

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*

November 20, 2008

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

In the season of Thanksgiving I am returning thanks for

- God's presence, felt and not felt
- A family that loves me more than I deserve
- A home that gives safety and comfort to those I love
- I paid \$1.66 for a gallon of unleaded
- Miracle Sunday, which took First Church completely out of debt
- Forgiveness from a friend who did not have to forgive
- The smile of the children of First Church
- The exuberance of the re-energized youth ministry @ First Church
- The grace of music from the Chancel Choir, bell choirs, children, & Praise Team
- A nation that even when down, is still the place I want to live
- The financial commitments for 2009 trending to equal 2008 commitments
- The Every Member in Ministry commitments for 2009 exceeding 2008 commitments
- A church that will not stop praying
- The promise of heaven and the experience of eternal hope even on earth
- The welcoming handshake of a tried and true friend
- November weather that feels like November
- Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever

Thanksgiving is a day on the calendar. The heart of gratitude is the product of Christ alive in you. Let this season of Thanksgiving be a season of reflection. Let your heart be shaped, yet again, by the hand of the Master.

See you Sunday at the Thanks Giving House,
David Orr



-THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, November 23, 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, "God's Abundance" and his scripture text will be Mark 4:26-29. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Family Life Center Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink will be Liturgist. Acolytes will be Elizabeth Hinshaw and Alexandra Salamone. Lay Readers are: 8:30, David Adrion, 11:00, Bruce Trahan.

Blakeley Knox will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. Linda Dickson will be soloist at the 11:00 service. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" by Healey Willan.



As of Monday, November 18, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

St. Edward: George Gaines
Sparks: Judy Cartmill, Judy Allen

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$24,208
Rec'd to date.....\$1,307,557
Budgeted to date.....\$1,533,594

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 November
Matthew 8:26**

“Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he ordered the wind and the waves to calm down.

Foundation Information

The costs of having your estate plan prepared can be a terrific bargain. You may save many times the cost in taxes and administrative expenses to your heirs. The estate planning can also make it possible for you to make a gift to your church.

**Methodist Men's Clubs
will not meet next week because of
the holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!**

Open Dates for Altar Flowers
are **November 30** and **December 14**.
Call the church office if you would like to
put flowers on the altar, 782-5068.

**Our Prayers and Sympathy
are for:**

Janie Orr and family on the death of her uncle, James E. Dyer, Sr.

Floyd Sagely and family on the death of his brother, Kenneth Sagely.

Cindy Robinson, Keith Lemley and their families on the death of their brother, John Lemley .

Frazer Memorial UMC Trip

We will be taking a team to the Every Member in Ministry (EMIM) Conference at Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery, Alabama, March 6-8, 2009. The cost of the trip is \$385.00 per person, which includes lodging, conference fees, and travel by bus to and from Montgomery.

For more information or to register, contact Todd Vick at 782-5068 or tvick@fsfumc.org There are only 50 spots available so act soon!

The Homeless Ministry

which provides muffins to the Next Step Day Room, has some immediate needs. The following donations would be greatly appreciated!

Coffee, Sugar, Fresh Fruit, Men and Women's Coats (used is fine), Scarves and Warm Hats.

These items can be dropped off in Janice's office or the church office.

Job Opening

The Children's Day Out program will have a job opening for a temporary teacher in our younger toddler classroom from January to May. Please contact Tiffany Null 783-0310 or 462-2771.

Attention: College Students

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend church on Sunday, November 30, as we celebrate Student Recognition Sunday at First Church.

Welcome !

We welcome new member Neta Williams to our church family and apologize for the error in last week's newsletter. Neta joined from another denomination at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service.

We rejoice with

Stephanie and Mark Morrison on the birth of a daughter, Hadlee Erin Morrison. Maternal grandmother is Connie Carpenter and great grandmother is Drucilla Hughart.

Christian Character Award

Each week in Rotation Sunday School, a child from each class, grades 1-6, who demonstrate good Christian character during the Sunday School hour received this award. The following has earned this reward :

- 1st & 2nd grades:** Hayden Blythe, Ryan Jacobs, Julia Brixey, Patrick Dickinson
- 3rd & 4th grades:** Hadley Dickinson, Wren Lanier, James Taylor, Elizabeth Hinshaw, Alicia Schwinn, Nicholas Spicer, Sanicko McGill, Autumn Wells, Olivia White, Bryson Porter
- 5th & 6th grades:** Andrew Greer, Eve Jagers, Kate Truitt, Sam Kimes, Alex Shipley, Alissa Blythe

First United Methodist has a WiFi network in three locations,



(1) the Narthex area (2) Youth Loft and (3) Family Life Center.

If you would like to use our WiFi network, it is named FUMC and the password is FUMC1919.

Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
in our Sanctuary
The Fort Smith Chorale
presents
“Carols by Candlelight”
Tickets are \$15 per person
(Full-time students admitted free)



The West District will begin fundraising for our District Habitat House very soon. Our goal is to raise \$55,000. You will hear more in the Spring about ways to volunteer with the building, but here are some ways you can help now:

- Make plans to attend *Immenso Amore* (The Life and Resurrection of Christ) on **Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at Grace Community UMC.** Tickets will be \$10. You may order tickets by calling our church office, 782-5068. They will also take up a love offering at the concert with all proceeds going to the Habitat house.
- Make a donation and challenge your friends to match it.

If you would like more information, feel free to call the West District office, 783-0385 or email westdistrictbecky@yahoo.com.



First United Methodist Church invites you, your family and your friends to THANKSGIVING DINNER on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Make reservations by calling the church office by Friday, November 21.

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and the Thanksgiving Dinner committee needs your help. We are expecting a larger crowd this year from the community and the neighborhood. We need pies and relish trays. Please call the church office and let us know if you can supply a pie/pies or relish tray.



FUMC Angel Tree

The Children's Ministry Department, along with the Missions Council, is sponsoring the FUMC Angel Tree. The response has been so tremendous that in our fifth year of providing gifts for area children in need, we have taken 50 DHS children this year. We know this is a large undertaking, but we know our church can make the difference for these children. There is a tree in the Narthex and on the second floor by the children's area. Please stop by and take an ornament.

After you purchase the gift on the ornament, bring the gift back to the church, **with the ornament tag and unwrapped**, to Sally Ware's office by **Dec. 12.**

Mark your calendars and join your Pastors for an Advent Study, "The Light Will Shine", November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, in Roebuck Chapel, during the Sunday School hour.

**November 30 - Rev. Stephen Dickinson
December 7 - Rev. Janice Sudbrink
December 14 - Rev. Claire Hoffman
December 21 - Rev. David Orr**

Everyone welcome to join us for this Advent Study.



ADVENTure 2008

To kick off the Christmas season, the Children's Ministry Council invites you to join us for a family evening full of dinner, a special story, crafts, and singing. ADVENTure begins at 5:30 p.m. on December 3, with a chili supper and cookie station for dessert. At 6:00 p.m., there will be a story and craft time. The evening will end with a special candlelight sing along.

Dinner is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children, not to exceed \$15 per family. The craft fee is \$20.

Reservations are a must! The reservation deadline is Sunday, November 30. Please pick up a registration form or use the one below and return along with payment to the church office.

✂

Family Name: _____

Names of Adults: _____

Names & Ages of Children: _____

Names of children under 4 (for nursery) _____

Dinner:

\$4 per adult x _____ + \$3 per child x _____
(Not to exceed \$15 per family = _____)

Crafts + _____ \$20.00

Total Payment = _____

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
November 16, 2008**

Class	Attendance
Infants	4
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	7
3 yr. olds	7
4 yr. olds	10
Kindergarten	7
Grade 1	
Grade 2	19
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	17
Grade 5	
Grade 6	8
CHILDREN'S DIV.	79
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	17
YOUTH DIV.	17
Aldersgate(Room M105)	17
Believers (Room M302)	8
Builders (RoomM209)	22
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	43
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	19
Disciples (Room M312)	13
Discussion*(Room M301)	50
Encouragers (Room M310)	--
Friends (Room M103)	13
Gleaners (Room M201)	33
Good News (Room M202)	6
Le Menage (Room M306)	2
Roundtable*(Room M213)	23
Seekers*(Room M107)	14
Uplifters*(Room M205)	40
ADULT TOTALS	303
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	403

Worship:	
8:30	93
11:00 Family Life	365
11:00 Sanctuary	304
Wed. Communion	47
TOTALS	809

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, November 23

8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9:30-10:45 - Library Open
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 12:00 - FLC Worship Mtg., FLC102
 4:30 - Cancer Support Grp., M200
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft & Gym
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft & Gym

Wednesday, November 26

6am - Men's Fraternity Bible Study, Gym
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel

Monday, November 24

11:30 - Intro to Old Test., FLC102
 6:00 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Disciple II, Conf. Rm.
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200
 7:00 - Chorale Practice, Sanct.

Thursday, November 27

11:00 - 2:00 - Thanksgiving Dinner, FLC
Church Offices Closed for Holiday

Friday, November 28

Church Offices Closed for Holiday

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tuesday, November 25

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conf. Rm.
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 7:00 -Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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
Nov. 21-23
Phone: 459-5060

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