

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 17 NO. 3

MARCH, 2009

Serving God 115 Years

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

**Don't Miss the
 Second Annual
 Religious Art Show
 March 27, 28, 29**



**What's
 Inside**

Church Calendar.....	2
Correspondence.....	2
Financial Report.....	2
Sympathy Note.....	2
Children/Youth.....	3
Men's Pancake Breakfast....	3
Membership Care.....	3
Art Show.....	4
United Methodist Women....	4
Preschool Report.....	4
Birthdays, Anniversaries....	4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

By the time you have read the newsletter, Ash Wednesday will have occurred and the season of Lent will have begun. The season of Lent is the forty days, not counting Sundays, leading up to Easter Sunday. Historically, this time has been a period of fasting, prayer, and preparation for baptism. This Lenten season, instead of following the scripture lessons assigned for each Sunday, the sermons will focus on a specific area of our membership vows of the United Methodist Church. So from March 1st through March 29th, we will look at "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness" and what these might mean in our community of faith.

Also beginning on Sunday, March 8, the Church Chat time will begin a 4 week video-study entitled *Opening Ourselves to Grace*. We will examine basic spiritual practices of the Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective. Taking on additional spiritual practices is a common response to the season of Lent. This study assists each of us in faith formation and development.

I offer this prayer for you and our church this Lenten season:

"Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (The United Methodist Book of Worship)

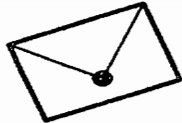
Grace & peace,

Greg

LENT BEGINS

REV. GREGORY J. TENER

Correspondence



To all who are involved in the "Prayer Shawl" organization, I thank you with all my heart!

I'm sure your prayers and concern will be more healing than anything the Doctor can do!

Again, I thank you! All of you will be included in my prayers each day.

God bless you,
Jane Hammond

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry Committee:

Thank you so very much for the two beautiful prayer shawls, one for my mother and one for me, created by the people in your committee. We feel very blessed to have the church's prayers for us. We know God is working through the wonderful people of his church and we appreciate your caring and prayers for us.

Thank you for thinking of us,
Brenda Ferguson



Sympathy Extended

The congregation extends their love and sympathy to the family of long-time church member Tommy Wright who passed away recently.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for January, 2009

2009 Average Attendance Figures for January: 148
2009 Budget Requirements: \$346,911.00
Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,671.37
Needed through January: \$26,685.48
January Receipts: \$18,555.78
January Expenditures: \$13,910.37

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee
Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

e-mail: rogers2006@alltel.net

website: www.poteaufumc.com

Sunday School 9:30 - Morning Worship 10:30

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

District web page: 222.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/

• CHURCH CALENDAR •

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Third Friday of each month

• SUNDAY •

Church Chat, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
United Methodist Youth Fellowship
Living the Questions Study, 5 p.m.
(C.H.A.O.S.), 5:00 p.m.

• MONDAY - THURSDAY •

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

• MONDAY •

Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m.
Boy Scouts, 7:00 p.m., CFLC

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS, 3:30 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 4:00 p.m., CFLC
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

• FRIDAY •

Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- 6,7 Confirmation Retreat, Camp Egan
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins. Spring forward.
- 10 Membership Care Committee Meeting, 11 a.m., CFLC
- 12 Letters From Dad, 6 p.m., CFLC
- 14 United Methodist Men Breakfast Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 25 United Methodist Women, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
- 27, 28, 29 Religious Art Show, afternoon, CLFC

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 1 Jack Oehlschlager and Paul Stottsberry
- 8 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 15 Jim and Nancy Shore
- 22 Wade and Shirley Rogers
- 29 Marvin and Janet DeSpain



LITURGISTS

- 8 Ronna Bell
- 15 Megan Harreld
- 22 Justin Barnes
- 29 Connor Bandy



MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- 1 Charlee Gilliam
- 8 Kanaan Hardaway
- 15 Dawson Perry
- 22 Connor Matos
- 29 Taylor Darneal



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (C.H.A.O.S.)

March

- 1 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.
- 6, 7 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Egan
- 8 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.
- 15 No Meeting – Spring Break Trips
- 22 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.
- 29 C.H.A.O.S. from 5 to 7 p.m.

April

- 5 Soup kitchen afternoon visit
- 5 Ugly Outfit Contest begins as fundraiser for poverty

Please see Kim if you would like to help with the youth meal ministry.

• • •

LOGOS

LOGOS is from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. for K thru 8th grade. Preschool meets from 3:30 until 5:00. Dinner is optional for preschool if a parent or family member stays and eats with them. There is an option for snack at 3:15 p.m.

LOGOS themes this month:

- 4 Crazy Sock Night (Wear your crazy socks - no shoes worn tonight.)
- 11 Around the World (Bring souvenirs from around the world to share.)
- 18 No LOGOS – Spring Break
- 25 D.O.G. Night (Depend On God)

April

- 1 Jokester Night (Stand up comics, get ready to share)

• • •

Camp Dates for Summer

District Camp for 7th-12th: June 15-19

Wilderness Camp for 7th & 8th: June 18-24 (This is a survival-style camp with 7 days in the backwoods living in tents and preparing own food.)

6th Grade Camp: July 13-17

3rd - 5th Grade Camp: July 13-15

1st - 2nd Grade Camp: July 25-26

Youth Force Mission Work Camp for grades 6th-12th: July 19-24 (This camp will be based out of our Poteau church. Participants will be housed at CASC)

The church covers half the cost of all camps for our kids.

Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out is for 1 to 3 year olds on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms. Cost is \$10 per visit or \$35 per month. Parents bring a snack sack, diapers and wipes.



New Membership Care Committee

Meeting Tuesday, March 10

at 11:00 a.m.

The Call from the Scriptures

• *Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)*

• *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:4-5)*

• *We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us . . . The compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:8)*

You are invited to join a new ministry to care for our church members. We want to start a discussion on how to reach those who are homebound or in nursing homes, those who are bereaved, and those who have moved away to let them know we care and are here for them. The goal is that the bereaved, the ill, the lonely, and the homebound will experience God's goodness through the kindness of others. The Membership Care Committee is not a substitute for the role of ordained clergy, but is rather a mission of the caring church.

Through prayer, personal visits, reassuring phone calls, and card ministry, Membership Care volunteers will contact anyone needing encouragement, comfort, or reassurance that they are still connected to the church. Under the direction of the pastor, volunteers may offer Holy Communion to those who desire to receive it. Church members are encouraged to let us know of persons who are in need of our care.

Formal training will be given to all volunteers. Topics will cover the importance of confidentiality, basic guidelines for visitation, and how to respond to various situations. Volunteers will meet monthly to share concerns, pray for those in need, and determine how to meet the needs of those in our care. Interested persons are invited to join us on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. For more information, call Kay Thomas (647-3491) or Virginia Stanley (647-2618).

• **Coming in April** •

Living Lord's Supper Drama

Thursday, April 9



21st Annual Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 18

Second Annual Art Show

The Second Annual Religious Art Show will be in the CFLC on March 27 and 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. and March 29 from 1 to 4. Artists high school age and older are eligible to enter. All forms of artwork with a religious or inspirational theme can be entered. Entry forms are available in the church office or on our website.

Be sure to come and enjoy the exhibit of a variety of beautiful art.

During the show, there will be drawings for donated art work to be given away and some art pieces will be for sale.

Charles Meek is in charge of the art show and the judge will be Daune Britton, winner of last year's "Best in Show" award.

Once again Poteau First United Methodist Church has created another unique event for the benefit and enjoyment of the area.

United Methodist Women

By Jane Kilgore, President

Church Women Invited

Poteau UMW is excited to announce that on April 18, the Spring District Meeting of the McAlester District will be held in Poteau. All women of the church are invited to attend this meeting. These gatherings give a wide view of the strength of United Methodist Women, which we would love to share with you.

Coffee and refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will open in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. and reconvene there after lunch. Morning speaker will be Julie McDonald of Circle of Care in Tulsa, who will tell us about Pearl's Hope. Pearl's Hope is a new ministry which provides support for young mothers who, with their children, face the specter of homelessness. The district mission project for this meeting is donating any size women's business clothes (freshly cleaned) for interview wear, black shoes and bags, as well as hygiene items such as deodorant, toothbrushes, etc. The afternoon speaker will be Deanna Chancellor, Director of the LeFlore County Child Advocacy Center.

Cost for the lunch is \$5.00, and child care will be provided. If you can't attend and would like to contribute business clothing or hygiene items, please contact Jane Kilgore (647-9570 or 839-9802 cell) or call Brenda at the church. Hope to see you there!!



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 and Matthew Houston
- 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.
- 24 Carol Baker, Debbie Wood and Susan England
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, Joshua Sconyers, and Nathan Murray
- 26 Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni McCarver and Mike Murray
- 31 Barbara Owens



March Anniversaries

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



MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

We can help local schools who send home food with children who need it. Each month two different items are collected so a steady supply of the necessary foods is maintained. **March's food items are: snack pudding cups.**

Collection boxes are placed in the Chapel room adjacent to the sanctuary, and inside the gym door of the CFLC.

United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

The preschool memory verse for March is "I will be glad and rejoice in your love forever."

Preschool themes for March include The World Around Me, Outer Space, and Spring.

The letters R, S, and T will be introduced and the shape of a clover will be learned.

Our colors are yellow and green and we will continue practicing our phone numbers during March.