

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church

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It was as if Lee Miller was reading my sister's mind.

On Sunday between the two services, Lee was the "pastor's prayer partner" for the morning. This past Sunday, she had two pastors! My sister was in town for the Thanksgiving holiday. Karen was on vacation from High Point, North Carolina where she serves as the senior pastor of Covenant United Methodist Church. She was joining me for all the events of the first Sunday morning in Advent.

After the prayer time, Lee asked Karen, "Would you be interested in seeing my collection of nativity sets this afternoon?"

Little did Lee know that early in her ministry, my sister had also been a collector of nativity sets. Of all the things I had planned for Karen's Sunday afternoon, it was this invitation that caught her attention the most.

As rain drizzled outside of Lee's home, we strolled through her extraordinary collection. She had collected nearly one hundred nativity sets through the years. Some she had purchased with her late husband while they traveled the world and lived overseas. Others were given to her by friends and family. (Given by some of you, perhaps?)

They were from many continents and countries. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus had features that were Hispanic, African, Native American, European and more. The sets were made of silver, clay, glass, wood and textures I couldn't identify. The Holy Family would be whimsical in one and elegant in the next. My personal favorite was the Eskimo scene Lee found during her trip to Alaska. Gathered in a "holy igloo" and gazing with love at the divine babe were polar bears, elk and moose!

At her glass display case, Lee pulled out a tiny box and said, "This is the smallest one I have." I didn't have my glasses on and could hardly see it! The one that brought the biggest laugh was a nativity scene of a family of... rubber ducks! Yup. Ducks. This humorous gift from her daughter had found a home near the sink in the powder room.

Each nativity set had a story and each story had with it a place or a person that had been of importance to Lee. It was a wonderful connection - her appreciation of the scene of the holy birth attached to the love, relationships and experiences that had also been given to her in each setting where she received the nativity scene.

For me, Lee took me out of my very small mindset. With the infant Jesus depicted by such varied ethnicities, it made me establish again in my heart the truth that the Child who came did so to save the entire world, not just my English-speaking corner; not just people who look like me and talk like I do and dress like I do.

When God, in His infinite grace, sent this Child, he sent him for an entire world.

Thanks to Lee for this Advent blessing.

Jessica

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
Colvert Ministry Center

Welcome, New Members!



We welcome Kelley & Becky Smith to our fellowship. Kelley

joined by profession of faith and baptism, while Becky transferred from the UMC in Marietta on Sunday, November 22 in the 8:30 worship service. Kelley works in operations at ERGON and Becky is a chemistry & physical science teacher at Ardmore High School. They are members of the LOVE Sunday School Class and have attended the Walk to Emmaus. The Smith's have 2 boys: Bryce (age 11) is a 5th grader at Lone Grove Intermediate School and Kasey (age 2). Both boys were baptized. Joining them on this Sunday also was their other son Dylan. Their sponsors are Chris & Dana Benson.

Welcome, folks!

Christmas Ministry

... "I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did it for me." Matt. 25:40

Tables will be set up before and after worship on Wednesday, December 2nd and Sunday December 6th in McClure Chapel, the Main Sanctuary and CMC with names of families in need of help buying Christmas presents for their children. To participate in this ministry, please come by and pick up a name -or the names of an entire family. (Our list of names has been cross referenced with other area ministries' lists to hinder duplications.)

What a privilege to be Christ's hands and feet and show His love to all creation. If you can't come by one of the tables call Shawna Carnahan 223-5390 X319 or Cindi Barrett 490-3535 to receive names.



Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Second Sunday in Advent**. It's already here and you haven't missed it! We lit the first Advent Candle this past Sunday and are on track to light the second one this Sunday. I don't know about you, but I really enjoy the feeling of expectancy in this exciting season as again we look forward to the birth of God's Son.

In both 8:30 worship in McClure Chapel and 10:50 worship in the Sanctuary John Emery, organist, will be playing "**Noel Fanfare on The First Noel**". The hymntune on which this fanfare is based is familiar and found in our hymnal. It is a Traditional English carol; harmonization from *Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871*. This organ arrangement is by Charles Callahan.

In the 8:30 worship service Becca Glaser, a soprano in the Sanctuary Choir, will sing "**Gesu Bambino**" by Pietro Yon (1886-1943), in a lovely and timeless arrangement by Mark Hayes. The arrangement, found in the collection *Christmas Songs for Solo Voice*, is copyright © 1999 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**Advent Alleluia**" arranged by Keith Christopher. This Sanctuary choir anthem, which incorporates *Salvation Is Created* (words & music by Pavel Tschesnokoff) and *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (words from the Liturgy of St. James, 1864, and is a 17th Century French Carol) continues our expectant mood for this Second Sunday in Advent. The anthem, with Kelley Segler accompanying at the piano, is copyright ©2008 by Hal Leonard Corporation.

Please read these texts from Sunday's Music.

Gesu Bambino

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter's night
was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell,
from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Advent Alleluia

Salvation is created. O Lord, God almighty,
We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord, God.
Alleluia!

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.
Alleluia!

Shalom, *Bab*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec 6

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
4:30 pm Music & Drama
5:00 pm Jr. High Youth
6:00 pm Sr. High Youth
6:00 pm Hearts on Fire Prayer Time
6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery-Men
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery-Women

Monday, Dec 7

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens
6:30 pm Disciple 1 Bible Study
6:30 pm Financial Peace

Tuesday, Dec 8

7:30 am Preschool
12:00pm Noon Prayer
4:30 pm Trustees

Wednesday, Dec 9

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
10:30 am Moms Praying
5:00 pm Stephen Ministry Appreciation Dinner
5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors
6:15 pm Worship / CMC
6:15 pm Ignite
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery
7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 10

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Precept Bible Study
1:00 pm XYZ Bridge Club

Friday, Dec 11

7:30 am Preschool



Dates to Remember:

Dec 13 Jr. High Progressive Dinner
Dec 20 Sr. High Progressive Dinner
Dec 21-23 "Word On The Street" - musical drama
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
4:00pm / 6:00pm / 8:00pm
Dec 25 Christmas
Dec 25-26 Church Closed
Jan 1 New Years Day / Church Closed

Missionary News



We just received an email from John & Colleen Eisenberg, our Mission Society missionaries in Asuncion, Paraguay—

“Dear Partners in God’s Kingdom Building,

We trust everyone had a family, fun-filled Thanksgiving! Via Skype, we got to see & talk with family in Georgia along with our older children & their fiancés. Yes, both Daniel & Elizabeth got engaged in October. It looks like Daniel & Tammy will get married on June 19, 2010 in Belleville, IL near St. Louis. Elizabeth & Kyle plan to get married at Will Rogers UMC in Tulsa, OK on August 14, 2010. We are excited to add new members to our family! Never had we dreamed that both would be getting married in the same summer. Colleen hopes to stay through the summer but John & Faith have to go and come back due to mission responsibilities & school.

Thus, we are asking if anyone has miles they could donate since it costs about \$1,300 per person per round trip ticket. We want to be able to attend both weddings and not have to pick & choose. We are trusting the Lord to be faithful through you. If you do not have miles, you could help pay for a ticket. Just let us know.

We have been busy promoting Alpha here in Paraguay as a means to get new people to come to Christ and to disciple new believers. John has also been teaching in the Bible Institute this year and gave his final on Juan Wesley and Methodism on Thanksgiving day before we could celebrate (since it is not a holiday here). He has also been pastor in the Santa Rosa church so that the pastor there can have some rest and counseling after two valve surgeries for his heart. John will pastor until the end of December. Pray for Pastor Hugo and his wife Stella. John had asked the Lord for a chance to preach and laughs about how the Lord gave him more than the once or twice a month he was expecting. Colleen finished up the year long new believer’s Bible Study she was helping with for the women. On December 8, the National Methodist Church will meet at the campground to baptize all the new members of the church that have completed their initial discipleship during this past year... We are rejoicing in all that the Lord is doing! Please keep us in your prayers, John & Colleen Eisenberg”

We have been supporting the Eisenberg’s for 10 years through Faith Promise.

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:
Joe Hamill (OKC)

Sunday School Greeters for December:
Main Building - Wesley
Colvert Ministry Center - Foundations

New Arrival:
Warren and Kimberly Mouldoux announce the birth of their son **Warren Edward Mouldoux IV** on Friday, November 20th. He weighed 7lbs-2oz and was 20½ inches long. Warren’s grandparents are Gary and Jan Farabough.

Memorials:
In memory of **Don Cummings** contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received from:
Avon and DeMaurice Barber
William M. Johns

In memory of **Mark Edward Parker** a contribution to the Choir and the Youth Department has been received from:
Grace Clark
Patty Sue Hicks



COATS!
COATS!
COATS!



The weather outside will be frightful soon. We are collecting coats for those in need. If you have a gently worn coat that you no longer need, or your children have outgrown, please bring it to the church. Any size, any weight will do. Look for drop boxes on the first floor landing and at the CMC.



Captivated by Love
Women’s Retreat
February 19-20, 2010
at the Colvert Ministry Center

Thank You, Thank You!

Thanks for letting us "take over" your building for a day. We appreciate it very much. The ministry center is so beautiful and we are always proud to say we are having our luncheon there. Thanks again -

*Brandi Townley
and the staff of Cross Timbers Hospice*

Word on the Street

is coming December 21, 22 & 23!

The musical drama **Word on the Street** focuses on the couple: Mary and Joseph. God knew what he was doing, but what was it like for *them*? How did they follow God's path for them when confronted with such a miracle – a baby born to a virgin!?

Set in an urban environment that embodies every city everywhere with people from all walks of life, **Word on the Street** is a contemporary play in a present day world. It celebrates and explores the journey of two people, much like us, who when faced with that which is impossible to believe, chose to follow. It's a love story you won't want to miss!



Children's Ministry Announcements

- It is a new month and a new virtue in the children's department. This December we will be learning about *COMPASSION*. We will talk about how compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.
- This week in *PLUG IN*, we will learn how God saw our greatest need and he cared about us enough to send his only son. We will try to figure out whose needs we see, and how we can do something about it. There will be no *POWER UP* (children's church) this Sunday but we will be back on December 13th.
- Remember to *IGNITE* your week this Wednesday. We start at 6:15 in room 115 at the CMC. We are digging deep into the Bible and having a good time doing it together. Come as a family this month as we learn how to make this a compassionate Christmas and all about doing something about someone else's needs.
- As always if you would like to volunteer in Sunday school, children's church, or just to bring us donuts to start our morning, we would love it. Please let Amy or Kori know. You can reach us at 223-5390 x325 or children@fumcardmore.com.

Hearts on Fire
will not meet on
Sunday, December 6th

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ardmore, Oklahoma
Permit No. 183



Loaves &
Fishes

December
Pork & Beans
14-16 ounce can
Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund