



THE WORD

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Youth mission begins Sunday

Our Senior High Youth Volunteer in Mission team will be commissioned at the close of the 8:30 service this Sunday, then will leave on their mission trip immediately after the service. The team includes 36 youth and 10 adults.

They will travel to Dallas and immediately canvas a low-income neighborhood inviting children to a Vacation Bible School to begin the next morning at Christ's Foundry UMC. They will also be doing demolition and construction work, serving meals for the homeless, and working with children at a therapeutic horse ranch.

On Wednesday they will travel to Crosspoint Camp in Kingston, Oklahoma, to complete projects there before returning home on Friday.

Please remember them in your prayers.

O come, let us adore Him!



*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant*

Worshippers have worked to prepare our hearts this Advent for the coming of the Christ Child, and now we welcome him with great joy! As this issue will be delivered early, we invite all to join us at any of the following ...

Christmas Eve Services

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

A service designed with children in mind. Children serve as greeters, readers, and music leaders. They also create a live nativity tableau and serve Communion.

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

Two identical candlelight services with live nativity tableau and music by our Chancel Choir.

“DON’T BE AFRAID-
I KNOW SOMETHING REALLY GOOD!”

Luke 2:1-20

The Reverend Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Candlelight Communion Service.....11 p.m.

Candlelight, Holy Communion, and music by the Chapel Choir and alumni.

“THE WISE TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE”

Matthew 2:1-12

The Reverend Dr. Bill Tankersley

This service ends at midnight, then worshippers gather in Bishops’ Hall Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” as Christmas Day begins.

Blessing of gifts is Sunday

Ashley Barrows and Mitchell Nelson (below) and other elementary children have made and given gifts to others throughout this Advent season at the church.

Now all children are invited to bring their own favorite Christmas gift to church Sunday for a Blessing of Gifts during Faith Academy between 10 and 10:40 a.m. Children are also encouraged to attend worship with their parents Sunday to enjoy the carols and casual format together.



Christmas offering helps children, youth through COC

Each year our congregation takes a special offering at Christmas to help share God’s message of love and hope with those who need to hear it. Our goal for giving this year is \$91,400.

The ministry that receives the largest portion of the offering is the Oklahoma United Methodist Church’s Circle of Care, which helps children and youth in need. Circle of Care includes the Children’s Home in Tahlequah, the Boys’ Ranch near Gore, and Holsinger Home in Enid.

Boston Avenue has one youth living at the Children’s Home and

another at the Boys’ Ranch.

Circle of Care also includes the Child SHARE Foster Care program that operates in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Lawton, and the newest, Pearl’s Hope, for homeless women in Tulsa.

Our United Methodist Child SHARE program averages 242 foster children per day and has expanded to include Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton, Ponca City and Enid areas.

Our residence programs at the three facilities average 97.5% utilization rates, or 31 children and youth per day, with another 57 in

transitional or independent living. They now include 16 young adults in college.

Pearl’s Hope is now serving six women in need while keeping their 14 children with them. They continue to follow five other women with their children who have successfully secured other housing.

“Too often in the world of child welfare we hear about “problem” children, “at-risk” youth, or “dys-functional” families,” writes Circle of Care CEO Don Batson. “We at COC believe each child has promise and each family has potential. We work to focus on that.”



From the Pastor's Study

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Last Sunday we sang eight of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. This Sunday we will sing eight more - the sixteen top vote-getters in our last balloting.

Though *Matthew, Mark* and *Luke* are called "the Synoptic Gospels" (they "look" alike), even they have differences. Only Luke tells us that Jesus was taken to the Temple shortly after he had been circumcised.

At the Temple an old man named Simeon approached them. He was a devout man who had spent his whole life waiting for God's Messiah to come. Luke says, "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah."

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon took the baby Jesus into his arms and praised God, saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation."

There was also an older woman, eighty-four years old, who "never left the Temple, but worshiped there night and day." She began to praise God and speak about the child.

My sermon will be, "TWO STRANGERS - BUT ONLY TO MARY AND JOSEPH!"

Open Tables enrollment begins Sunday

Open Tables will begin enrolling for a new year this Sunday in Bishops' Hall. The program was started in 2008 to foster understanding and enhance relationships between followers of the three Abrahamic faiths - Christians, Muslims and Jews - and now includes Hindus as well. It groups participants from the various faiths, then each group schedules fellowship time together, usually centered around a meal. Each participant agrees to respect the dietary requirements of all group members and to avoid proselytizing.

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

Red Cross blood drive is January 3

Worshippers are invited to participate in a blood drive benefitting those in need through the American Red Cross on Sunday, January 3, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The need is critical.

Those who are interested are asked to sign up in Bishops' Hall Sunday morning, December 27, but walk-ins are welcome.

New Disciple Bible classes set

Three new Disciple studies are beginning with the new year, and enrollment is now underway on Sunday mornings in Bishops' Hall. The classes will include:

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

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

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

Help needed for YMCA move

The remaining 61 residents of the downtown YMCA will be moved to their new residence at Admiral and Yale on Monday, January 4. Volunteers are needed to help load their belongings and transport them to the new facility. Contact Paul Staat, 699-0133.

Youth News!! . . .

Senior High news

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...sounds kinda trite! Instead... I hope everyone has time to find a quiet spot and welcome Christ this Christmas. Embrace the spirit of Christmas and go a step further....consider how you will choose to welcome the Christ Child into the New Year. I look forward to being with you on Christmas Eve and I will be excited to pack my bags for our Christmas Mission!!

This year we have gathered the largest senior high group ever to go on a Christmas journey!! We will depart on December 27th, travel to Christ's Foundry UMC to work with Hispanic children in a VBS setting, serve the homeless at two different inner-city Dallas shelters, work with a therapeutic horse ranch and serve at Crosspoint United Methodist Camp in Kingston, Oklahoma! We will arrive home on New Year's Day.

For anyone reading this article- please keep our team in your prayers. We will be traveling a lot and serving many of God's children in many different circumstances.

A traveling we will go!! - Audra

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

If I could fill Santa's sleigh with gifts just for you, it would be filled with *faith, hope* and *love*. A gift is something that gets better as time goes on, so these three things can grow in you all your life.

The day of Jesus' birth is almost here and that is a gift to you that keeps on giving year after year, century after century, longer than we can imagine. *JOY TO THE WORLD!!*

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Eve services and again on Sunday morning on the third floor.

Merry Christmas Everyone!!! Peace and Love, - Debbie

Yoga class is now enrolling

Need some exercise? Want something healthy to do while the kids are at Wednesday evening activities?

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

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

Gifts and Memorials

GENERAL ENDOWMENT

In memory of Dr. Nolan Gross

By: Larry and Myrna Seal

By: Beverly Ann Estes

By: Dennis and Anna Stahl

By: Sue Bishop

In memory of Dale McKenzie

By: Sylvia Thom

In memory of the fathers of Tom and Chris Herrmann

By: Larry and Myrna Seal

In memory of Bonnie Mitchell

By: Stephanie Galusha

In memory of Abbie Lyons

By: William and Susan Parks

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

In honor of our daughter and husband, Laura and Jim Ford

By: Ellen and Ben Gray

Lectionary Readings

December 27, 2009

Psalm 148

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Luke 2:22-40

Galatians 4:4-7

B.A. update

Deaths

Robert T. Cathey, Sr., died December 15, 2009. Services were held at Boston Avenue on December 21 with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include his son, Robert T. Cathey, Jr., of Tulsa.

Dr. G. Oral Roberts died December 15, 2009. Memorial services were held December 21 at the ORU Mabee Center in Tulsa. Survivors include his son, Richard and Lindsay Roberts; daughter, Roberta Potts; and 12 grandchildren.

Hospitalized Last Week

St. John - Max Doty, Ruth Kraemer

St. Francis - Margaret Davis, Marty Rexroat, Louise McGill

Hillcrest - Ruth Scott

OK Surgical Hospital - Lisa Geresi

Weekly Calendar

Sunday - December 27

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

7:00 p.m. Jesus in the Gospels

Monday - December 28

6:00 Men's basketball

6:30 Disciple I

6:30 Disciple IV

6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20

Tuesday - December 29

9:00 Lectionary Class

Wednesday - December 30

No scheduled activities

Thursday - December 10

10:00 Program Staff

Friday - December 11

Church closed -

New Year's Day

Sunday School lessons this week at a glance...

Adult classes reporting for December 27, 2009

Visitors are welcome in all classes.

Dr. Biggs' Class - Greatest stories and passages in the Bible

Homebuilders - Dr. Warren and Lynette Danskin

Horizons - Holiday brunch

Maranatha - brunch

New Covenant - Rev. Charles Herndon

Pilgrimage - Brunch

Roundtable - Brunch and installation of officers

Seek & Discover - Dick Martin, "Eat, Sing and Be Merry"