

# The United Methodist News

YEAR 23 VOLUME 12

DECEMBER, 2015

SERVING GOD 122 YEARS

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

**Living  
 Christmas  
 Story**

**December 6**  
 6 to 8 p.m.



**Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight  
 Communion  
 Service**

5:30 and 11 p.m.



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## PASTOR TO PEOPLE

### *“A Little Gift Is On the Way”*

In the rush of last-minute Christmas shopping, a woman bought a box of fifty identical greeting cards. Without bothering to read the verse, she hastily signed and addressed all but one of them. Several days after she mailed the cards, she came across the one card that hadn't been sent, and she looked at the message she had sent. She was horrified to read: “This card is just to say....a little gift is on the way.”

We laugh at little Christmas jokes like that but the truth is that many of us feel rushed this time of year. We have Christmas plays, and office parties, and gifts to buy and wrap. We have food to cook, family to entertain, and houses to clean. And then when it's all over we have the bills to pay and the pounds to lose!

I love the Charlie Brown holiday specials and I watch them all every year. It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, and A Charlie Brown Christmas are masterpieces of holiday literature. I know, masterpiece might be pushing it a little. I'm ok with that. I can recite most of the words with the characters as the show goes along. I especially like the Christmas special because it calls us back to the real meaning of Christmas. There are some great pieces of Christmas literature in the world but I'm not sure that there is a more beautiful part of any Christmas story than when Linus walks out onto the stage in the middle of a crazy Christmas program rehearsal and starts reciting right out of the Gospel of Luke, “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men.”

I think that lady with the Christmas cards in the joke above had it right, even if unintentionally. This card is just to say....a little gift is on the way.” A little gift is on the way. A baby....born in a manger....the Savior of the world.

On the Journey with you,

*Paster Jim*



**REV. JIM PERKIN**



## Poinsettias for Worship

If you would like to provide a poinsettia for the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone for Christmas, please have them delivered to the church Friday, Dec. 11th by noon. Call the church with your information for the bulletin insert by Wednesday, December 9th at noon. We will have the poinsettias in the sanctuary the Sundays of December 13th, 20th, and 27th and you can take them home after worship on the 27th.

## DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

• SUNDAY •

Open Gym, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
 UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 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 •


JAM Children’s Activities, 3:15 p.m.  
 Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 5:15 p.m.  
 Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

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

- 6 Choir’s Christmas Cantata, 10:30 a.m.  
 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 16 Membership Care, 12 p.m.
- 16 Preschool Christmas Program, 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Preschool Christmas Program, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 Neighborhood Breakfast, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services, 5:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- 25-28 Office closed for Christmas holiday

United Methodist Church  
**PRESCHOOL**



By  
**Tracey Gilliam,**  
 Preschool Director

Preschool activities in December will focus on the reason for the season – the birth of baby Jesus! The memory verse for December is “God’s Son is born for us.” The weekly themes are (1) shhh . . . the animals are sleeping; 2) busy holiday workers; and 3) the Christmas story. We will also be reviewing the letters A through J. The number is 10 and the colors are red and green. The shape of the month is the star.

Christmas programs are on the 16th and 17th at 10:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

**Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for October 2015**

Average Attendance Figures for October: 146  
 2015 Budget Requirements: \$340,000.00  
 Needed through October: \$283,333.00  
 Received through October: \$319,204.12  
 October Receipts: \$38,151.22  
 October Expenditures: \$23,814.24

**New Building Fund Figures:**  
 Deposits: \$1,945,927.44; Expenditures: \$2,579,777.58

**THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS**  
 Published by the Communications Committee  
**Carol Baker, Editor**

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

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Larry Bauman
Senior Pastor	Rev. Jim Perkin
Director of Youth Ministries	Kimberly Hardaway
Director of Music Ministries	Mary Lynn Perkin
Administrative Assistant	Melissa Ward
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Bill King
Custodian	Phil Smith

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

### WORSHIP GREETERS

- 6 David McNair and Don Baetz
- 13 Mike and Linda Lee
- 20 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 27 Kip and Suzanne Klutts



### ACOLYTES

- 6 Ryker Holt and Wyatt Holt
- 13 Nathan Murray and Waylon Murray
- 20 Burke Perry and Brady Perry
- 27 Sadie Perkin and Lexe Pickle



### LITURGIST

Laurie Bandy



### CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

- 6 Mary Lynn Perkin
- 13 Krissy Manning
- 20 Jim Perkin
- 27 Suzanne Klutts



## ★ Christmas Cantata ★

The Celebration Choir will present their Christmas cantata Sunday, Dec. 6 during morning worship at 10:30 a.m. under the direction of Mary Lynn Perkin and accompanied by Bill King.

The name of this year's cantata is Night of the Father's Love by Pepper Choplin.

The handbell choir under direction of Sandra Slater will also participate.

## 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.

December Schedule

- 6 Shop for angel tree at 4 p.m. Help with living nativity from 6-8 p.m.
- 13 Annual shopping trip to Pinnacle Hills. Leave at 12:30. Return at 8:30-9:00.
- 20 Progressive Dinner. Shores for appetizers; Barnes and Matos for meal; Perkins for dessert
- 27 OKC Thunder game. Leave after lunch at 1 p.m. Game is at 6 p.m. Return time TBA.
- 3 Movie Night. Meet at church at 6 p.m. Meal provided by Liz and Nikki Perry

The youth deeply thank the Gilliams for sponsoring the hayride/bonfire, and the Mitchells and Wheats for providing the meals in November. Your generosity is appreciated!

## Women of Faith

By Dorothy James, President

Fall Festival was a most successful day. Many new and former members worked together to make a great day for our church. The quilt drawing was very good and Janell Glover was the winner. The vendors were very happy with sales. There were nine total vendors.

Our menu was "superb" and our cook team did a great job!! We served 281 meals and the meal was delicious.

Thank you to all of the members who baked or made goodies of some kind, and to all who brought the fresh vegetables. The bake sale was very good. We sold nine of the Methodist cookbooks. Also we had many door prizes given by vendors, members, and businesses in Poteau. Monies will be given to many local missions.

Have a Happy and Merry Christmas!



## Annual Drive Through Living Christmas Story December 6 6 to 8 p.m.

## Welcome New Members!

We welcome our newest members who joined in November. They are Linda and Nick Martin. Be sure and let them know how happy we are to have them as members of our church family.

## Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee will be collecting your signed Christmas cards the next two Sundays, December 6th and December 13th. We will deliver the cards to the following persons. You may use your own cards or take cards from the basket in the Narthex. You don't have to write to everyone on our list, but please take the time to write a personal note.

Ed Brody  
Ruth Ann DeCamp and Dale DeCamp  
Janet and Marvin DeSpain  
Genny Dorsey  
Slim Durham  
Susan England  
Mary Folsom  
Peggy Gartner  
Jo Gee  
Ken Hammond  
Sam Harris  
Jerry Kemp  
Virginia Kidd  
Dana and Lloyd Lee  
Trudie Mathies  
Jake McMillin  
Sharon Mikkelson  
Bessie Moreland  
Dorthea Sue O'Neal  
Jean Potts  
Joe Renfro  
Betty Ridenour  
Louise and Robert Reynolds  
Jim Shore  
Virginia Stanley  
Paul Stottsberry  
Joe K. Thomas  
Ann Young

The Membership Care Committee will meet at 1:00 in the CFLC on Wednesday, December 16th to distribute the Christmas cards from the congregation and deliver them before Christmas.



## Missions Report

By Judy Peerson

It's December... a busy month to say the least with school and church programs to plan and attend as well as shopping for those hard to buy for relatives or those popular gadgets that are on your child's or grandchild's wish list. This month can be a trying time for us if we let it. However, December is a month about love and giving. The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ because He loved us and we needed a Savior who is Love itself. Out of gratitude for what He did for us, we celebrate His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

Our church mission this month is to try to do just that. Thanks to your generous donations and participation in our year long fundraising campaign, our church is able to double the amount spent on Christmas gifts for Children of Incarcerated Parents and may be able to add more children if we need to. We can buy each child a gift of warm clothing and a toy this year. For the volunteer shoppers, please keep your receipts and return your wrapped gifts to the church no later than December 11th. The children and their guardians will be picking up their gifts on December 19th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Neighborhood Breakfast is that morning and all recipients have been invited to attend. If anyone is interested in joining us and greeting them please feel free to join in.

Our second project is to make sure our elderly are not forgotten at Christmas. Our mission is to spend \$250 on the Angel Tree at the Oaks Nursing Home. We want everyone to have a gift. Unfortunately, there are more angels than dollars right now. This will become a priority in the future.

Also we are buying school supplies for Poteau schools to help for the next semester. Teachers will have on hand anything students will need.

Finally, we are asking our congregation to provide at least 25 home-made desserts for the Annual Community Christmas Dinner. Please drop them off at the church no later than 10 a.m. on Dec. 23rd or you can always take them to the Bob Lee Kidd Civic Center.

It has been a very productive year for our church missions and our congregation has been very generous as usual. If you ever want to be actively involved with the mission team, please join....a bright new year is about to begin.

## December Birthdays

- 1 Connie Sabatucci
- 2 David Roberts, Ted Kilgore, Mike Sullivan and Tatum Shelton
- 4 Judy Moore, Adrianna Johnson and Sam Shore
- 6 Jaydon Bandy
- 7 John Perry
- 8 Virginia Stanley, Shelley Johnson and Dale DeCamp
- 9 Sheri Zabala
- 10 Jason Bandy
- 11 Jamison Shackelford
- 12 Jo Gee, Curtis James and Cole Forsberg
- 13 Bryan Gilliam
- 14 David Redhage and Kip Kutts
- 15 Pegee Werline and Sharon Mikkelson
- 16 Julie Lee, Judy Peerson and Kyle Matos
- 18 Justin Hebert and Jarot Garner
- 19 Morgan Bandy
- 21 Vera Bullock
- 23 Donna Kendrick and Bob Reynolds
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 Gary Brown, Jr., Seth Garner, Heather Emery, Steven Sockey, and Holley Ambriz
- 28 Jim Skelton
- 29 Joe Sabatucci
- 30 Jerry Thompson
- 31 Rosalind Kendrick and Ronnie Oehlschlager



## December Anniversaries

- 1 Ed and Cindy Brody
- 3 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 4 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- 13 Mike and Lindsay Murray
- 14 Fredric and Nina Ritchie
- 17 Brian and Mandy Roberts
- 18 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway
- 19 Kyle and Kimberly Hardaway
- 23 Joe and Connie Sabatucci
- 26 Joe and Martha Renfro

## Staff Love Offering

We are very blessed at Poteau First United Methodist Church to have an excellent staff who work very hard in ministry and service to the community. We would like to present them with a "Christmas Love Offering" to express our sincere appreciation for a job well done. Contributions will be accepted through Thursday, December 17th. Please designate your gift "Christmas Love Offering".