

First United Methodist News

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Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield

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Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister
Rev. Janice Sudbrink
Rev. Stephen Dickinson
Rev. Claire Hoffman
Rev. William Cheyne
Rev. Herschel McClurkin*

February 26, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Lent, 2009, has arrived. Lent is that season of forty days (not counting Sundays) preceding Easter. Forty is the number of years the Hebrews journeyed through the wilderness, the number of days Jesus spent in the wilderness following his Baptism, the number of days Jonah gave to Ninevah before God would destroy the city, the number of days and nights of rain upon the earth when Noah built the ark; forty is number of significance in the Bible. Lent is not found in the Bible. It is a product of the Church developing a teaching method for believers. To observe Lent is to never forget the sacrifice of Christ, to be fully aware of the temptations of Christ, the humility of Christ, the rejections Christ endured, and the wrath of the world hurled onto Christ. This is a season that is long enough to be a good teacher and a season deep enough to teach us good that will endure.

Among other things, First Church is observing Lent through our annual participation in the Downtown Churches Monday Lenten Lunch Series. We begin on Monday, March 2nd at St. John's Episcopal Church (with Rev. David Orr as preacher). We move to Immaculate Conception on March 9th; to First Presbyterian on March 16; to Central Presbyterian on March 23; and then to First UMC on March 30th. The series offers a light lunch (11:45 - 12:15) followed by worship (12:15 - 12:45) and then a second serving for lunch following worship. The design helps anyone interested to participate and keep the Christ-focus in Lent.

Additionally, we traditionally take a "Lent Offering" for missions. You are invited to make a regular offering in your home devotions and then bring the offering to worship on Sundays. The Lent Offering this year is dedicated to the Rio Bravo Mission Trip (March 29th). This is a meaningful way to honor Christ's sacrifice for us . . . sacrificing for others in Christ's service.

I cannot adequately express to you my love for you, my church, and all you mean to me. You humble me by your love for one another, by your devotion to your church, by your obvious loyalty to Christ, and by your firm hope in the Kingdom of God. Let's grow the love of Christ in this town. Let's reach people who are lost. Let's build up the people in our fellowship. Let's love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

See you Sunday,
David Orr



LENT BEGINS

-SUNDAY, March 1, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Covenant Power" and his scripture text is Mark 1:9-15. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgists. Acolytes will be Lindsay Vickery and Eve Jagers. Lay Readers will be 8:30, John Cooley, 11:00, Don Smith.

Claire Hoffman will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems are "Borning Cry" arranged by Daniel Kallman and "God So Loved the World" by Daniel Moe.



As of Monday, February 23, 2009 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

St. Edward:
Mazie Chesser
Denise Jones

Sparks:
Virginia Birch

UAMS - Little Rock:
Becky Chancey
Debbie Hardgrave

Debbie's pager number is 441-1681. Dial the number and when prompted enter your zip code and then hang up and they will know they have been prayed for.

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$31,896
Rec'd to date..... \$215,667
Budgeted to date.....\$206,120

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, Dwalyyn Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery, Jacob Bolin, Luke Bouxsein.

Foundation Information

Your Will is the proper place to name the guardians for your children. Pick your guardians yourself, rather than leaving this decision to the probate courts. In addition, consider naming your church as a beneficiary.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, March 5, 2009, Rev. Aaron Barling will teach Luke 12.

Friday Morning Breakfast, March 6, 2009, Rev. Herschel McClurkin will teach Genesis 8:1-22.



The family and friends of Edith Jones.

Lois Burgess and family on the death of her brother, Tom Williams.

Janie Camardese and family on the death of her brother, Jerry Klyne.

Tony Leraris and family on the death of his aunt, Alfreda Gammill.

Dr. T. W. Brown and family on the death of his mother, Johnnie Brown.

Flo Morgan and family on the death of her brother-in-law, James Mills.



Cros

s Cultural Missionaries

Have you ever wanted to participate in a cross cultural mission experience but were afraid of leaving the country, didn't have the money, or the time? Now you can participate in a cross cultural mission experience without leaving the country, the cost is small, and the time involved is minimal. The Bridge, our campus ministry to the UA Fort Smith is in desperate need of missionaries (i.e. volunteers to provide a meal for our free Monday Meals program. You can do this yourself or with a group. A meal is the entree, dessert, and drinks for about 30 hungry college students one Monday a semester.

If you are interested in being one of our cross cultural missionaries or would like more information please contact Todd Vick - College Minister at 479-782-5068 or Cassandra Arnhart, College Ministry Intern at 479-936-1086.



A construction crew will begin putting up scaffolding around the sanctuary and bell tower area in early March. This is in preparation for replacing our copper roof that was damaged in the storm. There will also be some parking spaces marked off for their equipment that will need to stay here until they are finished.

Please be careful and use caution around this area. Thank you.



You, Your Family and Friends are invited

to celebrate **St.**

Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17, at the Kibler UMC, with Mardell and Herschel McClurkin. Come between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to their Family Life Center.

Kibler UMC is four miles south of Alma on Hwy. 162, from the Alma Exit on I-40. We'll have Irish Stew (soup), bread sticks, pickles, cheese, dessert and good 'ole IRISH FELLOWSHIP.

What major memorial project would you like to see happen at First Church?

The Board of Trustees would like to have a list of major memorial projects that members of our church would be interested in seeing happen. If you have some ideas, please call Ida Howell at 452-4831 or write her at 7007 S. T St. 72903.

Your input is important to us.

The Rio Bravo Mission Trip

God is already blessing our upcoming FSFUMC Rio Bravo Mission Trip. We now have 34 people committed to going on the trip. We still need 3-4 more people for construction and they do not have to be members of our church. This mission trip is not just for those who are going. This is a **FSFUMC international outreach project**. The people going are representing our church and are giving of their time to further God's Kingdom. In the next few weeks here are the needs and also ways that our church can be supportive:

- **your prayers!** Pray that God will protect the health and the time of those who have committed to going. Pray also that God will provide for all the needs of this trip.
- begin **collecting** fast food toys preferably still sealed for the children who attend the medical clinics and **Spanish coloring books and crayons**. All the patients like to receive **packaged tooth brushes, tooth paste and dental floss**.
- for those who knit and crochet, we need an abundance of the **hand made dishcloths**. Patterns in Janice's office.
- we need your **monetary support**. Cost per person is \$500. Cost of medicines in Mexico for the clinics will be \$4000 or more, cost for 2 casitas is \$4000. Estimated cost for the trip is \$25,000.
- On Sunday mornings, "**Take Stock in Rio Bravo**" stocks will be sold starting at \$10.00. These stock certificates promise to have everlasting returns for those who receive medical care and receive a new home in Mexico!

For questions or more information contact Rev Janice, Sandy Parker, David Staggs, or Lane Shipley.

Lenten Bible Study with our Pastors

The Pastors of FUMC will be hosting a four week study Tuesdays, beginning March 3, 12:00-1:00 p.m. This study will be held in three locations, the Family Life Center, Western Sizzlin on Towson, and Western Sizzlin on Rogers.

The four week study is based on the book "Neglected Voices". Cost of the book is \$9.00. A catered meal will be served at the church for \$8.00 and at the Western Sizzlin locations the buffet will be \$6.79 (plus drink and tax). Once you choose a location, it is recommended that you go to that location every week, as the Pastors will be moving around each week to teach the four lessons.



Lunches on Mondays

The Lenten Service and Lunch, Monday, March 2, will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 214 North 6th Street. **Speaker: Rev. David Orr**

Worship Time: 12:15-12:45 p.m.

**Lunch served from 11:45-12:15 and 12:45-1:15
at a cost of \$3.00 or \$4.00**

March 9 - Immaculate Conception will host and First Presbyterian will preach.

March 16 - First Presbyterian will host and Central Presbyterian will preach.

March 23 - Central Presbyterian will host and St. John's will preach.

March 30 - First United Methodist will host and Immaculate Conception will preach.

Basic Course in Lay Speaking

Rev. Bobby Bell and Rev. Jerry Eubanks will be leading a Basic Course in Lay Speaking at Clarksville First UMC on Saturday, March 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10, which include lunch and a booklet for participants. The purpose of lay speaking is not so everyone will preach/speak from a pulpit on a Sunday morning, although some will. It is to help a person develop as a Christian Disciple and be a better church member. This is about being called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in different ways. One should finish the day understanding the Gospel better but also have a better understanding of the church, especially the United Methodist Church.

To register, please call the district office at 783-0385 or email Becky at westdistrictbecky@yahoo.com

Please register as early as you know that you will attend so that we can plan our resources most effectively.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

February 22, 2009

Class	Attendance
Infants	5
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	7
3 yr. olds	5
4 yr. olds	15
Kindergarten	4
Grade 1	
Grade 2	18
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	22
Grade 5	
Grade 6	10
CHILDREN'S DIV.	86
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	13
College (M315)	4
Aldersgate(Room M105)	24
Believers (Room M302)	6
Builders (RoomM209)	23
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	36
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	23
Disciples (Room M312)	15
Discussion (Room M301)	--
Encouragers*(Room M303)	31
Friends (Room M103)	13
Gleaners (Room M201)	31
Good News (Room M202)	--
Le Menage (Room M306)	2
Roundtable*(Room M213)	28
Seekers*(Room M107)	10
Uplifters*(Room M205)	34
ADULT TOTALS	280
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	383
Worship:	
8:30	81
11:00 Family Life	176
11:00 Sanctuary	320
Wed. Communion	52
Down Home Singin'	42
TOTALS	671

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, March 1

- 8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
- 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
- 9:45 - Sunday School
- 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
- 6:30 - Combined Youth, Loft

Monday, March 2

- 12:15 - Lenten Service at St. John's Episcopal
- 12:30 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
- 5:00 - Bldg., & Grounds, M202
- 6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
- 6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
- 6:00 - Disciple II, M103
- 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
- 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200
- 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, March 3

- 9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
- 12:00 - Lenten Study, FLC102
- 1:30 - Archives Room Open

Wednesday, March 4

- 6 a.m. - Men's Fraternity, Gym
- 9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
- 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
- 1:30 - Exercise Class, M105
- 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
- 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
- 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm.
- 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200
- 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
- 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
- 7:00 - Youth Study, Loft
- 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex

Thursday, March 5

- 10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
- 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
- 5:30 - CEC & CDO Staff, Fireside Rm.
- 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm.

Friday, March 6

- 6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
- 10:00 - Pacesetters, Fireside 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. David Orr
Emergency
on call Minister for
Feb. 27-March 1
Phone: 459-5060

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