

# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 2014

SERVING GOD 120 YEARS

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

**Women's  
 Retreat**  
**Sat., Mar. 1**  
**9 a.m to 5 p.m.**  
*(Details on page 3)*



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## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**

### **Easter is Coming!!!**

I don't know about you, but I am worn out, no, more like exhausted really. It seems that with each passing year it takes longer and longer for me to recuperate from all the exhausting activities of the Christmas season. Perhaps you know what I mean.

Now, in these waning days of January, as I am able to pause for a moment of reflection, I am reminded of this: for the earliest Christians, there was no Christmas! Remember, two of the four Gospels have no Christmas story at all! No nativity. No star. No angels or shepherds or wise men. In fact, as big as Christmas has become in our culture, both secular and in the life of the church, the Good News is not news about the birth of a baby and the climax of the Gospels is not Christmas at all.

For the Gospel writers, for Christians, for us the central message of the Gospel is centered upon another event - the resurrection! Easter is the climactic event, the crucial episode of Jesus' Messiahship. Each Gospel writer devotes at least 25% of their chapters to focus on the Easter events. Sometimes we forget that. Sometimes we even need an outsider to remind us of what is central to our Christian faith. Consider this from Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman:

*Historians tell us that Christmas was not always the cultural fulcrum that balances Christian life. There was a time when Christians knew the paschal mystery of death and resurrection as the center of Christian faith. It was Easter that really mattered, not Christmas. Only in the consumer-conscious nineteenth century did Christmas overtake Easter, becoming the centerpiece of popular piety.*

Our worship itself is marked by Easter much more than Christmas. For centuries, each Sunday has been known as "little Easter." In our baptism we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. At the Communion table, we remember and celebrate the mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. You see,

*(Continued on page 2)*

**REV. KYLE CLARK**

# PASTOR TO PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

we could always be Christian without Christmas, but we can never be Christian without Easter!

So, as we continue our recovery from Christmas, paying off the holiday bills (which by now are already coming due), rather than asking you about how your New Year's Resolutions are going (which by now may be a thing of the past!) let me invite you to begin looking forward to that much less culturally stressful celebration of Easter and focus on faith, and discipleship. Let these days between Christmas and Easter be a time of reorienting and, at least for a few weeks, a time where we relax a bit, recover from our weariness and exhaustion and remember that Christmas is over - but Easter is coming!

Hallelujah! Amen!



Kyle



**Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for December 2013**  
 Average Attendance Figures for December: 114  
 2013 Budget Requirements: \$400,000.00  
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,692.31  
 Needed through December: \$400,000.00  
 December Receipts: \$41,699.08  
 December Expenditures: \$28,599.87  
**New Building Fund Figures:**  
 Deposits: \$1,629,350.94  
 Expenditures: \$2,578,528.03

**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/



# FEBRUARY 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 - 6 p.m., CFLC**  
**Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.**  
**Women's Bible Study, 6:15 p.m., Conf. Rm.**
  - **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 SPRC Meeting, 5:15 p.m.  
 6 UMW Women of Faith Meeting, 1 p.m.  
 15 Neighborhood Free Breakfast, CFLC  
 17 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
 19 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC  
 March  
 1 Women's Retreat (see pg.3)

## MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 2 Keith and Patty Wright
- 9 Randy and Tami Matos
- 16 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 23 Bill and Linda Lancaster



## ACOLYTES

- 2 Kendrick Hardaway and Kanaan Hardaway
- 9 Nathan Murray and Wyatt Holt
- 16 Baleigh Quarry and Tabi Zabala
- 23 Benny Werner and Daniel Ambriz



## NOTICE:

**If you would like to be on the church email list, email us at rogers2006@windstream.net**

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**Note: Please, if you are borrowing anything from the church – plates, costumes, tables or chairs, etc., please come by the office and let us know. We just need to keep up with where everything is. Thank you.**

## Women's Retreat

The Poteau First United Methodist Church will be hosting a one day, non-denominational, Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 1st from 9 a.m until 5 p.m. The retreat will be held here at the church. The presenters are Bonnie Cates, Sandi Paschal, and Janice Heard.

The message of the retreat is based on the book, *Captivating*, written by John and Staci Eldredge. The message of *Captivating* is this: Your heart matters more than anything else in all creation. This one-day retreat is not like any other that you may have attended – it is not about how to be a better Christian or how to work harder at your Christian life. Instead, it helps us understand the importance and great value of our hearts. The retreat is a time to take care of your own heart for a change, letting your heart be awakened, pampered, valued and unearthed like the treasure it is.

This conference is for all area women ages 16 and above. The cost is \$20 if registered on or before February 26th. After the 26th and at the door, cost will be \$25. The cost includes your lunch and snacks. Please send check (memo: Retreat) to Poteau FUMC, 109 S. Harper. For more information call (918) 647-2217 or email [adminassistant@poteaufumc.com](mailto:adminassistant@poteaufumc.com).

## Confirmation Time

It's Confirmation Time!!

But, what is confirmation?

- Confirmation is a time for students to prepare to profess their baptismal faith, and claim their faith as their own.

- Confirmation is a time where we hope to reinforce life-long habits for growing in our faith, so that we can express our faith through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we seek to become living proof of God's love, one person at a time.

- Confirmation is a time when we creatively teach students about our faith through the lens of our Wesleyan heritage, help the student understand their own faith story, and seek to connect them to their peers and faith community to form long-lasting bonds both inside and outside of church walls.

- Confirmation in the United Methodist tradition is a rite through which young Christians affirm the faith of the church, become baptized or renew the vows of baptism, and commit to lives of discipleship as professing members of The United Methodist Church.

### KEY DATES

Feb. 12: Registration Deadline

Feb. 19: First Confirmation Meetings in the Family Room at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 3:30-5:00: Confirmation Class

April 9: Last Confirmation Class



April 20 (Easter): Receive / Recognize our Confirmands into Church Membership

If you are in the 6th grade or older and have not yet completed confirmation, this is for you! Please contact the church office to reserve a place in confirmation.

## Kids' Korner

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries  
[thoskins@poteaufumc.com](mailto:thoskins@poteaufumc.com)

Sunday School for all children continues each Sunday morning at 9:30. Help your children to experience and grow in the love of God! We are going to split our children by age and another teacher is needed. If you know of anyone or would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Sunday School achievements will be posted each month in this newsletter starting next month. Achievements include Bible verse memorization and attendance. We hope to have an Achievement Tree to display achievements placed near the worship packets soon.

Worship packets are available for the children. I am redesigning the contents of the packets so that they are more age appropriate.

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LOGOS is in full swing.

We can always use more help. I would love to have a couple of more Table Parents, a few more clean up crew members and I definitely need someone to work with the 4/5 grade and middle school aged kids during their game time. The game schedule is on a rotation basis with two weeks on and two weeks off. Cleaning crews work once a month for a total of three times a semester. If anyone could fill any of these positions, great! Let me know! Many hands make light the work. Please contact me, Tracy Hoskins, if you have questions or would like to fill one of our needs.

LOGOS Themes for February

5 – Penny Carnival – play games and donate pennies

12 – Valentine's Day; wear hearts

19 – Kites

26 – Trains

## 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: (Meal providers in parentheses.)

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

2 5:00 to Super Bowl half-time. (Cindy Darneal)

9 Regular meeting

16 Regular meeting

23 Regular meeting

## Cards of Thanks

Dear Women of Poteau First United Methodist,

Thank you for making the bags for our children in foster care. We appreciate your support and contribution to our children and the bags will help them carry their things. Our children often come to us with no clothing and nothing to carry anything in so this is a very helpful item.

Sincerely, Kay Hammon, CWS District 16

(Note: Bags were made by members of the Women's Bible Study class.)

FUMC Friends:

Thank you for the many cards and Best Wishes you set to me at Christmas.

Jean Potts

To the Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Never have I ever received a more surprising gift than when Mary Ford delivered the beautifully crocheted shawl that your ministry prayerfully made for me. I truly cherish the shawl, and very often when I have it wrapped around me, – holding the lovely gold cross in my hand – I feel such a sense of peacefulness and comfort, that God's arms are truly holding me tightly and giving me strength to face another day. Your gift means everything to me. I am truly humbled that you would remember me. God bless each of you that are involved in this ministry.

Joyce Hicks

A letter was received from Bessie Moreland. She is recovering from a hip fracture and has moved to a retirement home. Her granddaughter Katie graduated from medical school in May; she is doing her residency in San Antonio, specializing in orthopedic surgery. Bessie is receiving excellent care and hopes to hear from friends in Poteau. Her new address is 6330 N. Fir Rd. #307 in Granger, IN 46530, phone 574-538-8995, and email address [bess48@icloud.com](mailto:bess48@icloud.com).

Dear Poteau FUMC Friends,

"Thank you" seems so inadequate to express how very much my family and I appreciate your paying for our meal after our mother's funeral service. I cannot tell you what gratitude I felt when I went to pay for it and was told you, Poteau FUMC, had already taken care of it. You are special, special people who continue to bless me and even though I am no longer there with you, I still feel your love and support. I'd like to also thank everyone for the comforting cards, prayers, flowers and food brought to the house and all other kindness extended to Charles and me.

I thank you so much.

Love, Brenda Ferguson

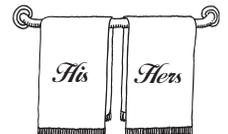
## February Birthdays

- 1 Judy Hall
- 2 Nathaniel Hallmark and Scotty Bratton
- 3 Rhonda Britton and Billy Goines
- 4 Josh Barkley, Cole Bridges, and Kelie Bandy
- 5 Dawson Perry and Bruce Darrow
- 6 Marcella Widmar
- 9 Tabitha Zabala and Cindy Darneal
- 10 Denise Sullivan and Julie Bridges
- 11 Peter Norgeot
- 13 John Luke Best
- 15 Clyda Ware
- 16 Jack Sizemore
- 17 Dale Kelly
- 18 Linda Johnston
- 19 Janell Glover and Emily Harreld
- 20 Marsha Cofer
- 21 Jean Potts
- 22 Joan McCarty and Caleb Bridges
- 23 Kaylee Kingrey and Kyle Kingrey
- 24 Sandra Slater, Dana Lee, Charles Meek, and Jeannine Wilmeth
- 25 Annette Hogan
- 26 Megan Hebert
- 27 Trudy Mathies

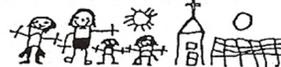


## February Anniversaries

- 14 Loney and Myra Gregory
- 26 Bob and Louise Reynolds
- 28 Scott and Denise Sullivan



United Methodist Church  
**PRESCHOOL**



By  
**Tracey Gilliam,  
Preschool Director**

Preschool students will be learning the memory verse, "Hear the word of God and obey it" during February. Also, during February the students will be introduced to the letters O, P, Q, and R. Students will be working with the colors pink and purple and the shape of a heart.

Weekly themes will focus on the five senses, the postman, the word of God, and dinosaurs of long ago.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone who knows of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, whether a church member or not, should call Cindy Brody at 918-385-1542 or the church office at 647-2217.