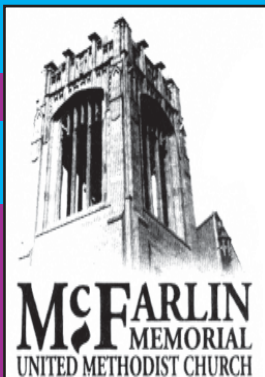


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 4

February 26, 2010

Bishop Robert Hayes

This Sunday, February 28, we will have as our guest Bishop Robert E. Hayes, the Episcopal leader of the Oklahoma Conference. Bishop Hayes will be preaching in both the 8:30 and 10:55 AM Sanctuary worship services with a live feed into the 10:55 AM LifeLine worship service.

Some of you will recall Bishop Hayes preached here five years ago on the occasion of McFarlin's 80th anniversary. Those of you who have heard Bishop Hayes know he is an outstanding preacher. His sermon title will be "Membership Has Its Privileges" from Matthew 16:24-26.

You will not want to miss hearing him preach this Sunday. We will have great worship in all our services. We look forward to you being with us.



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



Upcoming Holy Communion

Communion will be served in all worship services at McFarlin on Sunday, March 7. Upcoming communion dates for the next quarter are: April 1, Holy Thursday service at 7:30 PM in LifeLine; May 2 and June 6 in Sunday morning worship services.

McFarlin Children's Ministry is Joining the OKC Memorial Run on April 25!

Here is what you will need to do: register your child and/or family online for the kid's marathon. You may select your school or enter "other" and McFarlin as your team, download your runner's log, train, encourage others to join the fun, and meet at the kid's fun zone at 7:45 AM for a prayer and fellowship with our McFarlin family. The kid's 1.2 mile walk/run begins at 8:15 AM. Come to church following the run in running clothes and t-shirts.



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

We have maps on the table outside our offices (room 212) that show an inside and outside 1 mile track at McFarlin.

Volume 156,
Issue 4

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



“Since when is worship an option for Christians?” That’s a question I posed in Sunday’s sermon. As I said on Sunday, I believe God wants us to worship. In fact, I believe God expects us to worship. Even though fellowship dinners can be filling, it is not the same as attending worship services. Even though Sunday school can be meaningful, it is not the same as worshiping together as a community of faith. There is no substitute for Christian worship.

Worship is critical to the development of one’s spiritual life. Evelyn Underhill wrote that it is “the unchanging heart of religion, and the only key to its mysterious truth.” The scriptures tell us that Jesus “went to the synagogue as was his custom” to hear the scriptures read and interpreted.

Given that Jesus saw engagement with the scriptures as important and was given to the proclamation of the good news, it would appear that such engagement would be important for us as well. Without such engagement we may find ourselves dying of spiritual malnutrition. For this reason alone, we would do well to worship as we have the opportunity. We need it, and God desires it.

For worship,

D. House



Life _____ _____ **Line**



Often times I will quote one of the great Christian writers and then try and expand on what they have said. And sometimes you realize that you have nothing better to say than what they’ve already said. Such was the case with the following quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s “The Cost of Discipleship”. As we enter this season of Lent, this seems to me to be a good word for us - a word to which I have nothing more to add.

“The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ - suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death - we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise good - fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be death like Luther’s, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time – death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call”.

Grace, Peace & Joy,
Randy Wade



Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

My mind is totally swimming in a mire of details for our Mexico 17 spring break mission. Leaving in just over 2 weeks means it is crunch time, and instead of getting smaller each day, the "to-do" list seems to be growing exponentially. When I take a second to catch my breath, I find myself being thankful for the many people who have stepped up and helped pull this mission off. From those who travel to those who have given to Buy A Square Foot, I'm blessed by people willing to do what it takes to make our spring break Mexico mission a success year after year.

A special thanks to all who have given and those who will give to our Buy A Square Foot fundraiser. We are close to raising enough to build the casitas (small, cement-block houses), but are still in need of funds.

Mexico is not the only thing going on in our Student Ministry. Our 8th grade confirmation class is in full swing with a great crew of youth who are exploring what it means to proclaim a life in Christ and then to live that life out. Tino Herrera has put together an awesome group of volunteers to help with confirmation.

Over the past couple of months I have been asking people to check out www.iGive.com when shopping online. Those who do so can access almost 800 websites that offer most of the goods and services we purchase everyday online, all while helping out the youth ministry at McFarlin. Each week it seems I get an e-mail letting me know that another purchase has been made that will benefit us. Thanks to those who are using www.iGive.com and if you haven't checked it out yet, let me encourage you to do so.

Last fall, the high school youth decided to collect shoes to be sent to Soles4Souls, where they would then be sent around the world to those in need. We are continuing this effort with the shoes collected now going to Haiti. We are collecting shoes of all kinds, both new and used. You can bring your donation to the student ministries office, room 216.

Scott Meier

Music Notes

This past weekend the Chapel Choir performed their annual Dinner Theater. One of the primary reasons we have a Chapel Choir Dinner Theater is to help the students go on their annual choir tour. This past Sunday, Rev. House talked about the importance of retreats, camps and other places outside our facility where there is an opportunity to meet God. Choir tours can be an event where one experiences God in different ways, places and situations. It is also one of the ways that McFarlin is able to send our mission throughout the world as our youth touch others through their gift of music.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all the parents and staff that made this event possible. To get prepared for the show, the Chapel Choir put in extra rehearsals and the soloists put in many hours of practice to deliver a polished performance last Saturday evening (February 20). Thank you to the members of the Chapel Choir for all the work they put in and the exceptional performance they delivered.

For finding God in the wilderness,
Boyd Hamilton

Single Snippets

NEW, NEW, NEW!



A group of singles (Julie Lawson, David Chappell, Reese Allen, Tim Blunck, and Lisa Bradley) met on Valentine's evening to brainstorm ways to connect single professionals in fun fellowship. The group's working name, AFG, (A Fun Group) decided to plan several events, create a link to McFarlin's website, and see what happens. This group will probably settle into 2 groups, maybe a younger one and a single parents group, although we all know

people gravitate to the group that best fits their needs.

From Lisa: On Sunday evening, a group of us met to discuss forming a new group of singles who just wanted to get together for regularly scheduled activities. A consensus was reached that we definitely are interested in forming a new group so we came up with some ideas and the following is what emerged from our meeting.

- ❖ March: Movie Night (McFarlin Parents' Night Out Evening).

- ❖ March: Mid-Week Connection Meal, speaker and service project for Haitian earthquake relief. Also, donating supplies and packing relief packages for Haiti.

- ❖ April: Art Walk (Easter weekend, kids welcome).

- ❖ May: Contra dance.

- ❖ May or June: Hiking in the Wichita Mountains or some outdoor activity.

Please contact Lisa Bradley at lbradley9552@att.net or Harriette Kemp at hleigh@mcfarlinumc.org with your comments and join in the fun!

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Good Day to Everyone!



We have started two new programs with several people attending. Thanks to all you brave souls. Our line dancing class got a big kick-off (little humor) and we are increasing our numbers each week. Join us for laughs while we exercise each Tuesday in Fenn Hall at 1 PM. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes and bring a bottle of water.

Our other new program is Classic Movies for Classic People. Next month on March 17 we will watch "Glass Bottom Boat" with Doris Day, Rod Taylor, Arthur Godfrey, Paul Lynde, Dick Martin and more. Come laugh with us from 2:45 - 5 PM in the youth lounge. Popcorn is provided.

Our Bonus Years program will feature Jo Bennett, Cal Brannon, and Buddy Pendarvis who will share insights on death & dying. The program will cover what everyone needs to know either in dealing with their loved one's death or planning their own funeral. It will also cover how to plan, what legal documents you need, and how to cope emotionally, spiritually and mentally when this part of life happens to your loved ones. Please call the church office at 321-3484, ext. 108 to reserve your spot by February 25. The meal will consist of kabobs, asparagus, salad and peach cobbler. All this for \$7 per person.

On Saturday, March 13, we are going to OCU for their spring dance program. Cost is \$15 plus lunch. Tickets are going fast so call today!

Keep smiling, spring will arrive!
Carol Dean
Schreiner

Care Ministries

Through the years, the Care Ministries office has collected many written and video resources. While many of these resources have been donated to the church library for individuals to check out for their own personal use, there are still many in my office that I continue to lend out to individuals and groups and many I use for Stephen Ministry continuing education sessions. Below is a sampling of those resources:

❖ Ann Broyles' *Journaling: A Spirit Journey*. This book contains helpful ways to reflect on your relationship with God.

❖ DVD, participant manuals and book on *Boundaries* written by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. This series will help develop the habit of setting and maintaining healthy boundaries.

❖ William Diehm's book on *Caring Criticism* helps you to handle the criticism of others and to offer criticism to others without being harmful.

❖ Doris Jones' book, *And Not One Bird Stopped Singing*, will guide you through the transition and loss we experience with aging.

❖ DVD and participant manual based on Gary Chapman's work, *The Love Languages of GOD*. Identify your own primary love language and those closest to you.

❖ Gary Chapman's book on *The Five Love Languages of Children*.

❖ *When Someone You Love is Depressed*, a book by Laura Rosen and Xavier Amador.

❖ VHS entitled, *At Death's Door, Facing the Terminal Illness of a Loved One*.

If you would like to borrow any of the materials in the Care Ministries office, just give me a call.

Serving with you,
Jane Cook
Congregational Care
Coordinator

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

"So, what are you giving up for Lent?" How many people have asked you that question so far? It seems like this time of year we hear the little ones answer with things like, "candy," or "my DS." I am sure that for a young child these seem like true sacrifices. As long as they understand why we often give up our favorite things at Lent, it can be a wonderful lesson. If we are teaching our children about Jesus' sacrifice and that we give up things to bring Him to mind in our daily lives, it can really help them focus on His love and grace.

As adults, we can understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and love in a much larger way, and we can channel our Lenten commitments in ways that bring His love to our children. This year, I am giving up things that take time from my family, time that could be spent talking and building relationships with them - time that we can use to read the Bible and notice Jesus in our lives. Sometimes I think that we go to the computer or cell phone to try to feel more connected to others - through Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail, and there are times that those connections are true blessings. But during Lent, I'm going to seek to strengthen those ties with my God and with my family. We invite you to try to find a Lenten commitment that will bless your family and your time with God as well.

Beth Carter
Elementary Children's Director

Kristy Varva
Early Childhood Director



Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

We continue to have good response on the health kits for Haiti. Last week I delivered the 3rd batch of kits to the Volunteers in Mission office. We have turned in 288 so far. We have others that need to be checked and the contents corrected to conform to the instructions. Thanks to members of the Missions Ministry Team who have been doing that work along with several of the volunteer phone receptionists in the office who have also helped. Thanks also go to the Children's Ministry and Student Ministry who collected and made up many kits.

In coming weeks we will have a newspaper supplement that summarizes the United Methodist response to Haiti. We will also begin collecting school kits and items for them. Some of our UMW Circles and others interested in missions are planning to make layette kits. Watch for instructions for both of those.

There also seems to be a good response for the Alaska adult mission although there is still room for others in that experience. Details on that mission are coming into sharper focus.

Many are using the Bishop's devotional booklet for Lent, either personally or as part of five groups within the congregation. However you are observing Lent, I trust you will gain a new appreciation for God's place in your life and an enhanced understanding of Jesus' ministry and sacrifice for us.

Serving with you,
George Shepherd

Alaska Mission Deadline Approaches

A deposit of \$100 is needed by the end of February to hold your place on the adult mission to Soldotna, Alaska June 3-13. It appears the total cost will not exceed \$1500 for the air and land travel, lodging, all entrance fees, and meals (other than in airports in transit). Most adult classes help their members with financing for missions. Scholarships of up to \$400 are also available. The air carrier will be Continental Airlines. Planned cultural immersion experiences include a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and a wild-life boat tour of Resurrection Bay from Seward. There will also be some time in Anchorage although worship on Sunday and the work location is in the small town of Soldotna on the west end of the Kenai Peninsula.

For centuries native peoples have lived in the area of Soldotna and harvested the bounty of the sea from Cook Inlet. In the 1700's Russian fur traders roamed the area. Some say "Soldotna" came from the Russian word meaning, "soldier". Others say it is from an Athabaskan Indian word meaning "the stream fork". The town is less than three hours from Anchorage and has a small United Methodist Church that needs a new roof on the parsonage. As with all missions, there should be ways you can contribute whether or not you can get on the roof or have experience roofing. The pastor is Rev. Richard Whetsell, a former Oklahoma minister. An information meeting on the mission is set for Tuesday, March 9, at 7 PM in room 222. If you are interested in the mission, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org and plan to attend on the 9th.

Bolivia Missions Dinner



McFarlin's Missions Ministry Team along with the OU student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and local members of Engineers in Action (EIA) are hosting "The Sounds of Bolivia" on Friday evening, March 5 at 6:30 PM in Fenn Hall. The active Bolivian Student Association from OU is also involved. The event is a fundraiser for the EWB student organization to help pay the way for students to visit Bolivia this summer and for EIA which sponsors

Bolivian engineers as they design water, sanitation, irrigation and other development projects in the second poorest country in the hemisphere. To learn more about the musicians, to find explanations of EIA projects, and to reserve your spot for the event, go to www.engineersinaction.org/music-of-bolivia.

The musical performance will feature internationally acclaimed folk singer Juan Carlos Cordero and his wife Mirtha who have toured Europe and Japan. The McFarlin missions folks are working on the food for the event which will also feature slides of EIA projects and the people of Bolivia. Beside donations for the event, handicrafts made by Methodists from Bolivia will also be available. For more information, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 108 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

McFarlin News

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to work with Tim Stewart on Thursday mornings with the Utility Assistance Program. The job is as follow: Thursdays from 8:15-noon, take individual interviews with those needing assistance to determine their needs and hand deliver/mail checks to utility companies. The volunteer needs to be able to say no when necessary, have good attention to detail and work well with others.

If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please contact Lynn Berry, Lay Involvement Coordinator at 321-3484, ext. 180 or lberry@mcfarlinumc.org.

Bring Your Urban Ministry Collections

Skyline Urban Ministry's pantry near downtown OKC served 7,785 family units last year thanks to the efforts of 80 volunteers. Hundreds more are served each week through the clothes closet and the seniors ministry at McKee Center. This United Methodist Ministry to the residents of the urban areas of central Oklahoma depends on the churches of the area to donate items to keep these ministries going and February is always McFarlin's month to gather donations.

We are collecting food items such as canned meats, canned soup and dry milk, which are especially needed by the Community Cupboard. They also need peanut butter (small sizes), corn, spaghetti sauce and plastic grocery sacks. Skyline's other ministries use donations of hygiene items, coffee, creamer, sugar, paper products (cups, plates, napkins) and good, clean used clothing. The collection point is near the office area at McFarlin each Sunday through the end of February. For more information about Skyline, contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 who serves on the Skyline Board of Directors or see their website: www.skylineurbanministry.org.

Food Pantry News

From July to December of 2009 the McFarlin Food Pantry served 1321 families. Those families included 2333 adults and 1470 children. That was a 25% increase from the same period the year before.

I really appreciate the aid and assistance the McFarlin staff gives the food pantry. I want to thank all those who hand out bags of food on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all who sack groceries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, all who go shopping several times a week, all who haul up groceries to the third floor and shelve them twice a month when food is delivered from the Oklahoma City Food Bank (and occasionally from other agencies). I want to thank all the people who bring food for us to give away, and who give us generous checks to keep this operation running. I want to thank the Boy and Cub Scouts, the Quilters' Guild, and the Embroiders Guild who have donated food and the Methodist Men who glean for us in the summer. I want to thank the young girl who had a birthday party and had her friends bring food for the food pantry instead of gifts for her. As you can see it takes a church to run a food pantry.

Thank you,
Nancy Koplowitz, Food Pantry Coordinator

Missions Coffee Fundraiser Continues

The missions coffee fundraiser will continue to offer chocolate bars, hot cocoa mix, coffee and tea through this Sunday, February 28 before and after Sunday school in the Atrium. Subscription orders provide the utmost in convenience. You can order any of the 10 types of coffee featured (most in drip grind or whole bean) plus any of the 6 tea varieties. These are available to pick up the first Sunday of each month for six months, or you may pick them up at other times. This way to participate in the fundraiser is also easier because you pay in advance so you know your six-month supply will be hassle free with no need to pay each month. After next Sunday, the next regular sales will be in May although you can contact George Shepherd any time at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.



McFarlin Family

Entered the Church Triumphant: Janice Altstatt.

Meetings & Activities

February 28th - March 6th

Sunday, February 28

8:00AM	Men 2 Pray 4 Pastors	Room 200
8:30AM	Early Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
9:35AM	Communion*	Martin Chapel
9:40AM	Sunday School*	Various
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:00PM	College Lunch	Atrium
12:05PM	Communion	Martin Chapel
1:15PM	Youth Praise Band Practice	Fenn Hall
4:00PM	Lenten Study	Joplin Home
4:00PM	Wesley II Bell Choir	Meyer Hall
4:00PM	Wesley III Bell Choir	Bell Room
4:30PM	Chapel Choir	Choir Room
5:00PM	Wesley Choir Rehearsal	Meyer Hall
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
6:00PM	Agape Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Youth Fellowship Dinner	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	The Gathering	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	Mexico 17 Team Meetings	Various

Monday, March 1

9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
2:00PM	Afternoon Shawl Circle	Room 320
4:00PM	Wesley I Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	UMM Leadership Meeting	Room 222
6:30PM	Care Team Meeting	Room 227
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Rooms 329, 403
7:00PM	Education Ministry Team	Room 209
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall
7:30PM	Evening Shawl Circle	Room 401
8:00PM	HS Bible & Basketball	Fenn Hall

Tuesday, March 2

9:30AM	UMW Executive Committee	Room 209
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
12:00PM	UMW #7	Room 222
1:00PM	Senior Adult Line Dancing	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III	Room 226
7:00PM	Strategic Plan & Evangelism Committee	Room 222

Wednesday, March 3

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
10:30AM	Bonus Years Meeting	Fenn Hall
3:00PM	Children's Choir	Various
5:15PM	Mid-Week Connection Meal	Fenn Hall
5:15PM	Festival Bell Rehearsal	Bell Room
6:00PM	Kids' Connection	Rooms 102, 103

*Child care Available

6:00PM	Wednesday Quilters	Room 226
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:15PM	Sanctuary Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:30PM	Invitation to the New Testament	Room 224
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:10PM	Women's Bible Study	Room 222
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study	Room 401
7:30PM	Fearless Book Study	Room 223
7:30PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:30PM	UMW #2*	Room 304
7:30PM	B.A.S.I.C.	Room 321
7:30PM	FISH Opening Worship	Sanctuary
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 405

Thursday, March 4

7:00AM	Middle School Boys' Bible Breakfast	Ozzies
8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study III	Room 222
12:00PM	Chancel Handbell Choir	Bell Room
5:30PM	Carillon Handbell Choir	Bell Room
7:00PM	Pack 241 Meeting	Room 227
7:00PM	Lenten Study	Sebestyn Home
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
8:00PM	Youth Praise Band Practice	Fenn Hall

Friday, March 5

7:15AM	S.I.C.	Panera Bread
7:30AM	H.S. Freshman Bible & Breakfast	Ozzies
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
6:30PM	Bolivia Missions Dinner	Fenn Hall

Saturday, March 6

8:00AM	Methodist Men's Breakfast	Fenn Hall
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*Child care Available

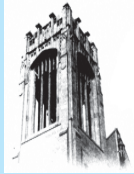


College Student Sunday School Class

The college student Sunday school class has started up again! Join them at 9:40 AM on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or have any questions please, call Katelyn at 225-290-2703.

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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

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Plug Into McFarlin's Mid-Week Connection! Dinner is served in Fenn Hall each Wednesday from 5:15 PM - 7 PM. There are a variety of ministry opportunities for all ages to choose from on Wednesday nights. A donation of \$5 (\$20 max per family) is asked to cover food costs. Whether you are part of an activity at the church or just want to be among friends, we hope to see you!



Kids' Connection meets every Wednesday from 6 - 6:30 PM in the early childhood area. We're adding another way for children to learn about God while parents participate in other church activities. After sharing a meal with your family, bring your children (ages one through fifth grade) to the early childhood area for science and other hands-on activities that expand on our Sunday School lessons.

8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship