

First United Methodist Church
 109 S. Harper
 Poteau, OK 74953

Non-Profit Org.
 Permit No. 40
 Poteau, OK 74953
 Address Service Requested



Happy New Year!

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2008

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

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

***Blessed is he who
 considers the poor;
 The Lord will deliver
 him in time of
 trouble.***

Psalm 41:1



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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?"

Poet Robert Burns first penned these even more ancient words over 200 years ago. They are now part of our annual remembrance of the year that is coming to an end. The title "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago" but is closer to "remember the good old day."

The poet was correct in that we need to remember our past. In April 2008, Poteau UMC will celebrate her 115th Anniversary as a local church. At the same time, we will celebrate our 100th year of being located at the corner of Harper and Rogers. To help us celebrate, Bishop Robert Hayes of the Oklahoma Annual Conference will be preaching on Sunday, April 13th. Worship will be followed with dinner. To help us celebrate, we are collecting pictures for a remembrance book. We also need names and addresses of former members and pastors, so that they might be made aware of the celebration. Both pictures and addresses can be brought to the church office.

However, remembering our past has the more important function of helping us look to our future. Remembering our stories reminds us of the faithfulness of both God and our predecessors through the mission and ministry of the church. The constant question remains the same, "How do we best serve God's kingdom and our community? How do we glorify God and build up our neighbors?"

One of my goals for the year is to continue to work for better communication and interaction within the congregation. One way that this might be achieved is through the functioning of the various committees and boards. At the past charge conference, I offered a schedule so that all committees would have the opportunity to meet and plan together. On the third Sunday of the month, a light lunch would be served and committees could eat and then work together. Administrative committees would meet one

REV. GREGORY J. TENER

month and then work area the following, alternating throughout the years. So in January, it would be PPRC, Finance, and Trustees. Then February would be for Missions, Evangelism, Education, Worship, Youth, and Children. Of course, several persons are on several committees, so some adjustments might have to take place. I am offering a way for us to coordinate the work of the various groups.

During the month of January, I will be preaching a sermon series that focuses on recapturing our Wesleyan/Methodist vision and theology. General topics are our message, community, discipline, and service.

So as we remember our past and look to our future, I offer this prayer from William E. Orchard, a Presbyterian minister of a previous generation.

"Eternal God, who makest all things new, and abidest for ever the same: grant us to begin this year in thy faith, and to continue it in thy favour; that, being guided in all our doings and guarded all our days, we may spend our lives in thy service, and finally, by thy grace, attain the glory of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Grace and peace,



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

2007 Average Attendance Figures for November: 132
 2007 Budget Requirements: \$317,292.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,292.00
 Needed through November: \$295,810.00
 November Receipts: \$33,152.73
 2007 Receipts through November: \$417,074.07
 November Expenditures: \$36,775.52

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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 Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953
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 e-mail address: rogers2006@alltel.net
 website address: www.poteaufumc.com
 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.gbgn-umc.org/mc-dist/	



JANUARY



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

- 9 Logos resumes
- 11 Mother's Day Out program begins
- 12 United Methodist Men, CFLC, 8 a.m.
- 13 Logos Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- Young Adult Sunday School Class begins, 9:30 a.m.
- 27 Youth Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m. following worship

Notice: The Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 2.

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- Jan. 6 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- Jan. 13 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- Jan. 20 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- Jan. 27 Wayne and Joanne Neuharth



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- Jan. 6 Kade McMillin
- Jan. 13 Sam Shore
- Jan. 20 Maci McMillin
- Jan. 27 Josie Garrett



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

- Logos Staff Meeting Jan. 13 during Sunday School
- Youth Council will meet Jan. 27 following the worship service.

The Christmas Float was terrific and gave our church and children an opportunity to be involved in the community in a positive, fun way. Thank you to Matt and Cindy Stoughton, Josh Graham, the Gilliam family, David and Ronnie Oehlschlager, the Matos family, Susan Mixon, and the Hardaway family for all your hard work in making it happen.

UMYF

The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 6: Regular UMYF
- Jan. 13: Regular UMYF
- Jan. 20: Movie Night: Meet at church
- Jan. 27: Regular UMYF

LOGOS

Themes and leading in worship dates are:

- Jan. 9: Fiesta
- Jan. 13: Middle School will lead in worship
- Jan. 16: Patriotic Night
- Jan. 23: D.O.G. Night – We need empty tissue tubes for this night. Please give to Kim or leave at the church office.

Jan. 30: Tie Dye Night – Wear tie-dye clothes

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 p.m.

The Dec. 16 Logos Christmas Program DVDs are being made. Every family involved in the program will receive a DVD.

New Program

We are planning to test pilot a "Mother's Day Out" program beginning January 11. It will be on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms of the education building. The cost will be \$10 for the entire time and will be for 1 to 3 year olds. Participants will need to provide a snack sack with the child's name on it for food and a diaper bag with diapers and wipes.

If you would like to work in this program or know of someone who would, it is a paid position. Please visit with Rev. Greg Tener or Kim Hardaway, children and youth director.

Note:

The UMM and youth would like to offer their services to members of the congregation and others who are in need of handyman (minor maintenance) jobs done. Please contact the church office with your needs list. We will begin attending to the list on Wednesday evenings when Logos resumes. Examples of minor maintenance might include: light bulb replacements, drippy faucets, leaky toilet, weed pulling, small repairs of caulking, etc.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I am grateful to be a part of this loving, giving family.

With love, Kim

Young Adult Class

Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 13th the new Young Adult Class will begin their next study looking at one of the great themes of the Bible. The study is entitled "Commitment: Committed to Doing Right." The class meets upstairs in the Christian Education Building. If you are not yet part of a Sunday School class, we would especially like to invite you to join us.

Welcome New Members!

We wish to welcome our newest members into our church. Versile and Shanna Johnson and Versile III and Adrianna joined on Dec. 2 from another denomination; and then on Dec. 9 Matt Houston joined by transfer from Southern Hills UMC in Oklahoma City.

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



Bell Notes

The handbell choir is so pleased to be in a permanent home in the balcony. We appreciate that some may feel displaced and apologize to them. The remaining two front pews are available for seating when we are not scheduled to play. With our new home, we will be able to ring more often and enhance the worship experience for the congregation.

The addition of the 5th octave for our Christmas music went well and we are going to pursue purchase of the set. We have a good start with the generous contribution of \$500.00 from the UMW. Many thanks, ladies. The rental fee of \$250.00 will be applied toward the purchase price, bringing our total receipts to \$750.00.

We will be planning a fund raiser after the first of the year to add to the fund. When we have half of the purchase price, we will be able to take possession of the bells. The Schulmerich (manufacturer of the bells) sales representative has indicated that she would be willing to work out a payment schedule for the remainder. The bell choir is very excited about adding this 5th octave and we appreciate the support of the congregation.

We would like to thank Lloyd Lee for his work in designing and modifying the space in the balcony to accommodate the bell tables. Also, many thanks to all those minions who helped move the pews.

The choir will resume practice in January and we are looking forward to sharing more music during worship services. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact the church office or Sandra Slater, the "head ding-a-ling" aka Bell Choir Director.



Card of Thanks



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, kind words and prayers.

I will be moving to Mulberry, Ark. I am getting married to a wonderful man. His name is Jimmy Mason. I will miss everyone. I will keep in touch. Mulberry is not that far away. Thank you again for everything.

Robin Morrison
9004 Booth Rd.
Mulberry, AR 72947

The Ladies of the Church,

Thank you so much for the kindness and thoughtfulness you showed our family during our loss. The family dinner took such a burden off of us.

God bless you all,
Coni and the McCarver Family

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank you for so generously remembering us at Christmas time. Your kindness is a sign of what a good church family you are. We look forward to the new year with you all.

Grace and peace,
Greg and Judy

Jane and I take this opportunity to thank the church for their most generous Christmas love offering.

Ted Kilgore

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It is a privilege to be part of such a loving and supportive church.

Brenda Ferguson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It is such a blessing being part of this church.

Steve Clark

I would like to thank the whole congregation for the generous Christmas gift. Your kind spirit shows throughout the year in our own church and in the entire community.

Sincerely, Wendy Kelly

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for honoring the nursery workers with a love offering. I appreciate it very much.

Jayla Craig

To My Church Family,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated.

Kaycee Quarry

January Birthdays

- 3 Michael Brown and Grace Ford
- 4 Alisa Slater
- 5 Jessa Craig
- 7 Katie Hopper
- 8 Zach Stubbs
- 11 Gloria Plummer and Susan Norgeot
- 12 Irene Beasley and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Alan Ware and Andy Baker
- 19 Eloine Crews, Jim Kidd, and Modean Smith
- 20 Ted Williams
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers and Slim Durham
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway, Bob Nichols, Andrew Barkley
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 John Clark and Baleigh Quarry
- 26 Mary Folsom
- 27 Bill Slater and Candeeda Lawrence
- 30 Jennifer Miller and Paula Midgley
- 31 Jayla Craig



January Anniversaries

- 22 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- 22 Paul and Sue Stottsberry



For those who may remember

Vida Wright:

She is living in Norman, Okla. and has just celebrated her 90th birthday!



Her phone number is 405-360-6056; ask for room 112. Her address is Rivermont Gardens, 750 Canadian Trails Drive, Norman, OK 73072.

Some mini-strokes from back when she was living in Poteau affected her memory and very sadly her primary vision.

She would appreciate a note, card, or phone call from any of her old friends.

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.

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.