

THE WORD

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Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Study
4A



Knippa
Lecture 4A



Prayer
bears 8A

Youth help still-waiting Katrina victims **Foundation Sunday: a gift that lasts**



Twenty-three youth and eight adults from Boston Avenue spent their Christmas break helping people in Slidell, Louisiana, who are still waiting for home repairs from Hurricane Katrina six years ago. The team left early Tuesday morning, December 27, traveled twelve hours each way by bus, and returned home early Saturday morning, December 31.

Unlike their Mexico trips, where complete cinder block homes were built for new owners, on this trip they were one link in a long line of VIM teams. Most of their time was spent fitting sheetrock, mudding and taping, and painting.

"This trip wasn't as much fun or as gratifying as Mexico," said Audra Fogle, "but it wasn't about it us. Everyone got it and worked hard."

"Our homeowner was living in just one room of her house," observed Adam Fogle. "We put up drywall, mudded and sanded in the whole house. Insurance paid off her mortgage, but didn't give her anything to repair the damage with. The poverty was worse in Mexico, but it was easier to picture myself in Slidell."

"I noticed a room that had a train set up," added David Reck. "It
(See "Mission," page 5A

Canned food drive: Thanks for helping!

Donations for the semiannual canned food drive for Eastern Oklahoma Community Food Bank have totaled about 16 bags full of canned goods and other nonperishable items. Please keep them coming! Donations can be left in Bishops' Hall through the end of January.

Our church is required to sponsor two drives a year in order to be able to refer those in need to the food bank. Due to the present economy, then need is greater than it has been for years.

Needed items include canned fruits, vegetables, meats, flour, sugar, coffee, milk, etc.

What strengthens congregations, helps others, and allows church members to continue being "active" supporters long after they have passed away? It's the legacy of an endowment, who's earning help as if that person were sitting the pew, putting money in the offering plate week after week.

What could make a more significant, lasting difference?

This Sunday is designated as "Foundation Sunday" to highlight our Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, an extremely effective charitable trust foundation with assets totaling over \$166 million. This foundation assists in making lasting gifts to any Oklahoma United Methodist church or ministry, while maximizing available tax benefits.

The Foundation does not make grants itself, but donors can set up their own endowments for scholarships, missions, capital projects, ministries, local churches, etc.

Donors determine how and where their gifts will be used, or they can leave gifts undesignated to meet future needs as determined. Gifts can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one, and proceeds provide benefits indefinitely.

To learn more, call 1-800-259-6863 or visit www.okumf.org. A representative will be happy to share information and ideas.

B.A. endowments also enable ministry

Our Boston Avenue endowments now total \$28,230,550. Earnings help fund the upkeep of our church building, mission outreach for youth and adults, scholarships for students, and more.

This past year, earnings have enabled young adults to do mission work in Joplin and helped our youth be in mission to people who are still waiting for help in Slidell, Louisiana, six years after Hurricane Katrina. They also helped meet local needs through Burroughs Elementary School, Exodus House, Redemption Ministries, and Downtown for Good.

Re-Ignite Workshop is Saturday

Our church will host the annual Re-Ignite Workshop (formerly known as the Local Church Leaders' Workshop) this Saturday morning, February 21. All are welcome.

Classes will be offered for children age 3 and older, and child care is available for those younger.

Registration begins at 8:00 in Community Hall, followed by worship and District Conference at 8:30. The Rev. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of United Methodist Studies and Theology at St. Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University, will preach. Classes will then be held from 9:50 to 11:00 and 11:10 to 12:30 p.m.

The Rev. EvaMarie Campbell will lead a Vacation Bible School preview and Brenda Reed will teach "Effective Financial Leadership." The Rev. Charles Herndon will teach "Re-Ignite the Go-Go's, Slow-Go's and No-Go's."

Other classes focus on social media; helping people share their stories; mixing faith with politics; ministry with the poor, and evangelism.



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Eleven months ago Gayle and I were again in Israel. Our guide directed the bus driver to a steep, winding street leading up from the busy streets of modern Nazareth. When we reached the end of the road, we saw a huge parking area and were told that it was paved for Pope Benedict XVI to say mass at this dramatic spot just a couple of years before.

From the parking lot we climbed still higher to a dramatic precipice high above the city, which was only a village of approximately 250 people when Jesus lived there.

All three synoptic Gospels have the story of Jesus' return to his hometown after beginning his ministry. However, Mark and Matthew place it much later in Jesus' ministry, not long before his trip to Jerusalem that led to his death. Luke places this story much earlier, soon after Jesus' baptism by John.

At first the townspeople are pleased by Jesus' "words of grace," but then they are enraged and want to hurl him off that precipice we visited last February.

I am calling the sermon, "BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER - AND MORE DANGEROUS!"

We need *you* to help us fill our church.

B.A. family update

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of **Betty Lou Lucas**, whose birthday was January 22nd, from her family.

In loving memory of **Floyd Stout**, whose birthday was January 26th, by Barbara Stout.

In memory of **Thomas L. McPerson, Sr.**, whose birthday was January 18, from Evelyn McPherson, Tom and Sherry McPherson and family, and Mary and John Campbell and family.

Deaths

Zelda Cantrell Clanton died January 9, 2012. Services were held January 11 at Boston Avenue with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include her stepdaughter, Susan and Robert Howe; grandson, Steven Graves; and granddaughter, Allison Plake.

Robert M. Morrow died January 10, 2012. Services were held January 14 at Boston

Avenue with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include his wife, Darlene; daughters, Kim and David Nichols, Michelle Morrow, and Bobbie and Ron Gwinn; grandchildren, Kristin Nichols and Chad and Jamie Gwinn; and sister, Mary Ann Martin.

Walter H. Helmerich, III died January 10, 2012. Services were held January 13 at Boston Avenue with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr., officiating. Survivors include his wife, Peggy Helmerich; sons, Walt H. Helmerich, IV, D. Zachary Helmerich, Matthew Galloway Helmerich, Hans Christian Helmerich, and Jonathan David Helmerich; twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. John - Jeanne Parnell, Beth VonDrehle

St. Francis - John M. Meyer, Bill Montgomery, Melba Weaver

Triologue to focus on food Dr. Amy Jill Levine will present 2012 Knippa Lecture

Join local religious leaders and representatives from local food organizations as they address the topic "Food for Thought: Food, Religion and Community" at the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice's 2012 Interfaith Triologue Series. Funded in part by the Tulsa Library Trust's Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment, the three-part discussion series will be held on Sundays, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 at 2:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Crowell will moderate each discussion. The programs are free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Session 1, "Feasting, Fasting, Ritual, Taboo," will be held at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, 2021 E. 71st St. - Join Dennis Smith of Phillips Theological Seminary, Eliyahu Krigel of Congregation B'nai Emunah and Ahmed Ashraf of Peace Academy High School to learn about the ritual significance of food for Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Session 2, "Hunger, Plenty, Obesity, Starvation," at Peace Academy, 4620 S. Irvington - How does God expect us to share the earth's plenty? Join Jan Figart from the Community Service Council, Eileen Bradshaw from Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Abdulah Mahayni and Summer Shimi of Peace Academy High School, and Aliye Shimi, National Honor Society advisor, to learn more.

Session 3, "Friendship, Enmity, Chaos, Wholeness," at Boston Avenue. - How can we rebuild community of the table? Join Open Tables coordinator Vicky Langston and Wanda Batman of the Masjid Al-Salam Mosque as they address this topic.

The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice is dedicated to fighting bigotry, bias, and racism. OCCJ promotes understanding and respect through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, will present the 2012 Knippa Interfaith Lecture next Sunday, January 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 5th & Lewis. Her lecture is entitled "WHERE CHRISTIANS GET JUDAISM WRONG; WHERE JEWS GET CHRISTIANITY WRONG."

Dr. Levine holds a bachelors degree from Smith College, and masters and doctoral degrees from Duke University. Her publications include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and the Christian Old Testament Can*



Dr. Levine

Teach Us, and the 14-volume edited *Feminist Companions to New Testament and Early Christian Writings*. With Mark Brettler she edited *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

The Knippa Interfaith Series was established to honor the ministry of Pastor Clarence Knippa at Grace Lutheran Church in Tulsa.

Invitation classes begin this week

Two new classes - *Invitation to Psalms* and *Invitation to John* - will begin later this month. Both are still enrolling.

Rev. Paul Staat will lead *Invitation to Psalms* on Mondays, January 23 to March 12, beginning at 6:00 p.m. for ten weeks.

Invitation to John will be led by Carol Grim and Tom Cox. It will meet on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 23. This is an eleven-week class.

Sign up Sunday in Bishops' Hall or contact Paula Gradney, paulagradney@bostonavenue.org or 918-699-0129 to register. Books are \$10 and are available at the Information Desk.

Presenter Steve Nelson to share story, peek at St. John's Bible

Steve Nelson, an alumnus of St. John's University with a significant relationship to the Phoenix Art Museum, is coming to Boston Avenue next Sunday, January 29, to tell about the world's first handwritten, hand-illustrated Bible since the Gutenberg printing press was invented over 500 years ago. He has been given permission to bring along a limited replica of the work.

He was asked to be an ambassador in the St. John's Bible unveiling and display when it was introduced to Arizona at the museum, and he has continued to travel around the U.S., telling the story of this amazing work.

Much like the ancient Book of Kells on display in Dublin, this Bible was created by hand using goose quill pens, calf skin paper, and homemade inks. The Queen's calligrapher, Donald Jackson, led the team in creating it.

Unlike that great work, this is a 21st Century Bible with illustrations that express more current events including the Holocaust and World Trade Center bombing. It was commissioned to be a gift to the world in celebration of new century.

"Kathy and I were fortunate to attend one of the many presentations Steve made to museum patrons and interested groups," says B.A. member Ron Marsh. "To say he held his audience's rapt attention may be a bit of an understatement. The warmth and sincerity of his telling took the audience from the idea for such an undertaking to a finished, touring museum treasure.

"As the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned since the invention of the printing press, The Saint John's Bible is, in my opinion, a wonder to be appreciated by all Christians."

Visit our website, www.bostonavenue.org,
for more church news and information

UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

Faith Circle will meet Wednesday, January 25, at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room. Registered nurse Pat Fulford will discuss "Health" from the Social Action Study, "Joy to the World: Membership and Evangelism."

Church Women United to celebrate human rights

Church Women United will celebrate human rights in the Boston Avenue UMC parlor on Saturday, January 28th. Registration and refreshments will begin at 9:15 a.m., followed by the celebration at 10:00. The theme for the celebration is, "Living our Legacy, Driving the Movement" from *Micah 6:8*.

This celebration, an annual event, unites women and men of ALL faiths in a common worship experience, to honor individuals who have worked in the cause of human rights. As CWU celebrates its 70th year, they will present the Human Rights Award to Nancy Day, a Boston Avenue member and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, who has contributed so much to the cause for human rights here in the Tulsa area.

Gifts and Memorials

GENERAL ENDOWMENT
In memory of **Richard Bingham**

By: Bill and Nancy Rea

Have a prayer request?
Call our prayer line at
699-0158

Lectionary Readings

January 22, 2012

Psalm 19
Genesis 9:8-17
Luke 4:14-21
I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Missions ... (continued)

was for her grandson and was pretty much all she did for Christmas. She told us she was just trying to get through the holidays, and that upset me. It was sad, but I enjoyed seeing the changes we made. We felt like we accomplished something for her."

"Our team followed another group that had done a terrible job," says Allison Hardin. "That upset me because they didn't care about our homeowner. We were shocked that they were so careless. We had to redo some of it, and I tried to treat it like it was my own. We got very good at it, and did a good job for the next team."

"Our homeowner was so nice, even though she was having a really hard time, and was one of the most amazingly faithful people I've ever met. She sent each of us a personal thank-you note and wants to stay connected. That's really cool."

"In contrast to Allison's house, ours was beautifully done," says Audra. "The first day we were tentative, but each day we worked faster and better together. We were proud that our UMCOR was still there working after the other relief agencies had gone."

"Our homeowners (he was a disabled veteran) told of a 35' wave washing over houses, leaving some boats on the roofs. Water filled their house, then sucked everything out with it except for one of their son's toys. They thanked us with a huge plate of shrimp."

"We were working so hard to finish for him, and for him to give a gift to us was very special," added Hank Unterschuetz.

"As we drove through the houses, I saw a homeless lady eating on the curb, and it made me sad," said Elaina Foreman. "We could still see crosses on the houses from when they were looking for survivors."

"It was amazing," added her sister Brianna. "It was just amazing."



Youth News!! . . .

Senior High news

I am so proud of your leadership in so many areas of our church!! Did you know that our youth are leaders not only in our local church, but in the Tulsa District and Oklahoma Conference as well??

Boston Avenue took an entire van full to the Conference Leadership Meeting this past Saturday! Way to go! When filling out our year end report (which is not my favorite thing to do), it was very exciting to be able to list so many adult and youth leaders in our youth ministries...

However, with great leadership comes much responsibility...and we're off to a great 2012 with BAY Troupe, District Retreat, Mission Trip and our Youth Action Committee! TOGETHER in Ministry - Audra

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Martin Luther King weekend. We enjoyed being part of this important celebration.

Sunday morning seventh and eighth graders begin a new Sunday School session. Three options are offered for your Sunday morning classes. These options will run for five weeks. It's a great time to come be part of our 9:40 a.m. Sunday School!

Sixth graders will be meeting in the confirmation suite. Sixth grade girls will get together for their small group meeting on the 22nd. Postcards to you girls and our parent emails contain all of the details.

January is flying by! Do not be left out; join us at any point along our faith journey.

Faithfully yours, Debbie



Prayer Bears needed!

By Audra Fogle

We are in need of *brand new*, soft, stuffed animals. They don't have to be bears, but medium sized animals are best. Pillow pets are also a huge hit!

Prayer animals are used to offer comfort to anyone who needs it during a hospital stay, a death of a close friend or family member, an illness or surgery. Each animal has a tag placed around its neck that conveys a special prayer written by our Boston Avenue youth.

The bears have been used for all ages, both for church members and as an outreach beyond our membership. Animals can be brought to the information desk and placed in my box any time.

People are also welcome to take a prayer bear from the third or fourth floor if there is a need to share.

The youth department began their prayer bear ministry as a part of our very first Great Unknown Mission Camp in 2005. They have been an effective source of comfort and support for six years now.

Sunday Worship

January 22, 2012

The Third 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: "BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER - AND MORE DANGEROUS!"

Luke 4:14-21

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: Meditation on *Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice...* R. Elmore
Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Anthem: Almighty Twila McBride-Labar & Rebecca Peck
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Surely the Lord Is in This Place Herbert Colvin
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Offertory: Trumpet Tune Rachel Lauren
Anthem: Bless the Lord, O My Soul Carolyn Jennings
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Bring Us Together, Lord Michael McCabe
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation David Willcocks

Hymns: 88 Maker, in Whom We Live

465 Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

559 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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

Class News . . .

Cornerstone

This Saturday, January 21st, we'll have the baby shower for Robyn and James Aydelott. It's also Whitney Stauffer's birthday.

Dr. Joel Panciera will teach us this Sunday on Epiphany.

We thank Jeff Jaynes for teaching us more about Restore Hope Ministries last Sunday.

Ephphatha

Mike Limas will teach this Sunday on "Joseph Transmits Abraham's Promise."

We appreciate another great lesson from our dear friend, Carol Bean, last week.

Heritage

We will have a Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 5th. Details to follow.

Marita Morgan will be our teacher this Sunday. We thank Rev. EvaMarie Campbell for teaching us last week.

We also thank the Coopers for our treats last Sunday. The Gorzkiewiczzes will bring them this week.

Happy birthday to Jan Graham and Jim Roberts.

Homebuilders

Dr. Bill Tankersley will continue his lessons on evil this Sunday. We thank him for teaching us this month.

Keep Carl Cartwright, Pat Hardin and Bob Bowker in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to the Woolseys for our coffee and to the Biggses for the treats.

Horizons

Our Valentines Party is February 11 at the Youngs' house. More details to come.

Help us welcome Rob Reck back this Sunday to share "The Story of the Happy

Rocks." We thank Rob for sharing about St. Paul last Sunday, and we thank the Goins for the treats. Katie will bring treats this week.

Welcome to our visitor, Shelly Wallentini.

Happy birthday to Eric Devlin and Tom McPherson. Happy anniversary to the Stovalls.

See our class email for praises and prayer requests.

Maranatha

Our January social is a potluck dinner and Texas Hold'em in our classroom at 6:30 p.m. this Friday, January 20. Bring canned food for the Food Bank. That's your "buy-in."

Sue Venable will return this Sunday to tell us more about the King James Version of the Bible. We thank her for a most enjoyable lesson last week.

Welcome to our visitors, Valerie Carpenter and Stuart Maus. We thank our hosts, the Allens and Roses.

Happy birthday to David Worthington, Martha Blevins, and Joyce Justice.

New Covenant

Don Forsman will teach us this Sunday.

Welcome to Martha Cox, who visited us last Sunday with her mother Marilyn.

Thanks to Ruth and Paul Johnson for our refreshments and Jerry Smith and Dorothy Nix for leading the hymn.

New Frontiers

Matt Morton will teach Sunday. Welcome to our visitor, Lee Edorf, and thanks to the Glasgows for our snacks.

Pilgrimage

Thanks to Sally Carter for organizing our dinner out.

Thanks also to Judy Rowell for her third lesson on the Lord's Prayer. It sparked some good discussion. Next Sunday she will discuss "our daily bread."

Thanks to those who helped with a meal for the Peachers. Keep Lynn Peacher, Kathy Marsh, Allen Keenan, and Kay Dixon in your prayers for healing.

Roundtable

Our auction will be held in Community Hall this Friday, January 20, at 6:00 p.m.

Ron Marsh will teach us about Dietrich Bonhoeffer this Sunday. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and martyr.

Welcome to our visitors, Joe and Pat Siebert.

Happy birthday to Tiffany Kirkland and Betty Lilly.

We thank Ed Payton for teaching us last week about "saging" - moving from being elderly to being an elder.

Seek and Discover

Bring some food to church next week for our neighbors.

February is "Lights On for Cookson" month. Get ready to be part of the "light."

This Sunday Jim Sluss will finally answer "Questions of Truth." Last week Julie taught us from "Saturdays with Stella." Are we obedient? Thanks, Julie.

Happy birthday to Sue Davenport and Dr. Tankersley.

Wesley Fellowship

Al Brownlee presided and made announcements. Circle of Care sent a thank-you letter, and we enjoyed Another Helping on Wednesday.

Laura Peterson gave the devotional and Pearl Rhoads gave the 2011 Financial Report.

We were sorry to hear that Zelda Clanton had died. Ann Sherman and Beth VonDrehle are on the mend.

Thanks to Brenda Reed for another good lesson and to Harold and Phillelle for music.

Our teacher this Sunday will be Paul Staat. We look forward to seeing you then.

Happy birthday, everyone!

Middle school youth began the year with one of their favorite events, a Happy Birthday Everyone party. They enjoyed skating, pizza, and twelve different birthday cakes - one for each month of the year.



The students each volunteered to bring a cake for the month of their choice, and the cakes showed a lot of creativity and hard work before they were devoured.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - January 22, 2012

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 Communion Service

9:40 Sunday School

10:40 Children's Worship

11:00 Worship Service

12:10 p.m. Communion and

Service of Healing

Monday - January 23

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

6:00 p.m. Men's basketball

6:00 Invitation to *Psalms*

6:30 Invitation to *John*

6:45 Child SHARE Support Grp.

7:15 Troop 20

Tuesday - January 24

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:30 p.m. Senior High basketball

Wednesday - January 25

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

5:00 Jubilation Ringers

5:00 Capriccio Ringers

5:00 Senior High Music Team

5:50 Festival Ringers

6:00 Chapel Choir

6:00 LIFE Group for Kids

6:00 Yoga

6:00 Jesus and the Parables

6:00 UMW Faith Circle

6:00 Planning for Our Parents

Support Group

7:00 Carillon Ringers

7:00 Chorister Ringers

7:00 Mid High DTBA

7:00 Senior High DTBA

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday - January 26

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

10:00 Staff meeting

5:30 p.m. Celebration Ringers

5:30 Senior High basketball

6:00 PCCT Parenting Classes

Friday - January 27

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:30 Gamblers Anonymous

5:30 GamAnon

6:30 Respite Care

Saturday - January 28

8:30 a.m. Church Women United

9:00 BAY Troupe Solo Saturday

Sunday School at a glance...

Adult Classes for Sunday, January 22, 2012

Visitors are welcome in all classes.

Dr. Biggs' Class - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages

College & Career - Mission trip report

Cornerstone - Dr. Joel Panciera

Disciples - video series

Ephphatha - Mike Limas, "Joseph and Abraham's Promise"

Heritage - Marita Morgan

Homebuilders - Dr. Bill Tankersley, "Grief"

Horizons - Rob Reck

Maranatha - Sue Venable, "King James Bible"

New Covenant - Dr. Don Forsman, "The Heart Can See"

New Frontiers - Matt Morton

Pilgrimage - Judy Rowell, "Our Daily Bread"

Roundtable - Ron Marsh, "Dietrich Bonhoeffer"

Seek & Discover - Julie Sluss

Wesley Fellowship - Rev. Paul Staat

Mark your calendar!

Feb. 26-28 - Barton Clinton Gordey Series presents

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, scholar & theologian

March 2-4 - Prayer & Spirituality Workshop led by

Dr. Tom Albin, Dean of Upper Room Ministries