

# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 21 NO. 1

JANUARY, 2013

SERVING GOD 119 YEARS

## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**

### *I Resolve...*

*When I was a child, I laughed and wept,  
Time crept;  
When I was youth, I dreamed and talked,  
Time walked;  
When I became a full grown man,  
Time ran;  
When older still I grew,  
Time flew;  
Soon I shall be traveling on,  
Time gone.*

– Author unknown

2012 is in the books. 2013 is upon us. January marks the start of the New Year. “January” is an appropriate name for the first month on the calendar because “January” is named for the Roman god Janus, who was pictured as a man with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. While it is normal for us to look forward with anticipation to a new year full of new possibilities, it is also a time to reflect back on the year that was. The passage of time has long been cause for people to reflect upon their lives – what they have accomplished, what could have been and what changes need to be made.

For centuries humans have approached the New Year as a time to ponder the past while anticipating the future. In ancient Babylon, for instance, the New Year was celebrated by stripping the king of his clothes and sending him away for a few days. During the time of his absence there was a relaxation of the laws, there was feasting and celebrating – a big party. Afterward the king returned in grand procession, dressed in fine robes. Everyone returned to their work with the belief that the New Year

had given them a new start to their lives. In some Scotland villages, barrels of tar are set on fire and rolled through the streets signifying the burning of the old year. The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, is a holy time when people consider the things they regret doing and promise to do better in the future.

Reflecting on the events of the past year and making resolutions here in the United States is as much a part of New Year’s celebration as champagne, kissing your “date” at midnight, and college football bowl games. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us a feeling of a new beginning or fresh start. Our “fresh start” to the new year often begins with the words, “I resolve...” The most common resolutions, I suppose, are: to exercise more, lose weight, quit smoking, eat healthier, spend more time with family, or manage money better. All of these are commendable. They are good goals to set, and if they are your resolutions, I wish you success.

Many Christians resolve to pray more, read the Bible daily and attend church regularly. Outstanding! These are truly worthy resolutions to make. Unfortunately people fail at these “religious” resolutions just as often as they do at the non-religious ones.

Resolutions fail because there simply is no power in making them. Without the proper motivation, resolving to do or not do a particular thing has no real, lasting value. There is nothing mystical or special about midnight December 31. There is no difference between the last day of the calendar year and the first day of January. Scripture does not speak either for or against the concept of making New Year’s Resolutions. The reality is that

*(Continued on page 2)*

**REV. KYLE CLARK**

*(Pastor to People, cont.)*

every day is a day of New Beginnings, every day is an opportunity for us to start over in and through Christ Jesus. Paul reminds us, in the letter to the church at Philippi that, “[we] can do everything through Him who gives [us] strength.” (Phil. 4:13 NIV).

So, what kind, if any, New Year’s Resolution should a Christian make? I don’t know. Only you can answer that question for yourself. However, I would offer this for your consideration:

Pray for God to give you wisdom and discernment as to what resolution, if any, to make.

Rely on God for strength. Don’t forget that God loves you (I know it’s cliché, but it’s true).

Be accountable to someone who will help you and encourage you.

Don’t get discouraged with the occasional failure and quit. Remember, every day is a new day and a new beginning.

Glorify God because God is God.

This New Year, as you wonder at the passage of time, reflect on the year that has passed and consider your resolutions, remember the words Jesus spoke in the Sermon on the Mount, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and God will give you everything you need.” (Matt. 6:23 NLT).

Happy New Year,  
Kyle

#### **Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for November 2012**

2012 Average Attendance Figures for November: 135

2012 Budget Requirements: \$397,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,634.62

Needed through November: \$358,827.14

November Receipts: \$29,894.40

November Expenditures: \$34,149.92

#### **New Building Fund Figures:**

Deposits: \$1,321,931.66; Expenditures: \$2,557,187.68

#### **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@windstream.net

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
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Kyle Clark</b>
<b>Youth Director</b>	<b>Kimberly Hardaway</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Steve Clark</b>
<b>Logos Director</b>	<b>Tami Matos</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>Jason Dering</b>

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



## **JANUARY CHURCH CALENDAR**

**Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday**

**Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month**

### • SUNDAY •

**UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

### • MONDAY •

**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**

### • WEDNESDAY •

**LOGOS, 3:15 p.m. (Resumes the 16th)**  
**Handbell Practice, 5:15, Sanctuary**  
**Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.**  
**Women’s Bible Study, 6:15 p.m. J.N. Ross Rm.**

### • THURSDAY •

**Senior Café, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., CFLC**  
**Girl Scouts, 4:00 p.m.**

- 9 Women’s Bible Study Pot Luck, 6 p.m., Susan Mixon’s
- 10 Long Range Planning Committee, 5:15 p.m., CFLC
- 11 Registration Deadline for McAlester Ignite Workshop
- 12 UMM Breakfast and Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 14 UMW Women of Faith, 10:30 a.m., CFLC
- 16 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 19 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10, CFLC Ignite Workshop at McAlester.
- 22 Grief Workshop, 6 p.m., CFLC (Everyone invited)
- 30 Women’s Spring Bible Study begins, 6:15 p.m., CFLC

## **MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS**

- 6 Bill and Linda Lancaster
- 13 David and Patty Redhage
- 20 Mike and Linda Lee
- 27 Jim and Andrea Skelton



## **LITURGISTS**

- 13 Kade McMillin
- 20 Adult Reader
- 27 Justin Barnes



## **ACOLYTES**

- 6 Kylanna Hardaway and Allison Matos
- 13 Katie Redhage and Morgan Bandy
- 20 Taylor Darneal and Haley Clark
- 27 Aiden Alexander and Luke Wheat



# News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway, Youth Director

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings and is for all youth 6th through 12th grade.

The schedule is as follows:

## JANUARY

- 6 Movie Night (meet at 6 p.m.)
- 13 Youth Council following church; regular meeting at 5 p.m.
- 20 CHAOS, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- 27 CHAOS, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

- 1-2 Believe Conference and LaserQuest. Leave at 4 p.m. Friday; return at 9 p.m. Saturday.
- 3 No regular meeting
- 10 CHAOS, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

•••

## BELIEVE CONFERENCE

The Believe Conference in Tulsa is for 6th through 9th graders. It takes place Friday, Feb. 1 and Saturday, Feb. 2 at downtown Convention Center.

Following the conference we will go to Laser Quest for 2 games.

Cost of the entire weekend is \$75 plus 2 meals. Sign up by January 20 for first 16 students. (Space is limited).

# LOGOS — — —

By Tami Matos, Director

Logos is a Wednesday after school ministry that meets in the CFLC during the school year for ages Pre-K through 8th grade. Dinner is at 5:00, and check-out time is 6:00.

Logos Spring Semester will start Jan. 16th.

Theme: Going to the Diner.

The spring schedule will be handed out at the Jan. 16th Logos. Also parents (that do not already volunteer weekly) will be asked to contribute time to LOGOS (at least 2 times per semester). Parents can volunteer to help wash dishes, set tables, decorate, wash laundry. Please sign up for a task and date when you pick up your child on Jan. 16th.

Logos Volunteer needed: Decorator - Just twice a month, put table cloths on tables, set up the theme decorations on table and walls (Logos has items all ready to use). This task takes about an hour. You can come anytime between 9 a.m. and noon on Wednesdays. Please contact Tami Matos 918-649-4414 to volunteer.



# Missions Report

By Terri Martin, Missions Committee

As the month of December came to an end, we finished the collection of shoes to be sent to "Soles 4 Souls". Our congregation is blessed with such a giving spirit and with that spirit we will soon be providing protection to many feet and comfort to many souls. Although I do not have an official count, there were well over a 100 pairs of shoes donated and have received \$109 for shipping to date. I will be preparing and boxing the shoes for shipping soon and will be able to give you an official count at that time.

Collections for January will once again be for the backpack program. Please bring FRUIT CUPS and place them in the bins in the Narthex this month.

Come join the fun, food and fellowship Saturday morning January 19, for the monthly breakfast.

It is such a joy to be part of this sharing, caring and giving congregation. Thank you so much for your support of missions. You are truly making a difference in so many lives. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wishes for a Happy New Year.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV*

## Women's Bible Study Potluck Supper

Women who are interested in being part of a Bible study group this spring are invited to attend a potluck supper Wednesday, January 9th at 6 p.m., at Susan Mixon's home, 108 Rosewood. Keep it simple! Just bring a favorite light dish such as a salad or appetizer. Susan will provide dessert and drinks.

We will look at studies being considered. The plan is to order books so we can begin our study the last Wednesday in January. We will also discuss the possibility of having a daytime study in addition to the evening group.

If you are interested in participating, but can't make this meeting, please contact the church office or Kay Thomas at 918-647-3491.

**Check out the  
information available  
on the church's website  
[www.poteaufumc.com](http://www.poteaufumc.com)**

## Important Notice:

The church office is requesting that those who have not turned in their pledge cards for 2013 to please do so as soon as possible.

That information is necessary for budget planning this year.

You may call your pledge in to the church office at 918-647-2217 if you wish, mail it, or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Blank pledge cards are available in the narthex.

## Cards of Thanks

I would like to say Thank You to everyone for the gift card that was sent during finals week. It was good to take a little break from studying and have a treat. It is nice to be a part of such a loving church family.

Thank You,  
Kelsey Robinson

Thank you to all the wonderful people who sent Christmas cards to me. I appreciated them so much.

Jo Gee

United Methodist Church  
PRESCHOOL



By  
Tracey Gilliam,  
Preschool Director

Happy New Year everyone !

The Preschool memory verse for January is "A friend loves at all times."

The letters we are studying are K, L, M and N.

The numbers 8 and 9, along with the shape rectangle will be focused on.

The colors we will be learning are blue and white.

We look forward to a wonderful 2013.

## Membership Care Committee Meeting January 16

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).

## 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, Sharon Simmons and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers, Terri Martin and Mitch Sampson
- 14 Wyatt Holt
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Alan Ware, Andy Baker and Orville McDonald
- 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
- 30 Jennifer Miller and Paula Midgley
- 31 Jayla Craig and Davey Bullard



## January Anniversaries

- 22 Keith and Kay Thomas

### Grace Place Seeking Relief House Parents

Grace Place is a residential group home located in Poteau for young mothers (ages 18-21) and their children.

Grace Place is seeking a mature couple to mentor these young women and their children. The couple hired would have a heart for ministry; provide transportation (vehicle provided) to and from work/school, and assist with encouraging these young mothers to thrive.

This position is for part time relief house parents couple to work 12-14 weeks a year. The husband could work outside of the home.

If you think you might be interested in this position or learning more about Grace Place or Grace Cottage (a home for pregnant young women 17 and under), contact Nancy Putman, Executive Director at nancyputman@yahoo.com or call 918-649-3737 or 918-839-2769.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*