

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 20 NO. 1

JANUARY, 2012

SERVING GOD 118 YEARS

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

**Have a
blessed
and
healthful
2012!**

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

In ancient Roman mythology, Janus was the god of beginnings and transitions, as well as gates, doorways, endings and time. He was usually depicted as a two-faced god since he looked to the future and the past. The concept of New Year's Day and the name of the month January are both based on aspects of Janus. The imagery of this ancient character seems to make sense during this week of changing years and calendar pages.

I was looking back over past newsletters and was reminded that at this time two years ago, we were beginning our three-year capital campaign. Just this time last year, we were in the middle of building the new sanctuary and continuing to worship in the Family Life Center. A lot has changed over the past years.

I also find myself looking forward to the continued work of our Long Range Planning Committee, whose purpose is to help us vision our ministry over the next three to five years. Our purpose consistently remains to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Poteau, LeFlore County and the world. Our effectiveness in carrying out our purpose is always in need of evaluation.

As we enter a new year together, I offer these "words of prayer to the true God of beginnings and time:

O Thou whose patient ways with us and whose unfailing love for us, surprise and humble us, go with us along the unknown paths of this New Year. Forgive the sins of the year that has gone; keeping near to Thee may we do better; live more worthily and serve more faithfully, so that our lives may show forth a new beauty and a deeper harmony and Thy holy name be glorified. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leslie D. Weatherhead
British Theologian and Pastor
1893-1976

Grace & peace,



REV. DR. GREGORY J. TENER



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 first Sunday of the month)

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m. (Begins Jan. 23)

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

Treble Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

• WEDNESDAY •

Prayer Group, 2:00 p.m., Family Room

LOGOS, 3:15 p.m.

“Five Conversations You Must Have With Your

Daughter” Bible Study, 6:15, CFLC

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Rev. Alba’s Hispanic Bible Study, 7 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

Senior Café, 10:00 - 12:30, CFLC

Girl Scouts, 4:00 p.m.

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JANUARY 2012	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				

- 11 LOGOS resumes, 3:15 p.m.
- 12 Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m., CFLC
- 14 UMM Breakfast and Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 16 Church Offices Closed
- 18 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 19 Long Range Planning Committee, 5:15 p.m.
- 21 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10, CFLC
- 28 Registration for Re-ignite Workshop, 9:30 a.m., McAlester First UMC (See page 6)
- 29 Children’s Council Meeting following worship

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 8 Bill and Linda Lancaster
- 15 Judy Peerson and Jaime Pickle
- 22 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 29 Lloyd and Dana Lee



LITURGISTS



- 8 Kylanna Hardaway
- 15 Adult Reader
- 22 Allison Matos
- 29 Adult Reader

ACOLYTES

- 1 Jessa Craig and Baleigh Quarry
- 8 Versile Johnson and Jaydon Bandy
- 15 Angela Price and Tabitha Zabala
- 22 Luke Wheat and Aiden Alexander
- 29 Demi Gilliam and Katie Redhage



Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for November, 2011

2011 Average Attendance Figures for November: 149
 2011 Budget Requirements: \$350,000.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,730.77
 Needed through November: \$323,076.96
 November Receipts: \$19,436.95
 November Expenditures: \$32,154.54
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$1,042,401.66
 Expenditures: \$2,544,895.99

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Telephone 918-647-2217

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website: www.poteaufumc.com

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 |
| Pastor | Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Tener |
| Associate Pastor | Rev. Obed Alba |
| 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 | Darren Waggoner |
- District web page: www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/



News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. for all youth 6th through 12th grade.

Holiday Update:

Due to the generosity of this church, the Women's Crisis Center and the Immaculate Conception Church Food Pantry received several boxes of non-perishable foods. Thank you to all who contributed to the LOGOS Happy Birthday Jesus Party and the Women of Faith canned food drive.

A special thank you goes to the behind-the-scenes workers under the direction of the Head Workers, Peggy Talley and Janet DeSpain, for the special surprise visit, gift bags, and refreshments following the LOGOS Christmas Worship. It was a lovely ending to a delightful worship service, and made memories for all involved!

• • •

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings and is for all youth in 6th grade thru 12th grade. In addition to the time of food and fellowship, this spring a unique curriculum called "re:form" will be studied beginning January 8th.

The schedule is as follows:

JANUARY

1 Movie Night CHAOS 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Meal: Barnes)

8 Youth council luncheon meeting following church

8 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

15 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

22 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

29 CHAOS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

3-4 "Believe" & "Planet Wisdom" conferences in Tulsa. Believe is focused on 6th to 9th grades. Planet Wisdom is for 6th to 12th grades. Leave at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 and return at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Cost is \$45 which covers lodging, conference registration, and transportation. (3 meals would be an additional cost)

• • •

LOGOS

LOGOS is a Wednesday afterschool program that meets during the school year for ages Pre-K thru High School.

Important dates to remember:

JANUARY

11 Animal Safari Night

18 Night at the MOVIES

25 Color Power - wear the color of table family

29 Kindergarten thru 5th grade lead in worship

FEBRUARY

2 Crazy T-shirt Night - wear a silly t-shirt

Volunteer Spotlight on Family Time:

Part 1 - The COOK & CLEAN-UP TEAMS

At Logos, food is important. If we want our young people to have great memories of their church, and if we are preparing food for the children of God, we present the best possible meals in the best possible environment. Feeding and cleaning up after 120 people each week is work; the Cook Teams spend a lot of time preparing the meal. However; the rituals of food preparation provide time for talking and sharing which leads to bonding and belonging. Our LOGOS ministry has folks who have dedicated themselves to the ritual of food preparation at least once a month. Working side by side for hours, they pull off a service ministry of delicious, hot meals and send the message that our young people are important, that we are expecting them, and that we have planned special food just for them.

Thank you to the following Menu Planner, Cook & Clean-up Teams, Extra Cooks and Shoppers:

Menu Planner & Kitchen Oversight: Pegee Werline

Cook Team #1: Lloyd Lee - Leader; Janet DeSpain, David Barnes, Randy Matos, Keith Thomas, Robert Reynolds, Aaron Ridenour - part time. Shopper: Lloyd Lee.

Cook Team #2: Grace Dehart - Leader; Genny Dorsey, Dana Wheat, Dorothy James, Ann Young. Shopper: Pegee Werline

Extra Clean Up Help: Ken & Susan Hammond

Cook Team #3: Terri Martin & Laurie Bandy - Co-Leaders; Lynette Lillard, Rozelle Hardaway, Betty Ridenour, Becky Bell. Shopper: Susan Mixon.

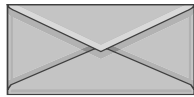
Extra Clean Up Help: Holley Ambriz & Nina Bowen

Cook Team #4: Judy Curtis & Peggy Talley - Co-Leaders; Trisha Pickle, Nancy Shore, Mary Ford, Becky Ballard, Dee Carsello. Shopper: Tami Matos

Extra Clean Up Help: Chad Yandell

Extra Cooks (contributing to the meals from their home kitchens): Christine Harris, Janet Sockey, Liz Perry, Martha Renfro, Dana Lee, Ruth Ann DeCamp, Jeannine Wilmeth

Correspondence



First United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for the use of your new facility for our "Encore!" Concert. What a beautiful setting for our musical presentation. God Bless!

Cavanal Chorale

To all my friends on the Membership Care Committee: Kay T., Kay S., Greg and Judy, Connie S. and family, the Pickle family, Virginia S., Jean W., Judy P., Ken and Susan H., Peggy T.:

May the blessing and joy of God's greatest Gift be yours. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love,
Bessie Moreland

Thank you for the beautiful plant, the many cards, and your words of encouragement and kindness. Your support is appreciated.

Greg and Judy

Dear Church Family,

There is a hymn that begins, "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus and wonder how he could love me . . ." After the recent death of Jerry, my husband of 39 years, I could write another verse that says "I stand amazed in the presence of my church family and wonder at the outpouring of love and support for me and my daughters." Our needs were not only met, but were far exceeded.

Many thanks for the memorial Bibles and contributions in Jerry's name and all the food and necessities that were brought to our home when we had so many family members from out of town as well as other visitors. We received so many beautiful cards with loving messages. We appreciate them all. The postage stamps for correspondence were so thoughtful.

My sincere thanks to all who provided and served the funeral dinner. Jerry's family thought it was wonderful and it made me feel proud of my loving, supportive church.

We were grateful also for everyone who attended the funeral.

I wish to especially acknowledge the women who had also lost husbands who sought me out to tell me they understood because they had

already been there. Words can't describe the despair so their knowing how it feels somehow was a comfort to me.

And now most of all I thank everyone for their prayers. I have physically felt the prayers. I have been strengthened and comforted in a way that I know was because of prayers for us.

Jayla and Kaycee need your continued prayers. They have a long road ahead without their Daddy and the grandchildren without their Granddad. Our most sincere thanks.

Carol Baker
Jayla Craig
Kaycee Quarry

Dear Poteau Church Friends,

Thank you so much for blessing our dear mother, Betty, in such a kind way. As we read, and re-read all the cards to her, she would say, "He (or she) is such a special person" about every one. She loves and remembers each of you. It was so kind and thoughtful for you to do this for her. Special thanks to Mary Ford for delivering the cards, and for the cookies.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to all of you.
Bob and Carolyn Gillson

I wish to thank the church for the very generous Christmas Gift. I really appreciate you remembering the church staff at Christmas.

Brenda Ferguson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. We have a generous and loving church family. It is a pleasure to take care of your children in the nursery. Thanks again.

Jayla Craig

Dear Church Family,

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude for your prayers, cards, calls and concerns during Stan's recent health crisis. Your prayers on his behalf were answered and Stan is truly a walking miracle because of them. We often wonder if prayers are answered or if they make a difference. We want to assure you that they do. God heard and he answered.

We had some special earth angels working on our behalf as well and we'd like to let them know how much we appreciated their tireless efforts. Pastor Greg, Judy, Obed, Eunice, Kay



and Keith Thomas, Steve Clark, Joni Griffith, Cherri Chastain, and our daughter, Lindsay Murray. Thank you for lifting us up and supporting us when we needed it most. And to the many prayer groups and prayer warriors both here and across the country who sent up requests for a good outcome, we felt your prayers giving us strength and we are forever grateful. Prayer works.

Stan and Pegee Werline

To My Church Family,

The Christmas gift for nursery workers was very thoughtful. I love my church and appreciate my church family. Thank you for my gift.

Kaycee Quarry

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Christmas gift of money. It is very appreciated. Also appreciated is the continual love and support given to me and my family. We are thankful for our church family.

Love,
Kim

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. I really enjoyed seeing everyone's families at our Christmas Eve service. Thank you again.

Steve Clark

(Letter to Kay Thomas from Bessie Moreland)
Dear Kay,

I am totally in arrears for not acknowledging the receipt of all the beautiful Christmas greetings sent in 2010. Tears came to my eyes as I read and re-read each card throughout the year. Thank you so much for remembering me.

Thank you too for the beautiful church calendar. It hangs in a very special place in my kitchen.

Receiving the Easter greetings with the pictures of the stained glass windows was very heart-warming.

It was thrilling to read the program for the consecration service. How I wish I could have been there, my thoughts were with you on that special day.

I was saddened to have been physically unable to attend Ann Vaughan's service. She was one of my dearest friends and I still miss her.

Thank you again for remembering me during 2010 and 2011. It was truly appreciated. Hope you'll forgive me for being so late with my thank you.

I trust you and your families are all well.

May the beauty of this Christmas season gladden all your hearts; may 2012 bring you every happiness!

I will always miss Poteau and all my friends. Hopefully a trip to see you all in 2012 will be possible.

Love to you all – your friendships are really cherished.

God Bless You All!

Love,
Bessie

You're Invited to Meet With Prayer Group

If you want to improve your prayer life and engage in intercessory prayers in a small group setting, you are invited to join us in the Family Room, just off the Narthex in the new sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00.

Prayer Chapel for Private Prayer

The Prayer Chapel is available for private prayer and meditation time 24 hours a day. A key code for the outer door is available to church members in the church office. (There is no access into the sanctuary from the chapel.)



Our Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of Alline Logan and Jerry Baker.

Membership Care Committee Meeting January 18th

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.

If you know someone in need of our care, call Virginia Stanley (647-2618) or Kay Thomas (647-3491).

United Methodist Church
PRE-SCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

At Preschool in January the students will be learning the memory verse "A friend loves at all times."

The letters K, L, M, and N will be focused on. The colors are blue and white, numbers are 8 and 9, and the shape is a rectangle.

While on Christmas Break the Education Building got new windows installed and the building was painted to match the new sanctuary building. It all looks wonderful.

Re-ignite

All church members who are seeking to enrich their leadership skills and grow in the faith journey are encouraged to attend the Re-ignite Workshop Saturday, Jan. 28 at McAlester First United Methodist Church. Registration fee is \$10 due by Jan. 23. (More information is available in our church office.)

Following are class opportunities:

SESSION 1 – Vacation Bible School Preview; Web Ministry; Making a Difference: Starting a New Ministry; Advancing Hope Around the World: UM Missionaries and Their Ministries; Guiding People into Ministry; Re-Ignite the Go-Go's, Slow-Go's and No-Go's; Our UM Social Principles and Advocating for Justice; Focus on General & Jurisdictional Conference; Belonging: Hospitality in the Small Church; Effective Financial Leadership; Who Cares?

SESSION 2 – Children and Creativity; UMW: What's It About; Making Disciples: In and Out of Prison; Small Membership Congregations; It Worked for Us Ideas/Models; The Doctor Says It's Cancer; Trustees, More Than Just Buildings; Married to the Minister: Life in the Fish-bowl; Leading Through Conflict: Cooling the Hot Spots; Building Congregational Esteem; Congregations Working with Veterans, Part I; S/PPRC Primarily for Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chairs and Members.

SESSION 3 – McAlester District UMW; Precious Memories: Oral Interviews and Local Church History; Congregational Based Youth Ministry/Sustainable Youth Ministry; Should Faith Mix with Politics?; Who Are "People" and

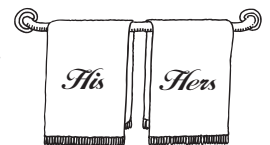
January Birthdays

- 1 Bernice Hurst
- 3 Michael Brown and Grace Ford
- 4 Alisa Slater
- 5 Jessa Craig
- 7 Katie Hopper
- 8 Zach Stubbs and Blake Lillard
- 11 Gloria Plummer and Susan Norgeot
- 12 Irene Beasley and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers
- 14 Wyatt Holt
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Alan Ware, Andy Baker and Orville McDonald
- 18 Sharon Simmons
- 19 Eloine Crews, Versile Johnson III, and Blake White
- 20 Ted Williams
- 21 Alexis Ramirez and Ron Ward
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers, Slim Durham, and Randee Hallmark
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway and Andrew Barkley
- 25 John Clark, Baleigh Quarry and Haleigh Stone
- 26 Mary Folsom, Holly Durant, Mary Bruce, and Hammond Yandell
- 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
- 22 Keith and Kay Thomas



Study of Jewish Holidays and Customs

On January 16th at 6:30 p.m. Ed Brody will start a class that will last 8 to 10 weeks on the subject of festivals and holidays of the Jewish religion. Also included will be the differences in calendar and customs.

Everyone is invited to join in this endeavor.

How Do We Minister to Them; Leading Through Conflict: Cooling the Hot Spots; Safe Sanctuaries; Congregations Working with Veterans, Part 2; S/PPRC-Primarily for Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chairs and Members; The Communications Connection; Transformational Evangelism.