

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 11

NOVEMBER, 2014

SERVING GOD 121 YEARS

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



UMW
 Fall
 Festival
 Bake Sale
 and Luncheon
 Nov. 7

**What's
 Inside**

Church Calendar..... 2
 Finance Report 2
 UMW Fall Festival 2
 Card of Thanks 2
 From Tracy's Desk 3
 News of Youth..... 3
 Preschool Report..... 4
 Birthdays, Anniversaries 4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

CHURCH

As we have been in the midst of what seems to be the annual endless series of meetings leading up to Charge Conference during which we celebrate all the wonderful ministries in which we are engaged and set the vision for the coming year, I came across a something that has me thinking about all the things we do as a community of faith called "church." Don Underwood is the Sr. Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, a large and vibrant church with multiple campuses, located in Plano TX. Yet, despite the obvious differences between Christ UMC Plano and FUMC Poteau (they are a large, urban church with several worship services and two locations, we are a medium sized church in a rural setting), some of the challenges they are wrestling with are surprisingly similar to the challenges we are facing. The following excerpt is from a weekly blog that Rev. Underwood posts:

Over the past twenty years I have participated in hundreds of meetings, at all levels of the church, where the topic was church vitality. What kind of worship will be relevant and reach the most people? Where can we find the latest and most compelling children's curriculum? What kind of youth program has the most impact on teenagers? How do we create a culture of generosity? What are the best times for worship services? Should we start a Saturday night service? The questions go on, ad nauseam.

The time has arrived for us to be honest about why we have all these questions and all these meetings. The time has arrived for us to be candid about the challenges we are facing. Generally speaking, the church in America is declining. Fewer people attend church, and they attend less often. We live in a secular culture that now offers robust "alternative programming" on Sundays, especially for children and youth. For many people, the church is of minimal importance. Church attendance is not a negative, but it IS optional.

Maybe it is time in the life of the church to quit wringing our hands over which programs to adopt, to abandon the debate about contemporary vs. traditional worship, to stop sweating it out over which time is the best to hold the children's program. I do not want to minimize the importance of all these programs, but in our attempt to "do church" well, we have almost lost the power of the message. Without any doubt, the most important and powerful thing we do in the

(Continued on page 4)

REV. KYLE CLARK



Cards of Thanks

Thank you, thank, you for the wonderful gift from the CHAOS group and church families. New babies are wonderful and can bring unexpected costs and expenses. We appreciate everyone praying for our family!

Alicia and Colton Castillo

Thank you to everyone for their expressions of concern and sympathy upon the death of our mother and grandmother. We appreciated everything. And thank you so much to those responsible for the funeral dinner.

Carol Baker, Jayla Craig and Kaycee Quarry

Dear Rev. Kyle and Debbie,

Your prayers, cards, phone calls and expressions of love are much appreciated by my family and me. The loss of a great nephew, my sister, Berniece Coggins Barton, my brother-in-law, Cloyis Clay – all so close together has made me more thankful for you and the members of FUMC-Poteau than I have words to express.

Love to all,

Nancy Coggins Butler

UMW Fall Festival

Friday, Nov. 7 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Luncheon • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Adults \$7:50; Children 12 and under \$4.00

Chicken and Dressing Casserole, Green Beans, Salad, Roll, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Upside Down Pie, Coffee or Tea

Bake Sale • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Quilt Drawing • 2 p.m.

(\$5.00 donation on a handmade quilt)

Vendors • Door Prizes

Proceeds go to local and global missions.

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, 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
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.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/

NOVEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

• 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, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CFLC

- 2 CHAOS Fall Hay Ride at Gilliam's Farm
- 7 United Methodist Women's Fall Festival
- 8 Community Garden Hot Dog Lunch Fund-raiser, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Veterans eat free; Cavanal Chorale Concert, 7 p.m.
- 9 Annual Church Charge Conference, noon; Cavanal Chorale Concert, 2 p.m.
- 15 Neighborhood Free Breakfast, 8 to 10:30; Treble Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- 16 Treble Choir Concert, 2 p.m.
- 17 Finance Committee, 6 p.m.
- 19 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 27 & 28 Church Office closed for Thanksgiving
- 30 CHAOS Nursing Home Service, 2 p.m.

WORSHIP GREETERS

- 2 Grace Dehart and Liz Perry
- 9 Nina Ritchie and D.J. James
- 16 David McNair and Ted Kilgore
- 23 David and Patty Redhage
- 30 Jerry and Mary Ford



ACOLYTES

- 2 Demi Gilliam and Tristin Riley
- 9 Brady Perry and Burke Perry
- 16 Lexi Pickle and Nathan Clark
- 23 Katie Redhage and Kylanna Hardaway
- 30 Waylon Murray and Nathan Murray



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

Average Attendance Figures for September: 140

2014 Budget Requirements: \$402,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,730.77

Needed through September: \$286,038.49

September Receipts: \$21,316.28

September Expenditures: \$25,032.32

New Building Fund Figures:

Deposits: \$1,755,866.94; Expenditures: \$2,579,114.97



playacting the story, singing, games, learning sign language, crafts and prayer.

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. You don't have to volunteer to do anything, but enjoy a meal. 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. We are giving our LOGOS kids a chance to worship. Many of our kids can't make it to worship on Sunday so now they can worship on Wednesday. With the inspiration of the youth and some feedback from adults and kids, we are developing a special mid-week worship service to inspire and build up our spirits to make it through the week. WOW begins directly following the Fellowship Family Meal (about 5:45).

Kid's Korner

Achievements – I would like to recognize, Ryker Holt, Caden Mitchell, Jenci Quarry, and Warrick Quarry, 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 help organizing the Sunday school equipment and supplies so that we can move it downstairs.

Sunday School

The Sunday School classes will be hearing stories about Jacob, Isaac, and Joseph in the coming weeks.

"So how does Sunday school work?" you ask.

The classes have four parts; Grow Together, Proclaim the Word, Serve with Love, and Worship. Each is an active learning component that reinforces the story or theme for the unit. Growing Together helps the children to begin thinking about what they will be learning and relate to others in the group. Proclaim the Word has the group experiencing the Bible story. Serve with Love encourages contemporary applications to the children's lives with opportunities to serve others. Worship encourages the learners to remember the Bible stories and verses and worship together. Some of the activities include

LOGOS

We had our second Game Show night. We played a Minute to Win It. The kids got to use balloons to knock cups off the table, roll marbles to stick to tape, try to keep two balloons up in the air for one minute, and try to pick up Tic Tacs with tweezers. Everyone was a winner!

Themes for this month:

November 5 – Pajama Party (Promise of a Son, Genesis 15:4-7, Jeremiah 29:11a)

November 12 – City Lights (The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 24:1)

November 19 – Thankful for a Savior (God's Promise of a Messiah, Isaiah 11:1-9)

November 26 – No LOGOS. Thanksgiving break

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.

Hay Ride

The Fall Hayride will be at Gilliam's Farm on November 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. Boys bring drinks, girls bring chips. Dress for the weather and roaming around in the woods and a pasture! Meet at church at 5 or meet out at the Gilliams. Prepare to have an unforgettable evening.

Carnival Report:

The carnival was well attended this year. Lots of children were roaming around the 20 plus booths offered by over 30 teens and Cub Scout troop leaders. In addition, the chili supper was delicious with many ages enjoying breaking bread together. Connie Sabatucci's "root beer" chili was a hit, and our youth parents served graciously and non-stop! The costume contest, hosted by Tami Matos, was a dazzling display of creativity. The following received top votes in their respective costume categories:

Scariest - Nathan Murray

Prettiest - Jenci Quarry

Cutest - Khia Brookfield

Funniest - Maggie Wheat and Kendy Jo Traywick

Most Original - Anna Claire Yandell

Thank you to our teens, their parents, and Cub Scout leaders for working so hard to provide this gift of a safe, fun time to our community children!



(Pastor to People, continued from page 1)

church is to proclaim the Word that God created us, that God loves us, that God is present with us in all the trials and tribulations and celebrations of daily life. That is the message that should pervade everything we do in the life of the church. Everything else is small potatoes.

The time will come when you or your neighbor or relative or co-worker will need the power of that Word. When that time comes, the condition of the stock market or the price of oil will be irrelevant. The soccer games and club socials and shopping trips will have nothing to say. The secular world will remain silent in the midst of the existential crisis that is threatening to overwhelm you or your friend. But the church will be there to circle up in love and proclaim the life-giving message that God is present.

The task God gives us of inviting others into the community we call the church is not an easy one. God is witness to my own timidity when in secular settings I struggle with how to make that invitation. But I am convinced that, in a culture where fewer and fewer people believe that the practice of their faith is truly relevant in their lives, you and I are called to be bolder than ever in witnessing to the power of God that is found in the life of the church.

So, I'm curious, what do you think? What should be our response to a world, or more importantly to our community, in which the reality is, "that church attendance is not negative but IS optional"? Is it time to stop wringing our hands over programming and worship debates, which may be important but which may be of only minimal importance to folks not active in our church or any church? How would you respond to Rev. Underwood's assertion that you and I are called to be bold in our witness? And what would that witness look like, how would we live that out in places we work and recreate?

These are not easy questions to answer (if we are able to answer them at all), but they ARE questions that we need to ask and wrestle with. I would love to hear from you thoughts and ideas you might have or insights you might offer. Better yet, write them down and bring them with you to Charge Conference after worship on Nov. 9. We can begin the conversation as we celebrate where we've been and work to cast a vision for where God is leading us.

Shalom,
Kyle

United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL


By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

In November the preschool will be learning about the letters I and J, the numbers 7 and 8, and the colors yellow and brown. The shape that will be focused on will be the square.

Weekly themes are 1) God wants me to love and care for others; 2) Our addresses; and 3) Thanksgiving. "Let us love one another" is the memory verse for November.

The preschool wants to say a big "THANK YOU" to the Women of Faith! They gave the preschool a donation that will be used to benefit our classrooms. The donation is greatly appreciated. It is wonderful to have such great support for the preschool.

The preschool benefits many families. What a blessing it is to be part of the First United Methodist Church.

November Birthdays

- 1 Keely Hambrick
- 3 Wesley Garrett, Phil Smith
- 5 Kaycee Quarry
- 6 Sondra Sampson
- 7 Ronna Bell, Demi Kay Gilliam and Barbara Harris
- 8 Maci White
- 9 Elizabeth Perry, Linda Lee, Martha Renfro and Angela Price
- 10 Sterling Brookfield and Kay Sullivan
- 11 Jean Gaylor and Nikki Perry
- 12 Deanna Reed, Allison Matos, Bessie Moreland and Mandy Roberts
- 13 Brad DeSpain, Justin Barnes and Jenny Harreld
- 15 Randy Matos and Colton Castillo
- 16 Christy Oehlschlager
- 17 Lance Owen
- 19 Elissa Bridgman, Cynthia Stoughton and Jamie Gilliam
- 20 Keely Carsello
- 21 Henry Hardaway, Jennifer Cravens and Nina Bowen
- 23 Mary Ford
- 25 Ed Brody
- 26 Connor Bandy
- 27 Kela Miller
- 28 Charlee Gilliam and Gary Price
- 29 Artheia Hageman



November Anniversaries

- 20 Randy and Libby Bridgman
- 20 R.L. and Janet Sockey
- 22 Mark and Sheri Zabala
- 26 Alan and Clyda Ware
- 28 Ted and Christie Williams

