

The Flame

First United Methodist Church, Paragould, Arkansas

April 28, 2010 Volume 35 No. 17

Dear Friends,

For Valentine's Day, Celeste gave me a beautiful, illustrated book on the History of American Methodism, with the text by Kenneth Kinghorn. As I've leafed through the pages, scanning more than 200 years of Methodism, I've become keenly aware of the changes that have occurred through the years.

In the early days of Methodism, we were a movement of the Spirit, with the ability to adjust to the rough and rugged frontier. Young preachers didn't marry because of the hardships of an itinerant ministry that quite often broke them by the age of 30. Early Methodist people knew the theology of grace and holiness, and sang the praises of God far into the night in torch lit campgrounds. And Methodism grew from its humble beginnings into a global church; and in the 19th century, the largest denomination on the United States.

But society has been changing. Over the past 48 years, since the founding of United Methodism, the denomination has been slowly declining in membership and attendance. The rural churches that once dotted the landscape across the country, have been dwindling and closing.

I care deeply about the United Methodist Church, but not for its own sake. The purpose of the church is not institutional maintenance. The purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to change lives. That's the change that really matters. Church growth without changed lives converted to Christ and transformed by the Holy Spirit means nothing.

John Wesley once wrote, "I do not fear that Methodism should cease to exist, but that it should exist as a dead sect, having the form of Godliness, but lacking the power thereof. And such will surely be the case unless the doctrine, discipline and spirit be maintained."

Bishop Crutchfield has called United Methodists in Arkansas to ask the tough questions about our future. On March 21, several of our leaders from First UMC attended a regional event in Wynne. United Methodists from the Northeast region of Arkansas were present.

What the Bishop, and the Imagine Ministry Team, has challenged United Methodists all over the state to do is very simple: answer three questions; and then report our responses to the Annual Conference on June 7.

In the next few weeks, I will be inviting you to view a DVD that challenges us to take a long, hard look at where Arkansas United Methodism is right now; and then to engage in a discussion of those three questions.

Here's something you can do right now: Go to www.arumc.org/imagineministry, and click on the link for the web survey. And stay tuned for opportunities to join with other church members in the next few weeks for this important discussion.

In Christ,

Tom

Children's News

Tricia Weaver, Christian Education/Children's Director

Rotation Sunday School

The next Rotation is "Seven Helpers" and will run from May 9—June 6. Need teachers for: Games, Arts & Crafts, Storytelling, Music, and Movie. Please contact Tricia if you would like to teach.

Rotation Sunday School

Mission Project: The Arts & Crafts rotation workshops are making cards for needy children. They are collecting stuffed animals to go with these cards, Please help your child in rotation to remember to bring a stuff animal that they are willing to part with! The bin is in the Arts & Crafts room on the 3rd floor. If you have a child not in rotation but would like to donate, contact Mrs. Tricia.

Confirmation Class - Confirmation

Sunday will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The confirmand may be confirmed at their choice of the 9:00 am or 11:00 am Worship Service. You will be receiving details in the mail from Mrs. Tricia. Also, after the 11:00 Worship Service, we will be celebrating confirmation at a fish fry hosted by the youth.

Children's Council There will be a Children's Council meeting on Monday, May 24, at 6:00 pm to discuss VBS. VBS this year is "Galactic Blast" and will run from July 26-29.

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



Remember that our College Sunday School Class meets each week!

Youth News

Jeff Weaver, Youth Minister

UMY—Sunday's at 5:00 pm

Mercy Refined—Sunday's at 7:00 pm

Yard Sale - Thanks to everyone who donated items to our yard sale this past week-end. We made over \$1,100 and have so much left over that we will participate in the City-Wide Yard Sale this Saturday.

Thanks for all the parental and youth help during the Spaghetti Dinner. We raised \$570 to go towards our summer trip.

Fish Fry

Sunday, May 23 - 11:00 am—1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

All proceeds will be used towards our summer trip.

Youth Summer Trip will be to "White Water Express" a Christian camp in Decatur, Georgia, June 27—July 2. Activities will include: Hayride & cook-out, Ropes course, Rappelling, Group games, Horseback trail rides, Paintball games, Mountain bike rides and Rafting. We will also have designated worship and devotional times. \$25 deposit is required by May 15. Total cost of the trip is \$250 per youth. Contact Jeff if you have any questions at 239-1768.

A-State Wesley Foundation

Golf Tournament

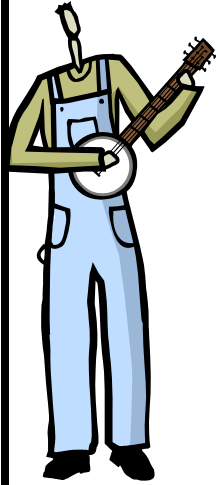
May 24—Sage Meadows Golf Course
4 person scramble

Last year's golf tournament provided much needed mission funds for A-State Wesley Foundation's ministries.

Churches, Sunday school classes and church members can support the Wesley Foundation by being a tee and green sponsor, or by placing a team in the tournament. Tee and Green sponsorship will be \$100 and 4 person's teams will be \$300. All money raised will support the missions of the Wesley Foundation at ASU.

Entry forms are available in the church office. For questions or additional information you may contact Brian Clem at 870-974-9800 or email to bcllem@fnbank.net.

ATTENTION ALL BLUEGRASS-LOVIN' MOMMAS!



We'll have bluegrass music on the stage at the 9:00 worship service Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day).

Ballots will be available this Sunday (May 2) in the fellowship hall so mothers may choose the songs for Mother's Day.

(You must be present May 2nd to vote!)



And for those who enjoy Motown music — the Bodacious Bells (7th-12th grade ringers) will perform a theme & variation on Beethoven's Ode to Joy at the 11:00 worship service for Mother's Day.

Questions? Comments? Contact Celeste at church 239-8541 or home 236-2555 or text 501-207-1295 or email cletchworth@fumcparagould.org



**Red Cross Blood Drive
Fellowship Hall**

**Monday, May 3
3:00 pm—7:00 pm**

If you are able to donate, please do so. You can donate blood every 56 days. Donors must be at least 17 years old. In Arkansas, 16 year olds may donate with a completed Parental Consent Form. Our goal is to have 20 donors this Monday so the Red Cross will continue to come here.

Share to gift of life.

NURSERY

May 2: Sam & Andrea Dickey (9-10)
 Jeff & Teresa Branch (10-12)
 May 9: Kay Luter (9-10)
 Jennifer Cook (9-10)
 Mary Ann Rand (10-12)
 Kelly Huffman (10-12)
 May 16: Janice Wilcox (9-10)
 Pat Fulkerson (9-10)
 Crete Rhodes (10-12)
 Frankie Arant (10-12)
 May 23: Debbie Brown (9-10)
 Louise Woods (9-10)
 Donna Jones (11-12)
 Mary Ann Allen (10-12)
 May 30: Julie Rowe (9-10)
 Janie Harris (9-10)
 Tori Thompson (10-12)
 Christie Dollar (10-12)

ACOLYTES

May 2: Quentin Cupp
 Will Jackson
 Jesse Grooms
 May 9: Kirby Weaver
 John Brengard
 Jenna Rawls
 May 16: Hannah Risker
 Walt Reynolds
 Lily McDaniel
 May 23: Alyssa Reece
 Anna Clara May
 Sara Giguere
 May 30: Kyleigh Horner
 Abby Rogers
 Kirby Weaver

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

May 2: Robert & Tori Thompson
 May 9: Luke & Jame' Cook
 May 16: Kara Guinn
 May 23: Youth Council
 May 30: Liz May & Dannelle Rogers

BLUE JEAN USHERS

May 2: Charlie & Crete Rhodes
 Jeff & Teresa Branch
 May 9: Susan Nanke
 Jeff Phillips
 Nancy & Michael Bruce
 May 16: Mike, Tracy, Travis & Payton Finch
 May 23: Dale & Caroline Schenk
 Rusty McAllister
 Susie Cook
 May 30: Jeremy Willis, Shay Nanke
 Tim Roswell
 Sally Martin

Mugging Ministry

May 2: George & Susie Cook
 May 9: Jim & Mary Beth Weidman
 May 16: Bob & Sharon Reynolds
 May 23: Carl & Sara Schexnaydre
 May 30: Nathan & Angela Newby



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.

More information is available on the bulletin board outside the church office. 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.

Calendar of Events

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	Monday, May 17 6:00 pm Scouts
Monday, May 3 1:30 pm Blood Drive 6:00 pm SPRC 6:00 pm Scouts	Tuesday, May 18 5:15 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Scouts
Tuesday, May 4 6:00 pm Scouts	Wednesday, May 19 6:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Beth Moore 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team
Wednesday, May 5 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Beth Moore 5:15 pm Bodacious Bells *6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	Thursday, May 20 9:00 am Prayer Ministry Noon—Silver & Gold Potluck 7:00 pm Hispanic
Thursday, May 6 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Hispanic	Sunday, May 23 8:00 am Early Service *9:00 am Contemporary Service 10:00 am Sunday School *11:00 am Traditional Service 11:00 am Youth Fish Fry 1:00 pm Hispanic Service
Sunday, May 9 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	Monday, May 24 6:00 pm Scouts 6:00 pm Children's Council
Monday, May 10 6:00 pm Scouts	Tuesday, May 25 6:00 pm Scouts
Tuesday, May 11 1:30 pm Glenna Rose UMW 2:00 pm Jennie Knox UMW 6:00 pm Scouts	Wednesday, May 26 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Beth Moore 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team
Wednesday, May 12 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Beth Moore 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	Thursday, May 27 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Hispanic Service
Thursday, May 13 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Scout Roundtable 7:00 pm Hispanic	Friday, May 28 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal
Sunday, May 16 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 6:00 pm Senior Banquet	Saturday, May 29 3:00 pm Haynes/Turner Wedding
	Sunday, May 30 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
	Monday, May 31 Memorial Day—Office Closed *Nursery Provided

Memorials

In Memory of

Shirley Holt by Bob Branch

Helen Goehring by Darwin Goehring

In Honor of

Maxine Satterwhite (My mother on Mother' Day) by Mary Ann Stallcup

Prayers / Presence / Gifts

Weekly Budget Needs	13,460.56
Weekly Contributions	10,718.50
YTD Contributions	181,650.18
YTD Budget	228,829.52
2010 Budget	699,494.00
Debt of Gratitude:	
January 2010 Debt	674,315.76 (not including interest)
Paid to date (4/27)	65,685.00

“Debt of Gratitude” commitment cards are requested to be turned in by May 9 so we can celebrate the commitments on May 23. Remember to prayerfully consider what you can give over and above your current financial commitment.

Attendance

	April 25	Last Year
8:00	38	39
9:00	212	201
11:00	145	105
Total	395	345

Hospital

Prayer Requests

SPC Andrew Goodwin	875th	
Johnny Townsley	Bette Brewer	Randy Boyd
Jerry Yates	Sara MacDonald	Kristi Millard
Bill Burnett	Jackson Shepherd	Jorden 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	James Rashke	Alice Jones
Maleta Scudder	Marti Refkin	Roella Williams
Robin Williams	Jeanie Mockewich	Joan Ratton
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
Jane Giguere	Dana Self	Mike Holsten
Helen Havens	Jerry West	Ashlyn Walker

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



Red Cross Blood Drive Fellowship Hall

**Monday, May 3
3:00 pm—7:00 pm**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

404 West Main Street

Ministers—Every Church Member

Bishop—Charles N Crutchfield

District Superintendent—Kurt Boggan

Pastors— 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)