

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 21 NO. 9

SEPTEMBER, 2013

SERVING GOD 120 YEARS

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

Coming Soon!

An Open House
for our
Children's
Sunday School.

Watch for
more information
about this
celebration.

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

You

(Psalm 139:1-18)

Most of us have a favorite verse or passage or at least one that is the most familiar to us. Maybe yours is John 3:16 "For God so loved the world..." or perhaps Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things..." These are two that many people cling to as favorite or special. Maybe yours is the shepherd's psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd..." My favorite passage of scripture is Psalm 139.

We were told we couldn't have children. So, we experienced the darkness, difficulties and heartache of that news as we struggled to understand why. But then we experienced unspeakable joy when Haley was born. I marveled at this little girl, wondering what was knit into her. A few years later we experienced the joy of childbirth again at Nathan's birth. I marvel at the faith God has in us, entrusting them to us, "You saw their unformed bodies, all the days of their lives written for them..."

Not long after Nathan was born, I began the process of discerning my call into full time ordained ministry...and I recalled the words of the psalmist as they took on new meaning for me, "You surround me, before and behind. Your hand is upon me."

I remember sitting at the kitchen table with a family mourning the death of their mother. I remember sitting at the bedside of a dying woman, sharing her last lucid moments. There was the woman who sat in my office, desperate because she had no job, no place to stay, and kids she was afraid of losing. I've talked with a friend who was struggling to make sense of who he is and his purpose in this life. The words of the psalmist echoing in my mind, screaming from the pages they are written on, "...even darkness is not dark to You..." So, helpless to restore life or health, helpless to offer any explanation, helpless to do or be anything other than be present with them, I read this psalm.

Walter Brueggemann says that the Psalms are prayers addressed to a known, named, identifiable You (O Lord, You...). Augustine of Hippo writes that our hearts are restless until they find rest in You, O God. The early reformer, John Calvin, held that the chief end of human existence was to know and be known by You, God by whom we are created.

Martin Buber, the early 20th century Jewish theologian offers these words:

Where I wander – You!
 Where I ponder – You!
 Only You, You again, always You!
 You, You, You!
 When I am gladdened – You!

(Continued on page 2)

REV. KYLE CLARK



SEPTEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday

Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month

(Pastor to People, cont.)

When I am saddened – You!
 Only You, You again, always You!
 You, You, You!
 Sky is You, Earth is You!
 You above! You below!
 In every trend, at every end,
 Only You, You again, always You!
 You! You! You!

Whether we want to admit it or not, we who work so hard to keep from being really known by those around us, because we have been hurt, rejected, are embarrassed, are afraid of what people might think or say if they really knew us, desperately want to be known.

I look at my children and my wife. They have mom’s eyes, dad’s nose, grandma’s smile, granddad’s humor. I look at them and I see You. I look at the family across the table, the lady in the hospital, the desperate mom, the searching friend and I see You. I look at my own reflection. I consider where I am, where I’ve been and look up and through it all I am still with You.

Shalom,

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

Average Attendance Figures for July: 119
 2013 Budget Requirements: \$400,000.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,692.31
 Needed through July: \$230,769.30
 July Receipts: \$57,987.49
 July Expenditures: \$29,402.27
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$1,535,118.97
 Expenditures: \$2,578,268.23

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Carol Baker, Editor

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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.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/

• **SUNDAY** •
UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

• **MONDAY** •
Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC
Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building

• **TUESDAY** •
Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC

• **WEDNESDAY** •
LOGOS, 3:15 p.m., CFLC
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Women’s Bible Study, 6:15 p.m., J.N. Ross 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

- 4 Logos Parents’ Meeting, 5:30 p.m., CFLC
- Logos Volunteers’ Meeting, 6:30 p.m., CFLC
- 8 Logos Parents’ Meeting, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
- Church Council, 11:45 a.m., Sanctuary
- 9 UMW Meeting and Luncheon, 10:30 a.m., CFLC
- 10 Treble Choir Rehearsal, 6:30, Choir Room
- 11 Logos begins, 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- 18 Membership Care Committee Meeting, 1 p.m., Conference Room
- 21 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m., CFLC
- District UMW Meeting in McAlester
- 25 Women’s Bible Study, 6:15 p.m., J.N. Ross Classroom

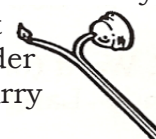
MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 1 Virginia Stanley and Jean Whigham
- 8 Brian and Katie Shore
- 15 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 22 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 29 Robert and Tami Holt



ACOLYTES

- 1 Kendrick Hardaway and Kanaan Hardaway
- 8 Kyson Hardaway and Wyatt Holt
- 15 Nathan Clark and Aiden Alexander
- 22 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry
- 29 Maci White and Demi Gilliam





United Methodist Church PRESCHOOL 	By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director
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Preschool classes started on August 19th. We have 47 students enrolled. We are excited about the school year.

We appreciate and want to thank Peggy Talley and Kim Hardaway for the donated books and toys. The preschool students will enjoy both.

The September memory verse is "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever." The weekly themes for September will be centered around how special God has made us. We will begin learning about letters A and B, numbers 1 and 2, the color red and the shape circle.

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:

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Regular meeting
- 15 Outdoor LaserQuest trip. Leave following lunch. Eat supper in Fayetteville; return by 8 p.m. Cost: \$20 + supper money.
- 22 Regular meeting
- 25 See You at the Pole morning and evening activities
- 29 Regular meeting

...

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.

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will start on September 25 at 6:15 in the J.N. Ross Classroom. Thank you to Liz Perry who will be co-teacher. Those who did not get on Kay's book order may purchase their own copies of *Bad Girls of the Bible* and *What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs (available from Amazon.com). You do not need to order the workbook.

Kids' Korner

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries

LOGOS is almost here! Kids will be streaming into our Family Life Center on Wednesdays to be fed spiritually and physically. If you are not sure what LOGOS is, it is our midweek program where we ensure that our children and youth have the best in Christian nurture and spiritual support. The program has four key areas: Bible study, recreation/play, worship skills, and our family style meal. The parent meetings are Sept. 4 at 5:30 p.m. or Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. Volunteer training is Sept. 4 at 6:30.

As we are preparing, we have found that there are a few needs that I know our wonderful congregation can fill. We need volunteers to be clean-up crewmembers to clean up after the meal. This is a once a month responsibility. We also would appreciate scholarship money so that those kids that are unable to pay the registration will be able to participate in this ministry. We would also gratefully accept donations of ground beef or money to defray the meal costs. I ask that each of you prayerfully consider how you can be a blessing to our children in our LOGOS ministry. Please contact me if you have questions or wish to volunteer. As always I am available for suggestions. My office is next to the Education Wing. My number is 918-706-5628; thoskins@poteaufumc.com

Cards of Thanks

Thank you!

Scott and I would like to thank the Clark, Hardaway, Matos and Perry families for all of their hard work in helping us get our belongings into our new house. They were able to unload the 26 foot truck in about an hour. I praise God that we have such a wonderful family here at Poteau FUMC. We love all of you!

Tracy Hoskins

Thank you so much for all the assistance and use of the church for Bob Gee's service. The sanctuary is beautiful and Brenda was so very helpful. Thank you!

Linda Murry and all of Bob Gee's family

The LeFlore County Child Advocacy Network wishes to thank church members for your donation of backpacks for our back-to-school fair. We served some 250 children with school supplies and backpacks. Thank you for caring about the children.

Peggy Talley, LCCAN Board

WELCOME!

The church welcomes Reenea Thompson as the new Administrative Assistant. Reenea is replacing Brenda Ferguson in our church office.

Mission Report

By Susan Mixon

The End of Summer/Back to School Bash was great! There were around 25 students who received haircuts, vision and dental screenings. There were about 40 goody bags filled with personal hygiene items distributed and two backpacks filled with school supplies were given through a free drawing.

Thanks to everyone in the church who donated and helped! A special thanks goes to Janet DeSpain and her kitchen ladies - Jan, Judy, Janet, Andi, Terri, Laurie, Christy, and Linda; to Lloyd Lee, Mike Lee, Marvin DeSpain, Kyle Clark and Hank Harris for cooking the delicious burgers and hot dogs; to Terri Martin for her generous donations, to Carol Baker and her help with publicity; and, last but not least - Stacey Roberts and Jaime Pickel (for donating their time to cut hair), Tami Holt (for the vision screenings), and Kendra Yandell and Ken Hammond for dental screenings. Also, Kendra arranged for the use of the "bounce-a-round" for the children and youth for the evening.

I hope I listed everyone - as always, our church is so very generous. The call goes out and you respond!

The September monthly mission food item for the Clearinghouse backpack program is Vienna Sausages. Place them in the baskets in the Narthex.

Thanks again.

United Methodist Women of Faith

**By Dorothy G. James,
UMW President**

The UMW will meet Monday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Family Life Center.

The McAlester District Meeting will be on Saturday, September 21 in McAlester.

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

Registration is \$12.50 for ladies to attend on October 5 which is due September 27. Coe Ann Patton, 8536 E.7th St., Tulsa, OK 74112-4110



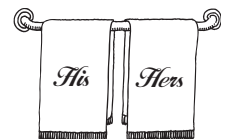
September Birthdays

- 2 Ken Hammond
- 3 Dorothy Gail James
- 5 Aimee Baker and Mattison Dodson
- 10 Kyle Cofer and Matt Wright
- 11 Jett Thompson
- 13 Jane Kilgore
- 14 Averie White
- 16 Kyson Hardaway, Keely Redhage and Daniel Best
- 17 Justin Burton
- 18 David McNair
- 19 Jennifer Roberts, Jack Oehlschlager and Wrigley Sampson
- 20 Susan Mixon
- 22 Diane Daigle and Lexi Key
- 23 Troy Talley, Todd Hallmark and J. Sommers
- 24 Christine Harris
- 25 Kale Kemp, Don Baetz, Grace Dehart and Caden Warren
- 26 Joe Renfro
- 27 Peggy Talley and Kyle Reid
- 28 Daniel Ware, Gary Mason, Cary Baetz, Jane Ann Inge, Jenny Allen and Tami Matos
- 30 Buddy Shelton and Dennis Alexander



September Anniversaries

- 3 Dale and Wendy Kelly
- 7 Robert and Tami Holt
- 12 Jim and Nancy Shore
- 22 Colton and Alicia Castillo
- 24 Mitch and Sondra Sampson



Choir Notes

If you like to listen to music on youtube.com the choir has several songs on youtube. One of them, "God is our Refuge and Strength" recorded in the old sanctuary shortly before construction was started has had over 4,000 "hits". To see any of the songs search: God is Our Refuge and Strength, Poteau. My Eternal King, Poteau. Peace in the Valley, Antioch Station Band. Saved, Antioch Station Band.

The newest recording of Dennis Loewen's "Keep the Fire Burning" which featured Kenny McKenna, Marlin Butcher and Steve Clark this past June 30 is there. Search: Dennis Loewen, Keep the Fire Burning.



Our Sympathy

Our love and sympathy is extended to the family of Bob Gee.