

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 18, 2008

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Here we are, moving headlong into Christmas! Your presence at First Church makes all the difference in the power and witness of our church this Christmas. Remember:

Lessons and Carols

presented by

Chancel Choir

Gaye McClure, Director - Nancy Vernon, Organist

Sunday, December 21st

8:30 in Roebuck Chapel

11:00 in Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Worship @ First United Methodist Church

12:00 - Communion Worship in Roebuck Chapel

5:30 - Communion and Candle Lighting in Sanctuary

11:00 - Communion and Candle Lighting in Roebuck Chapel

Come and worship. Worship is our response to the birth of the Son of God. Come. Worship.

In the spirit of worship and devotion to Christ, I encourage you to look at your giving for the year. Finances are not business at the church. Finances are faith at work in God's family. Your gift to the ministry budget of First Church keeps the work of Christ moving forward. When you and I give in response to the great gift of God to the world, everything good is supported. This is a great church touching the lives of hundreds every week. Your gift to Christ through this church is as good an investment as you can make - every time!

See you Sunday,
David Orr



-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH-

Our annual Lesson and Carols will be presented at the 8:30 Roebuck and 11:00 Sanctuary services. Rev. Stephen Dickinson will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Rev. David Orr, Rev. Janice Sudbrink and Rev. Claire Hoffman will be Liturgists. Acolytes will be Ben Sudbrink and Alex Foree. Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle will be: 8:30, Carroll & Donna West, 11:00 Sanctuary service, Ray & Nancy Baker, 11:00 Connexion service, Jeff & Andrea Sutton and Dwayne & Trudy Sutton.



As of Monday, December 15, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

Sparks: John Smedley
St. Edward: Anna Marie LaChance

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$41,250
Rec'd to date.....\$1,496,918
Budgeted to date.....\$1,666,950

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, Dwalyn Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery, Jacob Bolin.

Our Prayer and Sympathy are for:

Glen Lively, Tim Lively, Doug Lively, and their families on the death of their wife and mother, Mildred Lively.

Foundation Information

We have a beautiful church campus that serves us well. Consider making an estate gift to the Church Foundation for the future care of the campus.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, No meeting until January 8, 2009
Friday Morning Breakfast, January 2, 2009, Ben Reid will be teaching from Daniel 11:1-35



Open Dates for Altar Flowers
December 28, January 4, 11, 18, 25.

Call the church office if you would like to put flowers on the altar, 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.



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.

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!

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](tel:478-8635) to register for classes or for more information. (Class enrollment is limited to 20)

Join Rev. David Orr

for an Advent Study, "The Light Will Shine", this Sunday, December 21, in Roebuck Chapel, during the Sunday School hour.

The Bridge College Ministry Fall 2008

The Bridge has been very busy and successful this semester. We have achieved record breaking attendance at our events, including Monday Meals and Wednesday Bible Study. We look forward to the Spring 2009 Semester. We will be doing our regular events (Monday Meals and Bible Study), as well as including new events, such as the Spring Retreat and Girl's/Guy's Nights Out.

Thank you to those who have helped us be successful. If you would like to volunteer next semester, call Todd Vick or Cassandra Arnhart, 782-5068.

Getting a new cell phone for Christmas

Why not donate your old one. Just drop it (with the chargers) in one of the marked baskets here at the church and they will be given to the Women's Crisis Center.



**You Are Invited
to the
Chancel Choir's Lessons and Carols
on December 21st**

**8:30, Roebuck Chapel
11:00, Sanctuary**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

**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**

Methodist Children's Home Offering



**Christmas
Offering**

We will be taking a Special Christmas Offering for the Methodist Children's Home on Dec. 21st and Christmas Eve. There are special offering envelopes in the pews. Many years ago, families would bring a child into their home for a week during Christmas, but we are no longer able to do this but you can still help them out by taking them into your heart and making a gift to the Methodist Children's Home. This program is an extra special ministry of the Arkansas Conference and is heavily dependent on the annual Christmas Special Offering.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
December 14, 2008**

Class	Attendance
Infants	2
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	6
3 yr. olds	3
4 yr. olds	11
Kindergarten	9
Grade 1	
Grade 2	20
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	18
Grade 5	
Grade 6	5
CHILDREN'S DIV.	74

Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	13

Aldersgate(Room M105)	16
Believers (Room M302)	6
Builders (RoomM209)	28
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	58
Cornerstones (Room M311)	-
Disciples*(Room M312)	16
Discussion*(Room M301)	49
Encouragers*(Room M310)	23
Friends (Room M103)	15
Gleaners (Room M201)	28
Good News (Room M202)	-
Le Menage (Room M306)	4
Roundtable*(Room M213)	25
Seekers*(Room M107)	12
Uplifters*(Room M205)	37
ADULT TOTALS	317
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	408

Worship:	
8:30	82
11:00 Family Life	209
11:00 Sanctuary	384
Wed. Communion	50
TOTALS	725

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, December 21

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
 5:30 - Choir Party, Fireside Rm.

Wednesday, December 24

12:00 - Christmas Eve Communion, Roebuck Chapel followed by lunch in Fireside Rm.
 5:30 - Candlelight Communion, Sanctuary
 11:00 p.m - Candlelight Communion, Roebuck Chapel

Monday, December 22

11:30 - Intro to Old Test. FLC102
 6:00 - Disciple II, M103
 6:30 - Boy Scouts, Fireside Rm.

Thursday, December 25 and

Friday, December 26 - Church Offices Closed in observance of Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 23

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



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. Janice Sudbrink
 Emergency
 on call Minister for
 December 19-21
 Phone: 459-5060**

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