

# The Calling

Volume 15, No. 12      www.fumcardmore.com      March 20, 2009  
First United Methodist Church      501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401      580-223-5390

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed feelings that I write this letter. As of the first of June, I will no longer be pastor of First Church. I have been asked by Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr. to serve on the Cabinet as the McAlester District Superintendent, and I will be assuming those duties following Annual Conference.

Naturally, I look forward with great anticipation working closely with Bishop Hayes on behalf of all of the people called Methodist in this great state and specifically the people of the McAlester District. There will be many opportunities for ministry and personal growth in this chapter of my journey of discipleship. Yet, leaving the congregation at First Church is extremely difficult for me. Bonnie and I have experienced some of the deepest and best relationships and ministry of our lives. Truly, no group of people could have been more supportive to us. Ardmore First UMC is a truly remarkable church in our connection for the depth of its commitment to missions, bible study and Emmaus. I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve here. I will always cherish the friendships made here and will hold this church close in my prayers.

But, there is no doubt in my mind and heart that it is time to move on to this new challenge. The responsibilities and commitment to oversee over forty churches and ministries will not allow me to return in any official capacity for weddings or funerals, but please know that the relationships we've experienced deeply touch us. Your joy is our joy, your loss is our loss. I wish each of you the very best as you seek God and God's will and direction for your life and for the church. I know you will embrace your new pastor and the leadership they bring. Your teamwork, encouragement and support will assure that the best days for Ardmore First are still ahead. And again, know for certain that you are in my prayers.

In Christ,  
Darrell Cates

*During worship services Sunday, Don Chaffin our Staff Parish Relations Committee Co-Chair is scheduled to announce who will be appointed to serve at First Church.*

## Holy Week Worship Services

Mon, April 6th: Noon Lunch CMC  
Tue, April 7th: Noon Lunch CMC  
7:00pm Choir Concert CMC  
Wed, April 8th: Noon Lunch CMC  
6:15 Worship CMC  
Thu, April 9th: Noon Lunch CMC  
7:00pm Holy Thursday Worship Sanctuary  
Fri, April 10th: Noon Lunch CMC

## Easter Worship Services

Traditional: 8:30am Sanctuary  
Traditional: 10:55 Sanctuary  
Non-Traditional: 9:30am CMC  
Non-Traditional: 11:00 CMC

## WHO STOLE MY CHURCH?

*Who Stole My Church* by Rev. Gordon McDonald is a fictional (but amazingly realistic) account of a series of conversations between the pastor and a group of church members of a congregational church set in New England. Rev. McDonald says the account is of things he has shared and would share with a congregation, but the members of the group do not represent current or former members of his congregation.

Beginning Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 - 8:00p.m. **all who are interested** are invited to join Rev. Darrell Cates in a series of conversations based on the material in *Who Stole My Church*. Information and handouts will be provided so that you will be able to participate in the meeting even if you have not read the book, but reading the book will be helpful. We will meet Monday evenings beginning March 30 – May 18. Please sign up by calling the church office 223-5390.

## The Lectionary Readings for March 22nd

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent.**

In both 8:30 and 10:55 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**In the Cross of Christ I Glory,**" arranged by John Carter. This organ voluntary is based on the hymntune RATHBUN, 1849, by Ithamar Conkey.

In the 8:30 worship service I will sing "**Consecration**" by John Ness Beck. This solo has its text based in the familiar hymn *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated* by Frances R. Havergal, 1873, based on Romans 12:1. The solo is found in Mr. Ness Beck's collection *Sacred Songs of John Ness Beck*, copyright 1990 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

In the 10:55 worship service this Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir will sing another exciting choir favorite "**Hear Me, Redeemer**" by Henry Mollicone. When members of the Sanctuary Choir went on a Mission to Guatemala in 2005, this is one of their choices to sing in churches in and near Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. The anthem is copyright © 1979 by Woodland Hills Music Press. Kelley Segler will accompany at the piano.

Please read these texts from Sunday's music.

## Consecration

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let it sing always, only for my king.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

## Hear Me, Redeemer

Hear me, Redeemer. Send down your love to cleanse my soul.

Lord of lords, wash away my sinful ways,  
Lord of lords, shine your light through all my days.

Show me the power of your love!

Mighty God, take my hand and lead the way.

Mighty God, let me praise you every day.

Show me the power of your love.

Shalom, *Bob*

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sunday, Mar 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
- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery

## Monday, Mar 23

- 7:45 am Preschool
- 9:00 am Children's Day Out
- 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, Mar 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, Mar 25

- 7:30 am Intercessory Prayer
- 7:45 am Preschool
- 9:00 am Children's Day Out
- 9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
- 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, Mar 26

- 7:45 am Preschool
- 9:00 am Precept Bible Study
- 6:30 pm DivorceCare

## Friday, Mar 27

- 7:45 am Preschool

## Dates to Remember:

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| April 6-10  | Holy Week                    |
| April 11    | Easter Egg Hunt              |
| April 12    | Easter                       |
| April 13    | Church Closed                |
| April 16-19 | Men's Emmaus Walk            |
| April 23-26 | Women's Emmaus Walk          |
| May 1-3     | Mission Festival             |
| May 7       | Senior Banquet               |
| May 10      | Mother's Day / Senior Sunday |
| May 14      | Confirmation Banquet         |
| May 17      | Confirmation Sunday          |
| May 25      | Memorial Day / Church Closed |

## Missionary News



Bill & Jerri Savuto, who spoke at our 2007 Mission Festival and who served as our missionaries at the Methodist Hospital in Maua, Kenya, recently shared stories about two of the patients.

*"They are children in the burn unit of the hospital. I'm not sure how they got the burns, but it is*

*fairly common in these areas where cooking is done over open flames.*

*One is a 16-year-old girl we'll call Judy. She is an orphan and mentally challenged with 28% burns from her mid-back to above her knee. Judy's condition has required skin grafts and a long time being in the hospital. However, Judy is 'lucky.' She has a grandmother who helps care for her and she has National Insurance.*

*The other child is a 7-year-old boy, we'll call Jimmy. He has burns on his face, neck, chest, and arms. He's malnourished and weighs only 33 lbs. His mother helps care for him, and he too needs extensive time and care at Maua. However, his family is very poor and has no insurance.*

*But Jimmy has a 'lifeline.' It's the Maua Hospital Service Fund. It helps pay for the medical bills of orphans and the poorest patients."*

We here at Ardmore First are part of that lifeline to Jimmy and Judy. We support the Hospital Service Fund, the AIDS Orphan Program, and the Palliative Care Program for AIDS mother at this United Methodist Hospital in Maua, Kenya, through our Faith Promise. Thanks for making a difference with your Faith Promise!



## *Easter Lilies*

*Now Taking Orders*

***\$15 each***

***!!Order deadline is March 24th!!***

*Orders, with payment, may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. You may pick-up your Lily after the last service on Easter Sunday.*

## **FOCUS ON FOLKS**

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

Clotee Evans  
Carol Thompson

### **Sunday School Greeters for March:**

Main Building - **WESLEY** class  
Colvert Ministry Center - **FOUNDATIONS** class

### **Memorials:**

In memory of **Brent Marion** a contribution to the Youth Department has been received from:  
Harry & LaJuana Dodd

In memory of **Dina Woodside** a contribution to the Memorial Fund has been received from:  
Lee Woodside

## Stephen Ministry

**TRUST ME!**



Has someone ever told you, "Trust me," and then let you down? Our Stephen Ministers are people you can really trust. They are committed to providing the best Christian care possible to their care receivers. They are people you can trust and depend on to be there for you because they are trusting in God to help them be there for you. Contact Louise Daniels (226-5524) or Rev. Dan Patman (223-5390, ext.308) for more information about Stephen Ministry.

## **Easter-Time**

***"It's Not About the Easter Bunny"***

**Children's Church**

**begins Sunday, April 5, 2009**

**Volunteers Needed! Please call Kristin  
223-5390 ext. 325 or Cindy 504-7000**

## Walk For Life

**Saturday, April 4th  
Mt. View Mall**

**Registration begins at 8:30am**

*Pregnancy Resource Center needs walkers and people to sponsor the walkers. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us! For more information please call 223-7218.*



*Body Recall Class will resume on  
Monday, March 30th, 2009  
9:30 am in Fellowship Hall*

Deadline to register for assistance  
from FEMA due to the recent storms is  
**Thursday, April 16th.**

## March 25, 2009 Prayer Ambassadors

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
*Acts 1:8*

### 1. Our Jerusalem—Ardmore

- All Worship services –Pray we focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
- Prayers and Square Quilt ministry
- Easter services
- XYZ Ministries—especially ministry to the homebound and nursing home residents

### 2. Our Judea—Oklahoma

- Cross Point Camp work days

### 3. Our Samaria—North America

- Lydia Patterson Institute
- 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

- West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS)
- Hope Secondary School—Bet Jalla, Palestine—providing Christian education for Palestinian youth

### 5. Persecuted Church

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

*With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Eph. 6:18*

- Israel—Gaza—Christians are living under constant pressure. Pray for their courage and boldness in witness.



*Loaves &  
Fishes*

*March*

*Pork & Beans  
14-16 oz. cans*

Or you may donate money  
to the emergency fund

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