

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.

Good Friday Service;
Living Lord's Supper
Drama
March 29, 7:30 p.m.
in the sanctuary.



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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Planning for Fruit

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist . . . But I am afraid, lest they should only exist in a sect, having the form of religion without the power."

John Wesley, 1786

The mission statement of our denomination and our congregation is to make (and multiply I might add) disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

How do we do this in a day and time when so many folks feel that "church" no longer is able to offer relevant answers for their lives? Don't be mistaken: they have deep spiritual needs and interest, as revealed by numerous polls, but they don't think the churches have the answers to their questions.

To answer this question of "how," we need to ask some other "how" questions:

1. How do we help people relate to God?
2. How do we relate to each other?
3. How do we help people serve God's mission?
4. How do we as a church relate to our community?

All of these, in one way or another, are about "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

These "how" questions are difficult for us because we, the local church, the people of First United Methodist Church of Poteau, are the only ones that can answer these questions for the First United Methodist Church in Poteau. Only we can discern what God is doing in our midst, not the district or conference office. Only we know what the unique needs of our community are and the specific gifts and resources our congregation has that can address these needs, not the district or conference office. Only we can do the things we need to do as faithful disciples of Christ to become a fruitful congregation. So what does a fruitful congregation look like?

In his book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, Bishop Robert

(Continued on page 6)

REV. KYLE CLARK



Introducing a New Member of our Children's Education Team

We are excited to introduce Suzanne Klutts as the newest member of our children's education team.

Suzanne and her family have recently joined FUMC and, as many of you know, she is a gifted educator. She brings experience in both public education and Sunday School, and she has been an important part of our LOGOS ministry.

Suzanne together with Matthew Houston will begin working to implement new and exciting ideas in our Children's Sunday School Program. She will be inviting many of you to participate as well!

Please be in prayer for Suzanne, Matthew and our children's Sunday School program so that Christ's love is made real for our children.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for January 2013

Average Attendance Figures for January: 133

2013 Budget Requirements: \$400,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,692.31

Needed through January: \$30,769.24

January Receipts: \$49,642.66

January Expenditures: \$25,598.69

New Building Fund Figures:

Deposits: \$1,373,652.68

Expenditures: \$2,562,482.55

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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	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/

MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

Worship Bulletin Deadline: 10 a.m. Thursday

Newsletter Deadline: Third Friday of month

• 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 Commitment Sunday Potluck Brunch, 9:00 a.m., CFLC
- Afternoon Worship Service, 2 p.m., Oaks
- "The Bible" Mini-Series, 7 p.m., Sanctuary
- 7 Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m., Conference Room
- 9 UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 11 UMW Women of Faith Meeting and Luncheon, 10:30 a.m., CFLC
- 13 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 16 Free Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10, CFLC
- 29 Living Lord's Supper Drama, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

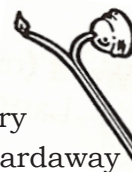
MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 3 Ken and Susan Hammond
- 10 Brian and Katie Shore
- 17 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 24 Mary and Jerry Ford
- 31 Curtis and Dorthy James



ACOLYTES

- 3 Aiden Alexander and Luke Wheat
- 10 Wyatt Holt and Demi Gilliam
- 17 Kyle Holt and Daniel Ambriz
- 24 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry
- 31 Kedrick Hardaway and Kanaan Hardaway



News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway, Youth Director

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:

MARCH

3 Regular meeting. Meal: Henry and Rozelle Hardaway

10 Regular meeting. Meal: Liz, Nikki, and John Perry

17 No meeting. SPRING BREAK

24 Regular meeting. Meal: Chad and Kendra Yandell

Friday, 29 & 30 - 30 Hour Famine. Gather at church at 3 p.m. Friday and dismiss around 8 a.m. Saturday

31 Hide Easter eggs during Sunday School. No meeting. EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL

7 Regular meeting. Meal: Buddy and Pat Shelton

SIGN UP BY TODAY FOR DISTRICT CAMP AND YOUTH FORCE!

30 Hour Famine

30 Hour Famine is a nationally honored experience for youth groups. The idea is simple: students fast for 30 hours and participate in unique activities that help them learn about the realities of world hunger.

In the 30 days leading up to the Famine, they'll individually and collectively raise funds to help save kids' lives, changing the outcome of futures across the globe.

Organized by World Vision, this year's famine focus is "Feed Your 5,000" based on the loaves and fishes Bible story. The youth group will gather at the church at 3 p.m. on Friday and stay together fasting until 8 a.m. on Saturday.

One activity done during the famine is the building of a cardboard refugee camp. If you have any large appliance size boxes, please bring to the church by March 29th. The students will be sleeping in these cardboard "homes" Friday night.

Easter Egg Hunt

If you would like to donate candy for stuffing



the eggs for the church's Easter Egg Hunt, please bring it to the church the week of March 24th. The candy needs to be individually wrapped and able to fit inside a medium-sized plastic egg. Thank you.

District Camp

Sign up for District Camp and Youth Force is April 7th.

District Camp is June 3 - 7 and the cost is \$90 per person (the church also pays \$90 making the total \$180)

Youth Force

Youth Force is June 23 - 28 and the cost is \$75 per person (youth fundraising and the youth budget covers the remaining cost)

Other camp dates and costs will be in next month's newsletter.

If for planning purposes you need to see potential camps and dates you can go online to <http://www.okumcministries.org/Camps/index.htm>.



The Preschool will be learning about the letters S, T and U this month, the colors yellow and green, and the shapes of a clover and a diamond.

The monthly Memory Verse is "I will be glad and rejoice in your love forever." The themes for March will include learning about the weather, planets and stars in outer space and Easter.

Spring Break will be the week of March 18th. The Preschool will not be having classes that week.

March will begin our Pre-Enrollment for the following school year. Classes often fill up before August. If you know of anyone interested in the Preschool have them call soon. They may call the Church at 647-2217, between 9 and 12, or Ms. Tracey at 839-7424.

Check out the photos and information at www.poteaufumc.com

Living Lord's Supper



Our annual presentation of the Easter season will take place on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Come and see 13 men of our church portray Jesus and the Twelves Disciples in the drama.

LOGOS - - -

By Tami Matos, Director

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.

March Themes:

March 6 - Western Night (wear your jeans/cowboy hat/scarf)

March 13 - Red Carpet Night (Logos Talent Show. If you have a talent to share, please plan to share with us. Please keep it under one minute, so all can have opportunity.)

March 20 - NO LOGOS TONIGHT! Spring Break!

March 29 - Easter Celebration

Volunteers Needed:

Our Spring enrollment has increased. We are needing two more table parents for family time. Being a table parent is a fun job.

A table parent arrives by 5:00 to enjoy dinner with another adult and 5-6 cute LOGOS kids. You sit with the same "family" each week, get to know each other, enjoy a delicious dinner, pray together. Dinner is over at 6:00.

It is a great way to get to know church members of all ages. Please call the church office or Tami Matos 649-4414 if you are excited about being a part of LOGOS

There are only 5 more LOGOS weeks, so it would only be 5 hours of your time.

LOGOS Talent Show

On March 13th, LOGOS members will be sharing their gifts. If you would like to come and enjoy their talents, please join us for dinner. We will be having chicken strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert. Dinner is \$2 from 5:00-6:00. Please call the church office or Tami Matos 649-4414 to make reservation (so we prepare enough food).

March Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Clark, Ryker Holt, and Jan Thompson
- 2 Jeff Roberts, Sarah Bradshaw and Josh Graham
- 3 Carol Garner and Mollie Forsberg
- 5 Janet Sockey, Maci Pickle and Jim Coggins
- 6 Jeff Shore and Jake McMillin
- 8 Daniel Ambriz
- 9 Samantha Bell and Matthew Houston
- 12 Daltan James
- 13 Bailey Baker, Kelsey Robinson and Dee Carsello
- 14 Todd Wright and Jean-Ann Shankle
- 16 Connor Wheat and Shannon Stubbs
- 18 Mike Lee, Tim Renfro, Jacob Sconyers and Gaytra Coggins
- 22 Joseph Sabatucci, Jr.
- 23 David Barnes
- 24 Carol Baker, Susan England, Debbie Wood and Carol Darrow
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, Joshua Sconyers, Nathan Murray, and Heather Robinson
- 26 Hank Harris and Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni Rayburn and Mike Murray



March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike and Kay Sullivan
Jim and Gaytra Coggins
- 17 Jeremy and Kaycee Quarry
Jason and Kelie Bandy
- 18 Jim and Andrea Skelton
- 21 Bill and Sandra Slater
- 22 Gary and Artheia Hageman
- 27 Ted and Jane Kilgore



Bolivia Mission Meeting

On Saturday, April 13th, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be an informational meeting about the Bolivia/Oklahoma Methodist conference partnership. The meeting will be held at St. Andrews UMC in Oklahoma City. Speakers will be Bishop Hayes and Edwin Corr, former ambassador to Bolivia. There will be information about past mission trips to Bolivia, including construction trips, medical trips, and trips that worked with abused women, and trips that involved developing a water system. There will also be information about future trips to Bolivia.

If you are interested, please contact Kyle Clark at 647-2217, Terri Martin at 721-9082 or Susan Mixon at 658-5438.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome Kip, Suzanne and Ben Klutts as our newest members. They joined on February 17.

Be sure and let the Klutts family know how happy we are to have them as a member of our church family.

United Methodist Women of Faith

**By Dorothy James,
President**

The next meeting of the UMW Women of Faith will be Monday, March 11 at 10:30.

Our February meeting had an interesting ending of the study, "Singing Mary's Song; Women of the Bible." All the women in the study had a special personality.

March and April will be a study from Beth Moore on prayer. In May the "Day of Prayer".

Saturday, April 13 will be our McAlester District Meeting in Atoka. We will plan to take the church van. All women are welcome to go. Please call Dorothy James at 647-4205 or give your name to Brenda in the office by Monday, April 8.

We have set the date for our annual Fall Festival for Friday, November 8. We will have a quilt again and vendors.

On October 4 and 6 Poteau UMW will be hosting the State Conference Meeting for McAlester District.

There will be a guest speaker on missions, interesting subjects, training for officers and the keynote speaker on that Saturday will be Bishop Robert Hayes.

This is special for our church to be asked to host. We have 18 units in McAlester District. All units are to help and we know this is a big task. We may need helping hands in many ways from youth, women and men and always we need prayer. We can do it!

The Conference theme is "Connecting Members for a Faithful Future, Everyone Matters."

A flyer will be sent by the State Conference to all churches.

Blessed: Shaped to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2) I will bless you . . . and you will be a blessing.



Cards of Thanks

Dear Members of the
Membership Care Committee,

The Christmas greetings that I received from each of you was the "icing" on my Christmas gifts. Thank you so very much for remembering me. Your kindness always brings tears to my eyes. You know a part of me is still at FUMC Poteau!

Thank you for still accepting me as part of your church family. God bless you all and have a great 2013.

Bessie Moreland

Missions Report

**By Terri Martin,
Missions Committee Chair**

February mission collection focused on the prayer shawl ministry. Approximately \$200 was collected to purchase supplies and 24 members signed up to help with various duties to help revive the ministry. Thank you for all who donated and committed your time to help with this very worthy project.

Anyone with donations or questions about the Prayer Shawl Ministry can contact Cindy Brody, 918-385-1542.

The March mission will be collecting "vienna sausages" for the backpack program.

Please place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.

Please continue to pray for Susan and Mallory Mixon as they prepare and travel to Belize for a mission trip over spring break.

The monthly neighborhood breakfast will be Saturday, March 16. Please come join us for some food, fun and fellowship.

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT): The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Membership Care Committee Meeting March 13

The Membership Care Committee will meet the second Wednesday in March (13th).

If you know someone in need of our care, call Virginia Stanley (647-2618) or Kay Thomas (647-3491).



(Pastor to People, cont.)

Schnase identifies the practices of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity as integral to fruit bearing in the life of any church. One of the examples Bishop Schnase writes about is the joining together of two small struggling churches just a few miles apart in rural Missouri. The combined worship attendance of these two congregations was slightly under 100. One of the congregations had a few young couples and although the other did have more young families, they were struggling to keep them.

“...they invited a consultant from the denomination into the conversation. He advised against a merger but proposed something much more radical. He suggested that both churches close and that members from each... start a new congregation. ‘Dying in order to live,’ sounds like a theologically sound idea, but the concept didn’t seem practical...[through demographic reports] the members learned they lived in a rural county with a population of 14,000 people with a per capita income nearly half of the state average. Approximately one-third of the people in that county were connected to churches, another third were loosely related to congregations (Christmas and Easter people), and another third had no church affiliation at all. The members were asked to pray about these new ideas and mull over the suggestions and reports...they did their homework...dreamed about possibilities...developed a consensus that the planned should be pursued.

Within a few months, the new church was launched...Virtually every decision about the building, the meeting times, the signs, and the website was shaped by a growing passion to reach people who had no church home – ‘to present the unchanging gospel of Christ in innovative ways to a changing culture.’

Four years after launching, Trinity United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Missouri averages 250 people in worship with as many as 400 on special services...the most recent Vacation Bible School served nearly 200 young people. The children’s ministry is the talk of the county...[there are ongoing Bible studies, small group ministries and faith formation opportunities]...the congregation actively supports global missions...the per capita giving exceeds

many [more affluent congregations]...they have grown in attendance in a county with a stable population.

...the [congregation] has a passion for reaching others...they constantly talk about what the church will look like in five or ten years. ‘We love our pastor,’ one member said, ‘but we realized from the beginning that this effort belonged to us. God gave us the vision and this work, and we’re glad to have a pastor who’s willing to go along and help get us there.’”

Now, while there are several obvious differences between the church Schnase describes and First United Methodist Church Poteau, there are some striking and just as obvious similarities. The crucial thing is that they, not the conference, not the district, became owners in a plan they developed.

Three years ago you embraced a vision for reaching others for Christ that required a huge step of faith. Today we worship in a stunning sanctuary where the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and people share their gifts and talents in various ways. Over the last few weeks, we have been engaged in a campaign to pay off the outstanding debt on the sanctuary. Free To Serve has been our campaign theme. But Free To Serve is about more than a debt reduction campaign, Free To Serve goes to the heart of our calling as a community of faith seeking to share to present the Gospel of Christ in innovative ways to a changing culture. So, while the Free To Serve campaign will draw to an end and in time the debt on our beautiful new sanctuary will be paid off, our call, our freedom to serve others in the name of Christ will continue and grow. In the coming weeks and months, more information will be shared, more opportunities to participate in various events, missions, groups, studies and activities will be offered, and more questions will be asked that we will all be invited to answer and discuss. I am excited about our future here at FUMC Poteau! But we can only bear fruit, if we take seriously and intentionally the opportunities we have; if we boldly, prayerfully and faithfully exercise the transforming discipleship that Christ calls us to – to love God, love others, and share the Gospel. The possibilities are limitless!

Grace and Peace,

Kyle