

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*

November 25, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Thanksgiving would not be complete without an opportunity to do something for others. Those who are truly grateful seek opportunity to give to express their gratitude.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

We are 100% correct to speak our gratitude to God. We are 100% correct to express our gratitude by doing good works. We are 100% correct to give sacrificially as an expression of our gratitude. Saying, doing and giving are all parts of the same thing: Living the life of gratitude in response to the super-abounding grace we have experienced in Christ.

The 2009 Ministry Budget here at FUMC has been prepared based on the commitments of our congregation. Now, as we move into December, let me encourage each of us to be sure we are completing the faith commitments we have made. We are behind and we can catch up! Our church finances depend on us. We have no government bail-out. We are built on faith. We have faith that God will provide. We have faith that God is providing through our people.

Our Ministry Budget provides for the needs of this congregation: Pastors' and staff salaries, facility care, utilities, Sunday School books, Vacation Bible School materials, and much, much more. Our Ministry Budget provides for the needs of others: Mission outreach, evangelism outreach, District, Conference, and denominational missions, personnel and programs, community services, weekday children's ministries, and much more. The Ministry Budget of our church supports the core and the bulk of everything we do, everything we believe in as a church. The Ministry Budget of the church is deserving of the very best that we can do as members of the church. I want First Church to be as strong and enduring as is heavenly possible, and I am convinced that you, the membership of the church want that same thing. Let's give, together, and meet this challenge and honor God.

Speaking, doing and giving, all in response to the blessings of God, makes our witness complete.

See you, Sunday,
David Orr



First Sunday of Advent

-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Watching and Waiting" and his scripture text is Luke 21:25-36. Rev. Claire Caldwell will preach at the 11:00 Connexion service. Her sermon is entitled, "The Ministry of All Christians" and her scripture text is Matthew 28:16-20. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Stephen Dickinson will be Liturgists. Lay readers are: 8:30, Carroll West, 11:00, Ben Reid. Acolytes will be Alexandra Salamone and Isabella Udouj. Lighting the First Advent Candle will be: 8:30, Ron and Cheryl Powell; 11:00 Sanctuary, Don, Susan and Alex Foree; 11:00 Connexion, Lisa, Jennifer and Caitlin Bradley.

Sarah Keifer will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" by Michael Costello and "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arranged by Larry Shackley and accompanied by Sean Carrier on the clarinet.



IN THE HOSPITAL
As of Monday, November 23, 2009, the following members were known to be in the hospital.

St. Edward:
Lisa Harms
Maurine Slates

Sparks:
Clifton Ellis

Health South: Judy Massey

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$35,187
Rec'd to date.....\$1,254,155
Budgeted to date.....\$1,547,120

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

Be sure that your estate planning documents are properly prepared. A homemade Will can result in unnecessary expense and delay. When your documents are prepared, consider naming your church as a beneficiary.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch/Bible Study, December 3, Ben Reid will teach Acts 2.

Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, December 4, Dr. Boyd Saviers will teach Luke 21:1-38.

Destination Station Bible Verse for December

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall name him Immanuel.



Altar Flower Openings

We have the following openings for altar flowers: **December 13, 20, & 27.** If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, call 782-5068.



FUMC Angel Tree

There are over 500 children in foster care in the Fort Smith area. The Children's Ministry Council has taken this need to heart. In our annual FUMC Angel Tree, we have sponsored 50 children, and we need your help.

There are two trees, one located in the Family Life Center and the other on the second floor by the children's wing. Each ornament on our Angel Tree represents a Christmas wish from a child in foster care.

Please take an ornament from the tree and help a child's Christmas wish come true. Return your gift - UNWRAPPED - with the tag you took, to the cart outside Sally's office on the second floor, by December 13.

These gifts will be delivered to the children in foster care through the Department of Human Services.

THANK YOU



United Methodist Women

will meet on **Tuesday**, December 1st at 9:30 a.m. in the Narthex for coffee and fellowship. The Weekday School children will sing for us. Everyone invited.

Sub-group "Mary" will meet on Tuesday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. at Cheddars.



With the holidays soon to be here, the opportunity to help out a family at Christmas time is here also. We have a list of families and people who could use a little extra help. If you would like to "sponsor" one of them, whether it be purchasing Angel Food for Christmas or helping in another way, please let it be known. Ordering dates for food purchase are a week earlier than usual because of the holidays - so we will need to know your desire to help **BEFORE December 6.** If you could help someone, please let Janice Sudbrink (782-5068) or Pat Creson (629-3379) know and they will be happy to get you more information.



Breakfast is being served

in the Family Life Center this Sunday, November 29, 8:30-9:30 a.m. The free breakfast is being cooked and served by the Chapel Class. Your donations for the breakfast will go to the "Backpack for Kids" program at the Clearinghouse.

The Backpack for Kids program provides food for area children on the weekends and when school is not in session. Join us.

Our prayers and sympathy are for:

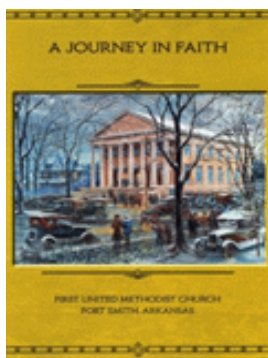
Ralph Paul and family on the death of his mother, Virginia Paul

Aaron and Andrew Pryor and family on the death of their grandfather, Neil "Birnie" Pryor, Jr.

Mary Mikles and family on the death of her mother, Mary Hedwig Benton.

We rejoice with

Chad and Leslie Brixey on the birth of a son, William David Brixey. Maternal grandparents are David and Sally Rickard.



**(Continued for you -
a rare book indeed-)**

Archives continue the sale of this amazing book "A Journey of Faith" our book about FUMC and its ministries in the first 200 years of life and service. This book is a rare one at a reduced price of only \$10.00 for your home, for others as a Christmas gift, or

for any time. On sale November 22nd and following Sundays.

Archivists are at sale tables before and after worship services, in the hall near Sanctuary, the Family Life Center and Sunday School Information Desk behind Roebuck Chapel.

Check it out. Buy this rare source at a bargain price. This sale helps Archives do its work at FUMC, Fort Smith.



LADIES,
SAVE THE DATE
for
a Christmas Drop-in
at
Janie Orr's home
3417 Ramsgate Way
on
December 18, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Prayer Room Committee would like to thank all those who made special gifts toward the Prayer Room. With all your prayers and financial support, it is completed, debt free, and ready for your use. It is open whenever the church is open.

Thank you again. The Prayer Room Committee: Linda Bradley, Tony Leraris, Staci Goodman, Pat Little and Johnnie Dickey.



ADVENTure 2009
Wednesday, December 2nd
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

To kick off the joyful Christmas season, the Children's Ministry Council invites families of children ages 4 years old through 6th grade to join us for an evening full of dinner, crafts, singing and spiritual inspiration.

The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with a chili supper. We will start story time at 6:00 with craft time and a cookie station to follow. The evening will end with a candlelit sing-along with some of our favorite Christmas carols .

Dinner will be \$5 per adults, \$4 per child, not to exceed \$15 per family. The craft supply fee is \$15 per family.

Reservations are a must! The reservation deadline is Monday, November 30th. Childcare provided for children under the age of 4.



The Bridge College Ministry is selling Schermer Pecans from December 6-20 in the Narthex. We are offering milk chocolate and dark chocolate covered pecans for \$8 a bag. The proceeds will lower the cost for the Bridge members attending the Passion Conference in Atlanta, GA. This conference is a national conference for college aged youth.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase some chocolate covered pecans, contact Todd Vick, Cassandra Arnhart, or any Bridge member.



Downhome Singin'
and
Hanging of the Greens
November 29, 2009

Linda Dickson will do our annual hanging of the greens. She will bring some friends with her to help decorate Roebuck Chapel and have some music and readings. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. in Roebuck Chapel and then we will move to the narthex for refreshments. Join us for a fun-filled evening.

**It's time for some lovin' from
the oven!**



We will deliver cookies to the Fort Smith Police Sub-stations this month and if we have enough, to the main downtown office. Please bring your homemade cookies this Sunday, Nov. 29 to the 2nd floor kitchen next to the

parlor. Your time and cookies are appreciated. Please call Gail, 782-5068, if you will be able to help deliver these cookies.

We welcome

Ian Chris Mann to our church family. Chris joined in the Connexion service on Sunday, November 22, 2009, by transfer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
November 22, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	3
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	3
3 yr. olds	2
4 yr. olds	7
Kindergarten	8
Grade 1	
Grade 2	
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	18
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	9
CHILDREN'S DIV.	50
Grade 7, 8, 9, (Confirmation)	15
Grade 10,11, & 12	6
YOUTH DIV.	21
College	2
Aldersgate(Room M105)	21
Believers (Room M302)	8
Builders (RoomM209)	24
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	43
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	16
Disciples Room M312)	9
Discussion*(Room M301)	51
Encouragers*(Room M303)	18
Friends (Room M103)	12
Gleaners (Room M201)	28
Good News (Room M202)	8
Le Menage (Room M306)	4
Roundtable*(Room M213)	27
Seekers*(Room M107)	12
Uplifters*(Room M205)	31
ADULT TOTALS	314
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	389
Ethnos Youth	37
Worship:	
8:30	75
11:00 FLC	154
11:00 Sanctuary	299
Communion	63
TOTALS	591

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, November 29

8:30 - Breakfast, FLC
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 12:15 - Decorate for Connexion
 6:00 - Down Home Singin, Roebuck Chapel w/reception in Narthex
 6-8 - Praise Team, Gym

Wednesday, December 2

10:00 - Children's Directors, Conf. Rm.
 10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall
 12:00 - Memorial Cmte., Conf. Rm.
 3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel
 5:30 - ADVENTure, Family Life Center
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall
 6:00 - Sign Language, FLC101
 6:15 - First Place 4 Health, M105
 7:00 - Core Bible Study, M310
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 - Bridge Bible Study, Goodsons

Monday, November 30

11:30 - Intro to Old Test., FLC102
 12:00 - Bridge Meal, UAFS Campus
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor
 7-10 - Chorale Practice, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 3

6am - Men's Fraternity, Gym
 10:00 - Prayer Shawl, Narthex
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC
 6-8 - Volleyball, Gym
 6:30 - Intro to Genesis, M103
 7:30 - Chorale Concert, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 1

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conference Rm.
 9:30 - UMW Coffee, Narthex
 12:00 - Gleaner's Party, Fireside
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204
 5:00 - Bldg. & Grounds, Conf. Rm.
 6:00 - Disciple III, M200

Friday, December 4

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC
 10:00 - Pacesetters, Fireside Rm.
 4-6 - Angel Food Sign-up - FLC

Saturday, December 5

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 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. David Orr
 Emergency
 on call Minister for
 November 26-29
 Phone: 459-5060**