

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

October 23, 2008

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

The Abundant Life campaign is moving forward and gaining momentum. We have had excellent speakers in worship. We are enjoying and benefitting from outstanding daily devotions written by the folk of First Church. We are examining the EMIM commitment information recently received in the mail. We are praying and searching our hearts to discern what the Lord is asking of each of us for 2009.

Keep it straight in your mind and soul: The Abundant Life campaign is about Abundant Living. We believe that the more we are open and available to the lordship of Christ over our prayers, presence, gifts and service, the more of the abundant life we will experience. It is God's good pleasure to give abundant life. Our commitments of prayers, presence, gifts and service become channels into our lives through which the grace of God freely flows.

November 9th is Commitment Sunday. You are invited to worship and to a delicious meal on that day. A brunch will be served following 8:30 worship. A lunch will be served following 11:00 worship. Don't forget to get your reservations in for your meal of choice. We are in for a most blessed day on November 9th.

For those who are looking for wisdom in the fray of the current financial crisis/roller coaster/trouble/mess, take heart. Matthew 6:25ff: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

See you in our Father's House,
David Orr

-SUNDAY, October 26, 2008, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services. His sermon is entitled, "It's Time to Invest" and his scripture text will be Matthew 6:19-21. Rev. Claire Hoffman will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Family Life Center service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Todd Vick will be Liturgists. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Gary Campbell, 11:00, Ruth Pitts. Acolytes will be Alex Foree and Ben Sudbrink.

Rylee Norton will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "The Size of Your Heart" by Eleanor Daley and "Treasures in Heaven" by Allen Pote.



As of Monday, October 20, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

Sparks: Virginia Birch
St. Edward: Herbert Couvillion

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$31,478
Rec'd to date.....\$1,200,476
Budgeted to date.....\$1,400,238

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 October
Luke 11:1**

When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Foundation Information

Have circumstances changed since you last updated your estate plan? Do your current estate planning documents carry out your commitments to your church? If not, consider revising your plan in order to more accurately accomplish your current wishes.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday Noon Bible Study and Lunch (\$4.00) - Carol Matlock teaching Mark 13 on October 30.

Friday Morning Bible Study and Breakfast (\$4.00) - Rev. Claire Hoffman will teach Daniel 5:1-31 on October 31.



The Altar Flowers for Sunday, October 26, 2008, are from the wedding of Tricia Willroth and Paul Cross.



Flu shots will be available in the Conference room Sunday, October 26, for ages 18 or older at a cost of \$13.

You will need to sign up at one of the clipboards located around the church to reserve your vaccine or call 782-5068.

Our Prayers and Sympathy are for:

Anna Brown and family on the death of her son, Gary Huggins.

Jerry Pruitt and family on the death of his sister-in-law, Melissa Pruitt of Wilson, AR.

Lavonne Hayes and family on the death of her mother, Gladys Charlton or Rapid City, SD.

Wilma Ayers, John W. Ayers, and their families on the death of their husband and father, John G. Ayers.

Open Dates for Altar Flowers are **November 23 and 30**. Call the church office if you would like to put flowers on the altar, 782-5068.



We rejoice with:

Heather and Noé Aguilar on the birth of a daughter, Ruth Anne Aguilar.

Trey and Paula Hicks on the birth of a son, Dylan Beall Hicks. Grandparents are Bill and Toka Beall.

Sub-group "Lydia" will meet with Gladys Ware, 4819 South "X" St. on Tuesday, October 28, at 1:00 p.m.



Edyth Jakium, Mel Santos, David Smith and Zeta Smith joined our church family on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at our 11:00 a.m Sanctuary service. Welcome to the First Church family!



Join us for breakfast!

A free breakfast will be served by the Chapel Class this Sunday in the Family Life Center from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Any donations given for the breakfast will be given to the "Backpack for Kids" program at the Clearinghouse.

**FUMC Ministry Fair
November 2nd
9 a.m. - noon
in the Narthex**

Stop by our Ministry Fair to see all the wonderful ministries and opportunities our church offers. Each one of us can live an "Abundant Life" by reaching out to others and serving our Lord.



**University of Central Arkansas Choir
FREE Concert
October 26
(this Sunday)
Sanctuary 6**

p.m.
Under the direction of John Erwin, this concert will be GREAT!
Join us!

Two more weeks left to sign up for the Radio City Rockettes performance at Alltel Arena, December 18 at 4 p.m. Cost is \$50, which includes tickets and a chartered bus. Dinner on your own. Sign up at the tables in the Narthex area.

P. S. This trip is not just for women, but **couples too!**

The trip is back on . . .

to attend the Women of Faith "Infinite Grace" Conference in Oklahoma City's Ford Center on November 14-15, 2008.

Featured speakers include: Sandi Patty, Max Lucado, Patsy Clairmont, Natalie Grant, Nicole C. Mullen, Sheila Walsh, Marilyn Meberg, and Luci Swindoll!

We will depart Fort Smith at noon on Friday, attend the conference that evening and Saturday and return on Saturday evening. Cost for the trip is estimated at \$165, including hotel, premium ticket seating, box lunch on Saturday, and gasoline. Register by October 22 with Paige Ingram, 646-0766.



First Church DNA

October 28, November 4 & 11
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Fireside Room of Family Life Center

First Church DNA is a class about The United Methodist Church and First UMC. Topics include: EMIM, UMC structure, history, and beliefs; the ministries of FUMC.

A meal will be provided at a cost of \$5.00. For more information contact Todd Vick, 782-5068, or tvick@sfumc.org

FUMC Ingathering

We will be collecting items for health kits for the next three weeks. There are collection boxes located on each floor of church near the stairwells. These health kits will be sent to the annual United Methodist Ingathering on November 14, 2008. With all of the natural disasters worldwide this year these kits are especially in demand. A complete health kit consists of the following:

- 1 wash cloth
- 1 hand towel
- 5 band aids
- 1 metal nail file
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 1 bar of soap
- 1 comb

Combine all of the above items in a Ziplock bag.

Thanks so much for your participation.



Fall Festival
Family Life Center

Sun., Oct. 26 4-6 pm

Our friends and neighbors will be joining us for a GREAT afternoon of safe, family fun!

Free Candy Free Hot Dogs Bounce
A-Round
19 FUN booths for the children Wear your costume!

FUMC: This event is free for you and for our neighbors, however, donations of money and candy would be GREATLY appreciated. Sunday (Oct. 26) boxes will be in the Narthex, Gym and outside the Parlor to accept your candy and donations.

Come join in the fun and help welcome our neighbors!

Are you outgoing?

Are you hardworking?

Do you have a heart for helping people?

GREAT!

We are in need of a Guest/New member Assimilation Ministry Chair. You would be using all of the skills listed above to make our guest and new members feel at home here at First Church. Call Todd Vick, 782-5068 or tvick@sfumc.org for more information.

Open House at Mount Eagle.

Oct. 28 and 29, 2008

Enjoy a day of fall colors in the Ozark Foothills at Mount Eagle Christian Center northeast of Clinton. Take a walking tour or hop on the haywagon for a ride around the retreat center. A soup and salad lunch will be served from 11:30 am till 1:00 pm each day. Reservations helpful but not required.

Call (501) 723-4580. If you've never been to Mount Eagle, or if it has been a few years, now is the time to enjoy the beauty of this sacred space. Fill the church van and come on over! Some overnight lodge space is available, and the RV park is open year round. For directions, go to our web site, www.mounteagle.org

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
October 19, 2008**

Class	Attendance
Infants	4
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	6
3 yr. olds	5
4 yr. olds	10
Kindergarten	8
Grade 1	
Grade 2	18
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	15
Grade 5	
Grade 6	10
CHILDREN'S DIV.	76
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	21
YOUTH DIV.	21
Aldersgate(Room M105)	18
Believers (Room M302)	-
Builders*(RoomM209)	31
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	36
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	10
Disciples*(Room M312)	16
Discussion*(Room M301)	51
Encouragers*(Room M310)	27
Friends (Room M103)	8
Gleaners (Room M201)	29
Good News (Room M202)	4
Le Menage (Room M306)	6
Roundtable (Room M213)	18
Seekers*(Room M107)	13
Uplifters*(Room M205)	33
ADULT TOTALS	300
General Officers	3
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	400
Worship:	
8:30	70
11:00 Family Life	169
11:00 Sanctuary	301
Wed. Communion	56
TOTALS	596

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, October 26

8:30 - Breakfast, FLC
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 8:45 - Flu Shots, Conf. Rm.
 9:30-10:45 - Library Open, M211
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 2-4 - Shoal Creek Mtg., Conf. Rm.
 4-6 - Fall Festival, FLC
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft & Gym
 6:00 - UCA Choir, Sanctuary
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft & Gym

Wednesday, October 29

6am - Men's Fraternity Bible Study, Gym
 9:15 - Beautiful Offering Study, Fireside
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 12:00 - General Staff, Fireside Rm.
 3:30 - Children's Choirs
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conference Rm.
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex

Monday, October 27

6:00 - Cub Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:00 - Beautiful Offering, Fireside Rm.
 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Disciple II, M103
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200

Thursday, October 30

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

Friday, October 31

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 - Dorcas Meets, Fireside Rm.
 12:00 - Responding/Call, M103
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 5:30 - Stephen Min., FLC101 & 102
 6:00 - Commitment Task Force, M103
 6:00 - FUMC, DNA, Fireside Rm.

**Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class and our
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service are
broadcast over KFPW 1230 AM**

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
Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Phone: 459-5060**

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