

First United Methodist News

First United Methodist Church
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Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield

District Superintendent:

Rev. Mike Morey

Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister

Rev. Janice Sudbrink

Rev. Stephen Dickinson

Rev. Claire Caldwell

Rev. William Cheyne

Rev. Herschel McClurkin

February 4, 2010

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Robert Fulghum tells about a gift he received from his daughter Molly (It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It). It seemed the little girl loved to make bag lunches. Shortly after she started going to school, she gave herself the daily assignment of making lunches for her brother, herself, and dad. Then one morning she handed dad two bags: the regular lunch bag and a second one. "What's this?" he questioned. "Just some stuff. . .take it with you."

So he did. Later, while eating his real lunch, he broke open the second bag and shook out the contents. Two hair ribbons, three small stones, a plastic dinosaur, a pencil stub, a tiny seashell, two animal crackers, a marble, a used lipstick, a small doll, two chocolate kisses, and 13 pennies. Fulghum says he smiled and thought, "How charming." A few minutes later he tossed both bags, with contents, into the trash. There was nothing there he needed.

That night Molly greeted him with a hug and a question. "Where's my bag?" "What bag?" "The bag I gave you. It's filled with my favorite stuff. I thought you might like to play with it but I forgot to put this note in it." Now Fulghum's stomach is churning. "I left it at the office." She hugs him again and hands over the note: "I love you, Daddy!" it reads.

Molly had given me her treasures. All that a seven-year-old held dear. Love in a paper sack. And I had missed it. Not only missed it, but had thrown it in a wastebasket because "there wasn't anything in there I needed." Dear God.

Thus he found himself heading back for the office as soon as she went to bed, begging the assistance of the janitor to sort through the refuse, rejoicing to find the sack, joyfully cleaning the mustard and onions off the contents, and bringing it all back. The ritual of sharing the bag with dad continued for several years until one day she gave it to him and simply forgot to ask for its return. He still has it. He closes the story with this observation.

Sometimes I think of all the times in this sweet life when I must have missed the affection I was being given. A friend calls this "standing knee-deep in the river and dying of thirst." So the worn paper sack is still with me. Left over from a time when a child said, "Here. . .this is the best I've got. Take it. . .it's yours. Such as I have, I give to thee." I missed it the first time. But it's my bag now."

"Love in a paper sack!" Wow! Have you ever paused to think about the many ways God gives us "love in a paper sack"? It comes in the form of a chance meeting between old friends, or in the faithful presence of a family pet, or when the boss says, "Take an extra hour and go home early."

"Love in a paper sack. . . such as I have, give I to thee." Two thousand years ago, God made the same kind of statement to us. In the obscure form of a carpenter's son, the author of all life said, "Here. . .this is the best I've got. Take it. . .it's yours. Such as I have, I give to thee. I love you."

See you Sunday,
David Orr

-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Roebuck Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "#1 Fishing Partner" and his scripture text is Luke 5:1-11. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Caldwell will be Liturgists. Acolytes will be Kara Kimes, Sam Kimes, Eve Jagers, Lindsay Vickery and Kelsey Vickery. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Ann Scott Winters, 11:00, Nancy Taylor.

Gaye McClure will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "Today, Tomorrow and Every Day" by Paul Sjolund.



As of Monday, February 1, 2010, the following members were known to be in the hospital.

St. Edward
Joanne Swafford
Denise Jones

Sparks:
Doris Townley
Linda Lindsey

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$21,516
Rec'd to date.....\$98,669
Budgeted to date.....Data Pending

Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military:
Doug Wilderman, Robert Henley, Jack Dunn

Foundation Information

Did you know that there is no limitation to the size of a charitable gift that may be given to the Church at the time of your death? No matter how large, the gift is deductible for Federal estate purposes.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday Noon Lunch/Bible Study, February 11, 2010 - Rev. Paul Strang will teach Acts 10.

Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, 6:30 a.m., February 12, 2010.

Check out our new Snack machine located next to the soft drink machine in the main building.



Altar Flower Openings
We have the following openings for altar flowers:

February 21, March 14 & 21. If you would like to put flowers on the altar, call 782-5068.



Rio Bravo Mission Trip 2010 is April 12-18

Due to popular demand, the Rio Bravo mission team is asking those who knit and crochet to make dishcloths to give as gifts to the parents who visit the medical clinics. Patterns are available in the church office or on the church web site.



We Need Cooks!

The young adult ministry is in need of cooks to provide a meal (entree, side dish(es), dessert, and drink) for our twice a month home group gathering. If you are interested in providing one of these meals, please contact Todd Vick at 782-5068 or email tvick@fsfumc.org



Lavetta Beshears and family on the death of her mother, Marie Immel.
Laura Rose Spencer and family on the death of her sister, Wanda Zane Boone.

SAVE THE DATE
VBS
JUNE 21-25



A Scout is Reverent

Scout Sunday is February 14. We mark the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the USA. Join us as we recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. We are also conducting our annual Scouting for Food drive. Please bring non-perishable food items to church on Sunday, February 14. All items collected will go to the Community Clearinghouse.

UMW Sub-groups to meet on Tuesday, February 9th

- “Naomi” will meet with Ann Woods, 8409 Mile Tree Drive at 10:00 a.m.
- “Elizabeth” will meet with Jean Wilson at 1:30 p.m. in Room M105.
- “Ruth” will meet with Peggy Udouj at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center, room 101.
- “Mary” will meet with Connie Copley, 7719 Westminster Place at 7:00 p.m.
- “Deborah” will meet with Lynda McDaniel, 7516 Oxford Place at 10:00 a.m.
- “Rebekah” will meet with Jane Williams, 6604 Eastgate Dr. at 10:00 a.m.
- “Hannah” will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Willowbrook.

Memorials

In Memory of Mary Minta Thompson - Mickey & Joseph Irwin; Gretchen Hill; Sabra Jaber; Loretta Parker; Avanelle Kirksey; Carolyn Jenkins; Rose McNeil



FABULOUS FOOD FAIR!!

This
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

9:00 A.M. till ???

in the Narthex

proceeds to benefit Rio Bravo Mission Trip

Need Super Bowl Snacks?



Chili for a cold winter night?

Pulled Pork Barbeque?

Soups, casseroles, bread?



Cakes, Cookies, Snacks?



It will all be there!

HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE

is ongoing. You may donate at any time. Just mark your checks for Haiti.

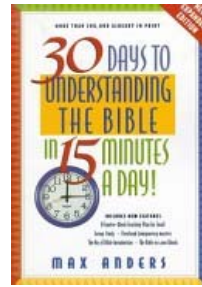
We still need Health Kits

Health Kit information:

- Items:** (please place in a gallon size plastic sealed bag)
- 1 Hand towel (15" x 25" up to "17 x 27", NO kitchen towels)
 - 1 Washcloth
 - 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
 - 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (NO emery boards or toenail clippers)
 - 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
 - 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child size brushes)
 - 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages.

***You are cordially invited to the wedding
of
Nancy Jane Witter
and Robert H. Sickmann
on Friday, February 12, 2010, 6:00 p.m.,
at Goddard United Methodist Church***

reception to follow



**Information meeting will be
February 7th right after church
in the Narthex.**

Which works best for you?
Sunday, February 14th @ 9:45a.m.
Or
Wednesday, February 17th @
6:00p.m.

To begin learning—

The roadmap of biblical history
Core teachings of the Scripture
Lay of its geographical landscape

And

Key characters, places, and events in order!

New Bible Study Begins

“Understanding the Bible”

Led by Stephen Dickinson

This is designed to be a twelve week study.

Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex, 2nd floor glass cabinets, 3rd floor tables outside of youth office, and information table in the Connexion Service.

If you have questions please contact Stephen Dickinson at sdickinson@fsfumc.org or call 782-5068



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Sponsored by the Chancel Choir
Tuesday, February 16
5:00-7:00 p.m.

\$8 Adult \$5 Child Family Life Center
Proceeds for Rio Bravo Mission Trip.
Come support our OWN missionaries!
Fluffy pancakes, Scrambled eggs, Bacon,
Coffee, Juice, Milk
ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Human Relations Day Offering

Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level.

It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

There will be special offering envelopes in your bulletins this Sunday or you may mail in your offering and mark it for Human Relations Day. Thank you.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
January 31, 2010**

Class	Attendance
Infants	9
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	
3 yr. olds	
4 yr. olds	10
Kindergarten	
Grade 1	
Grade 2	14
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	12
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	7
CHILDREN'S DIV.	52
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	12
College	7
Aldersgate(Room M105)	6
Believers (Room M302)	5
Builders (RoomM209)	16
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	38
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	16
Disciples Room M312)	--
Discussion*(Room M301)	34
Encouragers (Room M303)	12
Friends (Room M103)	13
Gleaners (Room M201)	--
Good News (Room M202)	5
Le Menage (Room M306)	-
Roundtable (Room M213)	13
Seekers (Room M107)	--
Uplifters*(Room M205)	16
ADULT TOTALS	181
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	249
Ethnos Youth	34
Worship:	
8:30	32
11:00 FLC	183
11:00 Sanctuary	171
Communion	53
TOTALS	631

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, February 7

- 8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
- 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
- 9:00 - Food Fair, Narthex
- 9:45 - Sunday School
- 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
- 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:15 - Bible Study Info Mtg., Narthex
- 5-9 - All Youth Super Bowl Party, Loft
- 6-8 - Praise Team, Gym
- 6:00 - Bridge Worship, 605 N. 47th

Wednesday, February 10

- 9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
- 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
- 12:00 - Psalms Bible Study, M200
- 12:00 - Christian Learn. Council, Conf. Rm.
- 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
- 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
- 6:00 - Praise Team. Gym
- 6:00 - Sign Language, FLC101
- 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
- 6:15 - First Place 4 Health, M105
- 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 - Bridge Bible Study, 605 N. 47th
- 7:00 - Core Youth Bible Study, Narthex

Monday, February 8

- 11:30 - Intro to New Test. FLC102
- 12:00 - Exec. Cmte., Pastor's office
- 1:00 - CEC Parent/Teacher, FLC101
- 4:30 - Higher Ed. Meets, Conf. Rm.
- 6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
- 6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
- 6:30 - Psalms Bible Study, M200
- 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Thursday, February 11

- 10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
- 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FL102
- 1:00 - CEC Parent/Teacher, FLC101
- 1:30 - Chronic Disease Mgt., M103
- 1:30 - Library Meeting, Library M211
- 6:00 - Administrative Board, M201
- 6:00 - Young Adult Home Group

Tuesday, February 9

- 9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
- 1:00 - CEC Parent/Teacher, FLC101
- 1:30 - Archives Open, M204
- 3:30 - Women's Council, Conf. Rm.
- 6:00 - Disciple III, M200
- 6:00 - Ballroom Dancing, Loft
- 6:00 - Stephen Ministry, M103

Friday, February 12

- 6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
- 4-6 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC
- 5:30 - Parents' Night, FLC

Saturday, February 13

- 9-11 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC

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. Stephen Dickinson
Emergency
on call Minister for
February 5-7
Phone: 459-5060