



The Flame

First United Methodist Church, Paragould, Arkansas

April 21, 2010 Volume 35 No. 15

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, April 18, First United Methodist Church experienced a “defining moment,” in my opinion. A defining moment is one of those times in which an individual, a church, or even a nation makes a decision that determines the future in some way.

At our Church Conference the decision was made to purchase the Highfill property to the West of our Fellowship Hall. This property is key to our future expansion, and is important simply for the sake of the physical integrity of our campus.

The decision was made in only 17 minutes. If you were running late, you missed it! But in fact, the decision has been mulled over and debated and discussed over a matter of years.

I think that there are two significant signs that this has been a carefully considered decision: first, the Trustees had done yeoman service in raising \$95,000 toward this purchase in one week! Second, that when the vote was taken, it was unanimous.

I’m grateful for the civility that everyone has demonstrated during the discussion of this decision, that all involved sought to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Even when strong opinions were expressed, there still prevailed a sense of love and concern for the whole church. And I’m grateful that there is sense of unity, of our one purpose in Christ.

Now I pray that we will go forward united in our love for Christ and for one another as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Incidentally, I want to draw your attention to a new feature that was added to the Welcome Center on Good Friday: a beautiful cross that adorns the Southern Wall. This powerful symbol is a profound reminder that this is sacred space.

Thanks to Clint Beliew and Charles Brazil for making that possible.

In Christ,

Tom

Children’s News

Tricia Weaver, Christian Education/Children’s Director

VBS will be July 26-29 from 5—8 pm.

Confirmation Class—The Confirmation Class will be taking a field trip to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 25. Specific times will be mailed to each of you.

T-Shirts—If you would like a commemorative shirt from this year children’s musical, contact Mrs. Tricia. We have several for sale at only \$5 each.

Youth News

Jeff Weaver, Youth Minister

Yard Sale - April 23 & 24

UMY—Sunday’s at 5:00 pm

UMY Praise Band—Sunday’s at 7:00 pm

Summer Trip - Plans are being made for our summer youth trip the week of June 27. Contact Jeff for more details.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 25

- 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 / Mercy Refine
- 5:30 pm ABCD Group

Monday, April 26

- 6:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, April 27

- 6:00 pm Scouts

Wednesday, April 28

- 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am Beth Moore
- 5:15 pm Bodacious Bells
- 6:00 pm ABCD Group
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir
- 7:30 pm Praise Team

Thursday, April 29

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

Friday, April 30

- Girl Scouts

Sunday, May 2

- 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 / Mercy Refine
- 5:30 pm ABCD Group

*Nursery Provided

Volunteers

NURSERY

- April 25: Elizabeth Sheldon (9-10)
 Jamie McIlvoy (9-10)
 Susan Blossom (11-12)
 Natalie Bland (10-12)
- May 2: Sam & Andrea Dickey (9-10)
 Jeff & Teresa Branch (10-12)

ACOLYTES

- April 25: Kyleigh Horner, Abby Rogers, Holly Blair Benson
 May 2: Quentin Cupp, Will Jackson, Jesse Grooms

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- April 25: Tonya Hill & Linda Bartlett
 May 2: Robert & Tori Thompson

BLUE JEAN USHERS

- April 25: Shane & Liz May, Tom & Jamie Carter
 May 2: Charlie & Crete Rhodes, Jeff & Teresa Branch

Mugging Ministry

- April 25: Kat Block
 May 2: George & Susie Cook

Memorials

In Memory of

- Emmy Witt** by Fred & Judy Workman, Alvin & Carolyn Samuel
Dickie Thompson by Jeff & Teresa Branch



Congratulations to Julie & Andrew Chumley on the birth of their daughter, Maris Adele, born April 14. Proud grandparents are John & Joyce Bland and great-grandmother is Winnie Bland.



Life Line Screening is the leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings in the US. Currently, in neighborhoods like ours, Life Line Screening is screening approximately 1 million people each year, adding to the 6 million previously screened since their beginning in 1993. Cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer in the United States of both men and women—and a leading cause of permanent disability.

Consider the facts*:

- 4 out of 5 stroke victims had no apparent warning signs
- 80% of strokes can be prevented

You may think that your physician would order these screenings if they were necessary. However, insurance companies typically will not pay for screenings unless a person has suffered symptoms. Unfortunately, **for so many people, the first sign of a stroke is a stroke.** That is why having a Life Line screening is so important to keep you and your loved ones healthy and independent.

We encourage you to talk to your physician about Life Line Screening. We are confident that he or she will agree with hundreds of hospitals that have partnered with Life Line Screening and suggest that you participate in this health event. Please take a minute to read this information about these quick and painless tests. Life Line Screening is coming to our neighborhood for one day only and appointments are limited, so please call **1-800-690-6313**.

Life Line Screening will be at FUMC on Thursday, June 3.

Prayers / Presence / Gifts

Weekly Budget Needs	13,460.56
Weekly Contributions	9,945.10
YTD Contributions	173,321.68
YTD Disbursements	173,562.41
YTD Budget	215,368.96
2010 Budget	699,494.00

Attendance

	April 11	Last Year
8:00	26	39
9:00	172	201
11:00	150	105
Total	348	345

Hospital

Prayer Requests

SPC Andrew Goodwin	875th
Johnny Townsley	Bette Brewer
Randy Boyd	Jerry Yates
Sara MacDonald	Kristi Millard
Bill Burnett	Jackson Shepherd
Jordan Davidson	Berneice Howard
Don Hudson	Candi Crosno
Nichole Babcock	Keith Bean
Keith Willis	Ronnie Reeves
Joyce Vallentine	Gayle Eden
Mary Stark	Lori Thompson
Jane McKenzie	Brian Noland
Claude Martin	Noah Crowe
Keith Griffith	Ryan Hobson
Kenyon Huggins	Melissa Becton
Tyler Smith	James Rashke
Alice Jones	Maleta Scudder
Marti Refkin	Glenda Kaminer
Roella Williams	Robin Williams
Jeanie Mockewich	Joan Rattton
Joey Barr	Velma Clifford
Will & Tasha Tarry	Dalton Lane
Joann Allison	Parker Kocsis
Alec Dacus	Yuba Williams
Carol Elmore	Aaron Schenk
Julie Wilkins	Chuck Roming

Please inform the church office if a name can be removed from this list. Thank you

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

404 West Main Street

Ministers—Every Church Member

- Bishop—Charles N Crutchfield
- District Superintendent—Kurt Boggan
- Pastor—Tom Letchworth
- Director of Fine Arts Ministries—Celeste Letchworth
- Minister of Music—Danny Davis
- Children's Music Director—Leigh Jackson
- Pastor to Youth and their families—Jeff Weaver
- Children/Christian Education Director—Tricia Weaver
- Church Administrator—Denise Chipman
- Custodian—Iona Stone
- Custodian—Jerry & Carla Young
- Organist—Bernard Raley

Office Hours—8:00 am—4:30 pm

Phone—(870) 239-8541

Fax—(870) 239-6009

www.fumcparagould.org

www.arumc.org (Arkansas Conference)