



# THE WITNESS

*Our calling is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ through fellowship, worship, outreach, and nurture.*

[www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org)

First United Methodist Church  
1610 Prince Street  
Conway, AR 72034  
(501)329-3801  
(501) 733-3577  
(pastoral care emergency #)



Worship This Sunday  
8:45 A.M., 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.

Volume XXXXIII

August 18, 2010

Number 32

## A Note from Rev. Charles Murry

Dear Brothers and Sisters of First United Methodist Church:

Our church's finances are in the midst of serious review. The church officers and staff have worked to avoid interrupting and reducing ministries while receiving insufficient amounts to support all of the programs of the church. Together, we must now make some difficult decisions. On Aug. 13, we reduced staff expenses by downsizing and eliminating the position of Building and Property Manager. Also, on Aug. 13, a letter was mailed to all full members of First United Methodist Church asking each one to prayerfully consider increasing their giving.

Please remember Tom Keith (who worked in the position that was eliminated) in your prayers. Many of the members have joined me in expressing thanks to Tom for his dedication and service. Also, please be in prayer about your activity in your church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Also, I am thankful to Ed Spears and the Board of Trustees for their willingness to accept additional duties in covering all of the Building and Property work that is being accomplished.

## Small Groups:

### Why should you consider a small group?

"Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. ... JESUS taught us to LEARN our faith this way."

Join a small group this fall. We have lots of different classes, groups and courses to choose from. You can find a place in one of the following groups:

- Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
- The Bible From Scratch — Old Testament
- Beth Moore Study
- Women's Bible Study — Ephesians
- Heart of Christianity
- Financial Peace University
- Dealing With Grief
- Hayesod
- A Quest for God
- Christian Believer
- Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By a Relentless God
- While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent
- Dreamwork
- Arkansas Law for Teens
- Cooking for Fun
- Ballroom Dance
- Knitting

## Coffee With the Pastors 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, Trinity Building Lobby



This is a great time for guests and new members to meet the pastors and learn about the mission and ministries of Conway First United Methodist Church. Please RSVP to Jackie Waite in the church office.

## Fifth Sunday Activities on Aug. 29

- Remember two occasions on the Fifth Sunday, Aug. 29:
  - During the Sunday School hour, the Church & Society Committee presents our Conway School District Superintendent Greg Murry to speak about Conway schools. Come to hear him in the fellowship hall at 10 a.m.
  - At 5 p.m. Aug. 29, in the Great Hall we will host the United Methodist Churches in Conway for a worship service and fellowship time to follow.

## Monthly & Year-to-Date Operating Budget Financial Report

*First United Methodist Church's Operating Budget Financial Year is May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011*

### Monthly Report

Total offerings received in July	\$ 88,590.78
Total expenditures in July	\$ 92,561.03
Net amount	(-\$3,970.25)

### Year-to-Date Report

Total offerings since May 1	\$ 261,312.16
Total expenditures since May 1	\$ 293,663.51
Net amount	(-\$32,351.35)

## Where Will You Serve

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development is asking the question, "Where will you serve?" It is an inquiry every Christian should consider as each listens for ways God is calling us to serve in our church and community. The response forms were on the front page of the Witness last week. Additional forms will be available on Aug. 23 and 30 in the Lobby of the Trinity Building and in the Hospitality Area.

Be in prayer for your church and your calling to serve.

## Youth Department News

### Presence Numbers

#### Youth Week 2010

**Friday, Aug. 6** - Big Dam Bridge Walk and Wild River Country Lock-in - 62 Youth, 12 Adults

**Saturday, Aug. 7** - Coffeehouse - 46 Youth, 11 Adults

**Sunday, Aug. 8** - Little Rock Zoo - 51 Youth, 10 Adults

**Monday, Aug. 9** - Youth Olympics - 34 Youth, 9 Adults

**Tuesday, Aug. 10** - Bigger & Better Scavenger Hunt - 41 Youth, 11 Adults

**Wednesday, Aug. 11** - Family Night at the Travelers Game - 40 youth, 17 adults

**Sunday, Aug. 15** -

Sunday School - 30 Youth

Youth and Parent Potluck Kick-off - 103 Youth

### Weekly Schedule

**Sunday, April 22** -

10 a.m. - Sunday School - Meet in Big Room for announcements

4 to 5 p.m. - Recreation - Great Hall

4 to 5 p.m. - Youth Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

4 to 5 p.m. - Youth Praise Band Practice - Youth Classrooms

5 to 5:30 p.m. - Snack Supper - Great Hall

5:30 to 6:15 p.m. - Small Groups - Youth Classrooms

6:15 to 7 p.m. - Youth Worship - Great Hall

## Help Us Go Green!

### Receive Your Witness By E-mail

We are officially moving toward sending the Witness electronically to as many people as possible by Sept. 1. We understand some people do not have e-mail access, and we will continue to send a newsletter by postal mail to those who subscribe. We ask that you sign up for either the e-mail newsletter or to continue a postal mailing.

To sign up, contact Colleen Holt at [cholt@conwayfumc.org](mailto:cholt@conwayfumc.org) or call the church office at 329-3801.

## College Ministries Update

Faith Families & Prayer Partners: Thanks to the congregation members for a great response to these programs. We still need to recruit Prayer Partner participants. If you know of a college student that is a member of our church, suggest that they sign up to receive a Prayer Partner. They will be matched with a person or family & they will exchange prayer requests and concerns with each other throughout the year.

## Children's Sunday School Leaders

We still have lots of volunteer positions open for Preschool and Elementary Sunday School. You can sign up to volunteer for one month in the Preschool & Kindergarten classes in the Preschool Hospitality area.

The sign up board for the 1st - 4th grade classes will be in the area outside the Sanctuary this Sunday. You can also go online to the church web site to Children's Ministries to see where you can volunteer and email Pam at [plentz@conwayfumc.org](mailto:plentz@conwayfumc.org).

## Adult Sunday School Studies this Week

<b>Believing, Becoming, Belonging (B3)</b>	214
20/30 Bible Study on Prayer	
<b>Conference</b>	220
Attend Faith in Action pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall	
<b>Dorothy Robins-Light</b>	212
"Growing in Joy and Peace," Philippians 4:2-14	
<b>Faithbuilders</b>	Parlor
"Enough"	
<b>Faith in Action (FIA)</b>	230
Host pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall	
<b>Forum</b>	
"Living in an Alien Culture," Leader Rev. Charles Murry	
<b>Genesis</b>	227
"1,2,3 John — How Should a Christian Live?"	
<b>George Hartje</b>	218
"Growing in Joy and Peace," Philippians 4:2-14; Leader Johnnye Hartje	
<b>Gussie Scales</b>	216
"Growing in Joy and Peace," Philippians 4:2-14; Leader John Collier	
<b>Koinonia</b>	
"Walking With Jesus," Leader John Williams	
<b>New Covenant</b>	221
"Growing in Joy and Peace," Philippians 4:2-14	
<b>Open Door</b>	113
"Growing in Joy and Peace," Philippians 4:2-14; Leader David Sutherland; (telephone participation available)	
<b>Round Table</b>	217
"The Gospel of Luke"	

**FACEBOOK!** Become a fan of Conway FUMC College Ministries on Facebook! We will post updates and give information on this page.



## Fall Small Group — Crazy Love!

God is the creator of the universe - the creator of all things! And what do we do to praise and worship him? We come to church, sing a song and try not to cuss! Are you hungry for an authentic faith? Do you feel like something is missing? Join our group on Sunday nights from 8 to 9:30 beginning Sept. 12. Leaders are Kisha and Clay Bumpers.

## Fall Small Group - Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

**4 to 6 p.m. Sundays, beginning Sept. 19. Materials: \$95**

What would your life look like if you had No Debt and were really In Control of your money?

Most people struggle to make ends meet. They just have too much month left at the end of their money. If you have made mistakes and feel like your money vanishes each month, you are not alone. In fact, 70 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their income level.

Financial Peace University is designed to teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth. You'll meet with your class each week to watch the video lesson and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money. You'll actually have fun as you learn about saving, budgeting, investing, insurance and more! And the results are astounding! During this 13-week course, the average family pays down or eliminates \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. Leader: Jeff Standridge.

## Our Church Family

### Sympathy

To friends and family of Wanda Coleman on her death.

### Welcome

To Rileigh Bush, daughter of Ernie and Kari Bush, who joined this community of faith through confirmation Aug. 15.

To David and Emily Ross, who joined this community of faith on Sunday, Aug. 15. They have three children, Allison, Henry and George.

To Judy McKnight, who joined this community of faith on Sunday, Aug. 15

### Frank Jones Bible Lectures

10 a.m. Sundays in the Chapel. All invited!

*The Holy Spirit in the Church (as told in The Acts of the Apostles)*



- **Aug. 22** — What? You Never Heard of the Holy Spirit? Chapters 18-28
- **Aug. 29** — Meanwhile, Over in Corinth. 1 & 2 Corinthians

### Sunday Transportation Drivers:

**Aug. 22** — Kathleen Caruthers and Carole Teague, 329-5357

**Aug. 29** — Bruce, Leigh and Luke Walls, 327-3556

Please call if you want to be picked up for Sunday school or worship and are not on our "regular" rider list.



**Rice Depot Trip** - Saturday, Aug. 28. We leave the church parking lot by 7:50 a.m.

Please call the church or Marilyn Mayfield @ 327-5102 if you plan to go.

### Pancake Breakfast on Aug. 22

Come join us for a pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, in the Fellowship Hall. Tables can be set for Sunday School Classes by request (tburris@conwayfumc.org). Proceeds will both benefit the Food Pantry and help to feed families during the week of Christmas. Hosts are members of the Faith in Action Sunday School class.

### Confirmation Meeting Planned

Sixth Grade Student and Parent Confirmation Informational Meeting will be Sunday, Aug. 29, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You can call or e-mail Pam at the church (329-3801) for more information.

### Leadership Workshop Set Sept. 19

The North Central District Conference and Leadership Workshops will be held Sunday, Sept. 19, at Cabot United Methodist Church. The focus of the Conference and workshops will be Bishop Schnase's book, Five Practices for Fruitful Living. The District Conference will be at 2:30 with a short district business meeting followed by Rev. John Palmer and Rev. Jason Mollitor presenting Risk-taking Mission and Service. Workshops will begin at 3:30.

## HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

### HOSPITAL

**Out of Town:** Mike Smyers (Tricia O'Connor's father).

**Dismissed:** John Workman (to Conway Regional Rehab).

### PRAYERS

**For Those Serving Overseas:** Robert Courtway; Ben Rand (nephew of Roy and Polly Martin); Rob Kielty (Jill Hankins' brother-in-law); Patrick Miller (Joyce Miller's son and Melanie Codermo's brother); Dave McClanahan (Lowell and Marsha McClanahan's son).

### PRESENCE

Total Attendance in worship: 607

Aug. 15, 2010

{8:45-120; 9:00-246; 11:00-241}

Sunday School Attendance: 322

### SERVICE

Many thanks to Sara Hales (oboe) and Zach Gingerich (guitar) for playing for the anthem at last Sunday's 11:00 service. You all helped the choir sound especially good!

Thank you to Chris and Lynn Bills for stamping, labeling and inserting letters for a mailing last week, and to Gay Moore for helping to put inserts in the Sunday worship bulletins.

### Music Calendar

**Sunday, Aug. 22, 4:00** – Youth Choir and Youth Praise Band rehearsals begin

**Monday, Aug. 23, 3:30-5:00** – Planning meeting for Senior High Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

**Monday, Aug. 30, 4:00-5:00** – Senior High Handbell Choir rehearsals begin

**Wednesday, Sept. 1, 5:00-6:00** – Children's Music Open House/Registration (Choir Room)

**Sunday, Sept. 5** – No Youth Choir/Praise Band

**Monday, Sept. 6** – No Senior High Handbells

**Wednesday, Sept. 8, 4:00-6:00** – regular Wednesday music programming begins

**Sunday, Sept. 19** – Youth Choir, 8:45 service

### Children's Music Opportunities

Music programming for children (grades 1-6) begins with an Open House/Registration event from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, in the Choir Room. All children (new and returning) and parents are encouraged to attend. We will talk about plans for the year, and parents will have an opportunity to sign up to help with snacks and chaperoning.

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 8, the weekly schedule will be as follows:

4-4:30 Elementary Chimes (grades 3-4), Choir Room

4:30-5:15 Junior High Handbells (grades 7-8, do not need to attend the Open house on Sept. 1), Choir Room

5:20-6:00 Intermediate Handbells (grades 5-6), Choir Room

4:30-5:15 One Accord Choir (grades 4-6), room 212

5:20-6:00 Joyful Sound Choir (grades 1-3), room 212

Recreation time will be available in the Great Hall between sessions so children may be brought to the church at 4:00 and picked up at 6:00.

All bell/chime choirs will be led by Janet Gingerich. We are pleased to have an intern from Hendrix College to lead Joyful Sound and One Accord while we continue the search for a new Associate Director of Music (children's choirs).

Our Little Seekers Choir (4-yr-old and Kindergarten) will meet for a few weeks prior to Christmas. Watch for an announcement.

## Worship on Sunday, Aug. 22

**Sanctuary Worship: 8:45 & 11 a.m.**

**Scripture** — Hebrews 12:18-29; Psalm 84; Luke 13:10-17

**Sermon** — “Freed From Bondage”

**Preaching** — Rev. Regina Gideon

How do you interpret the fourth commandment, the injunction to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy? Jesus was often at odds with the religious leadership of his day over this question. The Pharisees had stringent notions of what it meant to rest, while Jesus taught that the Sabbath was made for people’s good, not just for the sake of rule keeping. Today, we rarely talk about Sabbath-keeping. We have jobs to do and tasks to accomplish seven days a week. Are we in bondage to productivity as much as the Pharisees were in bondage to their rule-keeping?

**Good News Celebration: 9 a.m., Great Hall**

**Scripture** - Luke 13:10-17

**Sermon** — “Observing the Sabbath in a 24/7 World”

**Preaching** — Rev. Charles Murry

In creating the world, God took a day for rest. When Jesus was incarnate among us he spent time in the synagogue for worship. As it is written in Luke (4:16), he went to the synagogue “as was his custom.” Today, there are cities that never sleep. There are businesses that never stop. There are people who work all the time. Recently, a study of human abilities and behavior said “multi-tasking” is a fake phenomenon. The human brain can consider one item at a time, and the concept of multi-tasking is quickly shifting focus from one task to another. Sabbath time is for concentrated and singular focus on praising and thanking God. In the process of telling God of our love, we have the side benefit of being renewed, refreshed and re-created. Sabbaths are meant for stopping all this 24/7 madness.

## Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010

- 8:00 A.M. First Service Singers warmup, 202
- 8:00 A.M. Praise Band practice, Great Hall
- 8:00 A.M. Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary\*
- 9:00 A.M. Good News Celebration, Great Hall\*
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School\*
- 10:30 A.M. Chancel Choir warmup, 202\*
- 11:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary\*
- 2:00 P.M. Confirmation planning meeting, 107
- 5:00 P.M. United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Great Hall
- 6:00 P.M. Coffee With the Pastors, Lobby, Chapel

## Monday, Aug. 23, 2010

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Group, 1003
- 11:00 A.M. Staff meeting, 216
- 1:00 P.M. UMW Executive Mission Team, 214
- 3:00 P.M. Prayer Misfits, 1003
- 6:00 P.M. Committee on Leadership & Development, 214
- 6:00 P.M. Practice in Chapel
- 6:30 P.M. Sr. High GLEEkS, Bowen home
- 6:30 P.M. Troop 71, B13
- 7:00 P.M. Chancel Ringers rehearsal, 202
- 7:00 P.M. GNC Planning, 107

## Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010

- 8:00 A.M. Open Walking Time, Great Hall
- 9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 P.M. Jr. High GLEEkS, Coker home
- 7:00 P.M. Cub Scout Pack 71, B13
- 7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Worship Planning, 214

## Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010

- 7:00 A.M. Men’s Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 P.M. Witness Labelers, 107
- 6:00 P.M. Music Department Potluck, Lobby
- 6:00 P.M. Music Department Worship, Chapel

## Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010

- 8:00 A.M. Open Walking Time, Great Hall
- 9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 A.M. ECC Training, 1105
- 5:15 P.M. Conway Interfaith Clinic board, 216
- 5:30 P.M. Amazing Grace Café, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 P.M. Praise Band practice, Great Hall

## Friday, Aug. 27, 2010

## Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010

- 7:45 A.M. Rice Depot trip to Little Rock
- (\*) Child care provided. To request childcare for a calendared event, please call Pam at the church.

## United Methodist Women

The Executive Mission Team of UMW will meet on Monday, Aug. 23, at 1 p.m. in room 214. The Nominations Committee will report at that time.

## Wednesday Fellowship Dinner Hosts



We still need hosts for the dinners this fall, which start Sept 1. Also, anyone willing to occasionally help serve, take cash, help with setup, or wash dishes, please contact Hope Johnson at [hjohnson@conwayfumc.org](mailto:hjohnson@conwayfumc.org).

Even 20 or 30 minutes would be a huge help!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1610 Prince St. ~ Conway, AR 72034  
(501) 329-3801

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**501-733-3577**  
**Pastoral Care Emergency Number**