

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church

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I am an explorer by nature. So, it didn't take me long to find the secret room in our church. It is off of the sanctuary balcony near the sound booth accessed at the landing of the balcony stairs. My guess is that many of you walk past the door to the secret room, never turning its door handle to discover the wonders there. Bob Pfau says it is the Archives Room, but to me it is the room that holds secrets of our past.

It is filled with books, photographs, plaques and drawings. It has old art and very modern art, portraits of previous pastors, and VBS supplies from 30 years ago. There are posters with photographs of our youth group at camp in the 80's and 90's. There are records of attendance from the 1940's and huge ledgers of the newsletter The Messenger (which we obviously printed for many years). There are city newspaper clippings from the 1960's. There are vinyl records (old 45's) and Annual Conference Journals from decades past.

I unpacked my office this week. I have brought with me symbols of events in my life that have been important to me. Chalice, crosses, meaningful things, silly things, a basketball from a mission trip to China. These have been carefully placed on the shelves in my new work space. It was good to hold each precious item in my hands for a moment and remember the significance before I gave it a new home. I finished the boxes and was ready to hang pieces of art on the wall. I hung a few I brought with me, and then I looked a long time at the big wall between the windows. What should I hang there? Then, it struck me. "Go to the secret room. Find historic items from our church's past to cheer me on! Let the Ardmore Methodist saints look over my shoulder as I work!" Meld. Blend. Marvel at the past as we look to the future.

So, from our rich history, I have chosen seven pieces to hang on the large wall in my office.

In the center I have hung the original charter for Methodist Men. It is dated October 8, 1954. "This certifies that the Methodist Men of First Methodist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma, having duly ratified the Constitution, is recognized as a participating unit of Men's Work of the Methodist Church and in evidence thereof is issued this charter." The fifty five men who met last Sunday night for the steak dinner have Methodists from 1954 to thank for the vision for a men's ministry.

To the left, I have hung the original charter of The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The Epworth League was an organization formed in 1889 in Cleveland, Ohio. The purpose of the league was "the promotion of intelligent and vital piety among the young people of the church." Don't you love that language? The charter is yellow and faded. There is paint on it. It certifies that our church is "hereby recognized as Chapter 1432 of the Epworth League." It is signed and dated February 23, 1926. It makes me think about how many years we have been initiating ministry toward the youth of Ardmore.

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A sweet discovery hangs to the right. It is the certificate of registration from the General Sunday School Board certifying the enrollment of a new Sunday School Class called the Wesley Class. I have learned this registration is not for our current Wesley Class, but an original one. It reads "The new Sunday School class of First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Ardmore, Oklahoma has been duly enrolled as Wesley Class Number 27-76. The testimony whereof we have affixed our hands and seals this the 12th day of January 1927." Our current Wesley class can take encouragement that they carry the vision from their namesake of 1927.

I have hung four more pieces, including a photo of our church basketball team from about the 1950's. I am sure that of the eleven men in the photo, I have shaken the hand of at least one of you in the last 14 days. Come look at the photo and tell me if any of these dashing young men are still among us.

Opposite the basketball team is the portrait of a beautiful, stately woman. She is "Miss Belle H. Bennett, President of the Women's Missionary Council, M.E. Church, South." Since it says "south", the photo had to have been taken in the 20's or 30's. Miss Belle H. Bennett lets me know I come alongside countless women who have been in ministry in our congregation.

These beautiful pieces will stand before me daily as a reminder that long before I joined our church family, many, many Methodist Christians in Ardmore worshipped and worked and preached and gave and sacrificed so that we could pursue the mission of God as we are now.

Come see my wall and join me in thanking God for the ones who have gone before us!

Jessica

Perceptions

We now have the voice of our new pastor doing the Perceptions broadcast every morning. Tune in to KKAJ 95.7 at about 7:30am Monday through Friday and invite others to listen as well!

[The Lectionary Readings for June 28th](#)

II Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Televised at 10:55am
Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast at 11:00am
KVSO AM 1240

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:50 AM
Sanctuary

11:05 AM
Colvert Ministry Center

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**. It is also our fourth Sunday with somewhat new starting times and orders of worship for our McClure, Sanctuary and EPIC worship services: McClure worship – 8:30; Sanctuary worship – 10:50; EPIC worship – 11:05.

In both 8:30 and 10:50 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**Variations on ST. ANNE**," in a keyboard arrangement by Edward Boughton. ST. ANNE is the familiar hymntune found in our hymnal, *O God, Our Help In Ages Past*, attributed to William Croft, 1708 and originally harmonized by W. H. Monk, 1861.

In the 8:30 worship service I will sing an original John Ness Beck composition titled "**Consecration**." This solo, built on a familiar text of Frances R. Havergal, is found in the collection *Sacred Songs of John Ness Beck*, transcribed by Craig Courtney and copyright © 1986 and 1990 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**Set Me As a Seal**" from *a New Creation* by René Clausen. The text is adapted from the Song of Solomon 8:6 & 7. This *a cappella* choir favorite is copyright © 1989 by Fostco Music Press and Mark Foster Music Company.

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 my self, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Set Me As a Seal

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.

Shalom, *Bab*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, June 28

8:30 am	Worship / Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	What's In The Bible?
10:55 am	Worship / Sanctuary
11:00 am	EPIC Worship / CMC
6:00 pm	Jr. & Sr. High Youth
7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery

Monday, June 29

1:00 pm	Clothes Closet Opens
6:30 pm	David Bible Study

Tuesday, June 30

12:00 pm	Noon Prayer Time
6:00 pm	Children's Ministry Dream Night

Wednesday, July 1

9:00 am	Clothes Closet Opens
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, July 2

Friday, July 3

Saturday, July 4 Independence Day Church Closed

Dates to Remember:

July 4	Independence Day / Church Closed
July 12-17	Jr. High Mission Trip
July 27-31	Dayspring
August 3-6	Growin' in Grace Camp
August 3-6	Tweens Camp
August 14-16	Discovery
Sept 7	Labor Day / Church Closed
Sept 13	Round-Up Rally
Sept 24-27	Men's Emmaus Walk
Oct 1-4	Women's Emmaus Walk
Oct 30	Fall Fest
Nov 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends

Missionary News



We recently received an newsletter update from Wes & Joy Griffin, directors of International Leadership Institute in Carrollton, Georgia.

"Dear First Church, Every ILI National Conference includes the 90-Day Challenge, where participants are equipped to hold an ILI regional conference in

their area within 90 days. Recently, Wes was in Kenya for an Alumni Summit, History Makers Conference, and 3 consecutive regional conferences. While training & mobilizing leaders in Kenya, he received an email from Joe Chukwumah, who attended the Lagos National Conference in Lagos, Nigeria in January.

Joe, along with 2 other colleagues, had held 4 regional conferences and equipped more than 200 other leaders. One participant commented, 'The program covers all aspects of life. I was richly blessed. It has helped me to look at the balance of my ministry and my family life.' Many others were deeply touched & challenged to do more for Christ. Some leaders committed to immediately take the ILI teaching materials to their individual congregations.

Because of your prayers and financial gifts, ILI continues to train leaders and change lives. Thank you for helping accelerate the spread of the Gospel around the world.

Until All Worship, Wes & Joy Griffin"

We have supported the ministry of Wes & Joy Griffin since the middle 90's from the time Wes was dean of the seminary in Tallinn, Estonia. The Griffin's continue to make a Christian difference worldwide with the help of our faith promise. And, Ardmore First sent a team to the Kenya National Conference two years ago. Thanks, Faith Promisers!

Stephen Ministry

CONTROL: To exercise directing influence, power, and authority over conditions.



We like to be in control, having the power to choose exactly what is going to happen and when. Unfortunately life isn't like that—we only think we're in control. So when something happens and we realize that we're not in control, we feel lost, overwhelmed, angry, even terrified. Stephen Ministers are trained to help when things are out of control. They provide support and encouragement while helping a person put faith in trust in God. If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry, please call Louise Daniels (226-5524) or Rev. Dan Patman 223-5390 x308.

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:

Sunday School Greeters for June:

Main Building - **FRIENDS**

Colvert Ministry Center - **FOUNDATIONS**

New Arrival: Dave and Joy Warner announce the birth of their daughter **Evangeline Ruth Warner** on Wednesday, June 10th. She weighed 9lbs-9oz and was 22 inches long. Evangeline's grandparents are Frank and Shirley Warner.

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet Kime with the passing of her good friend Mitch Austin on Monday, June 15th. Services were held on Thursday, June 18th in Ardmore.

Memorials:

In memory of **Lou Butler** contributions to the Memorial Fund and Faith Promise have been received from:

Don and Carolyn Lemmon (Faith Promise)

Sam and Sharon Veazey (Memorial)

In memory of **Jaylee Garland** a contribution to the Nursery Department Snack Fund has been received from:

Lockie Moxley

In memory of **Sara Holden** contributions to the Memorial Fund and the Youth Department have been received from:

Roy Butler (Memorial)

Mike and Pat Castellow (Youth)

In memory of **Sue Newman** a contribution to the Memorial Fund has been received from:

Mike and Pat Castellow

In memory of **Edith Mae Parker** a contribution to the Youth Department has been received from:

Harry and LaJuana Dodd

In memory of **Ora Rist** contributions to the Memorial Fund and the Ministry Center Trust Fund have been received from:

Mike and Pat Castellow (CMC)

Anna Grissom (Memorial)

Judy Kenaga (Memorial)

"Thank You"

Dear DeB (Edwards),

Despite the torrential rains, you Mission Festival workers came to work at Ardmore Village on Mission Festival Day (Work Day, May 2, 2009). What a sight it was to see! Several workers with chainsaws, caulking guns, and paint brushes ready to help this campus look better.

Your group did a fantastic job. Everyone worked hard. All that we needed cut and painted was done. Thank you!

Thank you so much for allowing Ardmore Village to be a site for your mission work. It truly made a difference in the lives of our residents. What a gift you gave us! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jessica T. Pfau
Ardmore Village

A Focus on the Children: What's Next?

On Tuesday evening, June 30 at 6:00 p.m. anyone interested in dreaming about the future of our children's ministry is invited to meet with our new pastor, Jessica Seay, in the Colvert Ministry Center in room 116. It is our hope that parents, children's workers, teachers, and anyone else who would like to come, would be present as we focus on two questions:

1. What needs to be considered as we design the next chapter of children's ministry in our church?
2. What specific qualities shall we look for in a new Children's Director?

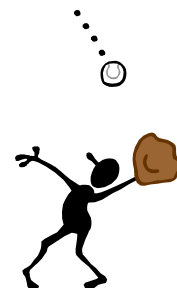
If you need child care for the meeting, please make a reservation by calling 223-5390 x317. Nursery care (birth - K) will be available and there will be activities for older children through 5th grade.

First UMC 2007 Men's Softball Schedule

June 1st	9:30p field 1 vs. Lone Grove Assembly of God	Ⓜ
June 8th	6:30p field 2 vs. Emmanuel Baptist	Ⓛ
June 15th	9:30p field 3 vs. Milo Baptist	Ⓜ
June 29th	9:30p field 2 vs. Maranatha	
July 6th	6:30p field 3 vs. Lone Grove Assembly of God 8:30p field 2 vs. Faith Center	
July 13th	7:30p field 2 vs. Emmanuel Baptist	
July 20th	6:30p field 4 vs. Milo Baptist	
July 27th	9:30p field 3 vs. Faith Center	
Aug 3rd	6:30p field 2 vs. Maranatha	

What a Great Night for Softball!

Once again Sam was victorious in the coin toss and our team took the field as play began. It was just one of those nights. You could feel the excitement among the players and fans alike as we took our fielding assignments quite seriously and followed our *game plan* with extreme precision. Three outs happened quickly and in the next 28 minutes our bats and gloves were true to the task at hand: defeating the opponent! Once again the *run-rule* was invoked and we were duly noted as the victors. As the dust settled on the field of play and the fans cried out in delight, everyone looked around for YOU and your seat was still empty. The hour-of-play was late for most people, but I think you are exceptional! We'll leave a place in the stands for you at the next game! (I'm still hopeful.) Be sure to check the schedule for the next game as we have a *bye* this next Monday!



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Loaves &
Fishes

June

Rice

1-lb bag

Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund