



# The Chandler Methodist

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

Vol. 30, No. 52

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

## Special Points of Interest

- **Sunday School this week**
- **East Side Elementary voting program**
- **Early Morning Study Group this week**
- **Happy New Year!**

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*

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122 West 10th  
Chandler, OK 74834  
Website [www.ourfumc.org](http://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

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our first Christmas in Chandler was very special! The height was the Christmas Eve service. There are so many people who helped make our worship wonder-filled. A HUGE THANK YOU to Gwen Aylor for orchestrating and coordinating all of the music; it was beautiful! Rachel Ashwood and Ali Pordos opened with O Holy Night while Molly Carson and Christian Yeager delivered the baby Jesus to the manger. The Brannam family lit the Christ Candle, and Hannah Evans played the flute for the special music during communion. Allison Herndon lead as liturgist and served communion along with Jamo Rudd, Debbie Foster, and Alex Carson. David Paden ran video and sound; this was possible through Tony and Wendy Sickels' preparation behind the scenes. And to all of you who came and joined your hearts and voices in song and to receive the "good news of great joy for

all people", thank you. As we closed the service with Silent Night and the passing of the light, we were commission to take the light of the good news out to all. May we do this every day of the New Year.

This week the church office will be closed to allow staff time to visit family and other celebrations. If you need to reach me for pastoral care needs or in an emergency, you can either call me on my cell phone – 405-626-1005, or you can email me at [acarson@soonernet.com](mailto:acarson@soonernet.com).

I am looking forward to New Year's day worship with you when we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. My sermon, "A Savior for All" will be based on Matthew 2:1-12. I pray you've had a holy Christmas and your New Year is filled with Christ's blessings!

Pastor Allen

## CHRISTMAS THANKS

**A big thank you to everyone who provided gifts for our Christmas families. Through your generous acts, gifts and love were given to each of these children and adults. Thank you to Rinda for making the deliveries to the families.**

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Wendy and Tony Sickels spend many hours making our church beautiful for the worship services in December and throughout the year. A special thank you to them for their time to make our church a warm and comforting place to worship!**

## STRENGTH IN SHARING

On January 1st, our Sunday School classes will meet at 9:30 a.m. for our discussion on Chapter 5, "The Manger." We hope you will join us as we conclude the book, "The Journey." The SIS Class will finish up discussions January 8th and 15th and then begin our new study about Six Women in the Old Testament on Sunday, January 22nd. I would like to thank Richard and Jerry for leading our classes during the study of "The Journey." We feel this time together to study and discuss has been a great success and we have discussed the possibility of studying together again in 2012.

The SIS Class would like to extend an invitation to any woman wanting to share a special learning and bonding time with the other women in our church. So, please think about joining us in 2012! Enjoy your week and reflect on the blessings of 2011 and the possibilities you have as a Christian woman in the 2012!

See you on Sunday. Shannon



## Journey Class

Our class will meet to complete our Rev. Adam Hamilton study book by discussing the final chapter, "the manger". Our Lord, Savior, Messiah born surrounded by animals and visited by shepherds and wise men. A beginning somehow not fitting of whom we call King of Kings. This chapter will lead us to discussion about each group that played a role during that time including the angels. Yet all of this does seem to

fit when we look at the life of the child born that day we call Jesus the Christ. A life of simplicity and humbleness, a servant to all. Each of us has a calling to be a servant at times in our lives and although it may not be one of glamour or prestige, it beckons us to look beyond our own needs. Christmas is behind us now, but that child's spirit lives on

within each of us, waiting for us to answer the call. Come join us at 9:30am on Sunday morning for this time of fellowship and discussion about the one we also call Immanuel...God with us.

Peace, Richard



### UMM News



Our next fellowship will be January 11th, Wednesday, at 6pm. Please mark your calendars for this time of planning for our projects of 2012, including the Sweetheart Banquet in February.

Your Brother, Richard

### Thursday Morning Study Group

Early Morning Study Group will be meeting this coming Thursday, 29th, at 6:30am for chapter 14, Benjamin Franklin : ambitious moralist. This is the next to the last chapter of our study book , "Was America founded as a Christian Nation", a historical introduction. This study book doesn't answer all the questions about this question the title asks, yet it gives much food for thought, some of which may not leave a good taste in our mouths. It gives us truths about many of the writers and sign-

ers of the Constitution of the United States. Yes, the human-ness of ones like Benjamin Franklin who we will discuss. Did we see more orthodoxy or orthopraxy? The perspective that John Fea gives us is insightful, so lets come together for our always lively discussion about a man who gave so much to America during this time in it's early infancy. Continue to be in prayer for Jan and Paul .

Blessings to all, Richard Covington

## Thank You!

We have completed 2011 with great success for the Food Pantry and the Meals on Wheels program. The good news is we get to start again in 2012 with the Food Pantry in February and November 2012 and the Meals on Wheels program in June and December 2012. Once again I will be requesting volunteers for these programs in the coming months beginning in January 2012 for the February Food Pantry Program. If you can assist during these times, please talk with me or Virginia during services on Sundays or call us at 258-1279. These programs can not work without your help,

Thank You for your assistance in the past and for your continued support.

Charles Frazier

## Joys & Concerns

- Congratulations to Cy Freeman and Eric Freeman on their graduation from Oklahoma State University in the December ceremony at Gallagher Iba Arena. Both young men will now join the work world and also participate in training and college classes.
- Pastor Allen expressed the joy of gathering together for Christmas Day Services and of the great Christmas Eve Service
- Jan Neufeld is back in the US and will be returning home soon
- Claire Irby's is now doing well after her recent surgery
- Please continue to pray for God's direction regarding the Agra-Chandler UMC Ministry Partnership.
- Please pray for Judy Nordahl who fell this week
- Dennis Arms is still needing prayer for his medical ailments
- Paul Vassar is recovering nicely from back surgery
- Kowanda Stroud's brother-in-law has been recently diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for the family
- Please remember Ruth Ann Hart
- Please continue to pray for Tom Ashwood, Albert Ashwood's brother, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer
- 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 DAY 2011

The Christmas morning service was marked by a toy blessing during the Children's Moment. Pastor Allen even brought his new toy... The congregation was then visited by the Innkeeper who recalled the night Jesus was born—an inspired recounting of the Christmas events.



## A New Year Prayer

Holy Father,  
 God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.  
 We praise You for Your unequalled greatness.  
 Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead.  
 Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more.  
 To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.  
 To teach others to love by loving them.  
 Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem,  
 He came for us.  
 So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.  
 That we could share Love with others.  
 Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise,  
 in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards,  
 in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children.  
 Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs,  
 so that we may know You better and better.  
 We rejoice in the world You loved into being.  
 Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.  
 We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread  
 them to others.  
 Forgive us for falling short this past year.  
 We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into  
 the unknown new year knowing You will go with us.  
 We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's  
 ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want..  
 I say it again, we rejoice!  
 In Jesus name,  
 Amen.

## **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](http://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](http://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 24, 2011

Love Offering: \$3,389.00

### **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

December 25, 2011

Worship: \$1,161.00  
Poinsettias: \$50.00

**We are on the WEB!**

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

**First United Methodist Church**  
122 West 10th  
Chandler, OK 74834

## **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

### **WEDNESDAY, December 28**

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)  
Church Office Closed  
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

### **THURSDAY, December 29**

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Study Group  
Church Office Closed

### **FRIDAY, December 30**

Church Office Closed

### **SATURDAY, December 31**

### **SUNDAY, January 1**

**Happy New Year!**

9:40 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. Grand Sweep Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

### **MONDAY, January 2**

Newsletter Articles Due by noon  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee (Conf. Room)

### **TUESDAY, January 3**

### **WEDNESDAY, January 4**

6:30 a.m. Early Morning Prayer  
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

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