

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church

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I like words. Unusual words. Funny words. I especially like words that make me think. I got a new word for Christmas. It is one of my favorite presents.

The word is "reliquary".

We had a mountain Christmas this year. We are not usually a family that travels during the Christmas season, but this year we relocated many of our family members to a rental house in the mountains of Asheville, North Carolina. We viewed spectacular sunsets, stayed up too late talking and played games of Pictionary and Worst Case Survivor (it was in the house). Our Christmas meal occurred two days after Christmas. Our table of fourteen was blessed with family members we seldom get to see.

It was toward the end of the week that we went to the art district on the French Broad River. More than 50 artists have studios there. We took an "art walk", bundling up between studios.

It was at the third studio that a hand-crafted sculpture caught my eye. It was about the size of a basketball, made of red clay and designed a bit like a Faberge egg with a middle carved out. Inside were the shapes of two figures. The piece didn't stand out to me until I saw the title of it. "Reliquary".

The artist was working at a table nearby.

"What is a 'reliquary'?" I asked her softly.

"Something that holds something sacred," she said easily, her hands still moving. She had been asked that question before.

Of course. That makes sense. Relic - a sacred thing. Reliquary - something that holds a sacred thing.

It was on the flight home that I mused over how to enjoy my new word gift. I flew on New Year's Day.

"Your body is the temple of God." Maybe that's it. The outer shell holds a sacred inner self that is able to love others and experience Christ. Perhaps this New Year will be about tending to the reliquary that holds the soul.

I thought of our church buildings, new and old. They serve as reliquaries. Our sanctuaries are the sacred places that "hold" our worship. We speak and sing of the truth of Christ and the love of God. We celebrate and release those who have died. Our three reliquaries "hold" our experiences of the sacred vows of baptism, membership and marriage.

I thought of our main building on Wednesdays when we give away meals and gas vouchers to those in need. Each encounter is sacred. The landing outside the parlor becomes a reliquary because it "holds" these sacred offerings in the name of Christ.

I thought of my study at my house. It becomes my reliquary when what I do there is sacred - when I pray, read, sing, seek, wait and write. I thought of your homes as the year unfolds. They, too become reliquaries as you live out your faith with those you love.

Reliquary. Something that holds something sacred.

Jessica

Televised from the Sanctuary at
10:50am on Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast from the Sanctuary at
11:00am on KVSQ AM 1240

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:50 AM
Sanctuary

11:05
Colvert Ministry Center

Friendly Neighbors

an X Y Z Ministry

Fun & Fellowship

All Seniors Welcome

10:30am

January 15th

Colvert Ministry Center

Joint Replacement Center

Dr. Greisman

and Jay Johnson

Bring a Side Dish or Dessert

Meat is furnished

10:30am Fun, Games &
Fellowship

12:00pm Invocation and Lunch

12:30pm Program

1:00pm Adjournment





UMM
Sunday
January 17th
6:00pm
Colvert
Ministry Center
Cajun Feast

Good Food & "Fellow"ship
Speaker: David Woerz



Captivated by Love

Women's Retreat

February 19-20, 2010

at the Colvert Ministry Center

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **First Sunday after the Epiphany!** I'm not sure whether you noticed, but during the serving of Holy Communion last Sunday during 10:50 worship as the choir was singing, the organ suddenly stopped playing. After a Monday investigation we determined that the immediate problem was a burned-out relay. The long term problem which aided in Sunday's electrical difficulty is located within the major fan, which is the air producer for the entire organ. A very old, but very necessary gasket had broken and stopped the fan from turning. We are in the process of replacing the relay and, as soon as we can find or manufacture it, the gasket, which is a definite specialty product. It's possible that we may be without the use of the organ on Sunday!

In both 8:30 worship in McClure Chapel and 10:50 worship in the Sanctuary John Emery, organist (perhaps at the piano) will be playing "**Courante from Partita in G**" by Johann S. Bach. Mr. Emery will also play an arrangement of his own titled: "**Sing Alleluia to the Lord**" found in our *The Faith We Sing* hymnal supplement.

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir, with Kelley Segler at the piano, will sing "**Be Thou My Vision**," a Traditional Irish melody, arranged by Dan Forrest. This anthem, a Sanctuary Choir favorite, is copyright © 2005 by Hal Leonard Corporation.

Please read this text from Sunday's Music.

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart,
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art,
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou My True Word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor men's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Thou and Thou only, First in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun,
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Shalom, *Bab*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan 10

8:30 am Worship / McClure Chapel
9:30 am Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am Power Up Children's Church
10:50 am Worship / Sanctuary
11:05 am EPIC / CMC
4:30 pm Music & Drama
5:00 pm Jr. High Youth
6:00 pm Sr. High Youth
6:00 pm Hearts on Fire Prayer Time
6:30 pm CR-Men's Step Study
7:00 pm CR-Women's Step Study

Monday, Jan 11

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens
1:00 pm Casper Cards
4:00 pm Stephen Leaders Meeting
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Disciple 1 Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan 12

7:30 am Preschool
12:00pm Noon Prayer
4:30 pm Trustees

Wednesday, Jan 13

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
10:30 am Moms Praying
5:00 pm Stephen Ministry
5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors
6:15 pm Worship / CMC
6:15 pm Ignite
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery
7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan 14

7:30 am Preschool
9:00 am Precept Bible Study
12:30 pm Covenant Bible Study
1:00 pm XYZ Bridge Club
6:30 pm Financial Peace
6:30 pm DivorceCare
6:30 pm CR-Men's Step Study
7:00 pm Alpha

Friday, Jan 15

7:30 am Preschool
10:30 pm Friendly Neighbors

Dates to Remember:

Jan 18 MLK Day / Church Closed
Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
Feb 28-Mar 2nd Festival of Faith
Mar 7 Chili Cook-Off
Mar 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 28 Palm Sunday
Mar 29-April 2 Holy Week

Missionary News



We just received this note from our friends at Mission Aviation Fellowship—

"Dear Friends in Christ, I never want to forget what God had done for me, for you...and for others through MAF. I have a story to tell.

It's late afternoon. Doug is flying an MAF Cessna aircraft, en route

to an airstrip where he'll rendezvous with a Land Rover 'ambulance' transporting an injured girl and her family. Ahead, he sees the telltale signs of developing rain showers, with low clouds and reduced visibility.

Far below his comfortable perch in the air, and still many miles from the airstrip, the makeshift 'ambulance' is bouncing over the rut-filled dirt road. The patient is in agony. With every dip in the road, she moans in pain.

Doug can now see the airstrip in the distance, barely more than a scratch in the hill ground of Kalimantan, Indonesia, on the island of Borneo. The weather is closing in. It's already getting late in the flying day. Doug skillfully guides the aircraft into final approach. He thinks, 'I don't have much time left.' Clearing the trees, he lands and awaits the arrival of the Land Rover.

Forty-five minutes pass, and rain begins to fall. Sunset is approaching. At last, the Land Rover appears at the edge of the airstrip. The injured girl's family quickly loads her aboard the Cessna. Doug leans over to buckle everyone in and prays: 'Lord, please make a way for us to depart...I don't want to compromise our safety by taking off when I shouldn't. Oh, Lord, this desperate girl needs help. Please make a way for us!'

The engine roars back to life. Doug spots a small opening in the clouds and decides that a safe takeoff is possible. The plane hurtles down the sloping airstrip over the wet ground. The aircraft quickly lifts off, climbing above the trees. Doug heads for the light through the clouds. It turns out to be an open passage-way leading them to 5,000 feet and clear skies that stretch all the way to the hospital. God has answered Doug's prayer once again. 'Thank you, Lord!' he exclaims. Doug turns around to give a thumbs up to his passengers, reassuring them that all is well.

Weeks later, the girl has recovered and is transported by MAF from the hospital back to her home. Another life is saved, all made possible by your partnership and the Lord's response to prayer. Yours to help transform the world, John C. Boyd, President & CEO"

We have supported Mike & Sharol Shutts, our MAF missionaries in Lesotho, since 1999 through Faith Promise. Mike is an airplane mechanic and keeps the mission flights going.

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:

Sunday School Greeters for January:

Main Building - **Chester Dennis & Cora Carlock**
Colvert Ministry Center - **Hope**

Sympathy: Our thoughts & our prayers are with Ray and Sharon Nichols and their family with the passing of Ray's father, Jim Nichols, on Wednesday, December 30th in Healdton.

Memorials:

In memory of **John Drake** a contribution to the Ministry Center Trust Fund has been received from:
Maytha Mead

In memory of **Mark Parker** a contribution to the needs of the church has been received from:
Patty Sue Hicks

In memory of **Crystal Wells** contributions to the Missions Fund and the Memorial Fund have been received from:
Don and Bettie Black (Memorial)
Louise Daniels (Missions)



Children's Ministry Announcements

- We started a new month last Sunday on January 3rd and with that comes a new virtue. In January, we are going to be learning about discipline. We will learn that if you want to know God better, read His book. We will also learn how discipline is doing what you need to do now so you can grow stronger.
- We hope to see you in PLUG IN (Sunday school) this week as we continue to learn about discipline. We will talk about the fact that if you want to know God better, remember His words. We will introduce a new memory verse for this month 1 Timothy 4:8.
- POWER UP (children's church) is back for the month of January, we will dig deeper into discipline. This week we will learn how Jesus was tested by the devil and how he used God's word to fight off evil.
- Don't forget to Ignite your week on Wednesday January 13th. Come at 5:45 for pizza only \$5 per family. We will start at 6:15 in the CMC. Learn how to be disciplined in God's word as a family. We hope to see you there!
- As always if you would like to volunteer in Sunday school, children's church, or just to bring us donuts to start our morning, we would love it. Please let Amy or Kori know. You can reach us at 223-5390 x325 or children@fumcardmore.com.



The Great Commission charges us to **GO!** Can you step out and do your part?

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle. Psalm 103:2-6

“. . . There are times in our lives when we must be renewed. I often hear people referring to their “bad” knees, legs, or back. And yet the book of Genesis says that God liked what He made and called it “good.” The truth is that God created us for movement. I continually witness the miracle of this truth in Body Recall class. . . sensation returning to hands and feet that were feelingless, frozen joints loosed, renewed energy and vitality, medications reduced or even eliminated, walkers and canes left idle, freedom from the fear of falling.... all by people who took the initiative to move wisely.

And the good news is that the miracle keeps going. These people go on to become servers, eagerly taking on new tasks. It isn't enough in God's kingdom just to be well. The Great Commission is one of action, “Go, ye....”

Body Recall classes give you an opportunity to take charge of your gift and bring it to full potential. It is never too late or too early to educate yourself in proper movement. The program was designed for people over 50 years, but has proven itself worthwhile for ALL ages. The joy of working beside others toward the same goal is an added bonus. Come and learn how to climb and descend stairs, sit, stand, lift, push and pull objects, lower to and rise from the floor, and walk the proper way. Come and regain the strength and flexibility that helps to make living pleasurable and independent. Come and enjoy the fellowship, laughter and fun.

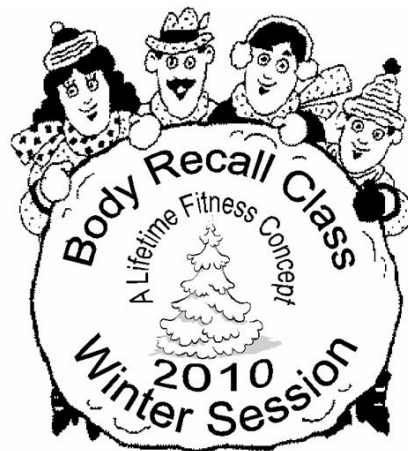
All ages and fitness levels are welcome, especially those who are recovering from or expecting surgery, have been sedentary, or are losing the skills required to stay independent. No one is exempt from the need to move if wellness is to be maintained...”

Taken from an article by Lisa Meredith, Body Recall Teacher & National Body Recall Trainer

This wonderful class is taught right here in our church. Don't miss the opportunity to join us.

**Registration:
Monday
January 25th
9:30 a.m.**

**First United Methodist Church
COLVERT MINISTRY CENTER**



Non-Profit Organization
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Ardmore, Oklahoma
Permit No. 183



*Loaves &
Fishes*

January

Pork & Beans

14-16 ounce can

*Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund*

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