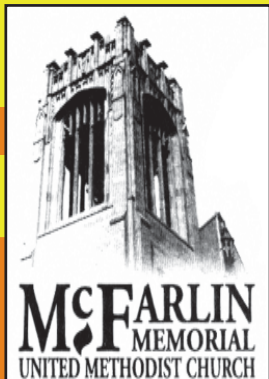


McFarlin *Alive*



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 21

October 23, 2009

All Saints' Day Sunday, November 1!



At McFarlin we have meaningful and moving worship traditions that have grown up around All Saints' Day in both our Sanctuary and LifeLine services. This is so much the case that All Saints' Sunday has quickly grown from being an obscure remnant of ancient history to one of the largest and most beloved worship celebrations in McFarlin's year. It is simply a not-to-be-missed Sunday. We look forward to seeing everyone as we join together with all the saints, past and present, to worship our God.

*Responding
to God's call,
we seek to
live lives
shaped by
Christ,
to reach
people for
Christ,
and to
develop
deeply
committed
Christians.*

The school that McFarlin teams worked to build during spring breaks 2007 and 2008 began classes this September. Forty kindergarteners have begun classes in the school that is run by Methodist Church of the Shepherd in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. The two-story school, paid for and built primarily by McFarlin Church members, will be able to expand to a full elementary school in the coming years. Thank you McFarlin!



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Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 1

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night, October 31!

Volume 156,
Issue 21

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



Recently I came across a quote by Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church that served as a good reminder of what I need to do as a pastor. He wrote: "What you value in your church must be raised up, taught about, and celebrated on a regular basis. And to force yourself to honor key values annually, you must somehow institutionalize them." Reading this quote caused me to think about things I value, what I need to raise up, teach about, and celebrate on a regular basis, as well as what I need to institutionalize.

One thing I value is commitment. Perhaps I do not talk enough about commitment. Come to think of it, the church as a whole does not talk enough about commitment, and yet it is a key to everything we do. If the church really matters to us, as many of us say that it does, then we will be committed to it, and we will participate in those things that indicate a commitment. The same could be said of our marriages or our jobs, for that matter.

I remember reading a true story about a man who chose to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in the swamps of Louisiana because, as he said, "they have trouble getting teachers to live out there, and somebody has to teach the kids." It would seem he had some commitment.

My hope is that we would all have some commitment - enough that we would give up something for it, and that we would dedicate ourselves to a cause that would make a difference in someone else's life. I do not think it means we will all go teach in a one-room schoolhouse in Louisiana, but there is bound to be something to which we can be committed that will make a difference in the lives of people, and certainly this includes the church.

For commitment,

Dick House

***McFarlin Family Camp 2009 - Faithfulness in God
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - November 20-22!
\$50 per person/\$200 per family
No charge for children under 2***

Join us at **Canyon Camp** for a relaxing and enjoyable weekend of hiking, crafts, games and more! Price includes two nights lodging and all meals. Cabins are also available. Brochures are located around the church.



We Are the Church Debt Elimination Status September 30, 2009

Beginning Debt	May 2008	\$1,300,000
Estimated Debt	September 2009	\$860,933
Actual Debt	September 2009	\$845,701

Through September we are keeping up with our debt elimination pledges. Thank you!

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

I have talked some in the past several newsletter articles about the benchmarks I use to give me a pulse on the ministry to middle schoolers and high schoolers. One of the main things I use is numbers involved in the various aspects of our ministry. Another is the number of parents involved and how readily they are willing to step up and help (right now the pulse is VERY good). But another benchmark I use is a little more difficult to answer: what kind of counsel are we giving to kids.

It should come as no shock to you that being a teenager is a very volatile time in one's life. For most of us, when we look back on those years, it is a time of tremendous ups and downs! So, giving advice, encouragement, and counsel to kids is a vital part of us, paid staff and volunteers, who work with kids.

Lately, the kind of encouragement and counsel we have been giving kids has been more spiritually centered as opposed to just socially centered. Several weeks ago I received a text message from a fairly new youth involved at McFarlin; it simply said: "Scott, I need a scripture to get me through the week." A young high schooler, who had, up until our mission to Toronto, cared more about his social status, was desiring a passage of scripture to make it through a week when his faith was being tested. Instead of looking for some silly quote or word of inspiration easily Googled, this high schooler was looking for direction from the greatest source of all - Scripture.

Tino and I are seeing more and more examples where our students want to get into the meat of Scripture to find encouragement and direction in their lives. They are expressing to us they want to be challenged, stretched, and pushed in their faith-journey. And as we respond to their requests the results have been amazing.

Keep praying for us as we encourage, support, and counsel our youth on the greatest journey of all!

Scott Meier

Music Notes

Fall is one of the most exciting times with McFarlin music. We have many opportunities to share in music and the meaning of the seasons. Each week the choirs, bell groups and instrumentalists work hard to lead worship on Sunday, but in addition to that, we will have some other music events as we head into the Advent season.

November 1: All Saints' Sunday in the worship services

November 22 at 7 PM: The Richard Zielinski Singers in concert at McFarlin

December 6 at 7 PM: Christmas Handbell Concert

December 13 at 7 PM: Candlelight Carol Service

December 20 at 6 PM: Cocoa and Carols

December 24 at 7 PM: Lessons and Carols

We hope that you will put these events on your calendar! If you have an interest to participate in music, our rehearsal schedule for each group can be found on the website at www.mcfarlinumc.org/music.

Boyd Hamilton
Interim Coordinator of Music

Care Ministries

Grief in the Midst of the Holidays

Thanksgiving and Christmas are quickly approaching. And the holidays are meant to be times of joy, food, fun and family traditions. But if you have lost a loved one this past year, you may wonder what this holiday season will bring. With so many memories of holidays past, how will you get through the next few months? How will you cope watching others around you being joyful and getting into the season?

McFarlin is offering a time of sharing and support on Sunday, November 1 from 4-5:30 PM in room 223. Charlotte Coffey, who serves both as a Stephen Minister and member of McFarlin's Care Team, will facilitate this evening with the discussion centering on ways to experience the holidays following the death of a loved one. If you are finding it difficult to think about the approaching holidays, please join us for this evening of support. This evening discussion is open to anyone. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please give me a call at 321-3484, ext. 115 or e-mail jcook@mcfarlinumc.org before the seminar.

Serving with you,
Jane Cook, Congregational Care Coordinator

REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Remember the worship questionnaire you filled out in June? Would you like to know the results of that questionnaire? Now is your chance to find out. On Sunday, November 8 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary we will be showing the results on each question. We invite members of the congregation to come and see the results for themselves.

Ministry Updates

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

At the end of September, I got the awesome opportunity to attend a conference in Frisco, Texas. It was the D-6 Conference. The goal and purpose of this conference was to prepare churches to equip families to lead their children to God, for worshipping together at home, and keeping lines of communication and heart connections open and flowing between parents and children.

The speakers covered topics ranging from effective communication and keeping heart lines of communication open with your child, churches making the paradigm shift and learning to support and encourage families to take charge of leading their child to the Lord, keeping your child safe on the internet (predators, pornography, etc), and much more.

Statistics show that children spend their week in the following way: 29% sleeping, 16% school, 1% at church, and 54% at home. D-6 believes that 1-4 hours of church, out of 168 hours in a week, just isn't enough to fully equip a child to walk in the way of the Lord. D6 stands for Deuteronomy 6:5-9 which commands dads and moms to take everyday opportunities to impress God's Word upon the hearts of their children. Deuteronomy 6 is foundational to raising spiritual champions for Christ and deeply committed Christians.

"Moses was very specific in this passage that showing our love for the Lord is not enough. We must be ac-

Continued next column

tive in passing our faith along to our kids. It's clear from D6 that while church is a vital part of this development, it cannot stop there. It must continue in the home. It's imperative that you look for teachable moments with your children in all of life - in the mornings, when you are running errands, at mealtimes, and at bedtime. It's a tough job, but there are resources to help you accomplish your goals." (Quoted from the D-6 conference website).

This conference changed my perspective on many things and has helped me as a mom. It was such a great conference that all of us need to go in 2010! I did bring home many resources, which are in my office and can be checked out. The speakers and the books/resources they have written are available on D6conference.com. You can also sign up for Splink on the D-6 website. This is a weekly reminder and resource offering ideas for families to grow in God's way together. I am now a member of Splink, and it is a great resource!

Kristy Varva
Early Childhood Director

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Greenery Sales. The Chapel Choir members are taking orders for greenery now through October 31. A table is set up in the Atrium for people to place their order on Sundays, or you may place orders or contact a choir member at mcfarlinchapelchoir@gmail.com. Delivery will be the week after Thanksgiving.

Senior Adult

Bonus Years has had a few changes of the regular format. First, we have a caterer now instead of a church cook. The caterer is providing us with great food and charges us \$7 each person. That is exactly the price we are charging each attendee. As you know, we have to turn in the number almost a week ahead, enabling the caterer to order and prepare for us. I know emergencies do come up and illnesses do happen. However, we still pay the amount we guarantee them on the Thursday before our meeting. If something comes up by the Monday before our meeting, we might be able to cancel out that order or place someone on the waiting list in that spot. But when people make a reservation and do not show up, we have to make up the difference. And you probably know that we don't have a big budget to make up that difference. I'm asking each one to be responsible for your reservation. If you can't attend, let one of your friends know, and they can even take your food home to you for your \$7. But the \$7 has to be paid. Maybe some of you have some suggestions on how this can be handled. Please send me your ideas.

Our next Bonus Years speaker is Larry Lewis who has written a great book on the Beginning of Oklahoma Statehood. Our menu is turkey and dressing and all the trimmings. Smile, it makes people wonder what you are up to!

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

A recent book by Christian Smith, a sociologist who studies religion, *Lost in Translation*, reports on research on 18-29 year olds. He describes that group as enjoying "more options for work, marriage, and location than perhaps any previous generation." He also describes them as the most self-focused, confused and anxious age group. Most of what happens to this generation works against serious faith commitments and their connection with congregations. Smith also says that in churches there is so much segregation by age that young adults tend not to interact with persons who have more life experience. While we may have more mixing of ages than the average church, this is by and large an observation that might fit McFarlin. We have a mix of ages in our choirs and in some groups like Disciple Bible Studies. Mission teams and the adults who work with children and youth often represent different generations. But the average young adult may not have too many opportunities to build close relationships with more mature members.

Here are some things you might find interesting: The young adult class that used to meet at Step Brothers moved into the building last Sunday! Their new name is Young Career Fellowship, and they meet in room 100 near the choir room. Their new quarters should make them feel more a part of the church and it will definitely make it easier to send visitors their way. One of our OU students, Katelyn Kruger, is working on starting a college age Sunday school class. She did a survey among the students here for the college lunch last week, and 17 answered that they would be interested in a group! Finally, all the dates for college lunch for the fall are taken as far as classes to serve and clean up, and most of the money has already been given. So significant things are happening for the 18-29 year old group at McFarlin.

For Christian education for all,
George Shepherd

Apostle's Build Progress

The Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build house for the Baker family keeps going forward. Recently the OU Habitat for Humanity Chapter voted to support the Apostles' Build by contributing as a full-fledged Apostle! Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build sign-up sheets are outside worship on Sundays. They list build days on most Fridays and Saturdays. You can sign up during the week by contacting George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org. On the days of early home games, work stops at noon. Recent tasks have been installing sheeting and siding plus soffit and trim work. This is a great opportunity to join volunteers from other churches and work side by side living out our faith.

Volunteers are also needed for a fundraiser at OU home games the rest of the fall. The project involves selling sports radios prior to and at the beginning of games. If you can help, please call Karen Tobey at 364-3756.

Christmas Store Brightens the Season

Many who would have very little or no Christmas celebration are helped by the Cleveland County Christmas Store. McFarlin has been one of several church supporters of the effort for several years. Clients who go through a screening process and help set up the store can come "shop" for toys, household items, etc. for their family. They are also given a ham and several bags of groceries thanks to this local charity. McFarlin has been the church in charge of household items for a few years. One way we stock our part of the store is through in-kind donations from our members. Donations are now being accepted in the hallway outside the church offices. The following are needed (only **new** items please): bed items, bathroom items, kitchen items, small appliances, and house wares. Thank you for helping to brighten Christmas for many of our neighbors!

Advent Festival Is Coming!

Many McFarlinites list Advent Festival as one of their favorite events of the year. For 2009 it will be Sunday, November 29. You can expect the usual interesting crafts, carol singing, jazz Christmas music and a church full of friends of all ages. Mark your calendar now for this big event. The sign-up poster for volunteers will go up in the Atrium November 1. The "Worker's Party" for volunteers will be November 15.

Fall Cleanup at McFarlin

The Trustees are sponsoring a fall cleanup for the grounds and parking lots November 7 from 9-11:30 AM. We need to pick up trash and leaves accumulated during the fall, trim trees, and weed some flowerbeds. Bring a rake or shovel. Plastic bags, weed killer, and mulch will be furnished. Men, women, and youth are all invited to help.

McFarlin News

Child SHARE Needs Christmas Party Gifts

Every year the *Circle of Care* Child SHARE program sponsors a Christmas party for its foster families. This year it will take place on Saturday, December 5 at McFarlin Church in Norman. During the party, each child receives a gift from Santa. It is always a special moment for the children, many of whom have never celebrated Christmas.

Child SHARE needs over 100 new unwrapped toys in the \$15 range for all ages (# toys needed): 0-24 months (11); 2-3 years (24); 4-6 years (37); 7-10 years (26); 11-13 years (16); and 14-18 years (12). If you, your class or group, would like to provide the gifts for an age category, or part of one, please contact Bob Brooke, Child SHARE Coordinator, at 579-1232 for the details.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine"



The Marines of McFarlin are planning our annual Christian celebration of Marine traditions for the Marine Corps' 234th Birthday Tuesday, November 10 from 6-8 PM in Fenn Hall. Dress is casual. All Marines, former Marines, and those of other services who have served in Marine units are invited. The planning committee will arrange for the program, a complete catered meal and a birthday cake (with ice cream). The cost is \$10 each with no cost for active duty military. Please contact Joe Sanders at 294-0033 if you have any questions.

If you plan to attend, please provide your payment with name and phone number to Joe P. Sanders, 4007 Gyrfalcon Drive, Norman, OK 73072-8185 as soon as possible, but no later than November 4.

Those attending are invited to bring to the party new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve **TOYS FOR TOTS** campaign.

Celebration for Ruth Wyckoff

Come celebrate Ruth Wyckoff's 32 years of service with McFarlin Day Care's toddlers on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6 PM in the church Atrium. Ruth has been an invaluable employee. She has cared for our toddlers like they were her own.

She has helped in so many ways to make our center a better place for children by making the room inviting, buying equipment, and working one on one with challenging or special needs children. Each August when children move to an older room, they always want to go say "hi" to her.

The rummage sale is our annual fundraiser. Ruth would take some of the better left over items and have another sale at her home for the center. Ruth has been an encourager and mentor to new workers. We are honoring Ruth with a scrapbook. There are pages in the day care office if you would like to write a message.

Thank you Ms. Ruth, we're going to miss you and enjoy your retirement.

Communion News

Is communion an important spiritual time for you? Do you feel strongly that it be a regular practice during worship services? Would you find it meaningful to be involved in providing this special moment for others? Are you feeling a nudge to make a difference in someone's worship experience?

After hearing the worship survey results, McFarlin would like to offer communion once a month, on the same day, in all the services. We plan to publish a calendar of all communion dates for 2010 so that all members and visitors will know when to expect the sacrament of communion.

The only thing keeping our church from providing this routine monthly in all services is the communion stewards to serve it.

All that is lacking in order to make this happen is your involvement! If communion is a special time for you, then perhaps it would be uplifting for you to be a part of bringing that moment to others once in a while. If you are interested in serving our Lord and the church by being a communion steward, please contact Jennifer Sims at 321-3484, ext. 128 or jsims@mcfarlinumc.org.

McFarlin Family

Entered the Church Triumphant: Barbara Mason; Garland Price; Eunice Tuma, mother of Shirley Cunningham; Juanita Cheney, mother of Pat Reynolds; Bert Meier, grandmother of Scott Meier.

Meetings & Activities

October 25th - 31st

Sunday, October 25		
8:00AM	Men 2 Pray 4 Pastors	Room 200
8:30AM	Early Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
9:35AM	Communion After Worship*	Martin Chapel
9:40AM	Sunday School*	Various
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:00PM	Luncheon for Military Families	Room 226
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
12:15PM	New Member Class/Luncheon*	Room 209
12:30PM	Miriam Handbell Choir	Bell Room
2:30PM	LifeLine Prayer Team Training	Fenn Hall
4:00PM	Wesley III Bell Choir	Bell Room
4:00PM	Wesley II Bell Choir	Meyer Hall
4:30PM	Advent Preparation	Room 401
4:30PM	Chapel Choir	Choir Room
5:00PM	Wesley Choir	Meyer Hall
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Agape Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Youth Fellowship Dinner	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	The Gathering	Fenn Hall

Monday, October 26		
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
10:00AM	UMW #11	Offsite
12:00PM	Quilt Guild Work Day	Room 226
4:00PM	Wesley I Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:30PM	Care Team Meeting	Room 227
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 329, 403
7:00PM	COSI	Room 222
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	UMW #8	Offsite

Tuesday, October 27		
9:15AM	UMW #6	Room 226
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 226
6:30PM	Missions Ministry Team	Room 229

Wednesday, October 28		
6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
9:30AM	UMW Circle # 5	Room 320
10:30AM	With-God Group	Room 404
2:00PM	Care Ministry Visitors	Room 210
3:00PM	Children's Choir/Discovery Time	Various
5:15PM	Festival Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:15PM	Sanctuary Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:15PM	Chapel Handbell Choir	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Academy	Various
7:00PM	With-God Group	Room 404
7:00PM	Divorce Adjustment	Room 307

7:10PM	Women's Bible Study	Room 407
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study*	Room 328
7:30PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:30PM	B.A.S.I.C.	Room 321
7:30PM	FISH Opening Worship	Sanctuary
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

Thursday, October 29		
7:00AM	Boys' Bible Breakfast	Ozzies
8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 222
1:00PM	Chancel Handbell Choir	Bell Room
5:30PM	Carillon Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Thimbles & Thistles	Room 328
7:00PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
9:00PM	FISH Retreat	Fenn Hall

Friday, October 30		
12:00AM	FISH Retreat	Fenn Hall
7:15AM	S.I.C.	Panera Bread

Saturday, October 31		
8:30AM	Seniors Breakfast	Prairie Kitchen

*Child care Available

3rd Grade Bible Boot Camp



Bible Boot Camp for third graders will be Friday, November 13 at 6 PM. We'll have pizza along with some fun games to learn all your Bible basics. You will receive your new Bibles during services on the 15th, so I hope you plan to be there! RSVP to Beth Carter at

bcarter@mcfarlinumc.org by October 23.

New Member Class and Luncheon

Join us Sunday, October 25 from 12:15 - 2:30 PM in room 209. Come meet the pastors, learn about the history of Methodism and McFarlin, and take a tour of the church. Contact Lynn Berry for more information at 321-3484, ext. 180 or by e-mail at lberry@mcfarlinumc.org.

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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**MCFARLIN
CHURCH
INVITES YOU
TO A**

FALL FESTIVAL

**OF
ALL
SAINTS**

8:30 & 10:55
AM

Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

5:30 - 7:30 PM

COSTUMES ARE WELCOME!



GAMES!

**TREATS!
HAYRIDE!**
(weather permitting)

