



The United Methodist News

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 2007

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship
10:30 A.M.



Happy
Valentine's
Day



February 21, 7 p.m.

What's
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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

It seems as if we just celebrated Christmas and the joy of God coming to live among us and now the calendar tells me it's time to prepare for Easter. The season of Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday as a time for preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Historically, it has been marked with such spiritual disciplines as fasting, concentrating on our baptismal covenant, prayer, and repentance – disciplines that help shape our Christian faith formation. Our Lenten emphasis will be a focus on "Love on the Cross" which is designed to help us grow in God's love as revealed in Christ Jesus. Each week in worship, we will all receive crosses, symbols and devotion readings based on God's love.

Lent, then, has become in many congregations the opportunity for youth to participate in Confirmation Class as preparation for baptism, confirmation, and the public declaration of faith in Christ. At this time we have 13 youth participating in this class, plus two others who have participated earlier and wanted to be part of the study again. I would ask that you keep this group in your prayers so that when they are received into full membership of the church on Palm Sunday, they will have already experienced and can know for themselves the love of God you all have to share.

I do want to take a moment to thank you for the generous Christmas gift that you shared with Judy and me. We appreciate your generosity and kindness. Poteau United Methodist Church is a great place to serve and you have all made that possible.

Lastly, I would offer this prayer for your usage as we all prepare for Easter:

O merciful father, in compassion for your sinful children
you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world.
Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil

(continued on page 2)

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation.

Help us by self-denial, prayer, and mediation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life.

And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

(UM Book of Worship, 1992)

Grace & peace,

Welcome New Members!

We were very happy to welcome two new members into church membership on Dec. 31. Gene and Dana Wheat joined by transfer from another denomination.

We sincerely welcome the Wheat into our church family.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For Dec., 2006

2006 Average Attendance Figures for December: 155

2006 Budget Requirements: \$305,794.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$5,880.00

Needed thru December: \$294,023.76

December Receipts: \$31,817.19

Year To Date Receipts thru December: \$411,102.28

December Expenditures: \$29,605.66

Year To Date Expenditures thru December: \$381,560.58

A Bible scripture for Valentine's Day: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

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.gbgm-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			

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 Youth Super Bowl Party, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., CFLC
11 Sweetheart Breakfast, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m., CFLC
(See Youth Report, pg. 3 for details)
21 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

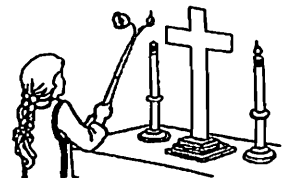
MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

Feb. 4 Reedy Gothard and Marilyn Johnston
Feb. 11 Ann Vaughan and Bessie Moreland
Feb. 18 Elva and David Oehlschlager
Feb. 25 Lloyd and Dana Lee



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

Feb. 4 Taylor Darneal
Feb. 11 Kanaan Hardaway
Feb. 18 Josie Garrett
Feb. 25 Sam Shore
Mar. 4 Connor Matos
Mar. 11 William Slater



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

February UMYF Schedule Jr. High Themes

- 4 SUPER BOWL PARTY
- 11 God of Compassion
- 18 Are You Grounded?
- 28 Forgiveness 101

Sr. High Themes

- 4 SUPER BOWL PARTY
- 7 Character: What is it? Where does it come from?
Why are we asked to have it? Romans 5:1-5
- 11 Integrity: What is it? Where does it come from?
Why are we asked to have it?
- 14 Relationship Talkback
- 18 Leadership 101
- 21 (No Bible Study)
- 28 Questions People Ask

CONFIRMATION 2007

On Saturday, January 21 we began our confirmation classes with a great luncheon and time together. This year's class is comprised of six wonderful young men: Justin Barnes, Kyle Matos, Jake McMillin, David Oehlschlager, Kaivka Santos, and Zach Stubbs, as well as seven wonderful young ladies: Ronna Bell, Alicia Gilliam, Megan Harreld, Jenny Harreld, Mallory Mixon, Hayley Redhage, Keely Redhage, and a host of wonderful mentors and guides. We met for the first class on January 28 to begin this wonderful journey to Easter and Confirmation Sunday. The schedule for confirmation in the month of February is as follows:

- 4 Class 2
- 11 Class 3
- 16-17 Confirmation Retreat at Egan with classes 4-5
- 18 Class 6
- 25 Class 7

SUPER BOWL PARTY

On Sunday, February 4th from 5 to 9 p.m. the youth will host a Super Bowl Party in the CFLC. The game starts around 5:20 p.m. with a gob of funny commercials and amazing halftime show. During the evening we will eat, play games, have prizes available and much more.

We are asking that everyone bring either a snack and/or drink to share. A sign-up sheet will be going around listing the items that will be brought to make sure that we have plenty.

PARENTS: We need you!! In order to make this event all that it can be we need some of you to stay and help host. Come and join us!



SWEETHEART BREAKFAST

On Sunday, February 11th, the youth of Poteau First United Methodist Church will be hosting a Sweetheart Breakfast as a fundraiser. It will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the Christian Family Life Center.

For breakfast that morning we will be serving pancakes, bacon, eggs, juice, etc. Cost for the breakfast is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, with a maximum of \$20 per family.

Tickets are now on sale. Find a member of the youth group or call the office for tickets! Thank you for supporting our youth in their fundraiser.

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



A Word From Helen Lenn

We've heard it said, the first step a child takes is a step away from home ties. How proud we are to see this small child take its first steps – very unsteady, waving their arms, smiling and holding onto others – yet walking; alone. So dependent on us for leadership. Like our *spiritual walk with God*. We lean, heavily, until our spiritual growth is strong and then by faith we walk upright, hand in hand with our creator. Wow.

This stage in life is sometimes a heavy burden. We wobble, struggle to walk tall; our walk's not as we would like – the "snake in the grass" (Satan) is taunting at our efforts. "Out there" beckons us to greener pastures, questions and desires for worldly things cause our walk to become slow, unsteady.

The word promises aid – IF we apply the oil of the fruits of the spirit. Know God. Praise God. Talk to God. Be open to His presence. Trust God. He knows the way. He marks our steps. All the way to Heaven.



Cards of Thanks



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the phone calls, e-mails, and cards. Thank you most of all for your prayers. I am feeling much better and hope to see you soon in Sunday School and Church.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the kindness shown my sister during her visit. She always wants to know about the church when we talk.

God bless each of you.

Love, Susan England

Dear Church Members –

Thank you so much for the gift certificate you sent me for finals week. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

Steven Sockey

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I am looking forward to an even better 2007 for the choir thanks to all the great help I have in doing my job at our church.

Sincerely, Steve Clark

To the Methodist Church:

Thank you for your generous monetary donation to the LeFlore County Foster Children's Christmas Fund. God bless you and yours throughout the coming year.

Rebecca McRorey

Rev. Tener and Members of Poteau FUMC,

Thanks to you and those of you who sent cards, flowers, donations, and phone calls for Marcus. I appreciate the kind words and everything very much. I am sorry I did not get to greet each of you, but I so thank you. Poteau was special to us.

God bless each of you.

Beverly Barnett and Family

I would like to thank the congregation for the record contributions to the Staff Christmas Bonus Fund this year. I really appreciate everyone's generosity.

Jack Stanley



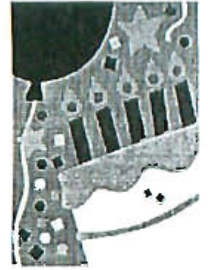
Sympathy Extended

Our love and sympathy is extended to Ted Kilgore and Genny Dorsey and their families. Both lost a sister recently.



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
- 10 Denise Sullivan and Julie Bridges
- 11 Daniel McCarver and Peter Norgeot
- 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
- 6 Bill and Janet Fox
- 14 Loney and Myra Gregory
- 28 Scott and Denise Sullivan



United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

Preschool welcomes new students Curtis Culwell, James Moss, Tiffany Tucker, and Dylan Tucker.

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

Our memory verse is "Hear the word of God and obey it." We will learn that the Bible helps us learn good and right ways to live. We will also learn about the postman, our five senses, and about dinosaurs.

Hooray!

Ms. Kim has had her baby. Alyah Marie Cooper was born on January 2, 2007. She weighed 7 pounds 12-1/2 ounces and was 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great.