



The United Methodist News

VOLUME 17 NO. 10

OCTOBER, 2009

Serving God 116 Years

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

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and your faithfulness every night.

*Psalm 92:1-2
 NKJV*

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

There is a story about a man who had been the pillar of his church for many years. After his death, the young pastor came into worship one day with a letter in his hand. He said, "Our friend has left us two valuable things. One: he has left us his estate." The congregation gasped because he was known to be a wealthy man.

"Second," the preacher said, "he has left this brief note. It says, 'Not too many people ever asked me about my spiritual life over the years, even though I attended this church for decades. So, I want to tell you now what I discovered to be three great truths of my faith. If the preacher thinks they are worthy I hope he will share them with you.'"

The preacher then read the three great truths the man had written down:

- 1. God created everything.*
- 2. God owns everything.*
- 3. We are God's trustees.*

At the end of October First UMC will be entering into a season of stewardship emphasis that will culminate on Consecration Sunday, November 15. Throughout that time we will center our focus on the words of Christ, when he said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). Christ made it clear that giving is a spiritual matter and that we are to give back to God first. The stewardship emphasis will help us point to the ministry opportunities for 2010.

At the same time, I would invite you to prayerfully consider your giving through the church for this current year. The financial costs for ministry remain fairly consistent throughout the year, but our offerings are often seasonal. When members are absent and attendance is generally lower, the offerings decrease.

This summer was no exception to that pattern. We provided Vacation Bible School, sent children and youth to camp, hosted an End-of-Summer cookout, and much more. We continued to prepare our facilities for the future by paying off the loan on the houses purchased last year and keeping our contractual obligations to the architect working on our building project. Plus, we have had the operational expenses that remain consistent all year long – missional giving, insurance, utilities, and salaries.

In reality, with the increase in ministry programming and the visioning for our future, expenses have gone up about the same time that giving decreased during the summer. Let me encourage you that if you have fallen behind in your pledged giving, to work towards catching up. And if you have not yet taken the opportunity to support the ministries of this church with your finances, this is the opportunity to begin.

Please join with me in praying for this church, that as we enter into this time, we might do so with a sense of faith and expectation; that we will experience the joy and blessings of growing in our discipleship of Jesus Christ.

REV. GREGORY J. TENER



Advent Devotional Booklet "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

This year we are doing something very special to guide our personal devotions during the Advent season. We are going to create our own book of devotions, called "O Come Let Us Adore Him," and written by members of Poteau First United Methodist Church. Youth and adults may volunteer to write a daily devotion for the period from Thanksgiving Day through Epiphany (January 6). Scriptures and a theme will be assigned for each day, and members may choose the scripture/theme they wish to write about. Children will be given an opportunity to contribute by drawing illustrations for the devotionals during Sunday School in early November. Copies of the devotional booklet will be mailed to all church members before Thanksgiving Day.

Scriptures have been selected from the lectionary for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Sunday devotionals will use the same scripture that will be the text for the sermon that day. Be in worship October 11 and October 18 to have an opportunity to select your day. You will be blessed doubly - both when you think and pray and write about a scripture and again when you read the daily devotions written by your church family.

Our Sympathy



Our love and sympathy is extended to Jean-Anne Shankle and family on the recent death of Forrest.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for August, 2009

2009 Average Attendance Figures for August: 156
 2009 Budget Requirements: \$346,911.00
 Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,671.37
 Needed through August: \$226,826.58
 August Receipts: \$36,624.74
 August Expenditures: \$47,452.04

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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 Sunday School 9:30 – Morning Worship 10:30

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|--|--------------------------|
| Bishop | Robert E. Hayes |
| District Superintendent | Darrell Cates |
| Pastor | Gregory J. Tener |
| Youth & Children's Director | Kimberly Hardaway |
| Music Director | Steve Clark |
| Church Secretary | Brenda Ferguson |
| Lead Nursery Attendant | Jayla Craig |
| Organist | Wendy Kelly |
| Custodian and Door Opener | Ted Kilgore |

District web page: 222.gbmg-umc.org/mc-dist/

OCTOBER CHURCH CALENDAR

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:
 10 a.m. each Thursday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
 Third Friday of each month

• **SUNDAY** •

Weekly Communion, 9:10 a.m., Sanctuary
 (Except on the first Sunday of the month when communion is served during 10:30 worship)

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (C.H.A.O.S.), 5:00 p.m.

• **MONDAY** •

Boy Scouts, 7:00 p.m., CFLC

• **TUESDAY** •

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m., CFLC

• **WEDNESDAY** •

Handbells, 5:15 in Fellowship Hall
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

• **THURSDAY** •

Girl Scout Troop #4034, 5:30 p.m.

(First and Third Thursday only)

• **FRIDAY** •

Mother's Day Out, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(Except October 16)

- 2 Youth Garage Sale, 4 to 7 p.m.
- 3 Youth Garage Sale, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parking lot and Fellowship Hall
- 5 PPRC, 5:15 p.m., CFLC
- 10 UMM Breakfast Meeting, 8 a.m., CFLC
- 15 UMW Meeting, 9:30 a.m., CFLC
- 16 Office Closed
- 21 Membership Care Committee, 1 p.m., CFLC
- 31 Fall Carnival and Chili Supper, 3 to 5 p.m.

Coming Friday, Nov. 6 – The UMW Fall Festival Bake Sale and Luncheon.

MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

- 4 Jason and Kelie Bandy
- 11 Jerry and Mary Ford
- 18 Bob and Vera Bullock
- 25 Joe and Martha Renfro

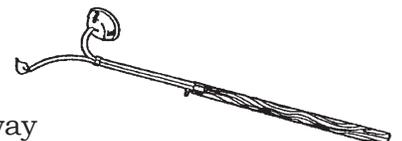


YOUTH LITURGISTS

25 Kanaan Hardaway

MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

- 4 Morgan Bandy
- 11 Katie Redhage
- 18 Taryn Shelton
- 25 Kylanna Hardaway





News of Children and Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (C.H.A.O.S.)

CHAOS meets Sunday evenings and is for all youth in 6th grade through 12th grade.

October

- 2 Garage Sale, 4 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
 - 3 Garage Sale, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Parking Lot.
 - 4 No C.H.A.O.S.
 - 11 C.H.A.O.S., 5 to 7 p.m.; Meal: Pat Shelton
 - 18 C.H.A.O.S., 5 to 7 p.m.; Meal: Perrys
 - 24 School Walk for Diabetes, 6 to 8 p.m.
 - 26 C.H.A.O.S., 5 to 7 p.m.; Meal: Wares
 - 31 Fall Carnival and Chili Supper, 3 to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 1 Carnival cleanup; Meal: Genny Dorsey

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Fall Carnival and Chili Supper

This year the fall carnival and chili supper sponsored by the youth will be held on Saturday, the day of HALLOWEEN. Games and contests will fill the evening with fun. There will be a chili cook-off, as well as a costume parade and a jack-o-lantern display. All it requires to be in the chili cook-off is to bring a pot of your favorite recipe to be taste-tested and enjoyed that evening.

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Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out is for 1 to 4 year olds on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the nursery rooms. Cost is \$10 per visit. Participants will need to provide a snack sack with child's name on it for food and a diaper bag with diapers and wipes. *(Note: No Mother's Day Out Oct. 16.)*

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Youth Yard Sale

The annual Youth Churchwide Yard Sale is Friday, Oct. 2nd from 4 to 7 p. m. and Saturday, Oct. 3rd from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to set up your own area for the sale, please let Kim know. Booth space is available at 10% of your sales.

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LOGOS Dates

LOGOS is a Wednesday after school program that meets during the school year for ages Pre-K through 8th grade.

Important October dates to remember are:

- 4 Preschool will lead in worship
- 25 K to 5th instrument choirs (handbells or rhythm instruments) will lead in worship

LOGOS Themes for October

- 7 Penny Carnival and Guest Night - Bring your guests and your pennies for missions. (Remember to let the church know if you are

- bringing a guest so we'll set them a plate!
 - 14 Color Power - wear the color of your table family
 - 21 Jokester Night - bring a joke to share
 - 28 All Hallow's Eve Night
- November
- 4 Campout - adults may want to bring a lawn chair

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Monthly Food Drive Begins Again

Locally there are children who do not get enough to eat on the weekends when school is not in session. We have the opportunity to help supply the food that goes into the sacks sent home with these children each week. Boxes for collecting the food will be placed in the Chapel room adjacent to the sanctuary, and inside the gym door of the CFLC.

October's food items are: Pudding cups.

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Liturgists Schedule

The liturgist schedule will consist of youth who read the scripture for every Sunday except communion Sunday.

- 25 Kanaan Hardaway

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WCS Request

The Women's Crisis Center has reported a need for small sized (sizes 2, 4, 6) women/girl's clothing.

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School Walk for Diabetes

On October 24, we are participating in a School Walk for Diabetes (SWFD). This is an educational school fundraising program that promotes healthy living, school spirit, and community involvement while raising money for the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The money raised through SWFD helps to fund diabetes research, education, and advocacy provided by the ADA.

We as the First United Methodist Church would like to have two teams participate: a youth team and a general team. The youth team would consist of those in 6th to 12th grade. The general team would consist of any age that wants to participate.

Cost is \$15 dollars to participate which includes a T-shirt you will receive to wear while walking.

Location is Poteau High School track .

Time is 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The idea is that the team would have someone walking on the track during that two hour period. (It is recommended to sign up for a minimum of 20 minutes)

Registration is by October 6th.

Please see Kim Hardaway to register and be a part of our church teams.

Cards of Thanks



To my FUMC friends and family:

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the outpouring of love I received after the loss of my husband.

I was truly overwhelmed at the number of calls, flowers, emails, and the BEST "funeral" food anywhere.

All these things, but mostly the presence of my friends, have literally pulled me through some of the darkest days.

I hope to return to the Balcony "group" soon.

Most sincerely,
Jean-Ann Shankle

Dear Church friends:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and the many kind words following the death of my father.

Steve Clark

The family of Jeanne Reed would like to thank the church members for all the love and support given to our mother during her last days and after her passing.

The love shown during the family visitation was so special. The luncheon was outstanding and so wonderfully prepared and served.

Words cannot express all the love that was shown and as Mother would say, "We will all meet again in heaven."

With love and thanks,
Christie Williams

Membership Care Committee

Meeting October 21, 1:00 p.m., CFLC

The Membership Care Committee has changed its meetings to the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. We reach out to those who are homebound or are dealing with health issues or bereavement.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may pick up visitation cards in the Membership Care box in the church office. Make a phone call, send a card, or visit in the home and share God's love with someone. If there is anyone who could benefit from a visit, a phone call, a card, please let us know. Cindy Brody is always looking for someone in need of a prayer shawl. For information, call Virginia Stanley (647-2618) or Kay Thomas (647-3491).

Jelly Jars Requested

Genny Dorsey is asking for jelly jars for the jelly she is making to be sold at the UMW Fall Festival. If you have any to donate, please bring them to the church.

Guest Preachers

Rev. Tener will be on vacation from October 10 through October 18. The guest preacher on Oct. 11 is Rev. Brantley Tillery from Redemption Church in Tulsa. Rev. Tillery was with us last year sharing about the UMC's ministry to persons in or recently released from prison.

The next Sunday is Laity Sunday and that message will be brought to us by Mr. Keith Thomas.

October Birthdays

- 1 Joe K. Thomas
- 2 Peyton Stubbs
- 3 J. J. Hall
- 5 Pamela Cox and Cindy Brody
- 6 Jim DeCamp
- 8 Andrea Traywick, Aaron Ridenour, and Mark Zabala
- 12 Lloyd Swinford and Jarrod Garrett
- 13 Phyllis Kemp
- 15 Tiffany Mason and Judy Curtis
- 16 J.L. Ford
- 17 Drew Baker
- 20 Jack Hornbuckle and Steven Cherry
- 22 Tracey Gilliam and Louise Reynolds
- 24 Alison Garrett, Jim Shore, Lisa Barnes
- 26 Rozelle Hardaway
- 28 Susan Oehlschlager
- 29 Katie Shore
- 30 Ruth Ann DeCamp, Bob Reed
- 31 Bill Cupp, Ben Curtis, Kendra Yandell



October Anniversaries

- 10 Mike and Linda Lee
- 18 Cody and Sarah Bradshaw
- 18 Matt and Cindy Stoughton
- 24 Vernon and Phyllis Roberts
- 28 David and Gerry Roberts



United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL



By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool
Director

The October memory verse is "God has been good to me." The color is orange. The alphabet letters we will study are C, D, E, and F. Numbers focused on will be 3 and 4. The shape we will be learning is the triangle.

We are having a great school year and having lots of fun while learning.