

First United Methodist News

***First United Methodist Church
200 North 15 & Roebuck Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901
Phone: (479)782-5068
Fax: (479) 784-9474
E-mail: fsfumc@fsfumc.org
Web Page: www.fsfumc.org***



Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield

District Superintendent:

Dr. Robert C. Bell

Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister

Rev. Janice Sudbrink

Rev. Stephen Dickinson

Rev. Claire Hoffman

Rev. William Cheyne

Rev. Herschel McClurkin

January 22, 2009

Wanted: Amateur Christians

I trust that you are not offended by the query. We are, after all, amateurs when it comes to being followers of Christ. Amateur is an intriguing word. It is a word we get from the French and it has its root in the Latin word *amator*, meaning lover; which comes from *amare* meaning to love. An amateur, then, is one who engages in an activity for the love of it. A most intriguing word this is, "amateur".

My experience with professionals from athletics, to medicine, to law, to education, to ministry, to dance is that people start out as amateurs on their road to being a professional in the field. My experience also has been many carry a private promise to themselves that while they may be professionals, they will always be amateurs (people who do this for the love of it) or else get out of the profession. The best professionals I have met are those who don't lose the passion, the romance, the magnetic mystery of their chosen field, and whose love for their field has deepened and matured through their devotion and commitment to it. The best professionals are amateurs at heart.

Wanted: Amateur Christians. Jesus did not call professional clerics to be his first followers. He called men and women who would follow him for the love of it. Those amateurs turned the world upside down. Such is the case, still today.

Christians who invite others to church for the love of others are the most effective. Christians who feed the hungry for the love of others are the most undeniable witnesses. Christians who nurture the weak for the love of others are the most welcomed. Christians who offer Christ to one who does not know Christ, for the love of others, are the most winsome. Christians who tithe for the love of Christ will not stop giving, no matter the circumstance. Amateur Christians are wanted because the amateur has it right. Christians live, share, witness and serve for the love of Christ. We are, all of us, amateur Christians. Without love for Christ, everything is a burdensome task. For the amateur Christian, everything is done for the joy of fellowship and service to the One we love.

See you, Sunday, you amateur!
David Orr

-SUNDAY, January 25, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Code Blue! Code Blue!" and his scripture text is Mark 1:14-20. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink will be Liturgist. Acolytes will be Alex Foree and Ben Sudbrink. Lay Readers are 8:30, John Ayers, 11:00, Ruth Pitts.

Gaye McClure will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "The Heavens Are Telling" by Franz Josef Haydn and "Eternal Light" by K. Lee Scott. The Bayliss Hall Singers, Choir II, will sing, "A Lamp Unto My Feet" at the 11:00 sanctuary service.



As of Monday, January 19, 2009 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

St. Edward: Tony Beattie
Health South: Tommie Hargrove
Sparks: Eldon Pence, Lois Ross

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$17,981
 Rec'd to date..... \$54,750
 Budgeted to date.....

Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military: Ben Hurst, Patrick Hayes, Walt Scales, Cody Kennon, Brad Bost, Clint Wilson, , Ellen Driggers, Christopher Herrmann, Dwalyne Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery, Jacob Bolin, Luke Bouxsein.

Our Prayers and Sympathy are for:

Dr. Rowland Vernon and family on the death of his mother, Sue Vernon.
 To the family and friends of Mrs. Becky Kimbrough.
 Joe Knox and family on the death of his brother-in-law, George Mayfield.

Foundation Information

Anyone can give an endowment gift. Any size gift may be made as an endowment. You may do this now or as part of your estate plan.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, January 29, 2009, Carol Matlock will teach Luke 7

Friday Morning Breakfast, January 30, 2009, Ted Goodman will teach Genesis 3:1-24.



The Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 25, 2009, are given by Dustin and Sarah Wilson

in honor of the baptism of their son Jack Lucas Wilson.

January's Destination Station Bible Verse

Genesis 12:2-3

God said to Abraham, "I will bless you so that you will be a blessing and through you I will bless all the nations."



Blood Drive

Sunday, January 25, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Fireside Room of Family Life Center.

Please Give! There is a community wide shortage for all types of blood!

We received the following thank you from the Arkansas Department of Human Services

To: Selfless Givers of Christmas Gifts
 From: Kim Schwartz, Sebastian County Unit Supervisor

DCFS Sebastian County staff would like to extend a huge **Thank You** to First United Methodist Church for helping our children have a wonderful Christmas. Without you, many of our children would have had a bleak Christmas.

I cannot express to you the gratitude I have for you; because you gave a child you did not know an awesome Christmas and memory. I look forward to working with you again next year.

Thank you again and may you have a wonderful New Year.



Let's have breakfast together this Sunday. The Chapel Class will cook a free breakfast for you this

Sunday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Come join us for bacon, sausage, eggs, French toast, juice, coffee and more. All donations for the breakfast will be given to the "Backpack for Kids" program at the Clearinghouse.



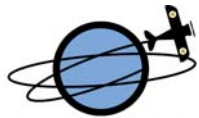
ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY NEWS

You can pick up your latest copy of the February menu now -

either on the church website or outside of the chapel and in the FLC. Angel Food is promoting healthy eating for February by offering again a special fruit and vegetable box, as well as a 20 pound box of Tangerines. These, as well as other special boxes and the regular and senior units will be available until February 15. Angel Food is for everyone - if you've been thinking about trying it, this would be a great month to do so !!

Job Opening

We have an opening for a Receptionist in the church office. If interested, please contact Jerry Hartfield, 782-5068 or jhartfield@fsfumc.org



The Rio Bravo Mission Trip is just around the corner, **March 30-April 5.**

We are in need of the following volunteers to complete the teams: Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant, Optometrist or Ophthalmologist, four or five construction workers (no experience required), cooks, and a Physician and/or Nurse Practitioner. If you know of someone that would like to participate or if God is calling you to this mission, call Janice as soon as possible.

The Rio Bravo Mission Trip team is once again wanting to take Fast Food Restaurant toys (still in the package) to the children who come to the medical clinics. Also Knitters and Crocheters are wanting to take the homemade dishcloths again. Items can be dropped off in Janice's office or the church office.

Do you know that FUMC



has its own library? It's located on the 2nd floor down the hall from the Children's Ministry area. The library is usually open during normal church hours and operates on an honor system.

There are now a variety of current magazines including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Sporting News*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *USA Today Sports Weekly*.

Be on the lookout for new and exciting changes to the library in 2009. We will have an open house in a few months to introduce our new look.

"Down Home Singin"



Come join us for "Down Home Singin" this Sunday, January 25, at **4:30 p.m.** in Roebuck Chapel.

Kelly DeSoto will bring some of our children to sing for us and start the Valentine season off right.

After the singing, we will have punch and cookies in the Narthex.

If you can help us by making some cookies for the evening, please call Pam O'Kelley, 783-7326, and let her know. If no one is at home to answer, please leave a message on the answering machine. We appreciate your help.

Down Home Singin Committee



Support Your Mission Team!

Do you want to go on the mission trip, but can't? Here is your chance to help!

We need volunteers to cook and serve for the kick-off luncheon schedule for Sunday, February 8th right after church services. If you can't go and build a casita or treat sick people, can you make cookies or a casserole? And, of course, cash is always the right size and right color!

If you want to help, please call Sharon Westbrook, 452-2749.

Christian Character Award

Each week in Rotation Sunday School, a child from each class, grades 1-6, who demonstrate good Christian character during the Sunday School receive this award. The following have earned this award over the last few months by listening, participating and being kind to others. They receive a certificate, 50 points and newsletter recognition.

The recipients are:

1st and 2nd Grades

Maddie Wyatt, Rylee Norton, Sophie Stites, Francesca Rossi, Faith Rossi, Georgie Mings, Mercy Trahan, Elizabeth Ivey, Caroline Beland, Sydney Sengel, Brandon Underwood, Jaeli Miller

3rd and 4th Grades

Elizabeth Hinshaw, Bryson Porter, Catherine Ivey, Caitlin Paris, Isabella Udouj

5th and 6th Grades

Andrew Greer, Alissa Blythe, Lexie Woodruff, Robert David Weidman, Alex Shipley, Jake Ingram, Nicholas Gregory, Kate Truitt, Caitlin Bradley, Caylee Phillips



Moved?

Changed Your Phone Number?



Have a New Email Address?



If any of the above applies to you, please let the church office know so that we might keep your membership records up-to-date. Thank you so much.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
January 18, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	3
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	4
3 yr. olds	3
4 yr. olds	9
Kindergarten	4
Grade 1	
Grade 2	18
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	13
Grade 5	
Grade 6	12
CHILDREN'S DIV.	66
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	16
College (M315)	3
Aldersgate(Room M105)	25
Believers (Room M302)	3
Builders (RoomM209)	24
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	44
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	26
Disciples*(Room M312)	23
Discussion*(Room M301)	45
Encouragers*(Room M303)	11
Friends (Room M103)	11
Gleaners (Room M201)	35
Good News (Room M202)	4
Le Menage*(Room M306)	7
Roundtable*(Room M213)	26
Seekers*(Room M107)	12
Uplifters*(Room M205)	36
ADULT TOTALS	335
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	421
Worship:	
8:30	86
11:00 Family Life	209
11:00 Sanctuary	304
Wed. Communion	52
TOTALS	651

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, January 25

7:30-12:30 - Blood Drive, FLC
 8:30 - Breakfast, FLC
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9-10 - Baseball Sign-up, Narthex
 9:30-10:45 - Library Open, M211
 9:45 - Sunday School
 10:30 - Baseball Sign-up, FLC
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 12:00 - Children's Council, Café
 12-2:00 - Created by God, Child Area
 4:30 - Down Home Singin, Roebuck
 6:30 - Combined Youth, Loft & Gym

Monday, January 26

11:30 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
 6:00 - Ad. Board Meets, M201
 6:00 - Disciple II, M103
 6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside
 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, January 27

10:00 - Dorcas Meets, Fireside Rm.
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 5:30 - Stephen Min., FLC101 & 102
 6:30 - Ballroom Dancing, Loft
 7:00 - Mon. Meals Trng., Fireside

Wednesday, January 28

6 a.m. - Men's Fraternity, Gym
 9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
 9:30 - Brian Kinder Concert, Gym.
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 12:00 - General Staff, Fireside Rm.
 1:30 - Exercise Class, M1051
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
 4:00-5:00 EMIM Trng., M103
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm.
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 29

10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
 6:30 - Photography Cmte., Conf. Rm.

Friday, January 30

6am - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC.
 6:30 - Claire's Covenant Group, Conf. Rm.

Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class and our 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service are broadcast over KFPW 1230 AM.

Vision:

A complete church – always under construction.

Mission:

Fort Smith First United Methodist Church is here to follow the Shepherd, to seek the lost, to feed the sheep, all to the glory of God.

**Rev. Janice Sudbrink
Emergency
on call Minister for
January 23-25
Phone: 459-5060**

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