

# The Flame

First United Methodist Church, Paragould, Arkansas

July 1, 2009 Volume 34 No. 25

Friends,

I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone who has given me gifts, helped me move, has been patient when I forget names, or has shared a kind word or smile. These deeds may not seem like much, but they are the sorts of things that have added up to make me feel very welcome in Paragould during my first few days here.

I'd like to say a few words to let you know a little about me. I've been in Arkansas for basically my whole life. I mostly grew up in Mountain View, where my dad has been the minister at FUMC going on 19 years, before going off to college in Oklahoma and then straight on to seminary in North Carolina. Suffice it to say, I'm glad to be back in the holy land, as we Arkansas seminarians were fond of calling it. I'm also very happy to have the fortunate opportunity to serve my first appointment with you, and I have to say that I'm very excited by this prospect!

Last night I was reading an essay where the author, Dallas Willard, pointed out how the word "disciple" is used hundreds of times in the New Testament to describe followers of Jesus, whereas "Christian" is used less than five. That struck me, because I was reminded how Jesus does first call us to come to faith in him, but then he also beckons us to learn from his ways and obey him, that is, to be a disciple, a student (Mt. 7:24-29; Mt. 10:24-42; Mt. 11:25-30). These simple words caused me to pause and think about how our life in faith is really a journey, as we continue to strive to get closer and closer to Jesus. I look forward to serving our Lord with you in these coming months (and hopefully years!) and getting to know all of you. May God help us to walk with one another as we learn to be disciples of Jesus.

Pastor Ben

## Welcome Reception

for

# BEN JOHNSON

Sunday, July 12  
3:00—4:00 pm

SPRC invites you to come welcome  
Bro. Ben Johnson  
and enjoy some homemade ice cream.

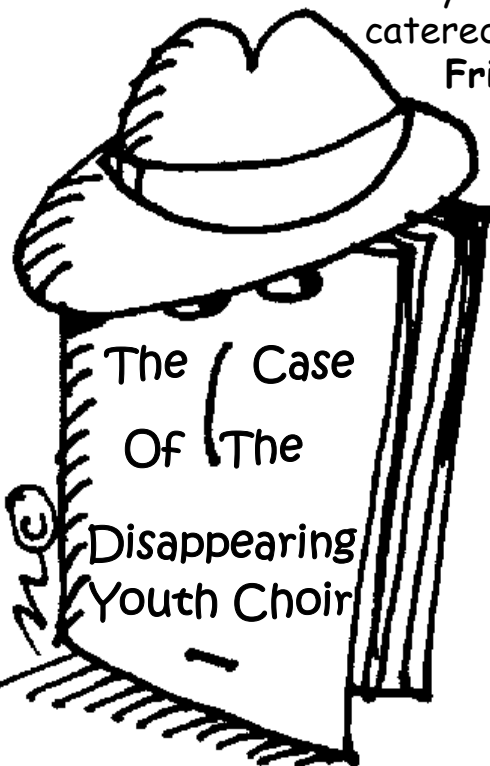


An interactive mystery dinner theater experience

catered by *Kiss the Cook*

Friday, July 24

6:00 p.m.



The youth choir is on their summer tour when their bus breaks down outside a scary-looking mansion. Cassandra "Cassie" Role (the cook) welcomes the choir in from the storm while Ann Suzy Astic (choir director) calls for a tow truck. But when she returns, all but three singers are missing! Where's the rest of the choir? And who is responsible for their disappearance? Could it be the remaining choir members — Bo Ring, Ariel "Ari" Head, or Clara Sill? Or perhaps the bus driver, Abel D'Drive? Or . . . Could it be . . . Red Butler?

\$12 gives you a good meal, fun time, and more money in our music/drama fund. **ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY!** Call the office 239-8541 or leave a voicemail with Celeste 236-2555.

Questions? Comments?

Contact Celeste at church 239-8541 or home 236-2555 or email [cletchworth@fumcparagould.org](mailto:cletchworth@fumcparagould.org)

## Attendance

### June 21 Last Year

8:00	32	33
9:00	169	195
11:00	126	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>359</b>

## Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help in our nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to help for 1-2 hours on a rotating basis, contact the church office.

## July 5

### NURSERY

9:00—10:00  
Sally Martin  
Janie Harris  
10:00—12:00  
Susan McHaney

### ACOLYTES

*Summer Break*

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Bobby & Kelly Kasserman

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

		July 5	July 12
8:40—9:10 AM	<i>Awning</i>	Sally Martin	Gene Weeks
	<i>Awning</i>	Denise Clifft	Jill Weeks
	<i>Office Door</i>	Darwin Goehring	Judy Dacus
	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>	Shane May	Crete Rhodes
	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>	Liz May	Charlie Rhodes
9:45—10:05 AM	<i>Awning</i>	Robert Thompson	Nate Herget
	<i>Awning</i>	Tori Thompson	Kersten Herget
	<i>1st Floor</i>	Bob Branch	Nancy Key
10:40—11:10 AM	<i>Awning</i>	Barbara VanHorn	Bobby Kasserman
	<i>Awning</i>	Riley VanHorn	Kelly Kasserman
	<i>Sanctuary</i>	Kat Block	Lee Purcell
	<i>Sanctuary</i>	Lacy Lusk	Paige Wooldridge
	<i>Sanctuary</i>	Virginia Biggs	
<b>Substitutes:</b>		Susan Nanke (239-2405)	
		Gene & Jill Weeks (215-0612)	
		John & Gayle Eden (240-0016)	

## BLUE JEAN USHERS

July 5: Nate & Janna Burnett, Melissa Tarry, Susan Nanke  
July 12: Mike, Tracy, Travis & Payton Finch

## Mugging Ministry

July 5: Greg Starling  
July 12: Crete Rhodes

## PRAYER REQUESTS

NOTE: Due to privacy laws, our pastors are unable to access hospital admission records as they have in the past. For our pastors to know you are in the hospital, please inform the Church Office. It is our goal to do everything in our power to minister to your spiritual needs and care for you in times of crisis.

### Hospital

### Other Concerns

SPC Andrew Goodwin	SPC Mathew H Dapp	
Stan Jackson	Frank Ashby	Ann Higgins
Nell Harrison	Elizabeth Acuff	Johnny Townsley
Bette Brewer	Randy Boyd	Virginia Hammond
Cara Kelber	Rev. Ron Pickney	Jerry Yates
Sara MacDonald	Jim O'Neal	Harold Morgan
Kristi Millard	Bill Burnett	Jackson Shepherd
Royce Williams	Jorden Davidson	Jane Giguere
Berneice Howard	Mary Ellen Hopkins	Gary Biggs
Mary Stark	Betty Presson	Don Hudson
Janan Taylor	Karen Horton	Janese Hyde
Devin Greene	Daveda Misenhimer	Tom Carter
Madge Fast	Jimmy Kennett	Rob Goodman
Lisa Rogers	Ashley Newton	

## Memorials

### In Memory of

**Martha Brandon** by Barbara Lindsey, Margaret Holzwarth  
**Tommy Gadberry** (father of *Melanie Beliew*) by Charles & Donna Brazil  
**Robert Stovall** (Carol Phillips' Step-father) by Jim & Mary Beth Weidman  
**Mary Walker** (sister of *Claire Jenkins*) by Bill & Pat Phillips

## Youth News

Jeff Weaver, Youth Pastor

## Children's News

Tricia Weaver, Christian Education/Children's Director

## Join us each Week!

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm for snack, Bible study, and fellowship.

Local Mission Projects—Thursdays at 9:00 am

Wednesday (beginning July 8)

Ministry Class—5:00 pm  
Disciple Bible Study—6:00 pm  
Synago—7:00 pm

## Preschool Story Time

Next week Preschool Story Time will meet on Thursday, July 9 at 10:30 am instead of July 6 because the church will be closed for the July 4th Holiday. "Veggie Tales" story time is open to any preschool age child and is at 10:30 am on the third floor. Please contact Mrs. Tricia if you plan to attend so there will be some sort of count.

## Rotation Sunday School

We are now in the middle of the rotation, "Three Women of Faith." Thanks to everyone that is helping teach. The next rotation will be "Money & Time: and will run from July 26—August 23. The classes available to teach will be: Games, Storytelling, Arts & Crafts, Music and Movie.

## VBS—Calling All Volunteers

VBS—"Camp Edge" will be July 20–23. We will decorate on Sunday afternoon, July 19. If you would like to help in VBS, please contact Mrs. Tricia.

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

404 West Main Street

### Ministers—Every Church Member

Bishop—Charles N Crutchfield  
District Superintendent—Kurt Boggan  
Pastors—Tom Letchworth, Ben Johnson  
Minister of Music—Danny Davis  
Pastor to Youth and their families—Jeff Weaver  
Children/Christian Education Director—Tricia Weaver  
Director of Fine Arts Ministries—Celeste Letchworth  
Church Administrator—Denise Chipman  
Custodian—Iona Stone  
Organist—Bernard Raley

Office Hours—8:00 am—4:30 pm

Phone—(870) 239-8541

Fax—(870) 239-6009

[www.fumeparagould.org](http://www.fumeparagould.org)

[www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org) (Arkansas Conference)

## Coming Events

### Thursday, July 9

9:00 am Prayer Ministry  
7:00 pm Hispanic Service

### Sunday, July 12

8:00 am Early Service  
\*9:00 am Contemporary Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
\*11:00 am Traditional Service  
1:00 pm Hispanic Service  
3:00 pm Welcome Reception  
5:00 pm UMYF  
\*Nursery Provided

### Sunday, July 5

8:00 am Early Service  
\*9:00 am Contemporary Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
\*11:00 am Traditional Service  
1:00 pm Hispanic Service  
5:00 pm UMYF

### Monday, July 6

Office Closed

### Wednesday, July 8

6:00 am Men's Study  
9:00 am Beth Moore Study  
7:30 pm Praise Team