

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 19 NO. 1

JANUARY, 2011

Serving God 117 Years

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

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Isa. 60:1, NIV



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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

One of the Scriptures the church has utilized for the New Year's is found in the First Testament book of Ecclesiastes 3. The author writes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." He then lists fourteen sets of opposites that have to do with human activities, experiences and emotions. He talks about war and peace, building and destroying, of love and hate. He wants us to remember that everything has its regular time and then time continues to move on. Especially, he wants us to learn and relearn that time is a gift from God, to bring pleasure and goodness into our lives and the life of God's creation.

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to stop and reflect on time and the times in which we find ourselves. Each day of the new year holds endless possibilities. Each day is an opportunity to be thankful for the past, hopeful for the future, and content in the present.

Beginning January 16, I will be preaching a five sermon series based on Bishop Robert Schansee's best-selling book, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. This book has become key for the revitalization of many United Methodist congregations, and I think will assist us as we prepare for our new future in our new worship space. There are Sunday School lessons that can be made available, so if your class is interested, please let me know.

As we continue to move forward, I offer this prayer that has been a long-standing tradition of the Wesleyan Covenant Service. Similar to the text from Ecclesiastes, we are reminded of God's faithfulness in any and all circumstances of life.

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen."

Grace & peace, *Greg*

REV. DR. GREGORY J. TENER



Welcome New Member!

We happily welcomed a new member recently. Eva Daigle joined the church on Sunday, Dec. 12th. Be sure and let her know how happy we are to have her in our church family.

Notice to Those Who Purchased Pews

If you purchased one of the old pews and have not yet turned in your money, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Membership Care Committee Meeting January 19th

The Membership Care Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Christian Family Life Center. They reach out to those who are homebound or are dealing with health issues or bereavement.

Church members are encouraged to let us know of persons who are in need of our care. Call Virginia Stanley or Kay Thomas.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for November, 2010

2010 Average Attendance Figures for November: 148

2010 Budget Requirements: \$326,272.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,274.47

Needed through November: \$294,900.09

November Receipts: \$38,375.13

November Expenditures: \$28,433.26

New Building Fund Figures:

Deposits: \$591,130.57

Expenditures: \$752,382.64

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday School 9:30 – Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Darrell Cates
Pastor	Rev. Dr. 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: www.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/

JANUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Third Friday of each month

• SUNDAY •

Weekly Communion, 9:10 a.m., Sanctuary
(Except on regular communion Sunday)

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m.

11 Week Study, 5 p.m. Education Bldg.

• MONDAY •

Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

Logos Program, 3:30 - 6:15 p.m., CFLC

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m., Ed. Bldg.

• THURSDAY •

Girl Scouts, 5:30 p.m.

• FRIDAY •

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

4 PPRC Meeting, 5:15 p.m., CFLC

8 UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC

15 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, CFLC

19 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC

23 Church Council, 3:30 p.m., CFLC

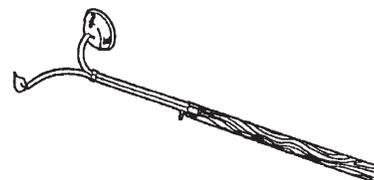
MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 2 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- 9 Artie Stivers and Genny Dorsey
- 16 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 23 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 30 Jerry and Mary Ford



ACOLYTES

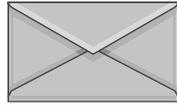
- 2 Tabatha Zabala
- 9 Katie Redhage
- 16 Demi Gilliam
- 23 Jaydon Bandy
- 30 Baleigh Quarry



WEEKLY COMMUNION

At 9:10 each Sunday morning Rev. Tener serves communion following a short devotional. Prayer and dismissal is in time for Sunday School. Everyone is invited to become part of the group who gathers for weekly communion.

Correspondence



Thanks again,
Kaycee Quarry

Dear Poteau FUMC Friends,

Judy and I want to thank you for the generous Christmas love offering. We appreciate your kindness and hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Greg and Judy

Dear LOGOS Families,

Your gift was thoughtful and unexpected. Thank you for remembering me with it. In LOGOS, I am but the tip of an iceberg of many faithful and hard-working volunteers who give their gifts and time unselfishly each week to make the ministry possible. May it continue to nurture and bless our children and families this coming year.

With love,
Kim Hardaway

Dear Church Friends:

Thank you so much for the Christmas love offering. You are such a generous and loving congregation and I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued prayers for my family. I am so blessed to be part of this church.

Brenda Ferguson

I am wishing all my friends at Poteau First United Methodist Church a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope to see you in the Spring when the new building is completed.

Love, Bessie Moreland

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the wonderful love offering. It is appreciated. Thank you even more for the encouragement, love and support you give to me and my family all year round. We are so blessed to be a part of this church family.

With love,
Kim Hardaway

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for remembering the nursery workers with a Christmas love offering. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Jayla Craig

To My Church Family,

Thank you for the Christmas love offering. It is a pleasure to care for your children in the nursery and an honor to be remembered at Christmas.

Giving thanks to the church for the blessings on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We want to thank you for the love you have shown us. This is truly an example of how Christians are to love one another and we cannot put into words how grateful we are. "I always thank my God when I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray." Phil. 1:3, 4.

We especially want to lift up Lloyd and Gary for the time, effort, and patience in teaching us God's word. They have been a true blessing. We want to give glory to God where credit is due. We also want to thank Lloyd and Gary for allowing God to work through them. Again thank you and we all wish you a Merry Christmas.

Inmates of
LeFlore Co. Detention Center

To the Church:

Thank you so much. May you always be as happy as you make others!

Curtis James

Thanks again for your wonderful love offering for Rebecca and her family.

Here is a Rebecca update:

1. She is in a house.
2. We put tires on her car.
3. Her one daughter has braces on her teeth and Ken Hammond and Kendra are working with her. She has had one visit with them.
4. The mother has a full time job at Pocola Nursing Center.
5. They are attending church at Howe Methodist Church.
6. The children are doing okay in school.
7. We still have a long way to go but with God's help, I know everything will work out okay.

Have a blessed holiday season.

Curtis

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for remembering the church staff with the generous Christmas love offering. Your kindness is always shown to so many throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Wendy Kelly

To My Church Family,

Thank you for my Christmas love offering. I am grateful to be remembered and pleased to be part of such a loving and thoughtful church.

Happy New Year to all,
Ted Kilgore



A Christmas Story

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas. We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible.

After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible, instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity. Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood – the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all fall sawing into blocks and splitting. Finally I said something. "Pa, what are you doing?" "You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. "Yeah, why?" I asked.

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Then Pa went to the smoke house and took down a big ham and a side of bacon and loaded it. Then he carried out a sack of flour over his shoulder and a smaller sack in his hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked. "Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? We came to the Jensen house and unloaded the wood, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?"

"Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and Matt. Could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children – sturdy shoes, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. "We brought a load

of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said. He turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace. My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. We'll be by to get you about eleven."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but when I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I was so glad Pa had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children.

January Birthdays

- 1 Bernice Hurst
- 3 Michael Brown and Grace Ford
- 4 Alisa Slater
- 5 Jessa Craig
- 7 Katie Hopper
- 8 Zach Stubbs
- 11 Gloria Plummer and Susan Norgeot
- 12 Irene Beasley and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Alan Ware and A
- 19 Eloine Crews and Versile Johnson III
- 30 Ted Williams
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers, Slim Durham and Randee Hallmark
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway, Bob Nichols and Andrew Barkley
- 25 John Clark, Baleigh Quarry, and Haleigh Stone
- 26 Mary Folsom and Holly Durant
- 27 Bill Slater and Candeeda Lawrence
- 30 Jennifer Miller and Paula Midgley
- 31 Jayla Craig and Davey Bullard



January Anniversaries

- 22 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
Keith and Kay Thomas

