

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

December 4, 2008

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Before we leave Thanksgiving: Thank you, First United Methodist Church, for the beautiful offering you gave Fort Smith on Thanksgiving Day. Nearly 300 meals were delivered to homes and residential facilities in the community. Around 250 meals were served in the Family Life Center. Between 500 and 550 meals were served because you love people in the name of Jesus Christ. We had servers and cooks and drivers and packers and laborers with tables and chairs. We had friendly faces and joyful servants all over the place. Thank you for such a meaningful outpouring of love and generosity. You are blessed as you blessed others.

Here in Advent, you won't want to miss a thing! We have Sunday School Classes, choirs, study groups, and all sorts of groups having Christmas gatherings. We have seasonal emphases in all worship services. We have grand music. We have the most loving and joyous people in town. This is the place to be in this holy season of preparing for Christ's arrival.

I encourage you to visit the Angel Trees you will find in the Narthex, Children's area and Family Life Center. We have 50 children's names from DHS for whom we have committed to providing Christmas gifts. As you are able, take an Angel and share this week.

Charge Conference is Sunday, December 7th, 3:00 p.m. We are part of a "cluster" charge conference event this year with Grace UMC, Heritage UMC, and Goddard Memorial UMC. Goddard is hosting the event. All members of the Administrative Board are voting members of the Charge Conference. All members of the church are invited and welcomed.

This Sunday, December 7th, the children of First Church present their Christmas music, 6:00 in the Family Life Center. The children deserve our support. You deserve the blessing!

A member of the church came by the office on Monday with his December gift to the church. "I wasn't in church yesterday. I'm not on the Finance Committee, but I know how much the church depends on these December checks!" Yes. There is no way for me to adequately express my gratitude for your generosity to First Church. As we complete fiscal 2008, every gift matters, every giver is appreciated. Thank you, one and all.

See you Sunday,
David Orr



-SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. David Orr will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services. His sermon entitled, "Prepare the Way" and his scripture text will be Mark 1:1-8. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgists. Acolytes will be Alex Foree and Eve Jaggars. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Ami Griggs, 11:00, Sharon Chapman. Lighting the Second Advent Candle will be: 8:30, Bill and Ruth Pitts, 11:00 Sanctuary service, Larry and Sharon Weir, 11:00 Connexion service, Jason, Kathy, Jake and Luke McDonald.

The Chancel Ringers will play at the 8:30 Roebuck Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary services this Sunday. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "Advent Carol" by Dale Wood and "Come, Lord Jesus" by Deborah Governor.



As of Monday, December 1, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

Sparks:

Katie Keating
Mildred Lively

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$18,207
Rec'd to date.....\$1,356,994
Budgeted to date.....\$1,600,272

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.

Our Prayer and Sympathy are for:

J.P. Willis and family on the death of his mother, Theda Willis.
Lou Moreland and family on the death of her sister, Maudie Read.
Charlie & Jeri Moffett on the death of their grandson, Zachary Thompson.

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, Dec. 11 - Lindy Cotner teaching from Luke 2.
Friday Morning Breakfast, Dec. 12 - Bill Pitts teaching from Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20.

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.



The Altar Flowers for Sunday, December 7, 2008, are placed in loving memory of Betty Gaines by George,

Janice McCain and Brian Gaines and family.

Open Dates for Altar Flowers December 14 & 28. Call the church office if you would like to put flowers on the altar, 782-5068.

The Homeless Ministry

has some immediate needs. The following donations would be greatly appreciated! Coffee, Sugar, Fresh Fruit, Men and Women's Coats (used is fine), Scarves, Warm Hats and White Cotton Socks. These items can be dropped off in Janice's office or the church office.

U.M.W. Silent Auction

Stop by the Narthex before and after Sunday School to view the beautiful cross and flame afghan, and two professionally framed prints of FUMC circa 1921. We will be taking silent bids and each week you will have a chance to bid again to top the current high bid. Bidding ends December 14. All proceeds will benefit local mission projects.

UMW Sub-groups meet Dec. 9th

"Naomi" will meet at Fianna Hills Country Club at 11:30 a.m.
"Deborah" will meet with Pat Bolin, 7515 Horan Dr. at 11:00 a.m.
"Rebekah" will meet with Mary Ellen Jesson for a potluck lunch at 11:30 a.m.
"Hannah" will meet at Willowbrook at 10:00 a.m.

Offering Envelopes have been mailed to your home.

If you did not receive your envelopes, please call the church office, 782-5068.

Mini-Clinic Sunday, Dec. 7, 8:45 a.m. in the Narthex Conference Room

During the holidays, most of us tend to overeat. Stay healthy and check your blood pressure and blood sugar (must be fasting for at least two hours) at our Mini-clinic. A "Walk Your Way to Health" instruction and record sheet will also be available at the clinic

Beth Moore Bible Study

"*Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*" begins in January. Sign up this Sunday, December 7, in the Narthex. Cost of the book is \$15 and childcare available upon request. More info in next week's newsletter.

Please note: This Sunday, December 7, all monies are due for the Little Rock Rockettes trip on Dec. 18. Cost is \$65. with checks payable to FUMC.

Angel Food Ministry Notes

Just a reminder this week is the final week to order Angel Food for December. We will distribute on Dec. 20. We have a long list of people requesting help this month, so if you are looking for a great way to give a Christmas gift, please consider Angel Food. Your donations must be received by Angel Food (not in the church office) no later than noon on Sunday, Dec. 7. Order forms are in the church office or on the church website. Questions, please feel free to call (479) 629-3379.



Children's Choir Annual Re-enactment of Christ's Birth December 7, 6pm in the Family Life Center featuring:

The Bayliss Hall Singers and Ringers
Our Love Offering will be given to the Arkansas Children's Home. Come hear OUR ANGELS tell this old story at 6pm this Sunday.

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", in Roebuck Chapel, during the Sunday School hour.

- December 7 - Rev. Janice Sudbrink**
- December 14 - Rev. Claire Hoffman**
- December 21 - Rev. David Orr**

Join us for IMMENSO AMORE

The Life & Resurrection of Christ
Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at
Grace Community UMC, 4001 Brooken Hill
"Beautiful, inspiring, uplifting"....are all words that concert goers have used to describe the new sacred music and media concert **"Immenso Amore"**.

This program is sponsored by the Methodist Churches of the West District to raise funds to support the West District Habitat for Humanity 2009 house. Admission is free, however, we will be taking a love offering, which we hope will be generous.

Mark your calendars for:
December 7 - Children's Choir Program in the Gym at 6:00 p.m.

December 21 - Chancel Choir's Lessons and Carols at the 8:30 Roebuck Chapel and 11:00 Sanctuary service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

12:00 Noon, Communion in Roebuck Chapel followed by lunch in the Family Life Center.

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

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion, Roebuck Chapel

Thank you to all members of The Abundant Life Commitment Campaign Task Force. Without the hard work of these individuals our 2009 Commitment Campaign would not have been possible. Thank you for your service and a job well done.

In His Service Together,
Todd Vick, Minister of Lay Involvement

2008 Task Force Members:

Commitment Sunday Celebration Meals

Pam and Randy O'Kelley - Co-Captains
Ann Appleton, Carla Byars, Cassie Elwonger, Karen Wyatt, Twyla Brown, Gary Keifer, Greta Blythe

Campaign Witnesses/Ministry Moments

Sandy Parker - Captain
Anna Brown, Joe Byars, John Cooley, Janet Fretheim, Claire Price, Sharon Chapman, Norris Creson

Ministry Fair

Paige Ingram - Captain
Ann Dawson, Hollie Greer, Chris Hardin, Beth Knox, Joel Parker, Shirely Cothren, Pat Creson

Sunday School Lessons

Charlie Wohlford - Captain
Lane Shipley, Jerry Carter, Tom Ashwood, Connie Adrion

Devotional Guide

JoAnn Gedosh, Cornelia Schardt, Dale McKinney, Marcie Salamone, Ann Winters, Linda Dickson, David Phillips

Check next week's newsletter for more 2008 Task Force Members



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 \$14.00 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, Monday, December 8th. . .

