

The United Methodist News

VOLUME 21 NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 2013

SERVING GOD 119 YEARS

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



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Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Free to Serve

As I write this article, I am looking out of my office window at our beautiful sanctuary building – the building YOU envisioned, prayed about and worked so diligently to construct. You have accomplished this while continuing to fund ministries, pay apportionments and serve others in the name of Christ. This congregation understands that stewardship begins and ends with God. What a wonderful testament to your commitment and to God’s faithfulness.

Most of you are aware that we will very soon begin our “Free to Serve” Capital Campaign to pay down remaining debt on our new sanctuary and other improvements. The church buildings we enjoy today are gifts from God, made possible by Divine provision through your loving gifts. They, however, are only tools for ministry. You and I are the church and the steps we are taking now will allow us to live the vision God has for us.

Trusting God and walking by faith are seldom easy, especially in these stressful economic times. This project reminds us of our dependence upon God for strength, courage, and provision. The scriptures present a clear understanding of the concept of stewardship, possessions, and giving.

In Exodus 36 the people bring their offerings (not tithes) to build the sanctuary of God. Because the outpouring was so great, Moses sent word for the people to stop giving! In 2 Chronicles the people, led by David, gave gifts toward the construction of the Temple that would be built by Solomon. These offerings were sufficient for the construction of the Temple without restricting the daily ministries. In both cases, the people looked upon the opportunity to bring their building offerings as a way to honor God. We are invited to think of our capital campaign gifts like those given by people in the days of Moses and King David, freewill dona-

(Continued on page 2)

REV. KYLE CLARK

(Pastor to People, cont.)



FEBRUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday
Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month

tions, above the tithe, to build God's house.

This past year has been a year of transition and wonderful accomplishment. The coming year is one of great promise and opportunity. I believe there are great things in store for us as we discover together new horizons while striving to be faithful stewards of all that God has blessed us with.

February 3 is Kick-Off Sunday. The leadership team will be commissioned in worship so please, mark your calendar to be in worship to share this spirit-filled experience. Our hope for the future is in the Lord. We trust God to take us where we could never go alone. May we be united in prayer as we prepare for the days ahead.

Kyle

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for December 2012
 Average Attendance Figures for December: 154
 2012 Budget Requirements: \$397,000.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,634.62
 Needed through December: \$397,000.24
 December Receipts: \$20,667.99
 December Expenditures: \$23,567.70
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$1,362,349.66
 Expenditures: \$2,559,460.97

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS
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 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Darrell Cates
Pastor	Rev. Kyle Clark
Youth Director	Kimberly Hardaway
Music Director	Steve Clark
Logos Director	Tami Matos
Church Secretary	Brenda Ferguson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Jason Dering

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

- **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
Adult Handbell Practice, 5:15, Sanctuary
- **TUESDAY •**
Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC
- **WEDNESDAY •**
LOGOS, 3:15 p.m., CFLC
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Women's Bible Study, 6:15 p.m., J.N. Ross Room
- **THURSDAY •**
Senior Café, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., CFLC
Girl Scouts, 4:00 p.m.

- 3 "Free to Serve" Kickoff Sunday in worship
- 9 UMM Breakfast and Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 10 Chubby Sunday Potluck Lunch, following worship, CFLC
- Grief Workshop, 2 - 2:30 p.m., CFLC
- 11 UMW Women of Faith, 10:30 a.m., CFLC
- 13 Ash Wednesday Services, 7:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- 16 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10, CFLC
- 20 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 3 David and Lisa Barnes
- 10 Lloyd and Dana Lee
- 17 Curtis and Dorthy James
- 24 Chad and Kendra Yandell



LITURGISTS

- 10 Bryce Holt
- 17 Adult Reader
- 24 Adult Reader

ACOLYTES

- 3 Maci White and Demi Gilliam
- 10 Wyatt Holt and Luke Wheat
- 17 Kyle Holt and Daniel Ambriz
- 24 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry



News of Youth



LOGOS - - -

By Tami Matos, Director

By Kimberly Hardaway, Youth Director

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

The schedule is as follows:

FEBRUARY

- 3 Regular meeting (Superbowl Fun) Meal: Cindy Darneal
- 10 Chubby Sunday and Pie Auction immediately after church.
- 15, 16 Heifer Ranch - Leave at 8:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m.
- 17 No meeting unless Heifer Ranch doesn't get enough attenders and must cancel.
- 22, 23 Confirmation retreat for confirmation class
- 24 CHAOS, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

•••

HEIFER RANCH

Heifer Ranch is contingent on having at least 15 commit to going by Feb 3. Anyone in the church is welcome to join us for this "Global Gateway" cultural experience.

The experience is geared towards gaining an understanding of the challenges countries face in having a sustainable food source and what we can do to assist in alleviating hunger across the world.

Contact Kim Hardaway for more information on what to expect and costs.

The pie auction is to help the youth activity budget. This money is kept locally and assists the youth group with money to do activities such as the Heifer Ranch, 30 Hour Famine, and Youth Force. Every youth will contribute a pie/dessert/etc. to be auctioned following the Chubby Sunday festivities.

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.

2013 is off to a great LOGOS start! Each week the students learn a new scripture to hold on their heart and apply to daily life. Logos is offering extra classes to fit a wider interest. The students can rotate through culinary arts, worship skills, handbells, science exploration, recreation, and now drama, crafts, and pinterest projects have been added. We are also celebrating 10 YEARS of LOGOS by going bowling! There are lots of fun, learning, and fellowship going on each Wednesday! If you would like to be a part of the fun, we are in need of volunteers to be on a cook or clean up team (just one night a month), or if you have a student that would like to participate, please call the church office or contact Tami Matos (649-4414).

February Themes:

Feb. 6 - Camp Out Night (We will eat in tents and share funny skits.)

Feb. 13 - Valentine's Night (wear pink, white, red, or purple) *This is Ash Wednesday. The service will follow LOGOS dinner.

Feb. 20 - 10 Year Celebration at Strike-A-Lot Lanes. (Children will be transported from school to the bowling alley, then to the church for dinner)

Feb. 27 - Patriotic Night (wear your red, white, and blue)

Chubby Sunday

February 10th is CHUBBY SUNDAY!

This has become an annual tradition to enjoy lunch, music, and Methodist fellowship before Lent begins.

This will be a potluck meal. Please bring a dish (can be Cajun) to share.

Steve Clark is coordinating the musicians to "jazz-up" the event.

For dessert, Judy will bake her famous King Cake. Other desserts will be provided by the youth (please see youth article).

This is our church's answer to Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) so everyone plan to attend and enjoy the activities.

• NOTICE •

We are seeking a few great people to serve as volunteer receptionists at the church.

If enough people agree to help us with the mission, you will only need to serve one day a week. We hope to implement this program again in February.

If you are interested in assisting us with this mission, please call Janet DeSpain at 918-436-7916 or the church office at 918-647-2217.

Cards of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the generous staff Christmas gift. This church family does so much to care for others and I am proud to be a part of such a loving congregation.

Sincerely, Wendy Kelly

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for the Love Offering the church staff received at the end of the year. Each year you remember the church staff in this special way and we are so very appreciative of your giving spirit and generosity.

Brenda Ferguson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and I am looking forward to an exciting 2013.

Steve Clark

To Our Church Family,

The nursery staff would like to thank everyone for the Christmas love offering we received. It's a pleasure to care for your children throughout the year.

Jayla Craig
Kaycee Quarry

Dear Friends,

My love and prayers go out to all of you who sent the collection of Christmas cards. You made my day. I loved every card.

Dorthea Sue O'Neal

Dear Kay,

Sending a big "Thank You" for all the Christmas cards. So nice to receive them. Really appreciate hearing from so many church members. Wishing all of you a blessed 2013.

Love, Jim and Ruth Ann DeCamp

Dear Church Family,

Debbie, Haley, Nathan and I wish to thank you for your wonderful gift of love. The generosity of the gift you presented us was overwhelming. We feel blessed that we have been appointed to First UMC in Poteau and are excited about the ways we will all grow together as the body of Christ. You have affirmed us in that by your kindness.

Thank you so, much, again.

Grace and peace,
Kyle

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
- 9 Tabitha Zabala and Cindy Darneal
- 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 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

- 14 Loney and Myra Gregory
- 26 Bob and Louise Reynolds
- 28 Scott and Denise Sullivan



United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

In February, preschool students will be learning about their senses, learning about Community Helpers, learning how the Bible helps us learn good and right ways to live and learning about dinosaurs of long ago.

The letters focused on will be O, P, Q and R. The colors will be pink and purple and the shape will be a heart. The number 10 will be introduced and phone numbers will also be recognized.

"Hear the word of God and obey it" is the February memory verse.

Confirmation Time

Confirmation is a time for students to prepare to profess their baptismal faith, and claim their faith as their own.

Confirmation is a time where we hope to reinforce life-long habits for growing in our faith, so that we can express our faith through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we seek to become living proof of God's love, one person at a time.

Confirmation is a time when we creatively teach students about our faith through the lens of our Wesleyan heritage, help the student understand their own faith story, and seek to connect them to their peers and faith community to form long-lasting bonds both inside and outside of church walls.

KEY DATES:

Feb 10: Registration Deadline

Feb 20: First Confirmation Meetings in the Family Room at 3:30 p.m.

Feb 22-23: Confirmation Retreat at Cross Point Camp

Wednesdays, Feb 27 through May 1: Confirmation Class

(No class Wednesday March 20)

United Methodist Women of Faith

**By Dorothy James,
President**

The United Methodist Women had a wonderful meeting in December at the home of Louise Reynolds.

We continued our very good Bible Study, ate delicious food, and enjoyed wonderful fellowship.

Please plan to join us at our next meeting on February 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the church in the Family Life Center where we will have Bible Study, a short meeting and a light luncheon.

Also, thank you to all the ladies who made cakes for the Oaks Birthday Party in December. Each year, December is our month to provide cakes for the Oaks and we are happy to provide the number and kinds of cakes needed.



Staff Parish Relations Committee Report

**By Janet DeSpain
SPRC Chair**

This past year was a busy time for this committee and our entire congregation. It was a year of transitions for all of us due to the many staff changes that took place.

Pastor Greg Tener left to accept a DS assignment in Ardmore and Kyle Clark and his family came to Poteau. Pastoral change is always difficult and requires adjustments on everyone's part. The congregation must adjust to a new pastor and his way of doing things. The new pastor must adjust to the new congregation, new town, help his family adjust to the move and become familiar with our church. It takes time for the pastor and congregation to become acquainted with each other and begin working together as a team. Hopefully we are now ready to move forward and accomplish great things this year.

Before we had time to adjust to this change, our youth director, Kim Hardaway returned to teaching full time. This was very difficult for all of us including Kim. However, we were blessed – Kim agreed to continue as part-time youth director and continue the youth programs. Thank you, Kim.

Tami Matos accepted the challenge to lead the Logos program until we could hire an associate pastor to take over this responsibility. Thank you, Tami.

We hired three custodians this past year including Jason Dering, our current custodian. We hope Jason will be with us for a long time.

The Church Council has approved the SPRC's request to hire a full-time associate pastor as well as continue with a part-time youth director. We are diligently seeking the right person for our congregation. The Associate Pastor will focus on children and families ministries as well as other duties.

Remember this is the Staff Parish Relations committee. How can we serve you? We ask for your prayers and ideas as we begin a new year. We know great things are ahead for the Poteau First United Methodist Church.

God Bless,
Janet DeSpain,
SPRC Chair

Missions Report

By Terri Martin,
Missions Committee Chair

Thanks to all who donated shoes and money for shipping. We collected 168 pair of shoes and \$133.00 which covered the cost of shipping. Thanks also to those donating fruit cups for the month of January to be donated to the backpack program.

February will be focusing on helping with our prayer shawl ministry here at FUMC. Please see article by Kay Thomas "Prayer Shawl Ministry" regarding items and services needed.

Please be in prayer for Susan and Mallory Mixon as they prepare and plan for a mission trip to Belize in March with the Oklahoma VIM. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them to share the love of Jesus Christ in ways that make a Christian difference.

The monthly breakfast will be February 16.

Thank you Poteau FUMC for being such a loving, caring, giving and supportive congregation. You truly make a difference in so many lives.



The 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter is called the Season of Lent. It is a time of repentance and preparation for Easter and it begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Historically, Ash Wednesday has been a day when people of faith intentionally set aside time to confront our own mortality and confess our sin within the worshiping community. The use of ashes (typically the burned palm branches from the previous year) used as a sign of mortality and repentance, has a long history in both Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes, the historic focus of Ash Wednesday by placing the sign of the cross on the forehead of worshippers, is a powerful and experiential way for people to participate in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

You are invited to join us for either one of two imposition services on Ash Wednesday, Feb 13 - a brief imposition service at 7:15 a.m. or a more traditional imposition service at 6:30 p.m.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are looking forward to a new beginning for our Prayer Shawl Ministry. When a member of the church faces a death in the family or a long-term illness, a Prayer Group will gather to pray for that person by name before delivering a handmade shawl to them.

Volunteers are needed in five areas:

- 1) to knit, crochet or sew a shawl, throw or blanket,
- 2) to wash and dry the shawls, fold and prepare the shawls for delivery,
- 3) to pray with a group for the persons who will receive the shawls,
- 4) to deliver the shawls, and
- 5) to donate funds and/or yarn to make the shawls.

By involving as many people as possible, we will make the ministry sustainable and build a spirit of community among our members.

The closet across from the Women's Restroom off the Narthex will be used to store materials in three separate bins: one for raw materials used in making the shawls, one for finished shawls that need to be laundered and prepared for delivery, and one for shawls ready for a group to pray over and take to someone. We will include a card with each shawl to let the recipient know that we gathered and prayed for them by name, and that we want them to feel the love of the congregation and God's embrace through the shawl.

Donations of yarn are greatly appreciated and should meet the following requirements:

- medium weight (4)
- washable and dryable, indicated by a square around a circle with a dot in the middle
- a variety of colors and designs are welcome
- 3 or 4 skeins (900-1000 yards) are needed for a single shawl

If you prefer to donate funds for a prayer shawl, each shawl costs approximately \$16.

You may volunteer by calling the church office or signing up during the month of February.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*