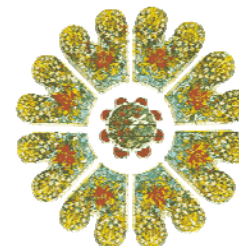


The First United Methodist In the First Place (USPS692-190) is published weekly except one week in July and one week in December by the First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317. Editor, Michael Mattox; Managing editor, Deni Clark; Periodicals postage paid at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

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# In The First Place

## First United Methodist Church



Downtown for Good

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 24, 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 8:30/11:00**  
**"My Text Today is..."**  
**Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox**

**Sermon 8:55**  
**"Sweet Joy There is a God"**  
**Rev. Adam Kirby**

**Weekly Bible Readings**  
 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
 Psalm 19  
 I Corinthians 12:12-31  
 Luke 4:14-21

### Filler Up!

That's what I remember Dad saying as he drove up to the gas station in his 1956 red and white Ford Fairlane and rolled down his window. His favorite station in our little town was a DX Station, the last one on Highway 62 as you headed east to Alpena. I sat in the back seat behind him then, and there was no need for Dad or even me to get out of the car--the man at the gas station "filled er up" for you. He'd even wash your windows. All this exchange usually cost about \$2.00. The window washing was free. Ah... pleasant memories.

Now and then you hear folks describe their relationship with the church as a place where you can get "filled up." When that happens, you know they're talking about spiritual fuel, not gasoline. Lots of folks find that experience here at 723 Center Street. That's part of what we do as a church. It's a built-in ingredient of our vision and mission. But I've been thinking lately about other "filling stations." There in Green Forest where I grew up, there was a Texaco station, but we'd always just drive on by it without stopping. They sold the same product--gasoline. Dad just liked the folks at the DX station.

John Wesley, Methodism's founder in England, coined a phrase that preachers grew fond of repeating when they talked about their ministry. "The world is my parish," Wesley would say. It isn't just the building, it isn't just the meeting-house where the faithful gather, it's actually the *world* that is the parish. That means the folks across the street at the restaurant or bar; the folks down the block at the office building; the technicians that come and go out of the research center; the government workers in the federal building--all these are part of "the parish."

Fortunately, here in Little Rock, there are lots of filling stations right here "close by" where people can stop in and get that which "fills them up," and I want to tell you about them. I don't look at these "other places" as competition but as other filling stations of the Wesleyan parish. All of them are in our downtown area and are doing really good work. You've read about them, perhaps. They do things differently from us--but they do good work.

- Canvas Community (1111 W. 7th Street) offering worship every Monday night at 7:30 pm. [canvascommunityonline.org](http://canvascommunityonline.org)
- Argenta UMC (meeting at the Starving Artist Restaurant on Main Street in Argenta) offering gatherings every Sunday night at 5:30 pm. [argentaumc.org](http://argentaumc.org).
- Quapaw Quarter UMC (at 16th & Louisiana) offering worship much like we have at First Church but meals on Sunday mornings for the poor and homeless as well. [qqumc.org](http://qqumc.org).
- Wesley Chapel UMC (on the Philander Smith College Campus) offering Sunday worship as well but Thursday "chapel" every week that is led by students and directed by the college chaplain who is also the Senior Pastor of the Congregation, Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow.

All four have the same desire to meet spiritual needs of people. Just like we have at First Church. And, to be truthful, there are even more that do great work that don't carry the UMC "brand" but still fill people's needs. I celebrate their ministry too.

It really is true, isn't it... that there's more that is similar about us than what is different. With such abundance here in this town, no one should "run on empty."

Michael L. Mattox, Senior Pastor

## Church Calendar

### SUNDAY, January 24, 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. Communion Union Volunteers Lunch (FH)
- 3:00 p.m. Sr. High Girls' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 3:30 p.m. Youth Band Practice (Youth Lounge)
- 4:30 p.m. VOICES (Choir Room)
- 5:30 p.m. First Youth (Youth Lounge)

### MONDAY, January 25, 2010

- 4:00 p.m. Memorials Committee (Michael's Office)
- 6:00 p.m. Girls' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. Faulkner Circle (Blackmon)

### TUESDAY, January 26, 2010

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Youth Lounge)
- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 11:45 a.m. StewPot (First Presbyterian)
- 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, January 27, 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. UIC (Youth Lounge)
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Bells (Room 302)
- 6:00 p.m. Boys' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

### THURSDAY, January 28, 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 (Cole)

## In Memory of

### Charlie Herrell

By: Terry and Mary Lou Rasco  
 Cheryl Brannan  
 Shane and Julie Diamant  
 Alice Dong  
 Bob and Carolyn Nelson  
 Mary and Milford Davis

### Gerry Jones

By: Donna Jackson (Telephone Sunday School)

## District Teacher Training

A group from First Church will be attending the district teacher training on February 7 at Jacksonville First UMC. Interested in joining this group? New or veteran teachers won't want to miss this opportunity for increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Learn new skills for guiding, instructing and modifying behavior. For more information or to sign up, please contact Donna Hankins-Hull at [dhankins@fumclr.org](mailto:dhankins@fumclr.org) or (501)372-2256.

## First United Methodist Church

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 (501) 372-2256

Website: [www.fumclr.org](http://www.fumclr.org)  
 Volume 34 Issue 3  
 January 24, 2010

## What's Happening at First Church

### Respond to Haiti

You'll be given opportunities in the Sunday services to make financial gifts to assist in Haiti relief through United Methodism's UMCOR (Committee on Relief). This has happened so suddenly that details like special offering envelopes, etc... are not ready. However, you may write checks that are clearly marked "Haiti", and they will be deposited by the church and sent 100% to this worldwide relief effort.



### Remember your Baptism?

Last week in Rotation Sunday School the children walked through a baptismal service. To enhance their understanding of the sacrament, the students were assigned various roles to play, including family members, sponsors, the minister and the congregation. After the exercise was completed we talked about how each person present has a role to play in the life of the person baptized. I posed two questions to the children. First, as those who have been baptized, how could they help younger people live into their place in the church? The second question, how could older people, youth and adults alike, help them grow in their Christian understanding. Their answers to both questions were direct and humbling.

I will provide opportunities for the elementary aged children to act on their suggestions for nurturing younger children. I invite you to act on the suggestions they have for you. These are their requests: say hi to us outside of church and remind us to come; explain things from the Bible, sign us up for choir and then bring us to church and Sunday School; be a mentor, teach Sunday School, set a good example, we do see what you do and hear what you say. *'and a little child will lead them..'* Isa 11:6b

Donna Hankins-Hull



Free Admission

First Church is excited about hosting the **Watoto Children's Choir on Tuesday, January 26, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Watoto means ... "The Children". Since 1994 Watoto Children's Choirs have toured internationally spreading a message of hope for Africa's children. The choir presents Watoto's vision and mission through their music and dance, which is an energetic fusion of contemporary gospel and traditional African rhythm. The children are among 1.8\* million boys and girls in Uganda who have had the tragic experience of losing one or both of their parents to AIDS or war. Now through their inspiring performances, the Watoto Children's Choir is moving the hearts of people around the world as they share their stories of joy and hope. "Concerts of Hope" are a colorful and lively demonstration of the life-changing love of God experienced by the children of Watoto. You don't want to miss it! Invite family and friends.

Check them out on the web: [www.watoto.com](http://www.watoto.com).

## Families of First Church

### Members in the Hospital

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

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mary and Everett Hawks**, proud grandparents of Will Lovejoy Hawks who was born on Dec. 22. Proud parents are Byron and Sarah Hawks of Mukwonago, WI.

### New Members

Please welcome **Chandra and Matthew Andrews** who joined First Church on Jan. 17. They are pictured here with their children **Nolan and Ella**. Matthew joined by transfer of membership from Mt. Jackson Presbyterian Church in New Castle, PA, and Chandra joined by transfer of membership from Athens UMC in Athens, PA. Matthew is in the Air Force and Chandra is a stay-at-home mom.



### U.M.W. Presents Mission Speakers Two separate dates to learn about being in mission with Women, Children and Youth.

In observance of UMW Sunday, **The Rev. Meri Whitaker** will deliver the sermon at all three worship services on **January 31**. A missionary with the General Board of Global Mission and a Church and Community Worker, Rev. Whitaker is Director of Cookson Hills Mission Center in eastern Oklahoma. She brings an inspired, powerful message about service and hope for the Cherokee Indians and others at the Cookson Hills Mission Center.

On **February 7**, following the First Tradition worship service, a **Mardi Gras luncheon** of gumbo, salad, bread, and King Cake will be served. **Maggie Beeler** of Methodist Family Health will explain the organizations under the METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH umbrella. A very long time ago, an orphanage was built in Arkansas with a single mission: to provide the best possible care to children who needed help. More than 100 years later, that mission remains the same-but the little orphanage has been transformed into a statewide behavioral healthcare program for children, women and families. You are invited to come and learn how Methodist Family Health is uniquely equipped to care for those who need a helping hand. Please make your reservation for lunch by calling the church office or completing the card in the bulletin on Sunday, January 31. A donation will be appreciated to cover the cost of the lunch. Everyone is welcome!

## 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) on Feb. 7 and 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. He will also speak about his background, understanding the difference between Islam and Christianity and Iran. His main focus, both Sunday's, will be what God has done in his life.

### Save the date/mark your calendar for June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be Vacation Bible School in the morning and Music camp in the afternoon. Plan to be a part of both, or just one of these exciting activities. First UMC will be a lively place to be that week, you'll want to be a part of the fun!

### First Youth News



If you are interested in attending the **Mexico Mission trip**, you've still got time to get in your form! Please turn in your registration form and \$100 deposit to Justin by January 24. Dates of the trip: June 11-20. Scholarships are available.

Are you afraid of the dark? Do you think you can navigate the church and find clues with Roman guards lurking behind every corner? Then dress in camo and face paint, and bring a friend on **January 31 from 5:30-8 p.m. for...**

## Catacombs

The **youth basketball game schedules** can be found on the Calendar page and Youth page of our church website, [www.fumclr.org](http://www.fumclr.org). All games are played at Pulaski Heights UMC. Support the youth of First Church! Attend a game!

### Faulkner Circle

The Faulkner Circle will meet on Monday, January 25, at 7 p.m. at the home of Kathy Blackmon. Darlene Scheibner is the co-hostess and Nancy Oldham will continue the mission study on Sudan.

### FUMC Library Book Sale

Sunday Morning, January 24



### Operating Budget Summary for the Period Ended December 31, 2009

	2009 Actual Year-to-Date	2009 Budget Year-to-Date	2008 Actual Year-to-Date	2008 Budget Year-to-Date
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Contribution Income	\$1,310,825	\$1,393,108	\$1,310,178	\$1,399,108
Other Operating Income	161,411	189,566	180,436	186,566
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>1,472,236</b>	<b>1,582,674</b>	<b>1,490,614</b>	<b>1,585,674</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Apportionments & Benevolences	217,529	227,555	238,786	242,596
Church Programs & Staffing	1,054,481	1,144,319	1,047,449	1,139,078
Property Maintenance & Utilities	198,554	210,800	193,839	204,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,470,564</b>	<b>1,582,674</b>	<b>1,480,074</b>	<b>1,585,674</b>
<b>Net Income from Operations</b>	<b>\$ 1,672</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 10,540</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

### Pastor on Call

January 24-30

If you need a pastor after regular office hours, **Rev. Mary Jane Cole** is on call. You may reach her on her cell phone at 960-7731.