

**JANUARY
2008
NEWSLETTER**

**WILBURTON FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- Jan. 19th UMW
- Jan. 21st UMMen
- Jan. 21st Jesus' Kids
- Jan. 28th Family Night Dinner
- Feb. 4th Jesus' Kids
- Feb. 8th Scout Sunday
- Feb. 8th Local Church Leaders Workshop (McAlester FUMC Grand Avenue)
- Feb. 11th Administrative Council
- Feb. 15th UMW Sweetheart Potato Luncheon
- Feb. 16th UMW
- Feb. 18th UMMen
- Feb. 18th Jesus' Kids

See Calendar for times



The Cohabitation Myth

Men and women living together before marriage was once rare. Now it happens more often than not! But new research shows that instead of helping a future marriage, cohabitation actually hurts it.

Many men choose to live with their girlfriend to enjoy the sexual benefits of marriage without the formal commitment. They convince their girlfriend that they will marry in the future, and sometimes they do.

Brad was one such guy who told his girlfriend that they

might get married when he asked her to move in with him. But really, he didn't have any intention of marrying her. When his girlfriend continued to talk about wedding plans, Brad found himself in a difficult situation. The relationship was tormented by tension and distrust for months until it finally ended in disaster. Brad's girlfriend found out the truth and left. Both of them were devastated and Brad had additional guilt from hurting a woman he cared about.

Pamela J. Smock, a sociologist at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, the world's largest academic survey and research organization, recently led a

study about cohabitation. Her findings are significant. First, the percentage of marriages preceded by cohabitation rose from about 10 percent in 1965 to more than 50 percent by 1994. In other words, living together before marriage is now more common than not living together before marriage. Also, marriages that were preceded by cohabitation were more likely to end in divorce than those in which couples had not lived together before marriage.

A relationship that lasts is built on 100 percent sold-out trust and 100 percent sold-out commitment. The first step toward achieving this is to be honest. Tell the truth about your intentions in a relationship. And if you truly value

(continued on page 3)

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

From the Pastor	1
UMW	1
Youth News	2
Jesus' Kids Dates	3
UMMen	3
Ad Council Mini-Minutes	4
Calendars	5



United Methodist Women

**2009 Wilburton United
Methodist Women**

A big hello and heartfelt joy to begin 2009 UMW projects. To all our church ladies, please feel welcome to come and be a part of our church's UMW group. Our meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Monday of each month from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, in the church fellowship hall.

This month's meeting is Monday, January 19th. Our agenda is to decide on the EOSC United Ministry lunch

(continued on page 3)

Youth News

Happy 2009 to all! We look forward to a year of building in the youth program. To make our youth group strong, we will need everyone's help. If you know of a youth in the 6th -12th grade that you think might be interested in attending please do two things:

- 1) Please tell them about us! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm at the United Ministry building unless there is a Family Night Dinner.
- 2) Please tell us about them. That way our youth can personally invite them and maybe we can call them or mail them an invitation.

As we grow our group we have some exciting happenings...

For January and part of February J.W. is leading us in a study on temptation and evil

and how to deal with those issues. Each lesson stands alone so if you have already missed one, that is okay – come anyway!

On February 20-22, the Stillwater District is hosting a Winter Youth Retreat. The cost is \$55. Anyone interested contact me and I will get you all of the details.

This spring the youth will be holding a fundraiser. We will be designing and selling Wilburton First United Methodist Church shirts. We will have two types of shirts - a polo type shirt and a t-shirt. Look for more information soon. We will be getting a sample of each for everyone to look at and then we will take orders.

We are also working to set up a mission trip over one weekend this winter/spring. I

should have all of the details in the next newsletter...but just know we are working on something that will be a terrific learning experience and we should make some new friends too!

Remember that God presents us all with OPPORTUNITIES. Some of these are presented as answers to prayers. Each one of us has the CHOICE of whether or not we decide to take advantage of the opportunity we are presented. It is our responsibility to take an ACTIVE ROLE in our FAITH and in building our individual relationship with God.

For more information on the Youth Program or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Dana Hogle at 918-465-6234.

*Give, and
it will be
given to
you. . . .
For with
the
measure
you use, it
will be
measured
to you.*

*Luke 6:38
(NIV)*

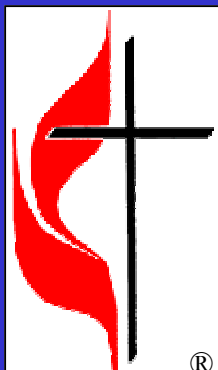
A Note from Finance:

Contribution receipts for 2008 are available in the narthex of the church sanctuary. These receipts are for charitable contributions totaling over \$250. Please pick-up your contribution receipt at the church during the month of January to save the church unnecessary postage. The members of the finance committee do our best to ensure that the church contribution records are accurate, but if you notice an error in your contribution receipt, please notify Sue McCasland or Sunny Collums. Provide us with the specific details of the error and we will do our best to see that it is dealt with accordingly.

Jesus' Kids

Spring
Jan. 21st
Feb. 4th and 18th
March 4th and 11th
April 8th and 29th
May 6th and 13th





From the Pastor

(Cont. from page 1)

the relationship, you need to practice honesty and self-control.

When we realize the damage that's done through cohabitation, we will begin to understand the importance of the institution of marriage. Marriage is more than just "a piece of paper." It's a life-time journey based on trust.

(Adapted from www.newswise.com)

Rev. Barry Collins

UMW

(Cont. from page 1)

menu. UMW serves lunch on the 4th Wednesday of each month. This month's lunch will be Wednesday, January 28th at the EOSC United Ministry building.

The campus ministry is a wonderful occasion to get to know new students and welcome back last year's students while extending the hand of Christian friendship and support. Please come and join us.

The UMW will be hosting the sweetheart potato luncheon fund raiser on February 15th immediately following morning services. Volunteers are more than welcome. Contact Suzee Puckett to sign up.

UMW President
Suzee Puckett

2009 UMW Officers

Suzee Puckett, President	cell# 918.917.3939
Sunny Collums, Vice President	cell# 918.448.3888
Marcia Davis, Secretary	cell# 918.448.4833
Sue McCasland, Treasurer	phone# 918.465.3863
Pat Royce, Asst. Treasurer	phone# 918.465.3425
Kathy Davis, Minutes	phone# 918.465.2260



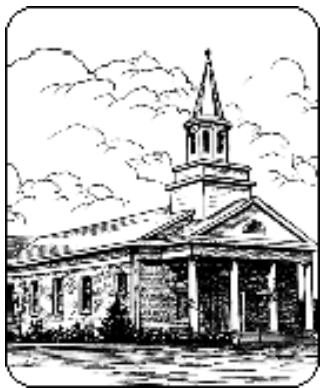
The next United Methodist Men's meeting will be January 21st. We will meet at 7:00am on that Wednesday for a breakfast prepared by John Shero with the assistance of Ron Tarrant and C.C. Puckett. Join us for good food and good fellowship.

We will be holding a business meeting to discuss dates for our annual fundraising events—the Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social. We will also discuss how we will use our proceeds from these events this year.

I hope to see you at our upcoming UM-Men gatherings!

Philip H

(For more information about Wilburton UMMen, contact Philip Hawthorne by phone at 465-6231 or by email at wilburumc_ummen@sbcglobal.net)



**Wilburton
First United Methodist Church**

P.O. Box 6

207 East Ada

Wilburton, OK 74578

Phone: 918.465.3322

E-mail: wilburtonfumc@sbcglobal.net

Open Hearts.

Open Minds.

Open Doors.

Wilburton First United Methodist Church is located five miles south of beautiful Robbers Cave State Park, in Wilburton, Oklahoma. If you are visiting the park, come and worship with us. If you live in the area, please make your church home with us. The church was organized in 1895 and is housed in a nicely air-conditioned building one block north of the U.S. Post Office in Wilburton. We are a warm and friendly church and we would love to have you join us Sunday morning for Sunday School and Worship!



Administrative Council Mini Minutes...

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WILBURTON, OKLAHOMA**

January 14, 2009

TRUSTEES: Neal Wood reported the basement hallway and the west stairway have been completed. The northwest classroom repairs should be done soon. Gravel is being hauled to the parking lot at the convenience of the contractors because they are not charging us to haul the gravel. Marcia Davis requested that something be done about the sound system

TREASURER'S REPORT: Philip Hawthorne reported he has adjusted the 2008 apportionments to include the assessment for the new seminary school at O.C.U. Philip reported that the carry over balance from 2008 was \$24,139.83 and only the amount needed for January expenses can be transferred to 2009 to pay budgeted amounts. He recommends \$15,500.00

be transferred to the contingency fund. Mr. Hawthorne presented the year end Fund Balance Report for the committee's approval.

EDUCATION: Marcia Davis reported while Jesus' Kids is being well attended, Sunday School attendance has her very concerned and she is asking for suggestions.

S.P.R.C.: Leonard Hedgcoxe reported the church profile has been completed. He is hoping to have the committee meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00p.m. or 7:30p.m.

UMW: The ladies will meet next Monday at 5:30pm. Their annual sweetheart potato luncheon will be February 15th following the worship service.

UMM: Philip Hawthorne reported John Shero and Ron Tarrant will be cooking breakfast next Wednesday.

YOUTH: Brandy Mooers reported the youth are using the material titled The Truth about Evil.

FAMILY: Pat Royce reported the next Family Night dinner will be January 28th. The Davis family will be hosting and the theme will be New Beginnings.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Collins reported he will be in Ok. City on 1-26-09. Spiritual Emphasis Week at EOOSC will be February 2nd - 4th ending with an evening concert on February 4th. Religious T-shirts are also planned. Local Church Leaders' Workshop will be February 8, 2009 at McAlester First United Methodist Church – Grand Ave. Campus.

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	19 5:30pm UMW	20	21 7:00am UMMen 3:00pm Jesus' Kids	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 12:00pm UMW host United Min. lunch 6:00pm Family Night Dinner	29	30	31
Notes: Unless otherwise noted, events listed on this calendar are at the Wilburton First United Methodist Church.			Weekly Events Sunday: 9:30am Fellowship time 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service Tuesday: 3:00pm Visitations Wednesday: 6:00pm Youth Fellowship (@ UM Bldg.) 7:00pm Choir			

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 3:00pm Jesus' Kids	5	6	7
8 Scout Sunday Local Church Leader's Workshop (McAlester)	9	10	11 6:00pm Admin- istrative Council	12	13	14
15 12:00 noon Sweetheart Potato Luncheon	16 5:30pm UMW	17	18 7:00am UMMen 3:00pm Jesus' Kids	19	20	21