

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

July 17, 2008



I would like to say thank you! Thank you for your warm welcome to First United Methodist Church and to Fort Smith. It is a blessing to be here with you! It was not that long ago that I was sitting in a classroom full of budding, bright, soon to be pastors day dreaming about what kind of a church the Bishop would appoint me to. I thought about how God would use me in the local church to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. I thought about how seminary had trained and prepared me for local church ministry. I thought about all the people, places and resources God put in my life to fulfill this calling. I thought about you, the church I was being prepared for. Now, several months later, I realize that my calling into pastoral ministry has come to fruition. It took many years for me to get here, but I am here at last! I should let you know a little bit about myself.

I grew up in Conway and graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2004 with my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. After graduation I moved to Boston, MA where I received my Masters in Divinity from Boston University this past May. I love observing God's creations. I take pleasure in watching the birds, bunnies, squirrels, dogs, cats, geese and all animals play. I find great comfort in nature. Nature reminds me of how great God is. I have always had a passion for learning and for teaching. I am driven to learn more about the Bible and the lessons learned by those that came before us. I find that curiosity is a good skill to have when investigating a text from the Bible. I have a need to learn all that I can about the place, time and people involved in the story.

Both of the things I like doing the best, observing God's creations and learning/teaching, seem to fit nicely with the position I have been appointed to here at First Church. As the staff person on several committees, including the Christian Learning Council and Higher Education committee, I will have the opportunity to participate in the Biblical classes this church offers. I will also be available for help with small group studies, retreats, Sunday school classes, and more.

Thanks again for such a warm welcome. If I haven't already met you, I look forward to the time we do get to meet. Oh, and don't forget to wear your name tags, they help a lot!

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday,
Claire Hoffman

-SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Holy Boldness" and his scripture text is 2 Timothy 1:3-9. Rev. Janice Sudbrink will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Family Life Center service. Her sermon is entitled, "Be Courageous" and her scripture is Deuteronomy 31:1-8. Rev. David Orr and Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgists. Lay Readers are, 8:30, Gary Campbell, 11:00, Jeri Moffett. Acolytes are Alex Foree and Ben Sudbrink.

Sharon Chapman will be the soloist at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary services. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "Those Who Wait on the Lord" by Mark Hayes.

As of Monday, July 14, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

Sparks:
Irene Taylor
Helen Brown

St. Edward:
Morgan Wright, Jr.

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$27,095
Rec'd to date.....\$730,271
Budgeted to date..... \$933,492

Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military:

Ben Hurst, Patrick Hayes, Walt Scales, Jeff Nester, Chuck Bowen, Richard McKinnie, Cody Kennon, Brad Bost, Heath Peters, Brandon Hattabaugh, Clint Wilson, Michael Parker, Christina Bargiel, Patrick Ellis, Ellen Driggers, Rick Whittaker, Christopher Herrmann, Timothy Gean, Dwalyn Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery.

**Destination Station's Bible Verse for July
Luke 10:42**

Mary had chosen the right thing and it will not be taken from her.

Foundation Information

Consider transferring the ownership of some of your life insurance to the church. The cash value, when given, plus the annual premium, can qualify for a federal income tax deduction.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday Noon Bible Study and Lunch (\$4.00) - Rev. Paul Strang teaching Matthew 27 on July 24.

Friday Morning Bible Study and Breakfast (\$4.00) - Charlie Reutzel teaching Hebrews 1:1-2:18 on July 25.



The Altar Flowers for Sunday, July 20, 2008, are placed in loving memory of Jean Spicer by her family.

Open Dates for Altar Flowers

We have the following dates open for Altar Flowers: **July 27 and August 24 & 31**. If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of someone, just call the church office for more information, 782-5068.



The "JOY" of Signing

Come and be a part of this new and exciting opportunity to learn a new language - "Sign Language". You will learn how to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing. All ages welcome. We will meet on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Narthex Conference Room.

YOU CAN HELP!

Twice in one week during June, 911 First Responders were called to FUMC to assist one of our members. Because of cars parked on the street, the First Responder attendants had limited access for the stretcher and their emergency vehicles blocked traffic.

For the safety of our members and our community partners, the Building and Grounds Committee is asking that you PLEASE refrain from parking at the curb side on North 15th and 16th streets and use the parking lots that are near all church entrances.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, Building and Grounds Committee



Gladys Ware, Byron Ware and their family on the death of their sister-in-law and aunt, Esther Ware Coker.

Robert Liner and family on the death of his father, Jeff Liner of Tulsa.

To the family and friends of Mrs. Inez Murdock.

Everyone invited!

Our Pastors
Rev. David Orr
Rev. Janice Sudbirnk
Rev. Stephen Dickinson
Rev. Claire Hoffman

will be teaching Sunday School in the Chapel Class during the month of August.

This is an opportunity to give your regular teacher a summertime break, so join us in Roebuck Chapel during the month of August for Sunday School.

Teacher Needed



Children's Day Out is looking for an aide for our 2-year olds to work Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8:45-2:15.

If you enjoy working with little ones, getting lots of hugs and smiles, this is the job for you!

Contact Tiffany Null, 462-2771 (cell) or 782-0310 (work).

Shoal Creek Camp

for Grades 3-4/ Middle Elementary

Date: Sunday, July 27 3pm - Wednesday, July 30, 11am. **Cost:** \$85 (includes t-shirt)

Session Directors: Rev. Herschel and Mardell McClurkin. Call (479) 632-5822 or (479) 461-5209

To register: Call the above numbers or send registration form to McClurkins, P.O. Box 33, Alma, AR 72921



**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Our next Blood Drive is **August 10**. Summer accidents deplete our local blood supplies. Mark your calendars and plan to give on August 10. First Baptist Church will also have a blood drive in friendly competition with us on the same day. You must be 18 years of age or older to give blood.

Our prayer shawl supply is getting very low. We need shawls that reach from finger tip to finger tip and wide enough to cover the shoulders and reach below the waistline. We need them to be made of yarn colors that would appeal to both men, women, and children. People of all ages are touched and comforted through this ministry so if you knit or crochet, we need your help. Come join one of our knitting/crochet groups for a fun time of fellowship either on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex.



**Music Camp 2008
presents
"Are We There Yet"**

**Moses and the Israelites journey
through the wilderness!**

**You'll love Music Camp
at First United Methodist Church!!
We'll sing, dance, speak, paint,
make things, eat, learn and
have great fun!**

**We invite all 2nd (exiting 1st) through
6th graders to come — you do NOT
have to be a member of our church.**

Bring a friend!

**Fee is \$15 and scholarships are
available (just call Nancy Vernon
at 782-5068).**



Christmas in July or August

Have you ever celebrated Christmas in July or August? This next Sunday and over the next several weeks, there will be Christmas trees located in the Narthex and in the FLC. Are you wondering why? Because, FSFUMC is being called by God and is taking a huge leap of faith to provide school supplies for our neighbors, Tilles Elementary and Darby Junior High. On each of the Christmas trees, there will be ornaments that will have the supplies that are needed for our congregation to purchase or to donate money. There are approximately 500 students or more in each school. Both of these schools seldom begin the new year with the supplies they need to have a productive and educational school year. This mission project will take every member in our congregation to make this dream for these students and teachers come true. **On Sunday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m. (mark this important date), we will have a Neighborhood Block Party** for our neighbors and for our congregation that will include supper, games, music, and jump arounds. You will not want to miss this wonderful outreach opportunity to share the love of Christ in a very special Christmas in July (and August) event!

**West District to host
Volunteers in Mission/Disaster Training Event
here at First Church on
Saturday, August 16, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
in the Family Life Center**

Each year we send out mission and disaster teams in Arkansas and around the world. Well-trained, dedicated team leaders lead these missions. Without them, the work of VIM would not be possible.

If you are interested in learning more about being a VIM or Disaster Response team leader, then we hope you will respond by registering for our 2008 VIM/Disaster training on Saturday, Aug. 16. The cost is \$20 and will include lunch and the training guide.

The training will be led by Rev. Jeremy Basset, Executive Director, Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission. Jeremy served as a pastor in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for over 20 years before moving to the USA to further his studies. He describes himself as being "passionate about God's mission in the world through the church of Jesus Christ..."

Register online at westdistrict.org, email Becky Neighbors at westdistrictbecky@yahoo.com or call the West District office at (479) 783-0385.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

July 13, 2008

Class	Attendance
Infants	5
Toddlers	8
2 yr. olds	
3 yr. olds	
4 yr. olds	18
Kindergarten	12
Grade 1and	
Grade 2	
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	
Grade 5	
Grade 6	22
CHILDREN'S DIV.	65
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12 (trip)	11
YOUTH DIV.	11
Aldersgate(Room M105)	23
Believers (Room M302)	4
Builders*(RoomM209)	34
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	39
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	22
Disciples*(Room M312)	17
Discussion*(Room M301)	30
Encouragers*(Room M310)	16
Friends (Room M103)	11
Gleaners (Room M201)	32
Good News (Room M202)	8
Le Menage (Room M306)	6
Roundtable*(Room M213)	25
Seekers*(Room M107)	13
Uplifters*(Room M205)	29
ADULT TOTALS	309
General Officers	3
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	388
Worship:	
8:30	86
11:00 Family Life	135
11:00 Sanctuary	273
Wed. Communion	48
TOTALS	542

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, July 20

- 8:15 - Prayer Team, M203
- 8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
- 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
- 9:30-10:45 - Library Open, M211
- 9:45 - Sunday School
- 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center

Wednesday, July 23

- 9:45 - Wonderful Wednesday
- 11:00 - Prayer Team, Memorial Chapel
- 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
- 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
- 6:15 - Prayer Team, Memorial Chapel
- 6:15 - Task Force Planning, M103
- 6:30 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm.
- 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex
- 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, July 21

- 12:00 - Finance Meets, FLC101
- 1:00 - Movie Monday, M219

Thursday, July 24

- 10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
- 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
- 12:00 - CEC Program, Gym

Tuesday, July 22

- 9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
- 10:00 - Dorcas Meets, Fireside rm.
- 12:00 - Staff/Parish Cmte., FLC102
- 1:30 - Archives Open, M204
- 5:30 - Stephen Min., FLC101
- 6:30 - Down Home Mtg., M103

Friday, July 25

- 6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
- 10:00 - CEC Movie Time, M219

Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class 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. Janice Sudbrink
Emergency
on call Minister for
July 18-20
Phone: 459-5060

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