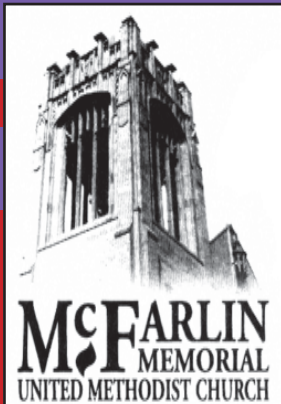


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 5

March 12, 2009

United Methodist Women's Unit Dinner Meeting March 23, 2010 at 6:30 PM in Fenn Hall "Lost Girls of Sudan"

Come hear the incredible and amazing stories of the lost girls of Sudan. One of the lost girls of Sudan and Beverly Parkhurst Moss, the publisher of *Dark Exodus* (a collection of the 16 lost girls stories), will be at McFarlin on March 23 at the UWM evening unit meeting. You will have the opportunity to see and hear her tales and ask her questions about her experiences. These women from Sudan have demonstrated the resiliency of the human spirit and proven the power of their Christian faith. They are truly inspiring.

Beautiful, original beaded bookmarks made by Lost Girls of Sudan will be on sale at the meeting. Made of Marino glass sculptures, glass beads, semi-precious stones and shells, no two pieces are alike! *Dark Exodus* will also be available. The proceeds go to support educational opportunities of the lost girls.

Circles 7 and 2 are hostesses for the meeting. The cost of the dinner is \$7. UMW members, please make your reservation through your circle. If you want to come and are not a UMW member, complimentary child care and dinner reservations can be made by calling the church office at 321-3484 by March 19.



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



Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Family Picnic

Saturday, April 3
at 11 AM

The children's ministry is accepting donations of plastic Easter eggs and candy (no nuts, please) or small trinkets to place inside our Easter eggs. Please leave your donations in the tub outside room 211. This event will be on the north lawn of the church and in Fenn Hall. We'll have egg hunts for children ages birth through fifth grade and fun activities and inflatables for children of all ages.

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



Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 14!

Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night, March 13.

Volume 156,
Issue 5

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



When parents have their children baptized I assume they will try to live up to the vows they take on behalf of their children. In my mind, vow taking is “serious stuff.” In the case of baptism, parents make a statement about what they believe, as well as promises to God as to how they intend to raise their children. God also makes promises. God promises to give us grace and love. Through the church we are called to pass along God’s promises to others, especially our children.

One way we do this is through baptism. One writer wrote: “The true responsibility of baptism is not so much the infant who is being baptized as upon the church through whom God is doing baptism. The church is given the mandate to ‘Go into all the world...baptizing...teaching...(Matthew 28:19).’ Baptism, especially infant baptism, has little meaning outside the presence and promises of the church.”

Through baptism people are incorporated into the life of the church. In the case of children, it is assumed that those who are baptized will be trained in the Christian life. If there are godparents, they are to assist with this task. It takes both the parents and the church to help form children in the faith. This is why members of the church also take a vow on the occasion of baptism.

The water used in baptism is symbolic of the saving waters that are poured out over each of us in the saving work of Christ. It is more than just a sweet rite of christening. God’s grace is present. This is what makes it sacramental. In baptism we say we will respond to God’s grace by living our lives as followers of Jesus Christ, and we will make it possible for our children to be followers as well.

Baptism should not be done without thought and care. The baptismal ritual says, “It is our bounden duty and privilege to live before this child a life that becomes the Gospel, and to exercise all godly care that he/she be brought up in the Christian faith.” Thus we are to be faithful to the vows we take, so that our children may confirm this faith at a later date and ultimately accept for themselves the faith in to which they have been baptized.

For understanding why we do what we do,

D. House

Life _____
_____ **Line**



“Where the heart is not singing there is no melody, there is only the dreadful medley of human self-praise. Where the singing is not to the Lord, it is singing to the honor of the self or the music, and the new song becomes a song to idols.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Matt Redman is one of the most highly regarded and successful song writer/worship leader’s of the past 15 years. Ironically, his most famous song, “The Heart of Worship”, came out of an experience when his home church, the church where he was the worship leader, purposely stepped away from putting its music at the center of worship. The church’s pastor noticed that despite the “success” of the church and the popularity of the music there was something missing in their worship: they had forgotten that they were to be producers of worship and not consumers. So, taking a huge risk considering a large number of the people flocked to this church to worship with Matt Redman, he ordered that the band be put on the

shelf for a season – all instruments and electronics were cut off - and that they would worship God with their voices alone until they learned that true worship comes from the heart of the people and not from the leaders on stage. Until his people learned worship was an offering to be made and not an experience to be consumed, their worship would remain stripped down to the bare minimum. This experience so moved and convicted Redman that after worship one day he returned to his room and out of him poured the lyrics that would become one of the

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

... And they're off! I wonder what goes through the mind of a jockey in the moments just before the gate opens and the horse he or she is on shoots out for the finish line. I imagine that no small part of what is going through his or her mind is a rush of simultaneous anxiety, excitement, stress, and thrill. I am certainly no jockey, but I seem to have all of those things running through my mind as I prepare to leave with the Mexico 17 team in just a few days.

Seventeen years! Wow! Other than the fact this number makes me feel a bit old, I am also a little reminiscent of the previous 16. While this group of 110 is not the largest (we took 215 one year), and we won't construct the most casitas (that record is 15 in one year), it is a group that I am most excited about traveling with and serving alongside. I have, for years now, refused to say that any group is "the best" as I feel that diminishes past teams and, when you say that year after year, becomes somewhat of an empty compliment. But what makes this team unique from the past 8 or 10 years is the camaraderie that I am seeing with this group as a whole. Through the years as we have broken our large group into teams of 12 - 15, there is a deep camaraderie that takes place in those smaller groups, but it has been some time since I have seen this in the Mexico group as a whole. And I am very excited to see this played out.

Now, I need two things from you: First, PRAY! Enough said...God will guide you in what to pray for, and now they will not go unanswered (if I thought they would we wouldn't leave home); second, if you have not given to our *Buy A Square Foot* fund to build the casitas we would be blessed by your donation. We couldn't do what we are called to do if it weren't for you!

Actually, one more thing: Will you keep me in your prayers. I love leading the Mexico mission; it is a passion that is as strong today as it was the first time we went in 1994. Thanks for all your support, prayers, and encouragement!

Scott Meier

Music Notes

Rev. Cal Brannon mentioned to me a couple of weeks ago that music opens the hearts and minds of people to hear the word of God proclaimed. That is the very mission of McFarlin music, the essence of what we are trying to achieve. It is not about any one individual or group, it is about the mission of Christ in the world. One of the questions I ask is "how can music help to drive the goals and mission of McFarlin?"

I think there are several ways in which we can help move the mission: 1) Create a cohesive worship experience, 2) Place the congregation in an attitude of worship that moves them toward the message God is trying to deliver, 3) Develop and sustain small groups that cultivate deeply committed Christians, 4) Bring new people to the church, 5) Be the example of McFarlin in the community, 6) Create opportunities for non-McFarlin members to come into the church, 7) Deliver the mission of McFarlin through music around the world.

We are about delivering excellence because that will help in opening the hearts and minds of people to hear the word of God proclaimed. It isn't about how difficult something is, it is about how well we communicate the message and I've found that sometimes the most meaningful things in life are the least complicated. I think the season of Lent teaches us that.

If music is a passion of yours or you think you might be interested in helping McFarlin achieve what Christ has planned for us through music, please contact me by e-mail at bhamilton@mcfarlinumc.org.

For music,
Boyd Hamilton

Single Snippets

SWIM, SWIM, SWIM!

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." NLT James 1:22

Want to be part of an intergenerational group of Single Women In Mission? It is a new group of single women who desire to live James 1:22. These women hear God's word and desire to be active doers in local missions. Sound interesting? Ready to become a Matthew 25 woman (I'll leave you to look that scripture up)? Join other women who are ready to SWIM on Thursday night, March 24 in Fenn Hall to listen to an earthquake relief update and become involved in assembling health and layette kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Please bring any (or all) of the following *NEW* items: Washcloths, hand towels, bath-sized bars of soap, strong combs, nail files, fingernail clippers, toothbrushes (single wrapped), adhesive plastic sterile strips, cloth diapers, diaper pins, baby washcloths, onesies, baby gowns or sleepers, sweaters (open front), receiving blankets or t-shirts. These items may be dropped off at the church office anytime prior to March 24 or bring them to Fenn Hall that night. Anyone can bring these items - male or female, married or unmarried, Greek or Jew! Let's cover Fenn Hall with diapers and soap! Call or e-mail Janet McClure at 701-5794 or jmccclure44@cox.net or Harriette Leigh Kemp at 245-9874 or hkemp@mcfarlinumc.org with any questions.

Ministry Updates

Life Line

Continued from Page 2

most sung songs of the past decade: "When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come/Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart. . ./I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus." In time, the band got plugged back in and Matt went back to leading, but the lesson of what's at the heart of true worship has remained.

McFarlin is blessed with all the human and financial resources necessary to produce great music. For this, I am genuinely thankful. I love good music. But sometimes I worry about the heart of our worship. If we turned off the organ and shelved the Steinway; if we unplugged the guitars, covered the keyboard and silenced the drums; if the "talent" stopped performing; if it was just us – our hearts and our voices alone – how many would still come and worship? In this season of Lent, a season of examining our hearts, let us heed Bonhoeffer's words and check and see if our hearts are singing to the Lord alone, lest our beautiful music become a song sung to idols.

Grace, Peace, & Joy,
Randy Wade

Senior Adult

Good March to you! There are so many wonderful things going on with our Bonus Years group. First, Pat Teeter is making a great recovery from her back surgery and wanted to convey a big thank you for the prayers she has received.

Our line dancing class is going great and we have room for a few more "wanna bes." No auditions necessary. It's every Tuesday at 1 PM in Fenn Hall. Come, move, wiggle and laugh with us. Some are sitting in chairs to exercise.

Our second movie will be Wednesday, March 17 at 2:45 PM in the youth lounge on the 3rd floor. Doris Day's "Glass Bottom Boat" is our featured movie this month. It is a hilarious romantic comedy. Bring your own pop. Popcorn is furnished.

Our trip to the Oklahoma Firefighter's Museum and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum was scheduled for Wednesday, the 24th. Since none of the church buses are available we have changed that date to Thursday, March 25. We will leave the church's south parking lot at 9 AM and return by 4:30 PM. Cost is \$15 plus lunch at Persimmon Hill Restaurant.

Wednesday, March 31, a hammered dulcimer concert is blessing us during the Mid-Week Connection meal. My niece, Lisa Ferguson of Tennessee, won the national competition last September and will be entertaining us with a concert. Her instructor went to school with Boyd Hamilton. Small world isn't it? Plan on coming and bringing friends. We are calling this a celebration of gifts as she shares her talented gift with McFarlin.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

I recently received this e-mail and would like to share it with you.

SILENT SERMON

A member of a church who previously had been attending services regularly stopped going. After a few weeks the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire.

Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken. Origin: unknown.

God Bless,
Kristy and Beth

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

I appreciate very much all the cards, prayers and verbal condolences in response to my father's death. He was a great man who made life better for many people. We had a wonderful celebration of his life at my home church, complete with a number by the church choir and a solo by our son, Mark. Burial was at a cemetery near Little Rock where many of my ancestors are buried. There my mother had a surprise when the gentleman who was best man at mother and dad's wedding and his wife came. My parents were married for 67 years and were a great example of a life partnership for all who knew them. My mother has many friends and many activities she enjoys.

The Bolivian Mission Dinner last Friday was a wonderful event. I was reminded of many experiences from my two mission trips to Bolivia. I am pleased that Oklahoma United Methodists have renewed the relationship with the Bolivian church and that a new generation of Oklahomans will be involved with the wonderful people of Bolivia.

Thanks to all who have been involved in the Lenten Studies using Bishop Hayes' book. Many others purchased copies and are using the devotions during Lent.

For a meaningful Lenten journey,
George Shepherd

Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering taken by United Methodists and other denominations. In our case it supports the overhead for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The proceeds of this offering mean that all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those causes because basic expenses are covered. Especially at times of disasters like the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes, there are extraordinary needs by UMCOR in coordinating all the extra donations that come in to address needs around the world. McFarlin will take this offering on Sunday, March 14. Offering envelopes will be inserted in the worship bulletins that day. Envelopes have a tear-off sheet of information so they can be sealed but you can keep the informative piece. Since the 14th is the first Sunday of spring break and many will be away, you should know that you can give this offering any time, just designate One Great Hour on the memo line of your check. More information about the offering is at www.umcsgiving.org/OGHS.

Are You Being Called to Alaska Mission?

Several deposits were turned in at the information session for the Alaska mission this week, but there is still room for more team members. The McFarlin adult mission is to Soldotna, Alaska, June 3-13. 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).

The construction mission will put a new roof on a parsonage for the United Methodist church in that town on the west end of the Kenai Peninsula south of Anchorage. The United Methodist churches in Alaska are part of the Alaska Missionary Conference. One implication of that designation is that most all the churches need support from churches in the lower 48. Oklahoma has had an active mission presence in Alaska, sending scores of Volunteers in Mission teams over the years. Some of the missionaries for this year were part of the McFarlin team who went to Alaska in 2006. The deadline for turning in names to Continental Airlines is fast approaching, so decisions are needed soon. If you are interested in the mission, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

School Kits Needed for Haiti

The request for relief supplies for Haiti has now switched over to school kits and layettes. Some of our UMW circles and other groups are preparing layettes. Everyone is invited to bring supplies for or assemble complete school kits. Items are:

- ❖ 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- ❖ 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- ❖ 1 30-centimeter ruler
- ❖ 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- ❖ 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- ❖ 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- ❖ 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro®, snap or button) and place items in the bag. Patterns for the bags and these instructions will be available by the collection bins outside worship.

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McFarlin News

McFarlin Daycare Director Wanda Clifton, Announces Retirement

Since opening the doors of the McFarlin day care in September 1967, there has been at least one thing that has happened ever day since. Wanda Clifton has been at work providing loving care to the children of the daycare. After almost 43 years of continuous service, Wanda Clifton has announced her retirement.



To say that the day care will miss Wanda is the understatement of the century. Mrs. Clifton, along with her long time assistant director Jane Poore, have decided that they will soon leave the day care. But they will leave us with more memories of them than they will take from us.

Wanda and Jane have been the foundation of what has become an institution in the Norman community. The McFarlin day care has been true to its mission, to exhibit the love and care of Jesus Christ to the children in their care. It is that foundation that has attracted such a loyal and dedicated workforce. It is that love that has attracted parents and families to trust the day care with their most precious daily cargo.

Harriet Turkington was the beacon of light that successfully directed the church to begin serving the Norman community with this day care all those many years ago. To think that anyone, including Mrs. Turkington, could have imagined the success that they had started would be incredible. Norman is a progressive community. It is vibrant and full of faith and fun. It is second to no place else in the state in its diversity of ideas and opportunities. But a community cannot reach its full potential without its people working together. Every weekday morning for over four decades, McFarlin has opened its doors to the community and offered to care for its next generation. And because of people like Wanda and Jane, the community has accepted.

Thank you Wanda. Thank you Jane. Thank you for leading this ministry of care with the humility, commitment and inclusiveness that any person seeking a Christian perspective in an institution would recognize.

Mark McGuire
Chairman of the McFarlin Day Care Board

School Kits Needed for Haiti

Continued from Page 5

Important kit assembly information:

❖ All items included in kits must be NEW items.

❖ All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.

❖ Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Cash contributions are also helpful since UMCOR asks that we include \$1 per bag for shipping and mission budget funds have been depleted with all the health kits we already sent. If you have questions or want to contribute cash, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext.109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

MCFARLIN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REVENUE REPORT January 31, 2010

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Pledge Offerings:	\$1,065,798	\$1,093,058
Unpledged Offerings:	224,583	176,705
Other:	95,440	90,919
Total:	1,385,821	1,360,682

Play and Pray

Many sports are in session right now for our children. We are proud that so many are active in sports, theater, dance, etc. We invite your child to wear their uniform to church or church activities when needed or desired.

McFarlin Family

Welcome McFarlin New Members: Chris Walker.

Entered the Church Triumphant: Albert Shepherd, father of George Shepherd; father of Bill Megginson; Ethelyn Rose Cox, mother of Cathy Naifeh; Mildred Grant, mother of Merry Voeller; Betty Renegar, wife of James Renegar.

Meetings & Activities

March 14th - 20th

Sunday, March 14

7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
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	Library Council	Room 222
12:05PM	Communion	Martin Chapel
4:00PM	Lenten Study	Joplin Home
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd

Monday, March 15

7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
2:00PM	Afternoon Shawl Circle	Room 320
6:30PM	Care Team Meeting	Room 210
6:30PM	Church & Society Ministry Team	Room 222
6:30PM	Norman Area Quilters Guild	Fenn Hall
7:30PM	Evening Shawl Circle	Room 401

Tuesday, March 16

7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
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

Wednesday, March 17

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
9:00AM	UMW #1*	Room 228
9:30AM	UMW Circle # 5	Room 320
11:45AM	Alzheimers Support Group	Room 209
6:00PM	Wednesday Quilters	Room 226
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	UMW #2*	Room 304
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 405

Thursday, March 18

7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study III	Room 222
7:00PM	Lenten Study	Sebestyen Home
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401

Friday, March 19

7:00AM	Mexico 17: Spring Break Mission	Offsite
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*Child care Available

Deacon's Corner For Lent

Read Psalms 37:23. Do you wonder what God wants you to do or how you can serve and/or honor God? I get this statement/question all the time: "I would do what God wants, but I don't know what that is!" God does not have Mother Teresa-sized tasks for all of us, and free will requires us to want and desire to serve God. In a recent devotional, Jack Graham said this: "We're talking about choices that relate to doing the will of God, obeying him, following him, and being used of God. If you want to hear from God, start each day by completely yielding to him. Say, 'Lord, my life is yours. Live through me, guide me, speak to me, and show me the way.' If you do that, you can trust that he will guide you. You don't know what each day will hold, but he does. If you want to hear from God, start each day by completely yielding to him." This daily yielding and daily doing what God wants through the Holy Spirit brings, and *noticing* the opportunities to serve.....that is how you can begin practicing to listen to God. In the beginning, the prompt might only to be open the door for the person with a lot of packages....but if you are obedient, God will send you more complex and detailed "jobs" to do...I have this vision of all the angels standing in line each morning waiting for their "orders for the day" - and every believer saying, "send me, too!" You think about that!

Grace and Peace,
Harriette Leigh Kemp

Easter Lilies



If you would like to have an Easter lily on Easter Sunday, April 4 in memory or honor of someone special to you, please fill out a form found at the receptionist desk outside the offices and turn it in to Daphne Fix, church secretary. We will have lilies in both Sanctuary services and the LifeLine service. The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 21. Lilies are \$15 this year and payment is appreciated at the time of order.

Easter Lily Cross - the Worship Ministry Team is planning to make an Easter lily cross for the Sanctuary services on Easter. If you would be willing to donate the lily you purchase to be used to make this cross, please mark "Lily Cross Donation" on your lily order form. If you have any questions, please call Daphne at the church office,

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



8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship

Dinner is served in Fenn Hall each Wednesday from 5:15 PM - 7 PM. 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!