



The Chandler Methodist

First United Methodist Church of Chandler, OK
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Vol. 30, No. 51

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Special Points of Interest

- Christmas Eve Offering
- East Side Elementary voting program
- Sunday School Cancelled for Christmas Day
- Merry Christmas!

Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr.
Oklahoma UMC Bishop

Rev. David Wiggs
Stillwater D.S.

Rev. Allen Carson
Pastor

Shannon Freeman
Lay Leader

Larry Freeman
Organist

Gwen Aylor
Pianist

Jamison Rudd
Youth Director

Jerry Nelson
Secretary

Tony Sickels
Technology

626-1005
Pastor's Cell

258-1440
Church Office

258-2605
Fax number

chandlerumc@sbcglobal.net

122 West 10th

Chandler, OK 74834

Website www.ourfumc.org

+Morning Prayer

Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

+Sanctuary Prayer Service

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.

+Vocal Choir

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

+Youth Fellowship

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Sundays 6:30 p.m.

+Early Morning Study Group

Every other Thursday 6:30 a.m.

+Sunday School

Sundays 9:40 a.m.

+Worship and Celebration

Sundays 10:50 a.m.

We exist to be a beacon for God, offering spiritual opportunity and service to those in need.

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

Mark Amador's Letter To Santa

This is a season of miracles. There was a story in the newspapers several years ago about eight-year old Mark Amador's letter to Santa. In his letter he laid it on the line, "My Mom needs help bad!"

His tale of troubles ran from his mother's unemployment to selling almost everything the family had to get food. "I want clothes and food for us to last 3 months," wrote Mark. "Hope my Mom will have a job by then."

Tucson, Arizona, postal workers were jarred with his story and came up with a deluge of presents, from clothing and toys to food for Mark, his two older brothers and their mother, Abigail. But there's more. Mark confided to Santa that he tried to be good at school but had to contend with classmates who ridiculed him for his ears, which stuck out at right angles. The called him names like the Keebler elf and Spock.

Dr. Boyd Burkhardt, plastic surgeon, was asked by his nurse and administrator, Lu Banks if he would be willing to fix an 8-year-old boy's ears for nothing. "Sure," Burkhardt said. "That's good," Banks said,

"because Channel 13 is on the line." Mark received a limousine ride to the operation! Abigail Amador, Mark's mother, was astounded by the response to Mark's letter both by the postal workers and Dr. Burkhardt. "It was a Godsend," she said. "Things like this never happen to us." But it was Christmas! It's the season of miracles. It's the time when we remember the miracle of a baby born to a young couple in a remote place; he was Christ the Lord, the Savior of all!

I am looking forward to worshipping with you this weekend. Friday at 7 pm is the Community Christmas Service at the Performing Arts Center. Saturday at 5 pm, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus at the Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service; this is always a very holy service. On Christmas morning, we will have Christmas worship at 10:55 am with a toy blessing during the children's sermon. Sunday School, Bible Study, and Youth Fellowship have been cancelled this weekend to allow for family celebrations. I hope you will join us for these meaningful times of worship as we experience again the marvelous story of God's coming among us.

Blessings,
Pastor Allen

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Christmas Eve offering will be given this year that includes 10% of what each of us spent on our Christmas gifts this year. So, whatever you spent on presents this year, please give 10% for a Jesus gift which will go to our church's love offering. This offering goes towards needs of our local community. Our church may also give to needs

outside our community too as well, but know that each dollar you give will help someone, somewhere, who is not able to help themselves. In that spirit, it with joy we give for the joy it brings to others. May this Christmas Eve offering be blessed through your gift.

Mission Outreach

Thanks so much to those who have given to the Costa Rica mission that our church is heading up for the district. We will be beginning to build a Sunday School classroom for a Methodist Church there in Belen as well as build upon our relationships with the people there. This is the second mission there as some from our church went in 2009 to help build a block fence in front of the church

and to do mission bible school. Please continue to pray for us each day during your normal prayer time.

Also...

A reminder of the lives our church is touching this Christmas season through the Samaritan's Purse program we participated in. Our church sent out almost 100 boxes that you helped fill which are sent out all over

the world to children who's lives are made better and happy by the box they receive. You help fund and fill and pray over each Christmas box that a child will open releasing a moment of joy for them.

Peace, missions outreach

Journey Class

Jerry led us on the many roads that Joseph and Mary traveled. The travails they made back to Nazareth for a wedding and the trip back to Bethlehem due to the Roman directed census. Which way did they travel and with who or whom, we don't know, but for Mary being about 9 months pregnant, it would have been arduous to say the least. Whether it was through Samaria or by the Jordan River, it would have been a journey not many of us would want to travel for 8 or 9 days and without an OnCue on either road to stop at. :)

The Messiah (Anointed One) or Christ was to be born in a stable manger. The class discussion as to why there was no room in the inn lead us to converse about the possibilities that were mentioned in the book and yet how our Savior was born just as it had been written in the scripture before. God's plan for our life's journey may not always be the easiest, but it is one He travels with us each step. Adam Hamilton ends the chapter with what I find one of the most



heart felt scriptures and words from the prophet Zechariah about hope. In Zechariah 9:11-12...when he calls us "prisoners of hope", and Adam says "hope is a decision we make, a choice to believe that God can take the adversity,..... and the pain of our journeys and use these to accomplish his purpose." May this Advent we remember the word Hope and share that with others.

Peace, Richard

UMM News

Our men's group has had a really fantastic year this year and we ended it Thanks to each of you by giving to several groups. Our funds help some Red Rock children that our pastor Allen went with bowling, as well as the Methodist institute in El Paso called Lydia Patterson, and some to a family in our community associated with the Willow Springs Boys Ranch and lastly some to the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank where it will be matched by the Chesapeake Group, so that our money is actually



doubled in our giving. I am so Thankful to all the men of our church who are so faithful in their attendance and giving that makes these projects happen. A special Thanks to Danny Alsip, who always has our accounts in order and sends or gives out these funds when needed. These are not just programs though, it is people we are talking about who lives are touched in some small way by men who they have nor probably will ever meet. Thank You each One.

Your Brother, Richard

Sunday School Reminder

Neither Sunday School Classes for Children nor Adults will meet on Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day...

However, there WILL be Sunday school class Sunday, January 1st, New Year's Day for both children and adults. The adult class will need to be there at 9:30am again for our last chapter on Adam Hamilton's Journey book.

Thank You!

One of my most wonderful memories is walking home on a snowy evening in December in Fletcher, Ok, my hometown. As I came down the streets decorated with Christmas lights, I heard music from our neighbors yard. It was a group from the Methodist singing for them. I stopped and listened in awe. I thought how blessed they were.

Last night I was blessed with beautiful music from my church family in my front yard. Thank you everyone. I know it is a long way out here but you blessed me in more ways than you will ever know. I love you all. A special thank you to Allen for your offer of help to my husband's family.

Kowanda



Joys & Concerns

- Please continue to pray for God's direction regarding the Agra-Chandler UMC Ministry Partnership. Our Youth Band will be leading Sunday morning singing on December 11th
- Bob Foster has concluded radiation treatments!
- CONGRATULATIONS! The High School POM Squad are State Champions in their class and received Academic Champs honors
- Dennis Harms is still needing prayer for his medical healing; he is in Houston for surgery and recovery
- Elizabeth Ball's grandmother is in ICU
- Minnie Peace is recovering at Mercy Hospital after colon surgery. Please pray for her speedy recovery
- Please remember Ruth Ann Hart at home healing
- Please pray for Tom Ashwood, Albert Ashwood's brother, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer; he begins treatments this week
- Please continue to pray for Jessica (Alsip) Bernson's who is healing
- Please remember Jan Neufeld travelling overseas for surgery and her family at home
- Please continue to pray for the Nichols & Murcer (Evans) Families
- Please pray for Ben Walkingstick's cousin who is doing better
- Please remember the Oliverez, Keeling and Baldwin families
- Please remember our troops abroad and their families here in your prayers, specifically Eric and Mitch Frazier and Jack Vaughan

CHRISTMAS CAROLING 2011

Caroling was so much fun this year. We had a lot of children, youth and adults alike. Thanks so much to Norma Clark and Jerry Nelson for their hospitality when we ended back at the church. Thanks to Larry Freeman for his driving skills and to all those who came and helped sing about Jesus' birth and all those wonderful Christmas songs. Thank you to all the families who opened your homes to us. It was a joyous occasion for all.



Help East Side Elementary!!

East Side has been selected to compete in the nationwide Pepsi Refresh Project for a \$25,000.00 grant. We need everyone in Chandler to vote in order to be the winner. The money will be used for Smart Board technology in the classrooms. Here is what you need to do:

(1) Go to www.refresheverything.com You will need to register and confirm through an email. Once complete, you are ready to vote!

(2) Go back into www.refresheverything.com and login to vote. In the search box at the top, type in **East Side**. You will see a faculty picture along with East Side and Smart Boards. Click **VOTE**. We need your vote everyday in the month of December. You can only vote once a day by computer.

(3) You also have one vote per day by texting. Text **Vote 110423** to 73774. You will receive the reply, "Thank you for your vote!"

It will take everyone in Chandler, plus friends and relatives, to win this grant! East Side really needs YOU to vote every day. We thank you for your continued prayers for our students and teachers and by voting you will offer the children a new avenue of learning!

TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 18, 2011

Sunday School: \$29.00

Worship: \$19,810.05

Poinsettias: \$80.00

Love Offering: \$250.00

Nursery Schedule

December 25: NURSERY CLOSED

December 31: NURSERY CLOSED

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, December 21

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

6:00 p.m. Admin Council (Conf. Room)

6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 22

FRIDAY, December 23

SATURDAY, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Sunday School Cancelled

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Grand Sweep Bible Study Cancelled

Youth Fellowship Cancelled

MONDAY, December 26

Newsletter Articles Due by noon

TUESDAY, December 27

WEDNESDAY, December 28

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 29

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Study Group

We are on the WEB!

www.ourfumc.org

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122 West 10th

Chandler, OK 74834

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