

# The Calling

Volume 15, No. 8                      www.fumcardmore.com                      February 20, 2009  
 First United Methodist Church    501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401    580-223-5390

Robert Schuller shared a confession in a sermon, and it was something that he had never been proud of. "When I graduated from seminary, I became the pastor of a quarreling little church of 36 members in Ivanhoe, Illinois. I set a goal to win 50 new members and "overwhelm" the negative persons. I went from door to door, ringing doorbells. And every time someone answered, if they were not already committed to another church, I would write down their name and address. One day, I rang the doorbell of a house. A woman opened the door. I introduced myself. "Who's there?" demanded a man in a chair in the dark corner of the front room. ...

"Come in," he shouted. It was obvious that he had already had too much to drink. Empty beer cans were scattered by his chair. "I never had a preacher in my house before, but then again, I've never been to church, either."

"Why don't you go to church?" I asked him.

He promptly launched into a tirade against preachers. The priests were bad, the preachers were bad, and the rabbis were a bunch of hypocrites. Then he added, "I do business with the people who go to your church. They tell lies. They're dishonest. They steal from me." He went on and on and on. I had no chance to defend anything or anyone. Every time I tried to ask him a question, he interrupted with rude and nasty responses. He was unfair. He was mean!

Being young and immature, I did something I should not have done. I finally shouted at him: "Don't you believe in heaven or hell?" He yelled, "No. No I don't." "Well, go to hell then!" And I turned around and went out the door.

I had already written his name and address down on my mailing list. I scratched through it now, adding, "Do not put on the mailing list." I quit for the day and went home trembling and terribly upset. My wife quickly questioned my behavior, and I told her everything. She looked at me aghast. "You said *what* to him? Her mouth hung open. I repeated my confession. She sighed. "Oh, Bob! How could you do that?"

But that man's name accidentally got on the membership list, and a few weeks later he showed up at church. He was wearing a suit and tie. He was sober. I shook hands with him at the door and said, "Good to see you, Ray." The next Sunday he returned, and then the next, and then the next. Three months later, he came to the front of the church, knelt, and asked me through tears, "Reverend, will you baptize me?"

I said, "Sure." And, without a planned ceremony, I baptized him right then and there. After that, he began coming to Bible Study. He became a beautiful disciple. He and his wife, Helen, became dear personal friends. Ray even became a licensed lay preacher.

I had long since left Chicago and was in California, starting what would become the Crystal Cathedral, when my secretary buzzed my desk one day and said, "There's someone here to see you, Dr. Schuller. He says his name is Ray Doss. Do you know him?" We had a wonderful reunion. He informed me, "I want to move here and, for the rest of my life, work as a volunteer for the pastor who led me to Jesus Christ."

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So he was a volunteer till his death. If you walked across the lawn, Ray Doss had mowed it. If you used a bathroom, he had cleaned it. He worked until he became too ill from cancer. As he was dying, I went to say goodbye. He smiled when he saw me and said, "Rev (which is what he always called me), I'm goin'..." I interrupted him, "I know, Ray." And then he smiled and he said, "I know where I'm goin', and it's not going to be where you told me to go."

Blessings,  
Darrell

## Get Ready for Ash Wednesday

Our annual Ash Wednesday service is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. in the Colvert Ministry Center. You and your family will not want to miss this service of worship and preparation for Lent.

In addition, we have readied the Faith Promise Lenten devotional booklets which highlight the faith promise and mission stories of many in our congregation. The first devotional begins on Ash Wednesday. You may pick up your copy of the Lenten devotional booklet at the worship services this Sunday, on Ash Wednesday, or in the church office.

## FUMC Blood Drive

Sunday, February 22  
Fellowship Hall  
8:30 am - 12:30pm.



## CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMS!

FUMC's VBS and Children's Summer Ministry is gearing up for a great summer program. There will be a meeting on March 5, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor to discuss the curriculum, budget and other items. Anyone who is interested may come and participate, especially those who are on the Nursery Task Force and Children's Council. If you have questions regarding this please contact Julie Maher at 223-5390 ext 318 or 226-5760 or Kristin Chisham at 223-5390 ext. 325 or 580-774-9455.

## The Lectionary Readings for February 22nd

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

Televised at 10:55am  
Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast at 11:00am  
KVSO AM 1240

**8:30 AM**  
**McClure Chapel**

**10:55 AM**  
**Sanctuary**

**11:00 AM**  
**Colvert Ministry Center**

## Sunday's Music

This Sunday is **The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**. This *Last Sunday* is also known as **Transfiguration Sunday**.

In both 8:30 and 10:55 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**Praeludium from Partita 1**" by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

In the 8:30 worship service Becca Glaser, a soprano in the Sanctuary Choir, and I will sing "**How Can I Keep from Singing**" by Richard Walters. In this duet version of the traditional American Folksong, Richard Walters makes use of mixed rhythms and accents to produce a wonderfully exciting retelling.

In the 10:55 worship service this Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**Oh, Sinner Man,**" a Traditional Spiritual adapted and arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo, with Kelley Segler accompanying at the piano. This anthem is definitely in a delightful, piano accompanied jazz style. The anthem is copyright © 2008 by Shawnee Press, Inc. Also in this worship service the *Sunday Morning Live Older Elementary Singers*, under the direction of Becca Glaser with Andy Price at the piano, will sing "**Everybody Praise the Lord.**"

Please read this text from Sunday's music.

### Oh, Sinner Man

Oh, sinner man, where ya gonna run to?  
 All on that great glorious day!  
 Run to the rock! Rock won't ya hide me?  
 Oh, sinner man, should-a been a-prayin'  
 All on that great day, glorious day!

Shalom, Bob

## FAMILY LIFE HOSTS THE ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

**This Sunday, FEBRUARY 22nd  
 at 6:00 pm  
 in the Colvert Ministry Center**



Prizes Awarded For:  
 Best Chili with Beans  
 Best Chili without Beans  
 Best Overall Chili

*Bring your recipes to share*

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, Feb 22**  
 8:30 am Worship / McClure Chapel  
 9:30 am Sunday Morning Live  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 10:55 am Worship / Sanctuary  
 11:00 am EPIC Worship / CMC  
 4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth  
 6:00 pm Chili Cook-Off

**Monday, Feb 23**  
 7:45 am Preschool  
 9:00 am Children's Day Out  
 9:30 am Body Recall  
 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens  
 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training  
 6:30 pm Beth Moore Bible Study  
 6:30 pm Invitation Bible Study

**Tuesday, Feb 24**  
 7:45 am Preschool  
 10:00 am Sanctuary Guild  
 10:30 am Mom's Praying  
 6:00 pm Finance Ministry  
 6:00 pm Evangelism Ministry  
 7:00 pm Church Council

**Wednesday, Feb 25**  
 7:30 am Intercessory Prayer  
 7:45 am Preschool  
 9:00 am Children's Day Out  
 9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens  
 9:30 am Body Recall  
 5:00 pm Stephen Ministry  
 5:00 pm Faithweavers  
 5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors  
 6:15 pm Worship / CMC  
 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery  
 7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth  
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, Feb 26**  
 7:45 am Preschool  
 9:00 am Precept Bible Study  
 6:30 pm DivorceCare  
 7:00 pm Alpha

**Friday, Feb 27**  
 7:45 am Confirmation Class Retreat @ Cross Point  
 9:30 am Preschool  
 Body Recall

**Saturday, Feb 27** Confirmation Class Retreat @ Cross Point

### Dates to Remember:

March 1-3 Festival of Faith (Wade Paschal)  
 March 6-8 Mid-Winter Youth Retreat  
 March 8 Center Point  
 March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
 March 16-20 Youth Spring Break Ski Trip  
 April 6-10 Holy Week

## Missionary News

We just received a note from Bethlehem Bible College—

“Dear Friends, Greetings of peace & love from Bethlehem!

Thank you so much for being a partner with us in the ministry of Bethlehem Bible College. After a 3-week Christmas break, classes resumed on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the Christmas break, we were blessed to carry out several Christmas activities which included:

- a community celebration for over 1,000 participants, who enjoyed Christmas music, a drama of the nativity, scripture readings, and a sermon; followed by a celebration dinner.
- the distribution of over 350 Christmas food packets for the poor & needy by the Shepherd Society.
- student luncheon for BBC’s faculty, staff & student body.
- Christmas dinner for BBC’s faculty, staff & board members.
- concerts by the Bethlehem Bible College Choir in area churches & locales.

Bethlehem Bible College continues to work with over 130 students who are spread out among several programs & extensions in Bethlehem, Nazareth & Haifa. The programs of study are Biblical Studies, Tour Guiding & Mass Media. It is encouraging for us to see God at work in the lives of our students who are growing in the grace & knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are privileged to be witnesses on your behalf of God’s love, grace, justice & peace in Israel/Palestine and are thankful for the sacrifices you make in supporting us. We pray that you will experience all the best in this New Year 2009!

Bishara Awad”

We have supported Alex Awad, Bishara’s brother, at BBC & at the church in Jerusalem for 2 or 3 years. We recent sent \$1,000 from our Faith Promise fund for victims, many of them women and children, of the Gaza War. Relief was distributed through BBC and the Shepherd Society.

We would like to thank all those folks at Ardmore First who helped with the Ardmore District Local Church Leader Workshop on February 7th. It was a HUGE success! We have received many, many compliments on the radical hospitality, incredible food and everything associated with hosting this event for over 200 people in our district. Ardmore FUMC is a wonderful example of God’s Grace to Us.

Thank you building His Kingdom here on earth!  
Guy Ames & Kelley Segler

## **FOCUS ON FOLKS**

### **In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:**

Allene Tidwell

### **Sunday School Greeters for February:**

Main Building - **LOVE** class

Colvert Ministry Center - **SEEKERS** class

**New Arrival:** Jonathan and Andriana Magness announce the birth of their son, **Zachary Alexander Magness**, on February 1st. He weighed 7lbs-14oz and was 22” long. Zachary’s great-grandmother is Louise Watkins.

### **Memorials:**

In memory of **Lena Dupy** a contribution to the Memorial Fund has been received from: Denny & Sandy Alexander, Sam & Sharon Veazey

In memory of **Sue Newman** contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received from: Harry & Linda Crossley, John & Carolyn Graysneck, Russell & Sally Noble, Marion Perry

In memory of **Max Williamson** a contribution to the CMC Trust Fund has been received from: Harry Spring

## Living Victoriously with OCD

Ask Heather Crilly and you find out that living with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is like being a prisoner in your own body. “You just become wiped out emotionally.”

You will have the opportunity to hear her story on Friday, March 6th from 12:00pm - 1:00pm in room 115-A in the Colvert Ministry Center. You may bring a sack lunch if you wish.

For more information please call Louise Daniels (226-5524) or Rev. Dan Patman (223-5390 ext. 308).

## Calling all Children—ages 2, 3 & pre-K

We will be singing in the 10:55 Service in the Sanctuary On Sunday, March 1st—during the gathering time.

Please bring your children to their regular Sunday School Class that Sunday Morning. We will practice in the Sanctuary during this time. We look forward to having your little angels there!

Thank you! Kelley Segler—490-1773

## Correction

The flowers on the altar on Sunday morning, February 15th were given in honor of the marriage of Scott Rose and Monica Barczak Rose.

## February 25, 2009 Prayer Ambassadors

### 1. Our Jerusalem—Ardmore

- All Worship services –Pray we focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)—pray for those who already serve and for God to call more into this special ministry
- Hospital Visitation ministry
- Rio Bravo Volunteer in Mission (VIM) construction team—Feb.28-March 6

### 2. Our Judea—Oklahoma

- Circle of Care—Child Share—providing support for foster families. Pray for an increase in Christian families willing to provide healthy foster care

### 3. Our Samaria—North America

- Rio Bravo VIM team
- Pray for our country, our President, leaders and that we will humble ourselves before God and learn and practice righteousness in all our ways.

### 4. To the Ends of the Earth

- Marsha Alexander and Dr. Lara—Rio Bravo, Mexico
- Mexico City, Mexico—Save Our Street Kids (SOS) ministry

### 5. Persecuted Church

- Gulf Region—pray for those who are in prison for their faith. Pray for God's provision for them, for humane treatment and that their guards will be touched by God because of the faithful witness of these prisoners.



Ardmore First, you are awesome !!! Thank you so much for donating your time, energy, and talents to Cross Point Camp. Our new Enclosure desperately needed some textured and painted walls. Without your help, it would not have been possible. Isn't it amazing what God can do when His people hear and respond to His call.

Thank you for saying "Here I am Lord" when He called you to help us.

May God Bless You ...

Ken, Mike, Louise, Laurie and Teri  
Cross Point Camp Staff



## Stephen Ministry

In last weeks newsletter we listed the names of our current Stephen Minister trainees.

We apologize for misspelling Morgan's name.

It should have read: Morgan Ashworth, Bruce Hammond, Robert Lee, Glada Prater, and Susan Wood.



On behalf of the Gene Autry FUMC, I want to express my thanks to you and your church for providing thirty United Methodist Hymnals for our church. Up until this point, we only had hymnals which did not have any of our liturgy, prayers or psalms.

Today we used the hymnals for the first time since the revival, and what a special way to continue the introduction of the hymnal by using the Service of the Table II. This was the first time our congregation has spoken these words from a Methodist hymnal.

For over forty years I held these hymnals in my home church of First United Methodist Ardmore, and now they sit in the pews of my first appointment. How wonderful God's grace is.

Blessings and Peace,  
Rev. Sharen Hale  
Senior Pastor



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Fishes*

*February*

*Pork & Beans*

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to the emergency fund

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