



The Chandler Methodist

First United Methodist Church of Chandler, OK
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Vol. 32, No. 48

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Special Points of Interest

- Advent Workshop Pics
- Taize' Worship
- Children's Choir
- Adult Sunday School Christmas Party

Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr.
Oklahoma UMC Bishop

Rev. Tish Malloy
Stillwater District Superintendent

Rev. Allen Carson *Pastor*

Shannon Freeman *Lay Leader*

Larry Freeman *Organist*

Gwen Aylor *Pianist*

Donald Ashwood *Youth Director*

Jerry Nelson *Secretary*

Tony Sickels *Technology*

626-1005 *Pastor's Cell*

258-1440 *Church Office*

258-2605 *Fax number*

chandlerumc@sbcglobal.net

122 West 10th
Chandler, OK 74834

Website www.ourfumc.org

- +Chancel Choir
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
- +Youth Fellowship
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
Sundays 6:30 p.m.
- +Children's Choir and P.I.G.G.Y.
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m.
- +Early Morning Study Group
Every other Thursday 6:30 a.m.
- +Sunday School
Sundays 9:45 a.m.
- +Worship and Celebration
Sundays 10:55 a.m.

We exist to be a beacon for God, offering spiritual opportunity and service to those in need.

From The Pastor's Desk *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*

I pray you had a blessed Thanksgiving, ate plenty of good food, and had the opportunity to be with family and friends.

Thursday officially kicked off the Christmas shopping season, and many of us were out fighting the crowds and waiting in lines for the sought after prizes of opening weekend. Yesterday in worship we also kicked off the season of waiting - Advent. These four weeks leading up to Christmas encourage us to ponder again the mystery of the Incarnation. In addition to Sunday morning, this year on Sundays at 5 pm you can come to a special prayer service known as Taize'. (Look for the article in this week's newsletter to learn more.) These are opportunities to slow down in the hectic pace of the season so that we might rediscover the gift God comes to bring us.

The adult Sunday school classes are studying James Moore's book Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam, and my sermon series for December bares the same name. I am looking each week for the ways God entered into the Bedlam of the first Christmas story, and how in similar ways God still does this in our own Bedlams. Yesterday I shared the Story of Warrick Dunn to close out my sermon - if you missed it, I encourage you to search YouTube for his interview from the 2008 Today Show. His mother was killed his senior year of high school. Warrick went on to play football at Florida State and then into the NFL. The interview

highlights Warrick's journey to forgiveness, and what he is doing now in his mother's memory. The Warrick Dunn Foundation helps single moms become homeowners. In the story is an scene with him handing the keys to a new homeowner saying "Here's my mother's dream." Through helping others, his love for his mother lives.

Yesterday I made the point that with God "it's never too late." We saw this in Zachariah and Elizabeth in the Biblical Story, and we saw it in Warrick's story. In this holiday season, many of us are mindful of loved ones who are no longer in our lives, due to death or broken relationships. Reflecting on Warrick's actions and our own losses led me to consider an idea: What if in this season we decided to help others in the memory and honor of those we have loved and lost. Most of us can't help someone buy a home like Warrick, but there are things we can do. If you have lost your spouse, think of someone else who is in a similar circumstance and do something kind or helpful for them, could be something as simple as visiting over a cup of coffee. If you're missing your parent or child, look for someone else who also lost their parent or child, and find a way to reach out to them in this season. Through helping others Warrick has been able to find Bethlehem in the midst of Bedlam, and I believe we can too.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday! My sermon "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam: " will be based on Luke 1:26-38. I invite you to read the scripture ahead and come with an open heart and mind as we worship together!

Blessings!
Pastor Allen

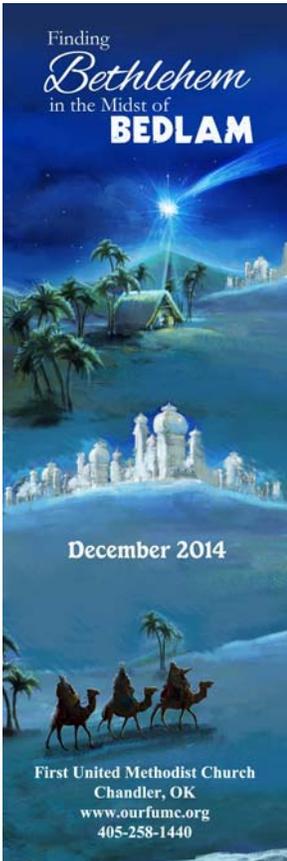
Thank You!

I want to thank my church family for their love, concern and many prayers. I am home now trying my best to follow ALL doctors orders...(not easy). Doing well, Darryle has been by my side through all of this, and I thank God for him. Thank you again, hope to see you soon.

Love and blessings, Louisa

FUMC Youth handed out free hot chocolate and coffee to shoppers on Black Friday.





A BIG THANK YOU to Wendy and Tony Sickels for the great decorating in our sanctuary and to Lori and Jack Vaughan for their work in decorating the Fellowship Hall in preparation of the Advent workshop! We appreciate everything you do to make our church a beautiful place to worship.

Advent Workshop

Thank you to all who participated in the Advent Workshop. It was a night of creativity, fun and smiles and I have to say, it was contagious! Thank you to our wonderful Family Ministries Team members for putting it all together and a special Thank you to Richard Covington for allowing us to print our family pictures for the ornaments!

Family Ministries



Mission Outreach News

Aleen may be back from Paraguay before you read this, but don't forget to send her an email or let her know we missed her and want to hear about her mission. Speaking of missions, our own pastor Allen, along with Lee Denney from Cushing are co-leading the mission team to Belen, Costa Rica in January. If you have not given to their mission it is not too late. Please pray for them and the other 16 members going on the mission to help continue build structures and a stronger spirit there at the Methodist Church. Thanks so much to those who have already given and continue to pray for their time there. Our service can come in many ways to others. Find yours that God has called you to do.

Peace, Missions Outreach

Quo Vadis

(Early Morning Study Group)

We will be meeting on Thursday morning WEATHER PERMITTING. As of this writing the weather appears as if it may not be good for it. Please do not get out if it is not, however if the front does not move in until later on Thursday we will. We are reading the book, *How Far to Bethlehem?* by Norah Lofts. This 1965 classic novel weaves all the characters of the Nativity in a fictional form. Each of us is reading at our own pace, so no matter if you have read 1 chapter or 6, you can be sure that it's ok. Our meeting time is 6:30 am in the church fellowship hall Please check with Richard Covington or one of the group to be sure if it plans on meeting.

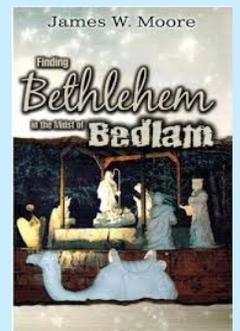
The Me I Want To Be Class

We began with so many of you there. Thanks to each who was faithful in your presence. This first chapter had many aspects, but James Moore wrote about making our own "holy moments" that we can still have and show during this beginning of Advent. God can "break through the confusion" as he put it and meet us right where we are, whether it be at home or a crowded mall. Just as God made "room" for his son Jesus in the small town of Bethlehem, He too makes room for us to

bring the good news. The writer wrote that in Bethlehem Jesus' birth gave God a face and that Christmas shows us who God is and what He is like. He said "Jesus sharpens our image". This image is a one of Love. The scripture in Luke that we ended our class with though, tells us that we are not just to love those who love us or do good to those who do good to us, for anyone can do that. We are to love, serve and do good even to those who don't. As we begin Advent with expectation, let

us not forget repentance or self-examination. What is it that God is calling us to do? As our pastor reminded us during worship... it is never too late.

**Blessings,
Richard**



TAIZE' SERVICE

(pronounced Tah - Zay)

Twelve people were present for the first ever Taize' gathering in our church. This was the first step in a pilot program and we learned ways to make Taize' a better experience. We learned the importance of silent prayer as we wait for "God's still, small voice" We also learned that this takes some practice.

You are invited to step back from the "Bedlam" of the Christmas season that Pastor Allen referred to.

Come to Taize' - **December 8th, 5:00 p.m.**, the Second Sunday in Advent. We will meet in the Conference Room.



~Bette Hubbard

STRENGTH IN SHARING

This week, we will continue with our study of the book, " Finding Bethlehem In the Midst of Bedlam," Please read Chapter 2, "Christ Came To Set Us Free" and be ready for our discussion.



On Sunday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m., we will hold our annual Sunday School party in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack and a wrapped gift for our gift exchange. What kind of gift do you bring? The gifts have ranged from a Barry Manilow Greatest Hits CD to a Christmas decoration. It does open up an opportunity to "re-gift" but never admit to it! We hope to see all of our Sunday School teachers (including our children's teachers) and adult class members on Sunday for some food and fun!

See you on Sunday! Shannon

KIDS CHOIR NOTES

The children's choir will be performing their Christmas musical, For the Glory of the King on **Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm.**

ALL the children in our church who would like to be a part of the program are invited to come to our practice on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00pm. They are also invited to practice on December 4 and December 11 from 4:00-5:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call me at 405-596-7120.

Thank you!
Shelley Haley

Joys & Concerns

- **JOY:** Jerry Kashwer was able to attend Worship this Sunday
- **JOY:** Kathy Sherman reports the birth of a grand-niece, healthy and chubby!
- Pray for Louisa Brents recovering from heart attack
- Pray for Aleen Ball returning from Paraguay Mission trip
- Pray for Cindy Ashwood—fall with broken ribs
- Pray for Lisa Yeager, hurt back
- Pray for the Bud Blakeley family with his passing
- Pray for the Pat McGinnis family with his passing
- Pray for Drake Irby—knee growth plate problems
- Joseph Irby asks for prayer for his sister, Paula
- Pray for Dave Peden's father, recently moved to a new home
- Continue praying for the local Food Bank Ministry, this week 75 households (249 people) were served
- Pray for Shirley Nichols; she was unable to get out to visit with family for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- Pray for the UMW and their Backpack Ministry—they currently serve over 80 kids between Park Road and East Side, in addition to the food pantry at the High School
- Remember Vianne Waite in Chandler Nursing Center
- Pray for those affected by the recent typhoon in the Pacific
- Remember our military families, those abroad and those at home

TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 1, 2013

Sunday School: \$82.25

Worship: \$4,484.00

UMCOR Philippines: \$100.00

Costa Rica Mission: \$500.00

Love: \$205.00

Birthdays

David Dawley	1st
Frank Riner	2nd
Devin Cross	6th
Alan Freeman	10th
Joseph Irby	11th
Hayley Frazier	13th
Rachel Ashwood	14th
Hugh Willoby	14th
Greg Yeager	15th
Donnell Cross	18th
Lisa Yeager	18th
Janice Davis	22nd
Mel Jones	22nd
Taylor Smith	24th
Laretah Najera	25th
Tanner Vaughan	26th
Wm. Carl Mauch	27th
Tim Ray McBride	29th
Eric Frazier	30th

Anniversaries

Joseph & Tracy Irby	14th
Bob & Debbie Foster	30th
Larry & Sue Berry	31st
Tony & Wendy Sickels	31st

UMM News!

The turnout for our D.O.G. program had less numbers than usual, however we still gave away 128 hot dogs, some of which did go to the workers at the pantry. This would bring our total to over 1200 hot dogs given away this year to families. Thanks to all the guys who helped with this in any way or form. The e-vote on giving to the Bolivian pastor assistance was accepted. We will give on December 3rd enough when added to matching funds by Global Missions and others to be one month's salary for 1 Bolivian pastor. Thanks so much to those cast your vote. We will get the amount we have in our account from Danny soon and will then decide on where else those funds can be best used. Our next fellowship is December 18th, Wednesday in the church kitchen. Our next UMM morning fellowship would have been this coming Friday, the 6th, but with bad weather coming in on that date, we will NOT meet at Lincoln Liquefied. Thanks to all the guys who have contributed so much to our causes this year. Each of you has in some way helped and blessed us in a way that only you can. Blessings to each of you.

Your brother, Richard

Nursery Schedule

December 8:	Katharine Carson
December 15:	Robin Crouch
December 22:	Katrina Herndon
December 29:	Lori Vaughan

We are on the WEB!

www.ourfumc.org

First United Methodist Church
122 West 10th
Chandler, OK 74834



Poinsettias!

Christmas is just a few weeks away! If you would like to purchase a Poinsettias for the Sanctuary you may do so by calling the church Office, 405-258-1440. We need to know if it is in memory or in honor of a loved one that you want to remember. The cost will be no more than \$10.00. The list of those that participated will be listed in the Christmas Eve Program. You may pick your flower up December 24th after the Service.

Thanks, Pastor Allen



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, December 4

3:30 p.m. Children's Choir
6:00 p.m. Worship Committee (Conf. Room)
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

THURSDAY, December 5

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Study (F.H.)

FRIDAY, December 6

SATURDAY, December 7

SUNDAY, December 8

9:00 a.m. Agra UMC Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Worship Service

Noon—Second Sunday Dinner

5:00 p.m. Advent Taize' Worship (Conf. Room)
6:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Party (F.H.)
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, December 9

Newsletter Articles Due by Noon

TUESDAY, December 10

WEDNESDAY, December 11

3:30 p.m. Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

The Chandler Methodist (USPS 672-670) 122 West 10th, Chandler, OK 74834, published weekly, periodical postage paid at Chandler, Oklahoma. Postmaster send address changes to The Chandler Methodist, 122 West 10th, Chandler, OK 74834