

# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 20 NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 2012

SERVING GOD 118 YEARS

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



**A S H**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 FEBRUARY 22

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## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**

Each year, I try to offer a small group study that has the focus on Methodist beliefs and practices. There continues to be new studies made available and the very newest was just published a few weeks ago. *A Disciple's Path* is designed to guide individuals into becoming more engaged followers of Jesus Christ with a Wesleyan focus on growing in God's grace and love. The study consists of 7 sessions, with the first on Sunday, February 12 at 5 p.m. This will be an orientation with the purpose of giving an overview of the study so that you might better decide if you want to participate.

There are two books that are used. The first is a daily workbook that contains six weeks of daily readings that focus on prayer, worship, generosity, meditation, community, gifts-based service, and outreach. The second is a companion reader with chapters that correspond to the workbook. The two books are available for \$10.00. Look for more information as the beginning of the study approaches.

February 22 is also the beginning of Lent. This is the Church's liturgical season in which we prepare for the celebration of Easter. It is a time in which a person might choose to fast from a meal or piece of technology. Some choose to add a spiritual discipline into his or her routine. We will mark the beginning of Lent with our annual Ash Wednesday service, held in the sanctuary on Feb. 22. The service will begin at 6:00 p.m.

As we begin this powerful season of prayer and self-denial, hear this prayer written by Joseph Newton:

"O merciful Father, in compassion for your sinful children you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen."

Grace and peace,

**REV. DR. GREGORY J. TENER**



# FEBRUARY 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.**

**7-Week Study: A Disciple's Path, 5 p.m.**  
(Begins Feb. 12)

### • MONDAY •

**Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m.**

**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 •

**LOGOS, 3:15 p.m.**

**Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.**

**A Praying Life, 6:15 p.m., Family Room**

**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
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				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			
<b>2012</b>							

- 1 Praying Life Study Group, 6:15 p.m., Family Room
- 6 Jewish Holiday Study, 6:30 p.m., J.N.Ross Classroom
- 9 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5:15 p.m., CFLC
- 11 UMM Breakfast and Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 12 A Disciple's Path Study, 5 p.m., Family Room
- 13 Women of Faith, 11:30, CFLC
- 15 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 18 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10, CFLC
- 19 Church Council Meeting, 3:30 p.m., CFLC  
Eagle Ceremony, 2 p.m., Sanctuary and CFLC
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
- 26 Afternoon Worship Service at the Oaks Health-care Center, 2 p.m.

## MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 5 Keith and Patty Wright
- 12 Jim and Andrea Skelton
- 19 Artie Stivers and Virginia Stanley
- 26 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway



## LITURGISTS

- 12 Allison Matos
- 19 Adult Reader
- 26 Katie Redhage



## ACOLYTES

- 5 Aiden Alexander and Kyson Hardaway
- 12 Demi Gilliam and Jessa Craig
- 19 Angela Price and Tabitha Zabala
- 26 Jaydon Bandy and Baleigh Quarry



### Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for December, 2011

2011 Average Attendance Figures for December: 202  
 2011 Budget Requirements: \$350,000.00  
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,730.77  
 Needed through December: \$350,000.04  
 December Receipts: \$21,909.07  
 December Expenditures: \$35,383.75  
**New Building Fund Figures:**  
 Deposits: \$1,064,606.66  
 Expenditures: \$2,546,340.39

## 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
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Tener</b>
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Obed Alba</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Children's Director</b>	<b>Kimberly Hardaway</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Steve Clark</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>	

District web page: [www.gbpm-umc.org/mc-dist/](http://www.gbpm-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.

The schedule is as follows:

## FEBRUARY

- 3-4 "Believe" conference followed by Laser-Quest in Tulsa. Leave at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 and return at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.
- 5 "Souper" Bowl Sunday offering in worship  
Superbowl Get-Together at CHAOS;  
Meal: Cindy Darneal  
Must sign up for Heifer Ranch by this date! \$20
- 12 CHAOS; Meal: Rozelle Hardaway and Susan England
- 19-20 Heifer Ranch Global Village Experience, Perryville, AR; Leave at 9 a.m. on Sunday; Return around 3 on Monday
- 26 CHAOS; Meal: Wheat Family

## MARCH

- 4 CHAOS; Meal: Holley Ambriz

• • •

### HEIFER RANCH EXPERIENCE

Heifer Ranch is part of Heifer International, a worldwide organization devoted to actively working to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. At the Ranch, the Global Gateway Experience is offered that challenges one to "walk in another's shoes" and experience what life is like in a different area of the world. This is a challenging 24-hour experience. You will come home a stronger and more compassionate person as well as broadened in your awareness. Every person should try this at least once. Cost is \$20. Sign up by Feb. 5. Cost would be free to any adult signing up.

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### LOGOS

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

Important dates to remember:



## FEBRUARY

- 1 Crazy T-shirt Night (Wear your silliest t-shirt)
- 8 St. Valentine's Night
- 15 Patriotic Night (Wear your red, white and blue)
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.

Middle School Handbell Choir will ring bells on Sunday, February 12th

4th & 5th Handbell Choir will lead in worship on Sunday, February 26th

### Volunteer Spotlight on Family Time: Part 2 - Table Parents

Table parents have the gift of hospitality and friendship to offer young people. They work weekly, sitting at a table of young people, helping create a structured, but joyful, secure atmosphere during dining. This is where intentional, relationship building with each child occurs. Table parents eat with the children, play games with the children, and pray with the children. They are who make Family Time such as wonderful part of the LOGOS ministry. There are currently 26 adults volunteering time each week.

Missy Alexander, Jason and Kelie Bandy, Nina Bowen, Suzanne Brennan - sub, Chris Brookfield, Jayla Craig, Jamie, Tracey and Alicia Gilliam, Ashley Green, Matthew Houston, Krissy Manning, Randy Matos - sub, Lindsay and Mike Murray, Jeramy O'Berry, John Perry, Louise and Robert Reynolds, Virginia Stanley, Kay and Keith Thomas, Frances Thompson, Melissa Ward, Sheri Zabala.



## Correspondence

This church family shows its love in many ways. Thank you so much for the generous staff Christmas gift. I feel proud to be a part of this wonderful congregation!

Sincerely,  
Wendy Kelly



United Methodist Church  
**PRESCHOOL**



By  
**Tracey Gilliam,**  
**Preschool**  
**Director**

February at Preschool will be packed full of fun. The memory verse is "Hear the word of God and obey it."

The weekly themes are: 1) Discovering the world with our sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste; 2) Community Helper: The Dentist; 3) Community Helper: The Postman; 4) The Bible helps us learn good and right ways to live; 5) Dinosaurs of long ago.

During February we will be working on the number 10, the colors pink and purple and the shape heart. We will also be working on the letters O, P, Q, R and S. We will also practice our phone numbers.

### United Methodist Women of Faith

The Women of Faith did not have a meeting in January due to so many being gone. We had a Christmas party in the Family Life Center. Everyone brought some canned goods for the Food Pantry. We also played the Dirty Santa game for our gift exchange and ate things we probably should not have, but had a good time. Our next meeting will be February 13th, the day before Valentine's Day. We plan on giving each other a valentine. We will finish our book study.

Mary Bruce enjoys visits and cards and so do Dee and her father.

Hope every one had a good holiday.

Mary Ann Ford,  
UMW President

### Grief Support Group

The Peachtree Hospice Grief Support Group meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at 3100 Broadway, Suite 108, Po-teau. Meetings are free and open to anyone. Information: (918) 647-7008.

### Welcome New Members!

We are happy to welcome Jim and Gaytra Coggins into membership. They joined on January 22nd. Be sure and let them know how happy we are to have them as part of our church family.

## February Birthdays

- 1 Judy Hall
- 2 Nathaniel Hallmark and Scotty Bratton
- 3 Rhonda Britton
- 4 Josh Barkley, Cole Bridges and  
Kelie Bandy
- 5 Dawson Perry and Bruce Darrow
- 6 Marcella Widmar
- 8 Greg Tener
- 9 Tabitha Zabala
- 10 Denise Sullivan and  
Julie Bridges
- 11 Peter Norgeot
- 13 John Luke Best
- 15 Clyda Ware
- 16 Jack Sizemore
- 17 Dale Kelly
- 18 Linda Johnston
- 19 Janell Glover and Emily Harreld
- 20 Marsha Cofer
- 21 Jean Potts
- 22 Joan McCarty, Gayle Smedley, and  
Caleb Bridges
- 23 Kaylee Kingrey and Kyle Kingrey
- 24 Sandra Slater, Dana Lee, Charles Meek  
and Jeannine Wilmeth
- 25 Annette Hogan
- 26 Megan Hebert
- 27 Trudy Mathies



## February Anniversaries

- 2 Bob and Vera Bullock
- 12 Versile and Shanna Johnson
- 14 Loney and Myra Gregory
- 26 Bob and Louise Reynolds
- 28 Scott and Denise Sullivan



*We would like to make our Birthday and Anniversary calendar complete. If we do not have your family members' birthdays and anniversaries, please give the office that information by calling 647-2217.*



## A Praying Life

By Paul E. Miller

Beginning on Wednesday, January 25th, a new study on A Praying Life began meeting at 6:15 each Wednesday after LOGOS. We gather in the Family Room off the Narthex. We invite you to join us. (Note: If no LOGOS, no study group. For the time being, we are suspending the Intercessory Prayer Group that has been meeting on Wednesday afternoons.)

Following are comments on Amazon.com in praise of the book we'll be using:

"This is as fine a book on prayer that you will ever read, but it is so much more. It is the story of our struggle to actually live like we believe that our heavenly Father really does love us. If we did, nothing could keep us from being committed to the day-by-day hard work of prayer."

"I know there are a million, zillion books about prayer out there – but this is really one you should sit with for a while, a long while. I learned an awful lot from it – but more importantly, it actually motivated me to stop reading and start praying.

"This is a great book on prayer! It is changing the way I think about and practice prayer."

"This is a rare book, for it addresses both the internal motivations of prayer and the outward practice of prayer. I don't need a pep rally, I need practicality. I also need to understand the foundational reasons why prayer sometimes malfunctions in my life. Miller's book does an excellent job of addressing both of these needs."

"If you are searching for meaning, read this book. If you are jaded in your Christianity or prayers, read this book. If you want to free yourself from praying "correctly" and learn to pray honestly, read this book. If you are too busy to read anything else this year – read this book."

### Membership Care Committee Meeting February 15th

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).



## Church Council Report

It was a busy fall with two Church Council meetings in addition to the yearly Charge/Church Conference, which was held November 22nd. Reports made during the regular Church Council meetings indicate that our committees, particularly the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee, are hard at work with the day-to-day operation of our church as well as long-range plans and business.

Rev. Darrell Cates spoke at the Charge Conference and provided Poteau FUMC with a challenge to be a "window to the world". Rev. Cates also left us with questions to ponder:

- Are we transforming the world?
- What do we expect of disciples of Jesus Christ?
- When people come to our church do they meet the risen Christ?
- How do we help people grow closer to God?

Come to the next Church Council meeting if you are interested in finding out what is going on in your church! Hope to see you at the next regularly scheduled Church Council meeting on February 19th!

Susan Mixon, Church Council Chairperson

## Choir Notes

This past winter has been a busy season for the choir. The choir helped prepare for the Cavalan Chorale's concert in November and then were joined by a brass choir for services prior to Thanksgiving. They shared their annual Christmas Cantata and also provided Christmas Carols for the Poteau Parade of Homes.

In January the choir promoted and hosted the fundraising concert by the Poteau High School Choir in our new sanctuary. All proceeds went toward the high school choir's trip to New York City.

The choir is currently working on their joint contemporary service with members of the Free Will Baptist Church and is working on their annual Easter Cantata.

The new church sanctuary is a great gift to those involved in music and the possibilities are endless on what can be presented there.

The choir would like to invite anyone who would be interested in any type of music to visit them about joining the choir or taking part in some other joint project. Besides making music, we also have a great time together. We are always looking for new ideas in music. Choir practice is at 6:00 on Wednesday evenings in the new choir room, next to the sanctuary.

Steve Clark, Music Director



## Long Range Planning Committee Update

Long Range Planning is a continuous 1, 3, and 5 year process for the church to put in place programs and ministries to accomplish its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The members of this committee are dedicated to the process and are committed to defining the goals and timetables for implementation of specific programs in the areas of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Risk Taking, Mission, Communications, and Intentional Faith Development.

Some projects that you will see implemented this year include a new church directory, the establishment of a visitor's table in the Narthex, name tags for church members, new member and visitor packets, a new member dinner and orientation hosted by Greg, identified mission opportunities for youth and adults, a visitation procedures manual, and an effort to increase communications through Email, Facebook, and the church web site. In addition, Passionate Worship will continually be on the look out for ways to keep worship alive and people inspired.

The committee meets six times a year with the next meeting scheduled for March 15th at 5:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Everyone is invited to attend to present their thoughts and ideas. The congregation will be updated after each meeting on progress being made on program and ministry implementation. In addition to the five committees identified above, Trustees, Finance, and SPRC Committees are also in the process of developing their 1, 3, and 5 year plans.

## *Joplin Relief Effort*

Our church is scheduled to go up Memorial Day weekend and assist with the Joplin Relief Effort.

We would leave May 24 in the evening, work May 25, 26 and part of Sunday, May 27 and return home Sunday evening.

There is a deposit of \$50 per person to attend. Please sign up by February 26 to attend this mission effort. Must be 14 or older to attend.

## Oklahoma United Methodist CIRCLE OF CARE for Children and Youth

The Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care has been ministering to "at-promise" children, youth and families since 1917 through residential and foster care. With the support of United Methodist congregations and individuals, we are making a lasting, Christian difference in people's lives. Ministries of Circle of Care are:

- Child SHARE Foster Care
- Pearl's Home Transitional Housing for Homeless Women with Children at Frances E. Willard Ministry Center, Tulsa
- Holsinger Home for Children in Enid
- United Methodist Boys Ranch in Gore
- United Methodist Children's Home in Tahl-equah
- Independent Living Programs (High School, High Education and Transitional Services)

At present, Circle of Care is serving more than 300 children through residential and foster care. The outstanding youth and children you help had a combined 3.0 GPA last school year for the third consecutive year. They also served over 2,100 hours of community service last year.

When you give to Circle of Care you can have a feeling of pride and ownership. An ownership that you know you helped a child in need – a pride that passes on to that child, and they continue passing it on through their lives by your Circle of Care Sunday gift.

Please remember these outstanding, "at-promise" children and youth this year through your prayers and gifts! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many!

Something to think about: If every United Methodist family were to contribute \$500 per year, Circle of Care would be able to meet its annual operating expenses and build an endowment that would allow for the future growth of the ministry.

What is \$500 per year really costing your family? Less than \$10 per week; Dinner for four at a casual dining restaurant each month; One night at the movies each month; Cable TV or internet service each month.

So you can see, it only takes a little sacrifice to make a difference.