



THE WORD

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, Tulsa - www.bostonavenue.org

Two Sections, Section A / 039880 / Vol. 156 / N0 35 / January 1, 2010



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Only Matthew tells us about the magi. Our translators usually translate the Greek "magi" as "wise men." However, the more common usage was "astrologers."

They were men who studied the stars and any unusual happenings in the heavens. They were not scientists as we know that word, not astronomers, but astute observers - even if they did not know how to understand most of what they saw. They still believed the earth was flat, that it was the center of the universe, and that the sun went around the earth every twenty-four hours.

Matthew doesn't tell us how many there were. We get the number three from the number of gifts offered - gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Newspapers today report that their horoscopes are always in the top five features read by their subscribers, even though scientists know those predictions are based on superstition and ignorance.

The magi were not looking for their stars, but for some important new king who had been born west of their homes. They ended up in Bethlehem at the manger of Jesus.

My sermon for this Epiphany Sunday will be, "NOT FOLLOWING YOUR STAR, BUT HIS!"

New Year's Service is Sunday at 6:00

Dr. Bill Crowell will preach this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. during the Vesper Communion and Covenant Renewal Service, also known as the "Burning Service." His sermon will be based on *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13*, and all are welcome.

The service will include a time of Holy Communion and an opportunity to let go of the past and welcome the future as the new year begins. The heart of the service, which is focused in John Wesley's Covenant Prayer, requires worshipers to recommit themselves to God. The service will include a "burning" of those things in our past year that we wish to let go of or turn over to God.

Each worship bulletin will include a small piece of paper to write down those things you want to let go of or turn over to God. The papers will be burned in a small fire and given to God as worshipers come for communion.

The service is patterned after John Wesley's covenant service, first held in 1870 in London. Wesley scheduled the service annually on New Year's Day, and whenever he visited Methodist societies, because he felt it important that Christians renew their commitment as each new year began.

Youth mission team returns New Year's Day

Our Senior High Youth volunteer-in-mission team returns home on New Year's Day after spending the week doing mission work around Dallas, Texas, and at Crosspoint Camp. The team includes 36 youth and 10 adults.

Team members left last Sun-

day and hosted a Vacation Bible School for children of low-income families at Christ's Foundry UMC. They also constructed a ramp for an elderly lady in Dallas, served meals for the homeless, and worked with special-needs children at a therapeutic horse ranch.

The team is spending the last two days of their trip doing construction projects at our United Methodist Crosspoint Camp in Kingston, Oklahoma.

Adult sponsors in addition to team leader Audra Fogle are Debbie and Ross Aycock, Kali Alger, Diana Bland, Mike Fogle, Bruce and Michelle Horgen, and Mike and Penny Sheehan.

Team members include Reece Alger, Aaron Allred, Lindsley Aycock, Lauren Aycock, Hannah Bland, Luke Bland, Sabrina Bland, Brooks Boaz, Jacob Brockunier, Katie Brownlee, Paul Dennison, Samantha Devlin, Courtney Elmore, Taylor Fogle, Adam Fogle, Elaina Foreman, Erin Green, Ryan Green, Allison Hardin, Cambree Harmon, Sage Harper, Brittany Hays, Courtney Holmes, Caroline

(See "VIM" page 8A)



2009 Senior High Youth Volunteer-in-Mission Team

Red Cross blood drive is Sunday

Worshippers are invited to participate in a blood drive benefiting those in need through the American Red Cross this Sunday, January 3, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The need is critical, and walk-ins are welcome.

Register Sunday for Open Tables

Open Tables is enrolling for a new year this Sunday in Bishops' Hall. The program helps foster understanding and enhance interfaith relationships by grouping participants from the various faiths, then each group schedules fellowship time together. Fellowship usually centers around a meal.

Each participant agrees to respect the dietary requirements of

New Disciple Bible classes set

Three new Disciple studies are beginning soon. Enrollment is now underway on Sunday mornings in Bishops' Hall. The classes include:

Christian Believer, taught by Barbara Bond on Thursdays at 1:30 beginning January 14. This is a study of the great writings and creeds of the church.

Invitation to Genesis, taught by Michelle Place on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. beginning February 10.

Invitation to Psalms, taught by Sheila VanHersh and Barbara Martin on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 28.

Help needed for YMCA move

The remaining 61 residents of the downtown YMCA will be moved to their new facility at Admiral and Yale this Monday, January 4. At right, coordinator Bob Althoff and Paul Staat pose with items to be moved from the Mental Health Association's warehouse. Volunteers (See "YMCA," page 8A)



B.A. family update

Baptisms



Wyatt David Maciel, son of Brian and Kara Maciel, was baptized December 19, 2009, with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. He was born May 11, 2009, and is the grandson of David and Juanita Maciel.



Gabreilla Lynn Corley, daughter of Vincent Corley, was

baptized December 20, 2009 with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. She was born August 11, 2008, and is the granddaughter of Richard and Billie Corley.

Deaths

Ruth Scott died December 20, 2009. Services were held at Boston Avenue on December 23, Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating.

Helen Doerr died December 21, 2009. Services were held December 28 at Moore's Southlawn with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include her husband Wayne, of Tulsa.

Zuma Myers died December 21, 2009. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Scott Morgan.

Marty Rexroat died December 21, 2009. Details are pending.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. Francis - Margaret Davis, Gail Graham, Vernon McCoy

St. Francis South - Kelly Phipps

Hillcrest - Lilah Marshall

YMCA

(continued)

are needed to also help load the residents' belongings and transport them to the new facility.

Our church will join First Baptist to transport the remaining residents to their new home, where there will be a welcoming ceremony with representatives from the Mental Health Association and the mayor's office

Please contact Paul Staat, 699-0133, if you can help. Thanks for your donations and volunteer time given to benefit these friends and neighbors

Open Tables....

(continued)

all group members and to avoid proselytizing.

Participants have found that they have many things in common as they get to know each other as individuals, dropping stereotypes.

Yoga class is now enrolling

Did you make a New Year's resolution to exercise? Do you want something healthy to do while the kids are involved in Wednesday evening activities here at the church?

Our Weekday School is offering a yoga class for all adults, led by Julie Clemons, a certified Yoga Fit instructor, on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 beginning January 13. The cost will range from \$6 to \$10 per class, depending on the number of people who enroll. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a yoga mat, and have a great time getting healthy.

Call Patty Banes, 699-0112, to sign up or learn more.

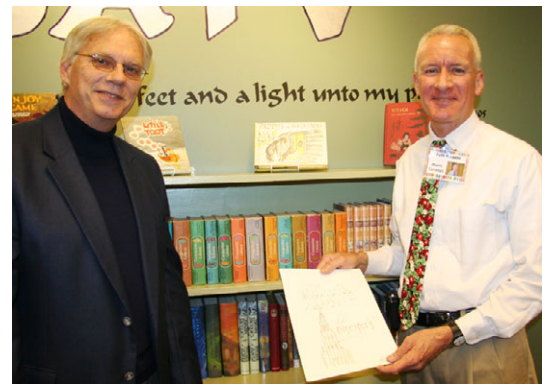
UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham
The Executive Committee will meet January 7 a 9:30 am in the Oxford Room.

Lectionary Readings
December 6, 2009
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
Ephesians 3:1-12

Little Disciples' Library opens Sunday

Our new children's library is almost stocked, and it will open January 3. Above, coordinator Hays VanHersh and logo designer Myers Campbell are ready to welcome young readers. In January children's classes will spend time learning to check out books, then they will be able to do so as they wish.



Meet our newest members!

Dr. Greg DiSalvatore joined Sunday. His wife, Sandi Wilkerson DiSalvatore, is already a B.A. member. Their children are India and Vann Wilkerson and Ella DiSalvatore.

Brooke Knight joined Sunday. Her husband Paul is already a B.A. member and they have

one son, Parker. Brooke teaches at Riverfield Day School

Steven Slaight works for the Veterans Administration. He is already in Chancel Choir and Maranatha Class

Howard and Donna Tate and their son **Connor** joined Dec. 20. He is self-employed

Youth News!! . . .

Senior High - Happy 2010! We will jump into the New Year with both feet!! Join us Sunday at 9:40 for AWESOME Sunday School!! What are we called to be as Christ's disciples? Grab your New Year's faith resolutions and be here this Sunday morning!!

We will continue the excitement with DTBA on Wednesday evening, January 6. Bring a friend and we'll make a spot on the couches! We look forward to being together from 7:30-8:30 in 2010!

Challenging you to make 2010 a year of growth! - Audra
Middle School - In this new year, we must remember that the baby of Bethlehem was a gift from God. There is no better way than to be part of our youth ministry in 2010 to help you keep Christmas all year. Join us on Sundays for Sunday School and on Wednesday evenings for youth group.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - January 3, 2010	5:00 Chorister Ringers
8:30 a.m. Worship Service	5:30 Interfaith Concerns
9:30 Communion Service	5:30 Religion & Race
9:40 Faith Academy	5:45 Carillon Ringers
9:40 Sunday School	5:45 Jubilation Ringers
10:40 Children's Worship	6:00 Chapel Choir
11:00 Worship Service	6:30 Festival Ringers
12:10 p.m. Communion	6:30 LIFE Group for Kids
1:30 Mid High basketball	7:00 DTBA - Senior High
6:00 New Year's Vesper Service	7:00 DTBA - Middle School
7:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels	7:30 Chancel Choir
Monday - January 4	Thursday - January 7
9:00 a.m. Weekday School	9:00 a.m. Weekday School
9:30 History and Archives	9:30 UMW Executive Cmte.
6:30 Disciple I	5:30 p.m. Celebration Ringers
6:30 Disciple IV	5:30 Senior High basketball
6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20	6:00 PCCT Parenting Classes
Tuesday - January 5	Friday - January 8
9:00 a.m. Weekday School	9:00 a.m. Weekday School
9:00 Lectionary Class	10:00 Program Staff
Wednesday - January 6	10:00 Quilting for Others
9:00 a.m. Weekday School	5:30 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous
5:00 p.m. Snack Supper	6:30 Respite Care
5:00 Capriccio Ringers	6:30 District Clergy

VIM ... (continued)

Holmes, Kaitlyn Jones, Nick Klein, Michael Linsky, Kelsey Luks, Larkin McCann, Mason Morgan, Marisa Morgan, Kyle Roberts, Max Short, Jordy Stafford, Katie Wonderly, and Ali Wonderly.

Sunday Worship

January 3, 2010

9:30 a.m. & 12:10 p.m. Communion Services

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Sermon: "NOT FOLLOWING YOUR STAR, BUT HIS!"

Matthew 2:1-12

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: Caravan of the Three Kings.....Richard Purvis
Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Anthem: I Wonder as I Wander....arr. J. J. Niles
Scott Solomon, soloist (8:30)

How Beautiful Upon the Mountains.....F. F. Harker
Betsy Hays and Grant Carpenter, soloists (11:00)

Offertory: Go, Tell It on the Mountain.....arr. J. Michel
Anthem: Mary, Mary.....arr. Carolyn Jennings
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Do You Hear What I Hear.....arr. Harry Simeone
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Bright and Glorious Is the Sky.....Wayne Wold

Hymns: 254 We Three Kings

250 Once in Royal David's City

251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

12:10 p.m. Holy Communion & Service of Healing

6:00 p.m. New Year's Vesper Service