



THE WITNESS

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

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

March 3, 2010

Number 9



“Through the Church the Song Goes On” Hymn Festival

3 p.m. Sunday, March 7, Sanctuary

“Through the Church the Song Goes On”

is the theme for our hymn festival, to be held THIS SUNDAY, March 7, at 3 p.m. in our sanctuary.

The theme is revealing on many levels.

One of those involves you very directly! The song goes on through “the Church.” And as the hymn goes, “I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!” Yes, our adult, children’s and youth choirs, readers and brass players have worked very hard over the past several months to prepare for this, a focal point of our year.

However, when it comes down to it, YOU are the church, just as much as the musicians. YOU carry the song – in your heart as well as with your voice: the story of the birth, death and resurrection of Christ is yours to sing and tell. Do join us (and bring a friend), to sing and celebrate the church year through word and song.

We will be led by Dr. John Ferguson, organist, Professor of Organ and Church Music, and Minister of Music to the Student Congregation at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Dr. Ferguson has led Hymn Festivals for churches and professional all over the country, and I know you will be greatly blessed by his presence.



Dr. John Ferguson

News from Shana in Santiago, Chile

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Each week during Lent, members of our church family are writing about their personal experiences in the Holy Land and how it relates to the season of Lent and their relationship with Christ. In light of what happened this week in Chile, we thought changing our focus was appropriate. This week’s scripture is from Luke 13:1-9 and is a parable about bearing fruit. One of the ways our church family does this is our work and support in Chile. We support Crescendo – a workshop for developmentally disabled adults -- financially and spiritually. Volunteers from our congregation have been there several times and have worked to improve conditions in the workshop. Here is a word from Shana Harrison...)

On the night of the earthquake, Shana was awakened to her bed shaking. The windows began to rattle and her bed’s movement increased. She jumped to her feet, grabbed her cell phone and shoes and started out of her bedroom. She took cover in the doorway. Amidst the crashing and banging, she made her way down to her knees and held onto the doorway.

She said, “As soon as the movement stopped, I began trying to call the group home to no avail. So ... I dressed and began making my way to the home. Fortunately the streets were clear of debris and I was there in no time. I found them all sitting outside on the front patio. As was expected, Adriana was the most afraid, but she quickly calmed down. After spending a few minutes outside, we were able to get the emergency lights working and move everyone into the living room. We spent a while sharing the aftershocks and experiences of the big quake, learning via a radio where the epicenter had been, as well as the Richter scale results.

“Once everyone was calm, I returned home, where I was unable to sleep. Electricity was restored at my apartment around 7:30 that morning. There are no words to describe and no way to comprehend the devastation. It is now two days later. I am relieved to report that there does not appear to be any major structural damage at the workshop or group home. All VIM team construction efforts have been proven to be solid! (Thanks again, you guys!!!) The exterior wall at the workshop needs some work.

“We are beginning to receive news of concrete ways to help. I encourage you to give to the Advance Special fund that has been established, Chile Emergency Advance 33021178. Many, many thanks for your prayers and expressions of concern. Please continue to keep the Chilean people in your prayers. There is a long, long road ahead.”

One way to help: Attend **Chili for Chile** at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 11! You can *make* chili, *eat* chili and *vote* on the best chili, while making a donation to help support the work of Shana and the workshop in Santiago. More details will come soon!

Staff Announcement

Mary Anne Gunter’s last day on staff as Financial Assistant was Tuesday, March 2. It has been a pleasure to meet and know Mary Anne.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is initiating a search to hire a new person as soon as possible.

In the interim, please refer all questions about incoming finances to Jackie Waite and questions related to payments to Margaret Taverner. Both Margaret and Jackie are working to cover the jobs and tasks that are currently vacant.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, March 28 — Palm Sunday.

Wednesday, March 31 — Seder Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 1 — Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion, 7 p.m., Sanctuary.

Friday, April 2 — Good Friday worship, 7 p.m., Great Hall

Saturday, April 3 — Easter Egg Hunt, Laurel Park, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 4 — Easter Day. Worship at 8:45 a.m., 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m., Clifton Street steps.

The 411 for Youth

Presence Numbers

Monday, Feb. 22 -

Youth Choir - 8 Youth

Wednesday, Feb. 24 -

Hang Time - 43 Youth

Youth Praise Band - 10 Youth

1,2,3 JESUS - 17 Youth

Thursday, Feb. 25 -

Breakfast Club - 24

Friday, Feb. 26-Sunday, Feb. 28 -

Veritas - 42 Youth and 11 Adults

Weekly Schedule

Thursday, March 4 -

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

Sunday, March 7 -

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

Reconnect Retreat Meeting - 2 p.m. in the Great Hall

Monday, March 8 -

Youth Choir - 3:30-5 - Youth Cafe

Wednesday, March 10 -

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

Mark Your Calendars!

St. Patrick's Day Lunch & Silent Auction Sunday, March 14

The youth will host a St. Patrick's Day baked potato and salad bar lunch with a silent auction on Sunday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Great Hall. All proceeds will go toward sending our youth to Jr. and Sr. High Assembly this summer! We hope you'll join us...rsvp to Michelle by March 7.

Wednesday Fellowship Dinners

March 10 - 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Menu: Baked pastas (lasagna & ziti), bread, salad, dessert. Hosts: Koinonia



Sunday School Class

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

Believing, Becoming, Belonging (B3)	214
"Five Practices," Leader Melissa Jenkins	
Conference	220
"Romans," Leaders John Thompson and Jeff Standridge	
Dorothy Robins-Light	212
"Mission to the Community," Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9	
Faithbuilders	Parlor
"24 Hours That Changed the World," Leader Mike Hutchison	
Faith in Action (FIA)	230
"The Daily Five," Leaders Clay and Kelli Gordon	
Forum	222
"Just One Woman's Journey Toward an Inclusive God," Leader Toran Isom	
Genesis	227
A study of Job	
George Hartje	218
"Mission to the Community," Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9; Leader Johnny Hartje	
Gussie Scales	216
"Mission to the Community," Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9; Leader John Collier	
Koinonia	219
"Lessons From the Bible," Leader Frank Bartow	
New Covenant	221
"Mission to the Community," Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9	
Open Door	113
"Mission to the Community," Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9; Leader David Sutherland; (telephone participation available)	
Round Table	217
"Troublesome Bible Passages"	

Worship on Sunday, March 7

Sanctuary Worship: 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Scriptures — Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, and Luke 13:1-

Sermon — "Follow the Savior to Bear Fruit"

Preaching — Rev. Charles Murry

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

Scriptures — Luke 13:6-9

Sermon — "Follow the Savior to a Fruitful Life."

Preaching — Rev. Dede Roberts

North and North Central Districts 2010 Lay Speaking School

March 19 & 20, Mount Eagle

* Basic Course — Lay Speaking Course, led by Rev. Ed Seay

* Advanced Lay Speaking Classes: "Leading in Prayer: Let the Whole Church Say Amen" and "Lay Speakers Interpret to Others Our United Methodist Heritage"

Cost: \$65, includes lodging, three meals and materials

To register or for more information, e-mail lu@mounteagle.org or northcentrals@conwaycorp.net

Rabbi Levy to Speak at Hendrix

Rabbi Eugene H. Levy of Temple B'nai Israel in Little Rock will speak at Hendrix College at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, in the Mills Building, Lecture Hall B. In his talk, "Jesus, the Pharisees, and Passover," he will discuss the relationship between Jesus and Judaism in the context of the Jewish holiday of Passover. A reception will follow.

Rabbi Levy's talk occurs as part of the Crain-Maling Center of Jewish Culture's new Jewish Learning Events series. These events are intended largely for the Center's non-Jewish audience to learn more about various aspects of Judaism, but they are also aimed at Jewish students, faculty, and community members who want to learn more about their religion and identity.

Walking Group Forming

Conway FUMC is now hosting a morning walking group, open to all, every Tuesday and Thursday from 8-10 a.m. in the Great Hall. Distances will be marked and you will choose your route through the gym, hallways and classrooms. Bring comfortable shoes and come walk the Great Hall with family and friends. If you have any questions about the group, contact Recreation Intern David Foley at the church or by email at recreation@conwayfumc.org.

Frank Jones Bible Lectures

10 a.m. Sundays in the Chapel.

All are invited!

The Gospel of Luke

March 7 — Zaccheus Was a Little Man, the Rich Man and the Widow (Luke 19-22)



Queen Esther

March 14 — One Blow for Women's Lib. But, Unfortunately ... (Esther, Chapters 1 & 2)

Our Church Family

Congratulations

To Jason and Mistee Aaron on the birth of a daughter, Isabella Grace Aaron, in Van Buren. Proud grandmother is Kittie Aaron and proud great-grandparents are Bill and Dora Anna Fill.

Sympathy

To Mike, Ann, Hannah and Andrew Norman on the death of Howard Emerson Norman, Mike's uncle and Hannah and Andrew's great-uncle.

To Matthew, Ange, Mason and Chloe Bintliff on the death of Mary Russ, Matthew's grandmother and Mason and Chloe's great-grandmother.

Music Calendar

Saturday, March 6 – Adult/Youth Hymn Festival Rehearsal (9-12:30)

Saturday, March 6 – Children's Choirs Hymn Festival Rehearsal (10:45-12)

Sunday, March 7 – Chancel Ringers (9:00); Youth Choir (9:00)

Sunday, March 7 – Hymn Festival (3:00; 2:00 warm-up)

Sunday, March 7 – No Sr. High Bells rehearsal

Sunday, March 14 – Youth Choir (8:45)

Sunday, March 21-27 – Spring Break week. No children's/youth rehearsals

Sunday, March 28 – Sr. High Bells (both sanctuary services); Little Seekers' Choir (9:00); Joyful Sound/One Accord (11:00)

Sunday, April 4 – Chancel Ringers, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir (both sanctuary services).

Intentional Faith Development Part I:

"Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. His followers grew in their understanding of God ... while gathering together around dinner tables, on hillsides, and at the temple ... Jesus taught us to learn our faith this way."

-- 5 Practices of a Fruitful Congregation

Adult Sunday School Classes: Currently, 16 Adult Sunday School classes meet each Sunday morning. These groups gather together for the same purpose - to learn more about God, our faith and the world around us. However, each group is very different in their approach and style. If you are not currently connected with a Sunday school class, there is a place for you! Log onto our church Web site or contact the church office for a detailed description of these classes.

When we are intentional about our faith development, we are deliberate in our efforts to grow in our relationship with God. We don't have to do this alone. In fact, Jesus' own life shows us the importance of surrounding ourselves with other Christians. As we study and fellowship together, we will find that ideas can change people and people can change people. It is in these relationships that we all have the possibility to be transformed.

-- Melissa Polk

**Amity — Noon, March 8, Fellowship Hall
Potluck and program by Marion Baker
Hosts: Sam and Carole Teague**

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

HOSPITAL

Out of Town: Cindy Schmidt (Cher Masters' mother).

Dismissed: Molsie Osborne; Mirian Scott; Deen Eskridge (Nancy Hales' father.)

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 Kieley (Jill Hankins' brother-in-law); Patrick Miller (Joyce Miller's son and Melanie Codemo's brother).

PRESENCE

Total Attendance in worship: 475

Feb. 28, 2010

{8:45-116; 9:00-134; 11:00-225}

Sunday School Attendance: 242.

Every Dollar Counts: \$234.

GIFTS

In memory of Ella Vandiver by: Roy & Mary Ann Thurmond, Nadia Bass.
In memory of Paul Anthes by: Nadia Bass, Greg and Pam Wren, Fletcher and Shery Smith.

In memory of Hassell Rowland by: Aleene Henson, Bob and Barbara Henry, Dorothy Robins Light S.S. Class

In memory of Sue Alread by: Nancy Graddy, Fletcher & Shery Smith

In memory of Dabbs Woodfin by: Nancy Graddy

SERVICE

Many thanks to the Chancel Ringers for opening sanctuary worship last Sunday with a moving rendition of "Beautiful Savior".

Financial Stewardship Updates -- First Report

To all who have returned their pledge card, "Thank you"! This is an excellent first response.

Since Feb. 28, this congregation received 162 pledge cards totaling \$562,619 for May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2011 -- our church's financial year. Pledge cards have been mailed; additional cards are available at the church. Return your pledge card by mail to the church (Attention: Jackie Waite) or in the offering plate during worship services.

A Night of Dancing Planned March 12

It's Time to Dance! Daniel Felts, a professional dance instructor, will be with us once again from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 12, in the fellowship hall. He will teach the Cha Cha. The cost for the ballroom dance lesson will be \$6 a person. Our regular informal ballroom dance will be from 8 to 9 p.m. We had a great time with the rumba and waltz in February, all 28 of us.

"Under the Dome" Recital

3 p.m. Sunday, March 14, Sanctuary

Featuring the Sunaura Trio, Free & Open to the Public!

United Methodist Women

The Clara Golden Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, March 8, in the home of Virginia McCastlain, 1127 Mitchell St. Christy Sutherland will present the program.

Church Softball Players!

Anyone interested in playing on a church softball team this year, please either sign up in the church lobby or email Jeff March at jeff.march@arkansas.gov. We need to know how many players are interested by March 7, in order to determine how many teams our church will have this year. The season will run April 12 through June 11 and will consist of 16 games.

Sunday Transportation Drivers:

March 7 — Bob McCormack, 327-5705, and David Bruce.
March 14 — Kathleen Caruthers & Carole Teague, 329-5357
March 21 -- NO BUS. Chuck & Nancy Mulhearn and Carole Teague in cars, 329-5357

March 28 -- Ed Anthes 269-0542 and David Bruce
 Please call if you want to be picked up for Sunday school or worship and are not on our "regular" rider list.

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.

Churchwide Float Trip Planned in April

Join the Outdoor Ministries Committee for three days of fun, food, fellowship and floating at this year's churchwide Spring Family Float Trip and Campout on April 23-25 at Tyler Bend Campground in the Buffalo River National Park.

Registration forms are available in the Hospitality area and the Lobby, or by asking any member of the committee. Please return all forms to Jackie Waite in the church office no later than April 5, or call Kathleen Caruthers at 501-944-9473 or Bruce Walls at 327-3556.

If you are unable to come for the entire weekend but would like to join the daylong Saturday float or half day Sunday float, fill out a form This trip is for all members and their guests, and we would like to make this as friendly as we can for your busy schedules, family dynamics, and to fit everyone's budget. Hope to see everyone there!

Sunday, March 7, 2010

8:00 A.M. First Service Singers, 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*
 10:00 A.M. Safe Sanctuary training, Fellowship Hall
 10:40 A.M. Chancel Choir, 202
 11:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary*
 2:00 P.M. Hymn Festival Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 202, 212
 2:00 P.M. Reconnect informational meeting, Great Hall
 3:00 P.M. Hymn Festival, Sanctuary*
 4:00 P.M. UMYF, Youth Rooms, Great Hall
 4:30 P.M. Girl Scouts, B20, B27
 4:30 P.M. Hymn Festival reception, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 8, 2010

8:30 A.M. Moms in Touch, 113
 9:00 A.M. Prayer Group, 1003
 11:00 A.M. Staff meeting, 216
 Noon Amity, Fellowship Hall
 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
 6:45 P.M. Chancel Singers, 202*
 7:00 P.M. Clara Golden Circle, UMW, McCastlain Home
 7:00 P.M. GNC Planning meeting, 107

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

8:00 A.M. Open Walking Time, Great Hall
 8:45 A.M. Program Staff, Cafe
 9:00 A.M. Companions in Christ, 216
 9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall
 9:30 A.M. ECC, 1106
 5:30 P.M. ASU Children's Week workshop, B13
 6:00 P.M. ECC/SAC Committee, 107
 6:30 P.M. Youth Parent Council, 1103
 7:00 P.M. Alzheimer's Support Group, 216
 7:00 P.M. Old Men's basketball, Great Hall
 7:00 P.M. Pack 71 Den meeting, 219, 221, 223, 224
 7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Worship Planning, 214

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 A.M. Morning Prayer, Chapel
 11:30 A.M. United Way Site Visit Training, Fellowship Hall
 Noon Midday Prayer, Chapel
 12:30 P.M. "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
 5:30 P.M. Evening Prayer, Chapel
 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. 1.2.3. J.E.S.U.S., 1109, 1110, 1112
 6:45 P.M. "24 Hours That Changed the World" group (Howell/Roberts), 212
 7:30 P.M. Disciple I, 216*
 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir, 202*
 8:45 P.M. Night Prayer, Chapel

Thursday, March 11, 2010

7:00 A.M. Youth Breakfast, The Brewery
 8:00 A.M. Open Walking Time, Great Hall
 9:00 A.M. Food Pantry (until noon), Fellowship Hall
 9:30 A.M. ECC, 1106
 Noon Lenten Lunch, St. James CME
 Noon ASU PAS Training, B13
 1:45 P.M. Soul Sisters, Parlor
 5:00 P.M. Conway Interfaith Clinic DEVCOM, 124
 6:30 P.M. ECC Staff meeting, 1105
 7:00 P.M. Praise Band, Great Hall

Friday, March 12, 2010

10:00 A.M. Prayer Shawl Ministry, 216

Saturday, March 13, 2010

8:00 A.M. Confirmation Day With the Bishop
 9:00 A.M. Course of Study School, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary
 (*) Child care provided

FRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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(USPS 625-840)

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Pastoral Care Emergency Number