

First United Methodist News

*First United Methodist Church
200 North 15 & Roebuck Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901
Phone: (479)782-5068
Fax: (479) 784-9474
E-mail: fsfumc@fsfumc.org
Web Page: www.fsfumc.org*



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

April 2, 2009

A Note from our Youth Director

One of the great struggles in the church is recognizing and working with the various ministries that make up the organization of the local congregation. There can appear to be competition between the ministries as they vie for use of facilities, times of programs, and even volunteer participation. Yet in the midst of competing ideas we find that through the various programs of the local congregation our ministries have more of a tendency to intermingle than compete. I find it interesting how Jesus merged a segregated ministry focused on the Jewish male population and included women and children as vital participants in ministry. Jesus reached beyond the borders of Judaism to include other people groups, like the Samaritans, Romans, some Greeks, even a Syria-Phoenician woman.

For over fourteen years I have been working with students and adults in the area of youth ministry. In every church I have served in the youth ministry programs have intermingled with the other programs of the church. In fact, no other ministry area seems to reach and include more people in the church except for the children's ministry.

I am excited about the opportunities for ministry here at First Church. My family and I have been welcomed as part of the First Church family. When one people group opens their hearts and lives to outsiders, as First Church has done to my family, they reveal the heart of Christ to include all people from all backgrounds.

Our students have adopted the name Ethnos for their youth ministry. Ethnos is the Greek word for nation or people group. By adopting this name for their youth ministry our students are demonstrating the heart of the church as they seek to be a youth ministry that includes all people groups.

There is no way to list all of the contributors that make Ethnos Youth Ministry successful. However, I can honor some participants in Ethnos that contributed to the success of our Ski Retreat. Thank you to the adult leaders of the retreat: Ben, Tory, Mike, Dick, Ann, Jordan, Courtney, Chase, and Tony. Thank you to all who prayed. Thank you Amy and Jeff Evans, Leanne McClanahan, Laura Waldrop, Paige Ingram, Helen Ann Whorton, Gail Oakes, Jayne Hughes, and Dick and Ann Appleton for helping us prepare. Thank you church staff and all others who helped contribute in a number of ways too numerous to mention. God is doing great things in this faith community.

See you Sunday,
Tony Clyde



APRIL 5, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Join the Praise" and his scripture text is Mark 11:1-11. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgist. Acolytes will be Kate Truitt and Eve Jagers. Lay readers will be 8:30, Jane Stauffer, 11:00, Tom Ashwood.

Linda Dickson will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!" by Peter MacFarland with brass accompaniment. Bayliss Hall Singers, Choir I and Choir II will also sing at the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service.



As of Monday, March 30, 2009 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

St. Edward:

Debbie Hardgrave
 Connie Clement
 Hilda Warren
 Karen Hutcheson

Sparks:

Helen Brown
 Janice Jones
 Virginia Birch
 Virginia Paul

UAMS Little Rock: Tom Cooley

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$35,787
 Rec'd to date..... \$349,882
 Budgeted to date.....\$334,945

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 9, 2009, Rev. David Orr will teach Luke 17.

Friday Morning Breakfast, April 10, 2009, Charlie Reutzell will teach Luke 2.



Gean Kukar and family on the death of her nephew, John Russell Smith of Charleston, S.C.

Dr. David Staggs, Mike McFerran and their families on the death of their Uncle, Jack McFerran of Corsicana, Texas.

**Destination Station Bible Verse for April
 Matthew 28:19**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.



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

Women's Bible Study to begin in April

We are offering a six week Angela Thomas Bible Study entitled, "When Wallflowers Dance" on Mondays, beginning April 6, at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, beginning April 8, at 9:15 a.m. At our first meeting we will view the introduction video, then on the second week, we will cover week one and two of our study manual. Cost of the book is \$11.00 and you may purchase them at our first meeting or in the church office.

We look forward to seeing you at the study.

Rev. Claire Hoffman
 Connie Adrion



The Altar Flowers for Sunday, April 5, 2009, are given in memory of Dr. Prentiss E. Ware and in honor of Gladys

Ware by Carolyn Jo, Janelle, Gaylon, Byron and their families.



We rejoice with

Justin and Brooke Scarlett on the birth of a son, Conner James Scarlett.

Maternal grandparents are Jim and Kay Birch. Great Grandmother is Virginia Birch.

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.

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 be available Palm Sunday in the Narthex and at the horseshoe in the Family Life Center. The cost is: Large - \$20.00, Medium - \$15.00, and \$8.00 for a Table Cross. 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.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY NOTES

The Angel Food Ministry is planning a fund raising auction to be held on Saturday, June 13. We want to raise extra funds to be used to help the church in various ways. We want to be able to help, when asked, with other events and outreach of the church. We want to be able to help other groups with donations of food when needed. We love to help and so are trying to prepare for the coming year so that we will be able to do that.

A few volunteers are needed at this time, while we are still in the beginning stages. I need at least 4-5 people in the next two weeks to commit to helping. If we do not get the help, we will have to postpone this auction to another time. Please give me a call or send me an email and I'll be happy to sign you up. We will be accepting NEW items only for this auction and I need a few folks who are willing to call businesses and ask for donations. We do need to start working on this ASAP, and I do appreciate any offers of help. You can call me at 629-3379 or email at pcreson@gmail.com

Thanking you in advance!
Pat Creson, FUMC Angel Food Ministry



Early Response Teams Needed

The West District is sponsoring a "Disaster Response Training" here at First Church on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room of the Family Life Center. If you are interested in being a member of an early response team, please sign up by May 6, by calling the West District office, 783-0385 or email westdistrictbecky@yahoo.com. Team members need to be at least 18 years old and able to do physical labor.

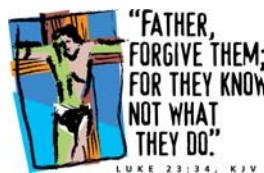
Holy Week Events



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 29, 2009

Class	Attendance
Infants	4
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	5
3 yr. olds	2
4 yr. olds	4
Kindergarten	5
Grade 1	
Grade 2	
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	
Grade 5	
Grade 6	24
CHILDREN'S DIV.	44
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	8
YOUTH DIV.	8
College (M315)	5
Aldersgate(Room M105)	22
Believers (Room M302)	-
Builders (RoomM209)	25
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	33
Cornerstones (Room M311)	16
Disciples (Room M312)	-
Discussion*(Room M301)	47
Encouragers*(Room M303)	9
Friends (Room M103)	13
Gleaners (Room M201)	29
Good News (Room M202)	7
Le Menage (Room M306)	4
Roundtable*(Room M213)	25
Seekers*(Room M107)	10
Uplifters*(Room M205)	32
ADULT TOTALS	272
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	328
Worship:	
8:30	71
11:00 Family Life	148
11:00 Sanctuary	294
Communion	48
Down Home Singin'	53
TOTALS	614

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday

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

Wednesday, April 8

9:15 - Angela Thomas Study, Fireside
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 12:00 - Christian Learn. Council, Conf. Rm.
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200
 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conference Room
 6:30 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthes
 7:00 - Youth Bible Study, Loft

Monday, April 6

11:30 - Intro to New Test., FLC102
 5:00 - Bldg., & Grounds, Conf. Rm.
 6:00 - Angela Thomas Study, Fireside
 6:00 - Disciple II, M103
 6:00 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Thursday, April 9

10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Conf. Rm.
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
 6:00 - Maundy Thursday Seder, FLC

Tuesday, April 7

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

Friday, April 10

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
 12:15 - Good Friday Service, Roebuck Ch.
 12:45 - Lunch, Fireside Rm.
 4-6 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC

Saturday, April 11

9-11 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC

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. Claire Hoffman
Emergency
on call Minister for
April 3-5
Phone: 459-5060

FIRST UNITED METHODIST NEWS (USPS 919-320) published weekly except the last week of the year by First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901. PERIODICALS postage paid at Fort Smith, Ar 72903. Postmaster send address changes to First United Methodist News, FUMC, 200 N. 15th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901-3284 (Vol. 8, No. 13)

Publisher...Rev. David P. Orr

Editor... Nancy Scott