

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 21 NO. 10

OCTOBER, 2013

SERVING GOD 120 YEARS

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



**Church
Halloween
Carnival**
Sunday, Oct. 27
5 to 7 p.m.
CFLC
Fun and Games!

**What's
Inside**

Church Calendar..... 2
Finance Report 2
Sympathy Note 2
Preschool 3
Kids' Korner 3
News of Youth..... 3
Start This, Stop That 3
Mission Donation..... 3
Cards of Thanks 4
Birthdays, Anniversaries 4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Grace, Grace, God's Grace . . .

Retired United Methodist minister, Denny Hook, tells of a young woman confined to a wheelchair with cerebral palsy.

She had to struggle for each word, and every sentence she uttered was a victory. Up to that point, the discussion had centered on prayer, God's grace, and people's perception of God's activity. The woman ... slurred her words, but her meaning was crystal clear. She said, "Everyone who looks at me and thinks, 'There but for the grace of God go I' closes all communication between us."

One meaning of that statement is that some people look down on handicapped persons; therefore, they reduce communication because they become closed to mutual, equal exchange. A more devastating meaning is that the person assumes that God's grace is not with the handicapped person. It's like saying all normal people are receivers of God's grace; the unfortunate are not. ¹

As I read this, I immediately thought of one of my college football coaches - a volunteer coach actually. Jimmy Allen had a wicked sense of humor, a passion to beat the pants off anyone who would dare answer his challenge to a game of chess, and the best football mind I have ever known. He also suffered with cerebral palsy. Jimmy's speech was so slurred that only those who had spent months and years with him could understand him. Many people outside of the coaching staff and football team, I suspect, looked down on Jimmy with this same sense of personhood-robbing pity experienced by the woman that Denny Hook writes about.

It is not just those suffering with debilitating physical handicaps that "normal" people often look down upon. Persons with mental or emotional challenges fall into this group of "to-be-pitied" people. As do those who find themselves gripped in the crippling vice of poverty or illness or isolation or any of the other "afflictions" that rob people of their value, at least as far as the world determines a person's value is concerned.

Yet the Gospel message, the Good News, is that God values all people. A person's lot in this life is not a measurement of, nor a condition for God's grace. If we will but allow ourselves to be fully engaged with people, especially those different than us (from different socioeconomic conditions; different conditions of health both physical and mental/emotional; different cultural settings; different life experiences, etc.) we just might get a

(Continued on page 2

REV. KYLE CLARK

(Pastor to People, cont.)

glimpse of God’s grace in their lives and maybe we will receive a measure of God’s grace through them.

I could tell you stories of the ways Jimmy Allen, “handicapped” as he was, had profound impacts on the lives of many young men. I could tell you about the ways I have seen God act through people that most of us (me included) continue to walk by and dismiss with the cruel statement, “There but for the grace of God ... “ In the voices of people like the woman in the story, Jimmy Allen, and countless others we have the opportunity to be in relationship with, we are reminded (I hope) of the universality of God’s grace. When, by the witness of their personal courage, God’s grace is reflected to others, even “normal” people can begin to understand that we are all family and Christ is present in all of us. That is true grace and it is for us all to experience and to share.

Grace and Peace,



¹ Denny G. Hook, *Snapshots of the Deity: Catching God in the Act.* (self published 1996).

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for August 2013

Average Attendance Figures for August: 137
 2013 Budget Requirements: \$400,000.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,692.31
 Needed through August: \$269,230.85
 August Receipts: \$19,645.52
 August Expenditures: \$34,328.89
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$1,542,815.97
 Expenditures: \$2,578,333.18

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

e-mail: rogers2006@windstream.net

website: www.poteaufumc.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Weekly Communion 9:10 a.m. except first Sunday

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Darrell Cates
Senior Pastor	Rev. Kyle Clark
Director of Youth Ministries	Kimberly Hardaway
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Tracy Hoskins
Director of Music Ministries	Steve Clark
Administrative Assistant	Reenea Thompson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Jason Dering

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



OCTOBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday

Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month

• SUNDAY •

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

• MONDAY •

**Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday
 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building**

• TUESDAY •

**Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC
 Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC
 Treble Choir Rehearsal, 6:30, Choir Room**

• WEDNESDAY •

**LOGOS, 3:30 p.m., CFLC
 Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
 Women’s Bible Study, 6:15 p.m.,
 Conference Room**

• THURSDAY •

**Senior Café, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., CFLC
 Girl Scouts, 4:00 p.m., CFLC**

• FRIDAY •

Church office closes at noon

- 3, 4 Okla. Annual UMW Conference Meeting
- 8 Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- 19 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m., CFLC
- 27 Halloween Carnival, 5 to 7 p.m., CFLC

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 6 Hank and Barbara Harris
- 13 Lloyd and Dana Lee
- 20 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 27 Nina Ritchie and Liz Perry



ACOLYTES

- 6 Kylanna Hardaway and Allison Matos
- 13 Maci White and Katie Redhage
- 20 Kyle Holt and Daniel Ambriz
- 27 Luke Wheat and Wyatt Holt



Our Sympathy

Our love and sympathy is extended to Sheri Zabala and family on the recent death of her grandmother.





By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

The monthly memory verse at Preschool for October is "God has been good to me."

Throughout the month, the students will learn about Fire Safety, Transportation, Autumn and Fuzzy Funny Monsters.

We will focus on the letters D, E, F, G and H and the numbers 3 and 4. The shape is a triangle and the color is orange.

News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. and is for all youth 6th through 12th grade. The schedule is as follows:

OCTOBER

- 4, 5 UMW State Meeting held at Poteau: Youth helping with supper and lunch as a fundraiser
- 6 Regular meeting
- 13 Regular meeting
- 20 Regular meeting
- 27 Church Halloween Carnival, 5 to 7 p.m.

...

Christmas Card Photo Shoots Offered!

The first two Sundays of December (Dec. 1st and 8th) following morning worship, the youth will be offering photo sessions for your Christmas card photos.

For \$5 (single location) or \$10 (multiple locations), high quality shots of you and/or your family will be taken at various beautiful locations around our church (i.e. by Christmas tree, in Narthex, with poinsettias, etc.)

The shots will then either be emailed to you for printing or single prints made for you to have Christmas cards developed.

Mission Report

Thanks to everyone in the church who donates and helps with every request. The call goes out and you respond! **The October monthly mission food item for the backpack program is juice boxes. Place them in the baskets in the Narthex.** Thanks again.

United Methodist Women

By Dorothy James, UMW President

On October 4 and 5 the State Conference Meeting will be in Poteau.

The UMW Fall Festival will be Nov. 8.

Kids' Korner

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries

What a blessing it has been to experience the first few weeks of LOGOS! I want to thank all of the volunteers for their help and knowledge. You are the backbone of the program! I would like to say thank you to those that have donated money, food, and other needs to help make LOGOS a success.

As we have completed three weeks, we have found that there are a few needs to be filled. We need a couple of individuals to help decorate on Wednesdays. The decorating takes about an hour with two people. This can be done anytime before 2:00 p.m. If you can help this would relieve some of the burden off of me and others. If you feel led to cook or clean, we can place you on one of those teams. Those teams only cook or clean 3 times during the semester. Many hands make light the work. Please contact me, Tracy Hoskins, if you have questions or would like to fill one of our needs.

We are preparing to change our Children's Sunday school program. We will be starting an exciting new program that will enrich our children's experiences of God and Jesus Christ. If you would like to be a part of this program, please let me know.

Now that cooler weather is on the way, look for announcements of fun family events to come.

As always, I am available for suggestions. I'm around the church Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Come see me. My office is next to the Education Wing.

Tracy Hoskins
thoskins@poteaufumc.com

Start This / Stop That

There has been a lot of advice over the years about how to do and grow church. Some of it works. Some of it doesn't. Yet the reality is that nothing stays the same. Change is inevitable. Every person, every group, every organization moves in cycles, even churches. The strengths, skills and programs that get a church to one level, are also the things that will keep it there and prevent it from moving forward.

In their book, *Start This Stop That: Doing the Things that Grow Your Church*, Jim and Judy Cowart share some practical ideas that they have put into practice at Harvest United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia, that are working for that congregation as they are striving to faithfully share God's grace and the love of Jesus Christ with more and more people.

(Continued on page 4)

Start This/Stop That continued)

I have asked everyone in a leadership position in our congregation to read this book and to participate in a short 5-week study with it as our text. I would also like to invite anyone else who is interested to participate as well. I am offering two opportunities to go through this book together. One will be on Sunday evenings from 6-7 beginning Oct 6 and going through Nov 3. A second opportunity to participate will be a brown-bag lunch study during the lunch hour on Wednesdays, Oct 9 – Nov 6 from 12-1.

If you're willing to ask and answer some hard questions...

If you're willing to stretch yourself and take a few risks...

If you're ready to be part of a more effective ministry...

You are encouraged to attend either one of the classes. Books are \$10. Please contact the church office and let us know which study you will be attending and to reserve a book.

Cards of Thanks

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone here at PFUMC. You have made me feel so welcome and at home. I hope you are as blessed today as you have made me feel.

Reenea Thompson

What a beautiful way to show God's love to people who are sick and hurting. We really appreciate the prayer shawl for both Roger and our son, Jeff. Again, thank you for your prayers

Rev. Roger and Barbara Mattox

My Dear Church Family,

Wow! What a fantastic retirement party! You guys are wonderful! You've really made me feel very special! I want you to know how much I love and appreciate each one of you and how very special you are to me. Your attendance meant so much. Thank you!

I'm so very glad Frank and Grace celebrated with me. Frank chaired the SPRC 34 years ago and hired me. I'm also happy Joe and Martha came. Joe was a member of the SPRC at that time and checked on me at the church regularly to see if I needed any help! They are special friends.

I want to thank the group who worked so hard decorating and serving on Friday. Thank you so much Janet DeSpain, Dorothy Gail James, Linda Lee, Judy Peerson, Liz Perry, Janet Sockey and Peggy Talley. (Peggy gave me a pink butterfly catcher since I will now have plenty of spare time to catch butterflies.) The Narthex and Family Room were beautifully decorated with fall colors and flowers. My very special friends in Sr. Cafe



made the dozens of delicious cookies we all enjoyed.

The SPRC gave me a stunning Celtic Cross necklace which I will wear and remember the awesome people at PFUMC. I thank SPRC for their generous gift.

I received many, many beautiful cards and special gifts. I just never expected all this, really! There were a few tears, but I had such a good time laughing and enjoying being with all of you.

Dorothy Gail gave me a "Happy Retirement" balloon which says, "The Best Is Yet To Come! Isn't that a nice thought? Thank you so much Dorothy Gail!

I am so overwhelmed and humbled by all my friends who have given me such love, kindness, and generosity. Thank you and I want to continue to know how things are progressing in your lives.

Please keep in touch. You may write me at P.O. Box 177, Wister, OK 74966. My email address is cbferguson607@windstream.net and my phone number is 918-658-5681.

Thank you again and so long for now.

Love, Brenda

October Birthdays

- 1 Joe K. Thomas
- 2 Peyton Stubbs and Darla Fox
- 3 J.J. Hall and Maggie Wheat
- 5 Pamela Cox, Cindy Brody and Linda Lancaster
- 6 Jim DeCamp
- 8 Andrea Traywick, Reenea Thompson, Mark Zabala and Kayla Alexander
- 9 Andrea Skelton
- 13 Phyllis Kemp
- 15 Tiffany Mason and Judy Curtis
- 16 J.L. Ford
- 17 Drew Baker
- 19 Krissy Manning
- 20 Jack Hornbuckle, Stephen Cherry, and Laynie White
- 22 Tracey Gilliam and Louise Reynolds
- 24 Alison Garrett, Jim Shore and Lisa Barnes
- 26 Rozelle Hardaway
- 28 Susan Oehlschlager and Justin Pickle
- 29 Katie Shore
- 30 Ruth Ann DeCamp and Bob Reed
- 31 Bill Cupp, Ben Curtis and Kendra Yandell



October Anniversaries

- 10 Mike and Linda Lee
- 16 Justin and Jaime Pickle
- 18 Cody and Sarah Bradshaw
- 24 Vernon and Phyllis Roberts
- 28 David and Gerry Roberts

