

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church

501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401

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Today I attended the Ardmore 32nd Annual State of the City Luncheon. I saw several of our members at the Convention Center: Dave Plesher, Bob and Linda Humphrey, Kay and Wayne Laske, Bill Parker, Brian Thorstenberg and Brian Stedman. (There were probably many others.)

I arrived with a question: *What would my new city and its citizens find important to talk about at an all-city luncheon?* You probably already know what is on the mind and heart of Mayor Martin Dyer and our Councilors, but I didn't and found it interesting. I also thought it might be helpful to study the city's priorities while we consider the priorities of our church and our ministry in the community.

Mayor Dyer named eight "positives" about Ardmore:

1. Our economic strength ranks in the top 200 of cities our size. Other city staffs are using the furlough strategy to stay within budget while under economic stress. Ardmore has not needed it.
2. We are proud of the initiatives of our Parks Department. Splash pads, repaired trails and rebuilt greens at Lakeview were among the items given attention this year.
3. The Hardy Murphy Coliseum was called a "jewel in the crown" of Ardmore. It is now fully booked for the year ahead. The Coliseum has acquired a 2010 National Cutting Horse Association event from Las Vegas that will host 1650 guests for 10 days. We celebrated the expected revenue.
4. Our home building permits are on the rise, indicating growth.
5. Mayor Dyer boasted that our 230 miles of paved streets are being well cared for with reconstruction and repair. He described our miles of new water lines.
6. Did you know we have a new 2 million gallon water tank in Ardmore? Apparently this is huge in comparison to the tanks we have had in the past.
7. We have successfully brought the new Oklahoma State University Institute for Agricultural Biological Sciences to Ardmore. It will be on 90 acres and hire 75 new staff who will move into the Ardmore area.
8. We are strengthening our city-wide focus on recycling.

After the mayor's remarks, there was a citizen question and answer session for the Mayor and the City Councilors. The answers brought some new information to those attending, as well as some smiles. *What would you have asked about our city?*

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Here is what was asked and the answers given by our leaders:

- Did we get any stimulus money? *Not yet, but we could.*
- Are there any plans to return Main Street to a two-way street? (Laughter.) *No.*
- What would it take to acquire a four-year University? *We are working on it.*
- Do we get sales revenue from Okiedirt? (A Councilor explained that this unique product is a blend of "sludge" and wood chips. He bragged that he used Okiedirt to fertilize his incredible tomatoes.) *Answer? We don't sell it. We just give it away.*
- When will we get something like an Olive Garden or a Target? (Someone added "and RED LOBSTER!" and everyone laughed. Inside joke?) *Target won't build in a city of less than 100,000 in population.*
- Can we do anything about the "red light runners"? *Yes, we are looking into having cameras installed at some of the stoplights.*
- What about a new YMCA? *We are working on it.*
- What about work on the new lodge at Lake Murray? *It depends on the timing of the lodge at Texoma.*
- Will the water sale dispute with Texas have an impact on Ardmore? *The first response was "Huh?", then a timid "No..." as if the question itself was confusing.*
- How do you determine which parks get splash pads? *Those with the most children in the immediate neighborhoods (as determined by the census).*
- Are we trying to attract wind energy companies to Ardmore? *Yes, but it is a competitive market.*
- What is the status of the equine import/export facility at the Airpark? *It is "on the shelf".*

So, there you have it. We are a citizenry concerned about growth, economic stability, new business, education, and keeping an updated infrastructure. We are working to stay postured for the future.

As I listened and learned, I wrote down a set of short sentences offered by the Mayor that reflected the energy I felt throughout the entire luncheon. He said, "There's no time to rest. Keep moving. There is work to be done."

Televised from the Sanctuary at
10:50am on Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast from the Sanctuary at
11:00am on KVSQ AM 1240

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:50 AM
Sanctuary

11:05 AM
Colvert Ministry Center

Jessica

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**. It is the first Sunday in the month and we will be celebrating **Holy Communion** in all worship services.

In both 8:30 and 10:50 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**Psalm XIX**" by Benedetto Marcello. The organ setting is by Diane Bish.

In the 8:30 worship service Sally Reser, a soprano in the Sanctuary Choir and I will sing a duet arrangement of the Sanctuary Choir anthem "**One at the Feast**" by Craig Courtney.

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**One at the Feast**" by Craig Courtney with Kelley Segler accompanying at the piano. This choir favorite is copyright © 2006 by Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. Also in this worship service, Kelley Segler and John Emery will play a lovely piano and organ duet "**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise,**" setting by Mark Hayes & Maynard Gaspard. This series of piano and organ duets, built on major hymntunes, is delightful to hear.

Please read this text from Sunday's music.

One at the Feast

He ate bread at their tables, He joined them in their feasts,
and many asked the Savior, "Why do you dine with these,
the outcast and the sinner, the dying and the poor?
There are many greater than these You sit before."

Break the bread and pour the wine,
let them drink, let them dine,
none is greater than the least, all are one at the feast.

So let the poor and the wealthy be seated side by side,
the sick among the healthy, the widow by the bride,
the hungry and the thirsty with those who have been fed
and share the feast together,
come share the wine and bread.

Gather at the table, come and take your place,
there is room for many at the feast of grace.
With the bread remember, with the wine recall
Jesus gave His body and His blood for all.

Shalom, *Bab*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug 2

8:30 am Worship / McClure Chapel
9:30 am Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship / Sanctuary
11:05 am EPIC / CMC
6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery

Monday, Aug 3

1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens

Tuesday, Aug 4

12:00 pm Noon Prayer
7:00 pm Worship Ministries

Wednesday, Aug 5

9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors
6:00 pm Surviving Middle School
6:15 pm Worship - CMC
7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery

Thursday, Aug 6

9:00 am Children's Day Out

Prayer Chain

To place a prayer request with the FUMC Prayer Chain ministry please call:

Lenny Frank at 465-7515

Wadell & Sheila Altom at 223-7272

**Joann Keithley at 223-0062 or
joannkeithley@sbcglobal.net**

**Mary Lou Fisher at
223-6898 (H)
223-9367 (W)**

Dates to Remember:

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

Thank You

We just received a wonderful note from Chris McCormick, Director of the Upper Room Fellowship. We recently sent \$1,500 to the Upper Room for the distribution of Upper Room devotionals in the Russian Methodist Church through Faith Promise.

"Dear Ardmore Friends,

You are such a blessing to us! I have just received your gift to Upper Room's Russia Initiative. This effort was thirty years in the making, but is bearing much fruit. Our efforts around the world are only possible because of faithful friends who support our work.

I think of you often and how much I enjoyed my time at your mission weekend. I look forward to the time I can be with you again.

My prayer is for God to richly bless you and your ministry.

Yours in Christ, Chris McCormick"

Discovery Weekend 2009

"Celebrate Life" August 14th- 16th

It is that time of year again! It is time for one of the most exciting youth events at Ardmore FUMC. As many of you know the kids look forward to this event every year, especially getting to lead Sunday morning worship. The youth want to share their experience with the entire congregation on Sunday morning. This means that the EPIC and 10:50 traditional services will get to meet together! On August 16th at 11:00am everyone will worship together in the sanctuary of the main building. The music will be led by our youth and will be similar to the music from previous Discovery weekends. We hope you come and celebrate with us!

Discovery Weekend is a 42 hour spiritual formation retreat for 6th, 7th & 8th graders. We need to fill the following volunteer positions: Jr. High small group leaders, host homes for Sr. High helpers, meal preparation, prayer team, set-up and clean-up, volunteers to spend the night at the church with the Jr. High students, and just general help throughout the weekend. Please contact Laura (223-5390 X 315) or Adam (X 314) to volunteer. Let's make this year's weekend a wonderful spiritual experience for the Jr. High students.

Does This Sound Like You?



Are you a person who enjoys chatting with folks on Sunday morning? Do you enjoy finding out about other people? Do you make friends easily? If so, you may wish to be a part of the visitor welcome ministry of our church. We are going to have a special meeting to launch a new part of our visitor welcome ministry. It is called First Friends and will be held on Monday night, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the CMC. If that sounds like you, join us!

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed: *If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital please contact the church office.*

Sunday School Greeters for August:

Main Building - **WESLEY**

Colvert Ministry Center - **SEEKERS**

Memorials:

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

Roger and Georgia Beth Hughes

In memory of **Ora Rist** a contribution to the Communion Fund has been received from:

Roger and Georgia Beth Hughes

Communion Now Offered After EPIC

We are continuing our tradition of serving Holy Communion in the Carlock Chapel after the 10:50 a.m. service each non-Communion Sunday. However, we are adding a second location for the ease of those who attend EPIC worship. Each Sunday that Communion is not served in the worship service, it will be offered in (what we are now calling) the EPIC Upper Room. The room is located in the Colvert Ministry Center and is accessed by the staircase next to the sound board.



Young Adult Ministry

Come hang out and study the bible with other young adults (18-30 years old) in the Ardmore area. We will meet on Tuesdays at Craig and Mika Gerken's house starting at 7pm. The Gerken's address is 3920 Hess Road. If you have any questions please contact Adam Ricks at 223-5390 ext 314.



**First United Methodist Church 2009
Men's Softball Team**

Chris, Adam, Mike, Jason, Spencer, Scott
Larry, Dave, Cade, Bruce, Kevin
missing: Scott, Sam, Rich, Doug



Special Young Softball Fans

First UMC 2009 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	

It Happened Quickly!

The early game (6:30) started on time with enough players present, and a preacher running in as play began. We started in the field, a very good thing, and our bats *stumbled* into action and we were just barely ahead at the end of the first. That's when it really happened! A second inning that just wouldn't quit and we were excitedly ahead and not looking back. We played three and a half innings, were ahead by 10 and it was over in less than 30 minutes. You really should've been there! We took a team photo because the sun was shining brightly, even though we were missing some players. There were a couple of special young fans there, too. We just missed YOU. There are two games left...plenty of time.



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Loaves &
Fishes

July
Rice

1-lb bag

Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund