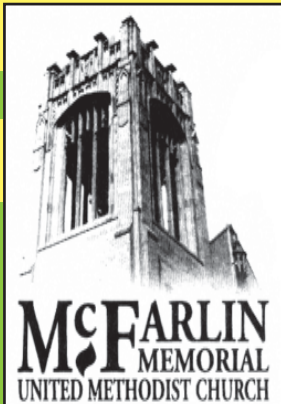


McFarlin Active



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 16

August 14, 2009

BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY!

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

August 23, 2009 5-8 PM

Free Family Event - All Ages Welcome!

Giant Inflatables & Games

**Live Music by the LifeLine Band, Crafts, Face
Painting, Tattoos, Sidewalk Chalk, Snow Cones,
Hot Dogs, Chips and Drinks on the North
Lawn of the Church and in Fenn Hall.**

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**Hosted by Family, Youth, Children's
and Evangelism Ministries!**

Volume 156,
Issue 16

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



The question has been asked as to why we have made staff reductions when it was thought that we were doing better financially. The answer is that while our bottom line has improved, this improvement has come in large part because we have reduced our expenditures. As you may know, non-profits have recently had a difficult time as a result of the economy. I read several church newsletters, and they all indicate their congregations are having a hard time keeping up with expenditures.

I am happy to say the total amount we received in pledges toward the ministries of the church was greater than in any previous year - over 1.9 million dollars! However, we were still forced to reduce the budget for the coming year because we did not receive as much as we needed in commitments. We really needed \$2.1 million in order to continue our ministry at the same level. Every year inflationary costs necessitate a significant increase in revenue.

Unfortunately, we cannot count on as much revenue as we have in the past from the original McFarlin Trust, the McFarlin Foundation, interest, and the special Christmas and Easter offerings. Less money from these sources has forced us to make some hard decisions.

I would love it if someday we could get to the point where we could fund the general budget on what we receive only through offerings, and then use other sources of income to take care of special needs and projects. This could happen if a higher percentage of our people tithed, or even gave half a tithe.

The Faith and Finance Committee is committed to having a balanced budget, and not spending more than we receive. I believe this is good stewardship, and I am grateful for the committee's attentiveness to the needs of the church. I look forward to the day when we have ample financial resources so we can do all that God has called us to do.

For the church,

Deacon's Corner

"Nothing less than life in the steps of Christ is adequate to the human soul or the needs of our world." ~Dallas Willard, The Great Omission.

Jesus gave us a complete picture of God and demonstrated how we can experience vitality and fullness in our life with God (Colossians 2:9 and John 10:10). The historical church (Christians), despite its divisions and differences, has upheld the core characteristics of Christ's life through what we now call traditions. Taken together, these traditions help us envision a balanced spiritual life. They serve as a guide to help us take on the life of Jesus, to become like Jesus ourselves, and as a result to be transformed from the inside out. There are 6 areas of our lives that require and need transformation: a prayer-filled life which is our heart's steady attention on God; a virtuous life which is responding with integrity; a spirit-empowered life which fuels our lives from the presence and power of God; a compassionate life extends compassion in every sphere of life; a word-centered life which is living the life-giving message; and a sacramental life which encounters the invisible God in a visible world.

Small group Renovaré opportunities will be offered this fall at McFarlin. The staff is embarking on such a journey with a Renovaré small group - won't you sign up for a group that will allow you practice and support as you put on the mind of Christ?

Grace and Peace,
Deacon Harriette Leigh Kemp

Interested in joining other women for Bible Study using **Priscilla Shirer's "Can We Talk? Soul-Stirring Conversations with God?"** Group video and discussion will be held Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM for seven weeks beginning September 8. Contact Carrie Jankowski (217-9860) or Misty Stelzer (370-4577) or e-mail carriejank@hotmail.com to join! Please let us know asap if child care is needed.

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

Youth ministries are a huge drain on churches. They drain churches of money, time, building use, van wear and tear, volunteers, staffing...the list goes on and on. So there has to be some reason for youth ministry, because the cost is very high!

For over 15 years the vision of the McFarlin youth ministry has been to **Create Life-Long Disciples for Christ**. It is pretty catchy if I might say, even if I am a little partial. It is an important vision because far too many churches have youth ministries that are simply satisfied with a large number of kids active through their senior year, only to have them leave the church completely once they graduate. Talk about a huge, wasteful drain.

So I got to thinking recently: How are we doing? We have had hundreds of kids through the doors of McFarlin during my 16 years here, and sometimes I wonder if we are making any difference at all. Without having an **It's a Wonderful Life** personal remake, I got to thinking about all the kids that we (Yes, **we!** This is NOT about me) have impacted in a life-long way. Here is a list of some of them. I am sure I have missed a few, and for that I apologize, but it is too important to fear missing some than to not share with you these names.

Kevin Watson, who was once a youth ministry intern, is an ordained United Methodist Elder working on his PhD at SMU; Brandon Blacksten is in Seminary at Vanderbilt in Nashville; Drew Sher is serving as the youth director at First United Methodist Church in Coppell, Texas; Michele Lott, former associate youth director at McFarlin, is the youth director at the Methodist Church in LaGrange, Texas; Bill Gild, former youth ministry intern, is the middle school youth director at a church in Tulsa, Oklahoma;

Continued on Page 7

Music Notes

Dr. House has mentioned the uniqueness we have at McFarlin as we plan in terms of semesters and we are approaching the beginning of an exciting new fall semester here at McFarlin. Our official kick-off in worship begins this Sunday with both the Chancel and Canticle singers back in the loft. The "back to school" event will be August 23 for traditional worship at McFarlin as the combined adult choirs lead us with "Amazing Grace" by Berkey.

The summer wrap-up at McFarlin was exciting for music as we had the Wesley bell and choir retreat followed by the Summer Worship Arts Camp. SWAC had 132 K-5th graders participating throughout the week culminating with their leadership of an energetic and inspiring worship service Sunday. Our profound thanks to Venita MacGorman, Teresa Williams, and the many volunteers that made this year's SWAC a success.

If you haven't participated in music at McFarlin, or haven't in a while, please come to one of our choir rehearsals to see if music at McFarlin can be one of your ministries. One of my favorite quotes reminds us how important singing is to God, "When you sing, you pray twice." If you have an interest in bells please think about joining one of our phenomenal handbell groups.

We had retreats for the Chapel, Chancel, Canticle Singers and Wesley Choir and have some great groups for the fall, but it seems to me they are missing just one person - YOU. Just because you might not have been able to make a retreat, please join us anyway. All of the schedules for the Chapel, Chancel and Canticle choral groups are on our church website at www.mcfarlinumc.org/music. We will continue to keep the website up to date for all groups and rehearsals as they are available.

For music at McFarlin,
Boyd Hamilton
Interim Coordinator of Music

Single Snippets

Saddle up for the SOONER STOMP for singles and friends on Friday, September 11 from 8 PM to midnight in Fenn Hall. Singles from all over the metro area will converge for a country and western dance party with lessons, karaoke, food, dance time, and a rousing game of Sooner hold 'em. Break out your best western wear and come "stomp" the night away.

Spiritual Accountability groups are forming now. There will be at least 2 groups (day and evening) that will choose from Renovaré (renew your faith) options. Contact me at 245-9874 or e-mail hrlleigh@cox.net for more information.

(From the Renovaré website) "We are all spiritual beings. We have physical bodies, but our lives are largely driven by an unseen part of us. There is an immaterial center in us that shapes the way we see the world and ourselves, directs the choices we make, and guides our actions. Our spirit is the most important part of who we are and yet we rarely spend time developing our inner life. That's what spiritual formation is all about. Spiritual Formation is a process, but it is also a journey through which we open our hearts to a deeper connection with God. We are not bystanders in our spiritual lives, we are active participants with God, who is ever inviting us into relationship with him. Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10). We at Renovaré believe that such abundant life is possible here and now, because Jesus showed us the way to it. As we take on the life of Jesus and become like him, we experience a richness in life and faith that is truly renewed day by day" (Colossians 3:10).

You think about growing deeper in your relationship with God by joining a Renovaré group this fall!

Grace and Peace,
Harriette Leigh Kemp

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Good August to You!

Plans are coming along for a great year of programs and trips for our Bonus Years members. The brochure should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

Sometimes I learn things that everyone else knows but just in case you don't, here are some items that could possibly help you:

One is that you can renew your driver's license within six (6) months of your birthday. You do not have to wait until the birthday month. Since we do not receive reminders in the mail, you can mark your calendar for the 6th month out, even procrastinate a few months and still be current. I just don't want anyone to be late and have to take the driver's test over. Or at least I don't want to have to take it. Sometimes I think that there are other drivers who need to but, of course, not me.

A safety thing we all need to do is to lock our cars the minute we get into them. Many cars have the automatic locks when the car is in gear. However, we are hearing more and more about someone opening a car door and robbing people as they enter their cars even before the car is started. None of us need to experience that. We need to learn from OPE (other people's experiences) because we don't have time to learn all of them ourselves.

Remember to laugh often. It's non-fattening and good for the soul!

Carol Dean Schreiner

Care Ministries

Think of a time when you really felt cared for. Chances are someone focused on what you had to say, was attentive to your needs, and listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do.

Listening is one of the most powerful ministry tools at our disposal. It demonstrates that you care about the other person. In Stephen Ministry, a great deal of time is spent in teaching and practicing listening skills because of its importance as a caregiving tool.

If you have ever felt called to minister to those in need, but felt inadequate to do so, McFarlin provides an excellent opportunity for training as a lay pastoral caregiver. The Stephen Ministry training creates a place in the life and ministry of our church for those who, hearing and believing, want to put their faith into practice in a tangible way. "Love one another" (John 15:17) becomes something active.

A Stephen Ministry training class will be offered this fall if enough members express interest in participating. Take advantage of this opportunity to share the love that God has given you. If you have the gifts and time and feel called to serve God as a Stephen Minister, please contact me before August 21.

Serving with you,
Jane Cook,
Care Ministries Coordinator



CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

"Intergenerational" is one of our favorite words in the Children's Ministry department. We love to coordinate events that allow children, youth, adults, and older adults to interact. The youngest children learn from the wisdom and experience of older generations, and those sweet little ones in the nursery help remind the rest of us how to stop and smile, just enjoying God's simplest gifts.

This summer, I have enjoyed watching relationships blossom among generations. Vacation Bible School provided the opportunity for all age groups to gather to worship God and renew our faith through love for one another. One of the best examples of this was the children's support of the youth Toronto Mission. Through our VBS focus on the mission, children learned about inner-city youth in Toronto, helped donate supplies for Toronto totes, and saw the opportunity for mission work they will experience as they get older. It was a powerful moment for all when 54 youth and adults gathered at the front of Fenn Hall as other members laid hands on them in a blessing the night before they left. What a witness and foundation we were laying for our young children! What a blessing the children were to the youth, and what an example the youth and adults were to the children!

Let us continue to be a family of faith. Visit an older friend with your children to bring him or her joy. Teach children's Sunday school even though your children are grown. We can learn so much from one another, and we will all have a richer understanding of God's family.

Beth Carter



Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

The Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build is a really exciting development for Norman. Churches participating in the Apostles' Build with McFarlin include First Baptist, First Christian, Generations, NorthHaven, St. Joseph's Catholic and St. Michael's Episcopal. Two churches have already spoken for the first two build weekends so it will be September before other volunteers are needed. McFarlin may take responsibility for a Friday by ourselves, but individuals can work most Fridays and Saturdays. The challenge will be to get people signed up and committed at least 10 days ahead of time. We should have sign-up sheets out in the next week or so. In September there will probably be a "Raise the Roof" celebration when people from all the churches can come together.

Another aspect of the build that will use volunteers is a class or several McFarlin volunteers who will prepare and deliver a lunch on various workdays. If you have a group that would like to do that, please decide on 3 or 4 possible dates and I'll get one scheduled. If you are an individual who would like to help in that way, just let me know and I'll start a list to see if we can get 3 or 4 individuals. Individuals could also prepare morning or afternoon snacks (water and fruit). Habitat is going to have a headset sports radio sales fundraiser at OU home games. We may decide to take a certain game as a church (would need 20 commitments) or to get individuals who can work with folks from other churches. More on that later.

Hope you can find your place to serve in the Apostles' Build process.

George Shepherd

"Disciple" Stimulates Spiritual Growth

Disciple Bible Study has spurred hundreds of McFarlin members to grow spiritually over the last twenty odd years and over a million have completed the study worldwide. The Disciple experience also produces growth in understanding of scripture and finding meaning in faith and provides personal support from fellow class members.

Comments from past students include, "Disciple has made the Bible come alive for me in ways it never had before" and "It taught me the relationship between the Old and New Testaments and the importance of the Old."

Enrollment begins soon and classes start the week after Labor Day. In a week or two, sign-up sheets will be outside worship. Handbooks describing the Disciple courses and handbooks specific to Disciple III, the upper level course for this year, are at the education ministries display in the Atrium. Information sessions on Disciple are set for Sunday morning, August 30 at 9:50 AM in Martin Chapel and at 5 PM that evening. You can also contact George Shepherd in the church office at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org. The daytime classes will offer child care. Courses we expect to offer beginning in September are:

Disciple Bible Study I - overview course

Tuesdays, 7-9 PM and Thursday mornings

Disciple Bible Study III - the Prophets and Paul

Tuesdays, 7-9 PM and Thursday mornings

Parenting Workshop Wednesdays in September!

Are you the parent of a toddler or preschool child who wants to provide boundaries for your child while maintaining their natural curiosity and budding personality? A parenting workshop for parents of children ages 0-4 years is being offered on Wednesday, September 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 - 8 PM at First Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$25 per individual or \$40 per couple, which includes the cost of the workbook.

The workshop is being offered by Rev. JoBeth Kee-Rees, a United Methodist Deacon and pastoral counselor. She lives in Norman with her husband and 2 young children. If you have any questions or would like to register by Wednesday, September 2, please contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext. 109 or JoBeth Kee-Rees at 321-2398.

Green Team Idea

Don't run your washing machine or your dishwasher until it's really full. This will save water and energy! (from *How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take to Change a Christian?*)

McFarlin Church Day Care Head Cook Needed
Monday through Friday from 7 AM - 3 PM
Contact the Day Care Office at 329-2170

McFarlin News

United Methodist Women Day Apart Wednesday, September 9 9:30 AM - 2 PM

Our leader is United Methodist Deaconess Pat Hoerth, a trained spiritual director appointed to the ministries of Turtle Rock Farm. Turtle Rock Farm is a center for sustainability, spirituality and healing that is located on a centennial family farm in the rolling prairie of north central Oklahoma, near Billings. Pat's presentation is entitled "Connecting with God's Good Creation." She says "we will get back in touch with the natural world, take a meditative walk through the creation of the universe, and think about the next thing we want to do to live sustainably on this beautiful planet." You do not need to bring anything except openness to what God brings forward this day.

The Day Apart, a spiritual growth retreat, will be held in room 209 at the church. Registration, coffee and snacks will begin at 9:30 AM. Cost is \$15 which covers all costs of the Day Apart, including leader, materials, and lunch. Call the church at 321-3484 by Friday, August 28 for child care and lunch reservations.

More information about the ministries of Turtle Rock Farm is available at: www.turtlerockfarmretreat.com.

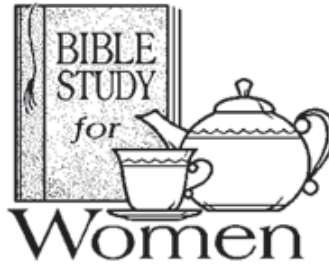


Wednesday Bible Study



Come and join Rev. Randy Wade for Bible study as we study the book of Romans on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in room 401. Come as much as you can or come every week. All are welcome!

Women's Fall Bible Study



Women's Bible Study will begin its fall study of 1 Timothy, Titus, and 2 Timothy on Wednesday, August 26, 7:10 PM in room 222. Women of all ages are welcome! A simple three-step approach to Bible study is used consisting of content, lessons, and applications. For more information or for child care, contact Eve Hawley at 321-3488 or by e-mail at hawleyhouse@cox.net.

New Sunday School Class

Young Couples with Children: Check out a new Sunday school class created with you in mind. This group will study the Bible seeking fresh and contemporary ways of applying scripture to life situations. The class meets in room 326 from 9:40-10:40 AM. Your children are welcome in the nursery or rotation Sunday school. Contact Jennifer Sims for information at 321-3484, extension 128 or e-mail jsims@mcfarlinumc.org.

Financial Peace University

Would you like to learn more about your finances, money, credit, real estate and insurance and what the Bible says about it all? Do you worry about having enough money to retire? If so, you need financial peace. The next Financial Peace University class will start the Thursday after Labor Day, on September 10. We will meet every Thursday for 13 weeks from 7 - 9 PM through December 10. Child care will be provided. Please contact Heather Oelke with questions or to sign-up at 590-3819 or heather.oelke@ihs.com.

Test Drive a Handbell!!



This is your chance to investigate a unique and wonderful way of making music in a no pressure atmosphere. A Rookie Ringers workshop, for youth and adults will be held from 9 AM - noon on Saturday, August 29. Absolutely no musical experience necessary! Contact Venita at 321-3484, ext. 119 or venita@mcfarlinumc.org to register.

Meetings & Activities

August 16th - 22nd

Sunday, August 16

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
9:40AM	Promotion Sunday	Nursery
9:40AM	Promotion Sunday	3rd Floor
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
1:45PM	Prison Ministry	South Lot
4:30PM	Advent Preparation	Room 401
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd

Monday, August 17

2:00PM	Afternoon Shawl Circle	Room 320
6:30PM	Norman Area Quilters Guild	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	Church & Society Ministry Team	Room 222
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 329, 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall
7:30PM	Evening Shawl Circle	Room 401

Tuesday, August 18

9:00AM	Norman Area Quilters Guild Workday	Room 226
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
8:00PM	Men's Basketball	Fenn Hall

Wednesday, August 19

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:30AM	UMW Circle # 5	Room 320
11:45AM	Alzheimers Support Group	Room 209
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:15PM	Wednesday Quilters	Room 226
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study*	Room 401
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

Thursday, August 20

8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
7:00PM	HUB Board Meeting	Aldersgate
7:00PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401

Saturday, August 22

8:30AM	Seniors Breakfast	Prairie Kitchen
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*Child care Available

Paper Bags Needed!

The McFarlin Food Pantry is in desperate need of large paper bags. Please bring to the office area on the second floor of the church. Thank you!

Youth Works...

Continued from Page 3

Melissa Burke, who just recently finished her time as our co-middle school youth director grew up at McFarlin; Trevor Tullius, who is now a law school student at Virginia, served two years in the Peace Corps; Rob Sher, now a lawyer in Tulsa, was instrumental in starting our LifeLine worship at McFarlin; Tino Herrera, now our solo middle school youth director, heard the calling while volunteering with us; Bryan Waldenville, now the campus pastor of the Eastside location of Journey Church grew up at McFarlin, as did JJ Waggoner, the children's director at NorthHaven Church here in Norman. This, of course, is not to mention the countless teachers who grew up at McFarlin and heard the call while in high school and college (Elaine Wiseman, Sarah Hall, Amy Carruth, and Jacey Marsh are all beginning their teaching careers in the next couple of weeks).

This above list doesn't even include the many high school and college students who are hearing the call to some form of ministry and or teaching, and it doesn't include those who take time out of their careers to travel on missions all around the world each year.

So maybe youth ministry isn't a drain after all. Maybe it is really an investment. One that is reaping huge Kingdom rewards, helping to change the world little by little. Thanks McFarlin for making the investment!

Scott Meier

Food Service Provider Needed

McFarlin Church is in need of someone who can provide occasional food service throughout the year. The food service provider needs to provide the meals and clean up the dishes and kitchen afterward. They will be paid \$10 per hour. If interested please contact David Vandewalker at 321-3484 ext. 177.

McFarlin Family

Entered the Church Triumphant: Lawrence Webb, husband of Edna Webb; father of Don Gough.

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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Norman, OK 73070
405.321.3484
www.mcfarlinumc.org

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Blessing of the Backpacks!



Sunday, August 16 students are invited to bring their backpacks and teachers and coaches to bring their rosters to all worship services as we bless them for the new school year!

Park & Ride is Back!

We need your help! As part of our church family, one way you can help welcome visitors is by providing your parking space through the McFarlin **Park & Ride** program.

Park in the Boyd House lot, be shuttled to the front doors and then back to your car after worship service. Join others who will **Park & Ride** on Sundays beginning August 16: 9:30-9:55, 10:40-11:05, or 12:00-12:20. Contact Mike Hawley at 321-3488 or mike@mikehawley.com if you would like to volunteer to help drive a van.



8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship