

# The United Methodist News

VOLUME 22 NO. 6

JUNE, 2014

SERVING GOD 121 YEARS

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

## ***PASTOR TO PEOPLE***

*"...all who draw the sword will die by the sword."*

*Matthew 26: 52 (NIV)*

First off, let me begin by saying I am a gun owner. I enjoy the shooting sports, I like the smell of gunpowder, and even though I haven't been hunting regularly in quite some time, I am a proponent of responsible hunting. While I have my opinions about certain types of guns, I do not want to wade out into the waters of gun rights/gun ownership. So, please understand me when I say this is not a gun issue!

It's much more than that. To say that we live in violent world is, frankly, an understatement. We are reminded daily about the on-going conflicts between countries (Russia and Ukraine, North and South Korea, Israel and her Arab neighbors and others), and insurgent/terrorist groups (Al Queada, Boko Haran, etc.), and gross violations of basic human rights by some foreign governments against its own citizens (Syria, Iran, Sudan, the list goes on). We continue to be shocked at the violence that seems to never end at our schools. There are at least 46 states that have some version of a "Stand Your Ground" or "Castle Doctrine" law justifying the use of deadly force in self-defense without an obligation to retreat first. Even in the absence of guns, people use fists and knives and clubs and cars as weapons against other people.

It's not only physical weapons that do damage. We live, it seems, in a culture where it's not only acceptable but encouraged to inflict as much damage to our enemies through cyber-sphere. From International computer espionage attacking not only governments but private companies, stealing trade secrets to individuals cyber-bullying a vulnerable person, to anonymous personal attacks via social media like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, violence has found a home in cyberspace. Not even the realm of public discourse has been spared. Name calling, demonizing, moralizing, blaming and otherwise doing verbal violence to those with whom we disagree is common place in our politics and, sadly, even in our churches.

In the world today everybody knows that the only way to get anything really important done is through the sword, be it the sword of words or just the sword! That's why the United States has the largest military budget in the world – to achieve security, preemptively if necessary, secure peace and freedom everywhere. On a more personal level, sometimes we have to protect ourselves from threats in our own communities, so we arm ourselves with bullets and computers and smart phones. And this is OK. We should protect ourselves and the ones we love, right?

But what do we do with Jesus? I'm asking because I don't have the answer.

One of the most confusing qualities of Jesus was his refusal of violence. "If someone slaps you on the right cheek, give him your left cheek as well...Pray for your enemies...carry their pack twice as far as demanded...give them your coat and your shirt." It's amazing enough that he lived this way, but after all he is

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***REV. KYLE CLARK***



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# JUNE CHURCH CALENDAR

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

God's Son. We kind of expect that from him. But, he commands those who would be his followers (that's us!) to do the same. There are many instances in the New Testament of Jesus' followers being violated and persecuted and killed, but not once have I ever found a single instance of any of his followers defending themselves against violence except for Peter in Matthew 26 and Jesus rebukes Peter for doing so.

When I hear self-professed people of faith calling for, taking a stand for preemptive violence, death penalty and hawkish military strategies, I wonder, "where is Jesus in this?" It is this consistent, all-the-way-to-the-end-right-to-the-point-of-death, rejection of violence that Jesus seems to embody and demand which most of his followers since then have most attempted to modify. When it comes to violence in service of a good cause (self-protection, protecting family and friends, etc.), I deeply wish Jesus had said something other than the things he said. This has been a source of annoyance for me. There are many rationales for the "just war, or for self-defense, capital punishment, abortion, and national security. None of them, not one, is able to make an appeal to Jesus. None of them can make reference to anything he said or anything he did or to any of the deeds of his first followers. Yes, sometimes we could argue that violence is justified or effective, or a possible means to a better end, but we can't drag Jesus into the argument with us. On this, Jesus won't cooperate.

So, I've bared my annoyance. I've shared my struggle. I don't pretend to have any profound insight. Like so many others deeply concerned about the seeming growing violence in this world we live in, I'm searching. But I take comfort in knowing that I don't search or struggle alone. There are others on this path with me, and God, I believe is in our midst. And, I know I may have touched on some sensitive issues for some you. I would love to hear from you. I welcome your thoughts or questions or comments. Maybe along the way we can grow together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Shalom, Kyle

**THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS**  
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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
Senior Pastor	Rev. Kyle Clark
Director of Youth Ministries	Kimberly Hardaway
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Tracy Hoskins
Director of Music Ministries	Steve Clark
Administrative Assistant	Reenea Thompson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Jason Dering

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

- **SUNDAY** •  
**UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**
- **TUESDAY** •  
**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**
- **FRIDAY** •  
**Church office closes at noon**

- 1 CHAOS VBS Mission Night
- 2-6 VBS
- 3 Youth Force Participation Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 8-13 Youth Force, OKC
- 13-14 Mission Yard Sale
- 15 Father's Day
- 16-18 Art Camp
- 18 Membership Care, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 21 Neighborhood Free Breakfast, CFLC
- 22 Potluck Appreciation for Virginia Stanley following morning worship
- 23-27 District Youth Camp
- 30 CHAOS welcome to 6th graders, 5 p.m.

## MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 1 Ken and Susan Hammond
- 8 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 15 Curtis and Dorothy James
- 22 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 29 Randy and Tami Matos



## ACOLYTES

- 1 Daniel Ambriz and Kylannda Hardaway
- 8 Aiden Alexander and Luke Wheat
- 15 Nathan Murray and Wyatt Holt
- 22 Jessa Craig and Kyson Hardaway
- 29 Tabitha Zabala and Baleigh Quarry



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

Average Attendance Figures for April: 132  
 2014 Budget Requirements: \$402,000.00  
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$7,730.77  
 Needed through April: \$131,423.09  
 April Receipts: \$23,420.47  
 April Expenditures: \$30,549.95  
**New Building Fund Figures:**  
 Deposits: \$1,655,133.94; Expenditures: \$2,578,787.83



# 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. The schedule is as follows:

### JUNE

- 1 VBS Mission Night, 5 to 7. If you are helping with VBS, please be here for this meeting.
- District Camp forms are due. Camp costs \$250.00. The church covers half of this.
- 3 Youth Force Participant meeting, 1 p.m.
- 8 - 13 Youth Force, OKC. We will leave from the church at 9 a.m.
- 15 No youth meeting
- 22 No youth meeting
- 23 - 27 District Camp at Camp Egan. Church van will leave at 1 p.m on the 23rd and will return at 2 on the 27th.
- 29 Welcome night to the sixth graders, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

## Cards of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of all the seniors, we thank you for supporting us through all our endeavors. These years have been a wonderful experience, and we could not ask for a better church family. We appreciate everything.

Kendrick Hardaway

*Learn all you can. Love God. The search for truth leads us to God.*

## ■ 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.

## 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.

# From Tracy's Desk

By Tracy Hoskins

Director of Children and Family Ministries  
[thoskins@poteaufumc.com](mailto:thoskins@poteaufumc.com)

- • • • •
- **WORKSHOP OF WONDERS** •
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** •
- **June 2 - 6, 9 to 12** •
- • • • •

Other Summer Activities:

### MUSIC CAMP

July 14-18, 9 to 12 each day. Summer Musical Fun Camp for children grades 2nd and up. Snacks will be provided.

### KIDS KAMPS

These camps are open to PreK through 5th grade from 9 to 12 and snacks will be provided.

Registration for the day camps is required. There may be a slight fee for supplies or field trip admission.

Art Camp – June 16-18

Cooking Camp – July 7-9

Science/Technology Camp - July 28-30

### DISTRICT CAMPS

SonShine: Grades 1-2, July 12-13

Growin' in Grace: Grades 3-5, July 21-23 and July 23-25

T'weens Discover: Entering grade 6, July 21-25

Check out the website for more information about these activities or contact Tracy Hoskins 918-647-2217 or [thoskins@poteaufumc.com](mailto:thoskins@poteaufumc.com)

## Appreciating Virginia

Virginia Stanley will be moving soon to be closer to her children. To honor her and the many things she has done for our church there will be a potluck appreciation dinner following morning worship on June 22.

Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

## ■ NOTICE ■

Please make sure that if you charge anything to the church, use any church charge card, or need to be reimbursed for something you purchased, that the original receipts be brought to the church office within 10 days of purchase.

Please feel free to make a copy of your receipts before you bring them but we need the original for accounting purposes. Thank you.

## Welcome New Members!

Our 2014 Confirmation Class was welcomed into full membership on Easter Sunday.

Demi Gilliam, Jessa Craig, and Maryanne Attee were baptized, confirmed, and accepted into membership. Nathan Clark having already been baptized, was confirmed and accepted into membership.

We are very proud of these young people.

## Got questions? United Methodist study starting in August

How do we know God?

What is the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus?

Do people have free will?

What are prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying graces?

What do good works have to with salvation?

How does United Methodist theolgy differ from other theologies?

Is the Bible infallible?

What are the different types of Methodists?

Who was John Wesley?

Whether you were born and raised in the Methodist Church, or if you have come from another tradition...whether you were raised going to church everytime the church doors were open, or if you never set foot inside a church until just recently...If you have ever asked any of these questions, or if you just want to know what's going on with all those crazy Methodists, have I got a deal for you!

Beginning Wednesday, August 6, Rev. Kyle Clark will be leading a course based upon F. Belton Joyner's book *United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers*. It is for anyone who is interested in what United Methodists believe, practice and teach. Questions and topics will cover everything from the Trinity to intenerancy (the way United Methodist clergy are moved and appointed), from evolution to backsliding and anything in between.

If you are interested an informal introduction will be held Wednesday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Books are \$ 13.00 each - please call the church office to order your copy now.

It will be fun! It will be interesting! It will be biblical! And there is sure to be lively conversation!



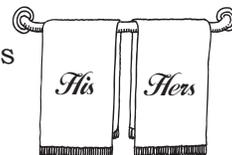
## June Birthdays

- 2 R.L. Sockey, Jr.
- 3 Michael Preston and Versile Johnson II
- 6 Donna Johnston and Lindsay Murray
- 7 Debby Jarrett
- 9 Clifford England
- 13 Phyllis Roberts, Stacey Roberts and Darrell Plummer, Jr.
- 14 Marvin DeSpain
- 16 Nikki Wigginton, Kyle Holt and Kenny Whitehead
- 17 Robin Mason
- 18 Paul Stottsberry and Jon Gaston
- 20 Keith Thomas
- 21 Shanna Johnson, Sisnie Brookfield and Mary-Catherine Hallmark
- 22 Vicki Mason
- 23 Gene Wheat
- 25 Amy Stubbs, Connor Matos and Janet Fox
- 26 Victoria Nichols
- 28 Linda Brown and Jesse Barnes
- 30 Patrick Ford



## June Anniversaries

- 5 Ron and Marsha Cofer
- 6 Gene and Dana Wheat
- 8 Brian and Katie Shore
- 14 Dennis and Missy Alexander
- 15 Buddy and Pat Shelton
- 17 Curtis and Dorothy James
- 18 Ronnie and Becky Bell
- 21 Kevin and Joni Griffith
- 22 Wayne and Judy Moore
- 24 Ronnie and Christy Oehlschlager
- 25 Ben and Judy Curtis



## Church Family:

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 918-647-2217.

Thank you for taking the time for this.