

The First United Methodist In the First Place (USPS692-190) is published weekly except one week in July and one week in December by the First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317. Editor, Michael Mattox; Managing editor, Deni Clark; Periodicals postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. www.fumclr.org
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FUMC In The First Place, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317

PERIODICALS
 POSTAGE PAID
 LITTLE ROCK,
 AR

In The First Place

Church Calendar

SUNDAY, February 7, 2010

- 8:15 a.m. First Cup Café
- 8:30 a.m. First Light in the Chapel
- 8:55 a.m. First Word, Contemporary (Gym)
- 8:55 a.m. Glory Singers (Choir Room)
- 8:55 a.m. Quarter Notes (Music Room)
- 9:00 a.m. Telephone Sunday School Class
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Quiet Meditation (Chapel)
- 11:00 a.m. First Tradition in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting and Lunch
- 3:00 p.m. Sr. High Girls' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 5:30 p.m. First Youth (Barkers)

MONDAY, February 8, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 6:00 p.m. Girls' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)

TUESDAY, February 9, 2010

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Youth Lounge)
- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 4:15 p.m. 723 Band Rehearsal (Gym)
- 5:45 p.m. Jr. High Boys' Basketball (Gym)
- 7:15 p.m. Sr. High Boys' Basketball (Gym)

WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 9:00 a.m. CDC Chapel (Chapel)
- 11:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (Room 259)
- 12:00 p.m. COME (Agape-Credo)
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Bells (Rm 302)
- 5:00 p.m. Board of Trustees (Agape-Credo)
- 6:00 p.m. Boys' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, February 11, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 10:30 a.m. Companions in Christ (Study)
- 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (Friendship Class)
- 6:30 p.m. First Word Band Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. The Ensemble (Lickert)

FRIDAY, February 12, 2010

- 5:30 p.m. Perdue/Vickers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Shires/Reese Wedding (Chapel)

SATURDAY, February 13, 2010

- 1:00 p.m. Perdue/Vickers Wedding (Sanctuary)

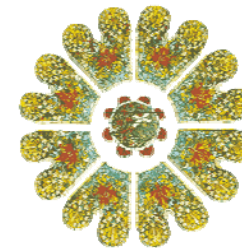
**You are Invited to Attend
 Religious Emphasis Week
 February 21-27
 at Philander Smith College
 Breaking Barriers...Building Bridges...
 THINK JUSTICE!**

Invitation from Cathedral of St. Andrew

**Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez
 at the Cathedral of St. Andrew's
 Annual Mardi Gras 2010!**

Join us Saturday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in McDonald Hall, 6th and Louisiana Streets for our 14th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration! Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$5 for children under 12 and includes appetizers, buffet dinner, King Cake for everyone, beer/wine/set-ups. A DJ will be on hand to play your favorite music for dancing or listening. Costumes are welcomed but optional. Enjoy Silent and Live Auctions and Draw Down Raffle for a \$500 cash prize. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Cathedral Office, 374-2794, ext. #3. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Cathedral Youth Ministry.

First United
 Methodist Church



Downtown for Good

Fifth Sunday after the
 Epiphany
 February 7, 2010

First Light in the Chapel - 8:30
 First Word in the Gym - 8:55
 (Contemporary Service)
 First Tradition in the Sanctuary - 11:00

**Sermon
 "The Call"
 Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox**

Weekly Bible Readings
 Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 138
 I Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

You're Invited to... an Act of Discipline

The page has flipped on the calendar, and the arrival of February means that the season of Lent is just around the corner. This time in the Christian year conjures up all kinds of images and definitions for people. For me, it is a time of self-discipline. Lent is an opportunity for us to do something in the course of our days that promotes intentional reflection on our lives. Jesus accomplished this task of self-examination by retreating to the wilderness for forty days. Most of us do not have the luxury of a six-week break at this time of year, however, we can participate in a similar endeavor by either adding something to or subtracting something from our daily routines. The simple shift in our established patterns can help focus our thoughts on who we are and how we are living into our call as disciples of Christ.

Those who honor Lent through denial or sacrifice often do so by giving up a favored treat such as chocolate or coffee. Others commit to an new activity such as walking or writing a letter every day in an effort to channel their thinking. The children involved in Rotation Sunday School will be among the latter group as they participate in a Lenten project designed to highlight the abundance and variety of blessings we experience each day.

This is a special time in the life of the Christian church. Once again we have the opportunity to follow Jesus through his wilderness experience and emerge as stronger reflections of God's grace and compassion. You will be hearing more about the opportunities available to you at First UMC during Lent this year. As we draw near to Ash Wednesday, I invite you to consider an act of discipline that would encourage and inspire you in your journey of faith.

Grace and peace,
 Rev. Donna



First United Methodist Church
 723 Center Street
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
 (501) 372-2256
 Website: www.fumclr.org
 Volume 34 Issue 5
 February 7, 2010

What's Happening at First Church

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 12:00 noon

Speaker: Maggie Beeler,
Director of Community Development
Methodist Family Health

Methodist Family Health provides the only comprehensive behavioral healthcare system to children and families in Arkansas through many different services. Over 300 children, mothers and families call Methodist Family Health their home at night. An additional 700 kids are served through outpatient services and much needed programs daily. Also, Methodist Family Health offers treatment for mothers with addiction disorders, and for their children through the Arkansas CARES program. At Methodist Family Health each individual receives emotional, behavioral and spiritual care. When they come, they come with very little or nothing, but when they leave the gifts and memories they have received are many.

The mission statement of Methodist Family Health states, "With God's guidance and within the Wesleyan focused healing and caring tradition, we will express God's love by providing quality compassionate behavioral healthcare to those we serve."

COME THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANY AMAZING PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH. THIS WILL BE A GREAT PROGRAM, AND WE HOPE TO HAVE A GOOD CROWD.

WE ARE HAVING A MARDI GRAS LUNCH - GUMBO, SALAD AND KING CAKE AND HAVE PREPARED FOR 70- SO PLAN TO COME! EVERYONE IS WELCOME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT MAKING A RESERVATION.

Alternative Christmas Market a Great Success - Again!

The final numbers are in - once again, First Church members made our holiday Alternative Christmas Market a huge success! Thanks to all of you who contributed over \$11,500 to 17 different mission and outreach programs, such as Heifer Project International, Arkansas Rice Depot, Harmony Health Clinic, Camp Aldersgate and more. The door mats from the Cookson Hills Mission were a big hit - over \$1,200 worth sold! The FUMC Missions Committee appreciates your continued support of this special outreach project, one that offers our members the opportunity to make gifts that truly make a difference here and around the world.

Patty Barker, Sarah James and Judi Copley

"Serving to Serve"
**Valentine's Day, February 14, Noon
Luncheon & Silent Auction**

The youth group is packing our bags for a service trip to Reynosa, Mexico this summer to build a school...and we need your help! On February 14 at noon in the church gym, our youth will be hosting the "Serving to Serve" Valentine's Day luncheon and silent auction to raise funds for our international mission trip. Our youth will be serving you lunch, auctioning off services and items, and VOICES will be providing entertainment for this amazing mid-day event. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 9, by filling out the flyer sent in last week's newsletter. You may also find a copy on the church website, www.fumclr.org, or paper copies are available at First Church's information stations. Help us serve to serve!

Respond to Haiti

I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS! We all want to help in Haiti in some way, and my Arbonne team is donating complete meal protein shakes in ready to drink containers at our cost. We can help!

How can YOU help? Let me know how many cases you would like to donate.

- \$25 - 1 case (12) Protein Shakes
- \$50 - 2 cases (24) Protein Shakes
- \$75 - 3 cases (36) Protein Shakes
- \$100 - 4 cases (48) Protein shakes

Each shake has 20 grams of protein and vitamins and minerals that do not require refrigeration! Taxes and shipping charges are included.

I hope to hear from you soon!
Stephanie Purifoy
Independent Consultant, Arbonne International
501-773-6955; stephp@swwbell.net

Communion Union

If you are unable to attend church due to being hospitalized or homebound and would like to have someone come to you and serve Holy Communion, please let us know. Call the church office or Rev. Mary Jane Cole at 372-2256.

Communion Sunday Assistance

Many of you support the "underserved" in our community with your work in our various ministries. Thank you for doing so. The need does remain for funds to assist those coming into our church each day. Please support this ministry as you are able.

Anthony Falkowski, Director of Mission and Outreach

Families of First Church

Members in the Hospital

David Gentry (Baptist)
Mac McClellan (St. Vincent)
Phyllis Van Every (Baptist NLR)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Brian and Abbie Carpenter**, proud parents of Braylon James Carpenter who was born on January 30. Braylon's proud older sister is Kennedy.

New Members

Please welcome **Elisabeth and Joe Burak** who joined First Church on January 31. Elisabeth joined by transfer of membership from First UMC in Rogers, AR and Joe joined by transfer of membership from the Catholic Faith. Elisabeth works for AR Advocates for Children and Families and Joe is the Executive Director for the Homebuilders Association.



"How many Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?"

The answer is: at least two wonderful, caring volunteers from the FUMCLR "Honey-Do Crew"! The Honey-Do Crew of the Member Care Team is always ready and willing to help congregation members with small household chores they are unable to do themselves. In fact, they are looking for business! Chores include: changing ceiling light bulbs, fixing leaky faucets and running toilets, and building extra shelves for closets. The crew now has someone to help with basic computer problems.

Micki Meador is a very satisfied customer of the Honey-Do Crew's assistance. They came to her house and replaced some light bulbs on her porch and around her house. Micki said, "It was great fun to have such honorable gentlemen to climb the ladder for me. It is good to have my porch lights back on and working again. This is a wonderful service for little old ladies like me."

To access this handy dandy service all you need to do is call Rev. Mary Jane Cole at the church office at 372-2256, describe the chore and we will dispatch the Honey-Do Crew to your aid.

Grace and Peace,
Mary Jane Cole

More News

Guest Speaker, Mr. Mo Amani

You are invited to join the Bowen-Cabe class in room 204 during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) this Sunday, February 7, and Feb. 14 to hear guest speaker, Mr. Mo Amani. Mr. Amani, who grew up in Tehran, Iran and now lives in Little Rock, will be sharing his faith journey from Islam to Christianity.

You are invited...

Beth Perdue

and

Johnny Vickers

*have chosen the first day
of their new life together
as Saturday, the thirteenth of February,
two thousand ten.*

*You are invited to share in their
happiness as they exchange marriage vows
at one o'clock in the afternoon.
First United Methodist Church*



CDC has a Need!



The School Age area of the Child Development Center is in need of a refrigerator. If you are remodeling or have an extra refrigerator in good condition, would you please call Kaye Hoover at 372-2327? Thanks!

**Rescheduled
United Methodist Women's Sunday
February 21, 2010
Preacher: Rev. Meri Whitaker**

First Youth

Catacombs

Catacombs has been rescheduled for February 21 from 5:30-8 p.m. Mark your calendars!!

Pastor on Call - February 7-13

**If you need a pastor after regular office hours,
Rev. Michael Mattox is on call.
You may reach him on his cell phone at 231-5824.**