



# The United Methodist News

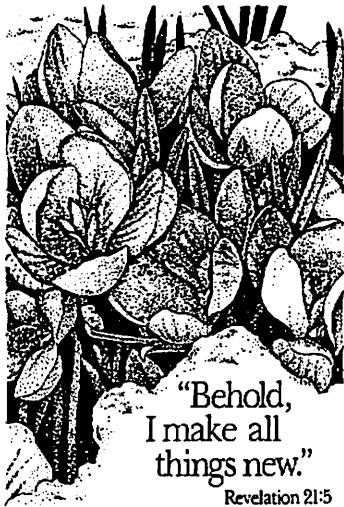
VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2007

Serving God Our Second 100 Years

Sunday School  
9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship  
10:30 A.M.



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## PASTOR TO PEOPLE

It is hard to imagine that a New Year is almost here. It will take a few days, if not a week or so, to get us to writing 2007. Although we often make "resolutions" about how we are going to live in the next year, we also know those resolutions are difficult to keep. While it is important to desire better habits regarding our relationships and our health, it is also important to seek growth in our spiritual lives. Since 1755, Methodists have participated in the Covenant Renewal Service as a means of growth and refocusing. The service was typically used on New Year's Eve or Day but we will be celebrating it on the first Sunday of January.

The heart of the service is focused in the Covenant Prayer, which requires us to recommit ourselves to God. The words of the prayer are serious and challenging, for it begins with the sentence, "Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands." What a tremendous prayer for the beginning of 2007.

You will find in this newsletter a brochure and information regarding the Local Church Leaders Workshop on January 14 at Grand Avenue UMC in McAlester. There are several workshops to choose from and I would suggest that those who are serving on any of our church's committees look for those that are appropriate. Also, Bishop Robert Hayes will be leading sessions that will help motivate and equip you to better lead this congregation and church. Bishop Hayes is an excellent preacher and I know that by sitting in on one of his sessions, you will be re-energized. If you would like to attend the workshop, please let the office know by Monday, January 8th.

On January 21st, I will begin a new study entitled, "How Can I Forgive?" The class will begin at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall and will continue for 7 weeks. If you would like to participate, please let me know so that I might have a study book for you.

(continued on page 2)

REV. GREGORY J. TENER

I would leave you with this prayer for the New Year written by the Methodist theologian, Leslie D. Weatherhead (1893-1976).

"O Thou whose patient ways with us and whose unflinching love for us, surprise and humble us, go with us along the unknown paths of this New Year. Forgive the sins of the year that has gone; keeping near to Thee may we do better; live more worthily and serve more fairly, so that our lives may show forth a new beauty and a deeper harmony and Thy holy name be glorified. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

*Greg*

## Welcome New Member!

We are very happy to welcome two new members into church membership. Dylan Dixon and Bethany Dixon, children of Cliff and JoLynn Dixon, joined recently. JoLynn is a member of our choir.

We sincerely welcome the Dixons into our church family.

## Poteau F.U.M.C. Report For November, 2006

2006 Average Attendance Figures for November: 136

2006 Budget Requirements: \$305,794.00

Needed for Budget Each Week: \$5,880.00

Needed thru November: \$264,623.76

November Receipts: \$23,773.72

Year To Date Receipts thru November: \$381,794.88

November Expenditures: \$26,901.10

Year To Date Expenditures thru November: \$351,954.92

### THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee  
Carol Baker, Communications Coordinator/Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

e-mail address: rogers2006@alltel.net

website address: www.poteaufumc.com

Sunday School 9:30 — Morning Worship 10:30

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Sanford (Sandy) Wylie
Pastor	Gregory J. Tener
Youth & Children's Director	Sara Fuchs
Music Director	Steve Clark
Church Secretary	Brenda Ferguson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian and Door Opener	Robin Morrison

District web page address: www.gb-gm-umc.org/mc-dist/



## JANUARY



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Sunday Worship Bulletin, 10 a.m. each Thursday

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

In order to provide an informative newsletter, information must be turned in by the **third Friday of every month** so the newsletter can be prepared and delivered by the first of the month. Thank you.

#### • SUNDAY •

Methodist Youth Fellowship, (6th-8th) 5:00 p.m.  
Methodist Youth Fellowship, (9th-12th) 6:00 p.m.

#### • MONDAY – FRIDAY •

Christian Preschool, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

#### • MONDAY •

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

#### • WEDNESDAY •

Logos Program, 3:15  
Adult Handbell Practice, 5:15 p.m., Bell Room  
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

#### • SATURDAY •

Cub Scouts, 10:00 a.m., CFLC

### December

31 Fifth Sunday Refreshments and Fellowship, 9:30 a.m., CFLC

### January

- 1 Church office closed
- 6 United Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., F.H.
- 7 Children's Council Meeting, 2 p.m., CFLC  
Youth Council Meeting, 4 p.m., CLFC
- 8 Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Mtg., 5:15 p.m., CFLC Conference Room
- 10 Logos Resumes - Theme is Pirate's Pride Night
- 14 Local Church Leader Workshop, Grand Ave. UMC, McAlester. Call church to register
- 21 Study begins, How Can I Forgive? 5 p.m., F.H.

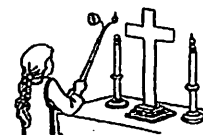
## MORNING WORSHIP GREETERS

Jan. 7 Liz, Haven, and Dawson Perry  
Jan. 14 Jack and Elva Oehlschlager  
Jan. 21 Jim and Ruth Ann DeCamp  
Jan. 28 Phil and Genny Dorsey



## MORNING WORSHIP ACOLYTES

Jan. 7 Haven Perry  
Jan. 14 Kade McMillin  
Jan. 21 Connor Wheat  
Jan. 28 Kendrick Hardaway



Acolyte training for the third graders this month. Come to Sunday School!



## Cards of Thanks



- 24 Prayer in Public School
- 28 Abortion
- 31 Homosexuality

Dear Church and Sunday School Friends:

I want to thank you for all your calls, visits, and warm wishes. This has been a long haul for me but I am improving and hope to be home very soon. I have missed all of you and can't wait to get back to church. Thanks again for caring.

Lois Robison

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for the Christmas love offering. I am happy to belong to such a thoughtful church. I enjoy caring for and getting to know your children in the nursery.

Jayla Craig

To My Church Family:

Thank you for remembering the nursery attendants with a Christmas love offering. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

Kaycee Quarry

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. Thank you also for your friendship, love, prayers and support throughout each year. I feel very privileged to be on the staff of such a loving and caring church.

Brenda Ferguson

I would like to thank the congregation for the thoughtful Christmas gift. The whole church family shows its generosity amongst our own and in the community. I feel proud to be a part of FUMC of Poteau.

Wendy Kelly

The worship committee would like to thank everyone who provided poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for the holidays.

## Youth and Children's News

Sara Fuchs, Youth and Children's Director

### January UMYF Schedule Jr. High Themes

- 7 God's Grace at Work
- 14 No UMYF
- 21 What do you need?
- 28 Got Faith?

### Sr. High Themes

Series: Confronting the Controversies

- 7 Separation of Church and State
- 10 Creation and Evolution in the Public School
- 14 No UMYF
- 17 The Death Penalty
- 21 Euthanasia

### LOGOS Themes for January

- 10 Pirate Pride Night - Wear your best Poteau Pirate Shirt
- 17 Joke-ster Night - Bring your best joke to share
- 24 Patriotic Night - Dress in red, white or blue
- 31 All in the Family Night - Bring a picture of your family

(Cook Team Schedule: Team 1 - Jan. 10; Team 2 - Jan. 17; Team 3 - Jan. 24; Team 4 - Jan. 31)

### CONFIRMATION 2007

Beginning January 21, we will begin this year's confirmation class. On that Sunday after morning worship, we will have a luncheon for all students, parents and mentors for this year's class. The luncheon will highlight our time together such as our schedule, information on our retreat and other field-trips, as well as a dinner and time of preparation for Confirmation Sunday on Saturday, March 31st. The class is an opportunity for students in 6-12th grade who have yet to be confirmed to learn about the church, the Bible, and the active presence of God in their daily lives. Greg and I will be co-teaching on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. All students and parents should have received a letter of invitation for this opportunity and in order to make sure that we have adequate supplies and mentor, we have asked that every student who is planning on being a part of this wonderful journey together will contact the office no later than January 14th. If you have any questions, please call 647-2217.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS

On Sunday, January 7th, the councils for both the children's and youth ministries will meet. We will begin with the Children's Council at 2 p.m. and end with the Youth Council at 4 p.m. This is an important time of vision and planning as we look to take both of these important and vital ministries of our church to the next level. **Please make plans to attend.**

### CALLING ALL YOUTH PARENTS

The start of another semester is fast approaching and as a youth group we have a lot of fun and exciting things planned for the semester. However, for these activities to take place we need your help. On Sunday, January 14, right after church, I would like to meet with you to look at the calendar and give you the opportunity to sign up for the various meals, activities and outings that we have planned for the year. As parents you are vital to the success of this ministry to your students. It cannot be done without you. So please mark your calendars and plan on attending on January 14 after church.



## A Word From Helen Benn


The celebration of Advent, our candlelight service, and Christmas leaves us almost breathless. So awesome; love flowing from one to another.

Yes, but life goes on and there are tears. We lose loved ones by death, there are very grave illnesses, debts, and wars raging. But hope given us by the birth of Christ lives within our hearts. The heart attached by God to man lives forever. We go forward into the future with His hand leading to peace on earth, good will to man.

We've work to do in order to make this possibility a reality.

For a new year's resolution and to take off extra pounds we gained by over-indulgence: Fast (do you know the word?) and pray.

Happy New Year, children.

United Methodist Church <b>PRESCHOOL</b> 	By <b>Tracey Gilliam,</b> Preschool Director
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Preschool resumes on January 3rd.

The memory verse for January is "A friend loves at all times."

During January we will be working on the letters K, L, and M, the numbers 8 and 9, the shape rectangle, and the colors blue and white.

### HANDBELL CHOIR CD

Sandra Slater has announced that our church's handbell choir has recorded a CD. They are \$10.00. Contact Sandra if you would like to purchase one.

### *Sympathy Extended*

Rev. Marcus Barnett passed away recently from a heart attack. Our love and sympathy is extended to Beverly and the rest of the Barnett family.

#### NOTE:

Phyllis Roberts has donated a UMW cookbook to UMW. It is in the church office and may be checked out by UMW members.

#### GUIDELINE TO PRAYER

Adoration  
Confession  
Thanksgiving  
Supplication

## January Birthdays

- 3 Michael Brown and Grace Ford
- 4 Alicia Slater
- 5 Jessa Craig
- 7 Katie Hopper
- 8 Zach Stubbs
- 11 Gloria Plummer and Susan Norgeot
- 12 Irene Beasley and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Alan Ware and Andy Baker
- 19 Eloine Crews, Jim Kidd, and Modean Smith
- 20 Ted Williams
- 21 Keith McCarver
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers and Slim Durham
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway, Bob Nichols, and Andrew Barkley
- 25 John Clark and Baleigh Quarry
- 26 Mary Folsom
- 27 Bill Slater and Candeeda Lawrence
- 30 Jennifer Miller and Paula Midgley
- 31 Jayla Craig



## January Anniversaries

- 22 Aaron and Betty Ridenour
- 22 Paul and Sue Stottsberry



If we have not listed your anniversary or the birthdays of your family members, it means that we do not have that information. Please call the church office with those dates, so you will be included on our calendar in the future.

**THE UPPER ROOM**  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Your Upper Room Devotional Guide for January-February is now available in the church office. They are provided for you free of charge. We want you to use and enjoy them. Please pick yours up.

### REMEMBER TO RECYCLE!

If you usually throw your aluminum cans away, please start saving them. When you bring your aluminum cans to the church, Phil and Genny Dorsey sell them and match the amount they get with their own money. That makes the cans worth twice as much to buy food for the needy.