



THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church

“Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors”

www.newhavenumc.org

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Suzanne Sez.....

I give thanks for the experience of being with all of you Sunday in our worship service, especially the love and care during the first service when all of a sudden you could not hear me due to our sound system stopping in mid sentence. These challenges are the times we don't forget! Our thoughts are with Pastor Cindy and Peter, who are enjoying some time away visiting parts of Italy. We also hope they will be able to return on time safely as the Iceland volcano continues sending ash throughout Europe. We pray for of all those affected by this incredible act of nature.

I recently had the opportunity to be with someone in the latter days of life. A gentleman was in the hospital knowing that he would soon go home with hospice and his time was limited. I asked him if there was anything he still wanted to do. His loving spouse said they are doing it. He loves watching the birds in the back yard eating from the bird feeder. She said we enjoy God's beautiful creation. That same afternoon I was riding my bike as my 5-year-old grandson was learning to ride his. We stopped at the end of the street for him to "rest his feet". He said "Look grandma, there is a cardinal right there. They are so pretty. They are my favorite bird". Then he said "Listen to them singing." I had to pause and focus for there were many sounds that distracted me, including a plane flying over. He heard only the bird and was able to listen to the music of the bird's song. What a gift!

What happens to us in between the age of 5 and 75? How often do we sit and watch the birds and listen to their music? How often do we ponder this incredible creation before our eyes? How much happens in life in the in-between years! How much do we miss because we are "so busy" or because we are so distracted from nature. Being "busy" is what we are about and the busier the better. That means we are accomplishing much doesn't it? I understand that when someone in China greets another saying "Hello, how are you?" the common response is "I am very busy, thank you". We in America could use that same response. We are very busy people! The busier we are the more important we feel we are. Didn't Jesus go off for 40 days to meditate to be in touch with God!

Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal Priest, left the pulpit to express her ministry by teaching and writing and living. She says, "Spirituality can be expressed in every day life such as walking to the store, working at your desk even doing the laundry we can experience the ineffable love and power of God . . . It's everyday life that requires our full attention." Rabbi Jamie Korngold points out that "every major faith teacher found enlightenment while outside, on a mountaintop, in the desert or under a tree." She said "we can recalibrate our awe meters. . . We are sacred space on legs." Maybe we need to recalibrate our lives so we too can slow down and appreciate the beauty around us. Can we go off for 40 days to meditate and be in touch with God? What if our answer to "how are you" would be: "today, I am enjoying all of God's incredible creation, thank you."



I feel so blessed to work with those in the music ministry at New Haven. It also is a blessing that the congregation seems so appreciative of everyone's efforts. God is so big and so amazing, one kind of music just doesn't seem enough!! Of course, different music styles speak to each of us individually.

I want to acknowledge the Praise Band this week. Most of the members of the Praise Band have been together for over 5 years. Maybe that doesn't seem like a long time, but try preparing 5 or 6 songs a week for over 260 weeks. On top of that, you have to be at church at 8:00 am every Sunday and sound and look like you are there to Praise God! These people have a heart for God and a desire to lead in the worship service. Mike Foster and Bill Ford have been joined on guitar this past year by John Manuel and Boone McBride on bass. Steve Smith is the glue that holds us all together. The singers—Tammye Johnson, Adriaan Duiveman, Tracy Pape and Christie Gilbert—were joined by Kaelen Terry this year. We usually spend 2 hours a week preparing for upcoming services and then pray for the Lord to bless our efforts!! The Praise Band also plays for VBS, visits Redemption Church, and entertains at the 4th of July Parade and the Fall Fest. Please thank these individuals for being a part of the "heart of worship" at New Haven UMC.

Paul Mabrey



PROJECT TRANSFORMATION LUNCHEON

Sunday, May 16th at Noon

Project Transformation is a summer literacy camp for underserved elementary-age children, grades 1-6. The day camp runs for 8 weeks, Mon.-Fri., from 9am-3pm. College interns work with the children to gain experience working and serving in urban ministries. Project Transformation was established in Dallas, Texas in 1998; Oklahoma began the program in 2002 and this is Tulsa's 7th year to participate. New Haven has been involved as a partner church from the beginning and this year will partner with Southern Hills UMC to:

- *Financially support an intern: \$1,200.*
- *Support an intern through prayer*
- *Provide 12-15 volunteers for 4 mornings for one-on-one reading with the children*
- *Provide 3 lunches & 1 dinner for the interns*
- *Donate program supplies and snacks*

Our goal is to raise \$1,600. through this luncheon. The menu will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and dessert.

The week we will work this year is Monday, June 28th through Thursday, July 1st. DISNEY is the theme this year!

The Outreach Committee will be available to answer your questions and help you sign up on April 25th, May 2nd, and May 10th at the Outreach table in the hallway. Thank you so much for your continued support for this life-changing ministry.

God's Speed,
Adriaan Duiveman

OKLAHOMA VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION ANNUAL UMCOR KIT DRIVE

UMCOR is currently requesting donations for kits to be distributed in Haiti, the US and around the world. OKVIM is organizing its annual Kit Drive to help in this tremendous need and ministry opportunity. Every church has been contacted and so has New Haven. All kits will be taken to annual conference at Boston Ave. UMC at the end of May.

If you'd like to help once more or if you weren't able to participate in our last drive, it would be awesome if you could. You can either put a check in the offering plate or send it in the mail. Please put "Annual UMCOR Kit Drive" on the memo line and make the check out to New Haven UMC.

God's Speed, Adriaan

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 1st
9:00am-Noon

for cleaning, painting, organizing,
simple repairs, and/or lawn and garden work.

You may sign up in the hallway anytime
before May 1st.



JUNE IS MISSION MONTH!!!

The Outreach Committee is preparing to have all different kinds of mission opportunities during June. On three Saturdays, June 12, 19, and 26, we will help the Native American UMC with some of their needs at their building. This is the same church that came here to cook Indian tacos and our sisters and brothers there are very excited that we will be in mission with them this summer.

We'll have "Undie Sunday" on June 27th (we all bring children's underwear for Child-share)! Pastor Cindy will share a message on missions which will be followed by a luncheon to raise funds for the New Day Camp. This is a camp for children of incarcerated parents. All our ministries will have a display of their involvements in missions.

Last, but not least, all Sunday School classes will be contacted by Todd Morgan and asked to supply a cake like we did last year when China was the theme.

June 28th is our first day to read with the children of Project Transformation at Southern Hills UMC.

On June 30th we will serve a picnic dinner to our extended family at the Day Center.

Praise God for the opportunities He gives us to serve all His children!

Adriaan

The Women of New Haven Are Building a House!

OH YES WE ARE!

We're teaming up with Lady Builders from Habitat for Humanity (a Christian housing ministry) and we will build a home in Tulsa for a family in need.

OH YES WE WILL!

Hope Circle invites all women to join us in this wonderful project. There is something for everyone and on-the-job training is provided. The actual home building will begin Saturday, May 1. Join us for one Saturday or several Saturdays (or weekdays if you prefer). Tools and lunch will also be provided.

OH YES WE CAN!

Email Ann Wilkerson at annw61@cox.net to sign up or for more information.

Opportunities of the Week April 25 ~ May 2, 2010

SUNDAY, April 25

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm Children's Choir
- 5:30 pm UMY
- 5:30 pm Blessing of the Animals

MONDAY, April 26

- 4:30 pm Beginning Guitar/Youth
- 5:15 pm Intermediate Guitar/Youth
- 6:00 pm Writer's Group/185

TUESDAY, April 27

- 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts/Gym
- 7:30 pm AA/ Rooms 185, 209, 210
Alanon/ Room 205, 206

WEDNESDAY, April 28

- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells
- 7:00 pm A.C.O.A./206
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, April 29

- 5:00 pm Math Tutoring/185
- 7:30 pm Yoga/211

FRIDAY, April 30

- 7:30 pm AA /Gym
- 7:30 pm Yoga/211

FRIDAY, April 30

- 7:30 pm AA /Gym

SATURDAY, May 1

- 10:00 am Dinner Theater Practice

SUNDAY, May 2

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday Schools
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

- 5:00 pm Children's Choir
- 5:30 pm UMY



Get ready for an adventure! It's time to travel through time and space to ancient Egypt and learn about Joseph's journey from prison to palace. VBS will be July 18-22 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. and we need you! Youth and adult volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Marketplace shops. Be a shopkeeper and have a great time playing the role of an Egyptian artisan or merchant. Share interesting historical facts with Egyptian families who visit your shop as you help them with hands-on projects and talk about the one true God. You can choose what shop you are interested in: barbershop and salon, toy shop, brickmaking, embalmer's workshop, jewelry shop, linen shop, hieroglyphic artist's shop, basket weaver's shop, or food shop.

Pyramid Playground. Lead Egyptian families in games each day.

Egyptian Family Leader. Lead your family members to different activities throughout the evening and help children make the connection between their everyday life and what they learn in Egypt.

Child Care Leaders. Care for the young children of volunteers.

Photographer. Take pictures of all the adventures.

Snack Supper. Help prepare the snack supper each night for our children and volunteers.

We also need help before VBS, making costumes and decorations. If you can sew, paint, or even color within the lines, we need you!

Joseph's Journey is going to be a very exciting VBS! Talk to Stacey Schifferdecker about how you can be part of it. Training and all materials are provided.

You can also register your children for VBS now. Invite your friends and neighbors – everyone is welcome!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

APRIL 25—5:30 pm

Come one, come all to the first Annual Blessing of the Animals at New Haven UMC!



Bring your pets on a leash, halter or in a cage to the front lawn at 5:30 pm for the Holy Blessing of your beloved companions. Blessing of the Animals is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. St. Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things.

Pets are true companions; the bond between persons and pets are like no other relationship because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Franciscan Monk Kevin E. Mackin wrote, "I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger Circle of Life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator."

Even if you don't bring a pet, come participate in this event as we celebrate God's creation of all living things. In the event of rain the Blessing of Animals will be postponed to a later date.

Grace and peace to all, Jan Lewis Boyd

