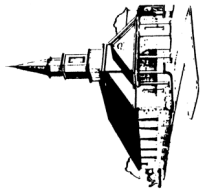
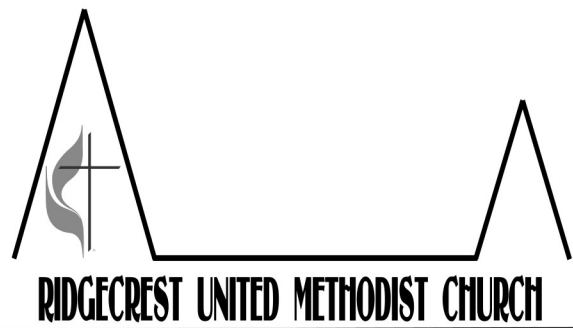


February 2012



The Proclaimer

3629 NW 25TH ST • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK • 73107
(405) 943-9536 • WWW.RIDGECRESTUMC.COM

Short Month, Long on Opportunities

Tuesday Night Bible Study

After a midwinter breather, our Tuesday Night Bible Study will begin again on February 7, 2012. Dinner is at 6PM. Please RSVP with the church office and bring \$3 to cover costs. The study at 6:30PM will be Beth Moore's "Refuge in the Storm." The meal will be prepared by our pastor, Diana and will be chicken. If you need child care, please contact the church office.

All Church Birthday Dinner

Once a year, we celebrate everybody's birthday, no matter its date. On Sunday, February 19, we will have this year's All Church Birthday Dinner. Cakes, bread, and drinks will be furnished. The meal is pot luck so bring your favorite meat, a side dish, or salad to share. The dessert is birthday cake — lots of it, all kinds!



Each table will be decorated for a specific month, with an accompanying cake or dessert. You will sit with the people who were born in the same month as you.

If you would like to provide a cake, or if you want to decorate a specific table, contact Myrtle Clingenpeel. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Sanctuary Choir "Diner" Fundraiser

Our Choir will hold a fundraiser on Sunday, February 26 starting at 5PM. It will be in the Fellowship Hall and there will be hot dogs (with chili, cheese, and other hot dog toppings) for sale. There will be root beer and Coke floats. Desserts will be auctioned off during the evening. The theme is a 50s and 60s diner. The members of the choir will be performing songs from that era during the meal and in between the auction items.



Plan to attend this event and enjoy the talents of our choir members. Our fundraising goal is new robes to replace our current attire, which are about a quarter-century old.

What's This "Lent" Thing Again?

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on February 22, 2012 and ends on April 7, 2012, which is the day before Easter.

Lent is a season for soul-searching and repentance, a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves, and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

February Birthdays

- 2/05 -- Vicky Baker
- Myrna Coulter
- 2/08 -- Jack Bryant
- 2/10 -- Elisabeth Bassett
- 2/11 -- Betty Stalcup
- 2/12 -- Claudine Dunlap
- Preston Draper
- 2/15 -- Megan Brake
- 2/18 -- Stephen Bryant
- Eva Lou Wallace
- 2/20 -- Jon Hollowell
- 2/22 -- Ron Arnhart
- 2/28 -- J.A. Kiser

Remember to Pray about ...

OUR SHUT-INS

Helen Mullins, Peg Rogers, Evelyn Overmyer, Maxine Gatewood, Betty Campbell, Flo Mason, Charlotte Smith, Kay Cooper, Jo Compton

Morgan, Jo Compton, Kay Cooper, Helen Mullins, Betty Jean O'Dell

DEATHS

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family of longtime member Virginia Holtberg, who died on January 5, 2012.

Would every one take a look around your kitchen at home? See if you have any of the church's glasses and silverware, because we seem to be missing some. Thanks!

OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

Helen Mullins, Betty Nelson, Ron Arnhart, Daniel Graham, Marge Ratzlaff, Lois Messenger, Eula Mae Sims, Leona Hicks, Ben Pulver

The February UMW meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, at 7PM, at the church.

And get ready for cinnamon rolls in March!



United Methodist Women

NEEDING PRAYER

Betty Nelson, Debbie



Food Pantry "Thank You"

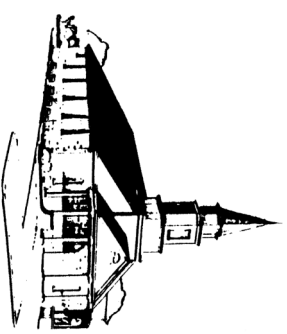
Our thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who brought enough supplies to refill our community Food Pantry. We always need and appreciate the help.

The format of the *Proclaimer* is a little different, beginning this month. Our financial and attendance information will be discussed during our Administrative Council meetings so our space in the *Proclaimer* can be better utilized in sharing all the wonderful ways God is working at Ridgecrest.



United Methodist Church

February



Regularly Scheduled Events

Sunday Morning

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

Sunday Evening

2-4PM Youth (call office for schedule)
6PM Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesday Evening

6PM Dinner (\$3)
6:30PM Bible Study

Office Hours

943 - 9536
Tuesday - Thursday
8:30AM to 1:30PM

Mobile Meals

8:30AM Tuesday
8:30AM Thursday

Choir Practice

7PM Wednesday

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
		7 Bible Study & Dinner 6PM - AA Meeting 7PM	8 Finance 6PM - Choir 7PM	9	10	11
	6					
	13	14 Bible Study & Dinner 6PM - Happy Valentine's!	15 Trustees 6PM - Choir 7PM	16	17	18
	20	21 UMW 7PM	22 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM - Choir	23	24	25
19 All Church Birthday Lunch						
26 "Diner" Choir Fundraiser 5PM	27	28 Bible Study & Dinner 6PM	29 Choir 7PM			

"The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within."

- William C. Bryant

Frank Sinatra said it best ... "Love is lovelier, the second time around"

The words of the song ring true with many seniors. It is especially poignant in the loss-to-love story of Charles and Naomi Wright.

After the tragic loss of his first wife Voncile, Charles decided that though he enjoyed the company of his children and grandchildren, it was time to start a new life. So, in 2003 after selling his home, which he had shared with his wife of 48 years, Charles moved to an independent retirement community in Plano, Texas. This choice was appealing as it provided the opportunity to make new friends and connect with people who shared some of the same interests. Starting over was scary, yet Charles knew this was the right decision for him and he quickly felt at home.

That same year, Naomi and her husband George, left their home in Oklahoma and moved to Plano where their son, daughter, and grandchildren lived. They were excited about their new life in Texas as they made friends and integrated themselves into their new community. Then tragedy struck a few months later. George fell ill and soon passed away. After 58 years of marriage, Naomi suddenly found herself living alone.

In time, Naomi picked herself up and got back into a routine. She started taking part in an aerobics class each morning. After class, the group would gather for coffee, pastries, and conversation, where Charles and Naomi were introduced. "Naomi's smile was so bright and her laughter filled the room," Charles said as he talked about the first few months of their friendship. "One day she walked by me and touched my shoulder... I knew."

"It was so unexpected" says Naomi. "I never thought anyone would be interested in me that way again." However, as time went by, both Charles and Naomi realized that this friendship was something special. On her birthday, Charles surprised Naomi by bringing a card to her apartment and asking her out for their first date.

Strangely enough, dating in your eighties is a lot like dating in your twenties. Naomi said that she was so excited, she wanted to run and tell all of her friends. But, soon reality set in, when it came time for Naomi to tell her children about her budding romance. She was unsure of how they were going to react. "At first, it was difficult for my son," recalls Naomi, although "it was a little easier for my daughter to accept." With encouraging friends and their minister's blessing, Charles and Naomi continued to share their love for each other. On February 6, 2006, they were married in a beautiful ceremony with their friends and loved ones surrounding them.

In February 2012, Charles and Naomi will celebrate their 6th wedding anniversary. Including their courtship, they will have been together for eight years. They enjoy participating in activities alongside one another, but also allow each to pursue their own interests. Naomi shares her weekly card game with friends and Charles has taken several classes at the Plano Senior Center. "Being together is an awareness," says Charles. "Just knowing the other person is there for you is comforting."

After all this time together, Charles and Naomi have a deep understanding of the many blessings that have been bestowed upon them. And with every passing day, this love story continues...

"Who can say what brought us to this miracle we've found, there are those who'd bet, love comes but once, and yet, I'm oh so glad we met...the second time around."

Ash Wednesday Opportunities

We will have a Prayer Vigil on February 22, from 6:30AM to 6:30PM. Sign-up sheets will be available in all adult Sunday School Classes and in Narthex.

We will have an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30PM. Join us for a special service signaling the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will begin February 26th for youth 4th grade and up. We will meet after

church each Sunday during Lent -- lunch will be provided. This is a special time for the kids to explore what it means to have a faith of their own. We will explore things like TAG time (Time Alone with God), The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, and what it means to live a life of faith. This special time will be shared with the youth from Clark UMC. Please be in prayer for all the youth during this time of faith exploration, that they will come to know our Lord in a more personal way.



GETTING INTO THE



SPIRIT

The one who plants and the one who waters each have one purpose and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers, you are God's field, you are God's building.

-- I Corinthians 3:8-9

This passage in 1 Corinthians is an important reminder that EACH of us has an important part in fulfilling God's Kingdom on earth.

We won't get any flowers or vegetables out of a garden if we don't plant the seeds. Likewise, after the seeds are planted, the garden must be watered and tended. All of these things work together -- seed, water, weeding, to get a garden to grow. In the church, it also takes everyone working together in a variety of

ways, to accomplish the goal. All of us are called to serve.

February 22 begins the Holy season known as Lent. Technically, Lent is the 47 days before Easter, however Sunday's are not officially included in the count. So Lent is considered to be the 40 days before Easter. Throughout the Bible, the number 40 is considered to be a number of significance -- a number representing preparation.

Lent is to be just that, for each of us -- a time of preparing our hearts and lives to more closely reveal the Image of Christ. It is a season of soul-searching and repenting.

Many Christians practice "giving up" something for Lent -- like cokes or chocolate, as an act of self-sacrifice. However, the concept of "giving up" is to have the purpose of bringing us closer to Christ. If we give up cokes or candy bars during Lent, we could use that money as a special offering for those others, such as Mobile Meals or the food pantry.

However we choose to recognize this Holy season, we must remember the purpose is to draw our lives closer to Christ and to examine the ways we can more closely imitate Christ's example.

Which brings us back to 1 Corinthians. How are we living our faith? Are we planting seeds of faith in the lives of others? Are we watering and tending the faith of others through deeds of compassion, grace and mercy?

As we get ready to prepare our gardens for spring planting, may we also prepare our hearts to receive God's message of forgiveness, hope, and love in new ways as we find ways to bloom where we have been planted in the lives of those around us. May we become a fragrant blessing or nourishment for someone's soul, this very day.

*May the Love of God and Peace of Christ
be with you,*

Diana

Ridgecrest United Methodist Church
3629 NW 25th St
Oklahoma City, OK • 73107
- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED -

Phone: 405 - 943 - 9536
Fax: 405 - 943 - 9537 (Call First)
Email: ridgecrestumc@sbcglobal.net



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February Sermons: Focus on Stewardship

In February we will continue our sermon series on stewardship. Stewardship is about more than money -- it is in how we use our time, talents, gifts, treasures, and witness.

February 5 - "Living in the Zone";
February 12 - "A Sad Man Walking."

In preparation for Lent, the sermon for February 19 will focus on the Baptism and Wilderness experience of Jesus and how God used those times to prepare Jesus for ministry to us!

Lenten Sermons: "Journey to Hope"

Join us each Sunday as we discover

how our daily lives can become hope-filled and joy-lived, regardless of the circumstances around us. Week 1 of the series is February 26 - "Who Are Your Traveling Companions?"

Mobile Meals Fundraiser

Edgar Cruz will be in concert Sunday, February 12, 2012 at the Church of the Servant, 14343 N. MacArthur Blvd. The 3PM concert is free and open to the public. An offering will be taken to support the Mobile Meals Program. Dr. Robert Gorrell, pastor at Church of the Servant will make a special guest appearance on the guitar.

