

**MARCH
2009
NEWSLETTER**

**WILBURTON FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- Mar. 15th Ecumenical Lenten Service @ Catholic Church
- Mar. 18th UMMen
- Mar. 22nd Ecumenical Lenten Service @ Presbyterian Church
- Mar. 25th UMMen Annual Fish Fry
- Mar. 29th Ecumenical Lenten Service @ UMC
- Apr. 5th Latimer Co. Nursing Home service
- Apr. 5th Ministerial Alliance Easter Service @ WHS Auditorium
- Apr. 6th UMW
- Apr. 8th Jesus' Kids
- Apr. 9th Holy Thursday service
- Apr. 12th Easter Services
- Apr. 15th UMMen

See Calendar for times

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

From the Pastor	1
UMW	1
UMMen	2
Summer camp dates	2
Jesus' Kids Dates	2
Church Directory	3
Ad Council Mini-Minutes	4
Calendars	5



**Our United Methodist
Connection**

In the early days of the Methodist church in England, John Wesley recognized the need for communication and accountability. He developed what he called the "connexion": an interlocking system of classes, societies, and annual conferences. Today we continue this tradition but our structure is different.

Local Church

A congregation is not autonomous. Its part of the United Methodist family and, as such, has certain rights and responsibilities. Through its

charge conference it's linked to the district and annual conference. Its pastor is a member of the annual conference; if other elders are related to the congregation, they, too, are members of an annual conference, as are any deacons. Each year the charge conference elects a layperson or a number of laypeople as members of the annual conference to ensure that the number of lay and clergy persons going to the annual conference is the same. All take part in forming policies and programs that affect the congregation.

District

The district is the division of the annual conference that serves as a link between the congregation and the confer-

ence. It's led by a district superintendent ("DS"), an elder appointed by the bishop, usually for a six-year term. The DS oversees the ministry of the district's clergy and churches, provides spiritual and pastoral leadership, works with the bishop and others in the appointment of ordained ministers to serve the district's churches, presides at meetings of the charge conference, and oversees programs within the district.

Annual Conference

We use the term *annual conference* in three ways: Its organizational structure, a geographical area, and a periodic meeting of representatives (the "annual conference session"). As an organizational body, it's made up of

(continued on page 3)



United Methodist Women

Hello. We have so much to catch up on...

Let's start with February:

February 2009 was a very busy month. February 8th, the UMW officers attended the local leaders training session at McAlester First United Methodist Church. This was a very informative session and we benefited greatly. February 15th, the UMW hosted the Annual Sweetheart Potato Luncheon fund raiser and it was a great success. Thank you everyone so much for their generosity, and the helping hands. February 25th, the UMW provided an Italian lunch to the EOSC Campus Ministry student luncheon which was gratefully received.

(continued on page 3)



The next United Methodist Men's meeting will be March 18th. We will meet at 7:00am on that Wednesday for a breakfast prepared by John Shero with the assistance of any men who are willing to join in the cooking. Join us for good food and good fellowship.

We will be finalizing plans for our Annual Fish Fry which will be Wednesday, March 25th at 6:00pm. The Fish Fry will take the place of the March Family Night Dinner.



We will also be inviting the Eastern Oklahoma State College Women's Softball Team. Several of these young ladies have been attending worship with us on Sunday mornings.

The meal will consist of a main course of fried fish and side dishes of baked beans, coleslaw and hushpuppies. We also ask that everyone bring something for dessert to complete the meal.

I hope to see you at our upcoming UMMen gathering and also at the Fish Fry!

Philip H

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

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
 2 Peter 1:5-8

Summer Church Camp Dates:

**SonShine (entering grades 1-2)
 June 20-21**

**Growin' in Grace (entering grades 3-5)
 June 8-10* or June 10-12***

** We will choose one set of dates depending upon the schedule of children wishing to attend*

**T'weens Discover (entering grade 6)
 June 8-12**

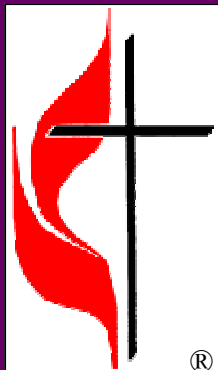
**Stillwater/McAlester District Youth Camp
 (entering grade 7-graduated seniors)
 June 9-13**

**C.Y.M.E
 (requires pastoral recommendation)
 June 21-26**

**Jesus'
 Kids**

**Spring
 April 8th and 29th
 May 6th and 13th**





UMW

(Cont. from page 1)

March 2009:

A new UMW meeting schedule has been approved as follows: the monthly meetings will now be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm. This new schedule will help everyone remember which Monday to meet, and the later time will help those who work to be able to attend each session. CC Puckett has told the UMW about the Strategic Plan, including various programs that have already begun. This month the UMW will be serving lunch at the EOSC Campus Ministry on March 25th.

Reminder to all:

The Lenten services are to be held here on March 29th, at 6:00pm. Light snacks and sweets are needed for the reception following the service to honor our guests from the different area churches.

Thank you all for your services to our church family.

Suzee Puckett,
UMW President

From the Pastor

(Cont. from page 1)

ordained members, both active and retired, a number of district and conference leaders, and lay members elected by the charge conferences of all the churches.

It meets annually, usually in May or June, to worship and fellowship together, receive reports of past work, adopt goals, programs, and budgets for future work, take stands on key issues, receive new men and women as ordained deacons and elders, and (every four years) elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences. The bishop of the Episcopal area, which may be one or more annual conferences, presides over the annual conference session.

Jurisdiction

In the United States of America, The United Methodist Church is divided into five areas known as jurisdictions: Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, and Western. These provide some program and leadership training events to support the annual conferences. Every four years the Jurisdictional Conferences meet to elect new bishops and select members of general boards and agencies.

Central Conference

Outside the United States of America, our denomination is organized according to central conferences. These units—in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines—have their own bishops and delegates to General Conference.

General Conference

Made up of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences, the General Conference meets every four years. It's our legislative body, the only organization with authority to speak for The United Methodist Church. It sets our governing procedures (published in The Book of Discipline), establishes program emphasis, and sets a four-year budget for the church's general work.

We are thankful for the connectional structure of The United Methodist Church; without our connection with other leaders, churches, and resources, our congregation's mission could hardly extend very far.

If you are interested in learning more about the workings of The United Methodist Church contact Rev. Collins for additional resources.

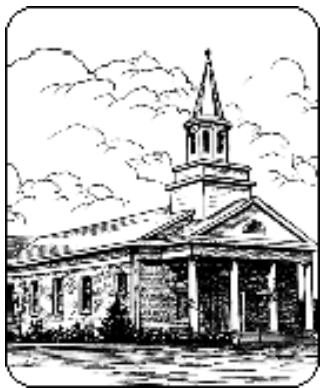
Peace,
Rev. Barry Collins

(Information adapted from *The United Methodist Member's Handbook*)

Church Directory

**The church directory is nearing completion,
but now we need your help...**

We are seeking pictures of church events – Family Night Dinners, Children's Programs, Bible School, Picnics, Easter Egg Hunts, UMW, UMMen, Youth, Jesus' Kids, whatever you may have – to include on general pages in our new Church Directory. If you have pictures that you would like to submit so that we would have many pictures to choose from, send them by e-mail to the church wilburtonfumc@sbcglobal.net or to Philip Hawthorne at prmehawthorne@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.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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 March 11, 2009

FINANCE: Sue McCasland reported the committee has planned a pledge drive under the guidance of Rev. Mark Dorff. "Celebrate Generosity" will be the title of the pledge drive which will begin April 19, 2009, and continue for three additional weeks. On the last Sunday a catered dinner will be served following the worship service at which time the amount pledged will be announced. Mrs. McCasland stated the cost of the drive is estimated between \$1200 and \$2000. The committee recommends this expense for the drive be taken from the contingency fund. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was approved. Sue McCasland reported the committee will meet Sunday, March 15, 2009.

EDUCATION: Marcia Davis reported Jesus' Kids will meet again on April 8th and 29th. Dinner will also be served to the kids and their parents on April 29th. The annual kite

flying picnic will be April 26, 2009. We will again have an Easter egg hunt following the Easter morning worship service.

S.P.R.C.: Leonard Hedgcoxe reported the church custodial position has been filled by Lisa Sparks at the same salary previously paid. As an employee of the church, Lisa will no longer be able to serve on the S.P.R. committee. However, the nursery worker position still needs to be filled. The person selected to fill this position will require a background check and both CPR and first aid certification.

MEMORIAL: Nancy Wood reported the committee will meet March 31, 2009 at 6:30pm.

TRUSTEES: Neal Wood reported he has had four contacts concerning the purchase of the church bus. The price quoted is \$5,500. One of the churches is also interested in the old pulpit that is in the fellowship hall. Mr. Wood is looking for information concerning the origin of this pulpit. He stated Ron Tarrant is doing a great remodel-

ing job on the church office, however he could use help with labor and supplies.

YOUTH: It was reported that there were more adults than youth at the recent youth movie night. The youth are planning to invite the Hartshorne youth to their next movie night and possibly begin planning a mission trip.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Collins reminded the committee of the Lenten services: March 15th, 22nd and 29th. The services will begin at 6:00pm. The community Easter service will be on Palm Sunday. Our Holy Thursday service will be at 7:00pm, April 9th. March 29th is the fifth Sunday, and at that time the new church office will be dedicated and Jennifer Tarrant will speak.

Maurice Hawthorne reported on a meeting he recently attended concerning coaching congregations on completing their Strategic Plans. Much work needs to be done if we are going to be successful. C.C. Puckett noted that some analysis has been done by a few members, but it is just a beginning.

MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 6:00pm Ecumenical Lenten Service (Catholic church)	16	17	18 7:00am UMMen	19	20	21
22 6:00pm Ecumenical Lenten Service (Presbyterian church)	23	24	25 6:00pm UMMen Annual Fish Fry	26	27	28
29 6:00pm Ecumenical Lenten Service (Methodist church)	30	31	Weekly Events Sunday: 9:30am Fellowship time 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service Monday: 4:30pm Cub Scouts Tuesday: 3:00pm Visitations Wednesday: 6:00pm Youth Fellowship (@ UM Bldg.) 7:00pm Choir			

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: Unless otherwise noted, events listed on this calendar are at the Wilburton First United Methodist Church.			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 6:00pm Ministerial Alliance Easter Service at High School Auditorium.	6 6:30pm UMW	7	8 3:00pm Jesus' Kids 6:00pm Administrative Council	9 Holy Thursday 7:00pm Holy Thursday Service	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday 12:00noon Easter Egg Hunt	13	14	15 7:00am UMMen	16	17	18