



# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2007

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Morning Worship**

**10:30 A.M.**



Lent is a quiet, reflective season of the heart, a time to look inward in order that we might look Godward. Confess your sins and take time to search for God, who is, even now, searching for you.

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## PASTOR TO PEOPLE

As I am writing this newsletter article, I am also working on the Ash Wednesday sermon. The Gospel lesson read on that day is found in the sixth chapter of Matthew. In Eugene Peterson's translation, *The Message*, the eighth verse says, "This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply." I think that might be one of the important lessons of this season, to keep it simple. Persons often give something up during Lent as an act of devotion, as a way of uncluttering our lives. The primary goal is so that space is created or freed up so that we can actually hear when God is speaking to us. To practice simplicity might mean to remove, even if for a short period, conflicting claims on our time and energy, so that we can spend time with God.

Several months ago, we had a church potluck dinner with round table discussion centered on our strengths as a congregation and the areas of ministry we would like to address. One area mentioned several times was our Sunday school ministry. I would extend the topic beyond just the Sunday school hour to include our total ministry of faith formation and education. So that the conversation might continue, there will be another potluck dinner on Sunday, March 11th immediately after worship. I hope that you will plan on attending and share any ideas that the congregation might need to consider.

I want to thank all those who have returned the commitment card to the church. At this time we have received 63 cards that represent pledges of \$221,492. That represents an increase of 37 cards over last year and about \$110,000 in monies pledged. This really represents more than financial support but also the giving of time, talent, and prayers. Thank you all for your ministry.

Grace & peace,

*REV. GREGORY J. TENER*

## On the Prayer List

Prayer has been requested for the following people listed in the worship bulletin Sunday, Feb. 25: Grayson Bradshaw, Ken Hammond, John Lawrence, Robert Smedley, Sam Madewell, Edie McMillin's Mother and Stepfather, Jeff Sullivan, Confirmation Class, Bob Ridenour, Don Baker and family, Lloyd and Dana Lee, David Roberts, Stacy King and family, Lois Robison, Sue Stottsberry, Don Baetz, Jan Graham, Dale Oliver, Shore Family, Carol Baker's Father, Genny and Phil Dorsey, and the Christina Owen Family.



### OUR JOURNEY TOWARD EASTER

Our cross on the corner will have a different symbol each week during Lent. This week's symbol is a heart. Members of the congregation were each given a cross to wear last Sunday. Each week a new symbol will be added. If you missed worship, come next Sunday and receive your cross and symbol for last week and the next.

### Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For Jan., 2006

2007 Average Attendance Figures for January: 150  
 2007 Budget Requirements: \$327,292.00  
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,294.00  
 Needed thru January: \$25,176.00  
 January Receipts: \$35,350.50  
 January Expenditures: \$48,048.49

#### THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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 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	Sara Fuchs
Music Director	Steve Clark
Church Secretary	Brenda Ferguson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Robin Morrison

District web page address: www.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/



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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 •

Confirmation Class, 9:30 a.m., Education Bldg.  
 Pastor's "How Can I Forgive?" Study, 4:30 p.m., F.H.  
 Methodist Youth Fellowship, (6th-8th) 5:00 p.m.  
 Methodist Youth Fellowship, (9th-12th) 6:00 p.m.

#### • MONDAY – FRIDAY •

Christian Preschool, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

#### • MONDAY •

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

#### • WEDNESDAY •

Logos Program, 3:15 p.m., CFLC  
 Adult Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m., Bell Room  
 Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

#### • SATURDAY •

Cub Scouts, 10:00 a.m., CFLC

- 4 Oaks Worship Service, 2 p.m.
- Children's Council meeting, 2 p.m.
- Youth Council meeting, 4 p.m.
- 10 United Methodist Men's Breakfast & Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 11 Pot Luck and Conversation, 11:30, CFLC
- 18 Blue Basket Day for Drew DeCamp, 11:30 a.m.

Mark your calendar: *Living Lord's Supper Drama - April 5*

### MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

Mar. 4 Bob and Margaret Nichols  
 Mar. 11 Tom and Dee Kemp  
 Mar. 18 Aaron and Betty Ridenour  
 Mar. 25 Jean Gaylor and Andi Burton



### MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

Mar. 4 Connor Matos  
 Mar. 11 William Slater  
 Mar. 18 Maci McMillin  
 Mar. 25 Jesse Barnes



We congratulate these new acolytes for proudly serving God by helping us worship. They have learned that the light they carry represents bringing the light of Jesus into our worship service and then carrying the light of Jesus out into the world.



## Youth and Children's News

Sara Fuchs, Youth and Children's Director

### March UMYF Schedule Jr. High Schedule and Themes

- 11 God of the Lost
- 18 No UMYF - Spring Break
- 25 God of Grace and God of Glory
- 31 Who's Perfect Anyway?

### Sr. High Schedule and Themes World Religions Series

- 7 Hinduism
- 11 Buddhism
- 14 Islam
- 18 No UMYF - Spring Break
- 21 No Bible Study - Spring Break
- 25 Judaism
- 28 Christianity
- 31 Who's Perfect Anyway?

### LOGOS Dates and Themes

- 7 Pajama Night – Wear your best pair of PJs
- 14 Hawaiian Luau – Wear your best Hawaiian shirt
- 21 No LOGOS – Spring Break
- 28 Mexican Fiesta

### Children and Youth Council Meetings

On Sunday, March 4, the councils for both the children's and youth ministries will meet. We will begin with the children's council meeting at 2 p.m. and the youth council will begin at 4 p.m.

This is an important time of vision and planning as we look to take both of these important and vital ministries of our church to the next level.

Please mark your calendars now and make plans to attend.

### Coming this summer . . .

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS this year will be June 4 – 9 from 9:00 to noon.

#### CHILDREN'S CAMPS

Sonshine Camp (1st-2nd graders): June 9th and 10; June 30th - July 1st

Growing In Grace Camp (3rd-5th graders): July 9th-13th

#### YOUTH CAMPS

Youth Force Stillwater (6th-12th graders): June 24th-29th

Sixth Grade Camp: July 9th-13th

District Camp (7th-12th graders): July 16th-20th



## Blue Basket Day for Owen James

There will be a Blue Basket Day on March 18 for Owen James, son of Drew DeCamp and Alex Cunningham, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning worship.

Refreshments will be served and there will be a basket and table available where you may place cards and gifts if you wish.



## A Word From Helen Benn

The communion table, the altar, and even the choir were all in pure white – with touches of gold – symbolic of the purity and glory of transfiguration. To witness this phenomenal experience our pastor led us uphill (could be Cavanal) teaching us how God in His love and mercy placed “rest stops” on the steep climb upward. Human (earthly) senses cannot witness God's Glory. But in a mountain top experience the presence of the Lord reveals to us the valley below, makes us to know in our hearts what a harvest we have to gather. We (the church) have work to do. The valley is wide, the need is great. We must go to battle.

We dream the impossible dream.

It could be a tight squeeze for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, but Jesus said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible.”

With Him we attain the victory: the transformation of our bodies to life eternal, celebrating a transfiguration camp meeting together. Up there.

#### Liar Sermon

A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, “Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the seventeenth chapter of Mark.”

On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to begin and said, “Now then, all of you who have done as I requested and read the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please raise your hands.”

Nearly every hand went up.

Then the preacher said, “You are the people I want to talk to. There is no seventeenth chapter of Mark.”



## Cards of Thanks



### Bell Choir Thank You

Many, many thanks to all of you who purchased the Bell Choir CD. We had fun making it. As director, I was a little nervous about the whole thing. But Bill Lancaster eased my fears (and the apprehension of the ringers) and produced a CD we can all be proud of. We have donated \$250.00 to our youth to be used as Sara wishes.

If anyone would like to purchase a CD, they are still available in the church office for \$10.00.

The Bell Choir is looking forward to sharing our music with the congregation throughout the coming year.

Sandra Slater

Dear Friends at Poteau,

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful hospitality offered us when we were with you in November. We are so grateful for friends like you.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we enter into a new year full of possibilities, ministry and growth. We shall keep you in our prayers as well.

We look forward to seeing some of your church family this summer.

Grace and peace,  
Revs. Trent and Linda Baggett  
United Methodist Church of Sitka, Alaska

## Evelyn's Inspiration

By Evelyn White

About Love: 1st Corinthians - Chap 12-13:14  
"Among these, love is the greatest gift."

When we receive that Gift of Love, then we realize the greatness of God - the great influence love has on our lives. When we have love, we can feel how much God loves us.

How wonderful.

When we have love, we have compassion, we will forgive, we learn faith and trust in people.

Our love and God's love for us mix and mingle (Romans 8:16) and we know God abides in us; giving us the abundant and eternal life. In this year of 2007, the greatest choice you can make is to choose God the Lord of your Life, and Jesus Christ as your Redeemer and Savior of your Soul.

Great Joy in God's Love,  
Evelyn



**United Methodist Men's  
Breakfast and Meeting  
Saturday, March 10th  
8:00 a.m.  
Guest Speaker:  
Jeff Smith,  
LeFlore County D.A.**

## March Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Clark and Jan Thompson
- 2 Jeff Roberts, Jim Hall, Sarah Bradshaw, and Josh Graham
- 3 Carol Beard and Mollie Forsberg
- 5 Janet Sockey
- 6 Jeff Shore and Jake McMillin
- 9 Samantha Stoughton
- 11 Pete Norgeot
- 12 Dalton James
- 13 Bailey Baker
- 14 Todd Wright and Jean-Ann Shankle
- 16 Connor Wheat and Shannon Stubbs
- 18 Mike Lee, Tim Renfro, and Jacob Sconyers
- 22 Joseph Sabatucci, Jr.
- 24 Carol Baker, Susan England, and Debbie Wood
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, and Joshua Sconyers
- 26 Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni McCarver
- 31 Barbara Owens



## March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike and Kay Sullivan
- 21 Bill and Sandra Slater
- 22 Gary and Artheia Hageman
- 27 Ted and Jane Kilgore



United Methodist Church  
**PRESCHOOL**



By  
Tracey Gilliam,  
Preschool  
Director

Preschool will be working with the letters R, S T, and U, the colors yellow and green, and we will focus on the clover shape.

Our Bible memory verse for March is "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." Psalm 31:7

Spring Break is March 19th - March 23rd.