

# *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*

*December 3, 2009*

## **ACROSS DAVID'S DESK**

One of the ways to observe Advent is to see Advent as a season of God putting things together. We see that happening when families adjust schedules so they can be together, to share a meal and the joy of being reunited. We see this happening when strangers greet strangers in the shopping malls who they would, at other times of the year, not acknowledge. We experience this when we pray for peace in our war-torn world, when we share with the needy, and when we drop our pride to extend forgiveness. Advent, the arrival of the Son of God, is rightly observed as a season of God putting things together.

The late columnist Mike Royko writes about a conversation he had with Slat Grobnik, a man who sold Christmas trees. Slat remembered one couple on the hunt for a Christmas tree. The guy was skinny with a big Adam's apple and small chin, and she was kind of pretty. But both wore clothes from the bottom of the bin of the Salvation Army store.

After finding only trees that were too expensive, they found a Scotch pine that was okay on one side, but pretty bare on the other. Then they picked up another tree that was not much better - full on one side, scraggly on the other. She whispered something, and he asked if \$3 would be okay. Slat figured both trees would not be sold, so he agreed.

A few days later Slat was walking down the street and saw a beautiful tree in the couple's apartment. It was thick and well rounded. He knocked on their door and they told him how they worked the two trees close together where the branches were thin. Then they tied the trunks together. The branches overlapped and formed a tree so thick you couldn't see the wire. Slat described it as "a tiny forest of its own."

"So that's the secret," Slat asserts. "You take two trees that aren't perfect, that have flaws, that might even be homely, that maybe nobody else would want. If you put them together just right, you can come up with something really beautiful."

We know and love and serve a marvelous God - who puts things together, beautifully.

See you Sunday,  
David Orr



**-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service. His sermon is entitled, "Valleys Up; Mountains Down" and his scripture text is Luke 3:1-6.

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, Ginger Taylor, 11:00, David Staggs. Acolytes will be Elizabeth Hinshaw and Dakota Gibson. Lighting the Second Advent Candle will be: 8:30, Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry; 11:00 Sanctuary, Bryant and Louann Dooly; 11:00 Connexion, The Bridge Campus Ministry.

Amanda Turner will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" by Robert Wetzler and "A Cradle Carol" by Dan Forrest.



**IN THE HOSPITAL**  
As of Monday, November 29, 2009, the following members were known to be in the hospital.

**St. Edward:**  
Lisa Harms  
Sudean Goodpaster

**Sparks:**  
Rose Bethell

**BY YOUR GIFTS . . .**

Rec'd this week.....\$13,490  
Rec'd to date.....\$1,267,645  
Budgeted to date.....\$1,580,038

**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**

Stocks and bonds are an excellent means of making a gift to your church. You can be entitled to a federal income tax deduction, if you give these securities to the church during your lifetime. Ask your professional advisors for assistance.

**Methodist Men's Clubs**

**Thursday, Noon Lunch/Bible Study, December 10,** Rev. Robert Cloninger will teach Acts 3.

**Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, December 11,** Ted Goodman will teach Luke 22:1-38.

**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.



**The Altar Flowers**

for Sunday, December 6, 2009, are placed in loving memory of Betty Gaines by George, Janice, Brian and family.

**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

**No Chick Flicks**

this month due to the holiday schedule.



All December Angel Food orders must be in by Sunday, December 6 at 12:30. No orders will be able to be processed after that time. Please remember that donations can be made in honor or in memory of someone and we will send an acknowledgement to the appropriate places.

We still have available families who could use some help with food donations this month - please let Janice Sudbrink or Pat Creson know if you would like to help by December 6. We are not able to place orders for food for Christmas after that. Thank you for your support of the Angel Food Ministry.



**The Bridge College Ministry**

needs a pool table for the new United Methodist Student Center at UA, Fort Smith beginning January 2010. If you have a pool table that you would be willing to donate, please contact Todd Vick, 782-5068 or [tvick@fsfumc.org](mailto:tvick@fsfumc.org)

**UMW Sub-groups to meet December 8 . . .**

"Deborah" will meet with Sharon Westbrook, 8901 Copper Oaks Lane at 11:00 a.m. for a potluck luncheon.

"Hannah" will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Willowbrook.

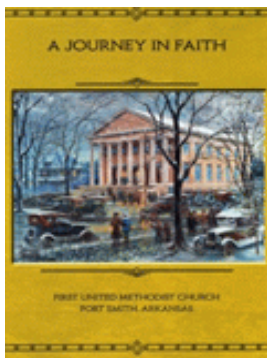
"Rebekah" will meet with Jeanne Ledbetter, 1 Riverlyn Terrace at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck luncheon.

"Ruth" will meet with Helen Couvillion at 11:30 a.m. at Fianna Hills Country Club.



**We rejoice with**

Hui and Russell Apple on the birth of a daughter, Katherine Hui Apple.



**A Rare Book for You 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 December 6 and 13, before and after worship services at the tables located outside the hall near the Sanctuary, 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.



**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.



**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 Pacesetters Christmas Lights Trip** is Friday, December 11.

We will meet at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot at 4:15 p.m. and go to the

Western Sizzlin to eat (go through Buffet) and then see lights in Fort Smith and maybe Van Buren, if time permits. Cost is \$8.00 and includes Buffet, drink, tax, and gas for vans. Sign up Friday at Pacesetters or call the church office.



If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and mail it, along with your check, made out to the church for \$17.00 for each poinsettia, to Nancy

Scott. (No phone calls, please)

How many poinsettias are you ordering? \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for ordering, Wednesday, December 16.**



*Christmas Eve  
Worship*

**12:00**  
**Communi**

**Roebuck  
Chapel, followed by lunch in the  
Family Life Center**

**5:30 p.m. - Candlelight Communion,  
Sanctuary**

**11: p.m. - Candlelight Communion,  
Roebuck Chapel**

**noon -  
on in**

**OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 ATTENDANCE  
 November 29, 2009**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Infants	5
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	
3 yr. olds	1
4 yr. olds	5
Kindergarten	3
Grade 1	
Grade 2	10
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	16
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	10
<b>CHILDREN'S DIV.</b>	<b>50</b>

Grade 7, 8, 9,  
 Grade 10,11, & 12

<b>YOUTH DIV.</b>	<b>14</b>
College	2
Aldersgate(Room M105)	18
Believers (Room M302)	3
Builders (RoomM209)	27
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	32
Cornerstones (Room M311)	11
Disciples Room M312)	11
Discussion*(Room M301)	33
Encouragers (Room M303)	9
Friends (Room M103)	6
Gleaners (Room M201)	25
Good News (Room M202)	8
Le Menage (Room M306)	4
Roundtable*(Room M213)	22
Seekers (Room M107)	9
Uplifters*(Room M205)	29

<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	<b>249</b>
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	

**TOTALS** **317**  
**Ethnos Youth** (did not meet)

<b>Worship:</b>	
8:30	77
11:00 FLC	153
11:00 Sanctuary	187
Communion	33
Down Home Singin'	42
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>492</b>

<p><b>Sunday, December 6</b>                      8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open                      8:30-12:30 - Angel Food Sign-up, FLC                      8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel                      9:45 - Sunday School                      11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary                      11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center                      5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft                      6:30 - Sr. High Youth, Loft</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 9</b>                      10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall                      12:00 - Christian Learn. Council, Conf. Rm.                      3:30 - Children's Choirs, Bayliss Hall                      5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel                      6:00 - Charge Conference, Roebuck Chapel                      6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall                      6:00 - Sign Language, FLC101                      6:00 - Praise Team, Gym                      6:15 - First Place 4 Health, Fireside Rm.                      7:00 - Core Bible Study, M310                      7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>Monday, December 7</b>                      11:30 - Intro to Old Test., FLC102                      12:00 - Bridge Meal, UAFS Campus                      12:00 - Exec. Cmte., Pastor's Office                      6:00 - Cub Scouts, Gym                      6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 10</b>                      6am - Men's Fraternity, Gym                      10:00 - Prayer Shawl, Narthex                      12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, FLC                      6:00 - Angel Food Christmas, Narthex                      6:00 - Girl Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor                      6:30 - Intro to Genesis, M103</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, December 8</b>                      9:00 - Staff Meets, Conference Rm.                      11:45 - Staff Christmas Party, Narthex                      1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204                      6:00 - Disciple III, M200</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 11</b>                      6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC                      5:30 - Parents' Night Out, FLC</p>
<p><b>Saturday, December 12</b>                      9:30 - Angel Food Pick-up, Gym                      6-8pm - Connexion Team, Narthex</p>	
<p><b>Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class and our 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service are broadcast over KFPW 1230 AM.</b></p>	

**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**  
**December 4-6**  
**Phone: 459-5060**