



THE WORD

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Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
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**Pastor's Study
4A**



**Messiah
soloists 4A**



**New
members 5A**

Chancel Choir presents *Messiah*, by G. F. Handel, Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Our Chancel Choir, soloists and eighteen instrumentalists from the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra will fill the sanctuary with the familiar sounds of *Messiah*, by George Frideric Handel this Sunday, December 19, at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Joel Panciera will conduct, and Tulsans are in for a treat!

This is the fifteenth performance since the Warren family endowed the annual *Messiah* presentation in memory of their mother and grandmother, Natalie O. War-



The Chancel Choir will be joined by members of the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Joel Panciera will conduct the performance. This year's soloists are pictured on page 4A.



Natalie O. Warren

ren. Mrs. Warren was a lifelong Boston Avenue member who had a great love for the arts in Tulsa and for her church.

A native of Tennessee, she graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University in 1920, then moved to Tulsa when she married William K. Warren. The Warren Family has been very generous to our church and city, and their gift will enhance our Advent season for

years to come.

When G. F. Handel began writing *Messiah*, he became so inspired that he hardly stopped to eat or sleep. Part One, commonly called "the Christmas portion," was composed in six days, the entire work only took 24 days to complete.

Messiah was first performed in April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland, with Handel himself playing the (See "*Messiah*" on page 4A)

Largest Christmas offering ministry recipient Circle of Care earns national recognition

Oklahoma United Methodists' Circle of Care (COC) has been named Organization of the Year by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries. COC receives the largest gift from our Christmas offering.

Circle of Care includes the United Methodist Children's Home in Tahlequah, the Boys' Ranch near Gore, Holsinger Home in Enid, Child SHARE Foster Care Program, and Pearl's Hope for homeless mothers and their children.

"We're tremendously honored to be recognized nationally for the work we do here in Oklahoma," said COC Board Chair Lissa Wright.

Circle of Care has managed to tighten its belt and still help even more people in need this year as a result of increased demand and struggling economy. The ministry's Child SHARE program averages 242 foster children per day and has expanded to include Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton, (See "*Circle of Care*" on page 4A)

Worship Sunday is "revival style"

Sunday morning worship services the next two Sundays will be more casual, much like our July Revival services. Each service will begin with the singing of several best-loved Christmas carols and hymns, then our choirs will sing and Dr. Biggs will preach.

It's a great time to bring family members and friends to worship.

Join us Christmas Eve!

Service of the Bells.....December 24, 2:00 p.m.

Our elementary school children will share the story of Jesus' birth through a live nativity tableau. They also serve as readers and greeters, and they and their families serve Holy Communion. Bells are passed out to ring as Christmas carols are sung.

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

Two identical candlelight services with a live nativity tableau enable everyone to come worship and experience the awe and joy of this holiest of evenings. Music by our Chancel Choir.

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

The Reverend Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

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

Candlelight, Holy Communion, and music by the Chapel Choir and their alumni help make this a special service. It ends with everyone singing the Hallelujah Chorus as Christmas Day begins.

"HE IS WITH US FOR GOOD!"

The Reverend Dr. Bill Crowell

Dolans to light fourth Advent candle



Paul, Rachel, J. P., Elizabeth and Erin Dolan will lead the lighting of the final Advent candle this Sunday at 9:30 in Bishops' Hall. Our B.A. Brass Ensemble and Jackie Reichman lead the music.



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Every year some of our members get behind on their giving to the church. We average 8% of our budget every month for eleven months, then we need 12% in December.

We have only two more Sundays in 2010, so we need everyone to focus on ending this year well. Our estimates for 2011 are the best in almost three years, but we need to finish this year well before we look to 2011.

If you had a better year than you expected, maybe you could send a bigger check this month.

* * * * *

This Sunday we will light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath. Our morning services will be like July Revival Time. Two years ago you voted for your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. We will sing eight of them this Sunday and eight more on the 26th.

My sermon will be, "IT'S IMPORTANT! HURRY TO BETHLEHEM!"

* * * * *

This Sunday at 5:00 we will have the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* with one hundred voices, eighteen members of the Tulsa Symphony, and thrilling soloists. Nobody in Tulsa does it better than our church does. Invite a friend to come, too!

B.A. family update

Baptisms



Sophie Elizabeth Tomasi-Allen, daughter of Mandi Tomasi and Lauren Allen, was baptized Sunday, December 12, with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. She was born December 15, 2008. Proud grandmother is D. J. Tomasi.

Deaths

Thelma Bryson died November 23, 2010. Services were held November 27 in Collinsville. Survivors include her son, Dr. J. C. and Pat Bryson of Owasso; granddaughters, Kathy Bryson of Owasso, and Kim Bryson and Kelli Nidey of Oologah; and great-grandchildren, Barrett and Kinsey Nidey.

Jane Genevieve Hansel died November 24, 2010. Services were held December

2 in Tulsa. Survivors include her daughters, Carol and Lowell Thomas of Tulsa and Mary Hansel; son, William Hansel; granddaughter, Evelyn and Ryan Telford; and sister, Marjorie Roberts.

Stanley Marple died November 24, 2010. Services were held December 11 in Broken Arrow. Survivors include his wife, Gerry Marple, and brother, Don and Carmen Marple of Tulsa.

Jean Dittrich died December 9, 2010. Services are being held Thursday, December 16, at 1:00 p.m. at Boston Avenue with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include her husband, Frank Dittrich; daughters, Debbie and Chris Peterson, Becky and Tom Alexander, and Cyndi and Ken O'Donnell; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. John - Carl Critz

St. Francis - Patrick

Dolina, Bill Montgomery,

Jeanne Parnell

OSU Medical Center -

Bob Bowker

Circle of Care *Messiah* ...

(continued)

Ponca City and Enid areas and 175 children have now been adopted by their foster parents..

Residence programs at the three facilities average 97.5% utilization rates, or 31 children and youth per day, with over 80 more in transitional or independent living.

Pearl's Hope began in 2008 and has been filled to capacity ever since.

This is COC's third time to be honored in the past five years.

Pay with stock, automatic withdrawals

There are a number of ways to give to the church that are more advantageous than writing a check.

Automatic withdrawals from your checking account make regular giving more convenient. Many church members have chosen this, as it provides a consistent income for the church and frees you from writing checks and keeping track of contributions.

You can enhance the tax benefit of a contribution by prepaying your 2011 pledge. The church can accept the contribution, give you tax credit in 2010 and spend the money in 2011. About 10% of the budget is covered as prepaid pledges, which are very helpful during the summer months when income traditionally slows.

Using appreciated stock is another beneficial way to give to the church. If you have a stock certificate with your name on it, just use a single-page "Third Party Release" form to convey the stock to the church. Stock can also be transferred electronically from your brokerage account to the church's account.

Either way, it will immediately be sold and the proceeds applied as your contribution. You pay no taxes on the stock proceeds.

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

(continued)

organ and conducting. It quickly became popular, and soon local newspapers were advising ladies to leave their hoop skirts at home and men to remove their swords to make more room for the large crowds. It soon became the most popular oratorio of the time, and now is the longest-running and most highly acclaimed serious musical work in history.



Dr. Joel Panciera
conductor



Spencer Brown
tenor



Richard Sutliff
baritone



Lynette Bennett Danskin
soprano



Janet Purinton
alto



Wendy Haines
soprano



Erin Studebaker
soprano



Kendall Carpenter
soprano



Jackie Reichman
soprano

UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

Faith Circle met Wednesday. Members brought their World Thank Offering, and Pat Fulford discussed the chapter on mission hospitality in the 2010 Social Action book, *Joy to the World: Mission and Evangelism*.

Some of our UMW members participated hands-on mission as part of **Neighborhood Santa Operation** at Oklahoma City's Neighborhood Services Organization on December 4. Our members traveled by bus to NSO's Martha's House to decorate for the homeless women and their young children. Many other women decorated the main NSO office, wrapped clients' Christmas presents, and decorated the NSO dental clinic there. The Palo Alto I house provides housing for homeless people with mentally handicapping conditions, and UMW workers decorated that NSO facility as well.

Gifts and Memorials

ROLLIE AND SAMMIE RHODES CHILDREN'S ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of Sammie Rhodes

- By: John R. and Alene Davis
- By: Louise Turner
- By: LeRoy and Faye Dean Bath
- By: Walter and Peggy Gary
- By: Nick and Barbara Allen
- By: Charles and Betsy Blue
- By: Robert and Beth Nelson

GENE TUCKER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Gene Tucker
By: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Coffey

(continued on page 8A)

Meet our newest members



Catherine Payton joined Sunday. She is a student at Oklahoma State University. Her parents, Ed and Judith Payton, and her brother Adam are also B.A. members. **Kiran Pace** also joined Sunday. She is an instructor at

Tulsa Community College, where she is enrolled in nursing program.



D. J. Tomasi joined recently and is active in the New Covenant Class. Her daughter Mandy is also a B.A. member.

Youth News!! . . .

Senior High news

Who knew that yelling "Bunko!" and getting to wear a crazy hat could be SO Competitive!!! Our Senior High youth had a blast playing together at our Christmas party this past week!

Rather than bringing gifts for yourselves this season - it was exciting to see the giant bags of warm items that you brought to the party for our homeless teens of Tulsa . . .

As I scraped the ice off my car this morning, I thought of how much our gifts will be appreciated this winter! Thank you to all of our AWESOME adults who helped with set up, clean up and PLAYING!! You are a gift!

Our mission team is preparing for our **Rio Bravo VIM**. We will be commissioned on Sunday, the 26th, and return to share our experiences with you on January 2nd in 420.

Our theme this year revolves around being light bearers for Christ. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers as we get ready to embark on this great adventure!

No DTBA this week- Embrace God's PEACE as you study for finals!!! Our prayers will be with you during this stressful time!

With great JOY and thankfulness! Audra

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Sure ways to get in the Christmas spirit are taste one of everything (yum) ... sing Christmas carols at the top of your lungs ... give from the bottom of your heart ... do random acts of kindness and be sure to come to Sunday School on Sunday morning!

This week the 7th and 8th graders will be together as we find ways to help make peace on Earth. This is the final session in our "Christmas Gifts that won't break" series. It is well worth your time to set your alarm and get yourself out of bed and come join us.

The Confirmation class has one more week of their curriculum. Stay tuned for more on that. Hope you are having a great week. I will miss seeing you Wednesday, as there is no youth group this week.

Merry, Merry, Merry! Whenever I think of you, I feel merrier. Love, Debbie

Enjoy Dr. Biggs' sermons and Bible studies any time on our church website, www.bostonavenue.org.

Blessings of Christmas gifts is Dec. 26

All elementary school children are invited to bring the gift of their choice to Sunday School with them on Sunday, December 26, for the Blessing of Christmas Gifts Service.

The event is helpful and enjoyable as children can show what they received and learn more about God's blessings.

Meet and Greet was lots of fun!



Fourth graders Regan Vann, Madeline Brown, and Grace Rogers were just three in a large crowd of children and parents who had a great time at the Elementary Children's Meet and Greet last Sunday. The event was such a success that it will be repeated during the coming year. Thanks to all who hosted and participated!

Sunday Worship

December 19, 2010
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Communion Service

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

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

Sermon: "IT'S IMPORTANT! HURRY TO BETHLEHEM!"

Micah 5:2-5

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Music:

Prelude: Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol.....Gerald Near
Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Offertory: Angels We Have Heard on High..... arr. John Behnke
The Festival Ringers; Angie Simants, recorder

Anthem: Infant Holy arr. Mary Goetze
The Chapel Choir Women (8:30)

Nativity Carol John Rutter
The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Hymns & Carols:

- Joy to the World
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- O Little Town of Bethlehem
- It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- The First Noel
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- O Come, All Ye Faithful

Postlude: Once in Royal David's City Robert Hobby

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

5:00 p.m. Messiah, by George Frideric Handel

Lectionary Readings

December 19, 2010

Psalm 80:1-7

Micah 5:2-5

Luke 1:39-45

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gifts and Memorials

(continued)

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Fran Wozencraft

- By: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Coffey
 By: David and Rebecca Land
 By: Andrew and Nancy Wolov
 By: Jim and Nancy Calderwood
 By: Carl and Hazel Ortloff
 By: Walter and Peggy Gary
 By: Trigon, Inc.
 By: Air Conditioning of Tulsa, Inc.
 By: James and Mary Newman

In memory of Taylor Brown

- By: David and Juanita Maciel
 By: Robert and Dolores Ritter

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Margaret Carpenter

- By: Betty Stalder

In memory of Richard Haffner, brother of Donna Betow

- By: Wesley Fellowship Class

In honor of family, friends, Wesley Fellowship Class, Boston Avenue Ministers and Staff

- By: Jess and Carolyn Evans

BUILDING ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Rex Ball

- By: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Coffey

In memory of Ann Kilman

- By: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Coffey

- By: Craig and Nancy Wood

BOY SCOUT TROOP 20

In memory of Fran Wozencraft

- By: Empire Roofing and Insulation Co.

MEALS ON WHEELS

In memory of Margaret Carpenter

- By: Bob and Maxine Lees

Class News . . .

College and Career

Bruce and Michelle Horgen will be teaching this Sunday in the Jubilee Center.

On Thursday, December 23rd, we'll have a "Christmas Adam" party at the Morgan's home, 3965 S. Delaware Place, at 6:00 p.m.

Chapel Choir alumni: Plan to join us on Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m. to rehearse and then sing at the 11:00 service. We'll close with the Hallelujah Chorus at midnight in Bishop's Hall - Merry Christmas!!

Heritage

Last Sunday Judy Rowell began a Christmas series with a lesson about Christmas gifts that will not break. She will continue her series this Sunday.

Thanks to Marlene Waychoff for making arrangements, Darrel and Rosalyn May and Judy Haug for hosting, and Peggy Cooper for playing the piano for our Christmas party last week. It was a nice time of food and fellowship.

Jeanne Parnell is home from the hospital, but keep her in your prayers.

Thanks to the Perlingieres for our treats last Sunday. This week the Binghamms will bring the refreshments.

Horizons

Thanks to the Haines for hosting a great Christmas party! We had a wonderful time! Philanthropy items brought to the party will be delivered to area shelters.

Dr. Bill Crowell will conclude his three-week lesson series on important women of faith this Sunday.

We'll have a brunch and class fellowship on December 26th. Please bring your family and invite your friends to the many special Advent events here at the church!

Maranatha

Michelle Place will be our teacher this Sunday as she continues our Advent series. We should be in for a treat.

Many thanks to Pam Low for her lesson on waiting last Sunday.

We had a great time hosting the party at Neighbor for Neighbor, and were able to leave enough goodies to last the rest of the week! Thanks to all who helped.

New Covenant:

Dr. Bill Tankersley will teach us this Sunday.

Thanks to all who helped with our party on Thursday, December 16.

Please remember Stoner and Gerry Arnold, whose grandson died last week, and Sybil Edmondson, whose brother has died, in your prayers.

Birthday wishes to Vivian and Dale Wood, Gerry Arnold, Mary Ann Bosley, Frank Cox, Joe Gilliland, Betty Hudson, Nellie Tay and Joyce Byrne.

Thanks to Carol Bean and Bob Lees for our music, Joe for our prayer, and the Gillilands for such good treats.

Thank you to the Officers Board for their service this past year: June Cleverdon, Carol Bean, Barbara Bond, Dot Kelly, Irene Nelson, Secretary Myra Critz, and Treasurer Don Marple.

Pilgrimage

Dr. Joel Panciera will be our teacher this Sunday. We look forward to hearing from him.

Next Sunday, December 26, we'll have a brunch.

Roundtable:

Our Sunday lesson is Ode to Joy - Celebrating the season with music!

Happy Birthday to Bill Cantrell, Barbara Rice, CJ Hixson, and Don Gasaway.

Seek and Discover

Jim Sluss will continue his lesson series Sunday.

Please remember your wrapped gifts for our Christmas families Sunday. We also need some canned goods for one of the families.

Have a great week!



Children learn the Christmas story

Christi Luks, right, teaches Heidi Young and Duncan Loud how to make swaddling clothes and wrap a baby. The class also used a Christmas totem pole from Alaska to retell the Christmas story.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - December 19

- 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
 5:00 *Messiah*, by G. F. Handel

Monday - December 20

- 6:00 p.m. Men's basketball practice
 6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20
 6:30 Jesus in the Gospels
 6:45 Child SHARE Support

Tuesday - December 21

- 9:00 Overview of the Bible

- 5:30 Senior High boys basketball

- 6:00 Nativity Tableau rehearsal
 6:30 Financial Peace Class

Wednesday - December 22

- 5:00 Jubilation Ringers
 5:00 Capriccio Ringers
 6:00 Rehearsal for Service of the Bells

- 6:30 Yoga class
 7:00 Carillon Ringers
 7:00 Chorister Ringers

Thursday - December 23

- 10:00 Ministers rehearsal for Christmas Eve services
 12:00 noon Staff Luncheon

Friday - December 24

- 2:00 p.m. Service of the Bells
 4:00 Candlelight Worship Service
 6:00 Candlelight Worship Service
 11:00 Candlelight Communion

Sunday School at a glance...

Adult Classes for Sunday, December 19, 2010

Visitors are welcome in all classes.

- Dr. Biggs' Class** - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages
College & Career - Bruce and Michelle Horgen
Cornerstone - Interfaith panel discussion led by Nancy Day
Disciples - Mike & Laura Daniel, "The Good, Bad & Ugly"
Heritage - Judy Rowell, Christmas series
Homebuilders - Dr. David Robbins, "Handel's *Messiah*"
Horizons - Dr. Bill Crowell
Maranatha - Michelle Place
New Covenant - Dr. Bill Tankersley
New Frontiers - Interfaith panel with Cornerstone Class
Pilgrimage - Dr. Joel Panciera
Roundtable - Johnnie Cherblanc, "Ode to Joy"
Seek & Discover - Jim Sluss, "Science & Religion"
Wesley Fellowship - Two Piano Christmas Songs and Hymns

Have a
 prayer request?

Call our prayer line at
 699-0158



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