

The United Methodist News

YEAR 23 VOLUME 5

MAY, 2015

SERVING GOD 122 YEARS

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



SENIOR BRUNCH
 May 17, 9:30 a.m.

Congratulations
 to:

Connor Bandy
Kade McMillin
Taryn Shelton
Blake Wilson



Church Calendar.....2
 Finance Report3
 From Tracy's Desk3
 News of Youth.....3
 Preschool Report.....4
 Our Sympathy4
 Birthdays, Anniversaries4
 Missions Yard Sale.....4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Transitions

“Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already – you can see it now!”

Isaiah 43:18-19 (GNT)

One of the things about packing is that you discover items that you have had for years but have forgotten you had, things you have kept that you should have thrown out years ago, and little gems that cause you to sit down to remember and reminisce. That is a natural part of major life transitions.

Some years ago William Bridges wrote a little book called *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. In it, he reminds us that most transitions involve three major components. There is an ending, which is typically followed by a period of confusion – sometimes accompanied by distress – and then a new beginning. He writes, “Every transition begins with an ending. We have to let go of the old thing before we can pick up the new – not just outwardly, but inwardly, where we keep our connections to the people and places that act as definitions of who we are.” This is true whether the transition is something we have been looking forward to, something we have dreaded, or something we didn't anticipate at all.

Sometimes people are surprised to discover that even when events that are anticipated with great excitement they are often accompanied by some measure of grief – a marriage or the birth of a child for instance. Even in the midst of great joy, something has ended – the life as a single person or the ease of picking up and going without planning for a child's nap time or all the things that need to be taken (diaper bag, bottle, change of clothes...) just for a simple trip to the store. Something has ended even as something new and wonderful has begun. In the middle of these endings and beginnings there is a time of confusion – of learning how to live into this new role.

Well, transition is upon us. Something has ended even as something new is beginning. With each box that is packed (Debbie is the one really doing all the work! I am simply boxing things up at my office), our upcoming move is made even more real. Many of you have expressed your disappointment at our leaving, appreciation for something we have said or done, or offered me well wishes and encouragement on my new appoint-

(Continued on page 2)

REV. KYLE CLARK



MAY CHURCH CALENDAR

• **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**

• **WEDNESDAY** •

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

• **THURSDAY** •

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

- 2 Cavanal Chorale Concert, 7 p.m.
- 3 CHAOS Laserquest, leave at 1 p.m.
Cavanal Chorale Concert, 2 p.m.
- 4 Trustee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Women of Faith, 9 a.m.
- 10 Mother's Day
- 12 Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 16 Neighborhood Breakfast, 8 to 10:30 a.m.
Missions Yard Sale, 8 a.m.
- 17 Senior Brunch for graduates, 9:30 a.m.
Youth Council Meeting following worship
- 20 Membership Care, 12 p.m.
Last day of school for Poteau
- 25 Church office closed for Memorial Day
- 31 CHAOS VBS Mission Night

ACOLYTES

- 3 Waylon Murray and Nathan Murray
- 10 Brady Perry and Burke Perry
- 17 Wyatt Holt and Ryker Holt
- 24 Lexi Pickle and Luke Wheat
- 31 Nathan Murray and Waylon Murray



PASTOR TO PEOPLE (Continued)

ment. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate that. At the same time, some of you are looking forward with eager anticipation to welcoming your new pastor. This is as it should be. And, I have indicated to many of you that I have mixed feelings about our move. This, too, is as it should be. William Bridge's book helps explain all of this. For me there will be a new location and a different ministry setting. There are parts of this move that I look forward to with excitement; there are also moments when I question my ability to do this new work; and there are times when I am filled with grief at leaving this congregation and a community that Debbie, Haley, Nathan and I were hoping to call home for several years, but ... well, you get the point.

So, this is the last newsletter article I will write to you. But, this article is not really about me – it is about all of you, and the change that Poteau First United Methodist Church will experience. We have been together for three years now. Some of you were not here when I arrived three years ago. Others of you have been through many pastoral changes and for others still, this is a brand new experience. We have learned a lot about each other and we have done a lot of things together. Sometimes we have agreed about what should be done and other times we have not. There have been deaths in this congregation – some of them were anticipated and some were so sudden that they sent us reeling. We've shared the excitement of marriages and births and baptisms.

Now it is time for the Clarks to move on and for you to move forward. We will be leaving on June 3rd. On June 4th the Reverend Jim Perkin, his wife Mary Lynn and their children, Landon and Sadie will be arriving. Jim will become your new pastor. This will be a time of transition for everyone. Our time together will come to an end and you will need to let go of the old (the Clark family) before you can take up the new (the Perkin family). This congregation will continue to hold a special place in our hearts and my prayers. I hope that you will continue to hold the Clarks in prayer as well, but I will no longer be your pastor. When someone gets ill or someone dies, Jim will be the person you call. When a baby is born or a wedding is planned, Jim is the person who will have the privilege of walking with you. He is a good, compassionate, and experienced pastor and I know he will serve you with great love.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

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 |
| Senior Pastor | Rev. Kyle Clark |
| Associate Pastor | Rev. Tracy Hoskins |
| Director of Youth Ministries | Kimberly Hardaway |
| Director of Children and Family Ministries | Rev. Tracy Hoskins |
| Director of Music Ministries | Steve Clark |
| Administrative Assistant | Reenea Thompson |
| Lead Nursery Attendant | Jayla Craig |
| Organist | Wendy Kelly |
| Custodian | Phil Smith |

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



From Tracy's Desk

By Rev. Tracy Hoskins, Associate Pastor and
Director of Children and Family Ministries
thoskins@poteaufumc.com

With a Sad Goodbye

Many of you already know that after June 1st, I will no longer be the Associate Pastor. For those who are hearing this for the first time, the church leadership has determined that they are unable to sustain the Associate Pastor position, so I will no longer be appointed here. At this time, I have not been appointed to another church. I hope to hear something definitive in the next week or so. It is possible that I won't be appointed to another church and will have to find other employment.

I have truly enjoyed serving this church and especially the children. I will miss each of them, but I pray that they will be nurtured by the wonderful, loving people in our church. When children are baptized, we promise to nurture and teach them to lead a Christian life. We are also called to nurture one another in the Christian faith and life so that we become the guides for our children. Please continue to provide for the children in this church with your presence, your gifts, and your service.

I want to thank everyone who has helped with the children's programs throughout the two years I have been here. I praise your flexibility as unexpected experiences have happened. I will not try to name everyone who has helped for fear of missing someone, but I would like to thank the Children's/LOGOS council members (David Barnes, Jayla Craig, Matthew Houston, Suzanne Klutts, Mandy Mitchell, and Kaycee Quarry) for their unequalled support. I ask that the congregation continue to support the Children's Council as they transition into serving the children of this church and the community. This is a time of exciting new hope and I pray that you embrace it with confidence knowing that God will provide the grace that will increase your faith.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Kid's Korner

Sunday School helpers are needed, if you would like to help or for more information, please contact Suzanne Klutts.

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.

May 3rd - Trip to Modern Mission (outdoor laserquest) in Fayetteville. Leave at 1; return at 7:30; cost is \$15 plus supper

May 10 - No evening meeting

May 17 - Senior Brunch Sunday during Sunday school hour. Come celebrate our graduating seniors: Connor Bandy, Kade McMillin, Taryn Shelton, and Blake Wilson. Seniors will receive a gift from the church during the 10:30 worship.

May 17 - Youth council meeting following church

May 24 - No meeting - Memorial Day weekend

May 31 - VBS kickoff evening with picnic and games. (Help with decorating in afternoon)

Camp dates

District camp at Camp Egan, Tahlequah for ages 7th - 12th: June 22 - 26; Forms are available; please sign up by June 1.

Youth Force at Henryetta, Okla. for ages 7th - 12th: July 26 - 31; Forms are not available, but please let Kim know if you plan to go by June 1.

Thank You

Thank you to our church family for the outpouring of love and support these past several months while I was on leave from my job of youth director. So many pitched in and made sure our youth still had Sunday evening meetings and activities. So many sent gifts and cards for encouragement and easing of the burden. Thank you, thank you for the many blessings.

You are invited . . .

The church has received an invitation to Mallory Mixon's graduation from OSU. It will be held on May 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for March 2015

Average Attendance Figures for March: 115

2015 Budget Requirements: \$340,000.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,538.46

Needed through March: \$78,461.54

March Receipts: \$39,663.11

March Expenditures: \$27,023.84

New Building Fund Figures:

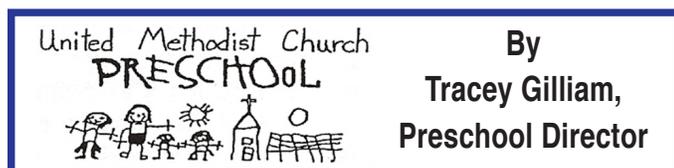
Deposits: \$1,843,305.44; Expenditures: \$2,579,246.98



There will be a time of confusion, at first, as you learn about each other. Sometimes you may misunderstand each other. Other times you may click as if you've known each other for ever. It will be a time of new beginning for all of you. You will be embarking upon an exciting new ministry together. The best way for you to honor the ministry that we have shared together is to offer Jim and his family love, respect and a lot of support. It's not easy moving into a new community where you don't know anyone and establish new relationships. Share your dreams with him and listen to his. Don't compare him to any previous pastor. That's not fair to him or to those who have served this congregation in the past. He is uniquely gifted and will bring those gifts with him to Poteau. Being uniquely gifted, however, does not mean universally gifted. He will not be able to meet every ministry need that arises, he will need help. That's your job – embrace it! Allow Jim time to grow as your pastor and he will lead you and serve you and work with you as all of you grow into the community of faith God desires you to be.

Perhaps the words of a wonderful hymn say it best, "This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new." Trust God to make something new, exciting, and wonderful of your future together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Shalom,



May is the last month of the preschool school year. The preschool will be teaching students about the Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Kindness, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control.

Preschool students will be going on two fieldtrips this month.

The first fieldtrip is planned to Poteau Pets on May 6th and May 7th. The fieldtrip to Ms. Tracey's farm is on May 13th and 14th.

The preschool End of Year Celebration will be held on May 19th and May 20th at 10 a.m. The celebration will start in the sanctuary with singing and certificates and end in the Family Life Center with bounce arounds and refreshments.

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 Stevie McMillin
- 19 Jenci Quarry
- 20 Haley Redhage
- 21 Emily Norgeot and Chris Brookfield
- 22 Rhett Garner
- 24 Eva Daigle
- 25 Cash Balentine, Burke Perry, Brady Perry and 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
- 20 Mike and Cindy Darneal
- 24 Scott and Jennifer Miller
- 24 Jamie and Tracey Gilliam
- 25 David and Terry Hall
- 28 Jerry and Jan Thompson
- 29 Bob and Deanna Reed



Yard Sale

There will be a Yard Sale for Missions on Saturday, May 16 at the home of Terri Martin, 2101 Witteville, Poteau starting at 8 a.m.

To donate items, bring to her home, the church or call her at 918-721-9082.

Our Sympathy

Our love and sympathy is extended to Robert Reynolds and family on the recent death of his brother, Roy.

