

Meet Dr. Powers



Emmett Powers, a former member of this church, has accepted the position of Temporary Supply while our P.N.C. seeks a new pastor for us. Thanks to Robert Lowry, we have completed the interim process, so the Rev. Dr. Powers will provide services three and a half days per week. This relationship shall begin effective January 1, 2012, until June 30, 2012, at which time it may be renewed with the concurrence of session, the committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas

and the Temporary Supply. We heartily welcome the Powers!

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, the Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers grew up in West Memphis, Arkansas. After high school he attended Ouachita Baptist University where he majored in religion and philosophy. He attended seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he completed a Master of Divinity degree, majoring in New Testament exegesis and community ministries. After complet-

January Birthdays

01/01	Andrew Pope
01/08	Sue Ogilvie
01/10	Steve Case
01/13	Mike Ennis
01/14	Evelyn Clark
01/15	Hutton Grace
01/20	Robert Baker
01/21	Larry Whipple
01/21	Alex Cooke
01/21	Joey Steen
01/22	Eamon Ennis
01/24	Blake Lanier
01/26	Oana Ennis
01/26	Dick Nelms
01/26	Gerald Fowler
01/27	Tom Cummins
01/27	Bob Qualls
01/28	Diane LaCroix
01/28	Jack Lanier

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Ordinary Time</i>	2
<i>Angel Tree Pictures</i>	3
<i>Worship Notes</i>	4
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	5
<i>Leslie's Note</i>	6
<i>PNC Report</i>	7
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	8

ORDINARY TIME IS IT REALLY ORDINARY?

The Latin *Tempus Per Annum* (“time throughout the year”) is rendered into English as “Ordinary Time.” Many sources suggest that Ordinary Time gets its name from the

word ordinal, meaning “numbered”, since the Sundays of Ordinary Time, as in other seasons, are expressed numerically. However, others suggest the etymology of “Ordinary Time” is related to our word ordinary (which itself has a connotation of time and order, derived from the Latin word *ordo*). Ordinary Time occurs outside of other liturgical time periods, periods in which specific

aspects of the mystery of Christ are celebrated. Ordinary time does not need to be “ordinary,” and is not meant to mean that somehow we get a break from the Liturgical Year. The opposite is true: Ordinary Time celebrates “the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.” We also may remember and celebrate the parts of Jesus’ life that were ordinary, much like our own lives.

*Meet Dr. Powers
(continued)*

ing three years in a pastoral position, he served in Costa Rica and later in Argentina doing mission activities. Upon his return, he served a church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and later accepted a call to a church in Milton, Florida. He moved to Denver, Colorado, where he developed church and community missions, particularly in immigrant communities. While there he also completed his Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in developing ministry programs in urban settings. His research earned an Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. In 1993, his pilgrimage led away from the Baptist faith to the reformed church. In 2002, he became a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. He has served as Vice-moderator of the Committee on Ministry and Moderator of the Committee on Congregational Care and Development. He led the presbytery in the development of a disaster response program.

He now serves on the Committee on Mission. He has been a participant in the John Lieth Foundation’s study groups for several years, including cohort gatherings at Austin, McCormick, and Princeton seminaries.

Dr. Power’s avocational interests are in archeology and heritage studies. He is a student at Arkansas State University in the Heritage Studies Ph.D. program where his research has been on the idea of wilderness in the Territory of Arkansas, 1819-1836. He is married to Virginia Morris Powers and has two children and three grandchildren, Sean Michael, Colin James and Conyer Stephen.

Angel Tree Giving Spreads Joy this Christmas

Thanks to your generosity,

70 kids

from 33 families

and 8 local seniors

had a merrier Christmas this year!!

Thank you all for helping to share some joy this season!



FPC Youth shopping for their angels



FPC Narthex, filled with toys



18 bikes loaded up for delivery

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine brighten your heart.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.

And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.

*Happy
New
Year*

**FROM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Preaching and Worship Schedule

January 1, 1st Sunday after Christmas

Preacher: Dr. Powers

Text: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21: 1-6a

Sermon Title: *Give Me Just a Little More Time*

Focus: What would you do with another second or two? Some people said they would share a kiss with their spouses. At least two others said that they might start and finish a novel they had always been thinking about writing.

Philosophically, though, I wonder what difference it would make if I were to think of time in ways that were not so complicated by the continual, and perpetual no less, thumping of the clock's second hand in our heads. Pardon me for the anachronism. lol

Hymns: *O Come, All Ye Faithful; Our God, Our Help in Ages Past; Joy to the World*

Liturgist: Bill Walmsley

Communion

January 8, Baptism of the Lord

Preacher: Dr. Powers

Text: Genesis 1: 1-5; Psalms 29

Sermon Title: *Never Again the Same*

Focus: In our faith, we make an annual journey back to our own baptisms. Whether we were sprinkled, poured on, or immersed, whether as children or adults, we are reminded to re-imagine our lives. We could re-imagine what our lives might have been outside the community of belief we call Christianity, and some will, but that is awkward and hard to do. But, we also, gratefully, remember that each year brings new and colorful insights into why being a part of this community is something we could not have done without.

Hymns: *How Firm a Foundation; Lord, When You Came to Jordan; Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Liturgist: Lynn Weatherman

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

January 15, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Powers

Text: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 11-20; Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18; John 1: 43-51

Sermon Title: *What Now?*

Focus: All of us can relate to Philip. At times we struggle with how to be faithful beyond our own resources, insecure at moments, but always taking two steps forward and on occasion one step back. It is enough in the end to hear the Master say, "Enter thou good and faithful servant, since faithfulness is all that is asked of us."

Hymns: *Great is Thy Faithfulness; Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah; I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Liturgist: Sue Johnston

January 22, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Powers

Text: Jonah 3: 1-5; Psalms 62: 5-12; Mark 1: 14-20

Sermon Title: *What to Do About Missions Impossible*

Focus: Maybe how we think about God is so culturally structured that we cannot even think how God might be able to locate a fish alongside a ship in a stormy sea to catch a fellow and then cough him up out on dry ground. We are puzzled at how a little critter like a worm can just nibble away, doing its own thing and yet affecting the outcome of a story still told today. Even the vine is as important as the whale, the worm, and the water that Jonah experienced. Interesting that the numbers of inhabitants recorded in the Book of Jonah noted a bunch of animals, too. One wonders how many of them might be on a mission impossible right now.

Hymns: *Be Thou My Vision; Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Liturgist: Ken Rueter



Pastoral Care

Please remember these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

Janet Wood; Robert & Luann Baker; Oscar Fields; Camille Anderson; Barry Gehm; Marie Fowler; Joann Davis, (mother of Nancy McSpadden); Susan Anselm (sister of Jo Gehm); Katie Adams; Rev. Frank Brooks & Family; Joann and Michael Harding (friends of Lenora Baldwin); Shirley Martin (friend of Melissa Qualls); Nancy Kelley (sister-in-law of Trish Boylan); N. E. & Wanda Johnston; Helen Evans, (grandmother of LeAnn Holmes); Lily Allder; Mary Lou Oliver; Helen Margaret Blyth; Bess Wolf; Sterling Lowmiller, (father of Cindy Cooke); Family of Becky Culley, (sister of Sandy Qualls); Martha Campbell, (friend of Melissa Qualls); John McDougal, (friend of Celeste & Larry Whipple); Jacque Watson, (sister of Jimmy Lue Liles); Bob Lowry, (father of Robert Lowry); Trisha Calaway Walden, (sister of Camille Anderson); Bettye Jones; Norma Swetnam; and Susan Anderson.

In the Presbytery of Arkansas, we remember to pray for these ministries:

January 1: First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
January 8: Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
January 15: First, Benton	Active Ruling Elders
January 22: Active Deacons	Faith, Horseshoe Bend

**He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6: 8**

Preaching and Worship Schedule (continued)

January 29, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Rev. Roper

Text: Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Sermon Title: Love Will Keep Us Alive

Focus: Knowledge is important, and especially knowledge about God. But what happens when we put that knowledge above everything else? That knowledge can turn into arrogance, and can become an idol itself. Paul tells us that love can be our insurance policy against that happening, if we can learn to hold our knowledge in tension with the love that Jesus came to proclaim.

Hymns: *God Is Here!; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling!; Open My Eyes That I May See*

Liturgist: Max McElmurry

JANUARY

GREETERS

01/08 Sam Cooke

01/15 Ray LaCroix

01/22 Betty Adams

01/29 Mike Ennis

Leslie's Note

One of my favorite Sundays of the year is coming up. This one doesn't come with a lot of liturgical flair, but it does come with some delicious snack food and the year's funniest commercials. Yes, that's right, Super Bowl Sunday. But over the past 22 years, Super Bowl Sunday has turned into something else as well- Souper Bowl Sunday.

Brad Smith was a seminary intern at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC in 1990. While the youth were planning their annual Super Bowl Party, he offered this simple prayer:

Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.

Why not, Brad and his youth asked themselves, use Super Bowl Sunday as a chance for youth to respond to issues of hunger within their own community? So, that first year, they got 22 local churches involved and raised \$5,700 for local area non-profits. Since then, youth in churches across the country have collected over \$50 million to donate to local soup kitchens, food banks, and other hunger-related charities. What a difference those youth have made in the lives of others. And all because of a simple prayer.



Your youth will stand by the doors of the sanctuary this Super Bowl Sunday (February 5th) with soup pots in hand accepting donations that will go to Help and Hope, and we hope that you will give generously. The money that is donated is important, and goes to a great cause. But the story of Souper Bowl Sunday is even more important than that. A simple prayer offered before a football game united youth across the country to raise millions of dollars for charities, a prayer that was given legs by the youth who heard it. All this raises the question- what is it that we are praying for? And what can we do to give our prayers legs?

HELP YOUR SELF

MORE WAYS THAN ONE

There is a gift for you waiting in the narthex. It is the publication "These Days" provided for the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. In the booklet are daily meditations and devotions written by clergy and lay leaders. "These Days" is a source of comfort and hope throughout the world and has been in print for thirty-five years. The current issue has daily devotions for the months of January, February and March. Please take one home with you and see what comfort and enjoyment it will bring to you.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



You are urged to remain after worship service on January 8 to enjoy a delicious lunch with your church family. Brush up on your Italian and be prepared to enjoy spaghetti and meat sauce, salad and hot bread.

LITURGISTS FOR JANUARY

01/01	Bill Walmsley
01/08	Lynn Weatherman
01/15	Sue Johnston
01/22	Ken Rueter
01/29	Max McElmurry

PNC REPORT

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was selected by our Session. The Committee met with liaisons from the Presbytery's Committee On Ministry (COM) and with the General Presbyter who provided insight into the pastor search process.

Thereafter, the PNC drafted a Church Information Form (CIF) which was approved by the Session and the COM. The CIF was posted on-line through the General Assembly and a computer search was made for potential candidates. Ministers seeking a call post their Personnel Information Forms (PIF) on-line, and the initial search revealed a number of potential matches. In addition, we have received a number of PIFs from Ministers who have seen our CIF on-line.

Presently, we are evaluating these PIFs to determine which ones look like good matches for our church. Once we have found the best potential candidates for our church we will begin a background check procedure that also involves the General Presbyter and COM.

While this process is labor intensive and time consuming, it is the best procedure to select a Minister that fits our church and is called by God to serve our congregation.

Bill Walmsley

Moderator PNC

Mark Your Calendars

S.L.A.M. meets on Wednesday, January 11, 18, & 25 at 3:30. Fun, Fun FUN!!!
CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals will be held each Wednesday in January at 7:00pm.
COMMITTEES will meet on January 3. Check with Moderators for any changes.
LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, January 4, at Elizabeth's at noon. Dutch Treat!
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after services on Sunday, January 8.
FELLOWSHIP LUNCH immediately after worship service on January 8.
MORNING CIRCLE will meet on January 10 at 9:30 in the church parlor.
EVENING CIRCLE will meet on January 10 at 6:30 in the church parlor.
DEACONS meet at 5:30 Tuesday, January 10, in Fellowship Hall.
KNIT WITS will meet on January 5 and 19 at 10:00am in the church parlor.
SESSION meets at 5:30 Tuesday, January 17, in the church parlor.
BINGO FOR BANANAS is conducted each Friday in January at Woodlawn Nursing Home.

Deadline for February Newsletter Entries is January 18.

Please submit articles via the new email address: firstpresbatesville@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church
775 E. Boswell
Batesville, AR 72501

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