First United Methodist Church
300 W. Delaware
Tahlequah, OK. 74464

December 15, 2011

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The Tahlequah Times

Rev. James Graham

From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas is coming! The decorations are up, and the time for shopping is drawing to a close. Christmas is just around the corner and soon we will be celebrating the birth of the Christ child. As I go from one holiday party to the next, the anticipation grows. I am excited to be spending Christmas eve and Christmas day with all of you!

We have several opportunities to worship together this Christmas, and I hope that all of you will take advantage of one or more of them. At 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, we will have a come and go communion opportunity for meditation and prayer. At 7 p.m. we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight and communion service. I am preparing a sermon entitled, "A Charlie Brown Christmas!" We will all gather for an inspiring service, celebrate communion together, and spill out of the sanctuary carrying the light of Christ singing Joy to the World! Later that evening, we are offering a Taize service at 11 p.m. in the atrium. This service offers us a chance to pray, read the scriptures, and reflect on the good news the angels announced so many years ago to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Christmas morning we will have a community potluck breakfast at 9:30 in the activity building, followed by our primary service at 10:40 in the sanctuary. I hope you'll join us as we sing Christmas carols and celebrate the birth of Jesus once more!

Are you tired of all the shopping? Fed up with being stuffed like a turkey at all the holiday parties? Come re-discover the reason for the season at Tahlequah First UMC on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. We have a place for you!

I, for one, am excited and will be looking for you this Christmas!

Pastor James

December 24th

- Come and Go Communion
  4 to 5 pm
- Candlelight Service
  7 to 8 pm
- Taize Service
  11 to 12pm

December 25
Pot-Luck Breakfast
10:40 Service

Open House Holiday Party @ the Parsonage December 17th

Christmas Pageant Practice
All Children
K thru 6th
December 17th
@ 5:00pm
We will eat Pizza and then go Ice Skating!!

Sorry, I got this backwards,,, a belated Birthday wish to all before the 15th!!

We are going GREEN!!

If you would still like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please let the office know by email or by phone.

Happy Birthday

Joann Terrell	12/2
Jodeen Worth	12/2
Sophia Sweeney	12/2
Melissa Keller	12/3
Brian Carroll	12/3
Nicholas Pruitt	12/4
David Veith	12/4
Charley Carroll	12/5
Megan Zimbelman	12/5
Cheryl Parrish	12/6
Keeton Moore	12/6
Gerald Benn	12/7
Earl Williams	12/7
Michelle Ferrell	12/7
Darcy Worth	12/7
Jeanette Wilson	12/8
Kathryn Morton`	12/9
Clarice Keller	12/9
Michael Morgan	12/10
Ryan Ullom	12/10
Mildred Carroll	12/11
Doyle Felts	12/11
Don Carroll	12/11
Jake Duvall	12/13
Retha Radar	12/14
Susan Stinnett	12/14
Stacy Breuklander	12/14

For The Record

Our Faithfulness in Presence and Giving
October 2011

Average Sunday School: 76 **Average Worship: 183**

Received this month to date:	$ 39,961
Needed this year:	$478,145
Budgeted this year to date:	$398,460
Received this year to date:	$394,109

Continuing to pray for…
Robert Isaacson
Brooke Anderson
John Tyler Walker
Michael Rigsby
Brian Wilkinson

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH AND/OR SUNDAY SCHOOL?

If you, or someone you know, need transportation to Sunday morning services please call the church office, (918)456-6141 and give the name and address of the person needing this service.
If several need a ride, we will implement a program to accommodate those in need.

UMW Report

Treasurer, Jill Farnik reported at our last General Meeting at Napoli's that our Fall Festival had brought in over $4,000. for our local mission giving. Our pledge to missions nationally of $4,600. has been paid and all mission agencies have received our end of year gifts. Plans are being made to continue our birthing kit project in 2012.

Our next General Meeting will be on *Tuesday, January 10* in the small dining room of the activity building at 11:45.
Our all church mission study will be on *Tuesday, February 21 from 9am to 3pm* where we will do the study **The Journey**, a look at the oncepts of forgiveness, restorative justice, and reconciliation, in the biblical tradition and in our own lives. Deaconess Pat Hoerth from Turtle Rock Farm Retreat Center will be our leader. She loves this study and has taught it a number of times in various places. Please mark your calendar for these opportunities for supportive fellowship and growth.

Jane Bond
UMW Communications Coordinator

Feed My sheep

We appreciate the love and support you give to this wonderful program. If you want to volunteer or Provide assistance, Call Janet Stucky 918-456-1630

Reminder

In order to get 2011 credit for your tax deductible donation we either need to receive it in the office by December 29th or have it postmarked by December 31st..

The Lee Denoma family cordially invites members of the congregation to help celebrate his 90th birthday **Saturday, December 17th** from **2-4pm** in the Go Ye Village Dining Room.

Thank you!!

Thanks isn't quite enough to say for all the wonderful love and concern shown to our family by the church members. It has comforted us in the past year and a half of Harold's illness. It is still felt in the days since his death. We especially thank Pastor James and Shana for their visits, support, and help during these hard times. Someone else already said what an amazing congregation you are and we wholeheartedly agree.

Patty Hall
Barbie Barnard
Sandi Lanham

The Wesley Foundation thanks each and everyone of you for the donations, love and support given during the year.

The Schmegule©

Sunday Dec. 18th
5:00pm TUMY Christmas Party
Wednesday Dec. 21st
4:30 Going To Muskogee Christmas Lights and Dinner
Sunday Dec. 25th Christmas
No TUMY
Wednesday Dec. 28th
No Bible Study

TUMY and I feel so very blessed to be a part of such a giving church. We are finishing up our Angel Tree gifts and making sure they all get delivered to the children in time for Christmas. We could not have taken on this mission project with out all of your help. We thank you so very much!!

We have a few things coming up this month to finish out our year together. We will be having our Christmas party this *Sunday the 18th* at the Schneiders (Katie's parents home). We will leave the church at 5pm. Bring a $5 gift for our game. We will return back at the church around 7pm. On *Wednesday the 21st* we will be going to Muskogee to look at the Christmas lights and have dinner. Meet at the church at 4:30 and bring money for dinner. We will return home around 8pm. Last but not least our New Years Eve party is *Dec. 31st* at 8pm to 8am the cost is $5. Come celebrate with us.
Merry Christmas EVERYONE!
Peace & Love,
Shana & TUMY

TUMY New Years Eve Party!! Your Invited! Bring a Friend And Celebrate with us.

Dec. 31st to Jan. 1st
8pm to 8am.
Cost is $5 includes: snacks, Party favors and Breakfast!

Angelea has a beautiful baby girl…

Railynn Faith
5 lbs. 13 oz.
16 3/4 in.

Don't forget that we have a great little daily devotional guide… ***The Upper Room*** in the Narthex for you to purchase.

J. C. News

We will be back in full force on Tuesday January 10th
Have a Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!!

Scripture Lesson

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
Matt 1:21

Ministry Team

Staff:
Senior Pastor…….Rev. James B. Graham III
Educational Ministries…..……...……...Shana Dry
Administrative Assistant……..Barbie Barnard
Choir Director…….…….Dr. Donald Studebaker
Organist……...……. Ramona Frazier
Bell Choir Director……..... Linda Cheatham
Pre K/Kids Day Out Director…….....Mindy Hendrix
Custodian……...……..Elaine Funburg
Nursery……..... ……Molly Scott/Angelea Dry

Extension Ministries:
Jane Anderson, UM Children's Home
Kaycee Young, Director, NSU Wesley Foundation
International Missionaries: Dr. Chris and Rev. Kristen Brown