

Worship Celebration:
10:15am—Sunday
Sunday School Classes: 9:00am—Sunday
Midweek Service:
6:30-7:15pm—Wednesday
Pastor: Dale Durnell

First United Methodist Church



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 103
HENRYETTA 74437
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 609
1212 South Lake Drive
Henryetta, OK 74437
Phone: 918-652-4452
Fax: 918-652-4453
email: henryettamethodist@sbcglobal.net
website: <http://www.henryettafumc.org>



Budgets - Laughter - Sharing

Which of the above doesn't belong together? Most people don't think of LAUGHTER or SHARING when the "B-word" is used. But in Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* they all go together!!! How would like to learn, or review, basic principles of money management so that you don't have to think about money all the time? Or, maybe you want to be able to talk to your children or grandchildren so that they don't fall into the debt trap.

Get ready to change your life, the life of this church and the lives in this community -- in a very good way. Starting in January we will be offering 2 hour small group studies through the week. This is a church-wide program and we will be advertising to the community also. This is a chance to offer real, relevant, daily help to address current problems in our lives.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting experience, please contact Lou Ann Moudy.

BE A PART OF CHANGE!!

Ministries and Missions

A big thank you to our church and the Men's Bible Class for their pledges of a donation to The Agape Pregnancy Center, to help with the cost of printing for their 2011 fund raiser calendar. It is a beautiful calendar of pics taken of babies born right here in Okmulgee County. They are a \$20.00 donation to the pregnancy center. See Diana Cunningham for more information. They would make wonderful Christmas gifts. One on display in the foyer.

Another big thank you to all who volunteered their time and desserts for the bean dinner. If you haven't turned in the money from ticket sales, please do so in the church office, so that Donna can get us a total on what we made. At this point, I think for sure it is in the \$1200 dollar range.

Christmas Thoughts and Greetings



It always seems more than a little strange to be writing a Christmas greeting to my church family when we haven't even sat down and celebrated Thanksgiving yet. But, then, on the other hand our culture and society have been stocking the shelves of the local stores with Christmas cards, wraps, lights, and decorations since Labor Day. I guess it's all a matter of priorities.

Of course, if you haven't already noticed, in the 21st century, The Church is regularly in competition with our culture and the Church is no longer the center of the local community. Today, we have to compete for every hour of the day, and every day of the week – nothing seems sacred any longer. We compete with schools, television shows, the demands of the business world, shopping excursions, nights on the town, and yes, even our families. It is no longer enough to say "we're going to church." Now, it seems as if we can only safely say that **if** it doesn't conflict with something else.

And then too, we're in a rush – because our culture is ahead of the game, so too are we as we jump into celebrating Christmas before it even gets here. And on the other end, by December 25th, we've already celebrated Christmas for so long that we're tired of it and want to put it away before the season is really over with. Seldom do we stop and remember that "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*" starts on December 25th and doesn't wrap up until January 6th when we celebrate Epiphany.

I hope you'll make an effort to join us each Sunday throughout the remainder of the year. We were literally "snowed out" last year, but I pray that as you balance a very busy schedule, you'll join us for worship on Christmas Eve at our Cantata and our late night worship service.

In closing let me wish you a blessed Advent season – a time of preparation and anticipation not only for the second coming of Jesus, but also as we look forward to the holiday itself when we celebrate the arrival of the Christ child. Then, when the days are accomplished, when the time is at hand, may we all enjoy and celebrate Christmas for what it is and keep Christmas in our hearts throughout the year. At this joyous holiday time, Donna and I do want to wish you and yours the richest blessings of the season, and may the Prince of Peace rule in your life and bring you full joy.

And so, from our house to yours, may "*God bless us, everyone!*"



Christmas Carol Quiz

Here's a little quiz that lists thirty phrases from Advent and Christmas carols, hymns, and songs. Can you name the song from which each phrase comes. The correct answers include twenty-nine different titles – one title is used twice – but there is only one correct answer for each question.

1. Born a child and yet a King
2. Mild He lays his glory by
3. Ye who sang creation's story
4. And wonders of His love
5. O how lovely, O how pure
6. And still their heavenly music floats
7. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
8. On a cold winter's night that was so deep
9. He come from the glorious kingdom
10. Lie the ages impearled
11. Where meek souls will receive Him still
12. Sealed in the stone-cold tomb
13. You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds
14. Radiant beams from Thy holy face
15. Such a Babe in such a place
16. Haste, haste to bring Him laud
17. That mourns in lonely exile here
18. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow
19. Love for plea and gift and sign
20. I gave him hay to pillow his head
21. Ox and ass before him bow
22. Our God, heaven cannot hold him
23. True man yet very God
24. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
25. He came down to earth from heaven
26. God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn
27. And thus that manger poor became a throne
28. God's stupendous sign
29. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
30. This gift of God we'll cherish well

Church Budget – 2011

Did you know that Henryetta 1st UMC supports ministries around the world, across our nation, as well as right here in Oklahoma? Oklahoma has the finest *Criminal Justice and Mercy ministry* in the United States, and our *Volunteers in Mission* program is a premier undertaking across United Methodism. As Oklahoma United Methodists, we also support three camps in our state. Through our *Circle of Care* program, we operate children's homes, a Boy's Ranch, and we work to place children in foster care. Through our connectional giving, we support a four year college, two seminaries, and over a dozen campus ministries that relate to our United Methodist connection. **Next year our missional outreach beyond the local church is funded at \$36,130.**

We United Methodists worship a lot. In the midst of that worship, we celebrate the sacraments, we perform marriages, and we hold funeral services for our loved ones. At Henryetta 1st UMC, we strive to have exciting, challenging, and relevant worship services throughout the church year. In our worship we gather as a community of faith, we pray, we sing, God's word is proclaimed, we respond to God's call on our lives, and are sent forth into the world to live out the gospel.

Through Christian education, we educate our children, youth, and adults as an ongoing process from the cradle to the grave. You have an opportunity to see that ministry in action on Sunday morning, but also on Sunday evening, and Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Here at Henryetta 1st UMC we operate an after school program for elementary age children and we are continuing our *Open Gym* program for older youth. During the summer months, we send children and youth to camp and at the appropriate season of the year our children bless us with their Christmas and Easter programs. **For 2011, we budgeted \$9,765 for worship, Christian education, and other programming expenses.**

At Henryetta 1st UMC, we are blessed to have a marvelous facility; but, it doesn't come without a price. Insurance to protect our investments, and utilities to keep us comfortable in the heat of summer and cold of winter, all cost money from the budget. To maintain the church office, to provide supplies and office equipment, to have toilet paper and paper towels in the rest rooms, as well as keeping the lights on, all comes at a cost. Our physical plant is very large; we own two vehicles, and still owe the bank for the bus. We also own and provide upkeep for our parsonage. As good stewards, our finance committee is committed to keeping these expenses down, but some of them are out of our control. **For 2011, we budgeted \$59,853 to conduct the business of the church, maintain our buildings and vehicles, and work toward retiring our debt.**

Our Bishop appointed our pastor to provide servant leadership for our congregation in worship, and in "ordering" the life of the church. He teaches Bible study and confirmation classes and is available in our times of crisis to minister to our physical and spiritual needs. He represents us in the ministerial alliance and in civic organizations. Ultimately, our pastor serves as the chief executive officer for our local church who leads us in our vision for ministry. **And, to help hold down expenses, for the fourth year in a row, our pastor's salary will remain at \$51,650.**

At Henryetta 1st UMC, we employ a youth director and a children's director. These two wonderful servants of God are responsible for providing the spiritual growth, direction, and Christian training of our children and youth. We have a custodian, who keeps our facilities clean, and tidy. Among other things, he does those tasks that we want done, but would rather not do ourselves. We also employ a church secretary, who is also paid to serve as our treasurer. She prepares newsletters, worship bulletins, pays our bills, keeps our membership rolls, and manages the office for us. We have a nursery worker who cares for the youngest, most vulnerable, charges in our care during worship services, and all of our meetings.

In late 2010, we created a missional outreach to the local community with our *Mother's Day Out* program. Even though the program is intended to be self sustaining from registration and weekly fees, the workers are officially employees of the Henryetta 1st UMC and we are obliged to account for \$5,800 for their salaries in our budget.

On top of salaries, we have a legal obligation to pay into the social security and medicare system on behalf of all our employees except our pastor who remains an employ of the church for income tax purposes and is considered self employed for social security purposes.

However, as with our pastor, for the fourth year in a row, none of our staff will be receiving salary increases. **Nevertheless, our 2011 budget includes right at \$59,367 for these employees who work on our behalf.** And, as part of our connectional responsibility, we also have an obligation **to pay \$11,279 into The United Methodist retirement system and disability program.**

In 2008, our congregation spent \$217,707.28 to fund our missional outreach, programming, and operating expenses. In 2009, we were able to keep that figure down to \$210,847.99. Last year, we budgeted \$224,739.40 for these same line items. But, utilities and other rising costs have driven our actual expenses above what we anticipated.

Your finance committee and the Church Council want to assure you that we have not arbitrarily increased our budget. Nevertheless, for 2011, we have increased our budget to reflect the financial reality in our economy and the life of the church. **Our total budget for 2011 has been set at \$234,045.65.**

When we join a local United Methodist congregation, we pledge to *“faithfully support the ministries of the local church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.”* We will be distributing pledge cards soon and you will have an opportunity to respond to the needs of the church.

Please prayerfully consider how you will support God's mission in and through our church in 2011.

May God continue to bless you richly.

Christmas Carol Quiz Answers

Born a child and yet a King — Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Mild He lays his glory by — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Ye who sang creations story — Angels From the Realms of Glory
And wonders of His love — Joy to the World
O how lovely, O how pure — He Is Born the Divine Christ Child (Il est né)
And still their heavenly music floats — It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing — O Come, All Ye Faithful
On a cold winter's night that was so deep — The First Noel
He come from the glorious kingdom — The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Lie the ages impearled — There's a Song in the Air
Where meek souls will receive Him still — O Little Town of Bethlehem
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb — We Three Kings
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds — Rise Up, Shepherds
Radiant beams from Thy holy face — Silent Night
Such a Babe in such a place — Good King Wenceslas
Haste, haste to bring Him laud — What Child Is This
That mourns in lonely exile here — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow — Infant Holy
Love for plea and gift and sign — Love Came Down at Christmas
I gave him hay to pillow his head — The Friendly Beasts
Ox and ass before him bow — Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Our God, heaven cannot hold him — In the Bleak Midwinter
True man yet very God — Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
He came down to earth from heaven — Once in Royal David's City
God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn — Go, Tell It on the Mountain
And thus that manger poor became a throne — The Snow Lay on the Ground
God's stupendous sign — Star-Child
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail — I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
This gift of God we'll cherish well — How Great Our Joy

Church Conference – One More Time

Our Church Conference is over with for another year. But, I want to take to say thank you to all those who helped prepare for this annual event. The light snack (it was really a meal) was wonderful. Not only were our committees attentive to the bureaucracy of the institutional church, but individual members of the congregation pitched in to report on the health of our congregation.

For those of you who missed the meeting, our District Superintendent related that many churches are struggling to find their place in ministry. Yet, as I wrote in my own report “This is, without a doubt, the busiest church I have ever served. There is always something happening at the church, and the members are always involved in something. ... When you track all these folks coming into the building – for whatever reason, ... we probably average between 200 and 250 folks a week throughout the year.” Wow! I cannot tell you how blessed I feel to be in ministry to and with this wonderful congregation.

Now, with all that having been said, our Kingdom work is just beginning – there are lots of folks, right here in Henryetta, who are not only not involved in the life of our church, but they aren't in any church. As part of our strategic plan, we have the opportunity to continue our outreach into the surrounding neighborhoods and to be who and what God would have us be, right here in this place.

Helping Hands Christmas Fund

At our council meeting in November, we agreed to take up funds to help those families who have been affected by the economic downturn. Many have lost jobs or unemployment has run out and they are facing a tough Christmas for their children. We want to take some of the pressure off these families by insuring that their children receive at least one gift that they really want. When these gifts have been bought, we will invite the chosen parents to come, wrap and label the gifts for their children and sit a spell to fellowship with our volunteers over cookies and coffee.



This is *Radical Hospitality* at its finest and it will bless our church family just as much, if not more, as the recipients. If you would like to help with this project, you can put your check in the offering plate. Be sure to specify that it is to go to the Helping Hands Christmas Fund. As a church we will also be applying for Project Noël so that we may also be able to supply games and stocking stuffers to these families. To be blessed is to be a blessing to others.

– Mark Your Calendars



Canata Service



6:00



A Christ Mass

11:00

Candlelight Communion Service



New Year's Eve

8:00

Get Together in the FLC



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Lori Vail
- 2 - Danny Turret
- 3 - Phoebe Boerstler
Alec Lyon
Rush Williams
- 8 - Sarah Duncan
Claudia Farrow
- 9 - Gail Rogers
- 12 - Phillip Agee
Betsy Hudson
- 13 - Lee Cothran
Cody Minyard
Frank Madden
Jessica Webster
Greg Williams
- 15 - Diana Cunningham
- 19 - Ron Hamilton
- 20 - Keaton Lollis
- 21 - Lisa Coale-Caid
- 23 - Greg Kelch
- 25 - Justin Palmer
- 26 - Mickey Dombek
- 27 - Rosalie Berkey
- 30 - Sharon Shoulders
- 31 - Kyle Clason

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 - John & Barbara Hricasko
- 17 - Terry & Judy Varner
- 19 - Larry & Gail Rogers
- 24 - Ron & Teresa Hamilton