

First United Methodist News

*First United Methodist Church
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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

March 19, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

I cannot thank you enough for being the faithful, committed congregation you are. In this season of Lent you are supporting your church with your presence. You are praying about a number of things from our ill, to our mission team, to our youth ministry, to how we share Christ evangelistically, to families in strife, to local and national economies, to just how Christ wants to work in your life. You are serving in a large (and growing) number of Every Member In Ministry opportunities and touching lives from your heart to share the Love of Christ. You are giving of your financial means. Church finances are tight, let there be no mistake. But, you continue to give with faith and joy. We are being frugal and prudent with expenditures, because good stewards do that sort of thing. We want to be a church that is serving others, proclaiming grace, and growing in every way. We will continue to watch expenses in an ongoing fashion. This pastor, your pastors, staff, church leaders and church ministry areas are grateful for your sacrificial and faithful giving. It is no small thing for you to place your tithes and offerings to the Lord into the hands of First UMC. Your church leaders, staff and pastors make it a priority to be good stewards and use the Lord's treasury faithfully and wisely.

The call of Jesus Christ is clearly before us. The call of Jesus Christ is to Love God with heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. The call of Jesus Christ not only is not diminished by financial hardship, it is made vividly clear. Love God and love neighbor. Rather than bemoan the Dow Jones Industrial Average in every coffee shop conversation, take it as God's direction that people need to know they matter to you, they matter to God and that they are loved. Don't let money (too much or too little) shrink your faith in Christ or your witness for Christ. Lend a friendly ear to someone who is questioning faith, questioning purpose, fearful of family stress, or who just wants to discuss a good book. Reach down into your soul's treasury and share with others how Christ has helped you in the last week, past year, your life's journey. People are looking for hope. Christians are people of hope, prisoners of hope, and dispensers of hope. People are looking for a way forward. Christians were called early in the book of Acts the people of the Way; we know the Way, the Truth and the Life to share.

This season of Lent implores us to cast our full attention upon the Messiah of God. It has always been that the more clearly we see Christ, the more clearly we see ourselves, our families, our neighbors and our world. Center on the right one and that right one is Christ. It is not a magical cure for all ailments. It is the Gospel that redeems us and fits us for Godly living in this and every circumstance.

See you Sunday,
David Orr



-SUNDAY, March 22, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Grace" and his scripture text is Ephesians 2:1-10. 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 Eve Jaggars and Kate Truitt. Lay readers will be 8:30, John Stauffer, 11:00, Nancy Taylor

Eric Samuelson will play a violin solo at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. The Chancel Choir's anthem is "Who Is He?" by Vicki Wright.



As of Monday, March 16, 2009 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

St. Edward:
Debbie Hardgrave
Connie Clement

Sparks:
Robert Klock

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 you have prayed for them.

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$18,449
Rec'd to date..... \$288,211
Budgeted to date.....\$283,415

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

Our pastor enthusiastically supports the church's Foundation and planned giving. If you are interested in making any special gifts to the church, feel free to discuss this with our pastor. The pastor will put you in touch with the appropriate advisors.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, March 26, 2009, Rev. Claire Hoffman will teach Luke 15.

Friday Morning Breakfast, March 27, 2009, Ted Goodman will teach Genesis 11:1-18.

Sub-group "Lydia" will meet with Mickey Irwin, 2024 So.69th at 1:00 p.m.



The family and friends of Mrs. Margaret Jurney.

Destination Station Bible Verse for March
Mark 1:17-18

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.



Please be careful and use caution around the areas of the church where work is being done on our roof. Thank you.

Altar Flower Openings

We have the following openings for altar flowers: **March 29 and April 26.** If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, call 782-5068.



S.O.S.S. (Savers of Strange Stuff)

The Children's Department will be creating the Holy Land Market Place, as in Bible times, for a family Easter Event. We need to borrow the following items to help make our city of Jerusalem authentic: a free standing canopy tent, woven rugs and blankets, pottery, baskets, mortar and pestles, and any other type of decoration that would lend itself to the occasion. If you have any of these items for us to have or borrow please contact Kelly or Sally at 782-5068 or drop them by Sally's office by March 25th. Thank You!



The Altar Flowers

for Sunday, March 22, 2009, are placed in loving memory of Rebecca

Kimbrough on her birthday by James, Patti, Madeleine, and Sarah Kimbrough.



We rejoice with

Jerry and Jennifer Jenkins on the birth of a son, Jordan Nash Jenkins. Paternal grandparents are Stormy and Pat Jenkins.

Down Home Singin'
March 29th - 4:30 p.m.
Roebuck Chapel
with reception to follow in Narthex,
servng Irish Stew and Cookies
Song Leader: Ted Skokos
Special Music:
Bayliss Hall Singers, Choir II

West District Leadership Academy

The West District is sponsoring morning and afternoon workshops on *Spirituality, UM Beliefs, Walk Across the Room, 5 practices of Fruitful Congregations, Internet Communications, and Creation Care*, on April 4, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Goddard UMC. Cost: \$10 per person, which includes lunch and your choice of two workshops. To register or for more info, call the District Office at 783-0385.

One Great Hour of Sharing

is this Sunday, March 22. When you give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing, you support programs that provide healing and hope for some of the world's most vulnerable people. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is there on your behalf, providing refuge to people in distress.



Relay for Life

The Cancer Support Group at First Church will be selling Wooden Crosses with cloths that symbolize the Lenten seasons (purple now through Maundy Thursday, black for Good Friday, and White for Easter). The money raised will go to the Relay for Life American Cancer Association. The crosses will go on sale Sunday, March 22, in the Narthex and FLC (at the horseshoe) through Palm Sunday. They can be used from year to year and can be easily stored.

Mark your calendars now to participate in the Relay for Life, April 24, on the campus of UAFS. For more info, contact Marlene Brown, 452-1231 or Connie Adrion, 629-1041.

Lunches on

Mondays

The Lenten Service and Lunch, Monday, March 23, will be held at Central Presbyterian Church, 2901 Rogers Ave. **Speaker: Rev. Marti Dalby of St. John's Episcopal 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 \$3.00 or \$4.00

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

**Holy Land Marketplace 2009
Wednesday, April 1- 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room for Dinner
Youth Loft for activities**

The Children's Ministry Council invites you to join us for a family evening full of dinner and spiritual inspiration. Our Holy Land Marketplace will provide fun memorable Bible learning activities for children ages 4 to 11 years old and their families.

The reservation deadline is Friday, March 27th. Please return this form along with payment to the church office. Childcare is available for children 3 years old and younger.

EASTER LILIES



It's time for Easter Lilies. If you would like to donate one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and mail it with a check for \$15.00 per Lily (Lilies). I would like to order:

Reservation form for Holy Land Marketplace 2008

Family Last Name _____

Phone # _____

First Names of Adults in Group: _____

First Names and Ages of Children in Group: _____

_____ Lily (Lilies) In Memory of: _____

_____ Lily (Lilies) In Honor of: _____

Your name: _____

Phone No. _____

Dinner \$4 per adult x _____ + \$3 per child x _____

DEADLINE for Ordering , Monday, March 30.

No Phone Orders, please.

= _____
(not to exceed \$15 per family)

Supply Fee + \$ 10

Total payment = _____

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
March 15, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	4
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	5
3 yr. olds	6
4 yr. olds	9
Kindergarten	6
Grade 1	
Grade 2	17
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	18
Grade 5	
Grade 6	12
CHILDREN'S DIV.	77

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

College (M315)	4
Aldersgate(Room M105)	18
Believers (Room M302)	6
Builders (RoomM209)	25
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	38
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	16
Disciples (Room M312)	12
Discussion*(Room M301)	41
Encouragers*(Room M303)	24
Friends (Room M103)	12
Gleaners (Room M201)	40
Good News (Room M202)	7
Le Menage (Room M306)	5
Roundtable (Room M213)	19
Seekers*(Room M107)	11
Uplifters*(Room M205)	32

ADULT TOTALS	310
General Officers	3
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	400

Worship:	
8:30	126
11:00 Family Life	239
11:00 Sanctuary	248
Communion	48
TOTALS	661

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, March 22

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
Youth on Spring Break

Wednesday, March 25

6 a.m. - Men's Fraternity, Gym
12:00 - General Staff Meets, Fireside Rm..
5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conference Rm.
6:00 - Praise Team., Gym
7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex
7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 23

12:15 - Lenten Service at
Central Presbyterian Church
1:00 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.

Thursday, March 26

10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Conf. Rm.
12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm
6:30 - Angel Food Mtg., FLC101

Friday, March 27

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC

Tuesday, March 24

10:00 - Dorcas Meets, Fireside Rm.
1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
5:30 - Stephen Min., FLC101 & 102
6:30 - Down Home Mtg., M103
6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200

Saturday, March 28

9:30 - Angel Food Pick-up, Gym

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

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
March 20-22
Phone: 459-5060**

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