

# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 5

MAY, 2014

SERVING GOD 121 YEARS

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

**Congratulations  
 To All Our  
 Graduates**



**Brunch honoring  
 Seniors  
 May 18 at 9:30 a.m.**

**What's  
 Inside**

Church Calendar..... 2  
 Finance Report ..... 2  
 News of Youth..... 3  
 From Tracy's Desk ..... 3  
 Cards of Thanks ..... 4  
 Missions Announcement..... 4  
 Preschool Report..... 4  
 Birthdays, Anniversaries ..... 4

## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**

### **The Next Great Awakening**

*I'm going to do a brand new thing. See, I have already begun!*

*Isaiah 43:19 (CEV)*

You have heard, I'm sure, the old adage, "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way." This saying is resurrected it seems anytime the winds of change begin to blow. This is true whether we are talking about change in politics or business, but not so much in the church.

Or is it?

Historians have mapped Three Great Awakenings in American church history where old patterns and beliefs were set aside for new forms, understanding and practices. In her most recent book, *Christianity after Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of A New Spiritual Awakening*, Diana Butler Bass contends that the church in America is experiencing the pangs of a Fourth Great Awakening as a result of a great deal of growing doubt and discontent people have in the leadership and teachings of the church. From the boredom stemming from business-as-usual congregations, to the disillusionment of many clergy people caused by the resistance to any changes they initiate, to the toxic developments of the past decade such as 9/11, to the Catholic sex abuse scandal, to Protestant conflict over homosexuality, to highly publicized cases of clergy misconduct and the exaggerations of a very vocal Religious Right, many people from many faith communities who once identified themselves as Christian are feeling that the church has not met their spiritual needs. Not even the United Methodist Church has been immune as church attendance and membership in the U.S. has been in slow but steady decline for almost four decades for many of the same reasons (lack of relevance, misconduct, conflict over doctrine, etc.).

Yet, even in the face of all this "bad news" I remain excited. Right now clergy and delegates from all over the state are preparing for the Annual Conference of the Oklahoma United Methodist Church later this month. We will hear stories of how people's lives have been transformed by the mission and ministries we support as a denomination, as a conference and as local churches. Additionally, we will be voting on some proposed initiatives that will, if approved, lead to some exciting changes in the way we take the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ into our commu-

*(Continued on page 2)*

**REV. KYLE CLARK**



**PASTOR TO PEOPLE** (Continued)

**MAY CHURCH CALENDAR**

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

nities and the world. The exciting, challenging, and a little bit frightening thing about it is that little if any of these changes has anything at all to do with religion. You see, people who have left or rejected the church are not rejecting Jesus, they are rejecting religion.

Bass argues that we are part of the next Great Awakening or perhaps it might better be called the "Great Turning or Great Re-Turning toward the divine intention of harmony, unity, peace, dignity and joy for all creation"; however, awakenings, great or otherwise only occur as a result of the hard work of people who have experienced and seek to change their lives and their communities through the gift of God's grace, love and justice. New forms of compassion towards others, new possibilities for egalitarianism, new forces of economic and mutual responsibility are presenting themselves. We can and must share the "old, old story of Jesus and his love," in ever increasing new ways, some of which may even take us out of our comfort zone, and likely will take us out of the church building on occasion.

I refuse to believe or accept the assertion (or lamentation depending upon differing points of view) by those folks, both inside and outside the church, that the church is dying: rather, I embrace the opportunity to be part of and witness to the new thing God is doing. The "rejection of religion is also hope for the future of faith communities."

Welcome to the world of post-religious faith! This is our Great Awakening!

Shalom,

- **SUNDAY** •  
**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**  
**Treble Choir Rehearsal, 6:30, Choir Room**
- **WEDNESDAY** •  
**Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.**
- **THURSDAY** •  
**Senior Café, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., CFLC**  
**Girl Scouts, 4:00 p.m., CFLC**
- **FRIDAY** •  
**Church office closes at noon**

- 11 Mother's Day
- 17 Neighborhood Free Breakfast, CFLC
- 18 Senior Brunch honoring high school graduates during the Sunday School hour, CFLC
- 19 Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 20, 21 Preschool graduation, 10 a.m.
- 21 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 27-29 Annual Conference

**MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS**

- 4 Don Baetz and Ted Kilgore
- 11 David and Lisa Barnes
- 18 Pat and Taryn Shelton
- 25 Ben and Judy Curtis



**ACOLYTES**

- 4 Daniel Ambriz and Jessa Craig
- 11 Aiden Alexander and Luke Wheat
- 18 Nathan Murray and Wyatt Holt
- 25 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry



**THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS**

Published by the Communications Committee

**Carol Baker, Editor**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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>Senior Pastor</b>                              | <b>Rev. Kyle Clark</b>   |
| <b>Director of Youth Ministries</b>               | <b>Kimberly Hardaway</b> |
| <b>Director of Children and Family Ministries</b> | <b>Tracy Hoskins</b>     |
| <b>Director of Music Ministries</b>               | <b>Steve Clark</b>       |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>                   | <b>Reenea Thompson</b>   |
| <b>Lead Nursery Attendant</b>                     | <b>Jayla Craig</b>       |
| <b>Organist</b>                                   | <b>Wendy Kelly</b>       |
| <b>Custodian and Door Opener</b>                  | <b>Jason Dering</b>      |
- District web page: [www.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/)

**Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for March, 2014**

Average Attendance Figures for March: 132

2014 Budget Requirements: \$402,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,730.77

Needed through March: \$100,500.01

March Receipts: \$31,237.81

March Expenditures: \$32,834.44

**New Building Fund Figures:**

Deposits: \$1,658,575.94

Expenditures: \$2,578,722.88

## News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway



in poverty/hunger awareness. Each participant became part of a "tribe" and took on an identity of someone the famine directly helps. The tribes underwent a series of challenges to simulate what life might feel like to deal with being hungry, unsafe, and in need of basic needs. This year \$130 was raised during our "soup-er bowl" offering taken during worship, and spent on the local food pantry's list of needs. Another \$170 was raised that will be sent to World Vision.

Thank you to the following adults for their time and energy in helping sponsor this year's famine: Laurie Bandy, Tracey Gilliam, Kyle Hardaway, Matthew Houston, Terri Martin, Randy and Tami Matos, Nikki Perry, and Sheri Zabala. You are very much appreciated!

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:

### MAY

- 4 Sign up for Youth Force due today\*  
Youth Sunday during worship  
Youth Council meeting following church  
5 to 7 Regular meeting
- 11 No meeting – Mother's Day  
Sign up today for District Camp\*
- 18 SENIOR BRUNCH SUNDAY during Sunday school hour  
No meeting – Baccalaureate
- 25 No meeting – Memorial Day weekend

### JUNE

- 1 VBS Mission Night, 5 to 7
- 3 Youth Force Participant meeting, 1 p.m.
- 8 - 13 Youth Force, OKC
- 23 - 27 District Camp McAlester/Muskogee combination

\*see Kim Hardaway for forms

### SENIOR BRUNCH SUNDAY

On May 18th we will have a brunch during Sunday school to celebrate those graduating from high school. There will be tables set up for our seniors, which will feature pictures and memorabilia of each senior's school years. During the worship service, the seniors will be recognized with a gift of a Bible as they come forward to share their future plans.

The following is a list of this year's high school seniors:

Kayla Alexander, Davey Bullard, Haley Clark, Brittany Fox, Kendrick Hardaway, Jentri Jackson, Jarrett Lowrimore, Haven Perry, Heather Robinson, Tatum Shelton, Connor Wheat and Kody Whitehead.

We also have the following students graduating from college this spring:

Garrett Klutts - BS from Tulsa University; Keely Redhage - BS from Oklahoma State University; Rachel Ware - BS from Oklahoma State University, and Patty Redhage with her doctorate; (There may be others who did not contact us with their information.)

### 30 HOUR FAMINE FOLLOW-UP

Our youth group participated in the 30 hour famine on April 18 and 19. More than 40 adults and youth spent that time fasting, praying, doing service projects, and educating themselves

## From Tracy's Desk

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries

[thoskins@poteaufumc.com](mailto:thoskins@poteaufumc.com)

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Volunteers needed! With Vacation Bible School just around the corner and the day camps following quickly behind, we're in need of volunteers for these ministry opportunities. If you are willing to help, please contact Tracy Hoskins as soon as possible.

Summer Events:

Vacation Bible School: June 2-6, 2014

District Camps: At Camp Egan - SonShine grades 1-2; Growin' in Grace grades 3-5; and T'weens Discover grade 6.

Music Camp: July 14-18 Kindergarten up

Day Camps: PreK through 5th grade

Arts and Crafts Camp: June 16-18

Cooking Camp: July 7-9

Science/Technology Camp: July 28-30

For more information about any of the activities, contact Tracy Hoskins 918-647-2217 or [thoskins@poteaufumc.com](mailto:thoskins@poteaufumc.com)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT TREE

This month some apples were added to the tree for attendance and bringing a Bible to Sunday school:

Congratulations Jenci Quarry, Warrick Quarry, Lexie Pickle, and Journy Dering

### LOGOS

We had a wonderful dinner honoring the LOGOS volunteers. Without volunteers we would not be able to provide a quality program for our children. Thank you, Volunteers!

## Cards of Thanks

Thank you so very much for the lovely Prayer Shawl and cross. My heart is full of gratitude by all the kindness shown me through this difficult time. Keep the prayers coming! What a wonderful church to belong to!

Peggy Gartner

## ■ Missions ■

By Susan Mixon

The Missions Committee will be holding a church-wide garage sale on Friday and Saturday, June 13, 14. It will be held at Terri Martin's house, 2101 Witteville.

If anyone has items they would like to donate they should contact me or Terri or bring the items to church. All proceeds go to benefit missions.

United Methodist Church

**PRESCHOOL**



By

**Tracey Gilliam,  
Preschool Director**

April showers bring May flowers. Preschool students will be seeing these and more on a field trip to Ms. Tracey's farm on May 7th and 8th.

Preschool themes for May will be farm animals, ocean animals and end of the year celebrations. Throughout the month the Fruits of the Spirit will be learned about. Prizes will be given to those who can name one.

Another great year of learning and fun will end this month at Preschool. Everyone is invited to the end of the year celebrations. They will be held at 10:00 in the sanctuary on Tuesday May 20th and on Wednesday, May 21st.

*Happy  
Mother's Day!*

*My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever . . . for these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.*

*Proverbs 6:20-23*

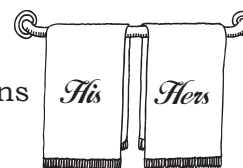
## May Birthdays

- 2 Kendrick Hardaway
- 3 Jessica Bridgman and Morgan Ward
- 4 Sarah Mixon
- 5 Steve Clark and Shirley Blackshare
- 6 Ryan Neurohr, Kevin Ramirez and Makali Kemp
- 7 Jeff Mixon and Jerry Kemp
- 8 Mandy Wilson, Kennedy Whitefield and Jackelynn Guterrez
- 11 Robert Reed and Libby Bridgman
- 13 Tori White
- 14 Nicholas Roberts and Marie Hinton
- 15 Tucker Garrett and Austin James
- 18 Aiden Alexander and Stevee McMillin
- 19 Jenci Quarry
- 20 Haley Redhage
- 21 Emily Norgeot and Chris Brookfield
- 22 Rhett Garner
- 24 Eva Daigle
- 25 Burke Perry, Brady Perry and Cash Balentine
- 25 Joni Griffith
- 26 Kade McMillin and Katie Rust
- 27 Freda Ogle and Kawika Santos
- 28 Joey Hall
- 30 Charley Clark, Daz DeCamp, Cora Rolens and Warrick Quarry



## May Anniversaries

- 4 Will and Kela Miller
- 14 Jim and Ruth Ann DeCamp
- 15 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 19 David and Lisa Barnes
- 20 Chad and Jennifer Cravens  
Mike and Cindy Darneal
- 24 Scott and Jennifer Miller  
Jamie and Tracey Gilliam
- 25 David and Terry Hall
- 28 Jerry and Jan Thompson
- 29 Bob and Deanna Reed



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone who knows of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, whether a church member or not, should call Cindy Brody at 918-385-1542 or the church office at 647-2217.