith

Mar. 2: Regular UMYF (Meal provided by Liz and Nikki Perry)

Thank you to Joel and Peggy Talley, Dula Baker, Henry and Rozelle Hardaway, and Ronnie and Christy Oehlschlager for providing the meals to UMYF in January.

### LOGOS

Themes and leading in worship dates are:

Feb. 6: Ash Wednesday

Feb. 10: 2nd and 3rd grades will lead in worship

Feb. 13: Valentine's Night

Feb. 20: Color Power Night

Feb. 27: Joke Night

Mar. 2: Pre-K, K, and 1st grades will lead in worship

On Feb. 6 we will have Logos followed by the Ash Wednesday service at 6:00. Logos will focus on what Ash Wednesday represents to prepare the children for the service. The children will be taken to the sanctuary at 5:50 for the service. **If you do not plan to attend the service, you will need to pick them up by 5:45.**

The LOGOS Christmas Program DVDs have been made. They are available for pickup on Wednesday



evening at LOGOS. Every family involved in the program can receive a DVD. A big thank you to Mike Lee for making the DVDs!

### Mother's Day Out Program

We have had a successful start to our Mother's Day Out. It is open to anyone with 1 to 3 year olds in need of a morning out once a week. It gives little ones a chance to interact with others while providing families with safe care for their toddlers. We currently have Abigail Smith providing the care, with Cindy Turner to begin helping this month. Feel free to stop by on Fridays and meet them both.

### Mother's Day Out Information

Time: Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Nursery rooms of the Education Building

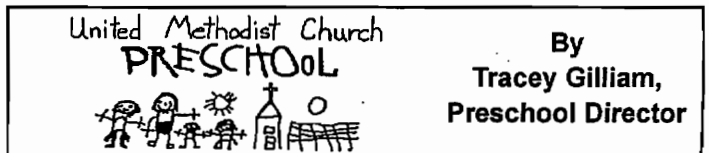
Cost: \$10 for the entire time

Ages: 1 to 3 year olds

Note: No snack or lunch will be provided. Participants will need to provide a snack sack with child's name on it for food and a diaper bag with diapers and wipes.

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A reminder that the UMM and youth are teaming up to provide help for local needs. If you or someone you know is in need of simple handyman work, please contact the church office with that need. We will then arrange a time and a group to help take care of it.



Preschool themes for February are: 1) The Bible helps me learn good and right ways to live; 2) The Community Helper - The Postman; 3) Our five senses - sight, hearing, touch, smelling, and taste; and 4) Dinosaurs.

During February we will be working on the number 10, colors pink and purple and the shape heart. We will be working on the letters N, O, P, and Q.

The memory verse is "Hear the word of God and obey it."

## Evelyn's Inspiration

By Evelyn White

### Life

My God and I went to church Sunday as is His custom (and mine). As we got closer to the church building, He went on ahead (cause I'm kinda slow these days) so that everyone entering the church doors could feel His Holy Presence, and receive anew the gifts that make a bountiful life.

The greatest gift: Love, Peace, Forgiveness and Joy - knowing God is with us and loves us.

It is good to be in the House of the Lord!

Our Father, grant us wisdom and understanding that we can know you better.

Peace in your heart and love to all.

## Letters from a Young Missionary

Reprinted from *New World Outlook* Jan./Feb 2008 issue

(Editor's Note: In order to print the letter in its entirety, it will be printed in two parts. Here is Part I.)

By T. Ryan Clayburn, a Mission Intern, class of 2005-2006, from Oklahoma. He served the first half of his assignment in Beirut, Lebanon, and is completing his term at the Church Center for the United Nations with the seminar program. Ryan is the son of Ted and Christie Williams, and the grandson of Jeanne Reed.

I moved to Beirut, Lebanon, in September 2005, about seven months after the devastating assassination of Lebanon's prime minister, Rafik Hariri. I didn't really know what to expect and was perhaps more preoccupied with calming my mother's fears than forming expectations. I arrived in a vibrant, modern, bustling city that I had never seen in the news. Friendly people greeted me everywhere with an easy flow of English, Arabic, and French on almost every tongue.

As I tried not to bring any pre-conceived notions of the country itself, I soon realized I had lugged a suitcase of expectations about the job and life of a missionary. Three years before I left for Beirut, I worked as a rural elementary school teacher and community assistant in a small village in West Africa. The West Africans told me, 'Many of the same boats that brought missionaries later took out slaves and gold.' Yet when I was commissioned as a missionary at Grace United Methodist Church in New York, I experienced an overwhelming feeling of joy and peace. I knew I was on the path to fulfilling God's purpose for my life.

At the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) in Beirut, where I was assigned for the first half of my term, God presented me with another unexpected challenge. I expected to be in a community where I would find strong, faithful role models and devote hours to projects at my placement site. I came excited, ready, and willing to dive immediately into service, but staffing difficulties had significantly slowed the work of the WSCF. Sitting in an empty office, twirling in my chair, I thought: "God sent me all the way to Lebanon for this?"

The initial lack of work and contacts through the office led me to seek volunteer service opportunities in the community. I began teaching at a United Nations-funded (UNHCR) refugee center on Saturdays. During the breaks, I would drink Arabic coffee with Iraqi Muslim women. Some of them had fled Iraq during the time of Sadaam Hussein's regime and others after the American invasion. I also began volunteering with the Collective for Research and Training on Development campaign for Arab women's rights.

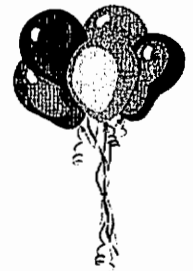
I had walked into the job thinking my missionary

service would be 9-to-5 weekdays with an occasional weekend activity. God showed me through careful, patient struggle that a life of mission service is a 24-hour-a-day vocation, something I would need to live, breathe, and feel in my menial everyday decisions. I had been a Christian my whole life, but God was teaching me what it meant to walk and live as a Christian. I learned about being a missionary of presence.

From the time I arrived, there would be a car bombing or explosion every month or so, but all were targeted attacks on specific individuals. I felt completely safe in Beirut and was continually surprised at the amazing art, cafes, events, and fluid mix of modern and traditional. I visited a cave chapel in southern Lebanon where the Virgin Mary had prayed and witnessed Muslim and Christian women praying faithfully along-side each other. It was dismaying to see how countries and groups can be so poorly portrayed and manipulated by the media. *(continued in March newsletter)*

### February Birthdays

- 1 Judy Hall
- 3 Rhonda Britton
- 4 Clyta Britton and Josh Barkley
- 5 Ann Vaughan and Dawson Perry
- 6 Marcella Widmar
- 8 Greg Tener
- 9 Tabitha Zabala
- 10 Denise Sullivan and Julie Bridges
- 11 Daniel McCarver and Peter Norgeot
- 16 Jack Sizemore
- 18 Linda Johnston
- 19 Janell Glover
- 20 Marsha Cofer
- 21 Jean Potts
- 22 Joan McCarty, Gayle Smedley, and Caleb Bridges
- 24 Sandra Slater, Dana Lee and Charles Meek
- 25 Kristin Spears
- 26 Megan Hebert
- 27 Trudy Mathies



### February Anniversaries

- 2 Bob and Margaret Nichols  
Bob and Vera Bullock
- 14 Loney and Myra Gregory
- 28 Scott and Denise Sullivan



## United Methodist Women

All ladies who attend our church are invited to attend every meeting of the UMW. For information, call the president, Jane Kilgore, 647-9571.