

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 3

MARCH, 2014

SERVING GOD 120 YEARS

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


ASH
Wednesday
MARCH 5

Join us
for our
Ash Wednesday
Service
at 6:30
in the
sanctuary.

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Addition by Subtraction

It's that time of year when we begin to hear folk talk about "giving up," - giving up chocolate, giving up meat on Fridays (in the Roman Catholic tradition), giving up TV (but it's March Madness!), giving up coffee (now **that** may be going a bit too far!). Even if you weren't raised Catholic or Methodist or one of the handful of other denominations that practices the discipline of fasting (giving up) you are probably aware that these sacrifices mean that it is the season of Lent.

For those who may have heard of Lent but are not familiar with what it is or why some people, churches, and denominations recognize this season on the church calendar, Lent is the 40 day period (not counting Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter that historically began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism for new converts to the faith. Lent has since become a time of repentance, prayer, self-denial, and self-examination as a means of focusing on what it means to participate in the life of Christ. The penitential spirit of Lent culminates with joyful expectation on Easter as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Over the years I have made it a habit to practice giving up something for Lent.

This year my Lenten discipline will be a 24-hour fast one day each week during Lent. During that 24 hour period, at those times when I would typically have a meal, I will spend in prayer and study. While the hunger of my body reminds me of my total dependence upon God for everything and heightens somehow the depth of spiritual awareness during prayer (both of which are very good things), this year I am convicted to something more. I recall reading in Matthew's gospel (25th chapter) something about feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and visiting the imprisoned. Perhaps you recall this as well. The money I would normally spend on feeding myself, I will offer to agencies that feed and clothe and assist those in need. It may not seem like much but I'm pretty sure it will be significant to the person receiving that help. These things are called works of mercy and John Wesley was pretty high on them (I think he probably understood that these things were important to Jesus as well).

The crazy thing about all this giving up stuff is, I've discovered, that those 40 days of sacrifice turn out be some of the most faith-filled, life-affirming, spiritually aware days I have ever experienced. I expect a whole new level of awareness of God's presence again this Lent (I've often

(Continued on page 2)

REV. KYLE CLARK



PASTOR TO PEOPLE (Continued)

entered Lent skeptical about the practice of giving up, but I've never been disappointed by the time Easter arrives). There really is something to this giving up thing - addition by subtraction!

So, I want to invite you, encourage you to give up this Lent. It might be something as mundanely habitual as a gum or soda, it might be giving up something incomprehensibly difficult as coffee; it might be something as meaningful as skipping a meal or as imaginative as giving up worry (that's a biggie for some of us) or as disciplined as giving up an hour of sleep in the morning to get up early each day to pray. But don't do this just to give up, replace that time with prayer and examination of self. If you're really adventurous, add some sort of work of mercy to your sacrificial give-up. No matter what you do this Lenten season, I pray that God will draw you closer to Him. And after we have journeyed through these weeks of preparation, experienced the solemnness of Good Friday, and reached the celebration of Easter, I would love to hear your stories of how God has added to your spirit, your life, your understanding by subtraction through this season of giving up we call Lent.

Shalom,

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for January 2014
 Average Attendance Figures for January: 114
 2014 Budget Requirements: \$400,000.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,692.31
 Needed through January: \$30,769.24
 January Receipts: \$16,527.18
 January Expenditures: \$25,707.31
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$1,638,909.94
 Expenditures: \$2,578,592.98

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS
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 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 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.gbgn-umc.org/mc-dist/

MARCH 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

- 1 Women's Retreat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 2 Chubby Sunday Potluck dinner following worship.
- 5 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.
(Women's Bible Study will meet at 5:30 today due to Ash Wednesday Service.)
- 15 Neighborhood Free Breakfast, CFLC
- 19 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC
(No Women's Bible Study today due to Spring Break)

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 2 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 9 Kip and Suzanne Klutts
- 16 Liz Perry and Janell Darneal
- 23 Curtis and Dorothy James
- 30 Paul and Amanda Wilson



ACOLYTES

- 2 Kyson Hardaway and Kylanna Hardaway
- 9 Nathan Murray and Wyatt Holt
- 16 Baleigh Quarry and Demi Gilliam
- 23 Jessa Craig and Daniel Ambriz
- 30 Luke Wheat and Aiden Alexander



NOTICE:

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

A Study for Lent

If you have ever thought of Lent as a seemingly endless time of self-sacrifice and introspection, you are invited to be part of a 6-week study that might offer a different perspective.

The study, "A World Worth Saving," invites us to grow in our prayer life by praying about daily news and events happening around us, discovering the needs underlying these events and responding with love and compassion. Study books are \$10 each and can be picked up at the church office.

God thinks the world is worth saving! Bring a sack lunch and join us on Wednesdays beginning March 5 at noon and discover how you can be part of this movement of redemption.

From Tracy's Desk

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries
thoskins@poteaufumc.com

We are having a Family Night April 9th. Our church family and the families of our LOGOS kids are invited to have dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

As a grandparent, have you had to raise your grandchildren? Or do you feel like you are? Let's start a grandparent's network! Contact me if you would like to be involved.

Be looking for more information about a movie night coming soon!

Kids' Korner

Sunday School

We will be splitting up our Children's Sunday School class so that we can better serve our children. If your children haven't been lately, now is the time to return.

Attendance - 3 Weeks in a Row:

Kourtney Dering
 Journey Dering
 Warrick Quarry
 Jenci Quarry
 Maggie Wheat

Two Bible Verses Memorized:

Wyatt Holt
 Brady Perry
 Burke Perry

Good job!

Worship Packets

Worship packets are updated and now col-



or coded by grade level. If you bring a visitor make sure you grab the right grade level worship packet. We have Pre-K - K, 1st - 3rd grade, 4th - 5th grade. Each packet contains a worship bulletin for the current Sunday.

LOGOS

I want to welcome Jethro Bullard from the Bahamas as a new volunteer. He is a student at Carl Albert and will be working with our Middle School boys. Jethro's father is a Minister and his mother is the director of a Pre-school. He will be leading the boys in a Bible study and activities that reinforce Biblical teachings. I'm hoping soon we will have someone dedicated to the Middle School girls.

As part of the LOGOS program, children are encouraged to lead in worship - Come see our Pre-K - First Grade lead in worship on March 9th.

LOGOS Themes for March

- 5 Pajama Party
- 12 Frog (Fully Rely on God)
- 19 No LOGOS - Spring break
- 26 All around the world



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

You are invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Historically, Ash Wednesday has been a day when people of faith intentionally set aside time to confront our own mortality and confess our sin within the worshipping community.

The use of ashes (typically the burned palm branches from the previous year) used as a sign of mortality and repentance, has a long history in both Jewish and Christian worship.

The imposition of ashes, the historic focus of Ash Wednesday by placing the sign of the cross on the forehead of worshippers, is a powerful and experiential way for people to participate in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

**Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears
 The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears
 Before the throne my surety stands,
 My name is written on His hands.**

— Charles Wesley

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.)

MARCH SCHEDULE:

- 2 Chubby Sunday/Outdoor Laserquest (leave at 1)
- 9 Regular meeting
- 16 No meeting due to Spring Break
- 23 Regular meeting
- 30 Regular meeting

United Methodist Church PRESCHOOL 	By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director
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In March the preschool students will be learning the memory verse, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love forever."

Throughout March the activities at preschool will focus on the letters R, S and T. The colors yellow and green and the shapes of the clover and the diamond will be focused on.

The preschool themes for March are going to be about Animals from Eggs, Outer Space, and Springtime.

Preschool pre-enrollment will begin this month for next school year 2014-2015. Contact Tracey Gilliam for more information, 918-839-7424.

Women's Bible Study Notice

On Wednesday, March 5th, Women's Bible Study will meet at 5:30 to allow us to attend the Ash Wednesday service at 6:30.

We will not meet on March 19th due to Spring Break. March 12 and 26, we will meet at our usual time (6:15).

Prayers for Belize Mission Trip

Mallory Mixon will be going to Belize on a construction mission trip March 15-22 with Chapel Hill Methodist Church in OK with 14 other people.

Please keep them all in your prayers.

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.



March Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Clark, Jan Thompson and Ryker Holt
- 2 Jeff Roberts, Sarah Bradshaw and Josh Graham
- 3 Carol Garner and Mollie Forsberg
- 5 Janet Sockey, Maci Pickle and Jim Coggins
- 6 Jeff Shore and Jake McMillin
- 8 Daniel Ambriz
- 9 Samantha Bell and Matthew Houston
- 12 Daltan James
- 13 Bailey Baker, Kelsey Robinson and Dee Carsello
- 14 Todd Wright and Jean-Anne Shankle
- 16 Connor Wheat and Shannon Stubbs
- 18 Mike Lee, Tim Renfro, Jacob Sconyers, and Gaytra Coggins
- 22 Joseph Sabatucci, Jr.
- 23 David Barnes
- 24 Carol Baker, Debbie Wood, Susan England and Carol Darrow
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, Joshua Sconyers, Nathan Murray and Heather Robinson
- 26 Hank Harris and Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni Rayburn and Mike Murray



March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike and Kay Sullivan
- 12 Jim and Gaytra Coggins
- 17 Jeremy and Kaycee Quarry
- 17 Jason and Kelie Bandy
- 18 Jim and Andrea Skelton
- 21 Bill and Sandra Slater
- 22 Gary and Artheia Hageman
- 27 Ted and Jane Kilgore



Annual Pancake Breakfast Benefit

Mark your calendars for April 26th, for the Pancake Breakfast Benefit for the Christian Free Clinic.

The United Methodist Men have supported this effort for 25 years. At one time, the breakfast was held at McDonald's until we outgrew their facilities and we moved the breakfast to the Family Life Center.

Once again, we have outgrown, but this time the manpower of the UMM. We are calling on all church members to assist with this great mission project of helping others. Over the next few weeks we will be seeking out your assistance in helping continue this project for our community.

For more information contact Randy Matos, David Barnes, or Lloyd Lee.