



January 12, 2010
Volume 55
Issue 01

The MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church Hot Springs, AR

**Many New Year resolutions are made on January 1st.
We are here to help you make those resolutions a reality!**

For those struggling to get out of debt, "**Financial Peace**" is offered on Sundays, 9:30 a.m., in the Education Building 204, starting this Sunday, January 17 through Sundays April 18. Financial Peace is a Biblically-based accountability curriculum that teaches you to manage God's money and resources in a godly way. It empowers you to make the right financial decisions to achieve your financial goals, teaching you to eliminate debt, build wealth, and give like never before. Cost of materials is \$60.00 (the church pays the remaining \$40.00 if you complete the course).

For those desiring to learn how to set healthy boundaries with their parents, spouse, children, friends, co-workers and even themselves, the Henry Cloud and John Townsend "**Boundaries**" Simulcast is free (registration is encouraged) and available on Saturday, January 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Christian Life Center 203. Without boundaries in our relationships, life can be frustrating, unsatisfying, and exhausting. In this one-day seminar, you will learn how to set healthy boundaries with your parents, spouse, children, friends, co-workers and even yourself.

(Continued on page 5)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

JANUARY 17, 2010

8:15, 9:30 AND 10:55 AM

Sermon

"Rekindling the Flame"

Find your mission in life on your knees, in your head, and with your hands.

2 Timothy 1:3-14

Rev. Bud Reeves

Hymns: *Come, Christians, Join to Sing
I Know Whom I Have Believed
Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Head Ushers: Paul Dahl, Kirby Williams

Peer Buddy: Andrew Tkach & Jack Henry Hill

Acolytes: Mary Ashley Hall & Braden Munro

Angels

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Roger Barnes | David Carter | Claire Street |
| Chuck Dudley | Margaret Clark | Blake Hogue |
| Ann Barnes | Sara Bryant | Sonny Gaston |
| Alison Carter | John Bryant | Carol Pratt |
| Emily Carter | Rachel Street | Bob Shirley |
| Laura Carter | Steve Street | |

THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

JANUARY 24, 2010

8:15, 9:30 AND 10:55 AM

Sermon

"The Love Mission"

What is the one principle that gives meaning to life?

Mark 12: 28-34

Rev. Bud Reeves

Hymns: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Head Ushers: Paul Dahl, Susan Bean

Peer Buddy: Jake Hogue & Sam Hogue

Acolytes: Rai Pullin and Macy Hendrix

Angels

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ron Muse | Lara Hackney | Wayne Ranson |
| Sheree Tilley | David French | Ronnie Twyford |
| John Poe | Sharon Anderson | Brenda Henderson |
| Pam Waltman | Janice Carhart | Martha Burch |
| Ann Algee | Virgil Mundhenke | Julie Twyford |

Church Family News

JANUARY 3

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

8:15 Service 161
 ConneXion 189
 10:55 Service 196
 Nursery 13
Total..... 559

JANUARY 10

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

8:15 Service 181
 ConneXion 191
 10:55 Service 218
 Nursery 15
Total..... 605

CONCERNS

Hospitals: VA, LR—Jim Haynie; **St. Joseph's**—Jim Tucker, Mary Cox, Boyd Glenn

Released: Iva Harrison, Joy Rose, Suzi Burton, Brenda Durand

Sympathy: Mary Evelyn Smith, mother of Marie Limandri and Cheryl and Jack Farr; Bill Troutman, husband of Bobbi, father of Gary and Michelle; Mack Koonce husband of Jana; Clarence "Bud" Burch III, father of Megan, son of Clarence, nephew of Martha.

FINDING YOUR MISSION IN LIFE!

A new sermon series, "Finding Your Mission in Life," will start this Sunday, January 17. God has a plan, and you're part of it! Learn how you can fit into the divine scheme of things, and life can become a grand adventure!

January 17—Rekindling the Flame

Find your mission in life on your knees, in your head, and with your hands.

2 Timothy 1:3-14

January 24—The Love Mission

What is the one principle that gives meaning to life?

Mark 12:28-34

January 31—Mission Possible

We have a mission to make and keep and grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20

February 7—Let Your Light Shine!

Transforming mission is the disciples' task.

Matthew 5:13-16

February 14—Let Your Glory Show!

The Transfiguration confirms, transforms, and empowers us for our mission in life.

Luke 9:28-36

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS WELL!

Thanks to everyone who made it a priority to support the ministry of God through our church at the end of the year. We had a great December and ended the year in great shape.

In the ministry fund at the end of December, we had finished 100% of our ministry year, and we had received 98% of our Ministry Fund Budget \$1,648,830. for the year. One-twelfth of our Ministry Fund budget for the year is \$137,402; our receipts in December totaled \$226,374. Our ministry expenses for the month were \$176,778.18. Our YTD expenses were \$1,603,626. We ended the year with a surplus of \$9,261; combined with our beginning balance from January 1, 2009, we will begin 2010 with \$89,875. These reserve funds keep us afloat during the summer when contributions are generally lean. It is good to start the year this way! Our Conference apportionments were paid 100% in 2009. This supports our extended United Methodist ministries, missions and institutions.

In the Holy Ground Fund, we received \$65,420 in December. Since the first of the year, we have received \$398,541. Our current indebtedness is \$912,666. Our total pledges for the campaign were \$1,595,405. Since May 2008 we have received \$836,526 (53%). That leaves us \$758,878 to complete our Holy Ground Campaign by May of 2011.

Thanks again for your wonderful support of the church; God bless you in this New Year!



Shepherd's Staff: Looking Backwards and Forwards

January is named for the Roman god Janus, who had two faces—one looking back into the past, and one looking forward into the future. That is always the stance I seem to take in January. I want to reflect on the year past and learn from it, but I also want to look ahead and have some positive, pro-active directions for the new year.

As I look back on 2009, it was a good year in many respects, but it was also a tough year. The economy seemed to overshadow everything. But I am very pleased that we ended the year in such good shape. Though our contributions to the ministry fund were \$84,000 under 2008 and \$36,000 under our 2009 budget, they were \$9,000 over our expenses. I have to commend our staff for tightening their belts and holding expenses to a minimum, and I appreciate our members for accommodating to the changes that entailed. The great news is, our ministry did not suffer. We retained almost all our staff, and our programs carried on in an effective way. We were still touching lives for Jesus, and that's what matters. We will also begin the year with an even bigger reserve fund than we had last year due to the combination of steady support from church members and our frugal spending.

In the people numbers, we are good on two out of three. Our membership grew from 2,196 to 2,237, and we received 98 new members during the year. Our professions of faith (people making a first commitment) were also strong; we had 34. Unfortunately, our worship attendance took an overall dip in 2009, from 857 to 805. Though still strong and over the 800 mark, we don't want to continue this trend. Decreases in worship attendance are being reported in most mainline churches, of which the United Methodist Church is one, but I am not satisfied to go with the flow! It seems to be a combination of factors: the aging of our congregation, the continual encroachment of family, school, and recreational activities into the Sunday morning schedule, and perhaps some after-effects of transitions in leadership.

However, as I look back on 2009, I am not disappointed; in fact, I am encouraged. Our children's and youth ministries are going full steam. Our adult discipleship ministries are bursting at the seams. We are engaged in mission in our community and around the world through the United Methodist Church. And I feel a

great positive energy about our church. I see people every week whose lives are being touched by our ministry, folks who are growing deeper in their faith by what we are doing. Guests in our worship tell me that they feel our church is alive and friendly when they visit. Those kinds of things don't show up on statistical reports, but they are very real and important.

As I look ahead into the new year, I see several areas of emphasis:

- Our three-year strategic plan will end in May. We will need to update, revise, and strengthen our strategic ministry directions for the next few years.
- We will emphasize becoming an invitational congregation. We are already pretty friendly, but to become a growing church and to offset losses in worship attendance, we need to do evangelism/hospitality on a more widespread basis.
- We will continue to educate the congregation about good stewardship, not only about finances, but about all the ways God calls us to be stewards. Stewardship is a mindset that, once it takes hold in a church, can make a powerful difference.

I am thankful for the support of the congregation as we do ministry. It is through your giving, teaching, serving, and attending that we are the community of faith that we are. I am also hopeful that our best days are yet ahead of us, so as Paul said, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [let us] press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

Be blessed today,

Bro. Bud

Children's Ministries

Michelle Wilkins, cminister@fumchs.com
623-6668 Ext. 127



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE!!!

I am happy to announce that the date has been set and plans are underway for our 2010 *HIGH SEAS Vacation Bible School* adventure! Set sail with us **June 21-25th from 9:00 am till**

noon each day where we will live Bible truths...and discover God's Word is truly life-changing! Our VBS directors this year will be Cynthia Tkach, Cory Cox, and assisting them will be Britani Martin! Thank you ladies for committing your time and energy to this most important opportunity!

This is going to be a wonderful experience that you don't want to miss, so mark your calendars now! Parents, this means you too! I will need LOTS and LOTS of you to help make this a success!!! So, when you get your phone call asking for help with VBS this year, please prayerfully consider your answer! You will receive such a blessing by participating in this life changing event with your children. PLEASE consider leading

a class this year, or helping in some way. If you want to know more about getting involved, please contact me at 623-6668, ext. 127.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS!

Our mid-week after school programs resumed Wednesday, January 13th! W.A. K. (Wednesday Afternoon Kids) is for our Pre-K through 4th graders and C.L.U.B. (Christ Loves Us Because) is for the 5th and 6th graders. We meet from 3:30-4:45 for games, Bible story, and crafts, then from 4:45-5:30 it's off to children's choir for some MUSICAL FUN!!! If you did not join us for our first Wednesday afternoon, it's not too late...tell your parents you want to join the FUN!! We would LOVE to have you! Just ask mom or dad to go to the "Children's" page on our website: <http://fumchotsprings.org/> and click on the "Wednesday Afternoons" tab to get you signed up! Transportation from school is provided each week, so we hope to see you next Wednesday!

Ron's Ramblings

Dr. Ron Hall, rhall@fumchs.com
623-6668 Ext. 118

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Our "Christmas Celebration" presentation on December 13th was superb!! Thanks to everyone who was involved. Our Celebration and Jubilation! handbells, Audience of One youth ensemble, Chancel choir, and instrumentalists all presented the story of Christ's birth so beautifully.

Perhaps special note should be given to those who worked silently 'behind-the-scenes' on this event. Mr. Bob Adams was our sound engineer and Trent Foreman videotaped the presentation. Thanks so much, Bob and Trent for being there for us! We really appreciate your support!

And thanks again to all who contributed to the orchestral fundraising. Orchestra support on our presentation helped make the event so special!

REHEARSALS BEGIN AGAIN!

All of our musical ensembles are back rehearsing again. It is hard to believe that it is time to look toward Holy Week, Easter, and summer youth ensemble tour. But look forward we must. Perhaps YOU would like to get involved with one of our musical groups? We would love to have as part of our handbell, choral, or youth ministries. Just contact me and together we'll find a place for you!

Discipleship

Teresa Holt, disciple@fumchs.com
623-6668 Ext. 116

(continuation of article on page 1)

For those dealing with grief, who would like a support group to travel the journey with them, the "**Griefshare**" group begins Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., January 13 – April 1, Christian Life Center 209. Griefshare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. No cost for materials

For those who resolve to meet more people and develop friendships, we have **Dinner Groups** organizing. Dinner Groups meet in groups of 8 – 12 people (all ages and marital status) once a month. Registration is currently underway with a deadline of February 14. The first meeting will be at a Restaurant (tba) February 28. At this first meeting, you will get to meet your group (as well as the other groups) and plan your schedules for the year. For more information, contact Julie Shaw at jsdesigns@cablelynx.com, or Teresa Holt at disciple@fumchs.com. Registration is also available on line at fumchotsprings.org.

These are just a small number of the small groups designed to assist participants on their spiritual journey and to keep their new year resolutions! To learn more

or to register, contact Teresa Holt at 501-623-6668, ext 116, disciple@fumcsh.com, or go online at fumchotsprings.org.

COMING IN FEBRUARY...

Living Prayer, Wednesdays, February 3 – March 17, CLC 201. Intercessory Prayer Group, Facilitators;
Lenten Devotional, Wednesdays, 12:00 noon, February 17 – March 24, Pastoral Staff, Facilitators.

PRAYER SHAWLS AND JAUNTY HATS

Our church provides Prayer Shawls for those who are sick and in need of a tangible form of God's love and grace (they do not have to be a member or guest of our church). The Knitwits Ministry prays over the shawls as they knit/crochet them, and our Intercessory Prayer Team prays specifically for the individual who will receive the shawl. Jaunty Hats are also available for those who are undergoing chemotherapy. To request either item, contact Teresa Holt at 501-623-6668, or disciple@fumchs.com. For more information about the Knitwits or to provide a prayer shawl or jaunty hat, contact Joyce Thornton at jnthornton@att.net.

Youth Ministries

Bill Skaggs, youthminister@fumchs.com
623-6668 Ext. 123

WE HAVE NEW SCHEDULES COMING UP!

Sunday Nights Beginning in January

| | |
|--------|--|
| 5:00pm | Sr. High Bible Study in the Underground |
| | Jr. High Bible Study in the Underground |
| 5:30pm | Worship Together |
| 6:00pm | UMY Dinner |
| 6:30pm | Fun and Games |

Wednesday Night Programs

Beginning January 13th

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 6:00pm | Bible 101 |
| | Babysitting Certification |
| | Service Projects |
| | Video Production |
| | Confirmation 2010 |

Special Gifts

In honor of Corinne Gooch
Mildred Smith

In memory of Mary E. Smith
Rick Presock and family
Monday & Friday Bridge Club
Curtis and Nita Ridgeway
Robert Thomas
Ronnie and Julie Twyford
Joe and Gretta Kaufman

In memory of Jimmy Smith
Curtis and Nita Ridgeway

In memory of J.D. Burch
Joy Dale Bennett
Sarah Ramick
Gaby Forsberg
Ann Gidcomb
In memory of Bill Troutman
John Kellar

GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PRESENT XYZ PROGRAM

The XYZ's first potluck luncheon of the new year has been set for Thursday, January 21. Members and guests will gather in the Shelton Room of the Christian Life Center beginning at 11:30 and the meal will be served at noon. Those having birthdays since the last meeting will be honored. The program will be presented by Liz Robbins, Executive Director, of The Garland County Historical Society. Liz will explain the holdings of the Society, recent publications and interesting facts about the history of Hot Springs and Garland County. A short business meeting follow the program. The XYZ meets the third Thursday of each month from September through May. All retired church members and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend and enjoy Christian fellowship and good food.

START THE NEW YEAR OFF BY BECOMING A VOLUNTEER!

The Caring Place has ample opportunities for you to serve. We have implemented a new program where you can volunteer half days. You can choose from either 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. or 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Remember that lunch and fun are always provided! To find out more information, please contact Cheryl at 623-2881.

BOARD OF STEWARDS TO MEET ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

The Board of Stewards will meet on Sunday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. in Cupp Hall. The agenda will include the ministry budget for 2010 and Bro. Bud's "State of the Church" presentation. Please RSVP for dinner to Markie Van Schenck (760-3009) or Paulette Johnson (525-1444)

SOUL FOOD CAFÉ AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP START BACK UP THIS WEDNESDAY 1-13-10

These two ministries provide the opportunity to meet people, have dinner for a nominal fee (leave the cooking to someone else), be in community, and to hear the good news. There are not many United Methodist Churches that have worship services on Wednesday Evenings – what a wonderful opportunity to bridge your week by worshipping our Lord. I hope to see you Wednesday!

Rev. O

Outreach

Candy Poirier, outreach@fumchs.com
623-6668 Ext. 117

JACKSON HOUSE HOLIDAY WORKERS

Thank you to all of you for your donations and who volunteered your time between Christmas and New Years to prepare and feed lunch at the Jackson House. They all greatly appreciated having hot soup and lunch. This is a great mission that we have taken up the past 2 years and a great service to our community. Thank you again for your help.

Church Calendar

Wednesday, January 13

8:30 a.m. Companions in Christ
Pilates
9:00 a.m. Ho Hum Low Impact Exercise Class
10:00 a.m. Smocking Guild
11:30 a.m. Griefshare
1:30 p.m. Knitwit Group
3:30 p.m. W.A.K. and C.L.U.B.
4:00 p.m. FUMC Junior Ringers
4:45 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group
Children's Choirs
5:00 p.m. UMY Programs
Jubilation! Handbells
5:15 p.m. Soul Food Café
6:15 p.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 14

9:00 a.m. PEO Meeting
Covenant Disciple Group
9:30 a.m. Esther
10:00 a.m. Christian Believer
5:30 p.m. Disciple IV
6:30 p.m. ConneXion Practice

Friday, January 15

8:30 a.m. Pilates
9:00 a.m. Ho Hum Low Impact Exercise
10:00 a.m. Ho Hum Class

Sunday, January 17

8:15 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Financial Peace
Sunday School
The ConneXion
Holy Communion—Humphrey's Chapel
10:45 a.m. Connect Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship
3:30 p.m. Audience of One rehearsal
5:00 p.m. UMY—Underground
Disciple I
6:00 p.m. Board of Stewards

Monday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Disciple I
Disciple II
Pilates
9:00 a.m. Jesus in the Gospels
11:00 a.m. Celebration Handbells
1:30 p.m. Staff meeting

6:00 p.m.

Christian Believer
Religion and Science

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Intermediate Handbells
5:30 p.m. Spanish Class
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision meeting
Stephen Ministry training

Wednesday, January 20

8:30 a.m. Companions in Christ
Pilates
9:00 a.m. Ho Hum Low Impact Exercise Class
11:30 a.m. Griefshare
3:30 p.m. W.A.K. and C.L.U.B.
4:00 p.m. FUMC Junior Ringers
4:45 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group
5:00 p.m. UMY Programs
5:15 p.m. Soul Food Café
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:15 p.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Covenant Disciple Group
9:30 a.m. Esther
10:00 a.m. Christian Believer
11:30 a.m. XYZ
5:30 p.m. Disciple IV
6:30 p.m. ConneXion Practice

Friday, January 22

8:30 a.m. Pilates
9:00 a.m. Ho Hum Low Impact Exercise
10:00 a.m. Ho Hum Class

Sunday, January 24

8:15 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Financial Peace
Sunday School
The ConneXion
10:45 a.m. Connect Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship
3:30 p.m. Audience of One Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. UMY—Underground
Disciple I

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Listen to our 10:55 am service every week on F.M. Station 104.5 "The Bull"