



THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church

“Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors”

www.newhavenumc.org

5603 S. New Haven Ave.
Tulsa, Ok. 74135

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Here it is, Christmas week already. We've journeyed through Advent preparing for the birth of the Christ child.... and it's only a few days away!

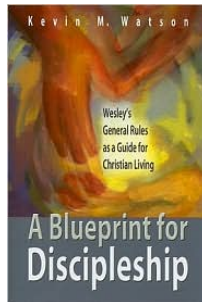
Christmas for most of us is one of our favorite times of year. There are presents to buy, cards to write, and lots of feasting to do! Then, of course, there are family gatherings and last minute trips to the store. In the end, on that Christmas morning, we celebrate a year full of bountiful blessings with gratitude and joy.

In the midst of all the joy most of us feel, I am reminded that not everyone's experience of Christmas will be like this. As much as we want others to experience the joy of the season, it will be different for them. There are those who have lost loved ones and will look with sadness at the empty seat at the table. Others in their lives may be ill, or hospitalized. This year more than ever, there will be more families than we want to imagine....not having a single gift under the tree... much less... a tree. Some may not have a meal on the table, or a place to call home for a night.

When we count our blessings, please remember that there are others in need. Ask God to speak to your heart. I can't tell you what to do, or how it is that you might help. But I am certain of this - God can. God can help us bring joy to someone else's life this year. So let's all open our hearts and listen. Its then, I believe, we will truly understand the meaning of blessing and joy.

With joyful anticipation of Christ's birth,
Pastor Cindy

Join Us for New Haven Nights Beginning February 2nd! Classes Offered Tuesday Evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm

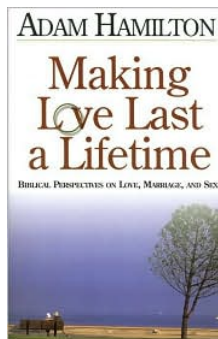


A Blueprint for Discipleship

A practical guide for Christian living using John Wesley's General Rules. Author: Kevin Watson (Tellia and Matt Watson's son!) Finding a way for a deeper, more spiritual relationship with God.

Materials: \$12.00

Class Leaders: Rev. Suzanne Davis
& Matt Watson

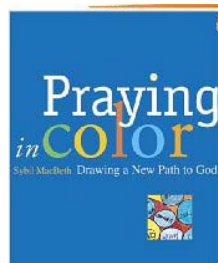


Making Love Last a Lifetime

An inspiring study offering helpful insights to grow in your relationship together, and experience all that God intends for a healthy, satisfying and successful marriage. All who are married, or anticipate marriage are encouraged to attend!

Materials: \$9.00

Class Leader: Rev. Cindy Havlik



Praying in Color

A new prayer form through drawing that is fun and deeply spiritual. Join in the practice of using color to pray!

Materials: No Charge

Class Leader: Danny Hall

Call the Church office 743.6491 by January 11th
to register so materials can be ordered.
Childcare is available.





Christmas Eve
"Three Candlelight Services. . .
One Glorious Story"
5:30 pm; 7:30 pm; 11:00 pm
Holy Communion

HELP!!!

RESTORE HOPE is helping recruit volunteers to move some of the residents of the downtown YMCA to the Mental Health Association new apartment complex at 10 N. Yale. They have asked us for our help.

The move will be Monday, January 4th, with two shifts: a loading shift from 8:00 am-12:00 pm and an unloading shift from 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. There are only 40-44 residents to be moved with mainly personal belongings, a few T.V.'s and small bookcases.

The reason this move is necessary is that the YMCA has been condemned and will be torn down and they are not continuing a residential program. If you would like to help, please call Dick Garwood at 492-8628.

UMW ABLE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY!

The United Methodist Women were able to give extra year-end gifts to various missions benefiting women, infants, and children (our focus) because of the generosity of the New Haven congregation and its members. The profits from the sales of the cookbooks, pecans, berries, and RADA knives, coupled by the money raised from the sale of the Thomas Kinkade Bible and members' pledges, allowed us to give \$200 to the Pastor's Alms Fund, \$100 to the Day School for nutritious snacks in honor of our Dec. speakers Mitzi Blanchard and Christine Riggin, \$100 to Cookson Hills for their Back Pack program (sending nutritious food items home on the weekends with low-income students), \$100 to Pearl's Hope, \$100 to Child SHARE in honor of the Chaffins, and \$50 to the Assistance League for Operation School Bell in honor of our November speaker. In October we gave \$200 to TU's Wesley Foundation to pay for a meal for the college students, and study treats were sent to all of New Haven's higher ed students. In addition, this week a prepared meal along with gift items will be delivered to a family. Thanks to all of you who have helped to make this possible.

YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITY

The end of the year 2009 is quickly approaching! As a reminder, giving to New Haven UMC will need to be brought to the church office OR postmarked by December 31st in order to be included in 2009 income tax charitable giving. The church office will be open to accept donations until 12:00 noon on December 31st for your convenience! If you are in need of further information regarding your tithes and offerings, please call the church office for assistance. Thank you for responding to the blessings God has given each of us as we share what we have, with others.

Tax-Free Transfers to New Haven from Certain IRAs End on December 31

From now until the end of this year, direct transfers of cash or other assets from your IRA account to New Haven may be possible.

To qualify for these special transfers:

1. You must be 70 1/2 years of age or older at the time of the transfer.
2. The transfer must pass *directly* from your IRA custodian to New Haven (New Haven maintains a brokerage account for receipts of stocks and/or cash). Assets or funds transferred must **NOT** pass through your hands on the way to New Haven.
3. The transfer is limited to \$100,000 this year. Smaller amounts are certainly welcomed and acceptable.

Such qualifying gifts through your IRA are excluded, up to \$100,000, from your gross income for the taxable year of the gift, and are not subject to the 50% limit on annual charitable contributions. You need not itemize deductions to take advantage of this direct transfer.

If such a direct IRA transfer suits your circumstances, there are just a few days remaining to accomplish it. Talk to your legal and/or financial advisor and the church office. We will put you in touch, if necessary, with our Oklahoma Methodist Foundation people.

"Just Because" Potluck Dinner

Church Life will sponsor a potluck dinner at noon on Sunday, January 10, 2010, just because! Since the busy holidays will be over, we hope everyone can make it for fellowship and great food, hopefully some of those recipes from the New Haven cookbook! Please bring a dish to share.....just because!!!

*I would personally like to thank our New haven church family for your support of the Mountain of Food. Larry Johnson, the Executive Director of Restore Hope has furnished some figures for November, 2009, and I thought you might like to see some astounding numbers! During the month of November, Restore Hope furnished food to 1,383 families that included 4,106 individuals. These families received over 31 tons of food. The number of families being served is continuing into December at about the same rate. We as individuals cannot know how much the food was appreciated. Again, thank you!
Dick Garwood, Member of Board of Directors of Restore Hope Ministries*

SANTA'S PRAYER ON CHRISTMAS

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer
but Santa still knelt by the side of the
"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me

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Year's Eve Dinner Day Celebration

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help serve, please arrive
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urchase these.

Thank you for your help.

The Outreach Center

Circle

first meeting of the
9:00 am for the annual

the UMW -
for having me come and