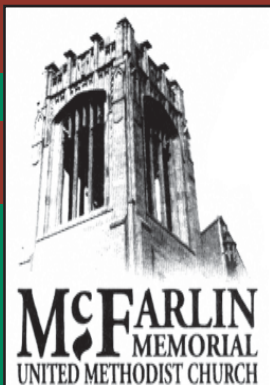


McFarlin *Alive*



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 25

December 18, 2009

Christmas Eve at McFarlin Thursday, December 24!

This year there will be four opportunities to worship at McFarlin on Christmas Eve. **At 5 PM**, the Sanctuary will be filled with families of all shapes and sizes at the Family Communion Service. This service is intimate yet informal and is designed with children in mind. **At 7 PM**, worshippers have two choices for worship. One is to worship in our contemporary setting we call LifeLine. This service is in Fenn Hall and includes communion and hot cocoa. Also at 7 PM in the Sanctuary, there will be a festival of Lessons and Carols and communion will be served. The last service on Christmas Eve is a communion service in the Sanctuary at **11 PM**. Child care for children birth through kindergarten is available in the nursery for both 7 PM services. **Let McFarlin be your home this Christmas!**

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



Birthday Party for Jesus

All ages are welcome to join the children and youth in celebrating Jesus' birthday. We will have our annual Birthday Party for Jesus during Sunday school on December 20 in the early childhood area on the first floor. Festivities will begin at 10 AM and will include storytelling, caroling, cake, and more. We hope to see you there!



Communion Schedule for 2010



McFarlin's Worship Ministry Team has set the communion schedule for 2010. On the dates below, communion will be served in both Sanctuary services and LifeLine.

2010 communion dates: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 1 (Holy Thursday), May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 24.

P.O. Box 6390, 73070
419 S. University at Apache
Norman, Okla. 73069
PH 405-321-3484
www.mcfarlinumc.org

Volume 156,
Issue 25

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



One of my favorite Christmas carols is Charles Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Last Sunday night at the Candlelight Carol Concert we sang this hymn. This Sunday morning we will be singing it again. In my opinion, we cannot sing this song too much. The thought of one being born so that we "no more may die" and being born so that we might be given "second birth" is heartwarming, to say the least.

Felix Mendelssohn wrote the tune for this carol. Even though Mendelssohn never intended for this "sprightly tune" to be used with a sacred text, it has proven to be one of the most beloved songs of the season. And happily, the text was written by one of the founders of Methodism.

As you go through this holiday season, I hope you will remember the words of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. To think that we might start all over again is very appealing. The idea that we might become new people is an idea worth contemplating.

As you look to Christmas, and the New Year that follows, may you experience the Christ child as never before. May your hope be realized as you make the holidays holy days. From my family to yours, we send you greetings!

For celebrating Christ's birth,

Dick House

Life _____ _____ Line



I've never been more proud to be a pastor at McFarlin than I have been this Advent Season. In a time of heightened need in our community, the people of this church have stepped up with a level of generosity toward our community like I've never seen before. Here's a partial list of the ways McFarlin has organized to bless our community:

- ❖ Over 100 hours of bell ringing for the Salvation Army.
- ❖ 130 hours put toward the Christmas Store and hundreds of dollars in donations.
- ❖ 30 plus hours by the Methodist Men toward moving the Child Share Depot.
- ❖ Furniture at East Main Place.
- ❖ The Prayer Shawl Ministry is giving away a scarf with every sack of food from McFarlin's Food Pantry.
- ❖ Through the 10th of December, the Food Pantry has helped 82 families. Approximately 10 families were assisted with utilities.
- ❖ Our children raised enough money to furnish a child's room at the "Apostle's Build" Habitat Home.
- ❖ Hosted the Child Share Christmas Party and provided over 100 gifts for foster families.
- ❖ Collected 300 pairs of shoes and 250 winter coats.
- ❖ 150 (and counting) children, who have had gifts provided for them through the LifeLine Angel Tree.
- ❖ 35 families who have had gifts provided through Operation Santa Claus.
- ❖ Hundreds (thousands?) of hours of rehearsals by various music groups to provide beautiful worship and concerts for the whole city.
- ❖ Hosted a major fundraiser for the Mary Abbott House.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. There are many, many other efforts underway in the church that I don't know about. But the bottom line is that in a difficult economy, with more people in need than ever, God moved the people of this church to donate thousands of hours of labor and tens of thousands of dollars to brighten the season for others. That is something we can all be proud of (but God gets the glory!).

Grace, Peace & Joy,
Randy Wade

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

I am pretty proud to be a part of the McFarlin Family! Once again (as we do over and over again) we, as a community of faith in response to the call to serve in the name of Christ, have stepped up in many ways this Advent Season. Adult Sunday school classes as well as several families in the church have taken 30 families to sponsor with Christmas gifts and food baskets through our annual **Operation Santa Claus**; over 150 children's names were taken from the **LifeLine Angel Tree**; scores of children in foster care were taken off the **Child SHARE Angel Tree** in the Atrium; over 250 winter coats have been donated and distributed to local agencies that are getting them to those in need (we are still collecting these) and almost 300 pairs of shoes have been donated and sent to Soles4Souls where they will be sent all around the world to those in need (we are still collecting shoes as well, with some now staying here in Norman for those in need close to home). One word...AWESOME!

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving a small group of youth prepared and served dinner at a soup kitchen in downtown OKC. It was a pretty amazing experience as it was one of those really cold nights and the warm meal we prepared was much welcomed. It was another chance for us to see the needs close to home and to realize that we can easily do something to help those who struggle.

In the midst of planning for Christmas, Mexico 17 is very much on my mind as well. Having finished the budget, I am now focusing on our **Buy A Square Foot** campaign that will begin in January as well as recruiting the high schoolers that will serve as Team Leaders. Last year we had 130 people travel with us, and I have a goal of increasing that number to at least 150. We also hope to build 10 casitas (small, cement-block houses) which means we will need to raise \$23,000. In addition, I am looking for adults, parents, and college students to travel with us. Please pray about being one of those!

Scott Meier

2 Festive Events for Singles this Christmas

SINGLES CHRISTMAS DESSERT

And Dirty Santa Party

Friday, December 18

7 PM in the Atrium

Bring a Dessert to Share

A NON-Gag Gift (\$5 limit)

\$10 for Our Overseas Ministry



CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK

1 PM at 615 E. Boyd

Bring a Side Dish to Share

Call 245-9874

OPEN FOR ANY AND ALL!

Music Notes

Dear McFarlin;

As we wind up the first semester of music at McFarlin I want to thank each and every person who has participated in directing, singing, ringing, playing and organizing this fall. It has been an extraordinary six months and I am thankful. This past Sunday we had the Candlelight Carol Service (as we have since 1965) that was made possible through the many volunteers that participate in each of our groups as well as our phenomenal staff of directors and instrumentalists. It is humbling to lead a music program with the tradition and heritage of McFarlin.

As we move onward through the advent season we look forward to Sunday morning where we will sing some of the most familiar carols of the season and Christmas Eve with four services. We begin at 5 PM with our traditional family Christmas Eve communion service where we will feature a family choir led by Libby Waldenville. At 7 PM we will have a service of lessons and carols with another chance to sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols, hear the Chancel Choir and some solos (including "O Holy Night") while experiencing the 9 lessons that teach us about the birth of Jesus. Communion will be served during this service after the 5th lesson. Also at 7 PM, we have the LifeLine Christmas Eve communion service in Fenn Hall. We will conclude our Christmas Eve activities with a communion service that welcomes in the Christ child at 11 PM.

January starts out busy for music with a bell retreat for middle school and high school choirs followed in February by the Chapel Choir Dinner Theater.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead music at McFarlin and we look forward to seeing you at all our worship services.

For Music at McFarlin,
Boyd Hamilton

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Bonus Years 2010 begins with Linda Kacmarcik "Are the Antiques in your house worth \$?" Everyone is invited to bring one or two small antiques for her to look over to discuss. Everyone's possessions will not be in the program but she will select several for discussion. Lunch will be beef stew and cornbread with apple dumplings as dessert. Please call the church at 321-3484 before New Years day to reserve your spot.

The new display cases for the historical memorabilia are beautiful works of art. Please take a few minutes to look them over. Since it is in the hallway close to the table with our sign-up sheets, it makes our card table look way out of place. If any of you have an extra table that you are not using and would like to donate for that spot, would you? Or maybe a nice tablecloth would help the appearance. We would appreciate any suggestions you might have on this topic.

Also, do any of you attend the Seniors Breakfast on Saturday mornings at Prairie Kitchen? It has been listed in our bulletin for several years but I have no idea who goes. I keep thinking I'll go down there some Saturday morning but usually never think of it by Saturday. If you have any information, please help us solve this riddle.

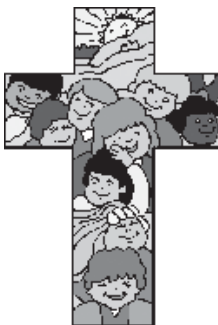
Hope you all have a safe and healthy winter and a wonderful and Merry Christmas!

Smile, God loves you!
Carol Dean Schreiner

Children's Ministry Staff Openings

Children's Day Out Coordinator:

Supervision and management of current Children's Day Out Ministry staff and children. CDO is available M/W/F from 9 AM-2 PM. We need an energetic, positive, team player to lead this ministry. Please contact Kristy Varva by e-mail at kvarva@mcfarlinumc.org with resumes by Wednesday, December 23 to apply for this coordinator position.



Sunday Morning Early Childhood

Staff: These individuals care for children on Sunday mornings from 8:15 AM to noon. We need individuals who are motivated, friendly, and able to provide a safe and nurturing Christian experience and education for our young children. McFarlin loves children and we are blessed with more and more of them and need more individuals to help provide care in the nursery. Please contact Kristy Varva at the church for an application at 321-3484, ext 111 or kvarva@mcfarlinumc.org.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

This came in e-mail recently and we want to share it with you. How do you prioritize your life to family, work, friends and other small things?

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar.

He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take your spouse out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities, the rest is just sand." One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

Merry Christmas and we pray for hope, joy, love and peace for each of you.

God Bless,
Kristy and Beth

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

Since the negative economy is finally being felt more in Oklahoma, a recent article from the *United Methodist Reporter* caught my eye. It is about "Grieving a Job Loss." Several points are very helpful if you are dealing with friends in that situation. For one thing, you need to realize that it really is a grieving process, with many of the steps and emotions involved in all grieving. For most people, their employment is a big part of their identity so the emotional effects go beyond merely the loss of income (as if that weren't bad enough).

The most important way for church members to respond is to reach out - even if you don't know what to say. If you have friends who have lost a job, don't wait for them to call you. Take the first step and offer to listen if they ever want to talk about it. If you've had your own experience with unemployment, let them know. Don't feed your friend's anger. Feed hope with prayer. Help people look to the future. Isolation is a big problem so include your friend in inexpensive (or free) activities.

The article also features suggestions for those who have lost employment. Some may hesitate to turn to the church, but that's one of the most important aspects of the Christian fellowship, to be there for each other.

To read the article, go to www.umportal.org under UM Headlines. The title is "Grieving a Job Loss:..." If a new edition has come out, you may need to go to "More UMR Stories" on the top menu bar and search December articles.

For getting through tough times,
George Shepherd

Christmas Day Community Dinner

This year will be Norman's 23rd annual dinner supported by banks and businesses and coordinated by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. This free dinner is from 11 AM – 2 PM on December 25 at the Norman High Commons and everyone is invited. Volunteers are needed to wash dishes, deliver meals to shut-ins, clean tables, serve drinks and desserts, distribute toys and furnish rides. Various donations are also being accepted to serve as gifts. Details on donations are available from the church at 321-8951. To volunteer, please contact Bob Magarian at 364-3273.

New Beth Moore Study Planned

The Beth Moore study, *Living Beyond Yourself, Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit* will be held at Terri Fowler's home on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 PM starting January 19. Terri's contact numbers for more information are 366-7674 (home) and 823-0974 (cell).

Alaska Mission This Summer

Details concerning our adult mission trip to Alaska this summer have been difficult to solidify. The minister at the church in Soldotna on the Kenai Peninsula is a former Oklahoman. The work will be roofing, but the style of roof is still being determined. Rev. Richard Whitsel is very experienced at hosting mission teams and led one to Alaska every year for many years when he served in Oklahoma. He assures us that there will be work and support activities that persons of all skill levels can do. The plan is to go in June but the exact dates are still to be determined. We should know more in the coming weeks, so please contact George Shepherd (321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org) if you are interested.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

The next 13-week session of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be held on Sunday evenings from 6-8 PM beginning January 10. Join us for snack supper at 5:45. Each class is devoted to teaching you how to get out of debt and learn how to build wealth. Cost of the materials is \$95 and payments may be arranged. Child care is available but only with advance notice. Preview sessions will be Tuesday, January 5 at 7 PM in room 223, Thursday, January 7 at 7 PM in room 223 and Saturday, January 9 at 4 PM in room 223. You may sign up at one of the previews, contact Heather Oelke at heather.oelke@ihs.com or on-line at daveramsey.com/fpu/process.locateClass/.

The Upper Room Disciplines

The Upper Room Disciplines is an annual book of daily devotions that is always popular and would make a good gift. This year, one week of devotions were written by Max Lucado. The church has a few copies left. If you are interested, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext.109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

McFarlin News

Help Wanted for the 5 PM Christmas Eve Family Communion Service!

Helpers are needed for all aspects of the 5 PM Family Communion Service. We are seeking families of all shapes and sizes. If your family is interested in volunteering, please e-mail the designated staff person below or call the church office at 321-3484 to speak with the specific person. For the family choir: contact Teresa Williams at twilliams@mcfarlinumc.org. To greet or usher: contact Kristy Varva at kvarva@mcfarlinumc.org. To serve communion: contact Jennifer Sims at jsims@mcfarlinumc.org.

Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to Bob Warner who made the beautiful handcrafted welcome desk that resides in the Fenn Hall lobby! We are so blessed to have such a wonderful craftsman that continually shares his time, talents and gifts with our church!

Lynn Berry,
Lay Involvement Coordinator

Changes in Worship Services

The recent worship questionnaire initiated by the Strategic Plan Task Force, has been studied and shared with members of the Worship Ministry Team who plan to implement the following changes in our worship services:

1. Attendance sheets will serve a double purpose: to name those who are present and to make us aware of our "neighbors" on each pew. We can accomplish this by passing the attendance pad back down the pew and taking note of the names.

2. Overhead speakers outside the sanctuary will alert everyone that worship has begun. The Sanctuary doors will be closed when worship begins and an usher will stand outside to greet those coming in.

3. Communion will be served on a regular basis once a month at both Sanctuary services and the LifeLine service.

4. More familiar hymns will be sung in both Sanctuary and LifeLine services.

5. Our ministers are aware of and will be responsive to the congregational request though the questionnaire for sermons that are spiritually moving and inspirational, intellectually challenging, and thought provoking.

6. Older youth will be encouraged to participate in an intentional way in worship.

7. Announcements will be very brief and confined to the beginning and/or end of the worship service.

Our thanks to all members of the congregation who filled out the worship questionnaire and turned them in.

Caryn Short, Chair
Worship Ministry Team

Bill and Madge Chissoe, Co-Chairs
Strategic Plan Task Force

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church Revenue Report November 30, 2009

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Pledge Offerings	\$761,284	\$743,947
Unpledged Offerings	\$185,417	\$118,307
Other	\$73,172	\$33,833
Total	\$1,019,873	\$896,087



Need Prayer?

Contact

McFarlin's Prayer Chain

Call 321-3484, ext. 115

or 321-0041 or e-mail

jcook@mcfarlinumc.org



McFarlin Family

Welcome McFarlin New Members: Kevin and Robye Kay Jackson; Joe and Jeanne Lester; Madison Baird; Will and Jodana Borden; Joshua Huff; Tamara O'Toole; Cody and Shannon Roberson; Lynda Snake.

Baptized Into the Family of Faith: Andrew Gafford, son of Tamara O'Toole.

Meetings & Activities

December 20th - 26th

Sunday, December 20

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
10:00AM	Birthday Party for Jesus	Early Childhood Area
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
1:15PM	Youth Praise Band Practice	Fenn Hall
1:45PM	Prison Ministry	Parking South Lot
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd

Monday, December 21

6:30PM	Norman Area Quilters Guild	Atrium
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 329, 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall

Tuesday, December 22

11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 226

Wednesday, December 23

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:30PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

Thursday, December 24

8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
5:00PM	Family Christmas Eve Communion Service	Sanctuary
7:00PM	LifeLine Christmas Eve Communion Service*	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Communion Service *	Sanctuary
11:00PM	Christmas Eve Communion Service	Sanctuary

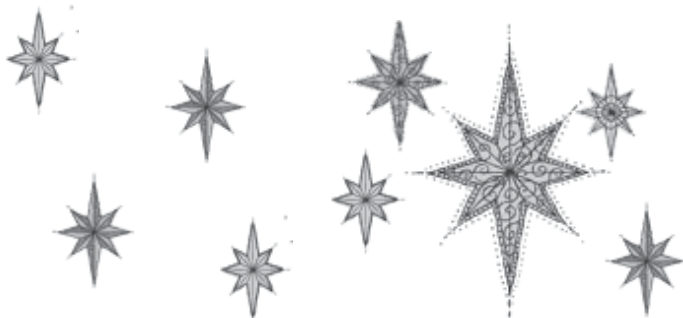
Friday, December 25

Church Closed
Day Care Closed

Saturday, December 26

8:30AM	Seniors Breakfast	Prairie Kitchen
--------	-------------------	-----------------

*Child care Available



New Books in the Church Library

A few of the many new books in the Library include *Jesus' Parables about Discipleship* by James W. Moore, *The Christian World*, by Martin Marty, *The Sacredness of Questioning Everything* by David Dark and *Three Simple Rules that Will Change the World* by Ruben Job. Other new titles include *On Who Is God* and *On the Old Testament* by Mark Driscoll. Come by the Library any time the church is open and check out (literally) these and thousands of other titles. New books are often displayed on top of the shelves.

Have You Been Through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University?

We invite you to join us on Saturday, January 9 at 5 PM in the Atrium for the 1st Annual FPU Reunion Potluck. There have been many FPU classes held at McFarlin and we would like to get together as many of us as possible for fellowship, fun, stories and maybe some inspiration. Child care is available only with advance notice by contacting Heather Oelke at heather.oelke@ihs.com or 590-3819.

Child SHARE "Angel Tree"

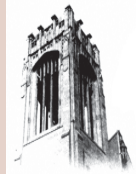
Each year during Advent, the Child SHARE program hangs the wish lists of its foster children on the Angel Tree in the church Atrium. The purpose is to help Child SHARE families provide Christmas gifts for their foster children. Please take an angel from the tree and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the church by December 21 so they can be delivered to the foster families in time for Christmas. Please contact Bob Brooke, coordinator, at 579-1232 for more information.

Part-Time College and Young Adult Coordinator Needed

This individual will guide and develop small groups of people primarily in their 20's into a closer relationship with God. Please send resume to rwade@mcfarlinumc.org or PO Box 6390 Norman, OK 73070, attention: Randy Wade.

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norman, OK
Permit No. 278



Happy Holidays from the McFarlin Staff!

McFarlin Church will be closed Friday, December
25, 2009 and Friday, January 1, 2010



8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship