

# *First United Methodist News*

*First United Methodist Church  
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*Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield*

*District Superintendent:*

*Rev. Mike Morey*

*Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister*

*Rev. Janice Sudbrink*

*Rev. Stephen Dickinson*

*Rev. Claire Caldwell*

*Rev. William Cheyne*

*Rev. Herschel McClurkin*

*September 17, 2009*

## **ACROSS DAVID'S DESK**

I am aware that sometimes people think that the church doesn't care. Fred Craddock, former Professor of Preaching and New Testament recalls dealing with this sentiment in his own church. He recounts walking out one Sunday to go to the parking lot and passing the choir room. He passed a woman who was in the process of hanging up her choir robe and said causally: I really enjoyed the anthem this morning. Well, she said, I hope so because that is it for me. What do you mean, he asked. I am hanging it up, she said. She was hanging up her robe as she said that. I'm hanging it up. What's the matter with you, he asked. Well, she answered, this is my last Sunday. He thought that she was retiring from the choir. She had been in it about 30 years.

No, she said, I'm not retiring I'm quitting. She said: I finally accepted the question that has been haunting me for years now. I looked out at all of the people, the ushers, the pastor. And it just finally sunk into me--who cares. Who cares whether or not I am in the choir? Who cares whether or not I am even here? Who cares?

Craddock says, I left the church that afternoon and tried to dismiss it. Oh, go home and get you something to eat and you will feel better. But what she said to me kept haunting me. Who cares?

So I picked up the phone and called her and asked here if I could come over and talk. Well, if you wanna', she said. Well, I wanna', he said. I went over to her house and told her: You're wrong. She said: I am not wrong. I gave her a little church history. I said: what you said of our church this morning is called one of the seven deadly sins-Acedia. It is translated in the King James Version as sloth, but that doesn't capture its real meaning. Acedia means simply--not caring.

It is possible for a person to walk by the old man feeding the birds in the park and say: well, he's not my father. It is possible to see a hungry child and say: well, he's not my kid. The greatest insult that we can say to the world is: I don't care. I said: Lady, do you realize what you have done. You have charged me, and everyone in that church, with one of the seven deadly sins. She said, So?

I told her she was not the first. I had heard her same argument from others. I think I heard it most forcefully from one man some years ago. His wife came to church with the children, but he never came. When I would go over to the house and visit the family this old man would come out and act like a Philistine. Always his arguments were the same. Church doesn't care anything about me. Another name, another pledge. Need some more money over at that church preacher? Is that your cause? I heard it a hundred times, while tears welled up in his eyes.

There was a day when he finally stopped saying it. He was in veteran's hospital. He had cancer and he was down to 70 pounds. Too late, they said. Shouldn't have been smoking, they said. I want you to know that in every window in that room there were flowers. By his bed a stack of cards 20 inches thick. Even that thing that they swing around the bed to put food on had flowers on it. I want to tell you that every one of them--are you listening now--every one of them came from groups or individuals in that church. He couldn't speak so he wrote something on a Kleenex box. And you know what he wrote? Tell the people that I was wrong.

I got up to leave this ladies house and I said: so you see, you are wrong. There are people who care. I have never been in a church yet, big or small, when there was a situation of need, a house in distress, or pain or bereavement, but that there were the footprints of Christians that were left behind. They came with pies, a gift, a kind word...something, but always they came. I said people everywhere care. You know what she said? She said, "Oh yeah? Name some." The woman wants names. May I give her yours?

See you Sunday,  
David Orr

## **-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-**

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Greatest" and his scripture text is Mark 9:30-37. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Caldwell will be Liturgists. Lay readers are: 8:30, Ron Powell, 11:00, Don Smith. Acolytes are Kate Truitt and Kelsey Vickery.

Becy McBride will be the soloist at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "O For a Song" by Deborah Govenor and "When in Our Music God is Glorified" arranged by Harriet Ziegenhals and accompanied by John Ayers, Jr. on trumpet and Will Hough on trombone.



**IN THE HOSPITAL**

As of Monday, September 14, 2009, the following members were known to be in the hospital:

**St. Edward:**  
Dr. Harold Mings

**Sparks:**  
Mack Dyer

UAMS, Little Rock: Bette Childers

**BY YOUR GIFTS . . .**

Rec'd this week.....\$20,834  
Rec'd to date.....\$1,031,975  
Budgeted to date.....\$1,217,946

**Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military:** Ellen Driggers, Darson Emery, Luke Bouxsein, Shaun Sorensen, Richard Johnson, Terry Blanton.

**Foundation Information**

Consider making an endowment gift to the church for a scholarship fund or other memorial in the name of your family. In this manner, your family name can live on forever. Feel free to discuss with the pastor any special program or projects you would like to support.

**Methodist Men's Clubs**

**Thursday, Noon Lunch/Bible Study, September 24,** Rev. Herschel McClurkin will teach John 14, Family Life Center.

**Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, Sept. 25, 2009,** 6:30 a.m., Family Life Center.



**The Altar Flowers**

for Sunday, September 20, 2009, are placed in loving memory of Ben Core, a wonderful husband, Dad and Granddad from all of his family.

**Altar Flower Openings**

We have the following openings for altar flowers: **September 27, October 11 & 25.** If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, call 782-5068.

**Arthritis Exercise Program**

to begin classes Wednesday, September 23, 1:30 p.m., in Room M105 and ending on October 29.

Spaces are limited so call Rosemary Alcon at West Central Center on Aging, 478-8819, to sign up today.

**Destination Station Bible Verse for September**  
**Luke 6:37**

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.



Have a new email address? Call the church office and let us know, so you won't miss an email from your church family.

**Sub-group "Lydia"** will meet on Tuesday, September 22, with Gladys Ware, 4819 South "X" St. at 1:00 p.m.



Ruth Davis and family on the death of her husband, Clifford Davis.

Susan Chaney and family on the death of her father, Dr. Douglas Fletcher.



**ADULT COMPETITIVE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL**

**Who:** High school students and adults  
**When:** Sunday afternoons from 2-4pm  
**Where:** Family Life Center  
**Starting:** October 4, 2009

Meet after church this Sunday with Tony in the Family Life Center for more information and to sign up.



Troop 2 Boy Scouts have six ricks of firewood, all seasoned oak, for sale at \$50. per rick. If you would are in need of firewood, contact Bob Schardt at 783-1871 or 353-5195.



**Habitat Volunteers Needed**

Saturday, October 3, is the FUMC work day for the Habitat House. We need volunteers to help with shingles, siding, and other jobs. Would you like to help? Call Norris Creason, 629-3773 or email [pcreson@gmail.com](mailto:pcreson@gmail.com) and he will get you the information you need. Please put your name on the list. We need about 30 people. See you there!

Please join us for the 2010  
EMIM Commitment Campaign  
Prayer Vigil

**When: Wednesday,  
September 23, 2009  
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Where: Roebuck Chapel  
and Prayer Room  
Communion will follow in  
Roebuck Chapel**

**Why: You can never pray too much!  
Pray for our church, community,  
country, children, family and where  
the Lord is leading you during this  
Commitment Campaign.**

**Join us for five minutes or an hour.  
Can't make it? Then join us on  
Facebook at  
EMIM 2010 Commitment Campaign.  
A prayer group has been set up on  
Facebook as we  
RETHINK CHURCH.**

**Flu Prevention -**



To prevent the spread of flu this fall and winter, hand sanitizer solutions will be located throughout the church. The use of hand sanitizing gel reduces the rate of getting and spreading the flu by

33-50 percent.



Flu shots will be offered to the congregation for ages 18 and older for the low cost of \$15 on Sunday, October 11, 18 and 25. Seasonal flu vaccines will not provide protection against 2009 H1N1 influenza (sometimes called swine flu) but will protect against the seasonal flu. Seasonal flu vaccines are highly recommended this year. The vaccine to prevent the 2009 H1N1 virus has not yet been licensed. If the swine flu shots become available to the public, we will do our best to offer the vaccine.



**Stephen Minister Corner:**

**Stephen Ministers are the "After People."** They come alongside a hurting person . . .

- . . . after a loved one has died,
- . . . after the divorce papers have been served,
- . . . after the layoff or forced retirement,
- . . . after the cancer diagnosis is given.

Stephen Ministers provide people with one-to-one, Christ-centered care and support for as long *after* as they are needed. If you would like more information or would like to have a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Janice at the church office, 782-5068.



If you would be interested in taking American Heart Association CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) contact Janice at the church at 782-5068 or [jsudbrink@fsfumc.org](mailto:jsudbrink@fsfumc.org). The course would be offered on a week night and would include infant, child and adult CPR. Length of the class is 2 hours. This course would help one to give CPR to a person needing it until emergency personal could arrive, for example, drowning, heart attack, choking, accident victims, or stroke. Childcare available upon request. Date of class will be determined upon the interest of the class.

**Women of Faith Conference presents**

**"A Grand New Day" 2009 event**

**October 30-31 - Oklahoma City**

Join the Women's Ministry of FUMC for a remarkable Women of Faith Weekend. A 2-day event where you will laugh...cry...and realize that you're not alone. It is heart-felt, including hilarious messages, gripping drama and amazing music.

Featuring: Steven Curtis Chapman, Lisa Whelchel, Nicole C. Mullen, Sandi Patty, and many more. Beginning on Friday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. and ending on Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Just \$79 each for conference fee, provides lunch for both days. Once women sign up we can determine the hotel fee.

Sign up this Sunday!!!! Or call 782-5068, or email Rev. Claire Caldwell at [choffman@fsfumc.org](mailto:choffman@fsfumc.org)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE  
September 20, 2009**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Infants	5
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	5
3 yr. olds	3
4 yr. olds	
Kindergarten	14
Grade 1	
Grade 2	13
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	
Grade 5	
Grade 6	12
<b>CHILDREN'S DIV.</b>	<b>52</b>
Grade 7, 8, 9, (Confirmation)	12
Grade 10,11, & 12	9
<b>YOUTH DIV.</b>	<b>21</b>
College	-
Aldersgate(Room M105)	22
Believers (Room M302)	3
Builders (RoomM209)	23
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	35
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	23
Disciples Room M312)	13
Discussion*(Room M301)	42
Encouragers (Room M303)	15
Friends (Room M103)	6
Gleaners (Room M201)	18
Good News (Room M202)	2
Le Menage (Room M306)	5
Roundtable (Room M213)	25
Seekers*(Room M107)	11
Uplifters*(Room M205)	38
<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	<b>293</b>
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>358</b>

<b>Worship:</b>	
8:30	83
11:00 FLC	176
11:00 Sanctuary	262
Communion	52
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>573</b>

**OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK**

**Sunday, September 27**

8:30 - Breakfast, Gym  
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel  
 9:45 - Confirmation Class, M313  
 9:45 - Sunday School  
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center  
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary  
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft  
 6:00 - Down Home Singin', Roebuck Chapel w/reception in Narthex  
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft

**Wednesday, September 30**

9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.  
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall  
 1:30 - Arthritis Exercise Class, M105  
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliis Hall  
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel  
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym  
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall  
 6:00 - Sign Language Class, FLC101  
 6:15 - First Place 4 Health, Fireside  
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex  
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, September 28**

11:30 - Intro to Old Test., FLC102  
 6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.  
 6:00 - Cub Scouts, Gym  
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Thursday, October 1**

6am - Men's Fraternity Bible Study, Gym  
 10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex  
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC  
 6:30 - Intro to Genesis, M103  
 6:30 - Women's Council, Conf. Rm.

**Tuesday, September 29**

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.  
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204  
 6:00 - Disciple III, M200

**Friday, October 2**

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 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 Caldwell  
Emergency  
on call Minister for  
September 25-27  
Phone: 459-5060**