



The United Methodist News

VOLUME 17 NO. 1

JANUARY, 2009

Serving God 115 Years

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

PASTOR TO PEOPLE



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One of the many prayers the church has greeted a new year with begins by saying, “Grant that we may enter it with humble and grateful hearts; and confirm our resolution, we beseech thee, to walk more closely in thy way, and labor more faithfully in thy service, according to the teaching and example of thy Son our Lord.” Although this prayer is lived out in a myriad of ways, each way finds support and strength through the fellowship and study with others. I want to encourage you to renew your commitment to the faith formative activity of Sunday school or small group studies. The church has made great strides in the area of children and youth Sunday school. Our adult classes have strong leadership in their teachers and seek to help members grow in faith and understanding.

To augment what is already taking place, I will continue to facilitate additional studies. The Sunday morning “Church Chat” group will be starting an eight-week study on *Christianity’s Family Tree*. This is a video-based study that will look at the faith traditions of Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. So that there is time for discussion, when this study begins on January 11, Church Chat will start at 9:30.

That same evening, January 11, at 5:00, the second part of *Living the Questions* will begin. This study seeks to explore questions of faith without giving the “correct” answers, helping each participant look at contemporary thought for him or herself. *Living the Questions* is divided into three sections of seven weeks in length.

There will be a new study that is based upon the scripture readings for Sunday worship. Brown Bag Bible Study will be in the Family Life Center each Tuesday at noon. Bring a lunch and spend time discussing the assigned readings and their themes for the next Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary (the systematic assignment of Scriptures used in worship over a three-year period).

Finally, the United Methodist Men’s group is sponsoring the study *Letters from Dad*. There will be a Kick-off BBQ on Tuesday, January 20 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Look for more information in upcoming worship bulletins.

So as the New Year approaches, may we each walk and work more closely to the way of Christ.

Grace & peace,

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



Welcome New Member!

Our newest member is Ted Bandy who joined the church on November 23. Be sure and let him know how happy we are to have him as part of our church family.

Baptisms last month included Adrianna and Versile Johnson III, children of Shanna and Versile Johnson II; and Nathan and Waylon Murray, children of Mike and Linzy Murray.

Building Committee Update

Recently the Building Committee hired Tim A. Risley and Associates to begin the process of formulating plans for any new sanctuary construction. Mr. Risley came to the Building Committee highly recommended and with a very competitive fee structure. We hope to have preliminary plans to show and receive approval on from the congregation early next year.

In addition, contracts have been signed on the two houses east of the Christian Family Life Center. We have received just under \$70,000 for their purchase and lack \$58,834 for that purpose. The committee appreciates your patience and your support, both of prayers and finances, as we continue to pursue facilities that will enhance our congregation's growth and impact in the community.

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

2008 Average Attendance Figures for November: 143
 2008 Budget Requirements: \$336,245.22
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,466.26
 Needed through November: \$310,380.48
 November Receipts: \$55,193.57
 November Expenditures: \$24,231.87

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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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.gbpm-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
 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

• MONDAY •

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

• TUESDAY •

Brown Bag Bible Study, Noon, CFLC
 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.

(Office closed Jan. 1 and 2)

- 10 United Methodist Men, 8 a.m.
- 11 Church Chat begins a new study, 9:30 a.m.
 Living the Questions begins, 5 p.m.
- 14 LOGOS resumes, 3:30 p.m.
- 20 Men's Kick-off BBQ for "Letters from Dad
 study, 6 p.m., F.H.

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 4 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 11 Lloyd and Dana Lee
- 18 Wayne and Judy Moore
- 25 David and Lisa Barnes



LITURGISTS

- 11 Haven Perry
- 18 Hayley Redhage
- 25 Mallory Mixon



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- 4 Kanaan Hardaway
- 11 Maci McMillin
- 18 Charlee Gilliam
- 30 Josie Garrett



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

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

The schedule is as follows:

January

- 4 C.H.A.O.S. meets from 5 to 7 p.m. (David and Patty Redhage provide meal)
- 10 Rock Rally at Rock's Garage, \$5 each
- 11 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.
- 18 Youth Council Luncheon and meeting following worship
C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.
- 25 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.

A clipboard for signing up and helping with youth meals will be sent around on January 4th. Please see Kim if you would like to help with this ministry and will not be in worship that day.

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LOGOS Resumes January 14th

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 this month:

- 14 "At the Movies"
- 21 tghiN sdrawkcaB
- 28 Color Power Night

The LOGOS birthday party for Jesus brought in 215 toiletry items for the Women's Crisis Center. Thank you for being so generous in the mission endeavor.

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Mother's Day Out

(No Mother's Day Out on Jan. 2)

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.

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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.

January's food items are: Fruit Cups

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. To date we have collected over 1000 food items that have been given to our local children!



Correspondence

Dear Church Family,

We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring Church Family. There is no way I can list all the many things you have done for me. I can only say Thank You from the bottom of my heart. May God bless each of you.

We wish everyone a blessed and wonderful holiday time.

Jack and Elva Oehlschlager

Dear Church Family,

This is the time of the year that we take to thank our pastor and staff for their hard work and dedication. We will once again be receiving donations for bonuses for our staff. I was unaware of my job duties as chairman of PPRC to complete this task and it is late, so we will present these to the staff as a new year's gift in order for you to have time to make your gift.

If you would like to give to the staff gifts, you can drop your check designated for church staff in the offering plate on December 21st or the 28th, or drop it off at the church office. We will give them out at the beginning of the new year.

God has blessed us with a wonderful staff. They work hard and often long hours keeping our church and the programming going. Please be generous in helping us thank them for a job well done.

If you have questions, you can contact me at 918-658-5267.

Sincerely,

Alan Ware, Chairman
Pastor Parish Relations Committee

First United Methodist Church:

On behalf of the board, the staff and residents of Grace Cottage, thank you for sponsoring a table for our annual "Night Before Christmas" banquet. The evening was a great success. With the support of the local Masonic lodges, our final total raised for the evening will be well over \$21,000 dollars. With your help and support, Grace Cottage has served 54 young women and their unborn children since opening in 2002.

God Bless,
Nancy Putman

Bible Stories by a Child



In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange from some pot roast.

Joseph wore a really loud sports coat.

Another Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

David got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

Jonah was a minor league prophet who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom always says, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" Then I could say, "Yes, I was."

Jesus had many arguments with Pharisees and Republicans. Jesus had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. (He was so evil they named a terrible vegetable after him.)

Jesus healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyway, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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, Modean Smith, and Versile Johnson III
- 20 Ted Williams
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers, Slim Durham, and Randee Hallmark
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway, Bob Nichols, and Andrew Barkley
- 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



United Methodist Church PRESCHOOL 	By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director
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The preschool memory verse for January is "A friend loves at all times." The letters we are studying are K, L and M. The numbers 8 and 9, along with the rectangle, will be focused on. The colors we will be working on are blue and white.

A big thank you to Janet DeSpain, Liz Perry, Dana Lee, and Genny Dorsey for providing the refreshments for our Christmas programs.

Bus Ministry

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