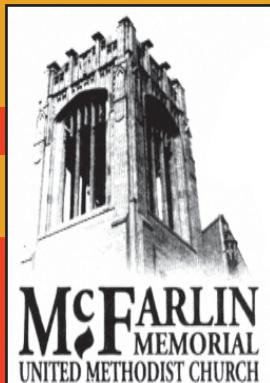


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 157 ISSUE 1

January 15, 2010

MID WEEK CONNECTION

We are excited to announce McFarlin's new Wednesday night meal called **Mid-Week Connection**. This is an opportunity for the McFarlin Family of Faith to gather together each week for a meal. Designed to accommodate those who have Wednesday evening activities at the church, the meal is open to everyone of all ages. It will be served from 5:15-7 PM in Fenn Hall at a suggested donation of \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. The kick-off meal on Wednesday, January 13 is free.

There are a variety of ministry opportunities for all ages on Wednesday nights, and the **Mid-Week Connection** meal will help bring us all together. We hope you will come check it out!

Financial Secretary Needed

Assist the business administrator in maintaining the financial records of the church. Enter contributions weekly, process payroll for church staff, prepare deposits, disburse payments and prepare financial statements and reports including quarterly and annual tax statements. Has expertise in appropriate computer applications. 30 hours a week with benefits. Send resume to Rick Burris, PO Box 6390, Norman, OK 73070 or rburris@mcfarlinumc.org by January 15, 2010.

Two Hundred and Seventy Four Families Assisted in 2009!

Thanks to your generous donations on communion Sundays and to special financial gifts, this is the number of families that the Thursday's Utility Assistance was able to help in the year of 2009.

We who work this program every Thursday morning are aware there are hundreds of families that are just one paycheck away from financial disaster. On an average Thursday we will have anywhere from eight to twenty families visiting our church seeking utility assistance. We also know that on an average we will be able to help only four to six of those families.

Please remember those needing your help when you place your money on the altar each communion Sunday.

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

P.O. Box 6390, 73070
419 S. University at Apache
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In His Loving Name,
Tim Stewart, Herb Hamburger and Teresa Williams
Thursday's Utility Assistance

Volume 157,
Issue 1

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



Now that we are into the new year, I am drawn to an old proverb which says, "Fear less: hope more, eat less: chew more, whine less: breathe more, talk less: say more, hate less: love more, and all good things will be yours." With a new year comes new opportunities, and one opportunity is to make better use of our time.

William Shakespeare once wrote: "I have wasted time and now doth time waste me." It is a sobering thought...worthy of our reflection as we begin this new year. To be sure, we do waste time and a lot of time. On the other hand, one thing that comes with a new year is a chance for change. This is one reason I like a new year.

I have never been one for making many new year's resolutions, but a new year does give me a chance to do some things differently. Maybe you feel the same way. Whether or not we continue to waste time remains to be seen. Whatever happens, my hope is that we will get a lot accomplished in 2010.

As you might expect, I have lots of plans for 2010. No doubt you have some plans as well. Let us resolve to use our time wisely. After all, we only have so much of it, and it becomes all the more precious as the years go by.

For the stewardship of time,

Dick House

Life _____ _____ Line



I am currently reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's wonderful book "Life Together". (If you've never read anything from the great pastor/martyr/theologian, I highly recommend him). In the book, Bonhoeffer has a section on properly understanding the church, not as a community that lives up to our ideals, but as a divinely given reality. The basic message is that the church community can't, and shouldn't, conform to what we would like it to be, because it exists, not to fulfill our wishes and dreams, but to live as Christ saw fit to establish it. Bonhoeffer says:

"He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial. God hates visionary dreaming; it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others, and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God himself accordingly. . . When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. . . So he becomes, first an accuser of his brethren, than an accuser of God, and finally the despairing accuser of himself".

Church, even the local church with all its faults and disappointments, is a divine gift. Because this is so, Bonhoeffer believed that thankfulness ought to be our attitude toward the community in which God had placed us. He wrote, "If we do not give daily thanks for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even when there is no great experience, no discoverable riches. . . then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ".

I found these words and thoughts to be more than a little bit convicting. More often than I would like to admit, my attitude toward our community has been one of demanding the body conform to my image of what church ought to be instead of thankfulness for what God has provided. My guess is that I am not alone. I think it is time that we all pay better attention to the wisdom of this great teacher of the faith. Let's try putting daily thankfulness over complaining and demanding so that we don't hinder God from building our community into everything he sees fit. I can't resist one last quote "Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate".

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

This past Sunday I met with my Mexico team leaders for the first time. This is a group of 20 sophomores through seniors who have been to Mexico before and this year will be charged with leading our 10 teams during our spring break mission. Of course, the main task for each team is the building of a casita (a small, cement-block house) for a family need, but the responsibilities and expectations for these team leaders far exceeds just the building of the house. In many ways, the kids who have stepped up to be team leaders over the past 14 years (we have used this "system" for our Mexico Missions) have become key to its success.

"Success"! That is a pretty loaded word when it comes to mission work, as there are so many facets to what makes a mission successful. Is it the number of casitas we build? Is it the number of people who travel with us? Is it the ethnic barriers that are broken down between the people of Norman, America and Nuevo Progreso, Mexico? Is it high school and college students being challenged in their thinking about how they will determine "success" as they travel through their lives and their careers?

Honestly, to me a mission can only be considered "successful" when kids come, first and foremost, into a new or renewed strengthened relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That's right...we do these mission trips so the people who travel will have the opportunity to grow in their faith. If it were just about building casitas, we would send the money down and hire local laborers. If it were just about building relationship between groups of kids we would have a lock-in at the church. I have to constantly remind myself that "doing mission work" is about so much more than just doing some work.

So, as we prepare for our 17th spring break mission to Mexico, please join me in praying that we keep our focus on the real reason we go to serve...that is to see Christ face to face.

Scott Meier

Music Notes

Music at McFarlin is off to a quick start with many exciting opportunities to worship. As we chose the music for spring, it occurred to me how vital the integration of the message is for every worship service. First the sermon titles are selected and then the scripture. Next we discuss each scripture, find the hymns and responses that work best to support the scripture and message. After all of that is done, our directors choose appropriate anthems, solos, bell pieces, and instrumental music to further tell the story of the day. Finally, our organists compose or choose chorale preludes, postludes and hymn arrangements to help enhance the message the ministers are trying to present.

We do this because God demands the best we have to offer as we praise and worship him. Each week as we go from McFarlin to take on the world, the better we understand and internalize what the ministers are trying to proclaim and the more equipped we are to move forward. If taking the time and effort to plan well, rehearse with excellence, and sing as if we are performing for an audience of One helps to deliver the message and worship God, it is well worth whatever it takes.

When you next come to Sanctuary worship services, take a moment and read John Wesley's Directions for Singing from Wesley's select Hymns, 1761 located at the front of the hymnal. Number 4 is particularly important as we join in worship of our Lord.

Worship is important,
Boyd Hamilton

Single Snippets

Start living in 2010 without fear, anxiety or worry!

Can You Imagine Your Life Without Fear? Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. They're talking layoffs at work, slow-downs in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East and upswings in global warming. But what if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, and doubt, what would remain? Envision a day, just one day, when you could trust more and fear less. Can you imagine your life without fear?

A new Wednesday night multi-generational study group will tackle this issue by means of Max Lucado's new book FEARLESS. Each week there is a 5-10 minute lesson by Max on DVD and small group discussions with thought-provoking questions. Join us on Wednesday, January 27 at 7:30 PM in room 210 for a fresh new look at living the life Jesus meant for us to live – a life of walking faithfully and without fear. Contact Harriette Leigh Kemp for more information or to sign up at 245-9874 or hrleigh@cox.net.

Learn to Live as One in a World of Twos. This 13-week study will explore different facets of singleness as well as some of the attributes and difficulties that may be prominent in the lives of single Christians. The emotions and feelings to be studied are part of the human condition, not exclusive to the single life. Topics to be explored include "The Faces of Singles," "Dealing with Depression and

Continued on Page 5

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Happy 2010!

We started off our Bonus Years meeting for the year with a great turn out for our Antique Road Show Program. Our meetings begin at 10:30 AM but that doesn't mean people should wait to show up at that time. The wonderful people volunteering to collect the money often miss out on the first part of the program, and often even during the program because of late arrivals. Sometimes the noise level from that table prevents people already seated from hearing what is being said. Please try to come early enough to be seated by 10:30. Some have suggested that we take money in advance to speed up the registration. If you would like to do that, please put your check in an envelope and have it placed in my mailbox. We are not faulting anyone, we just want to make it easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

Thanks to all the volunteers who help out at the money table, who conduct our music (we appreciate and thank them) and who help in the setting and cleaning up before and after the meals. We could even use a few more helpers if you are able.

Our trip on Saturday, February 20 is to Frederick for the Oyster Festival. We will tour the Hackberry Bird Sanctuary, the Pioneer Town site, Crawford's Wild Animal Collection, antique malls, craft shows and all the fried or raw oysters you can eat. If you want to go and eat something besides oysters, other food will be available. The bus will leave Norman at 10 AM and return between 6:30 and 7 PM. The cost is \$50 and includes a sack lunch on the bus.

Keep smiling,
Carol Dean Schreiner

Care Ministries

Although family and friends care for us when we hit troublesome spots on our individual journeys through life, our church family cares for us as well. One example of this is McFarlin's Care Team. This group of individuals gathers nearly every Monday night of the year to pray and discern how to support and encourage individual members and families within our congregation that need to know that their church cares about them. The Care Team is notified of these needs as they are passed on by church members, ministers, staff, and through prayer requests. This past year, team members have responded to care needs by personally telephoning 39 individuals, sending cards to 497 others, visiting 17 individuals in their homes or in the hospital, requesting the ministers to make 25 other pastoral contacts, and offering numerous intercessory prayers. They have requested meals be sent by McFarlin's Meal Ministries and requested that 38 individuals receive prayer shawls.

If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, prayer, a meal or other care response, please let us know.

Serving with you,
Jane Cook, Congregational
Care Coordinator



CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

If you read this column regularly, you've probably noticed our recent emphasis on Deuteronomy 6:5-9. God has convicted our hearts to teach our children about His love and His Word at home, which is an ongoing charge. Just think about your children's academic learning. Do you expect their education to be confined to school, or do you help them with homework and read to them at night? Learning about God and developing a relationship with Him is no different; it requires consistent dedication.

The first step toward conversations about God is devoting time to our families. When we make the effort to be together, we talk about God's love and Jesus' teachings as they apply to our lives. We all know how curious children are and the questions that they ask. An article in the December/January issue of *Parent & Child* magazine listed ideas for new family traditions. "Poet's Corner" after dinner, during which each family member reads aloud a favorite poem (this could be a scripture), drawing a family member's name from a box and anonymously performing a kind deed for that person that week and working crossword puzzles together (you can create your own on puzzlemaker.com with hidden messages-perhaps a Biblical quote). Our Mid-Week Connection meals on Wednesday evenings can bring your family together; D6family.com/splink and our Elements of Worship bulletins have weekly activities to teach your children biblical concepts. However we decide to spend time with our children, and whatever activities we prepare, the closeness and trust we develop will help foster their relationship with God.

Beth Carter
Elementary Children's Director

Kristy Varva
Early Childhood Director

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

A new year always brings the feeling of the future as a blank slate. Of course, we always have some connection with past events, relationships and habits. For most people there have been events in the past year they would rather forget. One important belief of the Christian faith is that the future can be different. My prayer for you is that you will partner with God this year to make your future different.

An event on the minds of my family these days was our younger son, Mark's, marriage last Saturday.

As I look toward the next few months at McFarlin, I pray that many will include in their plans the short-term Disciple Bible Study course, *Invitation to the New Testament*, or one of the many other opportunities for study and growth through McFarlin. The plans for Mid-Week Connection can strengthen our church and raise the level of fellowship and discipleship.

One of my goals is to continue to strengthen the adult classes and other small groups of McFarlin. Our Lenten Study, *Strength for the Journey*, based on the book by Bishop Hayes, will contribute to the growth of many. A little later in the year the mission trip in June to Alaska will be a special time for the McFarlin missionaries who give a week of their lives to serve others.

Let me hear from you if you want to be part of one or more of these upcoming events.

With confidence about God's direction for the new year,
George Shepherd

Day at the Legislature Wednesday, February 10

This year's gathering of Christians at the State Capitol happens Wednesday, February 10. Day at the Legislature is sponsored by the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, the group of 16 Christian communions with strong United Methodist leadership. McFarlin usually has a group go each year. The morning session and lunch this year is at First Christian Church located at NW 36th and Walker. After lunch there will be discussions with legislators at the capitol. The theme is "Building and Re-building Our Communities." Focus issues will be criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence. Tom Boyd is the keynote speaker.

Printed information and registration forms are available outside worship and information is available from George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109. Individuals should send in their own registration by the deadline-February 3 for the early bird registration of \$30. After that the cost is \$35. George is coordinating the transportation by church vehicle, so call him if you want to ride with our group.

Bible Study for the New Year

Want to Study the New Testament? Have you wanted to do "serious" Bible study but just don't have the 34 weeks to commit to Disciple Bible Study? Would you like to learn about the major themes of the Gospels? Does an intentional study with regular scripture reading and reflection, prayer and a weekly gathering appeal to you? Then the short term Disciple Bible Study *Invitation to the New Testament* is what you are looking for!

The eight-session course will be on Wednesdays in conjunction with our new "Mid-Week Connection" (see article in this issue). Of course you are invited to the study whether or not you come eat the meal beforehand. An orientation is set for January 20 with the eight-week course starting the next week. The time is 6:30-7:30 PM each week and will be led by George Shepherd. The group will skip Ash Wednesday and Spring Break.

At the orientation, participants will receive their workbooks and assignments and begin getting acquainted. The course uses Matthew's Gospel as a starting point to explore how the New Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus - his life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection - and the implications of his arrival for their lives and their communities of faith. The cost of the workbook is \$9. Weekly meetings feature a two-part video segment to guide each session with interpretive presentations from biblical scholars to supplement participants' scripture reading during the week.

Sign up outside worship or contact George Shepherd for more information at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshpherd@mcfarlinumc.org. Reservations for child care are needed by Sunday, January 17.

Single Snippets

Continued from Page 3

Anxiety, Isolation and Self-Centeredness," "Single Parenting," and ends with no matter what our marital status, we are accepted, secure, and significant in Christ. Class begins Wednesday, January 27 at 7:30 PM in room 223. Contact Harriette Leigh Kemp for more information or to sign up.

Eat at the Mid-Week Connection meal in Fenn Hall prior to these classes from 5:15-7 PM. (A \$5 donation is encouraged).

McFarlin News

Lenten Studies Planned

This year McFarlin will offer Lenten Studies based on the book by Bishop Hayes, *Strength for the Journey*. The Bishop will preach at McFarlin on Sunday, February 28 so the studies will key off that event. The short book of devotionals is full of insights and inspiration on many different topics. Each one also has a scripture reference.

The plan is to offer sessions on different nights (or days) of the week, usually in homes but with a Wednesday night option at the church. The informality of the home settings will be a special feature of this series. Homes and leaders are needed for the study. If you might consider offering your home or possibly leading a group, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

Thank You from Child SHARE

A heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and groups who provided Christmas party and Angel Tree gifts for Child SHARE foster children. This year eighty children at the Christmas party and forty children from the Angel Tree had a merrier Christmas because of your generosity. Foster parents often say to me, "We couldn't do it without your support." This sentiment is especially appropriate at Christmas time. Thanks, again, for all you do for the children.

Bob Brooke, Child SHARE Coordinator

Women's Bible Study begins Wednesday, January 27



Start the new year right. Join a welcoming and warm group of women meeting Wednesday evenings at 7:10 PM in room 222 (off the atrium) to study one chapter a week from the Bible. We will begin the gospel of Mark on Wednesday, January 27. Contact Eve Hawley at 321-3488 or hawleyhouse@cox.net, for more information or to make child care arrangements.

Debt Elimination standing as of November 30, 2009

May 2008
Actual Debt
\$1,300,000

November 2009
Projected Debt
\$821,747

November 2009
Actual Debt
\$809,013

Our contributions to the Debt Elimination remain ahead of the monthly projections. Thank you for this stewardship. Keep up the good work, and we will have the debt eliminated within the three-year goal. We need \$25,000 each month to keep on the projection line over the three-year campaign period.

McFarlin Family

Entered the Church Triumphant: George Mercer; Paulene Blachly; Duane Blanton; Charles Baker Holland.

Baptized Into the Family of Faith: William Lee "Knox" Borden IV, son of Will and Jodana Borden; Aiden Laurence Roberson, son of Cody and Shannon Roberson.

Meetings & Activities

January 17th - 23rd

Sunday, January 17

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	Family Ministries Meeting	Room 222
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
12:15PM	New Members Class/Luncheon*	Room 209
1:45PM	Prison Ministry	South Lot
All Day	Quartz Mountain Bell Retreat	Offsite
5:30PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Youth Fellowship Dinner	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	The Gathering	Fenn Hall

Monday, January 18

All Day	Church Offices Closed	Church Offices
9:00AM	Norman Area Quilters Guild Workshop	Fenn Hall
All Day	Quartz Mountain Bell Retreat	Offsite
6:30PM	Growth & Vision Ministry Team	Room 209
6:30PM	Norman Area Quilters Guild	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Rooms 329, 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall

Tuesday, January 19

9:00AM	Bonus Years Trip Around Norman	Offsite
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
12:00PM	UMW #7	Room 226
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III	Room 226
7:00PM	Day Care Board*	Room 129

Wednesday, January 20

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
9:00AM	UMW #1*	Room 228
9:30AM	UMW Circle # 5	Room 320
11:45AM	Alzheimers Support Group	Room 209
3:00PM	Children's Choir/Discovery Time	Various
5:15PM	Mid-Week Connection	Fenn Hall
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:30PM	Invitation to the New Testament	Room 224
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:10PM	Women's Bible Study	Room 222
7:15PM	Wednesday Quilters	Room 226
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study*	Room 401
7:30PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:30PM	B.A.S.I.C.	Room 321
7:30PM	FISH Opening Worship	Sanctuary

*Child care Available

Thursday, January 21

7:00AM	Middle School 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
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
8:00PM	Youth Praise Band Practice	Fenn Hall

Friday, January 22

7:15AM	S.I.C.	Panera Bread
7:30AM	H.S. Freshman Bible & Breakfast	Ozzies
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104

Saturday, January 23

8:00AM	Pack 241 Pinewood Derby	Fenn Hall
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*Child care Available

McFarlin Children's Choir



The Children's Choir is in need of shepherds on Wednesdays from 2:45-5 PM. We need volunteers from January 13 or whenever they can start until the evening of April 28. We also are looking for drivers to pick up children at schools on a regular or fill in basis. They can drive their own vehicle or one of the church vans. Please contact Teresa Williams at williams@mcfarlinumc.org or 321-3484, ext. 112 for more information on how you can be a part of this exciting ministry!

Elements of Worship

Our Elements of Worship program is a wonderful opportunity for adults to connect with our young elementary students (1st and 2nd graders)! Shepherding for this program means leaving the 10:55 service and assisting with the children for approximately 30 minutes. No preparation is required for shepherds. We are always in need of more volunteers in this area, and it is a rewarding experience. Please contact Beth Carter at 321-3484, ext. 179 or bcarter@mcfarlinumc.org to find out more!

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



P.O. Box 6390
Norman, OK 73070
405.321.3484
www.mcfarlinumc.org

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New Members Class & Luncheon

The New Members Class & Luncheon is Sunday, January 17 from 12:15-2:30 PM in room 209. Come meet the pastors, learn about the origins of Methodism and the history of McFarlin as well as take a tour! Free child care is available. Please RSVP to Lynn Berry, Lay Involvement Coordinator at 321-3484, ext. 180 or lberry@mcfarlinumc.org.

8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship

McFarlin Alive
Page 8

Troop 241 Scout Night
At CiCi's Pizza in Norman
Monday, January 25 from 5-9 PM



Proceeds go to our Scout Troop's High Adventure Camp at Seabase, Florida. Just tell the cashier you are with Troop 241 when you order.