



NEWS TO THE PEWS

“Making Disciple For Jesus Christ”

February 2012

**First United Methodist
Church of Fort Gibson**

302 N. Beauregard Rd.
P.O. BOX 370
Fort Gibson, OK. 74434
(918) 478-3811

email:
ftgfumc@sbcglobal.net

Web: www.fortgibsonumc.us

Pastor: Rev. Barry Collins
www.blcollins@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Worship

- 9:00-9:55am Sunday School
(for those attending
Awakening Worship)
- 10:00-11:00am Sunday School
(for those attending
Traditional Worship)
- 10:00am Awakening Worship
- 11:00-11:15am Fusion
- 11:15-12:15pm
Traditional
Worship
- 6pm Youth

PLEASE JOIN US!

Church Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday:
8:30am to 4:30pm
Friday: Church Office Closed

“St. Valentine”

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl—who may have been his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still used today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It’s no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine’s Day the second largest card—sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages (written Valentine’s didn’t begin to appear until after 1400), and the oldest known Valentine card is display at the British Museum. The first commercial Valentine’s Day greeting cards produced in the U.S. were created in the 1840’s by Esther A. Howland.

I recently had lunch with a couple who were celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary. During the lunch I asked them to share with me the top three reasons that they were able to stay happily married for 48 years. Those three questions turned into over an hour of conversation! I valued that time and felt blessed to hear the wisdom gained from their long marriage. The top three suggestion I heard them give for their successful marriage included: 1) Accepting one another for they were, without trying to change one another. 2) Talk things out when troubles arise and never mention the word “divorce.” 3) Always put God at the center of your relationship. They were married at around 20 years of age and commented on how much they changed and grew closer to one another over those years. And said that its important even on those days when you don’t necessarily *feel* the romantic love for one another that you still *choose* to show love to each other. Love is not just a feeling, love is action.

The conversation reminded me of the words of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong of a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love in kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

As we celebrate Valentine’s Day this month let us remember to love God’s people with a 1st Corinthians 13 type of love. A love that was first demonstrated on the cross by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Barry Collins



MISSION

Our first meeting for 2012 was held January 26th and we made lots of plans for this year. We will continue with selling our Mothers Day and Fathers Day flowers. We have tentatively scheduled our annual garage sale for June 8th and 9th so please be gathering your donations for us. We will have our annual Willie Road cleanup on May 26th. We would love to have lots of helpers that day. We are going to continue our Lake Ministry at Greenleaf from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Project Noel was a great success in 2011 and we want to continue to share our gifts and fellowship with our neighbors so we will be heading it up again this year. We have chosen as a committee to go to the nursing home service on Sunday and would like to challenge other groups to take a Sunday. As you can see we have lots of exciting things happening this year. If you would like to join us we meet the last Thursday of each month at 6:00p.m. in the Parlor.

Blessings,

Kathy Spears, Chairperson



Please keep the following in your prayers and thought this week.

Roberta Henderson, Barbara Dye, Sherlene Baker, Ruth McLemore, Peggy Koch, Jeana Martin's cousin, Brad Holland's Grandma Sherry, Donna Johnson, Shanna Smithy, Ellis family, Jim Freeling, Sandy Floyd's friend, Kerry Keane's uncle's family & Mom, Busby family, Carol Harriman, Lori Alred, Melanie Ragsdale, Jeri Mahon, Joe Flowers, Donna Johnson, unspoken, Our Shut-Ins, Our Community, Our Military, Our World .

*May we pray for your need...Won't you come pray with us?
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their
1 Peter 12a*



Each day, prayer concerns of our church family and the community are lift up.



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Volunteers are notified by email or telephone of prayers concerns so that they can lift there concerns in the privacy of their own homes. Ruth McLemore or Rhonda at the Church activates the email chain begins the telephone chain. Contact Ruth McLemore at 918-478-4092.

February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			Focus 5:30-6:30pm Dinner 6:30-7:30pm Small Groups 6:30pm Women's	1pm Sunshine Circle Mtg. 6pm Finance Mtg. 7pm Trustees Mtg.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Youth Valentine's Banquet Ticket's on Sale -\$10. 6pm Youth 6pm Women's Bible Study	6pm Baby Shower for Sarah Floyd @ Sara Dunlap Home	5:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg.	Focus 5:30-6:30pm Dinner 6:30-7:30pm Small Groups	1pm Fort Gib- son Women Club Mtg.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday Worship 2:30pm Nursing Home Visit 2:00pm Baby Shower for Whitney Keane @ Brian & Kerry Keane's Home 7pm Youth Valentine Banquet	6:30pm Boy Scouts Mtg.	5:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg.	Focus 5:30-6:30pm Dinner 6:30-7:30pm Small Groups 6:30pm Youth		Youth Rock & Worship Road Show at Mabee Cen- ter, Tulsa	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday Worship 6pm Youth	6:30pm Boy Scouts Mtg.	5:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg.	6:30pm Ash Wednesday Ser- vices			Youth Winter Jam Concert at BOK, Tulsa
26	27	28	29			
Sunday Worship 6pm Youth	6:30pm Boy Scouts Mtg.	5:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg.	Focus 5:30-6:30pm Dinner 6:30-7:30pm Small Groups			

Mark your calendars for Youth up coming events. Don't miss out!!!



Youth Rock & Worship Road Show

Friday, February 17th at
the Mabee Center in Tulsa.

We will be leaving right after school is out. The cost will be \$10.00. Make sure you have returned your permission slip at least a week before the Worship Road Show.



YOUTH WINTER JAM 2012

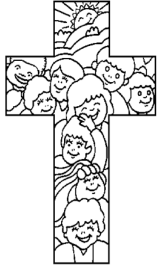
February 25th

Youth will meet and ride in the church van. We will leave at 2:00p.m. to go to the BOK center. The cost is \$10.00.

Youth Ministry

The youth will be raising funds to help with the cost of the district youth camp and Summer Mission Trip. Our next fundraiser will be the Valentine's Banquet. We have an evening full of fun games and great food scheduled for 7:00p.m. February 12th. If you would like to purchase tickets for the banquet please see Jennifer Parker. The cost is \$10.00 each. If you can not make the banquet and still wish to donate toward our Mission Trip or Summer Camps please see Jennifer Parker.

District Youth Camp: June 25-29th



Children's Ministry

Service Project: The Children will be making Valentine's Day Cards for the residents at the Fort Gibson Nursing Home this month.

This month in the Children's Program we will be working with the children to memorize the Lord's Prayer. Please help encourage your child to learn it by saying it together

at home.



The Lord's Prayer
 Our Father, who art in heaven,
 Hallowed be they name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done n earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 And the power, and the glory, forever.
 Amen.

We have been working on learning a new song at Children's Church. If you would like to help your child learn the song here are the lyrics:

"I am a C.

I am a C-H.

I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N and I have C-H-R-I-S-T in my H-E-A-R-T and I will L-I-V-E-E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y."

Children's church is available during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. During Children's Church the children pray, sing songs, and have devotion and craft time. If the weather permits they will be allowed to play outside on the church playground the last 7 minutes.



Children's Church

No Children's Church on First Sundays

Communion Sunday: February 5, 2012

Children are encouraged to stay in worship with their families and participate in the



Children's Church

No Children's Church on First Sundays

Communion Sunday: February 5, 2012

Children are encouraged to stay in worship with their families and

participate in the Children's Worship

Bulletin.

Sunday, February 12, 2012

"Praying Friends"

Bible Verse: When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God. Philemon 1:4

Sunday, February 19,

2012

"Friends by Name"

Bible Verse: Peace to you. The friends send you their greetings.

Greet the friends there, each by name. 3 John 1:15

Sunday, February 26, 2012

"Jesus and Friends"

Bible Verse: When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. Luke 19:5

After Focus Dinners on Wednesday nights we offer children's bible studies. The class is from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Nichole Clark is our Seeds and Sprouts teacher.

Wednesday Night Seeds and Sprouts



Wednesday, February 1st

"On the Hillside"

Bible Verse: Listen to what you are taught. Be wise, do not neglect it. Proverbs 8:33

Bible Story: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus teaches us how to live.



Wednesday, February 8th

"With His Friends"

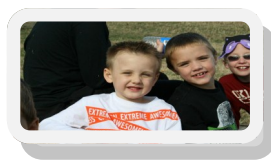
Bible Verse: The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them.

John 15:13

Bible Story: Luke 10:38-42;

John 11:1-44

Jesus loved and cared for his friends.



Wednesday, February 15th

"Peter and John"

Bible Verse: Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

Bible Story: Acts 3:1-16

Wednesday, February 22nd

"Dorcas"

Bible Verse: Trust in the LORD and do good. Psalm 37:3

Disciples of Jesus do good to others.

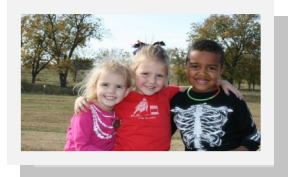
Wednesday, February 29th

"Paul"

Bible Verse: Do not be afraid... for I am with you. Acts 18:9-10

Bible Story: Act 9:1-22

We can ask Jesus for help when we are afraid.



Oh what fun, Oh what joy

Whitney is having a baby girl!

Join us for a Baby Shower for Whitney Keane

On Sunday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m.

At Brian & Kerry Keane's Residence.



Join us for a Baby Shower honoring

Sarah Floyd

(Wyatt Floyd)

Monday, February 6th

At 6:00 p.m. at

Sara Dunlap's Home.

Hosted by Starlight Circle.





United Methodist Women

The women are really ready to be about the mission for our Lord Jesus. So far this year our 2012 officers have been installed. We have been to the Officers Training on Jan. 14th at Cookson U.M.C. Our District President, Jo Stucky with her district officers provided a day filled with much needed information to help us have a successful year.

Our 2012 officers are listed below. The chairmen of the local projects are listed next. Hope you can find it with in your heart to assist with our project.

Officers:

President: Kathryn Hendrix Vice—President: Johnnie Sue Hill Secretary & Treasurer: Jolene Kirkes
Program Resources: Ruth O'Dell Nominating Chair: Jennifer Parker Spiritual Growth: Sara Dunlap
Education & Interpretation: Jere Gibson Social Action: Mellissa Agee
Membership, Nurture & Outreach: Kara West
Sunshine Circle Chair: (Meets 1st Thurs.) Johnnie Sue Hill
Starlight Circle Chair: (Meets 1st Monday) Tobi Gregory
Chairmen of Local Projects: Danny Duzit & Dish Clothes: Jolene Kirkes
Campbell Soup Labels: Kathryn Hendrix
Funeral Dinners: Jere Gibson Baby & Wedding Showers: The Unit Prayer Chain: Ruth McLemore
Pull Tabs : Phyllis Kinney Recycling Wagon: Chester Hendrix Recycling Items: The Unit
Reading Program: Ruth O'Dell Used Eye Glasses: Mary Peebles Greeting Card Covers:
Kathryn Hendrix
Christmas for Cookson: Sandy Floyd Arts & Craft Show: Jolene Kirkes "Toole Tyme" Conference
Project
"Hands On" Project—District

Our next Unit meeting will be Monday, March 5th, at 6:00p.m. in the Church Parlor. The program will be the "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" led by Sara Dunlap- Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Also, we will be celebrating with our latest new members, Phyllis Kinney and Michelle Brown.

You are welcome to join us.

Kathryn Hendrix
President

February Birthdays



2-12 Bill Caps

2-15 Alec & Tyler Downing

2-15 Winifred Donahue

2-15 Nicole Clark

2-21 Gray Longley

February Anniversary

2-26 Neal & Lori Boatright

2-28 Jeff & Erika Skaggs



SCHEDULE FOR FOCUS BIBLE STUDY

Feb. 1st-Ephesians

Feb. 8th-Ephesians

Feb. 15th-Ephesians

Feb. 21st No Focus,

-5:30pm Dinner

- 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 29th-Ephesians

March 7th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

March 14th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

March 21st No Focus (Spring Break)

March 28th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

April 4th No Focus (Holy Week)

April 11th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

April 18th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

April 25th-"Broken To Peace" DVD Study

God Is Love

*Let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of
God and knows God. Whoever
does not know God, for God is
love.*

John 4:7-8

If you have a new or changed email won't you please let the church office know?



This will help with our prayer email list in getting

everyone important information updates.

Also, if you have a prayer request that you would like to have shared with the congregation, please let Rhonda Ford and Pastor Barry Collins know.

That way if either are unavailable, the other can get your request out.



Ash Wednesday

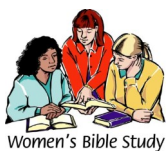
Ash Wednesday, **February 22nd**, is the day we begin a period of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection. First UMC will hold an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary at 6:30p.m. Dinner will be at 5:30pm in the Christian Life Center. Please make plans to join us.

Originating in the fourth century. The season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding the Saturday before Easter.

By having the forehead marked with the sign of a cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross. Also, having your forehead signed with ashes is a fitting and visible spiritual reminder that encourages one to adopt an attitude of prayer, repentance, and humility.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:10) NIV)

Calling All Women



There will be a six week bible study for women all ages. It is called Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed by Beth Moore. Two classes times will be available. Wednesday at 6:30p.m or Sunday at 6:00p.m. Classes begin on Wednesday, February 1st or Sunday, February 5th. Nursery is available. Come out and join us!

Up Coming Event

Muskogee District Lay Speaker Training

“Lay Speakers Lead in Stewardship”

At Camp Egan

The event will take place March 23 through March 25, 2012

If you would like to attend the Lay Speaker Training, please pick up your registration form today. The registration form needs to be turn in by MARCH 10 with your check made out to the Muskogee District Lay Speaker Training.

Mail your check and registration form to :

Bill Prentice
84 Sycamore Circle
Pryor, OK. 74361



The United Methodist Women are collecting used eye glasses and used greeting cards. If you can help, please have them turn in by Thursday, March 1, 2012.





For some reason, I keep reading daily devotions that have to do with our use of our spiritual gifts. The things we do to help build up the Body of Christ really make a difference. What a lesson this one has to teach us! And thanks to all who serve with their time, talents, gifts and finances. You are a blessing to Christ's church.

Playing to One Conductor

By Os Hillman

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor" (1 Cor. 12:21-23).

I watched as the conductor looked over to the violin section, then the percussion, then there was a seemingly insignificant lady standing way back in the corner waiting to play her one or two notes on a chime-looking instrument. "Who would even notice if she didn't play her instrument?" I wondered to myself. "The conductor would," said the still voice in my spirit. An orchestra is a great picture of the way the Body of Christ should operate. It is made up of different people with different gifts, all being led by the one Great Conductor, telling us when to use our gift in the right time. I am sure the lady in the back of the room who only plays a few notes must think she doesn't measure up to the great violinist who sits right up close to the conductor.

However, imagine if you slowly removed each member of the orchestra, one at a time. At first you may not notice any difference without a trained ear. But as you remove each member of the orchestra, you will begin to miss the powerful and melodic sound of many instruments playing together. Finally, when all but a few of the instruments are removed, you notice a big difference in the sound and the void left from key instruments.

Imagine if these instruments tried to go out and play songs all by themselves. Imagine if the tuba tried to play a solo. Or the oboe did the same. You get the idea.

Every member of the Body of Christ matters. Every job matters to God and contributes to our great Conductor's grand plan to fulfill His purpose on the earth. Your contribution matters to God and has no hierarchy of importance.

Play your instrument to the glory of God in unison with the other instruments God has raised up for His purpose.

Whenever God calls you into a new thing, you can expect to do things you've never done. This is the way of God. When God looks at an individual, He looks at their future, not their past. He is always looking at the person. He has created you to become, not the person you are now.

How does God view your life? What is the destiny He has chosen you to fulfill?

Lay Leader,
Ruth O'Dell



FIRST UNITED
METHODSIT CHURCH

P.O Box 370
Fort Gibson, OK. 74434
ftgfumc@sbcglobsl.net

Coming in the next Issue.....

Daylight Saving Begins, Life Line Screening, Spring Break, a look ahead.

IS IT YOUR JOB OR MINISTRY?

Some people have a job in the church. Others involve themselves in ministry. What's the difference? If you do it just because no one else will...it's a job. If you do it to serve God...it's a ministry. If you quit because someone criticized you...it's a job. If you kept on serving in the spite of criticism...it's a ministry. If you'll do it only so long

as it doesn't interfere with other things...it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting other things go...it's a ministry. If you quit because no one ever praised or thanked you...it's a job. If you stay even though no one now notices your efforts...it's a ministry. If you do it because someone else said it needed to be done...it's a job. If you do it because you sensed God saying it needed to be done...it's a ministry. It's here

to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible NOT to get excited about ministry! An average church is filled with people involved in ministry! Let's remind each other about why we do what we do! Let's continue to be a GREAT and GROWING church full of people engaged in ministry!