



# The Flame

First United Methodist Church, Paragould, Arkansas

May 26, 2010 Volume 35 No. 21

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday approximately 75 church members met with me in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour to view a video produced by the

“Imagine Ministries” team of the Arkansas Annual Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Crutchfield.

Following the video, we engaged in a rather lively discussion about the future of Arkansas United Methodism, and what we need to do as a local church to be faithful to our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

I’m sure many of the participants were a bit alarmed by the statistics that were reported. They paint a picture that resembles the national state of United Methodism, that our denomination isn’t reaching young people as we once did, and we are not growing as we should.

I’ve been asked, “what about our church?”

Allow me to give a kind of “mid-term” report card that I hope will encourage you about First UMC, Paragould. Currently our worship attendance is 419 for the year (I would love for us to maintain that through the summer – I hope you’ll join us for worship when you’re in town. Worship attendance is a means of grace – and we love to see you here!)

We have received 19 new members already this year, and they have been given the opportunity to attend our new disciple class or confirmation as preparation for membership. Nine of our new members have joined by profession of faith, which means they are new Christians! We have also celebrated eleven baptisms, nine of whom were children!

We have also increased our opportunities for involvement and ministry with additional small groups and NOW ministry teams.

So, I am encouraged about our direction as a church. But I also know we can always do better.

As I attend Annual Conference in just a few weeks, I will be reflecting and praying about where we have been and where we are going. I hope you will pray for your clergy and lay delegates as we tend to the business of the connectional church beyond our boundaries.

Your lay delegates include Dr. Leonus and Marcia Shedd, and Jim Jackson. Celeste Letchworth will also attend Annual Conference as a delegate from the Northeast District. And of course, Jeff Weaver and I will be present as clergy members of the Annual Conference.

One thing I know for sure about the future: God will meet us there!

In Christ,  
Tom

## Children’s News

Tricia Weaver, Christian Education/Children’s Director

**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.

**Congratulations -** To the following students who were confirmed this past Sunday:

Sydney Adams  
Sara Giguere  
Logan Roswell  
Kirby Weaver

Courtney Chipman  
Ryan McAllister  
Maggie Schreit

## Upcoming

May 30—Communion

June 6—Rev. Bill Williams will preach

June 13—Rev. Jeff Weaver will preach

June 27—Rev. Angie Gage will be moving to Paragould

We will be looking for help to unload the truck when Angie arrives the afternoon of Sunday, June 27. More details will follow, but if you are able to assist, contact the church office.

Also, mark you calendars for a potluck to welcome Angie on Sunday, July 11. More details to follow.

## Youth News

Jeff Weaver, Youth Minister

**Remember that our College Sunday School Class meets each week!**

The youth will not meet this Sunday because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

## Calendar of Events

### 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
- 5:30 pm ABCD Group

### Monday, May 31

Memorial Day—Office Closed

### Tuesday, June 1

- 6:00 pm Shower
- 7:00 pm Scouts

### Wednesday, June 2

- 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir
- 7:30 pm Praise Team

### Thursday, June 3

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

### Sunday, June 6

- 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
- 5:30 pm ABCD Group

\*Nursery Provided

## Volunteers

### NURSERY

- May 30: Julie Rowe (9-10)  
Janie Harris (9-10)  
Tori Thompson (10-12)  
Christie Dollar (10-12)
- June 6: Elizabeth Sheldon (9-10)  
Jamie McIlvoy (9-10)  
Susan Blossom (11-12)  
Natalie Bland (10-12)

### ACOLYTES

- May 30: Kyleigh Horner, Abby Rogers, Kirby Weaver

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- May 30: Liz May & Dannelle Rogers
- June 6: Angela Newby

### BLUE JEAN USHERS

- May 30: Denise Chipman, Tim Roswell,  
Sally Martin
- June 6: Charlie & Crete Rhodes, Jeff Block,  
Melissa Tarry

### Mugging Ministry

- May 30: Nathan & Angela Newby
- June 6: Robert & Tori Thompson

## Prayers / Presence / Gifts

Weekly Budget Needs	13,460.56
Weekly Contributions	7,192.00
YTD Contributions	221,565.43
YTD Budget	282,671.76
2010 Budget	699,494.00

Debt of Gratitude:	
January 2010 Debt	674,315.76 (not including interest)
Paid to date (5/24)	78,021.00

## Attendance

	May 23	Last Year
8:00	31	25
9:00	230	144
11:00	124	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>277</b>

### Hospital

#### Prayer Requests

SPC Andrew Goodwin	875th	
Johnny Townsley	Bette Brewer	Randy Boyd
Sara MacDonald	Kristi Millard	Bill Burnett
Jackson Shepherd	Jorden Davidson	Berneice Howard
Don Hudson	Candi Crosno	Keith Bean
Keith Willis	Ronnie Reeves	Joyce Vallentine
Gayle Eden	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 Rattton
Joey Barr	Velma Clifford	Will & Tasha Tarry
Dalton Lane	Joann Allison	Parker Kocsis
Aaron Schenk	Yuba Williams	Carol Elmore
Julie Wilkins	Chuck Roming	Dana Self
Mike Holsten	Helen Havens	Ashlyn Walker
Dr. Brannon Treece	Shirley Mcoord	Mary Stark
Hubert Cloyes		

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

## Memorials

### In Memory of

**J. T. Honeycutt** (father of John Honeycutt) by Carl & Sara Schexnaydre, Diane Hart Blossom, George & Susie Cook

**Jane Giguere** by Mary E Herget, Jim & Mary Beth Weidman, Melvin & Sandra Wamock, Everett & Sandra Rogers, George & Susie Cook

**Bob Meriwether** by Mary E Herget, Alvin & Carolyn Samuel

**Emmy Witt** by Bob & Debbie Bratton, Everett & Sandra Rogers

**Daveda Misenhimer** by Bob & Debbie Bratton

**Pauline Poynor** (grandmother of Brooksie Hartness) by Curtis & Diane Goldtrip

### In Honor of

**Joe & Jackie Barnett** by Carl & Sara Schexnaydre

### 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—Jona 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](http://www.fumcparagould.org)

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



You are Invited to help Celebrate  
Glen Pillow's  
80th Birthday  
Sunday, May 30

2:00—4:00 in the Welcome Center  
Everyone welcomed!

No gifts please



## Offerings / Tithes

What an easy way to contribute your tithes. Whether you forget your checkbook or miss a Sunday, your contributions can still be made to the church each month just by filling out a simple form. Each month (Tuesday after third Sunday) your requested amount will be taken from your account and deposited into the church's account. Easy enough? For more information just contact Denise in the church office, 239-8541. With summer fast approaching now is a great time to start.

Please remember when paying on your 'Debt of Gratitude' commitment to please mark your check accordingly. If there is no notation on the check it automatically goes into the general budget account. Thanks, Denise