



The United Methodist News

VOLUME 18 NO. 1

JANUARY, 2010

Serving God 116 Years

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

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened heir treasures, they presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

With the coming of another New Year, the Church also turns her attention to a celebration that is even more ancient than Christmas. The Day of Epiphany, January 6 originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Traditionally, the story of the Wise Men, who brought gifts to the Christ Child, is told. This day marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas, and the entire Christmas cycle that began on the First Sunday of Advent.

I am looking forward to the new opportunities for ministry in 2010. Information regarding the fundraising efforts for the approved sanctuary plan is forthcoming. Together, we will discern what it means to be "Living Cornerstones for Ministry" which is the theme selected for the capital campaign.

This is also the time when committees receive new members and new goals and visions are set. During worship on Sunday, January 24, there will be a service of installation of church officers and leaders. After worship, I will host a lunch for the chairpersons of the various committees, so that we can name some expectations and goals for the church and congregation in 2010.

So as we approach the unfolding future, hear this prayer written by Maren C. Tirabassi:

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

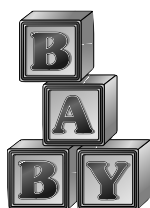
Grace & peace,




REV. GREGORY J. TENER

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It's a Girl!

Jr. and Janet Sockey are proud grandparents of a new baby girl – Addison Jay Sockey, born December 22, 2009. Her parents are Steven and Lindsey Sockey.

Lent Devotional Booklet

A number of people have expressed their appreciation for the Advent Devotional Booklet. So it has been decided to do another booklet for the season of Lent. Devotionals will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 and continue through Easter, April 4. A scripture and theme will be assigned for each day, or members may choose the scripture/theme they wish to write about. Children will draw illustrations. Copies of the devotional booklet will be mailed to all church members before Lent begins. Devotionals may be left in the church office or e-mailed as an attachment to kay_keiththomas@msn.com no later than Monday, January 25.

Scriptures have been selected from the lectionary. Sunday devotionals will use the same scripture that will be the text for the sermon that day. Be in worship January 10 and 17 to select your day. You will be blessed doubly - both when you think and pray and write about a scripture and again when you read the daily devotions written by your church family.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for November, 2009

2009 Average Attendance Figures for November: 166
 2009 Budget Requirements: \$346,911.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,671.37
 Needed through November: \$313,554.39
 November Receipts: \$37,032.69
 November Expenditures: \$46,563.58

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	Darrell Cates
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/

JANUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:

10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Third Friday of each month

• **SUNDAY** •

Weekly Communion, 9:10 a.m., Sanctuary
 (Except on regular communion Sunday)

UMYF, 5:00 p.m.

• **MONDAY** •

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

• **TUESDAY** •

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

Daisy Scouts, 6:00 p.m., F.H.

• **WEDNESDAY** •

Handbells, 5:15 in Fellowship Hall
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

• **THURSDAY** •

Girl Scout Troop #4034, 5:30 p.m.
 (First and Third Thursday only)

• **FRIDAY** •

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

9 UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
 20 Membership Care Committee meeting, 1 p.m., CFLC

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

3 Jim and Nancy Shore
 10 David and Lisa Barnes
 17 Frank and Grace Dehart
 24 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
 31 Terri Martin and Nina Sizemore



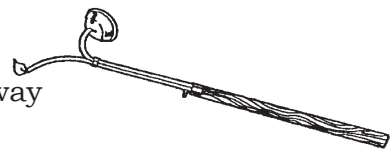
YOUTH LITURGISTS



10 Justin Barnes
 17 Jenny Harreld
 24 Keely Redhage
 31 Haven Perry

MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

3 Taryn Shelton
 10 Morgan Bandy
 17 Kylanna Hardaway
 24 Lily Shore
 31 Allison Matos



WEEKLY COMMUNION

At 9:10 on Sunday mornings Rev. Tener serves communion following a short devotional. Prayer and dismissal is in time for Sunday School.

The 9:10 communion service occurs on every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month which is the regular day for communion during 10:30 worship.



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

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

CHAOS meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. for all youth 6th through 12th grade.

January

- 3 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Rob Bell series
- 10 Youth Council Luncheon meeting following morning worship
CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Rob Bell series
- 17 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Rob Bell series
- 24 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Rob Bell series
- 31 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Rob Bell series

Two big spiritual rally events are coming in February for youth!

Feb. 3: District youth rally at McAlester with Justin Graves Band. (This the band that was at district camp last year and will be there again this summer!) Focus is on 6th to 12th grades. Leave at 5 p.m. and return at 9:30 p.m. Cost is free.

Feb. 5 & 6: "Believe" conference in Tulsa. Focus is on 6th to 10th grades. Leave at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5 and return at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. Cost is \$65 which covers meals, lodging, conference registration, and transportation. (Souvenirs would be the only additional cost.)

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Liturgists Schedule

The liturgist schedule will consist of youth who read the scripture for every Sunday except communion Sunday.

- 10 Justin Barnes
- 17 Jenny Harreld
- 24 Keely Redhage
- 31 Haven Perry

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LOGOS Dates

LOGOS is a Wednesday after school program that meets during the school year for ages Pre-K through 8th grade. Important dates:

- 13 Sports night - Wear favorite sport team shirt
- 20 Pajama night - It's a pj party with breakfast
- 27 Movie night - A night with the movies

Feb. 3 Color power - Wear the color of your table family.

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Open House in Upstairs Education Building

Renovations of the upstairs education building have been taking place and the church family is asked to come see the changes. There will be an Open House on January 31 immediately following worship to invite all to come see what has been done. The changes were made to support the rotation Sunday school curriculum that is

now offered to Kindergarten through 5th grade children.

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Humane Society

This year as we celebrated Jesus' birthday at LOGOS, we asked that as a symbolic gift to Jesus, everyone pick an item from a wish list from the Poteau Valley Humane Society. Thank you for a generous response. The humane society received about 350 pounds of adult dry dog food, 100 pounds of dry kitten food, 32 rolls of paper towels, and 6 gallons of bleach. They are extremely grateful as the items were much needed. Let's continue to remember those needs in the future.

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Monthly Food Drive

Locally there are children who do not get enough to eat on the weekends when school is not in session. We have the opportunity to help supply the food that goes into the sacks sent home with these children each week.

Boxes for collecting the food will be placed in the Chapel room adjacent to the sanctuary, and inside the gym door of the CFLC.

January's food items: Pudding cups.

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Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out is for 1 to 4 year olds on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms. Cost is \$10 per visit.


Participants will need to provide a snack sack with child's name on it for food and a diaper bag with diapers and wipes.

(Mother's Day Out will not meet Jan. 1st.)

Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Christian Family Life Center. They reach out to those who are homebound or are dealing with health issues or bereavement.

For information, call Virginia Stanley (647-2618) or Kay Thomas (647-3491).

United Methodist Church PRESCCHOOL 	By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director
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January 2010, the first month of a new year. The preschool will be learning about the letters K, L, M and N, the numbers 8 and 9, the shape rectangle, and the colors blue and white.

The memory verse for January is "A friend loves at all times."

Correspondence



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at FUMC - Poteau. I still miss and will never forget any of you. God bless you all!

Bessie Moreland

Dear Logos Families,

What a generous surprise of gifts! Thank you very much. It is a joyous experience to be a part of our Wednesday ministry together.

Love, Kim Hardaway

Dear Bro. Tener and My Church Family,

This is Dortha finally having a chance to write you. The selling and buying of my home was very fast. I had been praying for years and didn't realize the Lord would work so quickly. I wanted you and the church to know you all are loved and appreciated.

May God bless you all.

Dorothy O'Neal

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so very much for the super generous Christmas gift. We as the church staff are so very fortunate to have such a loving congregation caring for us throughout the year. I really appreciate all of you.

Love, Brenda Ferguson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your wonderful Christmas bonus gift. I have the best job ever and such a loving and supportive church family! Thank you again and again.

With love, Kim Hardaway

To the Church Family at Poteau UMC,

I want to offer a word of thanks for your generous expression of appreciation to myself and the entire staff. Your kindness shown through the Christmas love offering is overwhelming. You have long been known for being a congregation that is both generous and welcoming. You have proven that true once again. May the New Year be filled with grace for you and the congregation.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Greg Tener and the Staff of First UMC

Dear Church Members,

On behalf of the board, the staff and the residents of Grace Cottage, thank you for sponsoring our annual "Night Before Christmas" banquet. Your support is such a great blessing to Grace Cottage. The evening was a great success;

with your support, the final total raised for the evening will be well over \$52,000 dollars. With your support Grace Cottage will be able to continue to serve young women and their unborn children. God bless each of you and your families this season.

God Bless, Nancy Putman

The advent devotion book is a God-send! Although so many miles separate us, being with you each morning is a most wonderful gift. I thank the contributors for the personal messages that they were willing to share. Your journeys of faith are more meaningful than the devotion book my Portland church is using. My thanks, too, to Keith, Kay, and others who worked on the project. If a devotion book is made next year, I hope I'm still on the mailing list.

May your soul be especially entwined with that of our great Creator and of our Lord now and during the coming year and may you be open to the nudgings of the Holy Spirit as it directs your way.

Dula Baker

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 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
Keith and Kay Thomas

