

# *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](mailto:fsfumc@fsfumc.org)  
Web Page: [www.fsfumc.org](http://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*

*September 25, 2008*

## **ACROSS DAVID'S DESK**

What is most important at First Church?

You may have the answer to this question. You may not.

You may be answering the question with, "My Sunday School class", or "Youth group", or "finances", or "great music", or "Bible studies", or "missions", or "clean restrooms", or "Pacesetters", or "Weekday School", or "Child Enrichment Center", or "Staff", or "Scouting", or "Third Grade Bible Explorers", or, well, you name it.

You may have the answer to the question. You may not.

Friends, if I were asking you the question about what is most important to you at First Church you, could be sure of your answer. And you would be correct, because you do hold the answer to what is most important at First Church to you.

But, I'm posing the question to God.

. . .So, you may have the answer to the question. You may not.

This question has been part of my regular prayer since my appointment to First Church. God has been answering the question all along. God has been answering the question to this church for over a century and to the Church for over 2000 years.

On Sunday we will distribute devotion guides for the congregation to use in the "Abundant Life" campaign. The campaign will lead us to making our commitments to the work of Christ through FUMC in 2009. You will be invited to consider areas of ministry in which to serve. You will be invited to be intentional in your prayer and worship life. You will be invited to grow in your financial stewardship. As we enter this campaign, it is essential that you and I humbly approach the Lord with the question:

What is most important at First Church?

See you Sunday,  
David Orr

## **-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008, AT FIRST CHURCH-**

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services. His sermon is entitled, "Organ, System, Body" and his scripture text will be I Corinthians 12:12-31. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Family Life Center service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgists. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Mike Boyd, 11:00, Cole Goodman. Acolytes will be Caitlin Bradley and Elizabeth Hinshaw.

Linda Dickson will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "All That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord!" by René Clausen and "Come Sunday" by Duke Ellington. The Bayliss Hall Singers, Choir II will sing at the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service.



## Prayer Vigil, Communion, and Dinner

The prayer committee invites every member to observe a prayer vigil on Wednesday, October 1, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Roebuck Chapel. Communion will be observed at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. No cost for the dinner, but reservations are required. A card will be mailed and needs to be returned for reservations. Child care available upon request.

**You may bring your card to the Narthex this Sunday, September 28, where there will be a table with baskets for you to drop in your card.**

## The Abundant Life



This Sunday, September 28, is the kickoff of our commitment campaign 2009 The Abundant Life.

Make sure you come by the tables in the Narthex from 9:15-10am

or in the Family Life Center or Sanctuary after worship to pick up your Daily Devotional Guide for this years campaign. The devotional guide was written by members of FUMC and designed for you to read a devotion everyday along the weekly themes of preparing the way, prayers, presence, gifts, service, and commitment. The devotions go along with the Sunday School lessons and worship services the following week. So, pick up your devotional guide this Sunday and start reading. For more information about the commitment campaign, call Todd Vick at 782-5068 or email him at [tvick@sfumc.org](mailto:tvick@sfumc.org)



## Mission Opportunities on the Horizon

On **October 15, at 6:15 p.m. in the FLC Fireside room**, we will have an informational meeting for all those who are thinking, praying, wishing and/or going on the Rio Bravo Mission Trip leaving March 30, 2009 and returning April 5. We will discuss accommodations, transportation, cost, and language training opportunities. We will need 40 volunteers to help cook meals, help with medical clinics, play with and love the children during the medical clinics, assist with the building of two homes and also the possibility of hosting a mini-VBS. For more information about this meeting, contact Sandy Parker or Janice Sudbrink.

Coming **September 2009**, the UM West District will begin construction on a **Habitat House** in Fort Smith. We will need volunteers from our church to help with the planning and the building of this home. Planning is beginning now and your help is needed, so email Janice at [jsudbrink@sfumc.org](mailto:jsudbrink@sfumc.org) or call the church!



Do you know just how big the Angel Food Ministry really is? Angel Food had a record breaking month in September by selling a total of 567,769 units nationwide! How blessed we are to be part of a ministry such as this one, with more opportunities to grow each month. FUMC had an increase in sales also - we will distribute 250 units and almost 100 specials this coming Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Family Life Center! We are growing!

The October menus are on the website. We are looking forward to the opportunities that await us in the coming months with the Angel Food America program where we can offer more assistance to seniors, disabled veterans, and single parent families. Thanks to each of you who help make this ministry possible. We are truly blessed!!

## JOB OPPORTUNITY AT FIRST CHURCH

The Nursery Director's position is awaiting a loving, wonderful person.

This part time position is available for someone with a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a passion for caring for young children. The job requires administration and supervisory skills to lead an established team of nursery workers.

For details, contact Sally Ware at 782-5068 or email [sware@sfumc.org](mailto:sware@sfumc.org)



## Couples Night Out

We all know now important date nights are – they encourage us, they refresh us – they remind us why we got married in the first place (And by “date”, we don’t mean the 15 minutes you spend after the kids are in bed, the dishes are washed, and before you slump to bed yourselves.) We’re talking intentional nights out to reconnect with one another and rekindle some fun and romance. So are you ready to have a great time. Plan on - **Couples Night Out: October 10 and November 14 Place: Narthex Rally Time: 6:15-6:45 p.m. Childcare Time: 6:00-9:45 p.m.**

Contact Todd Vick, 782-5068 or Jane Stauffer, 648-9325.

**In Honor of Vanessa Hutcheson** - David & Karen Hutcheson

**In Memory of Joey Ragsdale** - John & Harriet Beasley; Jim & Marilyn Rauser

**In Memory of Ruth Weir** - Janice & Bob Powell



As of Monday, September 22, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

**Sparks:**  
Virginia Birch  
Maxine Eggenesperger

**St. Edward:**  
Denise Jones  
Stanley Isaacks

**BY YOUR GIFTS . . .**

Rec'd this week.....\$30,817  
Rec'd to date.....\$1,106,418  
Budgeted to date.....\$1,266,882

**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, Ellen Driggers, Rick Whittaker, Christopher Herrmann, Timothy Gean, Dwalyn Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery.

**Destination Station's  
Bible Verse for September  
Exodus 5:1**

Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness".

**Foundation Information**

When you make your estate planning documents, consider naming the church as your final beneficiary.

**Methodist Men's Clubs**

**Thursday Noon Bible Study and Lunch** (\$4.00) - Rev. Aaron Barling teaching Mark 9 on October 2.  
**Friday Morning Bible Study and Breakfast** (\$4.00) - Bill Pitts will teach Daniel 1:1-21 on October 3.

**Open Dates  
for  
Altar Flowers**



We have the following dates open for Altar Flowers: **October 26.** 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.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**UMW AUCTION !!**

**More info to come.  
Watch the newsletter.**



Finley Turner and family on the death of his sister, Wanda Van Horn of Canton, Georgia.



**CHICK  
FLICKS  
begins October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Attention: All Women - Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, October 19, at 5:00 p.m. in the Movie Theater, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, for Chick Flicks.

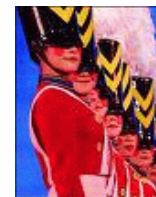
Refreshments, fellowship, movie trivia. Come join us for a fun-filled night.



**The Altar Flowers** for Sunday, September 28, 2008, are from the wedding of Christina Haley and Nathan Dulaney and are placed in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. Orville Haley, Bill and Bonnie Dulaney and Alphonse J. Roy.

**The Chapel Class Breakfast** will be this Sunday, September 28, 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Fireside room. The Board of Directors of the Clearinghouse will be here to help cook and serve your breakfast. We are cooking extra and will have plenty of food. The breakfast is free but all donations go directly to the "Backpack for Children". Join us for breakfast and help us feed hungry children.

**"Joy of Signing"** will not meet on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in order to attend the Prayer Dinner that night. See you again on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.



The Women's Ministry of FUMC would like you to join us for the Christmas Spectacular at Alltel Arena, featuring the Radio City Rockettes on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Price for the event: tickets and charter bus, \$50.00. Dinner on your own. Sign up in the Narthex September 28 through October 12.

**Neighborhood Thank You's** Stop by the bulletin board on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor next to the Narthex and read the thank you letters that we have received from the Tilles students for their school supplies. They are priceless!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE  
September 21, 2008**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Infants	5
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	5
3 yr. olds	6
4 yr. olds	10
Kindergarten	7
Grade 1	
Grade 2	17
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	16
Grade 5	
Grade 6	11
<b>CHILDREN'S DIV.</b>	<b>77</b>
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	14
<b>YOUTH DIV.</b>	<b>14</b>
Aldersgate(Room M105)	22
Believers (Room M302)	5
Builders*(RoomM209)	30
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	34
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	22
Disciples (Room M312)	FLC
Discussion*(Room M301)	45
Encouragers (Room M310)	FLC
Friends (Room M103)	13
Gleaners (Room M201)	28
Good News (Room M202)	3
Le Menage (Room M306)	--
Roundtable*(Room M213)	15
Seekers*(Room M107)	12
Uplifters*(Room M205)	39
<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	<b>268</b>
General Officers	3
*Made their quota	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Worship:</b>	
8:30	76
11:00 Family Life	180
11:00 Sanctuary	261
Wed. Communion	60
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>577</b>

**OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK**

**Sunday, September 28**

8:30 - Breakfast, FLC  
 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  
 12:00 - Bible Explorers, Childen's Area  
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft & Gym  
 6:00 - Down Home Singin', Roebuck Chapel w/reception in Narthex  
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft & Gym

**Wednesday, October 1**

6am - Men's Fraternity Bible Study, Gym  
 9:15 - Beautiful Offering Study, Fireside  
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall  
 12:00 - Christian Learn. Council, Conf. Rm.  
 3:30 - Children's Choirs  
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel  
 6:00 - Prayer Dinner, Gym  
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200  
 ??? - Praise Team, Gym (after dinner)  
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall  
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex  
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, September 29**

11:30 - Intro to Old. Test., FLC102  
 6:00- Cub Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 6:00 - Beautiful Offering, Fireside Rm.  
 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.  
 6:30 - Disciple II, M103  
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200

**Thursday, October 2**

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

**Friday, October 3**

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

**Saturday, October 4**

10:00 - Handbell Workshop, Bayliss Hall

**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 Hoffman  
Emergency  
on call Minister for  
September 26-28  
Phone: 459-5060**

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