

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

October 1, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

The theme for "RETHINK CHURCH" this week is prayer. So, as one who loves First United Methodist Church, are you praying for your church? How often? How deeply? Are you seeing your prayers answered? Are you thanking God for the blessings?

First Church is a praying church. We pray together for people with illnesses and with new children; we pray for people in financial crisis and for missions and for pastors and for staff and for teachers and for children and for youth and for families and for wisdom and for direction and for discernment and for weather and for courage and for conflicts and for grieving ones and for college students and for bishops and for governors and for . . . This is a praying church.

In this time of personal reflection and examination, we do well to consider our prayers. RETHINK CHURCH will bring renewal, revival to our church as we pray through this campaign. At the root of RETHINK CHURCH is the challenge and opportunity for First Church to see ourselves and our future through God-inspired eyes, and then giving ourselves to God's vision. This is accomplished in giving ourselves to prayer.

Prayer is talking to God about what we see and know and fear and love. Prayer is listening to God about what God sees and knows and loves. Prayer is sometimes a matter of solitude, sometimes a matter of community. Prayer is neither a show, nor a game. Prayer is being open and available to God in honest communication. God wants to hear from us about what's on our minds. God yearns to share with us what's on God's mind.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul calls for the full surrender of our lives as the appropriate response to the love of Christ available to us. Paul has given a compelling altar call. A life of prayer (open communication with God) is the proven method of keeping our lives in harmony with God, of letting the transformation of our lives continue and discerning the way of God for our lives.

"Will you be loyal to First United Methodist Church by your prayers . . ." "I will."

See you Sunday,
David Orr

-WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Intimacy with God" and his scripture text is Exodus 3:1-10. 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, Gary Newton, 11:00, Sandy Parker. Acolytes will be Caitlin Bradley, Sam Kimes and Alex Foree.

Jaeli Miller will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "Come Share the Lord" by Bryan Jeffery Leech.



IN THE HOSPITAL

As of Monday, September 29, 2009, the following members were known to be in the hospital:

St. Edward:
Bernice Fouts

Sparks:
Rose Bethell

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$14,800
Rec'd to date.....\$1,061,302
Budgeted to date.....\$1,283,780

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

How long has it been since you updated your Will? Does it carry out your wishes? Does it leave a gift to the church to carry on the ministry after your death?

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch/Bible Study, October 8, Rev. Paul Strang will teach John 16, Family Life Center.

Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, October 9, 2009, 6:30 a.m., Family Life Center.

**Destination Station Bible Verse for October
Proverbs 8:7-8**

I always speak the truth and refuse to tell a lie. Every word I speak is honest, not one is misleading or deceptive.



The Altar Flowers

for Sunday, October 4, 2009, are placed in loving memory of Jackson Williams by Fred and Shirley Williams and Elizabeth, Katy, and Olivia.

Altar Flower Openings

We have the following openings for altar flowers: **October 18 & 25.** If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, call 782-5068.



Habitat Build:

First Church will join with Faith UMC and Vietnamese Fort Smith UMC this Saturday, October 3rd to work on the Habitat home located at 618 North 13th Street. We will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will work until 3:00 p.m. Tentative plans are to complete the siding and to sheet rock the inside. Come join in on the fun and fellowship as we work together to build the home for Thanh Ngo and her three children.



Third Grade Bible Presentation

We will present Bibles to our third graders on Sunday, October 4 at the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service.

If you have a 3rd grader who would like to have a new Bible, please call the church office, 782-5068, and provide an accurate spelling of your child's name.

We want all 3rd graders to receive their Bibles at this special time.



Cassie Elwonger and family on the death of her grandfather, John Smedley.



We rejoice with:

Matthew and Lana Beasley on the birth of a daughter, Grace Kathryn Beasley. Paternal grandparents are John and Harriet Beasley.

FSFUMC Cancer Support Group has two special offers:



New blue polo FSFUMC logo shirts are now on sale. Orders are being taken Sunday mornings in the Narthex and in the FLC. Cost for each shirt is \$18, sizes Small-XL and \$20 for size XXL. All proceeds go toward the Relay for Life American Cancer Society. Wearing these shirts help to promote our church when we are out in the community and when we are serving.



The Cancer Support Group will recognize the **month of October** as Cancer Awareness Month by hosting a complimentary **Chili Supper** along with a panel of cancer experts that will discuss issues of cancer, new treatments and prevention. Make plans to attend this informational meeting on **Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fireside room.**

Sign-up sheets for this event will be located with the selling of the shirts.



Our church will do everything possible to provide the flu vaccines as they become available on Sundays, October 11, 18 & 25, to the congregation for ages 18 and older for the low cost of \$15. Seasonal flu vaccines will not provide protection against 2009 H1N1 influenza. If the swine flu shots become available to the public, we will do our best to offer the vaccine.

**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

**Angel
Food
Ministries**



Did you know?

- The Angel Food ministry averages needing 70-75 units of donations per month to help those who are struggling in our community.
- Your donation of \$30/month will deliver a box of food that is valued at \$60 to a needy family.
- Angel Food is not just for those in need.
- Angel Food is for everyone and will feed a family for \$4.30/day with nutritious food.
- Pick up a menu this Sunday in the Narthex or in the FLC. You can also call the church office and we will mail you a menu. October food on sale now.
- Do you wonder what Angel Food is all about? Come Saturday morning, October 17, on distribution day in the Family Life Center. You will witness lots of laughter and joy as people pick up their food and as over 50 volunteers come together to serve God and distribute the food.

**You are cordially invited to attend
the following events to celebrate**

***Shoal Creek Methodist Camp's
50th Anniversary***

★ **Saturday, October 17, 2009
"Open House" at Shoal Creek Campground
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Make a reservation for a FREE LUNCH while you relive your camping days and visit with old friends! Call Barbara and Ken Bell @646-5144 by Friday, Oct. 9.

★ **Sunday, October 18, 2009 - 5:00 p.m.
"Celebration Dinner"
First UMC Family Life Center**

**Guest Speaker
Legendary Coach and Athletic Director
FRANK BROYLES**

You must make a reservation to attend this FREE DINNER. Please respond by Friday, October 9 to 782-5068 or Becky at 783-0385, or Flora 479-394-4478

Memorials

In Memory of Lt. Col. Marvin Mumme - Charles & Karen Still; Cornerstone Class

In Memory of Caroline Blochberger - Ann & Richard Appleton

In Memory of Sherry Mae Holder Williams, Jewell Holder and Mildred Holder - Bill Holder

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday we will take an offering for World Communion Sunday. There will be offering envelopes in your bulletins or you may mail your check direct to the church and mark it for "World Communion".

Your Generous Gifts Provide:

[World Communion Scholarships](#) (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one-half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States;

[Ethnic Scholarship Program](#) (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and

[Ethnic In-Service Training Program](#) (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
September 27, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	3
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	5
3 yr. olds	4
4 yr. olds	5
Kindergarten	10
Grade 1	
Grade 2	
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	19
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	15
CHILDREN'S DIV.	61
Grade 7, 8, 9, (Confirmation)	13
Grade 10,11, & 12	10
YOUTH DIV.	23
College	2
Aldersgate(Room M105)	19
Believers (Room M302)	3
Builders (RoomM209)	25
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	39
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	20
Disciples Room M312)	9
Discussion*(Room M301)	42
Encouragers (Room M303)	19
Friends (Room M103)	5
Gleaners (Room M201)	29
Good News (Room M202)	7
Le Menage (Room M306)	6
Roundtable*(Room M213)	32
Seekers (Room M107)	8
Uplifters*(Room M205)	32
ADULT TOTALS	310
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	385
Worship:	
8:30	68
11:00 FLC	169
11:00 Sanctuary	245
Communion	43
Down Home Singin'	51
TOTALS	574

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, October 4

8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9:45 - Confirmation Class, M313
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 12:00 - 3rd Grade Bible Explorers, 2nd flr
 1:30 - Fletcher Family, Fireside Rm.
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft

Wednesday, October 7

9:15 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 1:30 - Arthritis Exercise Class, M105
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss 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 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, October 5

11:30 - Intro to Old Test., FLC102
 6:00 - Beth Moore, Fireside Rm.
 6:00 - Cub Scouts, Loft
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Thursday, October 8

6am - Men's Fraternity Bible Study, Gym
 10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
 6:00 - CEC Parent Seminar, Fireside Rm.
 6:00 - Girl Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:30 - Intro to Genesis, M103

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 5:00 - Bldg. & Grounds, Conf. Rm.
 6:00 - Disciple III, M200
 6:00 - CPR Class, Fireside Rm.

Friday, October 9

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
 4-6 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC
 6-9:30 - Parents' Night Out, FLC

Saturday, October 10

9-11 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC

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. Stephen Dickinson
Emergency
on call Minister for
October 2-4
Phone: 459-5060**