



Rev. Thompson Murray, Senior Pastor
thompsonwmurray@gmail.com



Rev. Anne Holcomb, Associate Pastor
holcomb@sbcglobal.net



Sarah Scott Blakey, Church Admin.
qqumc@sbcglobal.net



Diana Brandon, Music Director
diana.brandon@sbcglobal.net

Have you ever seen Mary Tyler Moore and Julie Andrews tapdance their hotel elevator into motion? The metal screen doors close their 1920s elevator and they softshoe their way up to their rooms. Classic flapper fun. Glorious days of the early elevators. Few who have seen Quapaw Quarter's elevator doors can forget the comparison to "Thoroughly Modern Millie." And many have reported they tried a cautious shuffle-ball-step in the narrow space.

Cautiously. Very cautiously, because it is apparent that QQ's elevator had outlived its "production value" and Might. Not. Make. It.

But all that is to change. Work on the fifty-year old elevator began in the middle of October and will continue through most of November. Hurrah! You can cancel your tap lessons and donate the funds to QQ.



THE VIEW

November 2011

THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT

by Rev. Thompson Murray

There are many wonderful things about autumn. It's great for people who enjoy football and other seasonal sports. Some people recognize this as the time of the year when we get fresh apples and cranberries. We all enjoy reprieve from the heat and the beauty of the changing leaves. I recognize and look forward to all of the above, but for those of us in the church business, this is also that time of the year when we start thinking about next year's budget and how we will generate support for our financial needs. I prefer the search for a good apple more than I like the quest for an effective stewardship campaign, but it's not hard for me to see the value of generating financial support for our church.

Due to some "off season" fundraising activities that we've engaged in here at QQUMC, this is actually the first time we're going to present you with an opportunity to pledge your support for our church at this time, the most sensible time of the year to do such a thing. We're getting the house in order!

I know the sight of a fundraising letter from the church pales in comparison with the view of fall foliage, but the soon-to-be arriving letter is certainly worthy of your attention. Our pledge card may not be an awe-inspiring sight, but it's not an insignificant piece of paper. This card will provide you with *the opportunity to say that you care* about QQUMC.

I hope you care that we are the only United Methodist church in Arkansas that has taken the bold step of becoming aligned with the Reconciling Ministry Network in order to stand against the hurtful language in the Book of Discipline in regard to our LGBT brothers and sisters. I hope you love the way we provide space and leadership for programs that provide our poorest neighbors with hot meals, groceries, and food for their pets. I hope you want to provide support for those who are pouring themselves into our grace-filled worship service each Sunday morning. I hope you desire to encourage the dear souls who are teaching Sunday School or Bible studies and for those who provide other learning opportunities for our children each week. I hope you have great affection for the beautiful historic facility we have the privilege to occupy. I hope you cherish the fact that our church has a strong tradition of supporting the work of local artists.

In my mind, the primary question is: "Do you want there to be a United Methodist Church in Little Rock that serves Jesus Christ in a faithful manner but without many of the traditional religious constraints we generally associate with 'church'?" I hope you find that to be an easy question to answer, and I hope your answer will translate into generous support for this great church!~~

QQUMC WELCOMING STATEMENT:

"Drawn together by the loving grace of God, we of Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church believe that there are no inherent barriers to living in relationship with Christ. We welcome into our faith community people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, physical and mental abilities, economic means, and family structures."



QUAPAW QUARTER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1601 S. Louisiana St.
Little Rock, AR 72206
Phone: 375-1600
Fax: 372-0528
Web: www.qqumc.org

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 870
Little Rock, AR

A LETTER TO THE CHURCH, THE PEOPLE OF QQUMC

We missed you last Sunday!

I came to QQUMC almost three years ago, in search of a new church home and family. I was raised in church so I have been infused with the sense of community and have been around Christians all my life. You could almost say I was born with Faith, but I have come to realize over my 47 years that my faith and what “church” means to me has changed.

As a child I was forced to go to church and—for the most part—resented my parents for making me go twice on Sunday and once on Wednesday night. As I became a teen and then an adult, I kept on going for some reason. When Brent and I were asked to leave the church I grew up in because we were a couple, I resented organized religion for a long time and lost my Christian family connection. We both missed church and vowed to find a new church when we moved to Little Rock.

We were welcomed with open arms in a [local] church as a couple. That was a wonderful feeling, and something neither of us had ever known from a church family. We later visited QQUMC and found a need for choir members, and I felt needed. That is a good feeling, don't you think? Each of you are needed for whatever God-given gift you have to share. Even if you are only a member of

the congregation and never sing a special or read scripture, you are a gift to this church family by your prayers, presence, gifts, and witness. That is what we vowed to [offer], isn't it?

Being in the choir, we have a completely different perspective on the Sunday morning service. Right now it is hard for us to hear Thompson's sermon because we have no monitor, so we have to listen very carefully or just meditate. One advantage is we see who is and isn't there on Sunday mornings, just like Thompson and Anne. I have noticed in the past few weeks that there are several regular members missing on a regular basis. This concerns me a lot. We, as members, made that vow to uphold our church with our presence. I take that vow very seriously. If we, as members of the church, don't bother to show up or let something interfere with coming, then why should anyone else? I realize that Church is not a top priority anymore, not really important enough. What a shame.

I have three questions:

Why do you come to Church?
Why do you come to this Church?
Why didn't you come last Sunday?

I truly hope the answer to the first one is to worship GOD! There can be many answers to the second question, but I really hope it is because you feel like you belong and know the heart of

this church is in the right place and we are here for the right reasons. My reasons? It is the place I can be most effective in serving my God! I am allowed to worship Him openly and freely, just as I am and as He made me. I am here following no man or woman... just HIM!

We are a small church in a big old building and, most likely, will always be. But we, as members of QQUMC, should renew our effort to set an example, to invite someone to come and see what WE are about. Put off whatever you need to do on Sunday for one hour.

We have a family reunion every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. There is always something great happening but if you don't like what Thompson has to say, or what's being sung, then you have some extra time to talk to God. It is the reason we are there—right? I understand there are just times when you need to get out of town. We know you must visit family sometime, or go on that much-needed vacation, but we really do miss you when you are not there.

Blessings, and I love you all,
Dave Mcleod

Editor's note: Dave sent QQ this wonderful letter and we are pleased to share it here.

This letter has been altered to fit the space.

The View from a Trustee

It takes an amazing amount of work to make a twenty-first century congregation operate successfully in this ancient hulk of a building.

We were told some time ago that our own little fun house ride (i.e. our elevator) would no longer cut the mustard with the state regulatory board. We had to raise a great deal of money or do without handicapped access to the second floor and above. With the dogged work of many, by the time you read this Arkansas Elevator Company will have begun work to revamp our vintage elevator. We now face the challenge of making Fellowship Hall accessible to all.

Utility costs have long gobbled up more than their share of the church's money while never effectively—nor efficiently—heating or cooling the building. It was hard to know where to begin to attack this huge issue so a mechanical engineer was hired to provide an assessment and a master plan for addressing our utility costs and usage. Noah Kinder of EECI gave us some easy things we could do right away and a map for long range work.

In the midst of developing a plan to revamp our heating and cooling issues our HVAC units were vandalized by a thief (twice!) looking for copper pipe.

Jennifer Herron and the Trustee Committee dealt extensively with the insurance people to maximize the settlement amount then worked closely with Scott Services to figure out a way to heat and cool not only the sanctuary, but the Fellowship Hall by installing a damper system!

Our beautiful church is a great spot to be married but we needed to do something with the tired looking parlor and other areas for use by wedding parties. Church members pooled resources from everywhere and the church was the location of several weddings this summer and has inspired many compliments on our beautiful facilities.

New doors were sorely needed for the 16th St. entrance so beautiful ones were crafted by Mr. Dick Mills (Ricky Mills' father) and painted by Ricky and Pam. They now open and close with ease and look much better. A new locking system and intercom were also installed at that entrance and plans are to install an awning over the door.

Others donated a security camera and Karl Hansen painted the stairs on that north and west sides of the church as well as the stairs to Fellowship Hall. We are in the process of getting historically appropriate colors to paint

the front doors.

The choir room, library, and parlor have newly refinished floors. Karl said the old library floor looked like the bottom of a pigeon coop—and speaking of pigeons, the vestiges of many a pigeon or varmint unknown were left in the belfry. Before we could address a roof leak, we hired a hazardous waste company to remove the pigeon waste. Karl will then close over their means of egress and the roof can be repaired.

Plans are under way to modernize our sound system so that folks in the choir loft might actually hear the service!

Harry Truman said: "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." While that is certainly true at QQUMC, Jennifer Herron who lent her professional expertise as Chair of the Board of Trustees has been a Godsend to the church and we owe her our heartfelt gratitude.

There are undoubtedly more work and plans for the future than I've mentioned here. While a “church” is more than a building, we cherish our historic structure and will continue keep her at her best.~~Mary Henry

CANDY! Please bring your left over Halloween candy to the church for the upcoming Holiday Parade. The QuaPAW Heeling Angels Therapy Dog Team will be in the Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade on Dec. 3rd this year!

Those Not Noted

Karl "Rustic Rhymer" Hansen

Ever note the willing mule
Is the one who gets the work?
The noisy one that's braying
Will generally the duty shirk.

We all know the squeaky wheel
Is the one who gets the grease.
Usually any church today
Has big wheels such as these.

But the ones who bear the load,
Get little notice or acclaim.
They don't seem to mind

And continuing turning just the same.

Some can live a lifetime
Never in the driver's seat.
But Jesus' message is borne
On their plain and roughshod feet

Jesus got his feet dirty
As He walked among them there
One of the lowly servants
Washed them with her hair.

ARTS in our Open Hearted Church

DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY

Singers and Actors Wanted for QQ's Christmas Play!

What we do this year depends on how many children, youth, and interested others have signed up for this. There's one thing we can do that is very simple ("A Night for Dancing"); there's another that would require more work and more rehearsal ("the Christmas County Spelling Bee"), but ultimately be a better thing for us to do. But it's that **US** word that's critical. We need to have to have at least twelve committed kids, youth, and/or adults to pull it off, and it's a busy time of year. Then again, what time isn't busy? Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings, Wednesdays during Kids Choir, and possibly a few hours on other days to get it ready if we go this route. Whichever one we do will be performed during worship on Sunday, December 18. Get in touch with Anne Holcomb if you are interested in participating.~~

KIDS CHOIR

QQKids Choir has kicked into gear with our first rehearsals at 3:30 every Wednesday afternoon. PreK and Elementary children from all around have been invited to our choir. With just a positive spirit ready to eat snack, play, sing and act, we play and play some more until our parents arrive for pick up at 5:00! We'll build a friendly Christian community as our first goal. Then our second will be to spread that community into the life of the church in worship. It won't be long before we'll be working on the Christmas musical, too!

This choir can be whatever we make it. It can be dance, painting, and theatrics—as well as singing. Friends are invited! Bring your creative spirit!~~Julie Atkins

CHARGE CONFERENCE. Our annual Charge Conference will take place in a different manner this year. We are participating in a Cluster Charge Conference along with Little Rock 1st UMC, Wesley Chapel UMC, Canvas Community UMC, and Theresa Hoover UMC. The conference will take place at 1st UMC at 4:00 pm on Sunday, Nov. 20. It will be a worship service in which we will have an opportunity to celebrate the good things that have happened in our churches. There will be a covering motion to accept all of the necessary reports from our various churches, and then there will be a reception. Any church that has specific business that needs to be addressed will go off to deal with that during the reception. Because the Central District and the North Central District have been combined our District Superintendent, Rev. Dede Roberts, has chosen to use this model of Charge Conference with almost all of the churches in our expanded district. It should be a positive gathering and everyone is welcome to attend. Members of our Administrative Council will be our voting members.~~

Every Sunday—Worship and Volunteer Opportunities

7:30–10:00 am—Community Breakfast—Fellowship Hall, serving 9–10 am
9:30 am—Bible 101
9:45 am—Sunday School for adults and children—all floors
11:00 am—Worship Service
3:00 pm—Stone Soup—Fellowship Hall
5:00–6:30 pm—Youth meeting—fourth floor

November 2011

		1 5:30—Admin. Council	2 6 pm—Circle 7 pm—Choir	3 10:30 am—Disciple IV, John Wesley Room	4	5 10–12—Methodist Foundation for Social Action 11–4—Cornbread
6 DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME—time to “fall back” and arrive early to church! 3:00—Walk for CommUnity 5:00–6:30—Youth	7	8	9 3:30–5:00 pm— children's choir 6 pm—Circle 7 pm—Choir	10 10:30 am—Disciple IV, John Wesley Room	11	12
13 4–8—Stitch Night Weaver home 5:00–6:30—Youth	14	15	16 3:30–5:00 pm— children's choir 6 pm—Circle 7 pm—Choir	17 10:30 am—Disciple IV, John Wesley Room 7:00 pm—Third Thursday Book	18	19
20 12—? Hanging of the Green 4:00—Charge Conference 6:00—Dinner Group	21	22	23 3:30–5:00 pm— children's choir 6 pm—Circle 7 pm—Choir	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 Potluck and Book Exchange following Worship 5:00–6:30—Youth	28	29	30	Coming Soon! Last Day for CitQ Reservations on December 2. Jingle Bell Parade on December 3. Christmas in the Quarter on December 4. Children's performance on December 18.		



Please welcome our newest member to the QQ community, Kelli Reep!

Walk for CommUNITY is Sunday Nov. 6. Entertainment starts at 3:00, the walk begins at 4:00 with food and drinks following. It is about a mile long and if you can't walk but still want to be a part of the wonderful atmosphere, you can stay at the Rivermarket pavilion while others walk. Register on-line or see Bobbi Pitts.~~

Christmas in the Quarter

Step back a couple of centuries without leaving Little Rock from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Quapaw Quarter of downtown Little Rock on Sunday, December 4. The 8th Annual Christmas in the Quarter, a holiday event to raise funds for the missions of Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church, gives tourists a glimpse into five 19th century homes while savoring the sights, tastes, sounds and scents of the holidays.

For \$20 per ticket, visitors will tour the homes, which will be decorated for the holidays, learn a bit about the history of each, and enjoy appetizers, beverages and live music, including strolling minstrels singing carols as well as piano, organ and trumpet instrumentals. Tourists can walk from home to home or take one of two trolleys, which will drop off and pick up participants at each home throughout the event.

The tour will begin and end at the church where visitors

can sit in peace and fellowship in its Gothic Revival architecture, peruse and purchase artwork by artists using studio space in the church, and relish holiday refreshments.

The Governor's Mansion also is on tour from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. While this event is not connected to Christmas in the Quarter, the trolleys will make a stop at the Governor's Mansion if requested. This event is free; however, reservations are necessary by Thursday, December 2.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://qqumc.org/page>, at The Green Corner Store and Polka Dot Scents on South Main and 15th Streets in downtown Little Rock, or by at Quapaw Quarter United Methodist church the day of the event. For more information about Christmas in the Quarter or Quapaw United Methodist Church, contact Lori Marvin, lori1898@att.net or KD Reep, kelli@flywriteinc.com.~~

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 6	All Saint's Sunday Preaching: Rev. Anne Music: Allan Young, Diana Brandon and the Sanctuary Choir	We will acknowledge all who have died in the past year.	Matthew 25:1-13
November 13	Preaching: Rev. Thompson Music: The Circle and QQUMKids Choir	This Sunday marks the debut of the new QQUMKids Choir!	Matthew 25:14-30
November 20	Thanksgiving Sunday End of the liturgical year Preaching: Rev. Thompson Music: Allan Young, Diana Brandon and the Sanctuary Choir	Hanging of the Green follows Service. Charge Conference follows that.	Matthew 25:31-46
November 27	First Sunday of Advent Preaching: Rev. Thompson Music: Rich Roy	Pick up your Jesse Tree "home kit" for use during Advent.	Mark 13:24-37

Churchspeak Word-of-the-Month: narthex [nahr-theks]. The narthex is an entrance area to a church, located at the western end of the nave [nāv], which is the central part of the sanctuary. At the opposite (eastern) end of the nave is the altar, which is another word for our communion table and the area around the it.~~

...and Other Advent Action—from November 20 to Christmas

A Jesse Tree for Advent & a Jesse Tree for YOU

We will have a Chrismon tree in the sanctuary, which is an evergreen tree decorated entirely in gold and white with Christian symbols. We have this every year, but we haven't had a Jesse Tree before. A Jesse Tree is a tree—usually a bare branch or a large banner with a symbolic tree—that is decorated each week, usually by the children, and includes ornaments or objects that represent Old Testament events from Creation to the Birth of Jesus. The ornaments are traditionally handmade, and are added one each day of Advent, or as a group on each Sunday, with explanations of the symbols and a brief verse of Scripture from the story represented. Some churches choose to decorate the tree with small items of warm clothing as a way to minister to the needy in the community. We'll have a basket out for these items if you choose to bring them! And, on November 27, the first Sunday in Advent, there will be Jesse Tree "kits" available for people to take home. With them, you may observe Advent on a daily basis by hanging the ornament and reading the corresponding scripture. Make sure you pick one up!~~

Hanging of the Green

No, it's not a typo, it's British! The "green" refers to the evergreen garlands and wreaths we put up every year. This event is what regular folks call decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Advent is the four weeks preceding Christmas. The word means "coming" and the time is one of preparation and anticipation, not just of Christmas presents and holiday parties, but the coming of hope into the world in the birth of Jesus Christ. We're waiting, but not idly - we're busy getting ready!

Our old decorations have become rather tattered and worn; it's time for a new look. Thanks to the efforts of Arlene Obrzt, we are fortunate this year to be the recipients of new garlands and new bows as well as the services of Phil Cato, who is the designer and owner of About Vase florist shop here in Little Rock. Phil decorates the State Capitol for Christmas every year has a plan for how to use the new greenery for optimal impact, so we'll be taking our design cues from him this season! This will all take place after worship on November 20, in plenty of time for us to have our best foot forward for Christmas in the Quarter.~~

QQUMYouth Schedule

November 6—Join the Walk for commUNITY in the River Market at 3:00 and then come back to the church for youth group doins' on the 4th Floor from 5:00 to 6:30.

November 13—5:00-6:30—Meet in the church kitchen for cookie baking and drink mix assembly.

November 20—Thanksgiving Sunday and Hanging of the Green after church; Charge Conference pre-empts youth group tonight. Come to First UMC down the street at 4:00 for worship with QQUMC, FUMC, Duncan UMC, Hoover UMC, and Canvas Community.

November 27—5:00-6:30—Meet in the church kitchen for cookie baking and drink mix assembly.

December 3—Little Rock Christmas Parade! Let Anne know if you want to help carry the banner and hand out candy.

December 4—All hands on deck for Christmas in the Quarter! QQUMYouth is responsible for manning the church vendor booth which will be selling our hot chocolate drink mix and whatever other Christmas goodies we come up with, along with Kroger cards and QQ mugs. We can work in shifts, 2:00-6:00 p.m. Parent or adult volunteer needed to help out in this area. Call Anne.