



THE WORD

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A / 039880 / Vol. 157 / N0 32 / December 10, 2010

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



**Pastor's Study
4A**



**Meet & Greet
5A**



**Christmas
Eve 8A**

Lessons & Carols is Sunday, 5:00 & 6:30 p.m.

The soft glow of candlelight, the nativity story told through familiar scripture passages read by all ages, beautiful anthems performed by a small group of singers and instrumentalists - all these combine to make the Annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols a wonderful experience.

This year's Lessons and Carols services will begin at 5:00 and 6:30 this Sunday, December 12, in Great Hall.

The choir will sing such favorites as John Rutter's "Donkey Carol," along with new selections. Dr. Joel Panciera will direct.

Boston Avenue's Lessons and Carols service was begun in 1977 by Organist Emeritus Fred Elder. It is patterned after one held annually at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, that is broadcast worldwide.



Photo by John McCormack

It's a great idea to arrive early for Lessons & Carols, as Great Hall fills quickly. The hall's long shape, vaulted ceilings, and hard surfaces create rich acoustics much like those in European cathedrals.

Messiah is next Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

The Fifteenth Annual Natalie O. Warren Presentation of *Messiah*, by George Frideric Handel will be presented by our Chancel Choir and soloists, with a full orchestra of Tulsa Symphony instrumentalists, next Sunday, December 19, at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Joel Panciera will direct.

This is the fifteenth performance since the Warren family endowed the *Messiah* presentation in memory of their mother and grandmother, Natalie O. Warren, a longtime Boston Avenue member with a great love for the arts and for her church.

George Frideric Handel was so inspired that he wrote Part One, referred to as the Christmas portion, in just six days. The entire work took only 24 days to complete. *Messiah* was first performed in 1742 in Dublin, Ireland, with Handel himself playing the organ and conducting. It has since become the most
(See "Messiah," page 4A)



Estimates of giving go over the top!

This year's Estimate of Giving campaign is complete. Our ministers made calls last Thursday, and by the end of the day all of next year's budget had been covered.

Thanks to all of you who took good stewardship seriously. Because of you, we can move eagerly and confidently into ministry in 2011.

Christmas offering helps churches with mission outreach

Each year our church takes a Christmas offering, and part of that offering goes to our Oklahoma Volunteer in Mission Director, who helps churches plan and host mission trips. According to Rev. Paul Staat, who heads our mission efforts, Boston Avenue relies on this ministry to help identify those mission opportunities that meet the greatest need, then to train our team leaders, help organize and budget for mission trips, make travel arrangements, and provide insurance for the team during the trip.

"They also help us communicate with project leaders in the country we'll be going to, and they provide contingencies if any problems arise."

"This fall's Nicaragua mission was the best experience I've had yet," says VIM team member Mae Smiley. "The people were so loving and giving, and our team worked so well together."

"We planned to hold Vacation Bible School at the church, but there was so much noise from the construction that we just met under a large tree nearby. We had over 100 children almost every day, then later in the afternoon the women wanted a Bible

(See "Nicaragua," page 4A)



Above, Mae Smiley enjoys one-on-one time and below, Mae, Kali Alger and Penny Sheehan lead singing at Vacation Bible School.





From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Last Thursday night when our ministers and directors of youth finished our calling, our 2011 budget had been underwritten by new estimate of giving cards. Our budget committee projected a budget totaling the same as 2010 with increases in our "apportionments," or commitments to United Methodist agencies and programs, and decreases in our own ministries. Hundreds of us stepped up significantly, and we thank you!

We still have work to do in 2010. We always get behind financially in the busy summer months and have to catch up in December. If at all possible, bring your 2010 estimate to completion before December 31. If 2010 proved more profitable than you anticipated, make a special gift to our church to help us finish out the year with all commitments fulfilled.

* * * * *

Zephaniah wrote our lection for this third Sunday in Advent. He lived two hundred years earlier than Malachi, the author of last Sunday's text.

Zephaniah's major theme is the Day of the LORD. Our text includes the words, "I will gather you ... I will bring you home." That prompts the title of the sermon I am writing, "AN ADVENT SONG? 'COME HOME, COME HOME!'"

B.A. family update

Deaths

Laurene Needham died November 14, 2010. Services were held November 19 at Methodist Manor with the Rev. Charles Herndon officiating. Burial was at Sunny Lane Cemetery in Del City. Survivors include four daughters and sons-in-law, Janet and Rex Kohler of Denver, Colorado, Dorothy and Bill Tarpley of Durango, Colorado, Donna and Larry Wilder of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and Sandra and Newton Abdalla of Natal, RN, Brazil; 10 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Clotee Evans died November 29, 2010. Services were held December 2 in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Survivors include her nephew, the Rev. Charles and Margie Herndon; and great niece, the Rev. EvaMarie Campbell.

Margaret L. Carpenter died December 1, 2010. Services will be held Wednesday, December 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the church with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include sons, David and Kendall Carpenter of Tulsa,

Steve and Paula Carpenter of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Mark Carpenter of Allen, Texas; daughter, Susan and Charles Goforth; and grandchildren, including Valerie and Grant Carpenter.

Erma Waggoner died December 1, 2010. Services were held in Colorado. Survivors include her daughter, Sara Waggoner of Tulsa.

Barbara Ann Kilman died December 4, 2010. Services will be held Friday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the church with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, James and Denise Kilman, and grandchildren, Darryl and Renee Kilman, Amy and Greg Dane; and Christopher, Ashley, Zachariah and Abigail Kilman.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. John - Doris Combs, Carl Critz, Deidra Wakeley

St. Francis - Orlene Blake, Frank Cox, Frank Dittrich, Jean Dittrich, Jeff Jordan, Chad Maxey

OSU Medical Center - Bob Bowker

SouthCrest - Mildred Anderson

Messiah ...

(continued)

highly acclaimed and longest-running serious musical work in history.

Messiah has been performed regularly at Boston Avenue for over 35 years. It is a beloved Advent tradition.

Nicaragua ...

study, so we read scripture together and shared faith stories."

Rex Donley had an equally good experience as team members painted the entire church in purple and gold, then shortened doors to make them fit over new tile floors. Doors were restrained, then Jackie Reichman painted carvings on the front doors, to local church members' delight.

"It was good to see all the excited faces of the kids at the dedication," he said, "and to see the good work the minister was doing in that community."



VIM members John Colbert and Mike Sheehan help local workers lay tile flooring.

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

Lectionary Readings

December 12, 2010

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 3:7-18
Philippians 4:4-7

Third Advent candle to be lit Sunday

Kevin, Jennifer, Cailey and Caden Kesselring will lead the lighting of the third Advent candle this Sunday, December 12, at 9:30 in Bishops' Hall. Our B.A. Brass Ensemble, pictured above, will play and Jackie Reichman will lead the singing. The brief service ends in time for everyone to get to Sunday School.



Legal issues, assistance to be focus of Another Helping on Wednesday

By the Rev. Paul Staat

Seniors, mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 15, at noon! Holiday scams, fraud, living wills, powers of attorney, and advance directives will be discussed at this month's Another Helping. All senior adults and their caregivers are welcome to attend.

Local attorney David Edge will be this month's guest speaker.

The meal will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by the presentation. Cost is \$5.00, or participants can bring their own brown bag lunch.

If you wish to eat the meal at the church, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 583-5181, or contacting Paula Gradney at 699-0129 or paulagradney@bostonavenue.org.

B.A. to again offer more casual, "July Revival-style" services this month

Worshippers will enjoy a more relaxed atmosphere, July Revival-style, in both morning worship services on the Sundays immediately before and after Christmas, December 20 and 27. The services will feature the singing of beloved Christmas carols instead of gospel hymns. It's a great time to invite friends and family to come!

B.A. member authors book to help victims of abuse

B.A. member Neile Jones-Batie might seem like just another television anchor sharing news with viewers, but she has carried a secret—until now.

With a desire to help break the cycle of abuse for others, the Northwest Arkansas television news anchor, public speaker, award-winning journalist and survivor of domestic abuse herself has just released a new book, *Look Again...Because You Can*. It shares her own true story to encourage others to seek professional help when plagued by abuse of any form, and includes chapters written by other family members from their perspective.

Her story will inspire readers to overcome abuse by learning from their painful pasts and moving forward in a way that allows them to give back and live a full life.

Kim Wells, Director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, says *Look Again...Because You Can* is a rare blend of personal journey, commentary, and how-to tips from a survivor. The book is available at bookstores nationwide or online at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore or amazon.com.

Jones-Batie will be signing books on Saturday, December 19, from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Borders, 81st at Yale. All who come are encouraged to bring a blanket to be given to Domestic Violence Intervention Service or to a local shelter for abused women.



UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

Joy Circle will meet Monday, December 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aldersgate Room to celebrate Christmas and review a UMW magazine article.

Circle W welcomes all to join them Tuesday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. in Community Hall for a Nicaraguan meal. Mae Smiley and Nicaragua Mission Team members will give a presentation on their recent mission trip, children's Bible School, women's Bible studies, church renovations, and other mission efforts.

Gifts and Memorials

ROLLIE AND SAMMIE RHODES CHILDREN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Sammie Rhodes

- By: Joy Bankoff & Sue and David Halpern
 - By: Audiology Dept., Eastern OK Ear, Nose & Throat
 - By: Charles Heinberg
 - By: Capital Advisors, Inc.
 - By: Donald Palik & Janis Griggs
 - By: The Rhodes Family
 - By: Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation
 - By: Jeff and Kay Herring and family
 - By: Peggye Enlow
 - By: Randy and Mardeen Olmstead
 - By: Dr. Dwane B. Minor
 - By: Roger and Mary Ann Wehrs
 - By: Jinny Mudd
- ### GENE TUCKER ENDOWMENT FUND
- In memory of Gene Tucker
- By: Dale Wares & Kim Hogue
 - By: Jinny Mudd
- ### LIBRARY FUND
- In memory of Gene Tucker
- By: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Haley
- ### LANDSCAPE FUND
- In memory of Larry Walker, son-in-law of Patsy Byrd.
- By: Phillele E. McBrayer
- ### MUSIC FUND
- In memory of Fran Wozencraft
- By: Jinny Mudd
 - By: Virginia Steele



Families enjoy "Meet and Greet"

Above, first and second graders enjoyed a "Meet and Greet" with their parents last Sunday. Our third, fourth and fifth grade children's Sunday School classes will have their family Christmas Meet and Greet this Sunday, December 12, from 9:40 to 10:00 a.m.. Hosted by the Children's Council, the event is a great way for everyone to meet other Boston Avenue families.

If you have a third, fourth, or fifth grader, come enjoy refreshments and meet your child's friends and their families.

Youth News!! . . .

Senior High news

Tis the season!! What a great crew at Altamont! Thank you to everyone for giving your time to share Christmas cheer!

Our Rio Bravo team created glass crosses for our families and Manos Juntas. They will be beautiful. Thanks to our own Dana Ozbun, who owns The Glass Station. She opened up just for us to create these wonderful gifts!

Last week we shopped for Child SHARE kids...great fun with a PURPOSE!! Did you know that you shared over \$400 of your own money??

I have heard positive reports from you about our study, "Christmas Gifts that Won't Break." Classes are truly dealing with what Christmas is REALLY about and you have jumped in!

I hope you will come CELEBRATE this Sunday with our Senior High Youth! 6:00-8:30 in the Asbury and Oxford Rooms - MEXICAN FIESTA! Qudoba's is catering and I am sure we will be fighting over who gets to wear the crazy sombreros at the BUNKO party afterward! Cost is \$5 AND a warm clothing item Tulsa's homeless teen population. If you don't bring a warm item bring another \$5 and we'll get one for you. RSVP Please! Check out Facebook to see who is coming! Lessons and Carols begins at 5:30- let's attend that together and then Party together!!

Blessings, MORE Blessings this Christmas Season! - Audra

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

We sang beautifully on Sunday as we traveled around Methodist Manor, singing and bringing holiday cheer. It was cold but I did not hear any complaints from our mid-high youth. You were ready to sing the good news of Christmas! Thanks to all who took time out of your busy schedules to help spread the joy!

Our Sneaky Santa party is December 8. This event will wrap up our holiday youth parties. We still have lots to learn during Advent, so be here Sunday mornings on the third floor.

The gifts we bought at our fast, furious shopping trip at Target will be delivered to Child SHARE this week. Confirmands gifts are due this week too; bring them to the church to be delivered. We are making the season brighter for others in many ways..

The mid-high basketball team is gearing up for the January season. Our coaches would like to practice this Sunday right after church. Meet in Jubilee Hall at noon. If you have not registered and want to be part of the team, it's not too late. Get your forms completed and turned in to Debbie right away; you can play too.

Joy to the world... I am so glad we are friends, Debbie

Automatic withdrawals, other options available for giving

There are several ways that donations can be given to the church. Some prefer to put a check in the offering plate weekly or monthly, but many have starting using other options.

Regular giving is more convenient through the use of automatic withdrawals from your checking account. Many church members have chosen to use automatic withdrawals, which are easy to set up. It provides a consistent income for the church and eliminates writing checks and keeping track of contributions.

If you have found that it would be helpful to prepay your 2011 pledge, the church can accept the contribution, give you tax credit in 2010 and spend the money in 2011. The church usually receives about 10% of the budget as prepaid pledges, which is very helpful during the summer months when giving traditionally lags.

You can also help the church and yourself with a gift of appreciated stock. If you have a stock certificate with your name on it, you can still give it to the church. A single-page "Third Party Release" form is all you need to convey the stock to the church. Stock can also be transferred electronically from your brokerage account to the church's account.

Either way, the stock will be immediately sold and the proceeds applied as your contribution. The best part is that you pay no taxes on the stock proceeds.

For further information on any of these ideas, please contact Brenda Reed, our Business Administrator, at 918-699-0135 or brendareed@bostonavenue.org.

Sunday Worship

December 12, 2010
The Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Communion Service

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

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

Sermon: "AN ADVENT SONG?"

'COME HOME, COME HOME' !"

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: Angels We Have Heard on High arr. S. Eithun
The Jubilation Ringers (8:30)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Cathy Moglebust
The Capriccio Ringers (11:00)

Anthem: Zion Hears the Watchmen Calling J. S. Bach
The Chapel Choir men, Debra Morgan, violin (8:30)

How Will We Know Him?..... Charlotte Algozin
The Academy Choristers (11:00)

Offertory: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Cathy Moglebust
The Capriccio Ringers (8:30)

Angels We Have Heard on High arr. S. Eithun
The Jubilation Ringers (8:30)

Anthem: Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates..... William Mathias
The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Hark, a Thrilling Voice Eugene Butler
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying arr. Dennis Eliot

Hymns: 203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
224 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

4:00 & 5:30 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Class News . . .

Cornerstone

Our "Tacky Christmas Sweater" party will be held this Sunday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. Hope you can come.

The fifth Sunday in our interfaith series brings us Narayanan Kameswaran speaking about the Hindu faith.

Sunday we welcomed Stuart Blake and next week's speaker, Mr. Kameswaran and his two guests.

Disciples

We have adopted a family for Christmas. Bring your wrapped gifts to class in the next two weeks.

Mike and Laura Daniel will continue their Advent series Sunday. It is called, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." We thank them for their lesson on the three wise men last week.

We welcome Debbie and Lon Harvey as new members.

Heritage

Thanks to Sam Jones for his thoughtful look at issues from the political influence of television evangelism shows.

Our slate of officers was elected unanimously.

Our social is Saturday, December 11, at Rosalyn and Darrell May's home at 6:00 p.m., continuing at Judy Haug's home for dessert. Contact the hosts for directions.

Happy first anniversary to the Rischards this week..

Thanks to the Waychoffs for the treats. The Perlingieres will bring them this Sunday.

Homebuilders

We thank June Cleary for hosting our Christmas party, and the committee for the food and sharing of memories.

Dr. David Robbins will teach Sunday on "Advent: The Second Coming." Thanks to Jacques Cunningham for his excellent series.

Marita Morgan and Wanda Franks gave to missions.

Keep the Bowkers and Ritters in your prayers.

The Setsers are bringing treats this month.

Horizons

Our Christmas party is this Saturday, December 11, at the Haines's house. Evite to come.

Help us welcome Dr.

Crowell back this Sunday for a lesson on important women in Christianity. The Aycocks will bring our treats.

We welcomed Ryan Rink Sunday. Thanks to Bill Crowell for teaching us last week, and to the Youngs for our treats.

Please read your class email for prayer requests.

Maranatha

Our Christmas party/auction is Friday. Thanks to all who helped with the Neighbor for Neighbor party on Monday.

If you're interested in being a class officer next year, please contact the Wansleys. We still have a few openings.

Pam Low will continue our Advent series this Sunday. Her lesson is, "The Blessings of Waiting." Thanks to Paula Scott for teaching last week.

Happy birthday to Shari Goodwin, Noel Copeland, and Susan Leonard.

Thanks to the Wansleys and Nancy Morgan for our treats and Ed Payton for our prayer.

New Covenant

Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bob and Maxine Lees' home for our Christmas celebration on December 16 at noon. It should be lots of fun!

Our class member, Margaret Carpenter, died last week. Her memorial service will be held on December 29.

Remember Don Marple and family after the death of his brother. His service is December 11. Charter class member Ray Masters also needs our prayers.

Thanks to Dr. Tankersley for teaching us. Mary Ann Bosley brought treats. Thanks to Roy for our prayer and to Bob, Sue, and the New Covenant Singers for our music.

New Frontiers

Meet at the Harrington's this Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. for our Christmas party. Evites have been sent.

Thanks very much to Janet Purinton for her Advent lesson. She'll return Sunday. Thanks to the Lesters for our snacks.

Pilgrimage

Our Christmas party is this Sunday, December 12. Reser-

ventions are required. Give Nancy Campbell a call.

Thanks to all who helped with the Mohawk Manor party. We will serve dinner December 22 at the Day Center for the Homeless. Call Judy Mott to help.

We welcomed Judy Keenan's sister LeAnn Sunday.

Keep Deidra in your prayers as she recovers. Congratulations to Karla and Tom on a new granddaughter.

Thanks to Lynn Peacher for her lesson on the history of Christmas. Joel Panciera will teach us Sunday.

Roundtable

Our Christmas party is December 17 and our fundraiser auction is January 14.

Linda Alegria will teach this week on "Keeping the Holy in Holidays."

Thanks to Rev. Mike Chaffin for teaching Sunday. We welcomed his wife LeAnne and wish her a happy birthday.

Happy birthday to Stan Teter and Betty Lundgren as well.

Seek and Discover

Bring your gifts for our Christmas families on Sunday, December 19, wrapped with the recipient's name on each one.

Jim and Julie Sluss are leading a wonderful discussion on science and religion and how we mesh the two of them.

Ken Knepper is recovering beautifully and celebrating a birthday and a happy anniversary! Busy week for him.

Jeanne Boone gave a great devotional.

Wesley Fellowship

Thanks to all helped with our Christmas/anniversary party.

Thanks to Joel Panciera for teaching us. Doyle Evans will teach this Sunday.

Welcome to our visitor, Marilyn Sheridan, and happy birthday to Jess Evans, Bernice Scott, and Virginia Steele.

Please remember Betty Taylor, Sally Jeffrey, Virginia Woodward, Aileen and Bob Winters, Harold Reynolds' daughter Karen, and Rollie Rhodes' daughter Rebecca in your prayers.

Join us on Christmas Eve!



Live nativity tableau at 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00.

2:00 p.m. - **Service of the Bells**

A service with young families in mind, and all are welcome.

4:00 & 6:00 p.m. **Candlelight Services**

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, A SON IS GIVEN!"

The Reverend Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

11:00 p.m. **Candlelight Communion Service**

"HE IS WITH US FOR GOOD!"

The Reverend Dr. Bill Crowell

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - December 12

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 Communion Service

9:30 Advent Candle Lighting

9:40 Faith Academy and Sunday School

10:40 Children's Worship

11:00 Worship Service

12:10 p.m. Communion and Service of Healing

2:00 Christian Believer

4:15 Camerata Rehearsal

5:00 Lessons & Carols Service

6:30 Lessons & Carols Service

Monday - December 13

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

9:30 Joy Circle

6:00 Men's basketball practice

6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20

6:30 Jesus in the Gospels

Tuesday - December 14

9:00 Weekday School

9:00 Overview of the Bible

11:30 Retired Ministers' Lunch

12:00 noon M.L. King Board

6:00 UMW Circle W Dinner

6:30 Financial Peace Class

Wednesday - December 15

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

12:00 noon Another Helping

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

5:00 Jubilation Ringers

5:00 Capriccio Ringers

5:30 When Christians

Get It Wrong

5:50 Festival Ringers

6:00 UMW Faith Circle

6:00 Chapel Choir

6:30 Yoga class

7:00 Carillon Ringers

7:00 Chorister Ringers

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday - December 16

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

10:00 Program Staff

5:30 p.m. Senior High

Boys Basketball

5:45 Work Area on Missions

6:00 PCCT Parenting Classes

Friday - December 17

9:00 a.m. Weekday School

5:00 p.m. Roundtable Class

Christmas Party

5:30 Gamblers Anonymous

Saturday - December 18

9:00 a.m. Senior High basketball

10:00 a.m. *Messiah* rehearsal

Sunday School at a glance...

Adult Classes for Sunday, December 12, 2010

Visitors are welcome in all classes.

Dr. Biggs' Class - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages

College & Career - to be announced

Cornerstone - Narayanan Kameswaran, "Hinduism"

Disciples - Mike & Laura Daniel, "The Good, Bad & Ugly"

Ephphatha - to be announced

Heritage - to be announced

Homebuilders - Dr. David Robbins, "Advent: Second Coming"

Horizons - Dr. Bill Crowell, "Important Women of Faith"

Maranatha - Pam Low, "The Blessings of Waiting"

New Covenant - Dr. Bill Tankersley

New Frontiers - Janet Purinton, "Advent"

Pilgrimage - Dr. Joel Panciera

Roundtable - Linda Alegria, "Keeping the Holy in Holidays"

Seek & Discover - Jim Sluss, "Science & Religion"

Wesley Fellowship - Doyle Evans, "Heavens Around Us"