

THE WORD

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**Boston Avenue
United Methodist
Church**
1301 S. Boston
Tulsa, OK 74119
(918) 583-5181
www.bostonavenue.org

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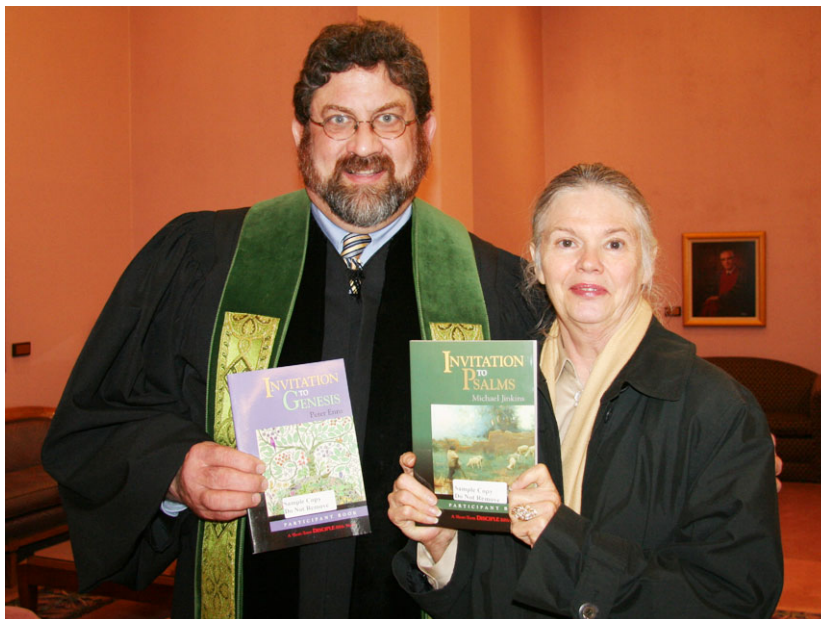
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Calendar

New *Invitation*, Christian Believer classes beginning soon



Above, Bible study coordinator Paul Staat and Sheila VanHersh, who will be teaching Invitation to the Psalms, show off the study books for two new Invitation classes beginning in the next few weeks.

Four new Disciple Bible-related studies are beginning in the next few weeks. Enrollment is now underway on Sunday mornings in Bishops' Hall and all are welcome to participate.

Christian Believer will be taught by Barbara Bond on Thursdays at 1:30, beginning January 14. This 30-week study provides an excellent look at the great writings and creeds of the church. It is recommended that participants first take Disciple I, but that is not required.

Invitation to Genesis will be taught by Michelle Place on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. beginning February 10. All Invitation classes are just ten weeks in length.

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

Invitation to the New Testament will be taught by David Carpenter beginning January 17. This ten-week class will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30.

B.A. to host M. L. King service

An outstanding speaker is scheduled to present the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Service this year! A larger-than-usual crowd is expected, so our church will again host the event, which will begin next Sunday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m.

The speaker, Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr., leads a multi-ethnic congregation in Chicago's Marquette Park, which is infamous as a center for the American Nazi Party. The area was also the site of a Martin Luther King, Jr., march that ended within just a few blocks because of the bricks and bottles being thrown at the marchers.

Rabbi Funnye earned bachelors and masters degrees at the Spertus
(See "M. L. King Service" on page 4A)



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

There is a reason for calling each of the four Gospels "the Gospel According to Matthew," "The Gospel According to Mark," "The Gospel According to Luke," and "The Gospel According to John."

Each one chooses to tell the story of Jesus differently. The first three favor each other more than any of those three look like John's account, so they are called "synoptics," because they "syn - optic," they "look like" each other.

And yet there are real differences between those three as well. Their choices of the best way to begin their accounts make that clear.

Luke wrote almost a hundred verses before he got to the birth of Jesus. Only he describes shepherds being confronted by an angel and hearing a heavenly chorus encouraging them to hurry to Bethlehem. Only Matthew has the story of magi from the East following a star to Bethlehem and the newborn king.

Though Mark's account "looks like" Matthew's and Luke's in many ways, his first chapter is completely different.

My sermon from Mark's first chapter will be, "WHAT? NO SHEPHERDS? NO WISE MEN?"

Registration concludes Sunday

Open Tables a great way to gain understanding, make new friends

This Sunday is the last opportunity to enroll in Open Tables for this new year. Volunteers will be on hand in Bishops' Hall to answer questions and take registrations. The new group will have an organizational meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, at the Schusterman Center.

Open Tables is an innovative approach designed to foster understanding and enhance interfaith relationships. It groups participants from the various faiths into "tables," then each table schedules fellowship time together. Gatherings usually center around a meal.



Open Tables organizers Rev. Guy and Vicky Langston are happy to answer questions about the popular interfaith program.

"Open Tables was a great experience," says B.A. member Erin Studebaker. "I really liked it."

"My group was all women. I was with another Methodist, a Muslim and a Hindu."

"We spent the first two sessions just getting to know each other before we had

(See page 4A)

B.A. family update

Baptisms



Parker Damron Knight, son of Paul and Brooke Knight, was baptized December 27, 2009, with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. and Parker's grandfather, Dr. Hank Knight, officiating. He was born November 26, 2009. Proud relatives include his grandparents, Dr. Hank and Pam Knight, and his aunt, Laura Knight.



Harrison Mayfield Balch, son of Candace and Jonathan Balch, was baptized December 27, 2009, with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. He was born August 10, 2009. Proud relatives include his older sister Caroline; grandparents, Victor and Kathryn Holmes; grandfather, John Lane; and great uncle and aunt, John and Diane McCormack.

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of **James O. Lindsey**, whose birthday was January 13th, by Jon and Dee Dee Stuart, Melissa and D. J. Nuzum, and Susan, Adam, Landon and Hannah Peterson.

In loving memory of **Jean Masters**, whose birthdate was January 14th, by Ray Masters.

Deaths

Gerald Horton (G. H.) Nichols died December 20, 2009. Services were held at Oak

Hill Cemetery in McAlester. Survivors include his daughter, Carol Sue Walker.

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

Marty Rexroat died December 21, 2009. Services will be held January 23, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. at Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Rexroat of Tulsa.

Mary Jane Marlow died December 24, 2009. Services were held December 30 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa with Dr. Don Forsman officiating. Survivors include her sister-in-law and husband, Ruby and Don Forsman.

Phillip Atkinson died December 29, 2009. Services are pending with the Cremation Society. Survivors include his brother, John Ernest Atkinson.

Thompson Keenan died December 27, 2009. Services were held December 31 at Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Chapel in Claremore. Survivors include his wife, Janice; brother, Dr. Allen and Judy Keenan; sons, Tommie and Cornelia Keenan, Graham and Natalie Keenan, and Ken and Sheri Keenan; daughters, Leslie and Keith Heskett and Laura and Joe Blackwood; 14 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

Weddings

Denise Fiorucci and Jon Green were married December 29, 2009 at Boston Avenue with Dr. Bill Crowell officiating. The groom is the brother and sister-in-law of Eric and Beth Green.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. John - Vi Brotherton, Patricia Davis, Charles Duffy, Marie Mildren, Rhonda Rieff

St. Francis - Elizabeth Bartlett, Jess Evans

Meet our newest members

Brooke Knight is a teacher at Riverfield School. Her husband Paul is already a B.A. member and they have a one-month-old son, Parker. (Pictured with baptisms.)

Steven Slaight is employed with the Veterans Administration. He is already a member of the Maranatha Sunday School Class and the Chancel Choir

Dr. Greg DiSalvatore is a physician. His wife, Sandi Wilkerson, is already a B.A. member and they have three children, India and Vann Wilkerson and Ella DiSalvatore

John and Judy Campbell, Jr., are both retired and are transferring their membership from a church in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Howard and Donna Tate joined with their 13-year-old son, Connor (not pictured). Howard is self-employed and they are former members.

Open Tables

(continued)

any serious faith conversations. We were all really busy, so we couldn't all make every session, but we did have dinner together, and one get-together was a trip to Muskogee to dinner and the Azalea Festival.

"The interaction wasn't as new to me, as I have a brother-in-law from Pakistan, but it was a great experience. Everyone quickly realized we're all just people, and it's a neat way to get past the preconceived ideas and stereotypes and make friends."

Groups meet in each other's homes, at restaurants, or whatever they choose. Each participant agrees to respect the dietary requirements of others in the group and to avoid proselytizing.

B.A. volunteers help complete YMCA residents' move



By Paul Staat

For the residents of the Downtown YMCA, the journey to a new home is finally complete. They said good-bye to the dilapidated, bug-infested facility where some have lived for years, and are now getting settled into a newly-built apartment complex at Yale and Admiral. Donations of furniture, kitchen and bath items, new towels and bedding, and cleaning supplies have assured that the tenants will have everything they need to be comfortable and cared for.

Mental Health Association's Safe Haven administrator Connally Parry says, "This day was our 'crossing over Jordan' to the promised land." Perry added that some staff and residents had been waiting over ten years for this day to come when their clients would have a decent place to live.

The Downtown YMCA facility was supposed to be just temporary quarters for the Mental Health Association, but some residents have lived at the Downtown YMCA for over twenty years.

Boston Avenue Church kicked off the moving project with a community barbecue back in May. Throughout the year, our church members helped move individuals, collect donated furniture and goods, and create handmade quilts. We have now worked to help Mental Health Association finally complete the move.

to the new ...



from the old ...



UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

Joy Circle will meet Monday, January 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate Room.

Circle W will meet on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the little dining room. They will study "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible," with Betty Alsbroom giving the program. Their 2010 Pledge Service will follow.

Circle PM will meet on Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room, and will enjoy refreshments by hostess Beverly Lightner. At 7:30 treasurer Jane Deal will lead the Pledge Service. PM is responsible for meeting new women who join in January.

The following circles will meet Thursday, January 14:

Alpha G begins at 10:00 a.m. in the little dining room, with their 2010 Pledge Service as their program. They will also hear several excerpts from Mitch Albom's book, *Have a Little Faith*. Katherine Nixon will give the devotional and hostess Elise Woolsey will bring refreshments.

Circle B gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Oxford Room for refreshments, with Sheila Van Hersh and Ann Hill then presenting their 2010 Pledge Service.

Circle E will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor with Sandra Thurman, hostess, and Dolores Ritter, cohostess, providing refreshments. Carol Bean will present the Spiritual Growth Study "Food and Faith," Part I, for the program.

Circle H will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Beth VonDrehle, 2846 E. 36th Place, with cohostess Irene Lumley. Their program will include the 2010 Pledge service.

Have a prayer request?

Call our prayer line at
699-0158

Lectionary Readings

January 10, 2010

Psalm 29
Joshua 3:7-17
Mark 1:9-11
Acts 19:1-7

Yoga begins Wednesday

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

A new yoga class is starting this Wednesday, January 13, from 6:30 to 7:15, and all adults are welcome. It will be led by Julie Clemons, a certified Yoga Fit instructor, and the cost will range from \$6 to \$10 per class, depending on the number of people who enroll.

Plan to wear comfortable clothes, bring a yoga mat, and have a great time getting healthy. Call Patty Banes, 699-0112, to sign up or for more information on the class.

Youth News! . . .

Welcome to 2010!! Although it was not the beginning I had planned for the New Year (we had to cancel our mission trip due to travel and weather concerns), I had reports from many families that they enjoyed the much-needed respite and enjoyed the unscheduled family time!

It's time to begin getting ready for **Youth Vespers** on January 31st! You have many choices!

The **Drama Class** is working on a meaningful skit. The **Art Class** is preparing chalices, an altar cloth and worship tokens. **Liturgical Dance** is lifting people in the air! **Spoken Word** is preparing the liturgy. **Music** is working on....music, and....if none of these float your boat, we have a **Cooking for Others** class too! Join us this week for hands-on Christian education!!

DTBA is back this week in 420! *Note the time changes for 2010 - Chapel Choir will meet from 6:30-7:30 and DTBA will follow from 7:30-8:30.*

Teen Trialogue begins on Wednesday the 13th and continues through February 3. We will leave the church parking lot at 6:40 and return by 8:15 each week. The Mosque will be our first host of the new series. The format is in small groups this year, so you will be able to get to talk around the tables in smaller groups. That will enable you to get to know each other better! (Just a thought....have you considered participating in the **Open Tables** program with your families?? Could be AWESOME!)

Starting the 2010 new year off with open hearts, open minds and open doors! - Audra

7th and 8th Grade

We started our new Sunday morning classes this week in preparation for Youth Vespers on January 31st. It's a week of new beginnings as we start back to our Wednesday evening DTBA from 7:30 to 8:30. *Please note the time change: our youth group starts and ends 30 minutes later than the first part of the year and so does Chapel Choir.*

Sunday evening is our **Happy Birthday Everyone Skating Party** at Skate Land. **All 6th, 7th and 8th** grade youth and friends are invited. Join us from 5:30 to 7:30 for skating and delicious birthday cakes - that's right - 12 cakes, one for each month of the year decorated by the youth.

The mid-high basketball team won it's first game last week. They will be playing this Saturday at 1:30 at First UMC. Come watch a good game!

Confirmation Youth

Thanks to everyone who came Sunday morning for Friends in Faith Sunday. FIF is always one of our favorite mornings when we share with our mentors. This week you will be back on the third floor for Sunday School.

Make 2010 a year of new beginnings and put Wednesdays on your calendar for DTBA. This week we will be meeting in Jubilee hall at 7:30 for games night. Sunday is the **skating party** too. Be part of youth at Boston Avenue!!!

Happy to be in ministry at BA in 2010 - Debbie

Gifts and Memorials

GENERAL ENDOWMENT

In memory of Dr. Nolan Gross

By: Steve and Nancy Wells
By: Pilgrimage Sunday School Class

By: Charles and Shirley Hawkins

In memory of Abbie Lyons

By: Mildred L. Thompson
By: Keenan & Starre Barnard

In memory of Guy Mason, stepfather of Chris Herrmann

By: Pilgrimage Sunday School Class

In memory of the fathers of Tom and Chris Herrmann

By: Charles and Shirley Hawkins

In memory of Fay T. and Nola E. Anderson

By: Thomas Anderson, Sue Grofman and Carolyn Stenberg

In memory of Lucille Purdy, mother of Rick Purdy

By: Pilgrimage Sunday School Class

In memory of Clay Pape, father of Peggy Pape

By: Charles and Shirley Hawkins

In honor of the Boston Avenue staff for their dedication and commitment to God's people and God's work

By: Pilgrimage Sunday School

Class

MISSION ENDOWMENT

In memory of Lois Adams

By: Tulsa Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants

In memory of Clay Pape

By: June Cleverdon

In memory of Justin W. Magers

By: Robert and Mary Jo Magers

In memory of Ruth Scott

By: Leon and Shirley Wright

By: Seekers Sunday School Class at FUMC Claremore

By: Dick and Paula Whitten

By: Greg Wolfe and Family

By: Kelly Hoppe and Family

By: Laurence and Dana

Craigie

By: Allene Merritt

By: Joe and Jeanette Matzke

MUSIC FUND

In honor of the many musicians who faithfully share their talents to create music that both lifts the spirit and inspires the soul.

By: Pilgrimage Sunday School Class

CHRISTMAS FUND

In memory of Dr. Nolan Gross

By: Roger and Cookie Coffey

Sunday Worship

January 10, 2010

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Communion Service

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

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

Sermon: "WHAT? NO SHEPHERDS? NO WISE MEN?"

Mark 1:9-11

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: Intermezzo (Sonata IV).....Joseph Rheinberger
Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Anthem: Set Me As a Seal.....René Clausen
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Thy Perfect Love.....John Rutter
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Offertory: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord.....J.S. Bach
Anthem: Beautiful Savior.....Robert Vandervliet
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

He Comes to Us.....Jane Marshall
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Scherzo.....Michael Joseph

Hymns: 169 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

468 Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See

252 When Jesus Came to Jordan

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

Class News . . .

Cornerstone

Rev. EvaMarie Campbell will be teaching us for the next two weeks.

Evelyn Reagor's first birthday is January 9th. Congratulations to her family.

Disciples

Next week's lesson will be a continuation of the series "Three Simple Rules for Christian Living." Sunday was a great discussion on "Do No Harm."

Ephphatha

Charles Dye will teach next week on "Strengthened in Temptation."

Heritage

Dr. Bill Crowell taught us from *A Peoples History of Christianity*, by Diana Butler-Bass. This is the beginning of four lessons on people who contributed to the teaching and understanding of Christianity.

We welcomed a visitor, Cheryl English, a friend of the Harringtons.

Keep Kathy Perlingiere's father in your prayers

Happy birthday wishes to Linda Jones. Belated birthday wishes to Barbara Berklacy and J. C. Cahill.

Phyllis Scroggs will furnish our treats next week.

Homebuilders

Judy Rowell will teach this Sunday and next from James Moore's book, "The Common People Heard Him Gladly."

Donations to missions were given by Don Woolsey for his birthday and Charles Herndon in honor of Margie Herndon's birthday and being back in class.

Have a wonderful week and we'll see you on Sunday!

Horizons

Angela Hooper will join us for the month of January to teach a series on "Living Fully, Dying Well." Audra Fogle will be our teacher starting February 7th.

Thanks to Katie for refreshments. Please sign up for the rest of January.

Happy anniversary to the Bingham and happy birthday to some of our class members and children.

Maranatha

The Russells led one last Sunday and our new presidents, Richard and Meredith Wansley

will be back this Sunday. Rev. Ken Tobler will teach.

Special thanks to the Russells and to all of our officers for their great work last year.

Ann Walker, Ginny's daughter, had a great lesson last Sunday, and we enjoyed getting to know her better. She is being sponsored by our church in her candidacy for ministry.

We will be serving dinner at the Day Center for the Homeless and have dinners for eight this month. More details Sunday.

New Covenant

We will be having Don Forsman as our teacher for the month of January.

Our class visitor was Phillip Master. Welcome!

Prayers are needed for Pauline Jones and family, the family of Ruth Scott, and George and Doris Fenn.

Thank you to Carmen and Don Marple for the refreshments, Carol Bean and Barbara Bond for the music, and June Cleverdon for being our presenter. Greetings were given from Elizabeth Kindred in Louisiana and we enjoyed an attendance of 26, including guests from the Wesley Class.

New Frontiers

Our family movie night is in January at the church. Stay tuned for information via email.

Please bring class pictures this Sunday and plan on redecorating our classroom.

Thank you to Missy Barron and Audra Glasgow for organizing next Sunday's opportunity to bring coats, winter scarves and mittens for our first Christmas mission.

Happy anniversary to the Barrons and happy birthday to Logan and Cooper Dill.

We all enjoyed the refreshments brought by the Linns.

Pilgrimage

This Sunday Brenda Reed will be our speaker. Thank you, Karla, for sharing "Handbook 2010" last week. Great advice for all of us.

Thanks to all who helped with the Day Center on Christmas Eve and with our wonderful class brunch.

If you have not updated your information for the directory, please contact the Calderwoods.

Roundtable

Our 2010 Leadership Council was installed. We enjoyed our speaker, George Beilke, Director of the Visiting Nurses Association.

Jim Sluss will be our speaker this Sunday. Valerie Judkins will lead our class in January and Gayle and Stan Teter will be greeters.

Happy birthday to Nancy Zelewski, Tom Abbott and Taylor Brown.

Remember to put the following dates on the your calendars: January 22, 6:00 p.m., the auction and February 11th, the staff appreciation luncheon.

Seek and Discover

Art McGrew will be our speaker for this Sunday. He will teach on baptism.

Thank you Dick Martin for being our teacher the month of December.

We enjoyed our class visitors, Adrian Colbert and Joan McGrew.

Thank you, Jeannie, for your devotional and thanks to Christine for our refreshments.

We are scheduled for the Day Center meal on July 9th, so please mark your calendars.

Please keep Mitch, and Beverly's aunt in your prayers.

Wesley Fellowship

The Rev. Dr. Bill Tankersley will be our speaker next Sunday.

Jess Evans is feeling exceptionally well and is home, and each time he looks at our flowers he knows our thoughts and prayers are with him.

Vernon McCoy is now in the Health Care Center at Montereau, and he would love to have visits and phone calls. Joanna Waters has asked for prayers for guidance for her doctor. Margaret Davis is now at the Health Care Center at the Oklahoma Methodist Manor. At this time she does not want visitors.

Young Adults

We will be starting a DVD series for the month of January. It is an introduction to progressive Christianity.

Plans are now being discussed for our January social, and we need ideas. Let us know what you'd like to do.

Apples picked, gifts delivered



At left, Rev. EvaMarie Campbell shows off the apple tree donations she delivered to Burroughs teachers recently. Most all gifts have been delivered and the teachers are thrilled, though only those with needs participated. Others just expressed their appreciation.

"Thank you so much for your generosity in the past," one teacher wrote. "I have everything I ... want or need. Please omit my name from the apple event this year."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - January 10, 2010

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 Communion Service
9:40 Faith Academy
9:40 Sunday School
10:40 Children's Worship
11:00 Worship Service
12:10 p.m. Communion and

Service of Healing

1:30 Mid High basketball
7:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels

Monday - January 11

9:00 a.m. Weekday School
10:00 UMW Joy Circle
10:00 Annual Conference planning
Noon OCCJ Trialogue planning
6:30 Disciple I
6:30 Disciple IV
6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20

Tuesday - January 12

9:00 a.m. Weekday School
9:00 Lectionary Class
5:30 p.m. Senior High basketball
6:00 UMW Circle W
6:30 M.L. King Choir rehearsal

Wednesday - January 13

9:00 a.m. Weekday School
2:30 p.m. Invitation to *Revelation*

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

5:00 Capriccio Ringers

5:00 Chorister Ringers

5:45 Carillon Ringers

5:45 Jubilation Ringers

6:30 Chapel Choir

6:30 Festival Ringers

6:30 LIFE Group for Kids

6:30 Yoga class

7:00 UMW PM Circle

7:30 DTBA - Senior High

7:30 DTBA - Middle School

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday - January 14

UMW Groups -

See "UMW News"

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

10:00 Program Staff

5:30 p.m. Celebration Ringers

5:30 Senior High basketball

5:30 M.L. King Awards Banquet

6:00 PCCT Parenting Classes

6:30 M.L. King Choir rehearsal

Friday - January 15

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:30 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

Saturday - January 16

10:00 a.m. M.L. King rehearsal

Sunday School at a glance...

Adult Classes for Sunday, January 10, 2010
Visitors are welcome in all classes.

Dr. Biggs' Class - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages

Cornerstone - Rev. EvaMarie Campbell

Disciples - "Three Simple Rules for Christian Living"

Ephphatha - Charles Dye, "Strengthened in Temptation"

Heritage - Dr. Bill Crowell

Homebuilders - Judy Rowell

Horizons - Angela Hooper, "Living Fully, Dying Well"

Maranatha - Rev. Ken Tobler

New Covenant - Dr. Don Forsman, "We Believe..."

New Frontiers - Class business

Pilgrimage - Brenda Reed

Roundtable - Jim Sluss

Seek & Discover - Rev. Art McGrew

Wesley Fellowship - Dr. Bill Tankersley

Young Adults - "Progressive Christianity"