

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 7

JULY, 2008

Serving God Our Second Hundred Years

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

What can I give back to God for the blessings he's poured out on me? . . . I'll complete what I promised God I'd do, and I'll do it together with his people.
Psalm 116:12
Message



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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

In just a few weeks, this nation will celebrate another anniversary of her freedom and desire to be a nation that provides leadership around the world. Each year, about this time, I remember a short essay written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer entitled "Freedom." I remember it because it contains words that challenge both my own individual thinking and to a greater extent, the awareness that true freedom is a graceful gift of Jesus Christ. Here are a few of Bonhoeffer's words:

- "Responsibility and freedom are corresponding concepts . . . Responsibility presupposes freedom and can consist only in responsibility. Responsibility is the freedom which is given only in the obligation to God and to our neighbor."
- "Responsible men and women act in the freedom of their own selves, without the support of others, of circumstances, or of principles . . . the proof of their freedom is the fact that nothing can answer for them except their own deeds and their own selves . . . The action of the responsible person is performed in the obligation which alone gives freedom and which gives entire freedom, the obligation to God and to our neighbor as they confront us in Jesus Christ."
- "Jesus stands before God as the one who is both obedient and free. As the obedient one He does God's will in blind compliance with the law which is commanded Him, and as the free one He acquiesces in God's will out of his own most personal knowledge, with open eyes and a joyous heart."

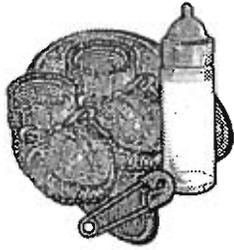
Bonhoeffer always reminds me of the relationship between freedom, responsibility and a joyous heart. And so I offer this prayer from the United Methodist Book of Worship as we celebrate our freedom.

Almighty God, you rule all the people of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength for forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and peace,

REV. GREGORY J. TENER

It's a Girl!



Tim and Kim Renfro have a new baby girl, Rindi, born June 13, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. and 13 ozs.

Proud grandparents are Joe and Martha Renfro.

Welcome New Members!

We are happy to welcome Laurie and Ted Bandy and their two children to our church. Laurie and the children, Connor and Morgan joined on June 8, 2008.

Be sure and let them know how happy we are to have them as part of our church family.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Financial Report for May, 2008

2008 Average Attendance figures for May: 155
 2008 Budget Requirements: \$336,245.22
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,466.26
 Needed through May: \$135,791.46
 May Receipts: \$20,338.06
 May Expenditures: \$32,249.72

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee
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 Sunday School 9:30 – Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop
 District Superintendent
 Pastor
 Youth/Children's Minister
 Music Director
 Church Secretary
 Lead Nursery Attendant
 Organist
 Custodian and Door Opener

Robert E. Hayes
 Sanford (Sandy) Wylie
 Gregory J. Tener
 Kimberly Hardaway
 Steve Clark
 Brenda Ferguson
 Jayla Craig
 Wendy Kelly
 Ted Kilgore

District web page address: www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/



JULY Calendar



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	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	29	30	31		

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINES:
 10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:
 Third Friday of every month.

- 3 Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 4 Church office closed for the holiday
- 6 UMYF, 5 p.m., CFLC
- 10 Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 12 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 13 UMYF, 5 p.m., CFLC
- 17 Youth Float Trip, 9 a.m.
 Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 20 "Shares in Missions" Dinner following wor-
 ship; UMYF, 5 p.m., CFLC
- 24 Church Council, 5:15 p.m., Aldersgate Room
- 25 Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 27 All Church Pool Night, 7:30 to 9:30

THE CHOIR IS ON VACATION

During the month of July the choir is taking a well-deserved vacation. We appreciate all the time they devote during the year to enhancing our worship experience.

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 6 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 13 Jerry and Phyllis Kemp
- 20 Joel and Peggy Talley
- 28 Wayne and Judy Moore



ACOLYTES FOR WORSHIP

- 6 Taylor Darneal
- 13 Sam Shore
- 20 Emily Harreld
- 28 Zach Harreld



Our Sympathy Extended



We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Nikki Perry and her family on the death of her grandmother.



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway, Children/Youth Director

The youth are kicking off two fundraisers this summer. One is called Shares for Missions and the other is Beware of the Flamingo!

SHARES FOR MISSIONS

The youth have two mission trips planned with the OK Conference Volunteers in Mission program: Youth Force in OKC, June 22-27 and UN/DC study tour on the east coast, Spring Break 2009. In order to help with the cost of attending these trips, you are invited to buy "shares" in the trip. The return on your investment is the mission work accomplished by the youth and two free Stockholders' Dinners.

The dinners will be held following each trip. This dinner will be to share the Youth Force trip results.

Shares can be purchased in \$25 dollar increments. To purchase shares in this fundraiser, please see Kim Hardaway, Rachel Ware, Keely Redhage, or Kawika Santos. You may also place your investment in the offering plate and your shares will be mailed to you.

Thank you for "sharing" in this mission opportunity!

BEWARE OF THE FLAMINGO!

Our second fundraiser this summer, "Beware of the Flamingo!" will be coming July 6 and includes flamingos – and lots of them! And they could be coming to land in your yard!



If you are interested in protecting your property from the flamingo flock, flamingo insurance will be available beginning July 6. At only \$35, it is quite the bargain, for it covers you for the entire fundraiser! If you would like to send the flamingo flock to roost in a particular person's yard, that can be arranged for only \$35. If a flamingo flock shows up in your yard, a mere \$10 will make it go away, or \$25 will send it on to someone else!

This is a FUN fundraiser for the whole church . . . so enjoy making those flamingos fly from

yard to yard! All funds raised will help each flamingo handler's (aka youth members) personal church account which is used for various church activities in which the youth participates.



**ALL CHURCH
POOL NIGHT**
at Poteau City Pool
July 27
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

• UMYF SCHEDULE •

July

- 6 Regular UMYF; Flamingo Fundraiser begins. (Meal provided by Mary Ford)
- 13 Pool Night at Matos Home, 5 to 7 p.m.; We will begin and end at the church. (Meal provided by Matos/Terri Martin)
- 17 Illinois River Float Trip with Diamondhead Resort (rescheduled from June), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$25 and includes floating and a meal.
- 20 Stockholder Dinner for investors in "Shares in Missions" following church. Regular UMYF (Meal provided by Alan Ware)
- 27 No Regular UMYF – All Church Pool Night

August

- 3 Regular UMYF; Youth Leader election night. (Meal provided by Liz and Nikki Perry)
- 9 Trip to Magic Springs Theme Park in Hot Springs. 8 a.m. to late night. Reservations and money due by July 30.

VBS REPORT

"Beach Party" Surfin' the Scriptures Bible School was a HUGE hit. With 145 kids enrolled (ages 3 to entering 6th grade), and a 70+ staff, we were having the time of our lives riding the waves of God's love! A cowabunga thank you goes to all the helpers who gave their time and service, and to the many who donated the much-needed supplies and money. Our mission focus for the week was the Kibois food pantry and also the kids' own families as they followed through on their daily challenges based on what they learned each day.

Correspondence



Mission Opportunity

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Brunch. It was a reminder of all the support I have felt through the years. I have grown up in this church, and now I will to go OK State (sorry, Greg) with a strong base.

Love,
Sarah Mixon

Walk to Emmaus Scheduled

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

If you think you might be interested in attending a Walk to Emmaus, contact the church office. Upcoming walks are scheduled for September 25-28 (for men) and October 9-12 (for women) at Asbury United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

Cost for each participant is \$70. Information and enrollment forms can be picked up at the church office or accessed on the Internet at www.greencountryemmaus.com

There will be a mission trip to Cameron, La. to help build a church which was destroyed by Hurricane Rita.

The trip is scheduled for October 12-18. The van will leave on Sunday and return on Saturday. We will be housed by Sweet Lake UMC, where we'll stay in the church.

The costs are estimated at \$250 per person, which includes gasoline, meals and lodging while there. We will need to pay for our own meals while traveling.

There will be plenty to do for both skilled and unskilled workers.

Additional information will be available soon. If you are interested in sharing the love of Christ through an effort such as this, contact Peggy Talley, 647-4116 or call the church office.

July Birthdays

- 1 Dartha Garner and Patty Redhage
- 5 Randy Bridgman, Tom Cherry and Bea Cooper
- 7 Nina Ritchie
- 9 Randy Cox, James Ford,
Ernie Owens, Judy Tener
- 11 Maci McMillin and Frank Dehart
- 12 Kim Slater
- 13 Arch Glover
- 14 Jennifer Thompson and Clarence Blanton
- 15 Genny Dorsey and Clint Lawrence
- 16 Jeanne Burton
- 17 Alline Logan
- 18 Jack Sumerford and Lena Morehead
- 19 Joanne Neuharth
- 21 Kevin Morrison
- 22 Robert Allen
- 23 Alicia Gilliam
- 24 Susan Hammond and Gary Hageman
- 27 Nancy Clark and Lois Robison
- 29 Andi Buron, Zach Harreld and Jaime Pickle
- 30 Jack Stanley and Kelsey Sconyers



July Anniversaries

- 2 Frank and Grace Dehart
- 4 Forest and Jean-Anne Shankle
- 5 Randy and Tami Matos
- 7 Wayne and Joanne Neuharth
Josh and Melissa Reyes
- 14 Arch and Janell Glover

