

# *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 11, 2008*

## **ACROSS DAVID'S DESK**

This time of year causes people to reflect, to interpret and to express themselves. There are varying thoughts people have expressed about Christmas:

- A purely worldly thought says, "From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it." -- Katharine Whitehorn
- A tongue-in-cheek jokester says, "A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together." -- Garrison Keillor
- A pun-ster says, "What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic."
- A hopeful one says, "Instead of being a time of unusual behavior, Christmas is perhaps the only time in the year when people can obey their natural impulses and express their true sentiments without feeling self-conscious and, perhaps, foolish. Christmas, in short, is about the only chance a man has to be himself." ~Francis C. Farley
- A pastor says, "Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts."-- Max Lucado
- The angel says, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a savior, which is Christ, the Lord."

It is a good thing, and a helpful thing, to pause and reflect on this season. There is a little "Bah, humbug!" that needs to be ridden from most of us. There is a little sentimental "dreaming of a white Christmas" that many need to experience. There are wants like "an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle," as with Ralphie. There may even be a preacher/poet/author in you aching to say something eloquently profound... We are a remarkable mixture of the culture and experience and the sublime eternal. Embrace it, all.

May your life be blessed with the amazing truth that:

"God walked down the stairs of heaven with a Baby in His arms." -- Paul Scherer

See you Sunday!  
David Orr



## **-THIRD 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, "You Matter to God" and his scripture text will be Isaiah 61:1-4. 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 Alexandra Salamone and Kate Truitt. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Cheryl Powell, 11:00, Nancy Baker. Lighting the Third Advent Candle will be: 8:30, Charles and Jeanne Ledbetter, 11:00 Sanctuary service, Jerry and Barbara Carter, 11:00 Connexion service, James Orr and Neta Williams.

Blakeley Knox will be the soloist at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "Infant Redeemer" by Anna Laura Page and "Cradle Hymn" by Carl Schalk with Ginny Hudson, flute.



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

**Sparks:** Katie Keating  
**St. Edward:** Denise Jones

**BY YOUR GIFTS . . .**

Rec'd this week.....\$98,674  
Rec'd to date.....\$1,455,668  
Budgeted to date.....\$1,633,611

**Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military:** Ben Hurst, Patrick Hayes, Walt Scales, Jeff Nester, Cody Kennon, Brad Bost, Brandon Hattabaugh, Clint Wilson, Michael Parker, Ellen Driggers, Christopher Herrmann, Dwalyne Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery, Jacob Bolin.

**Our Prayer and Sympathy are for:**

Ronnie Yates and family on the death of his grandmother, Alma Yates.  
Becky McKinney and family on the death of her aunt, Reita King.

**Foundation Information**

Remember your Church in your Will and Living Trust.

**Methodist Men's Clubs**

**Thursday, Noon Lunch, Dec. 18 -Rev. David Orr** teaching from Luke 3.  
**Friday Morning Breakfast, Dec. 19 - Charlie Reutzel** teaching from Luke 2:21-51.



**Open Dates for Altar Flowers December 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.

**Sunday is your final chance to bid**

on the beautiful pictures of the 1920 FUMC and the afghan benefitting U.M.W. local mission projects. Bids will be taken in the Narthex until 10:30 and then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hall going into the sanctuary until 11:00. We will phone the winners Sunday afternoon and arrange for pick-up or delivery.

**Offering Envelopes have been mailed to your home.**

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

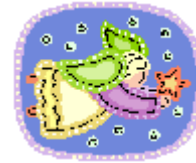
**Beth Moore Bible Study**

**"Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman"** begins in January. Sign up this Sunday, in the Narthex. Cost of the book is \$15 and childcare available upon request. This is a 10 week study, beginning Wednesday, January 7 at 9:15 a.m. and Monday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Beth Moore explains how God places a young Jewish woman who fulfilled her destiny "for such a time as this" and saved the Jews living in a pagan culture from certain destruction. She provides a faithful example for today's woman.

**Destination Station's Bible Verse for December Matthew 2:11**

When they saw the child with Mary, his mother; they knelt down to worship him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.




**THANK YOU!**

To the 40 children who sang and rang so beautifully Sunday night at our annual

Re-enactment of Christ's birth. Thanks to your hard work, our Love Offering to the Arkansas United Methodist Children's Home was almost \$600!

A very special thank you to: Terri Dart, Becky Trahan, Renee Parker, Kelly DeSoto, Leigh Norton, Faryl Rossi, Jim Cheyne, Claire Hoffman, Kerri Burris, Sally Ware, Ryan Norton, Ann Truitt, Phyllis Eckelhoff, Debbie Hicks and ALL HELPERS!

We will resume Children's Choir on January 14th at 4 p.m. We hope you all have a Blessed Christmas full of love.

Miss Nancy 

**"Ordinary Women"** will meet on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m. in the Narthex Conference Room.



**Introduction to Ballroom Dancing**

We will be starting an Introduction to Ballroom Dancing class in January, 2009. This will be a five week class. Cost is \$50. per couple, limited to the first 20 couples to sign up. Contact Patrick Jacobs for more information at 478-6320 or [pjacobs@carcotrans.com](mailto:pjacobs@carcotrans.com).

**Mark your calendars and join your Pastors**

for an Advent Study, "The Light Will Shine", in Roebuck Chapel, during the Sunday School hour.

**December 14:**  
**Rev. Claire Hoffman**

**December 21:**  
**Rev. David Orr**

### 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**.

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**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

### Continuation of 2008 Task Force Members:

#### Commitment Rally/Sunday

Melissa Udouj, Captain  
Jack Green, Hui Applie, Elizabeth Paris, David Farris,  
Betsy Farris, Brian Gaines, Joanie Jagers

#### Publicity

Fred Williams, Captain  
Don DeSoto, Chip Paris, Brent McCord

#### Prayer Card/Team

Mary Booth, Nancy Baker, Co-Captains  
Chad Brixey, Ann Truitt, Leigh Norton, Melissa Schoenfeld

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We welcome Sunnie and Cameron McKinney to our church family. They joined by transfer on November 30, 2008 at the 8:30 service.

We welcome David and Sally Rickard to our church family. They joined by transfer on December 7, 2008 at the 11:00 a.m. sanctuary service.

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**You, Your Family and Friends are invited to the Weekday School Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 17 at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

***Happy Holidays to all our Weekday School Families!***

### Christmas Light Trip



The Pacesetters will be taking a trip to Fayetteville to see the Christmas lights on Monday, December 15. We will leave the 16<sup>th</sup> & "C" Street parking lot at 3:30 p.m. and return at approximately 9:00 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$11.50, which includes dinner at Mt. Sequoyah and a donation to help with the cost of gas for the vans. You do not have to be a Pacesetter to go on this trip. Call the church office to reserve your seat.

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### Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

(for people 55 and older)

Come join this FREE eight week program. It involves a series of gentle movements and activities designed to increase mobility and range-of-motion, which helps keep joints flexible and manage pain.

**When:** Wednesdays 1:30-2:20 p.m. Classes to start **January 21** and end March 11.

**Where:** First UMC, Room 105, Aldersgate SS class room.

**How:** Call 478-8635 to register for classes or for more information. (Class enrollment is limited to 20)

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### Congratulations to Hendrix College Scholarship Recipients

The Dr. Fred G. Roebuck Endowed Scholarship has been given to: Blake Burkert and Lily Moncrief, both of Fort Smith.

The H.E. "Chub" and Adele Jarman Endowed Scholarship has been given to: Kurt Taylor of Rowlett, Texas.

The Judge John E. Miller Endowed Scholarship has been given to Patty Hill of Fort Smith.

### Congratulations to the above students!

Mark your calendars for:

**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**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE  
December 7, 2008**

| <b>Class</b>                        | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Infants                             | 2                 |
| Toddlers                            |                   |
| 2 yr. olds                          | 4                 |
| 3 yr. olds                          | 3                 |
| 4 yr. olds                          | 13                |
| Kindergarten                        | 8                 |
| Grade 1                             |                   |
| Grade 2                             | 19                |
| Grade 3and                          |                   |
| Grade 4                             | 17                |
| Grade 5                             |                   |
| Grade 6                             | 11                |
| <b>CHILDREN'S DIV.</b>              | <b>77</b>         |
| Grade 7, 8, 9,<br>Grade 10,11, & 12 |                   |
| <b>YOUTH DIV.</b>                   | <b>--</b>         |
| Aldersgate(Room M105)               | 21                |
| Believers (Room M302)               | -                 |
| Builders (RoomM209)                 | 28                |
| Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)       | 74                |
| Cornerstones (Room M311)            | -                 |
| Disciples*(Room M312)               | 18                |
| Discussion*(Room M301)              | 57                |
| Encouragers*(Room M310)             | 22                |
| Friends (Room M103)                 | 13                |
| Gleaners (Room M201)                | 33                |
| Good News (Room M202)               | -                 |
| Le Menage (Room M306)               | 7                 |
| Roundtable*(Room M213)              | 26                |
| Seekers*(Room M107)                 | 15                |
| Uplifters*(Room M205)               | 34                |
| <b>ADULT TOTALS</b>                 | <b>348</b>        |
| General Officers                    | 4                 |
| *Made their quota                   |                   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                       | <b>429</b>        |
| <b>Worship:</b>                     |                   |
| 8:30                                | 89                |
| 11:00 Family Life                   | 204               |
| 11:00 Sanctuary                     | 280               |
| Wed. Communion                      | 56                |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                       | <b>629</b>        |

**OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK**

**Sunday, December 14**

8:30 - Holy Grounds Café Open  
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel  
 9:30-10:45 - Library Open, M211  
 9:45 - Sunday School  
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center  
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary  
 2-4 - Thornton Reception, Narthex  
 5:00 - Ordinary Women, Conf. Rm.  
 5:00 - Jr. High Youth, Loft  
 7:00 - Sr. High Youth, Loft

**Wednesday, December 17**

10:00 - Ladybells, Bayliss Hall  
 10:30 - Weekday School Program, Sanctuary  
 5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel  
 6:00 - Praise Team, Gym  
 6:00 - Chancel Ringers, Bayliss Hall  
 6:00 - Disciple IV, M200  
 6:00 - Joy of Signing, Conf. Rm.  
 7:00 - Knitwits, Narthex  
 7:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, December 15**

11:30 - Intro to Old Test. FLC102  
 12:00 - Finance Meets, FLC101  
 6:00 - Disciple II, M103  
 6:00 - Cub Scouts Pack, Gym  
 6:30 - Disciple I, Conf. Rm.  
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 6:30 - Jesus/Gospels, M200

**Thursday, December 18**

10:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Narthex  
 12:00 - UMM Lunch/Bible Study, Fireside  
 12:00 - CEC Christmas Program, Gym  
 6:30 - Angel Food Ministry, Narthex

**Friday, December 19**

6:30 - UMM Breakfast/Bible Study, FLC  
 10:00 - Pacesetters, Fireside Rm.

**Tuesday, December 16**

9:00 - Staff Mtg., Conf. Rm.  
 12:00 - CEC Staff Lunch, Fireside  
 1:30 - Archives Room Open, M204

**Saturday, December 20**

9:00 - Cookie Baking, FLC Kitchen  
 9:30 - Angel Food Pick-up, Gym

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

**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 12-14  
Phone: 459-5060**

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