

March 2010

Pastor John Breon

The Eufaula Messenger

Church Office 918-689-2109 Mon.-Fri. 9:00-1:00
www.eufaula-umc.org.



First United Methodist Church of Eufaula



Pastor's Report

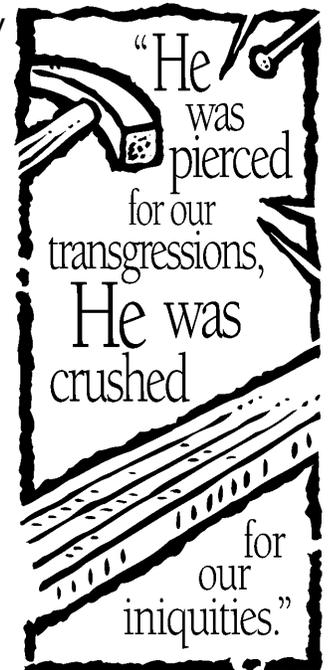
*The way of the cross leads home
The way of the cross leads home
It is sweet to know, as I onward go
The way of the cross leads home
(Jessie Brown Pounds, 1934
The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal #141)*

This old Gospel song keeps running through my mind as I think about our Lenten series on the last hours of Jesus' life. Through Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection we come to our true home—life with God, a relationship of love and faithfulness with the Lord. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we come to our eternal home in God's presence and in God's glorious new creation.

Also, as disciples, we follow Jesus in the way of the cross. As Richard Foster writes, "Christ not only died a 'cross-death,' he lived a 'cross-life.' The way of the cross, the way of a suffering servant was essential to his ministry. ...The call for Christians to live the cross-life is rooted in the cross-life of Jesus himself" (*Celebration of Discipline*, 115-117).

Jesus himself says it this way: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35). After doing the slave's job of washing the disciples' feet, Jesus says, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15)

Peter holds together the example of Jesus and the death of Jesus for us: "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ...When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.' For 'you were like sheep going astray,' but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:21-25). The way of the cross leads home.



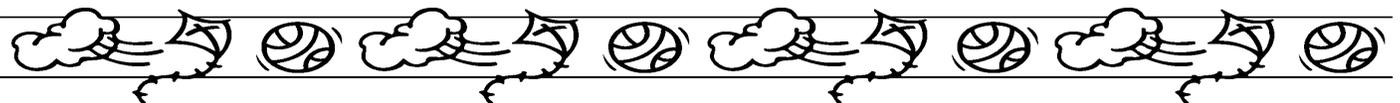
Isaiah 53:5

3/7	Mark 14:53-72	“Condemned by the Righteous”
3/14	Mark 15:1-15	“Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate”
3/21	Mark 15:15-23	“The Torture and Humiliation of the King”
3/28	Palm/Passion Sunday Mark 15:25-39	“The Crucifixion”



Prepare for Revival Services Coming in April

Mark April 11-13 on your calendar.
 These are the dates for our Spring Revival.
 See more information about this event in Tom Kiester's
 article inside this newsletter.



Board of Trustee's Meeting Notes

Glenna Fisher, Chairman



The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 23 and planned Spring Clean-Up and Fix-Up Days for the church. The Clean-Up/Fix-Up will last 3 days and will begin on Thursday, March 11 and continue through Saturday, March 13. They are hoping to get some general cleaning and organizing done as well as some small repairs and painting. They would really like to try and make the church look more presentable and appealing.

The Trustee's are also asking for donations to help pay for cleaning supplies, paint and

any other materials necessary for the work. If you cannot help with the work, this is a way you can still help the cause.

The trustees also discussed the roof problems at the meeting. They have decided to try and find someone that will make the necessary repairs to the roof to stop the leaks. They are looking into the options that will be available for this type of repair. They are still looking into legal opportunities to get back some of the money from the original contractor, however, the repairs need to be done as soon as possible to keep from having further damage later on.

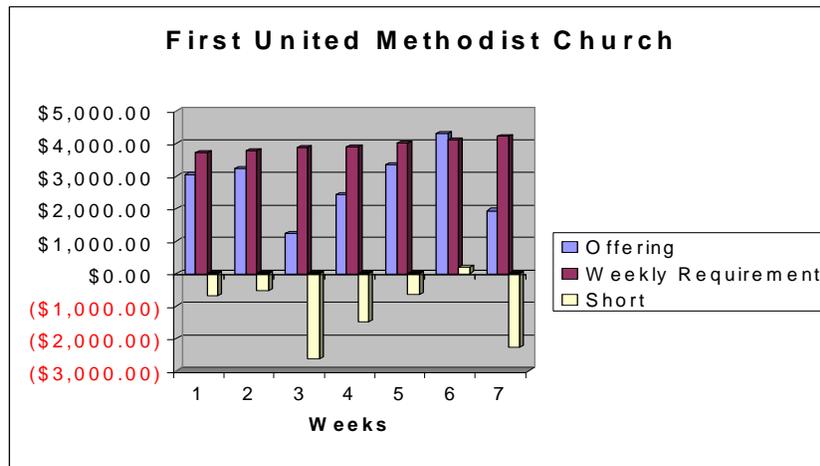


Church Financial Status

By: Dan Huddle, Finance Committee Chairman

Recently, we installed two (2) data boards in the Sanctuary. The boards are titled “Register of Attendance and Offering”. The purpose it is to inform the congregation of the previous weeks attendance and offering. The bottom line of the boards contains the weekly budget requirement. Our weekly budget is \$3,726.00.

Regrettably, we are not satisfying the budget need. Included in this article is a graph that illustrates our current situation. The actual supporting data is also here for your review. The lack of cash-flow to support the financial needs of the church is hindering our ability to keep pace with debt service. If this trend continues we will not be able to maintain a healthy balance sheet.



First United Methodist Church Income / Budget

	Income	Budget	Variance
3-Jan	\$3,040.98	\$3,726.81	(\$685.83)
10-Jan	\$3,240.72	\$3,786.43	(\$545.71)
17-Jan	\$1,240.55	\$3,864.97	(\$2,624.42)
24-Jan	\$2,412.41	\$3,901.42	(\$1,489.01)
31-Jan	\$3,346.00	\$4,006.35	(\$660.35)
7-Feb	\$4,304.40	\$4,109.23	\$195.17
14-Feb	\$1,942.00	\$4,217.16	(\$2,275.16)

If we cannot support our budget requirements, cuts will have to be made. Optimistically, we need to take action now and not let the situation continue to deteriorate. We need to pull together to solve this problem. Our current budget shortage will require a weekly average giving increase of \$39.00 to \$3,765.00. This new weekly amount will satisfy our annual budget requirement.

If you have questions or need clarification of any information in the article, please call Dan Huddle, home (918) 452-2204 or cell (918) 618-2556.

UMW Update

By: Twyla King



It doesn't seem like 2 or 3 less days should make February such a short month, but it really whizzed by didn't it? Or maybe just because our UMW ladies are always busy at something.

At our February meeting, we all enjoyed a potluck luncheon followed by the regular business meeting. Nora Shanafelt brought the program entitled "Meet The Oklahoma Missionaries" which gave us an introduction to all the GBGM missionaries with Oklahoma ties. Jewell Harmon and Dorothy Merrick were hostesses for the luncheon. UMW donated \$100.00 to the Selvige family this month as their house burned.

Our next meeting will be March 2, when Bee Bozarth will present the program entitled "Call To Prayer and Self-Denial—Property Makes Mission Possible". This meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. and there will be no refreshments served as this is one way we can have a chance to deny ourselves and make a gift to this special offering which funds special mission projects. We invite all women of the church to join us at this meeting to hear how our contributions make mission possible.

We continue to make pies and also have a new project—making quilts out of old blue jeans. They seem to be popular as we have made 12 so far and have sold 8 of them. Ask a UMW member if you would like to see them.

United Methodist Committee on Relief is asking for health kits for Haiti. If you would like to make up some of these kits, the following items should be put into a one gallon plastic bag: 1 hand towel—not a kitchen towel; 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket sized); 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (not emery board or toenail clipper); 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. & up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only & no child size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages; & \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste. (Toothpaste is purchased in bulk to be added to the health kits by UMCOR). Eufaula UMW will make sure the kits are delivered to the conference



office where they will be shipped to the storage depot in Baldwin, LA. These specifications may seem restrictive, but it is imperative that all kits are exactly alike. I purchased all items at the Family Dollar Store last week and it amounted to \$6.00. With the \$1.00 for toothpaste, the total cost for the kit would be \$7.00, unless you could find some of the items cheaper somewhere else. Oklahoma Conference will be collecting these kits for several months as those in storage are used up, they will need to be replaced. Annual conference delegates are asked to bring some kits to Annual conference in May. Kits may be left in church office or in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, March 20—Boy Scout Fund-raiser Breakfast at Masonic Lodge.

Responding to the Call of Christ Revival

By: Tom Kiester, Witness/Evangelism Committee Chairman

Reverend David Player, Senior Pastor of the Altus First United Methodist Church, will lead our revival planned for April 11-13. There will be three evening sessions:

- Sunday 4/11 evening: Responding to the Call of Christ—Repent!
- Monday 4/12 evening: Responding to the Call of Christ—Follow Me!
- Tuesday 4/13 evening: Responding to the Call of Christ—Abide in Me!

David has suggested that we form four "Cottage Prayer Groups" to begin meeting a month prior to the event. He has other suggestions that we will be discussing at our next Witness/Evangelism Committee meeting on Tuesday evening, March 9 at 7:00 p.

m. You are welcome to attend this meeting with us if you are interested in helping, please advise one of the committee members who are : Tammy Green, Dan Huddle, Doug & Kate Kuykendall, Tom Kiester, and Art & Phyllis Shutts.



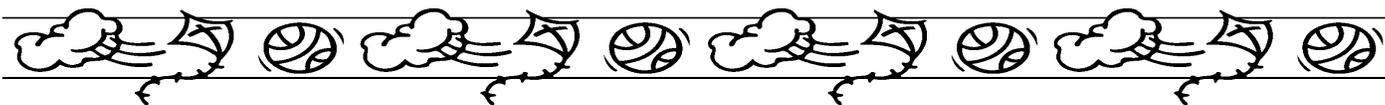
David is available during the day on Monday and Tuesday to meet with any church groups that normally meet, or want to have a special meeting, during those days. Using David Player's own words, "I will be glad to pray together, give my testimony, teach a lesson, have an open forum, and or share a song or two with my guitar."

Rev. David Player is like one of our guest speakers last year; he is from the "Deep South," deep South Africa that is. So I suspect his "Southern drawl" will sound more British-like.

This can be a wonderful event. Here is what **YOU** can do: start making a list of people **NOW** that you would like to have contacted and be extended a special personal invitation to attend.

I have some people I have asked casually over the past few years that I know are "unchurched", and will go on my list. We have some Eu-
faula FUMC members who haven't attended for some time, and they should go on those lists. We have some out-of-town members that we can invite to come visit for this great event, thus a revival-reunion. Get me your lists with contact info of addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. and we will reach them.

Mark your calendars. Plan to attend. Respond to the Call of Christ on April 11-13 at our church.



Community Worship Service

The Lake Area Ministerial Alliance will hold a community worship service on Palm Sunday (March 28) at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Everyone is invited. Offering goes to support God's Helping Hands.

A Message From the Church Treasurer

By: Maurice Arnold

As the book "A Biblical Perspective on Tithing & Giving" by Rich Brott points out: There are many reasons for tithing.

1. God is training us to be faithful stewards in handling money.
2. God is teaching us the principle concerning the cycle of money.
3. The tithe belongs to God (Leviticus 27:30).
4. Tithing is commanded (Malachi 3:10).
5. Tithing does away with hit-and-miss methods of giving.

There are many promises in God's Word for those who tithe faithfully. The command to tithe in Malachi 3:10 is followed up by some great promises. As Proverbs 28:20 says..."A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished". As we are faithful and test God in this area, let's trust Him to fulfill His promises. Be abundantly blessed!



3/6
3/7
3/13
3/17

March Anniversaries

Hal & Phyllis Kirkpatrick
Ray & Ingrid Fells
Don & Sharon Edgar
Mike & Kathy Kirkpatrick

Meet The New Members

By: Twyla King



Frank and Linda Dera-mus live at Spinnaker Point, where their mailing address is Route 4, Box 3575, Stigler, 74462. Their telephone # is 918-452-2194. They have lived here since Spring of 2009. Frank works for the Social Security Administration in McAlester and Linda is retired. They have 2 grown daughters and 1 grandson and 1 granddaughter, that all live in the Dallas area. They joined our church in December, and if you have not met them yet, please make their acquaintance.

David and Kathleen Shannon live on a small ranch west of Canadian, moving there after retiring from the Texas Public school system in June, 2008. They were both principals. Their address is P.O. Box 57, Canadian, 74425. Their telephone # is 918-339-4038 and Kathleen's cell is 918-470-0313. David, a graduate of Crowder High School, is also retired from the U.S. Air Force. Between them, they have 6 children, 5 grandchildren and another grandchild due in April. David and Kathleen have been attending our church for some time and we were glad to welcome them into our church family on January 31.

Kidz Page

DIRT CUPS

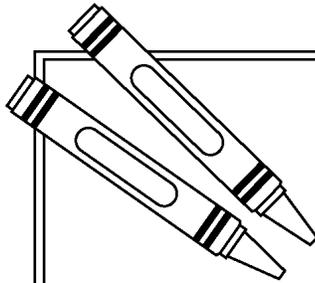
Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups ³/₄ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



Just for **KIDS**

Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philemon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.



Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

" R Z O D Z B H G S Z M P N B

T L W Z H R I V N V N Y V I

B L F R M N B K I Z B V I H"

... Philemon 1:4, NIV

Answer: I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers

God's Helping Hands Annual Report for 2009

Isn't it just awesome to live in a community where churches of various denominations come together to do the most important work in this life...sharing the joy of salvation in our Savior Jesus Christ and helping people in need.

Thanks to all of you, God's Helping Hands has been able to share that joy and help many people in need this year.

Below is a summary of God's Helping Hands Ministries in 2009. Please remember that each number represents a family in need who came to God's Helping Hands for help. When they arrived, a caring Christian volunteer listened to them, offered to pray with them, and helped them with their need. All of this was done in Jesus' name and could only be done because of your support of God's Helping Hands.

Food: 639 families (1,468 people) were helped with food. This does not include the Christmas Basket Giveaway.

Clothing: 2,614 people were assisted with clothes throughout the year.

Back-To-School Clothing Giveaway: 207 people received children's and teen's clothing to prepare for school in August.

Fall Coat Giveaway: 81 people received various winter clothing items in November. ****This was a new event this year.**

Christmas Food Baskets: 360 families (1,041 people) received a Christmas Food Basket so they could enjoy a Christmas meal.

Families Assisted in Other Ways:

Electric—86

Gasoline—78

Water—7

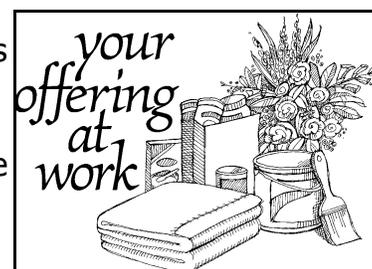
Propane/Gas—23

Prescriptions—57

A/C—1

Lodging—2

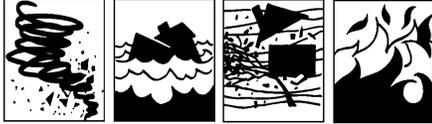
Bus Tickets—2



*Thank you so much for your support of God's Helping Hands!
God Bless You!*

McAlester District Ice Storm Disaster Response

DISASTER RELIEF



Help those in need

Goal: Clear debris from property of those without the resources to do so themselves.

Location: Altus, OK and surrounding communities (within 25 miles)

Dates: All or any Parts of the period from Tuesday, March 2 (depart McAlester at 4:00 p.m.) through Sunday, March 7 (return to McAlester around 8:00 p.m.)

For more information contact Jessica in the office at 918-689-2109 or Ruth Atterberry, McAlester FUMC at 918-423-6136 or 580-695-5415 or ruthatterberry@sbcglobal.net



The FUMC will be hosting a Wedding Shower for Rachel Breon & Zach Meyer on March 28, 2010 from 2-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rachel is registered at Wal-Mart, Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Rachel and Zach are both members of the FUMC. They are both currently attending the University of Oklahoma and are set to wed in May 2010.



March Birthdays



- | | |
|------|-----------------|
| 3/7 | Raymond Merrick |
| 3/11 | Don Edgar |
| 3/12 | Jeffrey Hickman |
| 3/13 | George Kramer |
| 3/23 | Kathy Quimby |
| 3/24 | Bee Bozarth |
| 3/24 | Phyllis Shutts |
| 3/24 | Hannah Heroneme |
| 3/31 | Bob Carder |

First United Methodist Church

220 S. Main
Eufaula, OK 74432

Phone: 918-689-2109
churchmethodist@sbcglobal.net

***Open Hearts...
Open Minds...
Open Doors...***

Label Here

MARCH 2010

3/2	1:00 PM	UMW Monthly Meeting
3/9	7:00 PM	Evangelism Committee Meeting
3/11	11:00 AM	Volunteer appreciation Luncheon for God's Helping Hands hosted by UMM
3/11-3/13	All Day Event	FUMC Clean-Up and Fix-Up Days
3/14		Fellowship Dinner
3/16	6:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
3/28	2-4 PM	Wedding Shower for Rachel Breon
