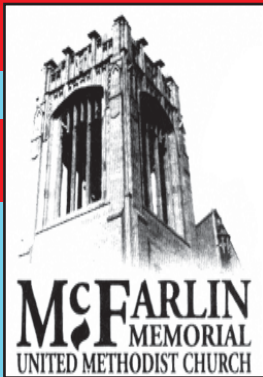


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 17

August 28, 2009

United Methodist Women Day Apart Wednesday, September 9 9:30 AM - 2 PM in room 209



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

This spiritual growth retreat will be led by United Methodist Deaconess Pat Hoerth in room 209 at the church. Pat's presentation is entitled "Connecting with God's Good Creation." 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.

Here is the church,
Here is the steeple,
Open the doors
And here are all the people.



I think we all learned these words as a child. The part that has always stood out to me is the part about "the people." That is what the church is about...people. People looking towards God and attempting to know Him better. People coming from very busy lives to meet in fellowship and praise and worship together. People coming to serve and people coming to be served. People of all ages...people who are little...children. McFarlin is a church that loves families and loves children. We are a church that loves coming together as a family to celebrate, as well as to look for guidance in times of need. McFarlin is a church that has come together for many years in support of the children. Our children's ministry truly supports the McFarlin mission statement, "Responding to God's call, we seek to live lives shaped by Christ, to reach people for Christ, and to develop deeply committed Christians."

We ask you to pray for the children and youth as they start a new school year. Please pray for their safety, their happiness, their strength, and their faith. Please pray that the seeds within them grow and that they grow to know God, despite the worldly influences they will face daily. Please pray they allow God to work in their lives, that they make good decisions, that they learn from their mistakes, that they show the love of Jesus to those around them, that they make a positive impact on those around them, that they know God loves them and is with them always.

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

God Bless,
Kristy Varva
Early Childhood Director

Volume 156,
Issue 17

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



Recently someone gave me a great set of new golf clubs. These were golf clubs they had made. Before this person gave them to me he asked me if I played golf. I replied, "Not very well, but I do like to play once in awhile, and I did take golf lessons several years ago." Sunday afternoon I watched the last round of the PGA golf tournament. When Y.E. Yang, the winner over Tiger Woods, hit a really good shot with a #3 hybrid club, I exclaimed to Nancy, "I have a # 3 hybrid!" I imagined I could hit the same shot Yang did with my club. Needless to say, I have an active imagination.

What I do not imagine is that people sometimes do nice things for me. Over the years, I have had many gifts people (beyond my family) have given me. On one occasion someone actually gave me a new Hickey-Freeman suit. I have also been given pictures, photographs, crosses, certificates of appreciation, framed embroidered quotes, and a piece of stained glass. All these I have put in my office at the church. Someone also gave me an OU football autographed by Heisman trophy winners that I keep in my study at home.

All of these gifts I have appreciated. But even more than the gifts, I have appreciated the people behind the gifts. Their gestures have meant more than you can imagine. Over the years I have also received many e-mails and notes of appreciation. These have been encouraging. I have come to believe that life can be difficult without encouragement. As Christians, we should be about supporting one another. We should be about holding one another up, and not tearing one another down.

I will never be able to play golf as well as Y.E. Yang, but now that someone has given me some new golf clubs, I can at least imagine hitting a great shot once in awhile, and who knows, I might some day even hit a hole-in-one!

For hitting the hole,

Dick House

Sooner Stomp for Singles and Friends!

**Friday, September 11 from 8 PM to Midnight
in Fenn Hall**



**Come Join in Fellowship and Fun!
Country & Western Dance Lessons
Light Refreshments
Karaoke
Sonner Hold Em'
Dancing
a Band and More!**



**Suggested donation of \$5 per person with
all proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity**

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

In the last newsletter I listed former youth from McFarlin who have been called into ministry over the past 16 years. Of course, I missed a few. Here are two more: David Pullin is the media director at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas; and Becky Emery Foreman and her husband have recently begun the process of becoming missionaries in Romania.

Now, on to the main point of this article. I strongly believe that there have to be goals for a ministry to be focused on where it is headed, otherwise it is way too easy to get distracted and off base. A couple of weeks ago the Student Ministries staff had a retreat where we came up with our goals for this coming school year. Here they are:

1. Increase numbers in every thing we do.
2. Bring a serious nature to things.
3. More group activities, like retreats, lock-ins, and overnights.
4. Make disciples.
5. Get in a better financial state.
6. Create a spiritually healthy environment where people can grow.
7. Create routine with groups of kids.
8. Branch out more.
9. Two-hundred to Mexico.
10. New adults to Mexico.
11. More parents and adults involved.
12. Engage & encourage parents.

Some of these goals are pretty ambitious. Success isn't based on hitting each one of these 100%, but rather on how well we attempt to hit these targets. We have talked a lot about what an incredible summer we had, but that has to be looked upon as a foundation on which we build. If it is not, then we will have missed a marvelous opportunity!

Scott Meier

Music Notes

"En Chamade" is a term that literally means "out in front". One typically finds the term *en chamade* associated with a set of trumpet pipes, installed horizontally, or out in front, of a pipe organ. As we think about music at McFarlin, "out in front" is what we are about. Dr. House spoke Sunday about worship and the opportunity McFarlin possesses to have the greatest worship of any main-line church in the United States. Music is and should be a vital part of that mission.

We are well positioned to realize the vision of the senior minister with the talent in all our music groups and the staff of experts that lead them. During last week's Chancel Choir rehearsal, Dr. Schwandt spoke passionately about worship as a performance with God as the audience. As we continue to focus on excellence I think it is important to remember that worship is indeed a performance, the difference is the audience consists of one - God. We are all the performers from singing hymns, praying, to active listening. Music is there to inspire and elevate meaningful worship that is pleasing to God. God demands our best, but that doesn't mean we all have to be a Pavarotti or Horowitz, but it does mean we must be our best. At McFarlin that means excellence - it means McFarlin music is "En Chamade."

For music at McFarlin,
Boyd Hamilton, Interim Coordinator of Music

Single Snippets

Being in ministry with hurting singles is a lot like living with your teenager. There is not a "one-size-fits-all" answer for the reason they are struggling, but there is one answer for healing.

Today a man with two teenagers who is separated from his wife of 19 ½ years came to my office in tears. His binge drinking and subsequent anger outbursts, combined with a growing estrangement in his relationship with God brought him to my doorstep. Last week, I met with a young woman who was on probation from drug-related charges whose life was way off track and she was ready to change. Last year, I worked with a man who was in the Oklahoma county jail because his step-kids were dealing drugs out of his house and the law says he was responsible. These are but a few stories in my archives, but no matter what the situation, God welcomes discouraged, displaced, and struggling Christians with open arms. God delights in us, loves us, and meets us right where we are.

The one answer for healing those hurts, habits and hang-ups is this: *Do whatever it takes to turn your life back to a life with God, honoring God, and walking with God.* With these searchers, it required an extreme makeover. All of the ways that they were harming themselves and their families had to be removed and any person remodeling knows that ripping out the old is the fastest (though very painful and messy) and preferred method of deconstruction. Rebuilding a new life is needed, and the more completely one's attention is turned back to and focused on God, the faster and more complete the transformation. Some people read scripture for hours on end and attend Bible studies, others listen to praise and worship music and/or watch religious TV programs, still others surround themselves with accountability partners and support groups. The people that heal the fastest and most completely avail themselves of any and all of the above methods and more. Their entire lives are immersed in God and God's blueprint for an abundant life. Whatever the path, the answer is the same: return to God and become that new creation in Christ! You think about that!

Grace and Peace,
Harriette Leigh Kemp

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Good Day Seniors!

New year, new cook, new coordinator, new price! Same great quality programs, trips and excellent food! The first Bonus Years Meeting is Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30 AM. Catering Creations will be furnishing the food and the cleanup for our events. With our new caterer, reservations have to be made by Thursday before the Wednesday meeting. **So for the September 2 meeting you need to reserve your spot by August 27.** New price is \$7 each.

I have been asked to present the first program, Laugh for the Health of It, one of my hottest topics with a little of another one thrown in. The September menu is: a 5 oz. bacon-wrapped fillet, baked potato, salad, bread and dessert. Now, be honest, where else can you get this meal for \$7? And an outstanding program to boot! E-mail Carol Dean at cschreiner@mcfarlinumc.org or call 321-3484, ext. 108 today!

Our first trip will be on Tuesday, September 22 to the Great Salt Plains and other places in that vicinity. The brochures have been mailed out by bulk mail. If by any chance you did not receive yours, please call me. I will have more at the church office.

I think the programs and trips will be great and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Bonus Years Events!

Smile,
Carol Dean Schreiner

Missions Coffee Fundraiser Continues

Now in its third year, the Missions coffee fundraiser has been popular with the congregation. If you haven't yet tried a sample, stop by in the Atrium Sunday before or after Sunday school through September 20 (but skipping September 6). You will most likely be as impressed as those who have already experienced the quality of the coffee, tea and chocolate. Speaking of chocolate, we do have a few candy bars left and plenty of hot chocolate mix to stock up on for cooler months.



Subscription orders provide the utmost in convenience. You can order any of the nine types of coffee and six teas featured, including drip grind, whole bean and several decafs. These will be available at the church the first Sunday of each month for six months, or you may pick them up at the church at other times. This way participating in the fundraiser is also easier because you pay in advance so you know your six-month supply will be hassle-free, no need to pay each month.

An exciting extra are the photo nature note cards by Elton Williams. The cards, with beautiful photos of birds and butterflies, come in two sizes for a suggested donation of \$1.50 and \$2.

The best thing about this fundraiser is that it benefits missions in three different ways: 1) the small farmers and their coops in villages on four continents receive a fair income from their crops and can help those in their village, 2) a portion of each sale goes to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) projects that benefit people in coffee growing regions and 3) profits go for McFarlin missions outreach.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

Play and Pray in the Same Day!

Many sports are back in full swing and many have games on Sundays. Please bring your child to church in uniform if that helps to get to both places on Sundays. We support your involvement in other activities and feel that those activities are important to children and families. Wear your jerseys and pray for those on your team, too!



Play & Pray

VBS Lost and Found

There were several ruck sacs, pictures and prayer pockets left from VBS. If you did not make it home with yours, please come by the nursery to the VBS lost and found to pick them up.

Rotation Sunday School Teachers Needed

All adults are invited to teach Rotation Sunday School for elementary children. We are still in need of teachers for this year, and you'd be surprised how easy and rewarding it can be! Please contact Beth Carter at bcarter@mcfarlinumc.org for more information.

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective



I always enjoy those occasions when our missionaries visit McFarlin. Unfortunately we found out about the recent visit by the Awads too late to publicize it well and the timing was not convenient for many people to be with them. We did have around 15 people present for the Tuesday noon event. They were traveling to twenty different states and in most of those they have at least five supporting churches. When they came through Norman they had been to ten states and had ten to go! Their ministries continue pretty much as they have for the last few years. Alex continues to preach and pastor at the Baptist church in East Jerusalem that provides a Protestant presence in that city. He continues to have concern for Palestinian Christians as so many have lost their livelihood since they are not allowed to travel from the West Bank to jobs in Israel as they once did. Palestinian Christians continue to leave the area, immigrating to Europe and the U.S. Alex worries that there may eventually be none left. Many send a family member to school in another country and eventually the whole family follows.

Brenda continues to work at Bethlehem Bible College where Alex also teaches and his brother is President. One of the ways the college tries to help prepare young people for employment is with training as tour guides since that is one skill that is in demand and pays reasonably well. You can find out more about the Awads and their ministry when communications from them are posted on the mission bulletin board and through two DVD's they left for the church library: *The Cross and the Checkpoint* and *Palestinian Memories* (about Alex's mother and family).

For Christian ministry around the world,
George Shepherd

Disciple Bible Study Previews this Sunday

Disciple Bible Study is the premier Bible study system of the United Methodist Church. Disciple has transformed the lives of a million and a half people around the world. More than 200 have taken Disciple at McFarlin. Courses start the week after Labor Day.

Information sessions on Disciple I and III are set for this Sunday, August 30 at 9:50 AM in Martin Chapel and 5 PM in room 222.

Sign-up sheets for those interested in the courses are also outside worship. Please sign up by Sunday to insure enough study manuals will be on hand. This year's offerings are:

✝ *Disciple I* – Tuesdays, 7 PM and Thursdays, 9 AM.

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study provides an overview of the entire Bible in 34 weekly sessions. Equal time is given to Old and New Testaments. The courses feature extensive homework (mainly scripture reading), videos and discussion at class gatherings.

✝ *Disciple III* – Tuesdays, 7 PM, and Thursdays, 9 AM.

Disciple III: Remember Who you Are focuses on the Old Testament prophets and the letters of Paul. Disciple I is a prerequisite for Disciple III.

Child care will be offered for all classes this year but advance registration is required.

For more information on either course, pick up a "Handbook" at the displays outside worship or contact George Shepherd at gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org or 321-3484, ext. 109.

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.

McFarlin News

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, ext. 128 or e-mail jsims@mcfarlinumc.org.



Park & Ride is Back!

Please consider using Park & Ride to make room for our guests who attend the 10:55 worship services. The McFarlin vans run from McFarlin to the Boyd House lot and back again every Sunday. Times are: 9:30-9:55 AM, 10:40-11:05 AM and 12:00-12:25 PM. Let's make room in our parking lots for visitors and guests by utilizing this great transportation service!



Financial Peace University

Beat Debt! Build Wealth! Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will teach you everything about money and how to make it behave for you. The next FPU is getting ready to start soon. Classes will meet once a week for 13 weeks, beginning the week after Labor Day and finishing the second week in December. The cost is \$93 and a payment plan is available. Child care is available with advance arrangement. Come to one of the 60-minute preview sessions in room 223 to see what FPU is all about and to sign up: Thursday, 8/27 at 7 PM or Sunday, 8/30 at 6 PM.

The with-God life



"The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with God included in the community as prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant."

Richard Foster

Discover the unity of the Bible in the development of life with God as a reality on earth, centered in the person of Jesus, and enter into the process of transformation of our whole person and our whole life into Christlikeness.

Sign up now for the Wednesday, 10:30 AM - noon group. Contact Harriette Leigh Kemp 245-9874 or hrleigh@cox.net.

McFarlin Family

Welcome McFarlin New Member: Stephanie Curtis.

Welcome McFarlin New Baby: Anna Jane Bryan, daughter of Kelli and Jonathan Bryan, granddaughter of Paul and Sue Swenson; Allyn Pitchford, daughter of Emily Gough and Drew Pitchford, granddaughter of Don and Gwen Gough.

Meetings & Activities

August 30th - September 5th

Sunday, August 30

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
9:50AM	Disciple Bible Study Preview	Martin Chapel
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
4:00PM	Wesley III Bell Choir	Bell Room
4:00PM	Wesley II Bell Choir	Meyer Hall
4:30PM	Advent Preparation	Room 401
4:30PM	Chapel Choir	Choir Room
5:00PM	Disciple Bible Study Preview	Room 222
5:00PM	Wesley Choir Rehearsal	Meyer Hall
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Financial Peace University Preview	Room 223
6:00PM	Agape Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Youth Fellowship Dinner	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	The Gathering	Fenn Hall

Monday, August 31

9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
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	Room 329
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall

Tuesday, September 1

9:30AM	UMW Executive Committee	Room 209
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Office
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	School of Mission Reunion Meeting	Room 227
8:00PM	Men's Basketball	Fenn Hall

Wednesday, September 2

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
9:00AM	UMW #1*	Room 228
10:30AM	Bonus Years Meeting	Fenn Hall
5:15PM	Festival Bell Rehearsal	Bell Room
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:15PM	Sanctuary Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:15PM	Chapel Handbell Choir	Meyer Hall
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:10PM	Women's Bible Study	Room 222
7:15PM	Wednesday Quilters	Room 226
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study*	Room 401
7:30PM	Carrillon Handbell Choir	Bell Room
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

*Child care Available

Thursday, September 3

7:00AM	Boys' Bible Breakfast	Ozzies
8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
1:00PM	Chancel Handbell Choir	Bell Room
7:00PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
7:00PM	Eden Diet Support Group*	Room 222

Friday, September 4

9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Rooms 102, 104
--------	--------------------	----------------

Saturday, September 5

7:00AM	Methodist Men's Breakfast	Fenn Hall
8:30AM	Seniors Breakfast	Prairie Kitchen

*Child care Available

Women's Bible Study



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 e-mail

carriejank@hotmail.com or Misty Stelzer (370-4577) to join! Please let us know ASAP if child care is needed.



Save A Tree!

Did you know that it takes one 15 to 20 year old tree to make 120 pounds of paper, which makes about 700 grocery bags. So using a canvas bag at all the places you shop will easily save the equivalent of one tree a year!



McFarlin News

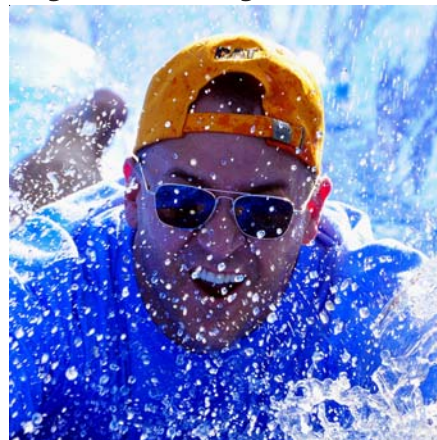
McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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

Photos: McFarlin's Back to School Block Party that was held this past Sunday, August 23. A good time was had by all!



8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship

