

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 18, 2010

SECOND MILE (Matthew 5:41)

Dear Friends,

The way of life for the followers of Christ is today as it has always been; we walk the first mile when it is called for. We walk the **Second Mile** to show we are free; serving to glorify God, not to meet the expectations of others. First UMC is here to follow the Good Shepherd, seek the lost, and nurture the sheep, all to the glory of God. We are not here to be here. We are here to glorify God in everything we do and everything we are.

We now share some information with you concerning the 2010 budget of First United Methodist Church. This comes from the combined efforts of the Administrative Board, the Finance Committee and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. We are all in this together. We believe in the future of our church.

You have been steady and dependable through the harsh economics of 2008 and 2009. You are being steady even now. Your commitment to FUMC is the backbone of this church. Thank you!

The current reality is this: Our income, based on commitments received, is about the same as we received in 2009 and the ability to provide the same level of ministry and service we enjoyed in 2009 cannot be sustained with the same level of giving. Insurances and utilities are rising. Caring for our beautiful facility is costly. The staff received their last pay raises in January, 2008 and in good faith we want to provide a modest increase to these people who serve us so faithfully. Please note that we are debt free. Please note that the church is not about to sink. Please hear us clearly that we cannot do in 2010 what we did in 2009 with the same budget.

The Administrative Board met on February 11th and heard the full story. The Board directed the Finance Committee to address the congregation with the circumstances. The hope is that the congregation will prayerfully consider revising pledges upward 10 - 15%, providing the additional \$200,000 - \$225,000 needed for First Church to continue to serve and minister at the level we have enjoyed for the last few years.

We named this effort to increase our budget giving **Second Mile** because it fits. We have come a long way as a church and now it is time to make some **Second Mile** steps. Simply put, if we want FUMC to be all God calls us to be, we get to be part of increasing our faith, increasing our vision and increasing our giving.

You will receive a mailing in a few days with more information and a card for your use in making a **Second Mile** commitment. We encourage you to join us in increasing your financial commitment to FUMC for 2010. As we respond to this challenge in these difficult economic days, we are not alone. We are in the fight for God, filled with the Spirit of God, following the call of God.

Don Desoto
Chair, Administrative Board

Charlie Wohlford
Chair, Finance Committee

David Orr
Senior Pastor

-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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, "Challenges, Every Day" and his scripture text is Luke 4:1-13. 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 Kelsey Vickery and Jenna Hunter. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Norris Creson, 11:00, Jerry Carter.

Caitlin Paris and Blakeley Knox will be the soloists at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems are "God Thou Art Love" by Craig Courtney and "Down in the River to Pray" arranged by David L. Mennicke.



As of Monday, February 15, 2010, the following members were known to be in the hospital.

St. Edward
Victor Manchaca

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$56,119
Rec'd to date.....\$176,438
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

We accept endowment gifts. The income will be used for Church projects, ministries or property care as the donor directs. The principle of the gift is not spent and continues indefinitely.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday Noon Lunch/Bible Study, February 25, 2010 - Rev. Janice Sudbrink will teach Acts 12.

Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, 6:30 a.m., February 26, 2010, Ted Goodman will teach Genesis 26.

**Destination Station Bible Verse for February
Genesis 1:28**

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of the earth.



Altar Flower Openings

We have the following openings for altar flowers:

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

We are looking for a few good construction workers to complete our team. **No experience necessary!** We will be helping to build a Methodist church. Must have a current passport. Call Janice for further details, 782-5068.

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.



Amy Evans Wilcox, Raney Wilcox and their families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Patsy Evans.

The family and friends of Mrs. June McKinney.

Honorariums

In Honor of Nancy Vernon - William Culp
In Honor of Sharon Weir - Loretta Parker



Free H1N1 Vaccine

First UMC will offer free H1N1 (swine flu)

vaccines for ages 18 and older on: **Sunday, February 21, in the Narthex Conference room and Sunday, February 28, in the Family Life Center**

For more information contact Janice at the church, 782-5068



CHANGE for CHANGE

Please support our own missionaries to Rio Bravo, Mexico. Bring in your loose change that is collecting in your car, your desk drawer, or in the sofa.

Collection cans are located throughout the church. Just look for the cans with the piggy bank.

Thanks for your support!



The Lenten Service and Lunch, Monday, February 22, will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 214 North 6th Street. Speaker: Rev. Cathy Ulrich of Central Presbyterian Church.

Worship Time: 12:15-12:45 p.m. Lunch served from 11:45-12:15 and 12:45-1:15 at a cost of \$4.00.



Do you have email?

Would you like to get the weekly Newsletter by email?

Just call the church office and let us know and we'll do the rest.



Be Blessed

You are invited to
"A Day with the Girls"

March 6, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FUMC Narthex - Cost \$15

Come and ...be pampered, be nourished,
be creative
Come and Be Blessed
Lunch and childcare will be provided.

What to expect:
Prayers, Devotionals, Crafts, Cooking
Demonstration with Taste Tests and Recipes,
Lunch, Paraffin Hand Bath

Call 782-5068 to sign up NOW
Spaces is limited to the first 30!
Please call Melissa Udouj (785-2540) or
Elizabeth Paris (785-4655)
for more information

Memorials

In Memory of: Caroline Blochberger, Clifford Davis, Becky Kimbrough, Sue Vernon, Susie Slaters Craig, Bill Craig, Tom Lichty, Zoe Ann Newton - Jack & Louanna Green
In Memory of Dorothy Wilkins - Col. Joe & Jean Knox; Builders Class
In Memory of Dell Lyon - Fran & Sam Bateman
In Memory of Jeff Shipley - Damon & Stephanie Wright
In Memory of Mary Minta Thompson - Finley & Evelyn Turner; Al & Ila Sass; Dr. & Mrs. R. C. Goodman

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Lent has arrived. Some Christians observe Lent with great intensity while others know it is happening but little is done to personally participate in the disciplines of the season.

What do we know about Lent? Lent is the season of 40 days before Easter. Ash Wednesday, the first day, occurs forty six days before Easter. Here's the reason for the discrepancy: Sundays are not counted among the days of Lent. Sundays are oases in the season, inviting pilgrims to rejoice and praise in worship. Preferably, the ashes that are used in the service come from burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Easter is determined by the lunar calendar: The Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox; so, the date for Ash Wednesday varies. Did you know that Christians have been celebrating Ash Wednesday for nearly one thousand years? The name for this day was given by Pope Urban in 1099. That is significant-- one thousand years of Christians bowing in contrition and having an ashen cross painted on their forehead. Now it is our turn.

Lent is not found in the Bible. Lent is the development of spiritual disciplines which has come from the life of the Church (originally from Catholicism) to assist all of us grow closer to Christ, to experience the life, death and resurrection of Christ most completely. So, the discipline of "giving up" something, like a meal on a Wednesday, or chocolate, or coffee (heaven help us!) or anything you value was developed to help us experience the life of self-denial lived by our Lord. We may choose to "take up" daily Bible reading or daily prayers or visiting someone in need. There is no right or wrong way to observe Lent. The idea is to prepare ourselves as completely as we can for the annual journey to Jerusalem, Golgotha and an empty tomb.

First Church is on the journey to Jerusalem. Grace will provide all we need on the journey.

See you Sunday,
David Orr

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
 ATTENDANCE
 February 14, 2010**

Class	Attendance
Infants	8
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	
3 yr. olds	
4 yr. olds	8
Kindergarten	9
Grade 1	
Grade 2	17
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	12
CHILDREN'S DIV.	54

Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	17

Aldersgate(Room M105)	22
Believers (Room M302)	-
Builders (RoomM209)	22
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	40
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	17
Disciples*Room M312)	15
Discussion*(Room M301)	49
Encouragers*(Room M303)	14
Friends (Room M103)	6
Gleaners (Room M201)	34
Good News (Room M202)	9
Le Menage (Room M306)	5
Roundtable*(Room M213)	23
Seekers*(Room M107)	10
Uplifters*(Room M205)	35

ADULT TOTALS	301
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	376

Ethnos Youth

Worship:

8:30	68
11:00 FLC	195
11:00 Sanctuary	298
Communion	50
TOTALS	611

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, February 21

8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 8:45 - Flu Shots, Conf. Rm.
 9:45 - Sunday School
 9:45 - Bible Study, Fireside Rm.
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 5:00 - EMIM Thanksgiving, Fireside
 6-8 - All Youth

Wednesday, February 24

9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 12:00 - General Staff Meets, Fireside
 12:00 - Psalms Bible Study, M200
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 6:00 - Bible Study, Fireside Rm.
 6:00 - Sign Language, M200
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
 6:15 - First Place 4 Health, M105
 6:30 - Bridge Gathering, UAFS
 7:00 - Core Bible Study, Narthex
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 22

12:15 - Lenten Service, St. John's
 1:00 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
 4:30 - Higher Education, 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 25

10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FL102
 6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:30 - Young Adult Home Group

Tuesday, February 23

10:00 - Dorcas Meets, Fireside Rm.
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 6:00 - Stephen Ministry, M103
 6:00 - Disciple III, M200

Friday, February 26

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, 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. Janice Sudbrink
 Emergency
 on call Minister for
 February 19-21
 Phone: 459-5060**