



MARCH 2009

Sunday Regular Schedule

9:00am Disciples Class
 9:30am Sunday School Class
 10:30am Fellowship
 10:45am Worship Service

Ushers:
Presby Cab:
Hospital Visitor:
Liturgist:

Bennie & Joan Drake
 Vicki Zimmerman
 Bennie Drake
 Beverly Moody

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> Annual Congregational meeting and election of officers immediately following worship service	2 10:30am Staff Meeting	3 6:00pm Fellowship and Renewal Mtg	4 5:30pm Calvin Institute Discussion Group. 6:00pm Worship/Music 7:00pm Choir Practice	5	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> 9:30am Stone Chapel Methodist Church	7
8 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Celebrate the <i>Gifts of Women</i> 6:00pm Chili Cook Off Daylight Savings time begins	9 10:30am Staff Meeting Noon-Health & Safety Meeting	10 11:30 - 1:30 Spud Lunch at FUMC 5:30pm Mission Committee Mtg 5:30pm Diaconate Meeting	11 5:30pm Calvin Institute Discussion Group. 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 1:30pm Circle II Mtg	13 9:30am Circle I Mtg	14
15 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Youth Food Harvest (Canned Meat)	16 <i>Pastor Evans – Interim pastor training thru 3-20</i>	17	18 <i>Noon – Birthday Lunch @ El Palacio</i> 5:30pm Calvin Institute Discussion Group. 7:00pm Choir Practice	19 5:30pm Witness & Evangelism Mtg	20	21
22 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	23 10:30am Staff Meeting	24 <u>Faw Entry Deadline</u> 6:00pm Property & Maintenance Mtg 6:30pm Session Mtg	25 5:30pm Calvin Institute Discussion Group. 7:00pm Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	30 10:30am Staff Meeting	31				



As I write this article, we continue on a “Extreme Fire Danger” alert. The literature tells us that both the western U.S. and the South experience high fire activity. Within this hazardous environment, there are homes, subdivisions and entire communities ill-prepared to survive an intense wildfire! Our ability to live more safely depends on “pre-fire” activities: research findings identify that by being proactive there's an increased opportunity of saving lives and property.

We cannot “fire proof” the forest, but we can:

- manage the vegetation around homes to create a defensible space for protection;
- use fire resistant building materials when building new or improving homes;
- help design new subdivisions using fire-safe measures; and
- ensure coordination among all emergency response agencies to wildland fires.

Three components of the fire environment determine its behavior: weather, topography and fuel. Although weather (wind movement specifically) and topography (slope of a hill) cannot be changed, the fuel (vegetation) can be modified—native ground cover near the home does help. There are now truly “fire proof” plants but some are more fire resistant than others. “Fire smart” plants are: less likely to ignite from a wildfire; burn less intensely when they do ignite and spread the fire more slowly; lower growing or smaller; have stems and leaves that are not resinous, oily or waxy; have a high moisture content; are easy to maintain and prune; have less accumulated debris and fewer dead branches; have an open, loose branching habit and are drought resistant, requiring less irrigation.

Vegetation Differences

Type of Vegetation	Flame Length	Number of Acres Burned in One Hour	Travel Speed of Fire
Pine Forest	12 feet	340 acres	2 mph
Hardwood Forest	7 feet	75 acres	1 mph
Grasslands & Coastal Vegetation	45 feet	3000 acres	5.5 mph

The above types of vegetation and the computer-generated data estimates how the burn would occur with a wind speed of 20 mph, flat terrain and typical moisture content of living and dead vegetation in the spring.

One component of being proactive is making a list of items you'd take along in the event of an emergency. They might be organized in a location so they can be grabbed quickly. Many victims of these emergencies describe their greatest losses as family pictures, important documents and non-replaceable heirlooms. One family stated they put these items in plastic trash barrels which could be sealed. Ask for a list if you need ideas.

Should you wish more information regarding common fire resistant plants, “fire smart” landscape design, defensible homes, or measures to be taken should a wildfire approach, you may pick up an informational handout. Web sites which may be helpful are: www.oda.state.ok.us/forestry-home.htm; and www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/spf.

Joanne Flanders, Parish Nurse