

Hello February

Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



So much has happened since our last newsletter! The biggest news is the addition of *two new babies* to our church family, within the same day in December. WELCOME **Nathan Atakli and Archer Bundy!** May God help us to be a blessing to these new lives. Both arrived just before other children of our church helped us to celebrate the wonderful story of Christmas with their drama and music. In January we were blessed by the ministry of CTI in music and drama, with our teen lock-in and Sunday morning celebration.

As we enter February, we celebrate the love God has shown to us. We continue celebrating Epiphany, looking at *how Jesus is revealed to us and to the world*, and on **Ash Wednesday, February 18, we begin the season of Lent**, remembering how Jesus gave his life for us—and called us to give our lives to him. Ash Wednesday will also introduce a **new prayer emphasis** for the season of Lent—and beyond.

The Sunday sermon series for Lent will focus on “**Letting Christ Be Lord,**” looking at the different aspects of our lives we are called to submit to His direction. The series will begin on February 22 with what Jesus taught us about *prayer*, and will include a **message from Pastor Jeremy on March 15 on “Jesus as Lord of our Families,”** when we celebrate the presentation of the newborns to God.

What could be more strange than giving our ultimate life loyalty to someone who had been executed as a criminal? The **Wednesday night Bible study series** between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week will look at “**The Cross in the New Testament.**” We will look at the major writers of New Testament books, discovering how each one adds to our understanding of the meaning of Jesus’ death for us.

But even as I try to give you hints about upcoming preaching, teaching and programs, I want all who read this to know first of all that you are loved by God, and that we are here to help you know God’s love and share it with others. May February, a month when we think about human love, be a month when our hearts are filled to overflow with Heaven’s love!

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Dwight T Gregory



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH**

The entire church community will meet for an **Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 7PM.** Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season.

During the service the sign of the cross will be placed on either the forehead or the right hand of each person. The ashes are from the burnt palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday and reserved for this sacred time. Hymns, prayers, Scripture readings and the Lord's Supper will all be part of the service.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Thanks for your generous giving to the Building Fund! More than \$2,000 per month was added during 2014, and the giving continues. After evaluating gifts and pledges, our Building Committee has submitted new instructions to our architect, so that we can make maximum improvements in harmony with our patterns of giving. Major improvements to sanctuary, welcome area, classrooms, and elsewhere will be coming soon. *You will appreciate the new chairs for fellowship hall, chapel, and classrooms that should arrive in a few weeks.*

Please continue praying and giving!
We want our facilities to glorify God and welcome newcomers warmly.

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Candlelight Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 21st at 11AM. This is a time in which we remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who passed away during the previous calendar year. If you lost a loved one in 2014, we would like to honor him or her. Please send a photograph with the name of your loved one to the church office, attention: Pastor Paula, or email her at pastor_paulai@yahoo.com by Friday, February 13th. There will be a reception following the ceremony.

You may RSVP to Pastor Paula Farley 618.9595.



CHURCH NEWS

The Ladies Bible Study on Tuesday, February 17th at 10AM at the church. This study in John's Letters will help us find the beauty that is precious in God's sight and needful for our daily Christian walk.
For more info contact Martha Borgers 619.1196.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP
The men meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 6PM. If you have any questions or want to know more about the prayer group contact Ron Borgers at 619.1196.

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON
On Friday, February 13th at 12:00 NOON the Seniors will go to the Harrah Steak House (1077 North Harrah Road Harrah, OK, phone: 454.6545). The program will feature Jennifer Crandall playing Lap Harp Music. If you would like transportation to Harrah please contact Harold Bishop at 741.6484.



If you want to find a group that works well for you, would like to open your home for a new group, or just want more info, contact Pastor Jeremy at 821.8575.

YOUTH EVENTS

James "Grandpa" Farley has invited the whole church to join him skating on Thursday, February 12 at 7pm. If you are interested in going, have your parents bring you to the Choctaw Skating Rink by 7pm and pick you up at 9pm. If you do not have a ride, contact the church office at 732.0648.

We're going skating...and it's free!!!

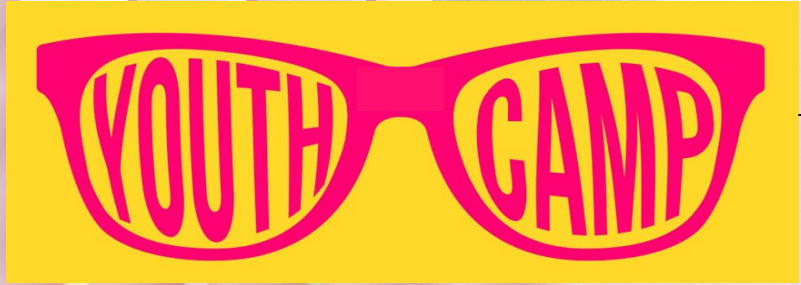


We are currently going through a series on Wednesday nights called Extreme Faith. Through these lessons we are learning about young people in the Bible who had various aspects of extreme faith. We have already learned about Isaac and Joseph.
Keep coming to learn about more!

The theme verse that ties these lessons all together is *1 Timothy 4:12*
"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."



THIS camp is for Middle School and High School students, so if the dates or price for the Middle School camp do not work for you start thinking about going to Camp Arrowhead. More information to follow.



The middle school camp at Durley in Greenville, Illinois is June 15-19. The cost for the camp itself is \$205, not including transportation and food on the way there and back. The theme this summer is "Live Like That" and the speaker is Ben Tolly, Superintendent of the Gateway Conference



For more info on the camp, visit durleycamp.org.

