

First United Methodist News

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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 26, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

A member of First Church going on the Mission to Rio Bravo sent this message to me:

"It has come as no surprise to me about the raising of the money for this mission. I said at the meeting in January that if God wanted us to go He would bless our efforts. We would get the money, and the people needed would show up. God is an awesome God!!!

I was not the least bit surprised, even though amazed by the amount and the response of those desiring to go and help. I think we should take every opportunity possible to spread this around -- our witness to the prayers of His people and His faithfulness to us. We must keep ourselves open to the direction God leads and celebrate the wins!!!

I am so glad to be able to have the faith to wait on this, the great joy of seeing it come true and the confidence that God works in my life, your life and makes Himself known to those around us."

That note is worth sharing! The Mission Team will be commissioned in the Sanctuary service this Sunday, March 29th. We leave Fort Smith via chartered bus @ 6:00 p.m. Sunday. The team returns on Palm Sunday, April 5th. I will return early to be in worship here Palm Sunday. Dozens have worked to make this mission possible and have done so with great joy. Hundreds have made contributions to the mission. This is, truly, a church mission, made possible by you. Thank you, one and all.

Continue to pray for the youth as they conclude their spring ski retreat. They return to Fort Smith on Friday, March 27th. We are grateful to Ben Rogers and Tony Clyde for their leadership on this trip and to the several adult counselors who are helping make this a fantastic trip for the youth.

First Church is host to the Monday Lenten Lunch Series this Monday, March 30th. You have been wonderfully supportive of the series. Now, let's gather in our sanctuary and welcome our community sisters and brothers for this final service in this year's series.

We are rapidly approaching Holy Week and the triumph of Easter Sunday. Make it your priority to worship Christ with the family of Christ in these grace-filled days. Invite someone to worship with you. People are receptive to an invitation to church around Easter. You just might be the person to influence another for the highest cause on earth, the cause of Christ. Inviting another is the perfect way to experience the power of Christ this Easter.

See you Sunday,
David Orr



-SUNDAY, March 29, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Jesus' Calling Card" and his scripture text is John 12:20-33. 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 Elizabeth Hinshaw and Alexandra Salamone. Lay readers will be 8:30, Greg Shipley, 11:00, Cole Goodman.

Kent Blochberger and Gaye McClure will be soloists at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" by Deborah Govenor accompanied by Virginia Hudson on the flute and "Eternal Life" by Craig Courtney.



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

St. Edward:

Debbie Hardgrave
 Connie Clement
 Hilda Warren
 Stanley Isaacks

Sparks:

Helen Brown
 Janice Jones

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.....\$25,883
 Rec'd to date..... \$314,094
 Budgeted to date.....\$309,180

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

Did you know that the state has made a Will for you if you have no Will yourself? These laws might not leave your property to the people you wish. These laws definitely don't leave any property to the church or any other charity. Shouldn't you prepare a Will or Living Trust?

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, April 2, 2009,
 Rev. Paul Strang will teach Luke 16.

Friday Morning Breakfast, April 3, 2009, Rev. Claire Hoffman will teach Luke 1.



Betty McLendon and family on the death of her brother, Darrel Dovee.

Margaret Forbes, Helen Forbes and their family on the death of Margaret's son and Helen's nephew, David Forbes.

Betty Garrison and family on the death of her brother, Jack Parker.

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: **April 26, May 17, 31.** If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, call 782-5068.

We rejoice with:

Amanda and Travis Mulhearn on the birth of a daughter, Stella Rose Mulhearn. Maternal grandparents are Greg and Connie Copley.

Phillip and Sarah Corbin on the birth of a son, R. Hewitt Hawkins Corbin. Paternal grandparents are Dr. James A. and Marlene Brown.

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



Join us in the Family Life Center this Sunday, March 29, 8:30-9:30 a.m. for a free breakfast, cooked and served by the Chapel Class. All donations given for the breakfast will be given to the "Backpack for Kids" program.

Women's Bible Study to begin in April

We are offering a six week Angela Thomas Bible Study entitled, "When Wallflowers Dance" on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in this Bible Study, please sign-up this Sunday or contact Rev. Claire Hoffman, 782-5068, for information.

Vital Signs 2009

Rev. Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. will be the keynote speaker and workshop leader for Vital Signs, set for 9:30 am – 3:45 pm, Saturday, April 18 at Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock . In addition to Dr. Weems' presentation, "Congregational Development in the Wesleyan Spirit, he will lead a workshop on "Leading Lasting Change in the Church." Fifteen other workshops, conducted by conference leaders, are scheduled. Topics include laity leadership development, communications, evangelism, ministry with the poor, youth and children's ministries, church legal issues and more. Brochures and registration forms can be downloaded at www.arumc.org/vitalsigns or get one at the church or District office. Registration is \$20 for individuals or \$15 per person for churches with five or more attendees. Worship events, meals and workshop materials are included and free childcare is available with pre-registration. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Dr. Weems, experience inspiring worship and gain knowledge and information to share and use at your local churches. Hurry – registration closes April 6.



Lunches on Mondays

The Lenten Service and Lunch, Monday, March 30, will be held here at First Church.

Speaker: Deacon Greg Pair of Immaculate Conception 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

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.

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:

_____ Lily (Lilies) In Memory of: _____

_____ Lily (Lilies) In Honor of: _____

Your name: _____

Phone No. _____

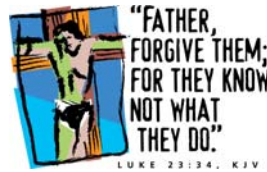
DEADLINE for Ordering , Monday, March 30. No Phone Orders, please.



Palm Sunday, April 5 - Parade of Palms. Come worship with us at 8:30 a.m. in Roebuck Chapel, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary or 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



April 9 - Maundy Thursday - A Messianic Jewish Passover Seder (meal), at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Cost of the Seder Meal: \$6 per person. A nursery will be provided. Call and reserve your seat. The ministers will be presenting words and commentary, the ritual words of Christ will be read in Hebrew, awesome worship music will be presented, partake of The Lord's Supper and experience Elijah's return in a most dramatic way!



April 10 - Good Friday - Service in Roebuck Chapel at 12:15 p.m., led by Rev. Claire Hoffman. Lunch will be served following the service at 12:45 in the Fireside Room for \$4.00.

Come and join your church family as we worship together on the most solemn day of the Christian year, the anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus. It is called "good" because of the benefit to humanity from the sacrifice.



APRIL 12 - EASTER SUNDAY!

Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. in Roebuck Chapel, led by Rev. Janice Sudbrink. Breakfast will be served immediately following the service in the Family Life Center.

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Easter Services in the Sanctuary, led by Rev. David Orr.

11:00 a.m. Easter Services in the Family Life Center Connexion service, led by Rev. Stephen Dickinson.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
March 22, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	3
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	6
3 yr. olds	5
4 yr. olds	9
Kindergarten	3
Grade 1	
Grade 2	12
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	13
Grade 5	
Grade 6	10
CHILDREN'S DIV.	61
Grade 7, 8, 9,	4
Grade 10,11, & 12 (Retreat)	48
YOUTH DIV.	52
College (M315) Retreat	5
Aldersgate(Room M105)	19
Believers (Room M302)	-
Builders*(RoomM209)	32
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	41
Cornerstones (Room M311)	11
Disciples (Room M312)	8
Discussion*(Room M301)	43
Encouragers*(Room M303)	19
Friends (Room M103)	5
Gleaners (Room M201)	26
Good News (Room M202)	6
Le Menage (Room M306)	1
Roundtable*(Room M213)	23
Seekers*(Room M107)	12
Uplifters*(Room M205)	31
ADULT TOTALS	282
General Officers	3
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	398
Worship:	
8:30	81
11:00 Family Life	165
11:00 Sanctuary	281
Communion	65
Youth & College Retreat	53
TOTALS	645

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, March 29

8:30 - Breakfast, Family Life Center
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 4:30 - Down Home Singin', Roebuck
 Chapel w/ reception, Narthex
 6:30 - Combined Youth, Loft

Monday, March 30

12:15 - Lenten Service, Sanctuary
 w/lunch @ 11:45 & 12:45, FLC
 1:00 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
 6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:00 - Disciple II, M103
 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, March 31

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204

Wednesday, April 1

6 a.m. - Men's Fraternity, Gym
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall.
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 5:30 - Holy Land Market, FLC & Loft
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200
 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conference Room
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthes
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 2

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

Friday, April 3

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
 10:00 - Pacesetters, Fireside Rm.

Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class and and 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. Stephen Dickinson
 Emergency
 on call Minister for
 March 27-29
 Phone: 459-5060**

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