



# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2008

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

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



*Easter  
comes  
early this  
year*

Mar. 16  
Palm Sunday

Mar. 21  
Living Lord's Supper Drama

March 23  
Easter Cantata



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## PASTOR TO PEOPLE

This past Sunday, as I was entering the Sanctuary for worship, I was chastised by a member of the congregation with these words, "If you would just ask for help, you know that you would get it." This unnamed person was speaking about helping with food for our committees that meet after worship. She hit on an invaluable truth that I have to learn over and over again. When I need help with some task or some new understanding, it always helps to ask. Hidden in this member's concern, is the message of grace and Easter. When humanity didn't know that we even needed help, God sent us the Christ to offer new life and a new future.

In just a few weeks, the church will celebrate once again the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The "normal" schedule will be adjusted for such things as Spring break, but the message is the same, "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son."

For the Great Fifty Days between Easter and Pentecost, the Church celebrates this good news. So during the Easter Season we will take time for additional celebrations. On March 30 we will confirm several youth into full membership of the church. Then on April 13 we will remember 115 years of ministry as a congregation and 100 years at our present location. On that particular Sunday, Bishop Robert Hayes will bring the message. Our bishop is an excellent preacher and so I want to encourage your attendance that day. We will remember our past and look forward to our future, remembering that God has and will continue to be our help.

As this season of celebration approaches, I would offer this prayer from the late Anglican priest, Frank Colquhoun:

"Lord of creation and God of grace, we thank you for the yearly miracle of the spring, as the earth awakens from its winter sleep and is arrayed again in the glory of resurrection life.

May a similar miracle of grace take place in our lives this Easter. Send into our hearts the Spirit of the living Christ, to raise us to newness of life and to clothe us with the beauty of his holiness, for your honor and glory. Amen."

Grace & peace,

REV. GREGORY J. TENER

## Religious Art Show

Our church is hosting a Religious Art Show planned for March 28 and 29 in the Christian Family Life Center under leadership of Charles Meek.

Entry forms are available for artists high school age and older to exhibit original artwork with a religious theme in any medium of their choice.

Art will be judged and prizes awarded.

Invitations and announcements have gone out all over the area. If you are an artist or know one, please encourage them to enter the show. We would like to have a large exhibit for our first annual show.

A small entry fee per artist will be charged with the money used for the prizes. Also if an artist wishes to sell their work, we request 10% of the money be given to a local charity.

So mark your calendars and come see the show.

## Living Lord's Supper Drama

Our annual Living Lord's Supper Drama will be presented March 21 at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary.

This is a much-anticipated event of Holy Week and has become an important worship experience for the community.

Come and hear what the twelve disciples have to say in answer to the words of Jesus: "One of you will betray me."

Support the men of our church in their presentation and prepare your hearts for Easter.

### Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For January, 2008

2008 Average Attendance Figures for January: 146

2008 Budget Requirements: \$336,245.22

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,466.26

Needed thru January: \$25,865.04

January Receipts: \$24,522.73

January Expenditures: \$39,218.64

## THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Sunday School 9:30 — Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Sanford (Sandy) Wyllie
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Gregory J. Tener</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Children's Director</b>	<b>Kim Hardaway</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Steve Clark</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>Brenda Ferguson</b>
<b>Lead Nursery Attendant</b>	<b>Jayla Craig</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>Wendy Kelly</b>
<b>Custodian and Door Opener</b>	<b>Ted Kilgore</b>

District web page address: [www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/)



## MARCH



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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 DEADLINE:

Sunday Worship Bulletin, 10 a.m. each Thursday

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

In order to provide an informative newsletter, information must be turned in by the **third Friday of every month** so the newsletter can be prepared and delivered by the first of the month. Thank you.

#### • SUNDAY •

Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.

#### • MONDAY – FRIDAY •

Christian Preschool, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

#### • MONDAY •

Boy Scouts, 7:00 p.m., CFLC

#### • TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m., CFLC

#### • WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS Program, 3:15

Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m., Balcony

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

- 8 United Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., CFLC
- World of Day of Prayer UMW Meeting, 10 a.m., F.H.
- 9 Daylight Savings Time ends; Spring forward 1 hour
- 16 Children's Parade of Palms during morning worship
- 17 Spring Break for Poteau Schools and our Preschool
- 21 Living Lord's Supper Drama, 8 p.m., Sanctuary
- 23 Choir's Easter Cantata
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt after morning worship
- 28 & 29 Religious Art Show, CFLC
- 30 Confirmation of Youth

## MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- March 2 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- March 9 David and Patty Redhage
- March 16 Bob and Vera Bullock
- March 23 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- March 30 Joel and Peggy Talley



## MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- March 2 Dawson Perry
- March 9 Josie Garrett
- March 16 Charlee Gilliam
- March 23 Maci McMillin
- March 30 Connor Matos



Congratulations to new acolytes, Dawson Perry and Charlee Gilliam. Thank you for helping in worship.



## United Methodist Women

Poteau UMW will be observing World Day of Prayer on Saturday, March 8. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. for brunch and fellowship, followed by a session of prayer and sharing. This will be a UMW cluster meeting, to include Heavener, Hodgen, Howe, Talihina and Wister church women.

All women of the church are invited to attend. Bring a prayer request (written or spoken), a story of answered prayer, a favorite prayer, yourself, and an appetite. We hope to see you then.

For more info, call Jane Kilgore, 647-9571.

United Methodist Church <b>PRESCHOOL</b> 	By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director
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In March the preschool will be working on the letters R, S and T. The colors will be yellow and green and the shape is a clover. The memory verse is "I will be glad and rejoice in your love forever." Psalm 31:7.

The preschool will have Spring Break the week of March 17th.

The preschool welcomes Michelle Donaho and Angie Patterson to the teaching staff.

## Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will be immediately following morning worship on Easter Sunday for toddlers through 5th grade. There will be an area for toddlers and preschool, for primary school age, and for upper elementary age.

Lots of candy will be needed to stuff in the eggs. If you would like to donate candy, please bring it to Kim on Sundays or drop it by the church office anytime until Easter. Thank you for helping make it fun for the kids!



## Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Chad and Julie Bridges on the recent birth of their son, Cole and also to Todd and Randee Hallmark on the birth of their son, Nathaniel.

## Easter Lilies

If you wish to provide Easter Lilies for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, you may have them delivered to the church the week of the 17th through 20 and pick them up after worship on Easter Sunday. Let the church office know the names for the Sunday bulletin.

## Youth and Children's News

**Kim Hardaway, Youth and Children's Director**

*The most important thing in Christianity is not "what" but "Who". The most important thing in children and youth ministry is not "what" but "Who".*  
 From the 'Godbearing Life'

**Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade children will lead in woship Sunday, March 2.**

### YOUTH

This youth group is inspiration in the heart they have shown for missions. They experienced a 30-Hour Famine on Feb. 7 and 8. It was a life-impacting experience. An article in the PDN on Feb. 23 expressed it well and I refer you to it if you would like to know more. It was made possible by a lot of help from our congregation and community. We especially appreciate Tracey Gilliam, Kyle Hardaway, and Randy and Tami Matos for staying up with us through the night and shuttling us to each activity. And they even had to work the next day while the rest of us were able to catch a little rest!

The Valentine's Dinner fundraiser on the 10th culminated our study and efforts on behalf of hunger through the World Vision Organization. It was hugely successful and brought in over \$1000! This included the deliveries of BBQ dinners we served Monday for lunch. A sincere thank you goes to Joe and Martha Renfro, Aaron and Betty Ridenour, and Joe Braun for purchasing and preparing the BBQ brisket. We appreciate Betty Ridenour and Jean Gaylor who put all the dinners together for delivery. Thank you also to the parents of the youth for donating food and time, and to Western Sizzlin for donating delivery boxes.

A portion of the funds and all the food and goods bought and donated during the 30-Hr. Famine were taken to the Community Rescue Mission in Fort Smith. The youth also served in their kitchen and cleaned afterwards. The Mission was very appreciative of our help in service and goods. They are solely supported by local area churches. First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith was one of the charter churches to begin the shelter/soup kitchen back in 1981.

### UMYF

- 2 Regular UMYF (Meal by Liz and Nikki Perry)
- 9 Regular UMYF (Meal by Genny Dorsey)  
(Waiver forms due for Heifer Ranch Visit April 4&5)
- 16 No UMYF - Spring Break Family Cruise
- 23 No UMYF. During Sunday School youth will stuff and hide eggs for children's Egg Hunt following worship
- 30 Regular UMYF (Meal by Martha Renfro)

### LOGOS

- This month the themes and leading in worship are:
- 2 Preschool, K, and 1st Grades will lead in worship
  - 5 All Around the World
  - 12 Easter
  - 19 No Logos - Spring Break
  - 26 Crazy Sock Night ( show off your shorts and socks)
  - 30 4th and 5th Grades will lead in worship with handbells

A reminder that the UMM and youth are teaming up to provide help for local needs. One recent volunteer job was polishing the handbells. Then with the leadership of Peggy Talley and Tommy Rogers, Jenny and Megan Harreld provided childcare to DHS so parents could attend a class. And we can help you! Contact the church with your need.



## Letter from a Young Missionary

Reprinted from *New World Outlook* Jan./Feb. 2008 issue  
(Part I was printed in the last newsletter. Here is Part II.)

By T. Ryan Clayburn, a Mission Intern, class of 2005-2006. He served the first half of his assignment in Beirut, Lebanon, and is completing his term at the Church Center for the United Nations with the seminar program. Ryan is the son of Ted and Christie Williams, and the grandson of Jeanne Reed.

As the months went on, work, ever so slowly but surely, began to pick up at WSCE. We organized a Christian-Muslim "Day of Exchange" for university students in and around Beirut. A rented bus took us from site to site as we explored different organizations and places of religious importance. There was no separation or conflict on the bus. There was fluidity in society between people of different religions and a desire to understand each other. These were a people tired of war and tired of fighting and conflict.

The war that erupted that summer was something unexpected and a harsh reminder that, despite the desires of the majority of the population, neighboring countries and a small group of people can change the fate of an entire nation. A Hezbollah representative spoke to a group of Lebanese and French youth at a WSCF international exchange conference two weeks before Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers on the border of Israel and Lebanon. His message was not extreme. He said that if the international community would not offer an official statement against recent Israeli attacks on Palestinians of a harsh and disproportionate nature, Hezbollah would need to show its support for Palestine.

I had become very close to a Sunni Muslim family in one of the suburbs of Beirut who had welcomed me into their home. The eldest son called one day and said, "Hey listen, it is probably nothing but two Israeli soldiers were captured today and it would be better if you stayed in your neighborhood." That day, Israeli aircraft invaded Lebanese airspace and dropped Arabic leaflets from the sky into my neighborhood.

I do not have the space to relate the entire story of events that unfolded during the war and my escape into Syria. After six frustrating and sleepless nights listening to bombings and not knowing where the bombs were striking, I left Lebanon and crossed the border into Syria. I ached as I watched CNN from a hotel room in Syria and saw refugees from the south flooding into Sanayeh Gardens near my home. They needed water and supplies and I wanted to be back there as part of that relief effort, but it was too late to return to Lebanon. I knelt down to pray, confused as to whether I had done the right thing.

I still felt shook up from a bomb blast too close to my apartment in Lebanon. Mark Masters, a Global Ministries missionary (along with Kathleen, his wife) had trained my mission intern class and was my sup-

port supervisor during my time in Lebanon. He emailed something that I did not understand at first, but which later became my mantra, "It is not about doing, it is about being." I had been focused on work and producing a product. By being – living faithfully and truthfully – the work and the product came naturally. In God's strange way, I had learned what I needed to learn in Beirut through a series of trials and difficult tribulations.

I am very grateful for the United Methodist Mission Intern program, which has given me a unique opportunity to fulfill God's call through mission service. Now, at my current placement at the Church Center for the United Nations' United Methodist Seminar Program on National and International Affairs, I am surrounded by a group of amazing and inspiring leaders. It is another transforming life experience, and I no longer see a questioning gaze when I speak to my friends about being a missionary. As I share my experiences with them, many, like me, have now changed their ideas of what it means to be a missionary.



### *Our Sympathy Extended*

We extend our sympathy to the family of Lucille Sokolosky upon her recent death. You are in our prayers.

### *March Birthdays*

- 1 Tommy Clark and Jan Thompson
- 2 Jeff Roberts, Jim Hall, Sarah Bradshaw and Josh Graham
- 3 Carol Beard and Mollie Forsberg
- 5 Janet Sockey
- 6 Jeff Shore and Jake McMillin
- 9 Samantha Stoughton
- 11 Pete Norgeot
- 12 Dalton James
- 13 Bailey Baker
- 14 Todd Wright and Jean-Anne Shankle
- 16 Connor Wheat and Shannon Stubbs
- 18 Mike Lee, Tim Renfro, and Jacob Sconyers
- 22 Joseph Sabatucci, Jr.
- 23 David Barnes
- 24 Carol Baker, Susan England, and Debbie Wood
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, and Joshua Sconyers
- 26 Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni McCarver
- 31 Barbara Owens



### *March Anniversaries*

- 12 Mike and Kay Sullivan
- 17 Jeremy and Kaycee Quarry
- 21 Bill and Sandra Slater
- 22 Gary and Artheia Hageman
- 27 Ted and Jane Kilgore

