

# THE WORD

## an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

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### Boston Avenue United Methodist Church

1301 S. Boston, Tulsa, OK 74119  
(918) 583-5181 - [www.bostonavenue.org](http://www.bostonavenue.org)



Pastor's Study  
4A



Parenting class  
5A



College Class  
8A



## What a "Great Day" it was!

Supported by his family, Dr. Biggs visits with Boston Avenue worshipers at the close of last Sunday's service. The morning was a wonderful celebration of the Biggesses' 30th Anniversary at B.A. Thanks to all who helped fill the sanctuary at both services, wrote notes,

and helped in many other ways.

Worship services were up by over 500 people, and 25 Sunday School classes earned attendance honors. The youth Chapel Choir set a new record with 66 singers, and 32 youth gathered to begin Confirmation classes.

## Blessing of Animals is Sunday

"ANGELS IN OUR MIDST" is the title of Dr. Bill Crowell's sermon for the annual Blessing of the Animals service this Sunday at 6:00. The service will be held in the north parking lot, and each pet who attends will receive a St. Francis tag.

As an added bonus this year, all who come are being asked to bring a donation for a pet.

The Humane Society of Tulsa has started a Pet Food Bank for families having trouble providing for their pets. The food bank keeps pets and their families together and helps lessen the burden on the Humane Society for pets that can no longer be kept by struggling families.

Worshipers can help by bringing unopened food for cats, kittens, dogs or puppies, cat litter, flea and tick products, or by donating cash.



Dr. Crowell blesses animals at last year's service.

## Our church is a *VERB!*

**join** (v) - to enter into association with, to become connected with  
"Many .. shall **join** themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people, and I will dwell in your midst." - Zechariah 2:11

A church is a body of people who have **joined**, or committed, themselves to God and to each other. We celebrate when new members **join** our fellowship, and we give thanks for the many opportunities we have to **join** smaller groups within our church that help us worship and grow. These opportunities include:

### Sunday School

"When we first started attending Boston Avenue," writes Ed Payton, "we were concerned about finding a way to 'plug in' to a larger congregation. For Judith and me, the Maranatha Sunday School Class proved to be an answer to that concern. Through Sunday School we were immediately assimilated into a smaller community within Boston Avenue, one with whom we could share our personal faith pilgrimage.

"The same was true for our high school age son, Adam, who was warmly accepted into the youth group through the Sunday School.

"Our Sunday School experience quickly helped us to feel that we had 'come home' when we **joined** Boston Avenue."

### Choir

"I **joined** choir when I was in kindergarten (Cherub Choir)," says Will Duncan. "At first I didn't like it because I didn't really have any friends there, but then I made a lot of friends. That made it a lot more fun. Plus, the teacher and helpers were really, really nice.

"As I got older, I graduated to the Carol Choir. The music got a little more complicated, but a lot more fun. We learned how to sing in different parts (soprano and alto.)

"Eventually I moved from Carol Choir to Chorister Choir. One of my favorite songs from Chorister Choir was the "Carol of the Bells" I got to sing the lowest part with Bryce and Sam.

"Now I am in Chapel Choir. I just started in August. I am looking forward to singing in the 8:30 service, going on Chapel Choir tour, and my voice getting deeper!

"I like to sing, especially happy songs that make me feel good inside."

### Bible study

"Can you really study the same book over and over and find new thoughts or meaning?" writes Judy Rowell. "Yes! ... a resounding yes!

"I have been blessed by leaders and class members who helped me delve deeper. I heartily recommend the Disciple Bible studies for those who want to know more about the Bible, and for those who want to spend time with the Bible in fellowship with others on the journey.

"Each different class is a blessing."



## From the Pastor's Study

*Mouzon Biggs, Jr.*

I know no adequate way to thank you for our 30th Anniversary celebration last Sunday. We twelve Biggses will be forever grateful to all of you for every card, every poster, every hug, and every kind word.

Bishop Finis Crutchfield was my bishop in Texas thirty years ago. He and Bishop Paul Galloway convinced Bishop Paul Milhouse of Oklahoma that I would be a good match with this congregation. They also convinced twelve district superintendents and Boston Avenue Church's Pastor-Parish Relations Committee that I was the right person to follow Bishop John Russell in ministry here.

Then the two of them convinced Gayle and me that we should leave our home and move our family to a church we had never seen to spend the rest of our lives with people we did not know.

We had confidence in Bishops Crutchfield and Galloway, and so did you - and here we are together thirty years later. I can hardly wait for next Sunday to worship with you again!

\* \* \* \* \*

Have you ever had the experience of a child or grandchild asking you a question, assessing your answer, and then asking the real question they wanted to ask in the first place? Sunday's lection reminded me of such an experience, so I am calling the sermon I am writing, "ASK THE QUESTION YOU REALLY WANT TO ASK!"

## B.A. family update

### Baptisms



**Jackson Mills Gilstrap**, son of J. Grant and Sandy Gilstrap, was baptized Sunday, August 22, with Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. officiating. He was born April 4, 2010. Proud relatives include his older brother Conner; grandparents, John and Melody Gilstrap; and aunt and uncle, Courtney and Todd Judy.

### Deaths

**Theda Seymour** died August 7, 2010. Services were held August 19 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Tulsa. Survivors include sons,

Jim Seymour of Tulsa and R. Thomas and Stephanie Seymour; daughter, Judith and Ted Eliot; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Charlotte Moore** died August 10, 2010. Services were held August 13 in Corona Del Mar, California. Survivors include her sons, Jim and Kendra Brawner, and Richard and Elizabeth Brawner; daughter, Beth and Bob Winchester; grandchildren, John, Ross, and Tim Brawner and Parker and Margo Winchester, ten other grandchildren; three stepsons.

**Vi Brotherton** died August 17, 2010. Services were held at Boston Avenue with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include her daughter, Debbie Brotherton, and son, Rev. Bruce Brotherton.

### Hospitalized Last Week

**St. John** - Monica Crow, Ron Gray

**St. Francis** - Frank Cox, Joan DeVilbiss, Paul Fitzgerald

**OSU Medical Center** - Bob Bowker

**Hillcrest** - Jacob Lowen



## Thirty-two youth begin journey to confirmation

Thirty-two youth officially began their Confirmation studies on Sunday as Dr. Guy Langston

led them in a covenant service. They will study throughout the fall and at a retreat at Camp Egan September 10-11. They will be confirmed and welcomed as full members on Sunday, November 14.

## Meet our newest members

**Dr. Jenny L. Boyer** joined Sunday. She and her husband, Dr. Harold Ginzburg, are both psychiatrists.

**Frank and Jean Dittrich**, also joined Sunday. Both are retired. They are mother and stepfather to Debbie Peterson, our B.A. Middle School Youth Director.

## Classes earn attendance honors

Twenty-five classes earned recognition on the first Sunday of this year's attendance campaign.

Those whose attendance surpassed their average Sunday during last year's campaign include Preschool 1, 4th Grade, 10th Grade, 11th Grade, Heritage and Roundtable.

Classes whose attendance was better than their best Sunday during last year's campaign are Nursery 1, Preschool 2, 3rd Grade, 12th Grade, Cornerstone, New Covenant, Wesley Fellowship, and Dr. Biggs's Class.

The super-achievers who surpassed last year's best Sunday by 110% are Infants/Toddlers, Nursery 2, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 9th Grade, Horizons, Maranatha, Pilgrimage, and College & Career.

## Snack supper, groups begin Wednesday!

A new year has begun! LIFE (Living In Faith Everyday) Groups for children; handbell choirs for children, youth, and adults; and the popular snack supper will return this Wednesday beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A schedule of activities is listed on page 8A of this issue, and more information on the various musical ensembles is available on our website at [www.bostonavenue.org](http://www.bostonavenue.org).

## Administrative Board meets Tuesday

The August meeting of the Administrative Board begins at 6:30 this Tuesday in Community Hall and all are welcome. Call 583-5181 for dinner reservations by noon Monday. Cost is \$5 per meal.

## Enrolled in Bible study yet?

Would you like to know more about the Bible? Christian beliefs? Jesus as the four gospels portray him?

Bible study enrollment continues Sunday in Bishops' Hall and all are invited to participate in the class of their choice. Classes will begin the week of September 13 unless otherwise specified.

### Full Disciple Bible Study courses (30-32 weeks):

**Disciple I** - Sundays, 6:15 p.m. - taught by DeAnn McArtor

**Jesus in the Gospels** - taught by Sue Venable on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 20th

**Christian Believer** - Sundays at 1:30 p.m. - taught by Carol Grim and Judy Rowell

**Overview of the Bible** (James Efird Series) - taught by John Crowell on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

### Short courses (8-10 weeks)

**Timothy & Titus** - Dr. Don Forsman, Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.

**Invitation to Romans** - Dr. David Robbins, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

**Invitation to New Testament**, led by Marian Sexton on Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30, beginning October 19th

**Invitation to Genesis** - Rob Morgan - Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

**Invitation to John** - led by Sheila Van Hersh on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. - begins Feb 28th, 2011

## UMW News

By Janet McCutchen Graham

The Executive Committee will meet Thursday, September 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Oxford Room.

The 2010 United Methodist Women's Mission Tea will be held Thursday, September 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the home of Mary Wheeler and Spencer Brown, 1327 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Gifts and Memorials

### GENERAL ENDOWMENT In memory of Bert Tyler

By: Jeff and Gail Huber

By: George and Jane Deal

### In memory of Vi Brotherton

By: Gail Graham

### In memory of Almena

### Guthrey Nelson, mother of Cindy Parrott

By: Pilgrimage Class

### To honor Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr., on his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By: Martha Kuzilik

### In memory of Vi Brotherton

By: Wesley Fellowship Class

### In memory of Bert Tyler

By: Bob and Joyce Skalla

By: Arron and Gelynda

### In honor of Dr. Mouzon Biggs on his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By: Dan and Eloise Rogers

### ALLISON BIGGS SCHOL- ARSHIP FUND

By: George and Gail Graham

By: Wanda DuFour

### BUILDING ENDOWMENT In memory of Vi Brotherton

By: Martha Jo Bradley and  
John H. Bradley

### LIBRARY FUND In memory of Vi Brotherton

By: Larry and Brenda Haley

## An invitation from United Methodist Women:

By Boston Avenue UMW President Dolores Ritter

The theme for the UMW Mission Tea this fall, "Let's Get Together for Missions," highlights our missions in Tulsa, the Oklahoma Conference, and worldwide. Our UMW supports missions serving women, children, and youth with our prayers, gifts and works.

We "Get Together for Missions" on projects at Cookson Hills, Neighborhood Service Organization in Oklahoma City, Project Transformation, Burroughs Elementary School, and many others. Our circles "Get Together" monthly to learn more and to do more for missions.

Mission is one of the things we do best. Whether it is our money or our actions, we are "getting together for God's missions." Are you part of a group like this? Would you like to be?

Come to the

### United Methodist Women's Fall Mission Tea

Thursday, September 16 - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

at the home of Dr. Spencer and Mary Wheeler Brown

1327 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street

*All money donated at the tea will be used for UMW missions.*

## Youth News! . . .

### Senior High news

Great Day was great in SO many ways! Sunday morning was fun with all the attendance challenges (freshmen took the lead!!). BAY Troupe had a productive weekend at the retreat and an excellent rehearsal on Sunday afternoon, and also on Sunday afternoon was our GREAT DAY of Mission!

Teams of youth cleaned attics, prepared meals, baked cookies, delivered meals, served at Burroughs for their open house and served at Redemption Church. I believe *we* were most blessed by the people we served!!

This week the fun continues! Meet on Sunday morning for a fabulous Fifth Sunday Brunch (seniors...the freshmen are taunting you!!)

Don't miss DTBA on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 in Room 420.

Together in Christ- Audra

### 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

What a great start for the school year! Thank you for putting worship and Sunday School at the top of your list!! Confirmands, parents and leaders were reminded of their covenant and mid-high shared their gifts and talents with our youth group. We had an awesome time at Bounce-U, complete with cupcakes!

This Sunday Confirmands meet for opening announcements, then begin classes on the third floor in the Confirmation Suite.

At noon all Confirmands are asked to be present for Acolyte Training. Parents are invited to the Confirmation Orientation.

*At 11:00 eighth grade officers will meet on the third floor.*

A **Back-to-School Swim Party**, 2- 4:00 at the Unterschuetz home will be a great way to keep cool with your church friends. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited!

Mark you calendar for our first Wednesday evening youth meeting for the year on September 1. We will board our buses and taking off to an *unknown destination*. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in Bishop's Hall and off we go!.. fun for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

If you missed last Sunday, we will be excited to see you this week. We look forward to your being part of our youth ministry. Come share your gifts with us as we grow together as the faithful people of God...

I remain faithfully yours, Debbie

## Incredible Years class being offered for caring parents



Above, children begin a new school year. Photo by Jeff Sexton

Our Weekday School is pleased to offer **The Incredible Years**, an effective, popular parenting course, on Monday evenings from 5:30-8:00 beginning September 13. This is the third year this class is being offered at B.A.

The Incredible Years is taught by Tulsa Health Department Child Guidance Specialists. The 12-week course includes techniques to reduce parenting stress, increase parents' confidence and use of praise with children, and reduce aggression and disruptive behavior in children. It also minimizes unnecessary commands by parents.

Registration is limited and the class will fill quickly. Call Patty Banes, 699-0112, to enroll. Cost is \$25 per care giver, or \$50 per couple, which includes a handbook, child care, and dinner for parents and children in child care.

## Sunday Worship

August 29, 2010

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Communion Service

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

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

Sermon: "ASK THE QUESTION

YOU REALLY WANT TO ASK!"

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

### Music:

Prelude: Cantilena ..... Alexandre Guilmant

Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

Anthem: Let the Praise Go 'Round ..... William Boyce

The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Sovreign Lord, Creator, Holy One ..... arr. M. McDonald

The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Offertory: Be Thou My Vision ..... setting by Zsolt Gárdonyi

Anthem: Woke Up This Mornin' ..... traditional spiritual

The Chapel Choir, Katie Wonderly solo (8:30)

Bring Us Together, Lord ..... Michael McCabe

The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Allegro Vivace ..... Alan Ridout

Hymns: 417 O, For a Heart to Praise My God

402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

6:00 p.m. Blessing of Animals Service

## Lectionary Readings

August 29, 2010

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

James 1:17-27

# Class News . . .

## College and Career

We were excited to have eight in class last Sunday.

We are moving to the Jubilee Center Youth Lounge. We will discuss current topics including "Green Church."

We are planning a social to Dave and Busters, and a medical/construction mission trip to Mexico in January.

## Cornerstone

Angie Hooper continues our lesson on forgiveness this Sunday.

We welcomed Viv and Darrell David as visitors.

Happy birthday to James Aydelott.

## Heritage

Dr. Joel Panciera discussed Christian worship and he will be with us again this Sunday.

Elisabeth Harrington's sister and husband, Roslyn and Gary, and Bob Fronig visited. Happy anniversary to the Herrs and happy birthday to Jacque Gallegos.

Thanks to Darlene Tegeler for treats. Evelyn McPherson will bring them next Sunday.

We enjoyed the music at our class party at the German American Society. Thanks to Marlene and Darlene.

## Homebuilders

Dr. Tankersley will conclude his very interesting series on the Kingdom of God Sunday.

Mission gifts: Lynn Bartlett for their anniversary, Elizabeth Bartlett for Lynn being honored for his years of service to Habitat for Humanity, and Ken and Ruth Weston for their anniversary.

Please keep Norval Smith, Paul Fitzgerald, Mary Byrd, and Bob and Sue Bowker in your prayers.

Thanks to Marge and Charles Herndon for leading our music, Lynn Bartlett for providing our coffee, and Liz Smith for our delicious treats. We had 26 present.

## Horizons

We are hoping Paul Staat is well enough to teach Sunday. If not, we will have a Nooma series lesson.

Happy birthday to Kirsten Stovall. Happy anniversary to the Davises.

Thanks to Angela Sexton for her lesson on "The Gospel According to Harry Potter," and to the Kellys for our treats.

We hope to see you here for another great week. The Wonderlys will bring treats.

## Maranatha

Happy 30th Anniversary, Marantha, and thanks to Pam Low and Pam Sherman for a great trip down memory lane!

Upcoming events: "Kans and Karaoke" at Skip and Paula Scott's, then the Amish dinner on October 2.

This week we'll have brunch and a lesson by Professor John Thomas. Ya'll come!

We had 103 Sunday with visitors Johnny Romo, Will Johnson, Terri and Dean Todd, and Meriel Evans.

Jeff Allen, Albert Klein, and Jacque Gallegos are celebrating birthdays. The Solomons have an anniversary.

Thanks to Sandra Costen Kunz for teaching Sunday, Paul Staat for the prayer, and Jacque Gallegos and Mark and Beverly North for our treats.

## New Covenant

On September 12 we will have a sing-a-long at the Lee's home at 2:00 p.m.

Happy birthday to Carmen Marple, Paul Johnson, Dot Kelly, Joan DeVilbiss, Bob and Maxine Lees, and Ray Masters.

Keep Joan DeVilbiss and Seth Landrum in your prayers.

Dr. Crowell had funny jokes and a good lesson Sunday.

Bob Lees and Carol Bean led the music, Ray Masters gave the prayer, and Les Brown brought the treats.

## New Frontiers

The Zoo is coming on September 10. More information to come later.

Thanks to the Hoopers for hosting the pool party. We had 13 adults and 14 children. It was a great time.

## Pilgrimage

Mark Collins encouraged us to think about how our class will support the upcoming mission trip to Nicaragua.

Our thanks to Rabbi Sherman for his outstanding lesson from *Exodus* reminding

us to rejoice.

We welcomed Darlyn's granddaughter Megan, John and Jean Crowell, and the Brownson's son Drew as visitors.

Congratulations to the Gilstraps on their grandson's baptism.

## Roundtable

We will serve at the Day Center for the Homeless on September 8.

This week we will have a committee orientation and sign up. Eileen and Chuck Cannon will bring our refreshments.

We welcomed visitors Jesse and Jerry Peebles and Chuck Tegeler.

Sunday our lesson was on our church's strategic plan.

## Seek and Discover

This week Dr. Jennifer Smith will talk about Halloween and Christmas origins and the Nicean Council.

Last week she discussed pagan times and holidays and how the ancient church incorporated religion into them.

Sandra Thurman celebrates a happy birthday this week.

## Wesley Fellowship

Phillele led our beautiful song service and presented Joanna Waters with a fine video on Buddhism in southwest Asia. It was a wonderful presentation for our class lesson.

Remember our ice cream social on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Pearl Rhoads', and Mt. Sequoyah in October. Make your reservation for a great trip.

Erma Spann is celebrating a birthday, and Paul and Suzy Reagan an anniversary. Remember in your prayers the Brotherton family (Vi died last week), LeRoy Bath, Lois Payne, Don Forsman, Jack Wynn, and others in prayer.

Our visitors were Phil McBrayer and Virginia Thomas. Welcome, and please come again. We had 57 present.

Join us this week for love and celebration. Shalom.

## Have a prayer request?

Call our prayer line at  
699-0158



## College & Career Class has begun!

Our new College and Career Class is underway with great food, fellowship, and discussions. The class will meet in the Jubilee Center Youth Lounge and all young adults age 18-23 are welcome! Rob and Suzy Morgan are currently teaching, "Green Church." (Photo by Jeff Sexton)

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday - August 29, 2010

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

6:00 Blessing of Animals Service

### Monday - August 30

6:00 p.m. Men's basketball  
6:30 Boy Scout Troop 20

### Tuesday - August 31

11:00 a.m. Building Committee  
12:15 p.m. Weight loss group  
5:00 Budget Committee  
5:30 Finance Committee  
6:30 Administrative Board

### Wednesday - September 1

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper  
5:00 Jubilation Ringers  
5:45 Capriccio Ringers  
5:50 Festival Ringers  
6:00 Chapel Choir  
6:00 LIFE Group for kids  
6:30 Yoga class  
7:00 Middle School DTBA  
7:00 Senior High DTBA  
7:00 Carillon Ringers  
7:00 Chorister Ringers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### Thursday - September 2

9:30 a.m. UMW Executive  
10:00 Program Staff

6:00 p.m. PCCT Parent Class

### Friday - September 3

10:00 a.m. Quilting for Others  
5:30 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

## Sunday School at a glance...

*Adult Classes for Sunday, August 29, 2010*  
*Visitors are welcome in all classes.*

**Dr. Biggs' Class** - Greatest Bible Stories and Passages  
**College & Career** - Rob Morgan, "Green Church"  
**Cornerstone** - Angela Hooper, "Forgiveness"  
**Disciples** - to be announced  
**Ephphatha** - to be announced  
**Heritage** - Dr. Joel Panciera, "Christian Worship"  
**Homebuilders** - Dr. Bill Tankersley, "The Kingdom of God"  
**Horizons** - Paul Staat  
**Maranatha** - Dr. John Thomas, Phillips Seminary, and brunch  
**New Covenant** - Dr. Bill Crowell, "History of Christianity"  
**New Frontiers** - to be announced  
**Pilgrimage** - to be announced  
**Roundtable** - Committee orientation & sign-up  
**Seek & Discover** - Dr. Jennifer Smith, "Council of Nicea"  
**Wesley Fellowship** - Al Proo, "Happy Hands"