

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church

501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401

580-223-5390

God provides.

For thirteen years our church had a position called "Director of Lay Ministry." Debbi Rison did the job with excellence. Her task was to help mobilize people for ministry both within the church and out into the community. During the years that the position was filled we had a strong system of assessing ministry needs and helping match church members' gifts, talents and passion with those needs. In these last years, for a variety of reasons, the Director of Lay Ministries position was dissolved.

In these first two months of being with you, I have seen a beautiful "holy chaos". You are a people who hold high the value of "every member in ministry" and you have self-organized in dozens of ways. Even without a director, you have continued to serve in a wide range of ministries.

In these weeks of getting to know you, one of the consistent things I have heard is the hope to re-instate this position in order for us to be a high-impact servant church. It has also been clear to our Staff Parish Relations Committee that we need to reinstate the position. There seems to be agreement that mobilizing lay persons for ministry is one of the foundational pillars of our life together.

But, what to do? All of our budgeted money for staff is allocated.

In the last weeks, our prayer teams have diligently prayed for leadership in this area. Would there be a "job descriptioned volunteer" among us who might feel called to fill the role of Director of Lay Ministry on an unpaid basis? Those who talked about it knew that it would be asking a lot to have a volunteer fill this previously paid position, but we also knew that it would be just like God to write it on the heart of someone among us.

And God has.

From the moment she heard about the possibility, Shawna Carnahan had a sense that God might be calling her to this leadership position. After taking time to talk at length with Debbi Rison and to pray about it, she came in last week to say that she knew she was being called to the task. So, Shawna will begin the position just as soon as we can get her further oriented and get a work space organized for her. She should be organized in plenty of time to help with Round-Up, our Fall lay ministry celebration.

My encouraging word for you this week is this: God provides.

We praise God for Shawna's willingness and we thank Shawna for following His promptings.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

When the budget was passed for 2009, the Finance Committee agreed to review the same after the first quarter so that adjustments could be made, if possible, particularly as it related to the payment of apportionments. At its April meeting, the Committee voted not to make any adjustments to the budget, and to reconsider it again at the end of the second quarter. This review was considered by the Committee at its regular monthly meeting on July 28, 2009.

Through June 30, 2009, according to the budget we should have received \$586,233.00 in pledges, tithes and gifts, as well as other income. Unfortunately, we have only received \$522,480.78, leaving a deficit of \$63,752.22. Although we are able to pay our bills, due to the budget shortfall we have only paid 31% of the amount that we had budgeted for apportionments, and we should have paid 50%. Although not sufficient to meet all of our budgetary needs as of the end of July, our receipts have increased steadily this year. Therefore, the committee voted to not make any adjustments in our budget at this time, believing that there are several positive indications that receipts will be sufficient to fund our budget by year's end.

The Committee remains mindful of its responsibility, and that of our congregation insofar as connectional giving is concerned. After considering various alternatives, the Committee approved a suggestion by Jessica to designate one Sunday, later in the year, and devote it exclusively to connectional giving. This will be a day designated to enlighten the congregation on what apportionments are, why they are important and why it is necessary for our Church to do its fair share. A special offering will be taken.

Even in light of our current budget shortfall, everyone on the Committee continues to remain optimistic and are hopeful that by the end of the year, the Church will be able to pay not only the budgeted amount, but the amount set by the Oklahoma Conference. We are grateful that we have a Church that supports connectional giving, as well as our own local ministries and programs.

If anyone should have any questions regarding the finances of the Church or the budget, please feel free to contact Renny Collins at 223-8350 or Pat Castellow at the Church at 223-5390, ext. 303.

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. It will be a special day in the life of our church as Jessica shares with us her *Theology of Children's Ministry*.

In both 8:30 and 10:50 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "O For a Thousand Tongues," this setting for organ is by Harold DeCou. The very familiar hymntune AZMON, in our hymnal arranged by Lowell Mason, 1839, is an original setting by Carl G. Gläser.

In the 8:30 worship service I will sing "Where Is the Child?" words and music by John Ness Beck, transcribed by Craig Courtney and found in the collection *Sacred Songs of John Ness Beck* copyright ©1980, 1990 by Beckenhorst Pres, Inc.

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing an *a cappella* favorite "Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me," a traditional spiritual arranged by the late Moses Hogan. This anthem is copyright © 2004 by Hal Leonard Corporation. Our *Sunday Morning Live kids*, with Chris Hopper on guitar, will begin both 10:50 worship and EPIC worship singing "Making Melodies," adapted from Charlie Bancroft. John Emery will play "Rondeau" from *Sinfonies de Fanfares* by Joseph Mouret as the organ offertory in this worship service.

Please read these texts from Sunday's music.

Where Is the Child

Where is the child? When I was a child,
He seemed much closer to me.
I've wandered afar with no guiding star
from the Child of Galilee.

Where is the joy of that tiny boy?
And where's the laughter and glee?
And where's the delight of that holy night?
And where's the child in me?

Why should we lose all the happiness of caroling,
and who should refuse all the joy the season's love can bring?

When did I grow too old to remember
all of the glow of home in December?
Where is the child? The innocent child?
Can I be beguiled to let him find me?

What do I hear? A sound, faint but clear;
do angels still sing their song?

I know I can find that child's peace of mind.
Make me a child again for today, and all my life long.

Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me

Let the heaven light shine on me,
for low is the way to the upper bright world.
Let it shine on me.

Shalom, *Bab*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug 30

8:30 am	Worship / McClure Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am	Sunday School
10:50 am	Worship / Sanctuary
11:05 am	EPIC / CMC
12:00 pm	Children's Ministry Parent / Volunteer Meeting
6:00 pm	Jr. & Sr. High Youth
7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery

Monday, Aug 31

7:30 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Children's Day Out
1:00 pm	Clothes Closet Opens

Tuesday, Sept 1

7:30 am	Preschool
12:00 pm	Noon Prayer
5:30 pm	SPR
6:30 pm	Parenting w/ Love & Logic
6:30 pm	Worship Planners Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 2

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

Thursday, Sept 3

7:30 am	Preschool
1:00 pm	XYZ Mah Jongg
6:30 pm	DivorceCare

Friday, Sept 4

7:30 am	Preschool
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Dates to Remember:

Sept 7	Labor Day / Church Closed
Sept 13	Round-Up Rally
Sept 20	Children's Ministry Parent/Volunteer Meeting
Sept 24-27	Men's Emmaus Walk
Oct 1-4	Women's Emmaus Walk
Oct 30	Fall Fest
Nov 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Nov 26-27	Church Closed
Dec 13	Jr. High Progressive Dinner
Dec 20	Sr. High Progressive Dinner
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship
Dec 25	Christmas

Bible Studies

Christian Growth Opportunities

Alpha Course: This program of learning in basic Christianity answers such questions as "Who is Jesus?", "Why did Jesus die?", "How does God guide us?", "How can I be sure of my faith?", "Does God heal today?", and many more. Rev Dan Patman will facilitate the course which begins Thursday, Sept 17, at 7:00-8:30 p.m. and continues through Nov 19. The class will be held in the Fellowship Hall and there is no cost.

Disciple I Bible Study: This first edition of the Disciple Bible Study series encompasses the entire Bible in 35 weeks. Rev. Roger Wood will enable this study which begins on Monday, Sept 14 with an orientation and will continue each Monday through the Spring with breaks for Christmas & Easter. The discussion-formatted study, held in the Colvert Ministry Center (Rm 116) includes a workbook of daily readings, a reflection, & a video.

Financial Peace University: This 13-week program is based on video presentations by nationally-syndicated radio personality and author Dave Ramsey. Ramsey teaches families to communicate about money and equips them to beat debt and build wealth God's way. Barbara Hisey is the facilitator for the class which begins on Monday, Sept 14 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Colvert Ministry Center (Rm 116). There is a \$90/couple cost.

The Walk to Emmaus: This is a 72 hour spiritual renewal event held at Cross Point Camp in the spring and fall spanning Thurs night through Sun night. The schedule for 2010 is: Men's Walk #77, April 15-18; Women's Walk #78, April 22-25; Men's Walk #79, Sept 30-Oct 3; Women's Walk #80, Oct 7-10.

Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good/The Inheritance: Written and taught by Karen Chaffin, the course is an 8-week tour of Heaven that will answer your questions about heaven, energize your faith, relieve your fears, and enliven the way you live and love. Teamed with Beth Moore's "The Inheritance" (a study based on Psalm 16:5-6), this course will begin on Monday, Sept 14 in the Colvert Ministry Center (Worship Center).

Sweeter Than Chocolate! This is an inductive study of Psalm 119 written by Pam Gillaspie. In 6 brief lessons you will journey through the Bible's greatest Psalm devoted to the theme of the Word of God. Discover insights, practical wisdom, and deep truths that will strengthen your walk and relationship with Jesus Christ. Barbara Shields will lead the class in the Colvert Ministry Center (Rm 116) on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. beginning Sept 17 through Nov 12 with one break on Thurs, Oct 15. Join "Sweeter Than Chocolate!" for sweet words and real solutions!

Precept Bible Study of John—Part 2: No prerequisite for this study is needed, so don't worry if you didn't take Part 1. This 14-week study is designed to draw you into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and expose you to the abundant life each of us cares. The DVD's will be by Wayne Barber and the class will be led by Janie Courtney on Thursday mornings at 9:00-11:00 beginning Sept 10 in the Colvert Ministry Center (Rm 116).

Child care for all classes must be reserved with the Children's Department (223-5390 x325) at least 24 hours before the event.

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:

Maxine Cresswell
Arline Guthary (Missouri)
Billie Tipps

Sunday School Greeters for August:

Main Building - WESLEY
Colvert Ministry Center - SEEKERS

Sympathy:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nan Dial and Mike Dial and their family with the passing of Nan's husband and Mike's father Jim Dial on Friday, August 14th.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Lance and Becca Glaser and their family with the passing of Becca's grandmother Eldred Morton on Monday, August 17th. Services were held Saturday, August 22nd in Tulsa.

Little School Bell

It's back to school time and many families are struggling in our community, even more so this year. Little School Bell to the rescue. This ministry, from its inception nearly 12 years ago, comes to the aid of school aged children providing them with new clothing. Every child loves to receive new things and many of the children we serve have NEVER had any new clothing so this is a real treat for them. The most prized item of the items we provide are new shoes, small children proudly don their new shoes that will, hopefully, last them throughout the school year. We have provided for 32 children in just the last week.

We receive referrals from DHS, Grace Resource Center, and the area school systems including Ardmore, Plainview, Lone Grove, and Dickson. The children and their families have been pre-screened for neediness before our church receives the profile sheets. After receiving the names and sizes of children in need, our volunteers shop and organize the clothing for the family they have received. After returning the items to the church, the referring entity will pick up the clothing and deliver them to the children. Each child receives 2 pair jeans, 2 shirts, 1 pair of shoes, socks and underwear. During the school year we are available for whatever needs arise from these needy families. In the winter we provide coats and warmer clothing.

Our funding for Little School Bell has historically come from our generous members who have a heart for children and want to use their resources to work in a Godly manner. Please consider donating to Little School Bell as our funding has depleted quite significantly in the past year. Thank you to all of you that donate and volunteer for this vital ministry. If you are interested in becoming involved as a volunteer please contact me at 223-0842.

Debbi Rison

Children's Ministry Announcements

- In order for the nursery to successfully meet your child's needs pre-registration will now be required for all church events. Please contact the Children's Ministry Department at least twenty-four hours prior to the event to save a place for your child:
223-5390 x325 or send an e-mail to children@fumcardmore.com
- There will be two more Volunteer / Parent Meetings for the Children's Ministry. If you are a parent or you want to volunteer for the Children's Ministry your attendance is needed to prepare for the new school year. Please come to one of the following meetings:
Sunday, August 30th, 12:00pm or
Sunday, September 20th, 12:00pm

Both meetings will be held in room #116 in the CMC and lunch will be provided. If you have questions please contact Amy or Kori at 223-5390 x325.

Sunday Morning Live Kids Kindergarten - 5th Grade



You have been invited to sing on Sunday morning, August 30th
10:50am - in the Sanctuary service
11:05am - in the EPIC service
Chris will lead us in 2 of your favorite songs from this summer!
Hope to see you there!

If you would like to be on the committee to help plan the retirement reception for Dan Patman please call Debbi Rison at 223-0842.

Children's Day Out

Begins August 31st!

Places still available in all classes! 6 months to 4 years!

Call Julie 223-3590 ext 318 or 226-5760 for additional information.



Music and Drama on Sundays

Sunday, September 20th will begin a new adventure (or a returning adventure if you examine the components)

The time: 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

The place: Rooms 205 (L.O.V.E.) and 207 (CHOIR)

The happening: Music and Drama on Sundays is for kids Kindergarten through 5th grade. In two 45 minute segments we will learn good and fun singing techniques and songs as well as God's Word through Drama. On these Sundays we will also be preparing a Christmas Drama/Musical: *Word on the Street* which focuses on the couple Mary and Joseph and asks the question, "Are we really up for this baby thing?" *Word on the Street* will premier on December 7, 8 and 9.

The hook: We need your help and your children's participation. It will really be a fun adventure time each Sunday evening. Bob, Kelley and many adventurers will be leading the way. Wanna help? Call 277-9351 or 490-1773.



Loaves & Fishes

August
Corn

14-16 ounce can

Or you may donate money to the emergency fund

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