



December 29, 2014

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION STATEMENT

“TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST”

1/01 Gary & Connie Wise
1/06 Steve & Teresa Snider
Mark & Debra Clemence
1/11 Mike & Kathryn Upchurch
1/17 Bennie & Maxine Hammerstrom
1/20 Denny & Marion Hopkins



- 1/01 Linda Elwood
1/02 Alexa Humphries
Randy Glitsch
Katie Shirley
1/03 Haley Wilson
1/06 Ray Bell
Theron Endersby
Lloyd Peck
1/08 Dawnel Newby
1/09 Lauren Boring
Jim Robertson
J.P. Shirkey
1/10 Karen Bell
Caitlin Dean
Kristi Moseley
1/15 Becky Christian
Linda Hunter
Kendra Miller
1/17 Karen Harrison
Rick Riddle
Scott Starns
Keagan Wederski
1/18 Edna Coldwell
Elle Owen
Connie Wilcox
1/19 Kadence Boring
1/19 Shawna Buxton
Shannon Lavery
Kris McVicker
Rocky Menefee
Judith Moody
Mary Spears
1/20 Mary Lou Scott
1/21 Denny Hopkins
1/22 Nancy Greeff
Shelbie Gunther
1/23 Nancy McCormick
Terri Priest
1/23 Merrylou Pummel
1/24 Rhonda Hollis
1/25 Bendena Wirz
1/26 R.E. Meyer
- 1/27 Kyle Wilson
1/29 Gene Cook
1/30 Russell Brewer
Amber Stevenson
Lynette Terbush
1/31 Hillary Hurst
Gracie Johnson
Max Nelson

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Recent Hospital Stays: Irene Withgott

At Home: Tony Billings, Lola Stevens, Gene Ackers, Maureen Kitchens, Roy Best, Elmer Hosier, Dean Hensley, Kathryn Upchurch, Mike Dean

In Nursing Homes or Care Facilities:
Lahoma Grunewald, Maxine & Bennie Hammerstrom, Margaret Lewis, June Thornton, Barbara Carr, Merrylou Pummel, Bill Stout, Wilma Nelson, Artie Ware, Faye Riddle, Raymond & Dorothy File,

Other: Our Troops and their Families

Sympathy Extended to: Marvin Reidlinger & Family (Mother)
Kathryn Fanning & Family (Mother)
Family of Louise Allen

Prayer Requests: Our Prayer Team meets every Monday in the Library at 4:00 pm. You are invited to attend, or you may call the church office with specific prayer requests. (256-5515)

Shannon Davis, Pastor
Debbie Harrington, Director of Children & Christian Education
Kathy Harvey, Youth and Children Assistant
Karen Bell, Director of Stephen Ministry & Congregational Care
Marita Reichenberger, Director of Music Ministries
Chris Fanning, Nursery Coordinator
Phone 256.5515
E-mail: fumcwoodward@sbcglobal.net

Jamison Rudd, Youth Pastor
Lora Bayliff, Administrative Assistant
Ann Laubhan, Financial Secretary
Evelina Lopez, Custodian
Michael Lewis, Audio-Visual Coordinator
Web page www.fumcwoodward.com
facebook.com/WoodwardFUMC

Fax: 256.9590

Shannon’s Shenanigans

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” -- Hebrews 10:23b-25

Habits. Most of us can easily tell you what good habits we have, and we usually have quite a list of bad habits that we want to overcome, too. And this time of year - when we transition from one year to the next - is when we resolve to change some of those habits. Sometimes the habits stick, often they don't. It really depends on how intent we are on keeping them and whether we have a good plan or method in place.

Many of you know that Methodist is not a term that John Wesley and the other founders of our movement came up with for themselves. They called themselves “The Holy Club.” How different would we be today if that was still our moniker? No, it was outsiders who noticed how methodical they were in living out their faith. These outsiders first labeled us “Methodists.” We would probably do well to follow the holy habits of our founders a lot more closely.

As the Methodist movement expanded, they settled on three simple rules (habits!) for living. We call them the *General Rules*. They are all quite short and simple -

1. Do no harm.

2. Do good.

3.Follow the Ordinances of God.

The first two are pretty self-explanatory. The third is pretty outdated in it's language, but it basically means to follow the basic practices that keep someone in close touch with God. They include things like prayer, bible reading and study, worship, the sacraments, fasting and abstinence. While these items are not a “magic formula” to live a Godly life, they are the practices or “method” by which Christians have kept their hearts in the right place for thousands of years. Others have rebranded this third rule to say “Stay in Love with God” to emphasize the intended outcome.

Beginning the second Sunday of January, we are going to spend a week with each of the *General Rules*. I know you've gone over them before here, but they are nothing more than basic Christian life practices. We can't be reminded of such things too often.

In the meantime, I hope that you will take inventory of your life and see what spiritual practices you have neglected. Resolve to make them regular, methodical practices in your life. As the scripture reminds us, God is unfailingly faithful to us. May we be faithful in return.

Happy New Year!



Was It Really Only Last Year?

You stayed up late to watch the New Year come in together.

You talked about the past year, all the memories, good and bad.

How you laughed over some of them.

But this year you're alone.

And memories bring you nothing but pain.

During this time of pain, a Stephen Minister would like to be there for you.

He or she will listen and care as you sort through your feelings.

For more information about Stephen Ministry please contact: Karen Bell

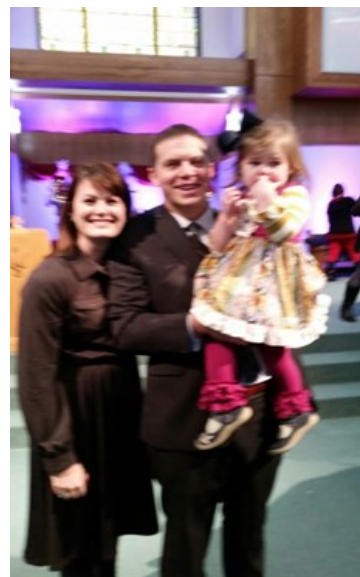
Karen Bell

*Director of Stephen Ministry and
Congregational Care*

*First United Methodist Church
Woodward, Oklahoma*

580-256-5515

karen.fumc@sbcglobal.net



On December 7,
Vivenne Humphries
was baptized during the
8:30 am service.
She is the daughter of
Brian and Alexa Humphries.



Woodward District Conference and Lay Delegate Nominations Meeting Woodward First UMC, January 10 District Conference – 10-11:30 am Lunch: 11:30 am

Lay Nominations Meeting: 1:00 pm

We are hosting the District Conference on January 10. The purpose of the meeting will be a time of worship, election of new Cimarron District Nominating Committee, approving the budget for the last five months as Woodward District and a vote for continuance of district officers for the last five months as a district, finally a vote will be taken to approve the dissolution of Woodward District effective May 31, 2015.

Lay Delegates will stay after lunch and continue meeting nominating Woodward District General and Jurisdictional laity nominees at 1:00pm.

Lunch (for all those who have called and made their reservation) will be served at 11:30am. Call the church office to make your lunch reservation.



Close out the old year
And ring in the new
With a Special Prayer Time.
The Prayer Team would like
to invite you to join them in
the Sanctuary on December 31, 2014. You may
come anytime between 5 and 7 P.M.

Happy New Year! May the year 2015 prove to be a year of good health. If you should be hospitalized or placed in a nursing home or home bound you will be in our prayers and our Sunday morning altar flowers will be delivered to you. Thank you to the following for delivering in 2014: Bill & Mae Leonard, Eldon & Janet Merklin, Don & Carol Morris, David & Patty Neely, Pam Rogers, Merrell Branstetter, Ray & Donna Bayliff, Kathryn Fanning, Terry & Kaye Groce, John & Marie Herzer, Denny & Marion Hopkins, Linda Kessinger, Susan Moyer, Woody & Pat Hamon, and Lonnie & Jamie Shirkey.

Yvonne Branstetter, Flower Ministry Coordinator

Christian New Year's Resolutions

By Joanna Fuchs

How can I use the New Year
To better serve my Lord?
I'll read my Bible every day,
And be more in accord.

I'll find new ways to serve others;
I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get"
In everything I do.

I'll forgive the people I'm mad at;
Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies,
Even though it's hard.

In the new year, I'll lift people up,
Instead of putting them down.
I'll fill my heart with love and joy,
And never wear a frown.

I'll let go of my worries
I'll put it all in His Hands
I'll repent and try to sin less
And obey all His commands.

These new year's resolutions
Are difficult, at best

But there's something I can do each day
That will put my soul at rest:

I'll love my Lord with all my heart,
With all my mind and soul,
And if I do that essential thing,
All the rest will be in control.

Have a wonderful 2015!

Debbie

Announcements: BIBLE BLAST and
ROCKIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR will begin January 7
at 6:00 pm. Be ready to answer the questions on
Lesson 15!

Also remember:

Christ's Crew will begin January 6, and
Kings Kids will begin January 8.

ATTENTION: YOUTH

Would you like to get in the loop on your FUMC youth program? Beginning in January, I will be sending out weekly youth updates via email. These updates will include: upcoming events and opportunities for youth, ways that you, as an adult can get involved and help out, and pictures of the youth in action!

To get on the list, simply send me an email at

Jamison@FUMCwoodward.com.

Thanks and God Bless,
Jamison Rudd

We would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for their prayers, card, and visits after the loss of our father, Gary Bloxsom. Thank you to the ladies for the wonderful meal they provided and to Shannon for the meaningful memorial service. We have been overwhelmed with love and compassion shown to us by this awesome church family! Eddie and Patty McBee

We want to thank the people in our church that sent Christmas card to us. That was very thoughtful! Sincerely, Ernie & Ellen Walcher



Dear Church Family,

We had an amazing turnout for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner and served around 450 plates total. This could never be accomplished without 100% dedication from everyone and we are truly overwhelmed by your generosity and hard work. God's Blessing to each one of you! Scott Grunewald and Sandy Craig

United Methodist Women,

We were so blessed by the diaper table you had for us! It really helped us feel welcome at the church. Also, the meal was delicious that was brought to us. We really appreciate it! Blessings, Kyle & Brianne Domnick

Dear FUMC,

Thank you so much for the donation to help Tommie SanVazis with back rent. She greatly appreciate your generosity. Sincerely, Elise Solloway

There is nothing makes you feel more joyous than to hear the Carolers singing. Thank you for coming by. Sincerely, Mary Spears

It was so kind of you all to think of me during finals! Thank you so much for sending me the care package. I look forward to being back in Woodward for the Christmas service.

Thank you, Kaley Grunewald

Church Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers as I prepare to take my finals. I appreciate the care package and can't wait to dig in it! Also, thank you for the bible verse and the reminder that He is always with me. Love, Kayla Wilson

Thank you to my church family for everything. Mother did enjoy the flowers in the hospital. They brightened her say as did visits for Pastor Shannon. Thank you for the food, cards, flowers, words of comfort, and prayers. We love you, Denny & Marion Hopkins, Jeff & Amanda, Owen, gage, Garrett & Elle.