



# 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

February 17, 2010

Number 7

## The Holy Spirit Makes An Appearance

“Amy” left the church when she was a teenager. She was bored by the ordinary routines and predictable rituals. She didn’t see much Spirit in the church; instead she saw an attitude of business-as-usual.

Years passed. Amy spread her wings and explored her spiritual side. A professor in a graduate class sent her back to church “to observe religious rituals among people of faith.” Amy argued with the professor. She could remember enough to write a paper; she didn’t need to endure Sunday morning worship to complete the assignment. Her professor insisted she go anyway.

The day arrived. Amy slipped into the balcony as the service began. Of all the luck! It was Communion Sunday! She sighed. She took out her notebook. She tried to get comfortable on the hard wood pew.

Before she knew it, the usher nodded in her direction. Surely she didn’t need to take Communion too?! But the professor had been adamant, and Amy needed a good grade on this assignment. She went forward. Down the stairs. Up the aisle. To the altar rail. She saw the little crackers on plates and the cups in trays. She dreaded putting one of those tasteless crackers in her mouth and trying to rinse it down with the little bit of juice...

“The body of Christ broken for you.” Amy ate. “The blood of Christ poured out for you.” Amy drank. And the world stood still. She still can’t explain it, but she believed. Those plain old crackers, that ordinary juice, that still familiar ritual broke her heart wide open and she believed it was for her and even more. It was for the whole world.

Amy told me her story one day while we were having a very business like discussion about the church budget. “I don’t question the line item called ‘worship supplies,’” she said. “Even though I give to the whole budget, that line item, all by itself, is worth my whole life.”

We buy bread and juice and crackers and cups. We clean and press napkins and cloths. We purchase wicks and oil for candles. Giving to the budget allows the church to get everything ready, and then the Holy Spirit shows up, and lives are changed. Thanks for your faithful giving. — Rev. Dede Roberts



## “Do You Love Me?”

Three years ago, I was blessed to “be quiet before the Lord” in a most exceptional place on earth. It was on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, near Tabgha in Israel.

Our tour guide/Bible teacher would carefully explain to our bus load of pilgrims why each stop on our 14-day journey was important from a historical and Biblical perspective and helped me learn to apply Jesus’ teaching to my life.

At this memorable Galilee stop, our travel group read John 21:1-20, where the risen Jesus appeared to some of the disciples on the shore in the early morning, feeding His disciples a breakfast of bread and fish. Then Jesus spoke directly to Peter and asked him “do you love me?” Our Bible teacher repeated the question, but had us insert our name as if Jesus would ask me ... “Adair, do you love me?”

We were instructed to find a quiet spot on the shore and let our Lord talk directly to each of us ... ponder Jesus’ question ... do I love Him. If so, what will I do for Jesus? Feed His sheep? Follow Him?

Stepping away from the group, I found a rock to sit on, closed my eyes and settled myself to be quiet before the Lord. I remember hearing the water hit the shore line; a bird sang in the distance, the breeze rustled through the trees ... then all was quiet and contemplative.

This was a quiet place to hear from my Lord Jesus.

I was removed from the busyness of my worldly distractions, my to-do list. Praying to hear clearly, and asking Jesus “do I really love you Jesus?” What does that mean? How will I act? How will I serve you Lord, and how will I serve others? Will I share with the lost, in the power of the Holy Spirit that no one comes to the Father but through you? In that still, quiet spot in Israel, in the land that our Lord Jesus lived, I heard from Him and learned His direction for the next few years of my life.

Often I return to that quiet shoreline setting, even if it’s while I’m sitting in my recliner at home, because I want to block out the dailies and be quiet before the Lord, to hear His personalized message for me.

Lent is just such a time, to remove distractions by turning off the gadgets, when I can read and reflect on His Word, hear His clear message, and follow my Lord and Savior.

— Adair Howell



## Calling All Guests!

You are invited to a  
Pastors’ Coffee

6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21  
Trinity Building Parlor

This will be a wonderful time to get to know the pastors and some members of the church.

RSVP by calling Jackie Waite in the church office



## The 411 for Youth

### Presence Numbers

Thursday, Feb. 11 -

Breakfast Club - 23 Youth

Saturday, Feb. 13 -

Valentine Cafe Attendees - 112

Valentine Cafe Youth Servers - 18 Youth

Sunday, Feb. 14 -

Sunday School - 33 youth

UMYF - 29 Youth

### Weekly Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 18 -

Breakfast Club - 7 a.m. at The Brewery on Prince Street

Sunday, Feb. 21 -

Sunday School - 10 a.m. in the Big Room

Recreation Time - 4-5 p.m. in the Great Hall

UMYF - 5-7 p.m. in the Great Hall

Monday, Feb. 22 -

Youth Choir - 3:30-5 - Youth Cafe

Wednesday, Feb. 24 -

Hang Time - 3 p.m. in the Youth Cafe

Jr. High Bells - 4:30 p.m. in the Music Room

Knitting Group - 5:15 p.m. in the Lodge Room

Praise Band Practice - 5:45 p.m. in the Big Room

123 JESUS - 6:45 in the Lodge Room

### Youth Mission Trip Spots Still Available

Bring your \$50 deposit to Michelle TODAY to sign up:

Ozark Mission Project - youth currently in 7th grade - June 27-July 1 at Rudy.

C2K Dallas - youth currently in 9th-12th grades - July 5th-10th at Dallas.

C.A.M.P. (Central Arkansas Mission Project) - youth currently in 6th and 7th grades - July 26th-29th at 4-H Center in Little Rock.

Card Tables borrowed for the Valentine Café may be picked up outside of Michelle's office in the Youth Wing of the Trinity Building.

## Wednesday Fellowship Dinners

Feb. 24 - 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Menu: Variety of soups, breads and desserts. Hosts: Music Department.



Cost is \$6 for adults (age 13 and up), \$4 for children 6-12, kids 5 & under eat free, \$20 maximum per household. To RSVP, call the church office or sign up on the attendance pads during worship so we know how many to expect.

## Adult Sunday School Studies this Week

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Believing, Becoming, Belonging (B3)</b>  | 214    |
| "Enough"  |        |
| <b>Conference</b>   | 220    |
| "The Daily Five," Leaders Jeff Standridge and John Thompson   |        |
| <b>Dorothy Robins-Light</b>   | 212    |
| "Witnessed By Disciples," Matthew 17:1-12   |        |
| <b>Faithbuilders</b>  | Parlor |
| "A Study on the Book of John," Leader Rev. Larry Williams   |        |
| <b>Faith in Action (FIA)</b>  | 230    |
| "The Daily Five," Leaders Clay and Kelli Gordon   |        |
| <b>Forum</b>  | 222    |
| "Dreams: Natural Spirituality," Leaders Ann Marie Baker & Melinda Adams                                 |        |
| <b>Genesis</b>  | 227    |
| A study of Job  |        |
| <b>George Hartje</b>  | 218    |
| "Witnessed By Disciples," Matthew 17:1-12; Leader Johnnye Hartje  |        |
| <b>Gussie Scales</b>  | 216    |
| "Witnessed By Disciples," Matthew 17:1-12; Leader John Collier  |        |
| <b>Koinonia</b>   | 219    |
| "The Daily Five," Leaders Gerald & JoNell Plafcan and Vicki Sutton                                      |        |
| <b>New Covenant</b>   | 221    |
| "Witnessed By Disciples," Matthew 17:1-12   |        |
| <b>Open Door</b>  | 113    |
| "Witnessed By Disciples," Matthew 17:1-12; Leader David Sutherland; (telephone participation available) |        |
| <b>Round Table</b>  | 217    |
| "Troublesome Bible Passages"  |        |

## Worship on Sunday, Feb. 21

### Sanctuary Worship: 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Scriptures - Deuteronomy 26:1-11,

Psalms 91:1-2 & 9-16, Luke 4:1-13

Sermon - "Into Arabia"

Preaching - Rev. Charles Murry

Our congregation is entering the

Lenten season with a theme that will lead us from the temptation of Jesus at the beginning of his ministry to a road pointing to the cross. "Follow the Savior" is the consistent message winding its way from today to Holy Week. Our first Sunday in the series is based on Jesus in the desert.

This event is early in his ministry.

With only the preaching of John and his baptism, Jesus steps into an unlikely place. What a way to begin ministry! He faces down the temptation to abandon the life which has been given to him. Consider this: Was Jesus' ex-

perience in the desert something that strengthened him, or was it an encounter that drained him? And you? What about you, when you step aside into the desert? How do you feel when you re-enter daily life's routines? These initial thoughts will prepare you for this sermon, "Into Arabia."

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

Scriptures - Luke 4:1-13

Sermon - "Tempted!"

Preaching: Rev. Dede Roberts

"It wouldn't be a temptation if we didn't want it at some level." With that insight I went back and took another look at this familiar and disturbing story. Come Sunday, we'll explore what tempts us and how we too might stand firm and resist what calls to us from the deep.

## March 7 Hymn Festival

The Jan. 31 Hymn Festival was postponed as a result of travel difficulties, but we are re-aligned and ready to go. The Hymn Festival will now be held Sunday, March 7, at 3:00 in our sanctuary. Please plan on joining us for an afternoon of uplifting music as "we" (adult, youth and children's choir and YOU, the congregation) sing our way through the church year. Our theme is the same: Through the Church the Song Goes On. This time we are determined that it really WILL.

## Food Pantry Assistance Received

A check in the amount of \$1,250 has been given to our Food Pantry through Rhonda Sanders, Executive Director of Little Rock's Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. Thanks to Melinda Adams for applying to the Alliance for their Hunger Relief Capacity Building Grant.

# Our Church Family

## Welcome

To Danielle Long, who joined this community of faith on Sunday, Feb. 14.

## Sympathy

To Jean Hoyer on the death of her cousin, John Neitenbach.  
To Patsy and Tom Desaulniers on the death of Patsy's mother, Hassel Rowland.

## Music Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 21 – High School Handbell Choir and Youth Choir (both sanctuary services)  
Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Little Seekers' Choir rehearsals begin (4:00)  
Sunday, Feb. 28 – Chancel Ringers (9:00)  
Saturday, March 6 – Hymn Festival Rehearsal (9-12:30)  
Sunday, March 7 – Hymn Festival (3:00, 2:00 warm-up)  
Sunday, March 14 — Youth Choir (9:00)

## Mission and Ministry Building Fund Update

As of Dec. 31, 2009, we are happy to give the congregation this report. We are approximately 21 months into our three-year Mission and Ministry giving campaign, which represents approximately 58 percent of the three-year giving period. We have received 270 pledges from families in our congregation, totaling \$2,006,045. Against those pledges we have received a total of \$1,101,972.90, or approximately 55 percent. We have received additional gifts not made against pledges of \$121,589.02 for a total collected of \$1,223,561.92. The construction debt as of Dec. 31 is \$3,719,916.67.

The Mission and Ministry follow-up team wishes to thank all those who are faithfully contributing to the Mission and Ministry fund. The Mission and Ministry giving period runs through March 2011. Anyone who would like to receive more information about the Mission and Ministry campaign, or who would like to make an additional pledge, may contact any member of the follow-up team: Tom and Cathy Goodwin, Wayne and Janet Gregory, Scott and Meredith Thone, Richard and Carol Clark, Larry and Peggy Sparks, Greg and Pam Wren.

## ECC Registration Opens to the Community

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year at FUMC's Early Childhood Center is well under way. We will open enrollment to the community beginning Monday, Feb. 22. ECC is a state-accredited preschool for toddlers through pre-kindergarten. If you would like more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Tricia Burris (tburris@conwayfumc.org; 329-1467).

## 1st - 4th Grade Sunday School Leaders Needed

We still need classroom leaders in the Kitchen, Movie, and Game rooms for March. We also need leaders in Kitchen, Storytelling, and Games room for April. Call or email Pam at the church to volunteer.

## Music for Sanctuary Worship – Sunday, Feb. 21

This Sunday is the first in Lent, and as such, the start of a musical journey which helps us "Follow the Savior" from the temptations in the desert to the cross and beyond. On this first Sunday we sing a hymn which gives us an overview of that which is to come. "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (#269) reflects on the gospel story for the day. It also points out how the progression from Lent to Easter can be likened to that of the progression from life on earth, with its own trials and hardships, to "an Easter of unending joy" when this life is over. An arrangement of "Amazing Grace" played by our high school bell choir will set the stage for a Lent in which we are, indeed, amazed by the grace which ultimately allows us to share in that very same joy.

# HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

## HOSPITAL

**Conway Regional:** Doris Carrithers; Cornelia Scales; Mollie Osborne; Carl Skekloff (Debbie Bratton's stepfather).  
**Out of Town:** Cindy Schmidt (Cher Masters' mother).

## PRAYERS

**For Those Serving Overseas:** Lin Williams (brother of John Williams); Ben Rand (nephew of Roy and Polly Martin); Michael Maeker (nephew of Shannon and Andreas deKunffy); Jeremy Hankins (son of Ray and Shirley Hankins); Rob KIELTY (Jill Hankins' brother-in-law).

## PRESENCE

Total Attendance in worship: Feb. 14, 2010  
{8:45-132; 9:00-not reported; 11:00-187}  
Sunday School Attendance: 287.  
Every Dollar Counts: \$142.

## GIFTS

In memory of Sue Alread by: Wanda Meador, Nancy Williams, Charles & Lois McDonald.

In memory of J. Baker by: Ann Davis.

In memory of Dabbs Woodfin by: Nancy Williams.

In memory of Ella Vandiver by: Bob & Barbara Henry, Wanda Meador, Ed & Robin Priest.

In honor of Allen Frost by: Jack & Sarah Frost.

## SERVICE

Thank you to Kelly Johnson for playing the drum for the children in worship on Feb. 14.

Thanks to the 5th & 6th grade students who delivered Valentines to some of our older church members. Also thanks to the parents who helped make that happen; Kristie Beasley, Lora Boone, Debbie Cloe, Heidi Crane, and Heather Tollett.

Thanks to Rev. Jeff Kelley and Chris Spatz for leading worship in the 8:45 service on Feb. 14.

Many thanks to the Joyful Sound and One Accord Choirs, and their families, for getting up early to help lead worship at last Sunday's 8:45 service.

Special thanks to Monica Hutchison for doing double or even triple duty in the absence of music director Janet Gingerich.

## Frank Jones Bible Lectures

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

The Gospel of Luke

Feb. 21 — One plus One plus One equals Four (Luke 12-14)

Feb. 28 — Jesus and the City, the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 15-18)



## Choir Begins Again for Little Seekers!

Little Seekers (Bears and Rabbits classes ONLY) choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, Feb. 24, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 212. Rehearsals will run through May 5. We will be preparing music for Palm Sunday, the spring musical and Mother's Day. If you are interested, come join us. For more information, please contact Monica Hutchison at mhutchison@conwayfumc.org.

## College Students and Parents!

We need updates so we can keep in touch with our college students. Please let us know the following:

- Student's name.
- College they are attending and year/classification.
- Their e-mail address.
- Their cell phone number and if they can receive texts.

E-mail info to Melissa Polk: mpolk@conwayfumc.org

## Sunday Transportation Drivers:

Feb. 21 — Ed Anthes (269-0542) and David Bruce

Feb. 28 — NO BUS — Joe and Wanda Eason in car

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

**501-733-3577**

**Pastoral Care Emergency Number**

## Community Lenten Luncheons

Thursday, Feb. 18, will be the first 2010 Lenten Luncheon hosted by St. Peter’s Episcopal Church with co-host church, First Christian Church. The luncheon begins at noon with a devotional. Church Women United are the overall hosts of the luncheons. Each Thursday from Feb. 18 through March 25 there will be a luncheon held at a church in the community. First United Methodist Church hosts the Feb. 25 luncheon. The cost is \$3 per person for soup, corn bread, drink and dessert. Let us give our support to this community event. See you on Thursdays for lunch during Lent. Please make an effort to help us host with your presence on Feb. 25!

**Safe Sanctuary Training**  
**10 a.m. Sunday, March 7**  
**Fellowship Hall**

## Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010

7:30 A.M. High School Bells, 202, Sanctuary  
8:00 A.M. First Service Singers and Youth Choir, 202  
8:00 A.M. Praise Band practice, Great Hall  
8:45 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary\*  
9:00 A.M. Good News Celebration, Great Hall\*  
10:00 A.M. Sunday School\*  
10:40 A.M. Chancel Choir and Youth Choir, 202  
11:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary\*  
2:00 P.M. DCYM, 1109  
3:00 P.M. Youth Council, 1103  
4:00 P.M. Childrens’ Council, 107  
4:00 P.M. Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall  
4:00 P.M. High School Handbells, 202  
4:00 P.M. UMYF, Youth Rooms  
4:30 P.M. Confirmation Class, 1110  
4:30 P.M. Girl Scouts, B20, B27  
6:30 P.M. Pastors’ Coffee, Parlor

## Monday, Feb. 22, 2010

8:30 A.M. Moms in Touch, 113  
9:00 A.M. Prayer Group, 1003  
11:00 A.M. Staff meeting, 216  
2:00 P.M. DCOM, 212  
3:00 P.M. Prayer Misfits, 1003  
3:30 P.M. Youth Choir hang time, Cafe  
4:30 P.M. Youth Choir, 1105  
6:30 P.M. Scout Troop 71 meeting, B13  
6:30 P.M. Upward Practice, Great Hall  
6:45 P.M. Chancel Ringers, 202\*  
7:00 P.M. GNC Planning meeting, 107  
7:00 P.M. Stewardship committee, 218

## Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

9:00 A.M. Companions in Christ, 216  
9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall  
9:30 A.M. ECC, 1106  
5:00 P.M. Conway Interfaith Clinic, 124  
6:00 P.M. Pack 71 pack meeting, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 P.M. What Would Jesus Wear? small group for teens, 1108  
7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Worship Planning, 214  
7:00 P.M. Old Men’s basketball, Great Hall

## Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010

7:00 A.M. Men’s Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
8:00 A.M. Wednesday Day of Prayer, Chapel  
Noon “24 Hours That Changed the World” group (Davis), 224  
12:30 P.M. Witness Labelers, 107  
3:00 P.M. Youth Hang Time, Youth Café  
4:00 P.M. Elementary Chimes, 202  
4:30 P.M. Middle School Bells, 202  
4:30 P.M. One Accord Choir, 212  
5:15 P.M. Intermediate Bells, 202  
5:15 P.M. Joyful Sound Choir, 212  
5:45 P.M. Youth Knitting, 1112  
5:45 P.M. Youth Praise Band, 1105  
6:00 P.M. Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:45 P.M. “24 Hours That Changed the World” group (Howell/Roberts), 224\*  
7:30 P.M. Disciple I, 216\*  
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir, 202\*

## Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010

7:00 A.M. Youth Breakfast, The Brewery  
9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall  
9:30 A.M. ECC, 1106  
Noon Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall\*  
7:00 P.M. Praise Band, Great Hall

## Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

5:15 P.M. Youth leave for Veritas, Duncan Lot  
6:00 P.M. Forum Social, Fellowship Hall

## Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010

8:00 A.M. Rice Depot trip to Little Rock  
9:00 A.M. Scout Day Camp Training, B13

(\*) Child care provided

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