

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 10

OCTOBER, 2014

SERVING GOD 121 YEARS

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



*Fall
 Halloween
 Carnival
 October 26
 Starting at 5 p.m.*

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Forgive

“Father forgive them...” (Luke 22:34)

There is discord in the world. There is violence and terror and evil. We know that. Sometimes it exists in the form of actions that maim and kill. Sometimes it exists in words and deeds that wound the person and destroy relationships. We see it and hear about it on the news every day. It is there in far off places, places we will never visit, and it is there in places much closer to home. It is even in the home; and the community; and the church. We have all experienced hurt and pain and being wounded by the words and actions of others. Sometimes the wounds are deep. Very deep.

In the face of it all we (in the church) are told and have been telling others to just forgive. After all, that is what Jesus taught; that is his example from the cross, right? In the midst of his crucifixion, Jesus looks down and forgives his torturers, his crucifiers, his executioners.

Jesus, in the midst of the unimaginable and intolerable injustice, musters the courage to forgive the unforgivable. It is a moment, at least according to how traditional Christianity teaches it, of overwhelming mercy and unfathomable forgiveness.

Except, that's not exactly how it happens. Jesus, in fact, doesn't forgive his captors.

He doesn't forgive his executioners.

He doesn't forgive his killers.

He can't, it seems.

So, instead, he asks God to forgive them.

Perhaps he doesn't have the capacity in that all-too-human moment. Maybe the sorrow and the pain have wrenched from him his power to forgive his enemies. Perhaps he can't bring himself to personally forgive the atrocity of his execution.

Whatever the reason, the man who so brazenly and boldly proclaimed other people's sins forgiven throughout his public ministry cannot offer the same forgiveness to his executioners. The man who angered religious authorities by extending forgiveness to people outside of the Temple system of forgiveness cannot do the same on the cross.

Episcopal priest, David Henson, offers these thoughts on this remarkable human moment in the gospels. At the cross, on the cross, mercy is shown – mercy as great as the world has known. And, at the same time,

(Continued on page 4)

REV. KYLE CLARK

Missions Report

Putting Your Donations To Work

In August FUMC Missions sponsored a Back to School Night that offered free dental and vision screening as well as haircuts and a meal. Each kindergarten through middle school child received a backpack of school supplies and hygiene product (thanks to the Salvation Army). Our church served over 160 meals and gave away 85 backpacks.

In September through donation, we were able to provide 10 ACT test fees and 8 cap and gown payments to Poteau High School Seniors. The Methodist Men used \$3000 of the money raised from their pancake breakfast to buy food to donate to the Kibois Food Pantry. They continue to see increasing need in our community.

In October we will sponsor a pancake breakfast to support the LeFlore County Prison Family Ministry. The proceeds from the breakfast will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children of LeFlore County whose parents are incarcerated. The breakfast will be Saturday, October 18 from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Adult tickets are \$5 and children under 12 are \$3.

We have also offered our parking lot to the Balloon Fest as a shuttle station for the Festival.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for August, 2014

Average Attendance Figures for August: 119

2014 Budget Requirements: \$402,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,730.77

Needed through August: \$255,115.41

August Receipts: \$21,483.01

August Expenditures: \$37,010.90

New Building Fund Figures:

Deposits: \$1,741,934.94; Expenditures: \$2,579,049.88

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Carol Baker, Editor

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Weekly Communion 9:10 a.m. except first Sunday

Bishop

District Superintendent

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries

Director of Children and Family

Ministries

Director of Music Ministries

Administrative Assistant

Lead Nursery Attendant

Organist

Custodian

Robert E. Hayes

Darrell Cates

Rev. Kyle Clark

Rev. Tracy Hoskins

Kimberly Hardaway

Rev. Tracy Hoskins

Steve Clark

Reenea Thompson

Jayla Craig

Wendy Kelly

Phil Smith

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



Card of Thanks

With sincere humility and gratitude, we want to thank our church family who helped in easing the pain during the loss of our loved one, Frank Dehart. We thank you for the prayers, thoughts, beautiful service, and delicious food. The response from each of you in our time of need is heartwarming and overwhelming.

Because of the love of God and a church family like you, our faith is stronger than ever.

We love and appreciate each of you.

The family of Frank Dehart
Grace, Janell, Buzz, Kathy and Carolyn

OCTOBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday

Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month

• SUNDAY •

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, 5 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday

8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC

Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS, 3:15 p.m.; Family Meal 5:15 p.m.

WOW (Worship) following meal

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

United Methodist Study, 6:30 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

Senior Café, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CFLC

6 SPRC Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

13 Trustee Meeting, 6 p.m.

15 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC

No LOGOS – Poteau Schools Fall Break

18 Pancake Breakfast to benefit children of incarcerated parents at Christmas, 6:30-9:30

20 Women of Faith, 11 a.m.

Church Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

26 Halloween/Fall Carnival, 5 p.m.

WORSHIP GREETERS

5 Ben and Judy Curtis

12 Charles and Marilyn Meek

19 Hank and Barbara Harris

26 Jerry and Mary Ford



ACOLYTES

5 Kyson Hardaway and Nathan Clark

12 Waylon Murray and Nathan Murray

19 Aiden Alexander and Luke Wheat

26 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry





From Tracy's Desk

By Rev. Tracy Hoskins, Associate Pastor and
Director of Children and Family Ministries
thoskins@poteaufumc.com

Fellowship Family Meal

We are opening up our LOGOS meal to all of our LOGOS families and we are inviting our entire congregation to join us every Wednesday at 5:15 in the Christian Family Life Center. We will be providing a LOGOS-type meal for everyone. We are asking for \$2 per person or \$8 per family to cover the cost of food. Come enjoy a good meal and some wonderful fellowship and then stay for WOW (Worship On Wednesday.)

WOW (Worship On Wednesday)

Come Worship on Wednesdays for worship that has been influenced by our youth. Worship begins directly following the Fellowship Family Meal.

Kid's Korner

Achievements – I would like to recognize Brady and Burke Perry and Wyatt and Ryker Holt, for attendance and bringing their Bibles to Sunday School. Congratulate them when you see them!

Moving Help

If you like to organize and want to help, I need volunteers to help organize the Sunday School equipment and supplies so that we can move it downstairs. The Sunday school classes (prek – 1st and 2nd – 5th) will be meeting downstairs now.

LOGOS

Logos is well underway and we are having fun! We had our first Game Show Night on the 14th. We played Fear Factor. The kids got to overcome their fear of worms and eating eggplant for a crazy change of pace.

Themes for this month:

October 1 – Super Heroes (Created in God's Image, Genesis 1:27-31.)

October 8 – Luau (Trouble in Paradise, Genesis 2:8-3:23.)

October 15 – Fall Break No LOGOS

October 22 – Falling Leaves (God's Promise of the Seasons, Genesis 8:13-22 and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

October 29 – Rainbow (God's Rainbow Prom-

ise, Genesis 9:8-17)

I need help with transporting children from the elementary schools! We can fit 10 in the van but need a van driver. If you are willing to drive the van to pick up kids, please let me know!

News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. and is for all youth 6th through 12th grade. The schedule is as follows:

OCTOBER

- 5 Regular meeting
- 12 Regular meeting. Distribute T-shirt orders.
- 26 Fall Carnival for the church, 5 to 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Fall Hayride at Gilliam's Farm, 5 to 8 p.m. (Boys bring drinks; Girls bring chips.)

Hoodies and T-Shirts

Hoodies and T-Shirts are on sale until Sunday, Oct. 12. Forms available in Narthex and orders may be dropped off at the church office during the week or given to any youth member, Kim Hardaway, Laurie Bandy or Nikki Perry on Sundays.

Football Breakfast

We will be hosting the football team on October 16 for a pre-game breakfast. Call Kim at 918-721-4902 if you want to be involved.

Fall Carnival

For our Fall Carnival on Oct. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. there will be 20+ carnival games for children, a costume parade and contest, and a Chili and Hot Dog Supper. There will also be a Chili Cook-Off Contest with details to be announced later.

Spring Ski Trip

There are a few spots still available until Oct. 26 on the spring ski trip to Winterpark, CO. After that date we lose any spots not filled. Cost is approximately \$435 adult 18 and up; \$415 student 13-17; \$375 children ages 6-12. Food and transportation costs are not included. See Kim, 918-721-4902 for more information.

If you know someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, call Cindy Brody at 918-385-1542 or the church office at 647-2217.

(Pastor to People, continued from page 1)

we see the limits of that mercy.

That Jesus can even manage to ask God to forgive them is stunning in its compassion and understanding. But that Jesus cannot manage to forgive them on his own is just as stunning as it reveals the conflicted beauty of Jesus' humanity and his divine calling to offer love. Here is a man who said we would be forgiven by God only as much as we forgive others. Here is a man who commanded his followers to forgive their enemies, those that would cause them harm. Those that would kill them. Those that would crucify them!

And yet, there is a limit. On the cross. With the nails. Thorns plunged into a skull. Abused. Abused. Flogged. Dying. Murdered.

There is forgiveness requested in that moment, but not offered. There is forgiveness on the cross, but it is not from Jesus.

It is from God.

There is a lesson here for a religion such as ours that, on its face, requires our blanket forgiveness to all who wrong us. There is a hard, but truthful lesson, that forgiveness in the face of such terrible abuse isn't proffered with ease, while the nails still dig into the soul, in the moment of the pain. We can pray that God will forgive those who bring about our destruction, those who torture, abuse and execute. Indeed, our faith requires that.

But there are some evils and some wrongs for which our personal forgiveness does not come so easily. There are limits to our humanity's ability to forgive. And we should not feel guilty for our inability to offer personal forgiveness while our wounds still bleed, for that would essentially drive the nails deeper and deform a faith of forgiveness and love into a faith that eviscerates victims by compelling them to kiss their captors.

Remember, it was Judas that kissed Jesus, not the other way around.

Remember, it was Jesus who could not manage to offer his personal, human forgiveness to his executioners.

"Father forgive them" is not the same as "I forgive them."

There are limits to our ability to forgive, and that is the compelling, conflicted, aching and tragic beauty of Jesus words on the cross. That he wants his executioners forgiven even when he cannot forgive them himself, when he cannot even directly address them himself.

Sometimes this is the most we can offer as humans.

"Father forgive them (because I cannot), for they know not what they do (and I know all too well)."

Shalom,
Kyle

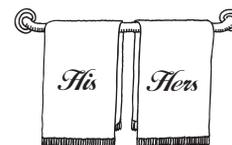
October Birthdays

- 1 Joe K. Thomas
- 2 Peyton Stubbs and Darla Fox
- 3 J. J. Hall and Maggie Wheat
- 5 Pamela Cox, Cindy Brody and Linda Lancaster
- 6 Jim DeCamp
- 8 Andrea Traywick, Reenea' Thompson, Mark Zabala and Kayla Alexander
- 9 Andrea Skelton
- 13 Phyllis Kemp
- 15 Tiffany Mason and Judy Curtis
- 16 J. L. Ford
- 17 Drew Baker
- 19 Krissy Manning
- 20 Jack Hornbuckle, Stephen Cherry and Layni White
- 22 Tracey Gilliam, Garrett Klutts and Louise Reynolds
- 24 Alison Garrett, Jim Shore and Lisa Barnes
- 25 Wilson Klutts
- 26 Rozelle Hardaway
- 28 Susan Oehlschlager and Justin Pickle
- 29 Katie Shore
- 30 Ruth Ann DeCamp and Bob Reed
- 31 Bill Cupp, Ben Curtis and Kendra Yandell



October Anniversaries

- 10 Mike and Linda Lee
- 16 Justin and Jaime Pickle
- 18 Cody and Sarah Bradshaw
- 24 Vernon and Phyllis Roberts
- 28 David and Gerry Roberts



United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

October fun at the Preschool will include learning the letters E, F, G, and H. The students will make handprint animals for each of the letters. The numbers 4, 5, and 6 will be focused on. Triangle will be our shape for the month and our color is orange. The October memory verse is, "God has been good to me." The themes at the Preschool will be fire safety, living each day with God, transportation, and pumpkins.