

February 2012

Pastor
Michael B. Brannon

The Eufaula Messenger

Church Office 918-689-2109 Mon.-Fri. 9:00-1:00
www.eufaula-umc.org.



First United Methodist Church of Eufaula



Pastor's Report

We will soon be in the original cycle of the church calendar known as the Lent/Easter cycle. It is comprised of the 40 days of Lent and the 50 days of Easter known as the Great Fifty Days of Easter. This cycle came before the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. The early church was at first focused on Jesus' death and resurrection for many years. It was

believed that Jesus would return soon and what was important to remember and proclaim was His death and resurrection. As Christians began to realize that Jesus' return might be delayed it became important to incorporate His birth and ministry in the worship cycle. As so the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle evolved and eventually became the first cycle in the Christian liturgical year. By far the cycle we are entering is the oldest.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which is February 22 this year. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm. With this day we enter into a season of reflection and service. We reflect on what Christ has done for us on the cross. It is a time of spiritual reflection and evaluation of our growth as children of God. We examine our lives and seek to draw closer to God through repentance and prayer. Although we are encouraged to examine our lives for sin it is not a depressing time. We admit our flaws and joyfully offer them to God for forgiveness and renewal of His Spirit in our lives. Bible study, worship, prayer, and acts of service should occupy our lives.

Many people give up something during Lent as a sign to God of our sincere desire to be closer to Him. Just the act of giving something up (like sugar, caffeine, or some other pleasure) is in and of itself useful. However, it can give us grounds for self glory ie. "Look what I gave up for Lent! Aren't I spiritual?" If our surrender of some treasured thing is done as an act of reminding us that we want God more than we want (you fill in the blank), then our sacrifice is useful to our spiritual growth.

Besides the introspective nature of Lent, there is also an outgoing side of the season. It should be a season of evangelism. Perhaps what we should give up in Lent is not talking about Jesus in our daily lives. If we are excited about Jesus and what He is doing in our lives and our church, then we should find creative ways of sharing it with the people who fill our days. So during this next forty days who will you tell that Jesus has changed your life? If He hasn't then you haven't really met Him.

God Bless,
Brother Mike



News From the United Methodist Women

By: Kathleen Shannon



Several Women from our UMW along with spouses and others from our church and community recently participated in a food give-away sponsored by the Deep Fork Community Action organization. A truck from the Tulsa area food bank arrived bearing bags of fresh vegetables, boxes of pastries, breads and canned goods to be given to approximately 120 needy families whose waiting vehicles lined the parking lot. Another member of our organization purchased teddy bears to be given away to children of our church, the local youth shelter, and to residents of Eufaula's nursing homes for Valentines Day. Two other members attended an information meeting at which they learned how our group can become involved in a community wide baby shower for mothers in our area who need help providing for their newborns. Each month we have members who sort, hang, and prepare clothing at the God's Helping Hands Clothing Closet. Every UMW meeting includes praying for those on our church prayer list.

It is gratifying and humbling to be part of a group of women who take seriously the instructions of Jesus to care for the least of His brothers and sisters. We are determined to meet this year's goals of increasing our connections with community service organizations, acknowledging and supporting good works, sharing our personal faith, nurturing each other and our fellow church members. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 7 at 12 Noon. We will begin by sharing a pot luck lunch together. Come join us!





Valentine Party

Sunday, February 12 at 3:30 in Fellowship Hall

For all Children and Youth of the church.

There will be games, crafts and snacks!

Come join the fun!!!

Circle of Care News

By: Twyla King



Since I am the Circle of Care Ambassador this year, I will be describing some of the ministries of that organization throughout the year.

Since 1917, the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care has been helping "at-risk" Oklahomans through its ministries of the Boy's Ranch in Gore, the Children's Home in Tahlequah, Independent Living Programs, Pearl's Hope Transitional House at Frances E. Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa, Holsinger Home for Children in Enid, and Child SHARE Foster Care. With the support of United Methodist congregations and individuals, we are making a lasting, Christian difference in people's lives.

Tonight, in care, Circle of Care is serving more than 300 children through residential and foster care. The outstanding youth

and children you help had a combined 3.0 GPA last school year for the third consecutive year. The children and youth of Circle of Care also served over 2100 hours of community service last year.

It has been tradition at our church for a Lenten offering to be taken and that offering go to pay our apportionment for Circle of Care. February 12 has been designated as Circle of Care Sunday and at that time Lenten offering containers will be made available . On Easter Sunday, these Lenten offerings will be collected. Our apportionment for 2012 is \$1137.00. If more than this is collected, it will be applied to other apportionments.

When you give to Circle of Care, you can have a feeling of pride and ownership. An ownership that you know you helped a child in need - a pride that passes on to that child and they continue to pass it on through their lives by your Circle of Care gift.



Epic Medical Center

Dawn J. Hess, ARNP

Certified Nurse Practitioner

Now taking Clinic appointments—ages—newborn to 18 years.

Tuesday and Thursday each week from 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

At Epic Medical Center.

Call Epic Medical Center at 918-689-2535 for appointments.

1 Hospital Drive, Eufaula, OK

United Methodist Men for 2012!

By: Dave Chambers



2011 was a great year for the UMM. We accomplished several great activities such as the VBS carnival, the Parade Water Stop, the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat.

For 2012, we plan these activities and MORE!!! We hope to have a float in each of the three city parades for the children to ride and distribute candy. We hope to sponsor and support a Methodist Barbecue for Whole Hawg Weekend, and are presently starting two major projects for the 1st quarter:

The **Valentine Dinner** will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14, with dinner at 6:00 pm. The dinner is being held at the city/county fair ground exhibit hall. Chef Dan will be preparing a feast culminating with a chocolate fountain and music. There will be free baby-sitting at the church. An E-mail RSVP invite will be issued later this week. Men will have the opportunity to purchase tickets while all Ladies are guests of the UMM. Don't miss this Eufaula Classic!

The Bell Tower Restoration Project. The project is divided into three phases: Phase I will be the removal of the stained glass windows and frames. Tom Reid has offered his time and talent as stained glass artist to conduct and supervise the restoration of the windows.

Phase II, we will clean and restore the operation of the bell. This will include a new paint job to the exterior and screening of the openings to reduce pigeon traffic.

Phase III will be the replacement of the frames and stained glass windows.

The project should cost around \$5-6,000. To raise funds, Tom is making stained glass crosses from the shards of glass from the tower windows and from the old stained glass windows from the sanctuary. These crosses will be given to each family unit in the church on Easter, April 8. They will be asked to donate to the Restoration Fund as their heart leads them. A great memento of our old church as we move towards our new church.

As you can see, 2012 will be a great year for the UMM. Our meetings are the second Saturday of the month. We start with a solid breakfast prepared by member volunteers at 7:30 am and the meeting starts at 8 am. For several of the meetings, we will have guest speakers to enlighten us on local events, projects or operations. In January, we hosted Penny Embry with "Save Our Water" and learned the frightening status of our Eufaula Lake Water and the need to get involved to keep the lake full and ready for tourists and recreation. In March, our own Eufaula Mayor will talk about the city and the proposed Heritage Day celebration on March 21 which will be celebrating the city's 140 year anniversary. In May, we proposed to have the Corps. Leader to discuss the future of docks and irrigation water pumps on Eufaula Lake.

There will be great meetings, great fellowship and great opportunities to serve the church, the members and our community. If you're a Methodist Man, BE THERE!

Nurture Committee Report

By: Anne Gilbert



It is with great pride that I can now report that the Nurture Committee is in place and working hard!!

We are trying something new this year in order not to "BURN OUT" any of our wonderful crew members! Volunteers are still needed to fill in occasionally if you are interested. We have 2 crews, so you would only have to work every other month if you are needed. Please contact me at gisland@ecewb.com.

The crew that worked January 8, 2012 was: Sylvia and Bob Brazelton, Dave and Debbie Chambers, Georgia Nichols,

Marva and Gordon Pennington, and Anne and Bill Gilbert. Several of these people worked after they completed other duties that were during the service. All help was greatly appreciated.

The crew that is scheduled to work the February 12 dinner is: Carol and Chuck Boyd, Colis and Ray Dowd, Kay Wall, Kathleen and David Shannon, Kathy Hickman and Jack Turner, and Bill and Anne Gilbert.

We hope that the entire congregation will join us at the February 12 Fellowship dinner. Please bring a covered dish and join us for the great food and fellowship! The Lord blesses us in Christian fellowship! Guests are always welcome.



Building Fund Update

By: Ray Dowd

The Building Committee, and members of the congregation met with Mike Wiley, Senior Advisor, on Tuesday evening, January 24, 2012. As we are planning another fund raising campaign, Mike was here to help and guide us in this process. He had many good suggestions and left some literature that will be valuable as we progress on this project. A committee will be formed in the near future that will lead us toward the next phase. Their primary purpose will be interviewing and selecting a campaign consultant from several that are available.

A short business meeting followed. The primary subject in this meeting concerned the utility easement we are hoping to receive soon from Executive Sessions, LLC. We desperately need this easement so that we can provide water for the soccer association. They are planning to grade their playing fields very soon, and will be needing water to irrigate the grass. We hope to be hearing from E.S. next week.

Let's continue to pray for this as the youth of our community are depending on us!!

Building Fund balances as of 12-31-11 are:

UM Foundation Building Fund = \$150,275.69

Bank of Eufaula Building Fund = \$20,959.15



PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL

Caring for Others Through These Forty Days of Lent

By: Linda Theis



Our participation in the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the heart of the Christian faith. We are delivered from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and by the Holy Spirit we are born into eternal life with God. The seasons of Lent and Easter call us to remember the mystery of our redemption in Christ and to more fully participate in his life-giving spirit. It is also a time for Christians to become engaged in the process of spiritual renewal. The period of Lent is forty days, which recalls Jesus' wilderness fast of Mark 1:13. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter. Sundays are not included when we count the days of Lent, thus making the 40 days of Lent. Even in Lent, each Sunday is a little Easter celebration of the resurrection.

Lent is just around the corner; as you know each year, our church supports Circle of Care by collecting money during Lent. Circle of Care is a nonprofit agency with historic roots in Oklahoma and the United Methodist Church. The children, youth and families of Oklahoma find help, healing and hope through their Christ-centered services. They combine Christian influence with a therapeutic continuum of professional services.

Remembering Jesus' words "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth", this year, in addition to supporting our local missions through the Circle of Care, we are providing the opportunity to expand our horizons by also supporting The Society of St. Andrew.

The Society of St. Andrew invites our congregation to participate in their 2012 Lenten devotion booklet and giving program, "Living Proof". In keeping with the traditions of Lent, the Society of St. Andrew invites us to participate in a program of spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving. SoSA's Lenten devotion program challenges the reader to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor, while also providing an opportunity to feed our hungry neighbors. The Society of St. Andrew has delivered a total of 2.7 million pounds of salvaged potatoes and other food to the needy in Oklahoma through their Potato and Produce Project. This has resulted in about 8.1 million servings of food going to Oklahoma's hungry not to mention what they are doing throughout the nation.

With 33 years of Ministry to the Nation's Hungry the Society of St. Andrews mission is still to introduce people to God's grace in Jesus Christ through meeting their hungers: Food for the body, God's word for the spirit, community of love for the heart and opportunity for those who desire action.

Therefore let us love not only in words, but indeed and truth.

Offering boxes for the Circle of Care will be available on February 12th. Circle of Care Offering Boxes will be returned on Easter Sunday. The Society of St. Andrews devotion booklets and offering boxes will be available February 19th, offering to be returned on April 15th, the week after Easter.

What a wonderful time of the year to give to those in need!





February Anniversaries

- 2/3 Yuriy & Iryna Zhrebko
 2/12 Dan & Bobbie Huddle
 2/16 Dave & Debbie Chambers
 2/17 Art & Phyllis Shutts



To our Methodist Family,

We are so grateful to you for your love, support, and hard work throughout our loss this week. We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

Much Love,

The Keene/Stewart Family



February Birthdays

- 2/2 Sylvia Brazelton
 2/2 Dena Sponsler
 2/2 Phyllis Kirkpatrick
 2/3 Helen Shroyer
 2/8 Carol Boyd
 2/8 Paige Holuby
 2/12 Robyn Burris
 2/14 Bernice Allison
 2/15 Billie Iverson
 2/18 Myrna Kiester
 2/19 David Wood
 2/21 Art Shutts
 2/23 Jan Pipkins
 2/23 Bob Brazelton
 2/28 Mike Kirkpatrick
 2/28 Loretta Browning



**LOOK WHO'S
 HAVING A
 BIRTHDAY!**

First United Methodist Church

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churchmethodist@sbcglobal.net

***Open Hearts...
Open Minds...
Open Doors...***

Label Here

February 2012

2/2	7:00 PM	Church Council Mtg.
2/4	9:00 AM	Prayer Group Breakfast
2/5		Souper Bowl
2/7	12:00 PM	UMW Meeting and Potluck Luncheon
2/9	9:00 AM	L.A.M.A. Mtg.
2/9	4:00 PM	Soccer Sign-up at FUMC
2/11	7:30 AM	UMM Monthly Mtg.
2/12	6:00 PM	"Walk Across the Room" Study Session
2/14	6:00 PM	Valentine Dinner
2/16	2:00 PM	Staff-Parish Relations Committee Mtg.
2/19	6:00 PM	"Walk Across the Room" Study Session
2/21	4:00 PM	Soccer Sign-up at FUMC
2/22	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
2/26	6:00 PM	"Walk Across the Room" Study Session

*Exercise Class every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am.

*Choir Practice every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm.

*The boy scouts will meet each Monday evening in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm.

*The girl scouts will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Fellowship Hall from 3:30 pm to 5 pm.

*The Investment Club meets in Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month.
