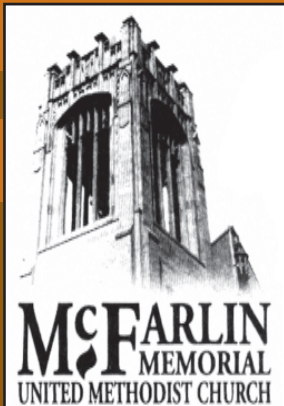


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 18

September 11, 2009

Fall Academy



Academy Offers Exciting Courses!

Many interesting topics will be offered this year at Fall Academy, five Wednesdays, September 30 through October 28. Most courses are similar to past years with new projects. One of those is “**Cabled Christmas Stocking**”, a new knitting project under the direction of Christy Fisher. Lynne McElroy’s “**Basket Weaving**” class this year will feature Amy’s basket, a square-base market basket with embellishments. Members of the Norman Embroiderers’ Guild will teach “**Embroidered Christmas Ornament**,” a simple design with easy stitches which produces a beautiful result. See examples of these projects and many from other classes at the registration tables in the Atrium on Sunday mornings.

Tuition for all adults and youth is \$20 for the five weeks. Registration for elementary children has been reduced this year to just \$10. Many craft classes also have materials fees.

One class is already full so don’t postpone enrollment. Brochures are located around the church. Check out all the other exciting courses being offered. In addition to enrolling on Sunday mornings in the Atrium, you can do so by mail, or at the church office during the week. In any case, your place is reserved in a class once your registration fee has been paid. You are sure to find something interesting in the 18 courses offered.

Two courses being offered to coincide with Academy through the Council on Spiritual Initiatives are “**The With-God Life**” and “**Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends.**” They also begin September 30 and run from 7-9 PM. Contact Rev. Harriette Leigh Kemp at 245-9874 for more information on these.

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

Letters from Dad

**Letters from Dad
BBQ Dinner Tickets** remain available and can still be purchased at the door for \$5 prior to the cookout this upcoming Monday, September 14, at 6:30 PM in Fenn Hall. We invite all men to join us to discover what

you can do to provide a lasting written legacy for your family.



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Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



With school beginning recently, I have again become mindful of the value of reading. Recently I read that reading has decreased by half since the 1960's. If this is true, I think people are missing something. Like many of you, I have difficulty finding time to read. After a long day at work I am sometimes too tired to read, and early in the morning does not always work for me. Also, I tend to read in "spurts," which means I will read a lot for a period of time, and then there will be a period when I do not read very much at all. Also, when I am reading I will sometimes read two or three books at the same time, and as a result, it takes me awhile to get through a particular book. That said, I still believe reading is a valuable exercise.

I just finished reading Barbara Brown Taylor's book entitled An Altar in the World. I am now starting The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith, and have been reading an interesting book entitled Conversions: The Christian Experience, edited by Hugh Kerr and John

Mulder. The latter book can be found in our church library. Although I have this book checked out at the moment, I will soon be returning it.

Speaking of our church library, we have some wonderful books there. Also, we have some great videos and DVD's. If you would like to know more about the Bible, we have some great resources in our library for studying both the Old and New Testaments. Also, there are biographies, books on theology, church history, and a host of other subjects. If you have not been in our library, I would invite you to drop by and browse. It's an excellent place to spend some time.

Again, I cannot emphasize enough the value of reading. I remember something that Louis L'Amour, the great western novelist, said in his memoir, Education of a Wandering Man, a book he was editing the day he died. He wrote: "It is often said that one has but one life to live, but that is nonsense. For one who reads there is no limit to the to the number of lives that may be lived, for fiction, biography, and history offer an inexhaustible number of lives in many parts of the world, in all periods of time." It has been my experience that reading takes me to places I will never see, and to ideas that I might otherwise not encounter, a potentially valuable and meaningful exercise.

For reading good books,

Dick House

Life Line



Getting older has its disadvantages (why did my hip start hurting yesterday for no apparent reason?), but it also comes with an advantage or two. One of which is, if you're paying attention at all, you get a more realistic assessment of your own strengths and weaknesses. For example, last year (after 25 years as a Christian) I finally came to the conclusion that I really am not very good at going solo on some basic Christian practices. I've found that if I am going to pray regularly, I need a prayer group, if I'm going to study scripture, I need a regular Bible study group, if I'm going to practice the other disciplines that help me grow closer to God, I need help. So, knowing I needed these things, I joined an existing prayer group, started a new Bible study group, and am in the process of getting together another spiritual life growth group made up of my colleagues here on staff. And it has made a difference in my life - I am spending more time with God and I think He's wearing off on me a bit.

If you are like me, and most of you are, you too probably need help in these areas. I want to encourage you to take advantage of any of the numerous Bible study, prayer groups, and other opportunities for growth this church offers. If you can't find a time to fit into an existing group, I encourage you to start your own - it's not rocket science and I'd be glad to help you get a group off the ground. God knew what He was doing in creating the church. We need each other on this lifelong pilgrimage back to our true home, so I encourage you to not go it alone and be part of a group or two.

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

We had a spectacular summer in student ministries. Our missions will forever rank as some of the best, with lives transformed in amazing ways! The people who traveled with us to St. Louis, Mexico, Albuquerque, and Toronto did have some sort of life-changing experience. But don't take my word for it; come hear about it for yourself! This Sunday, September 13 at 6 PM in Fenn Hall, the student ministries is sponsoring an all-church dinner & celebration of our amazing summer. We will share stories and pictures, and offer you a glimpse into what occurred. In addition to the missions we took, we will also hear a report from the youth who went on the Chapel Choir Tour in June. While this is not technically a "mission trip", in all reality they do a great deal of mission work on tour, so it will be fun to hear from them as well.

Lots of people don't truly understand the importance of our missions. They may think these are simply fun trips, or they may wonder why we travel so far when there are so many needs here. And of course, we can't ignore the amount of money we spend. For me it is quite simple: come and let us share with you "Why". We are going to serve a great meal (we will take a free-will offering) and have an awesome time together. So if you have ever wondered about our missions, now is a great time to come hang out and hear about the amazing things God is doing.

I am also excited that on Sunday, as a part of the Youth Missions Celebration Dinner, we will hear from Jorge Chacon, construction coordinator for Hands Together Mexico, the United Methodist ministry in Rio Bravo, Mexico. We have worked extensively with Jorge over the past few years on projects like the school in Nuevo Progreso and with *Juners*, our immersion mission that completed its 3rd year this past June.

I really hope you will join us this Sunday at 6 PM in Fenn Hall for what I think is going to be an awesome celebration!

Scott Meier

Music Notes

Over the past few weeks we have had some remarkable music at McFarlin. Amazing Grace with the combined choirs, Carl Rath on bassoon with Mr. Mozart and CPE Bach, a cappella piece by the Chancel Choir and two works by our own Mary Sallee. We have much more to come as we move through the fall. We will hear from the Chapel Choir on September 20 in both services (they are fast becoming one of the top youth choirs anywhere), a woodwind ensemble will play with the Canticle Singers and as we head into Advent and Christmas we have too many exciting things to name in this article. Check out the music pages on our website where you will find the schedules for each group and what and when they perform and help us worship.

If you would like to be a part of music at McFarlin, think about joining one of our choirs. As St. Augustine said, "When you sing, you pray twice". Come worship with us.

For music at McFarlin,
Boyd Hamilton
Interim Coordinator of Music

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!



Bring a friend, meet a new friend!

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

Ministry Updates

Care Ministries Yarn Giveaway



McFarlin's Prayer Shawl Ministry has been blessed with many donations of yarn from several individuals. These donations have helped with keeping the costs of this ministry to a minimum. All of the participants serving in this ministry may select yarn from our stock of donated and purchased yarn, and many purchase yarn on their own to make their items. With over 1200 items knitted, crocheted and donated to the ministry, it is hard to imagine how many skeins of yarn have been used to create these scarves, shawls, lap blankets, baby blankets, dishcloths for newly married couples, and prayer pockets.

Because we currently have an abundance of donated yarn, we would like to make some of this yarn available to all in our congregation. With Fall just around the corner, and Christmas close behind, you may have some projects in mind for your home, a friend or family member. The yarn will be available on Sunday, September 13 in the hallway north of the reception desk. Please feel free to pick up whatever yarn you can use.

Senior Adult

Good September to you!

What a great start to our new Bonus Years year! We had 100 people attend our first Bonus Years meeting last week. I am so blessed!

We have two great trips coming up and reservations need to be turned in soon.

First is the trip on Tuesday, September 22 to the Great Salt Plains & other interesting places. The cost is \$35 plus your lunch and snacks. We will travel in chartered buses. Call Carol Dean Schreiner today to register at 321-3484, ext. 108.

The other trip is to Branson November 16-18. We will go to the Andy Williams Show, The Knudson Brothers, & The Christmas Miracle. We will be staying in the Best Western with a great breakfast, and stop at Eureka Springs on the way back. Cost is \$455 for double room occupancy.

Our October Bonus Years speaker will be the marvelous Sharon Sala who writes best-selling novels. Come hear how she dreams up those wonderful plots!

One of the other programs we do is to hold a caregivers luncheon for those who are caring for their family members who have Alzheimer's. When visiting with a young man last week who comes to this meeting he almost cried when he told me how much it meant to him that our church was such a caring church to have these meetings. He said that no one else understands what he is going through except the people who are in the very same shoes.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

I am so excited about all of the children I'm seeing on Sundays! The nursery is full of sweet little faces, our Rotation Sunday School gathering time is practically standing room only, and we have more children in Elements of Worship than ever before! I thank God that so many families entrust their children to McFarlin, and that we have such an opportunity to help them know Jesus.

This fall will be full of chances for our children to learn more about our precious Lord and to fellowship with other children. September resumes our Children's Choir (9th) and our Parents' Night Out program (18th), where children play games, bounce, eat (one of my favorite parts) and learn more about God. October will conclude with our All Hallows' Eve celebration (30th). November will witness our third graders transitioning to a more mature understanding of God's Word as they experience Bible Boot Camp (13th) and receive their beautiful new Bibles (15th).

As we move forward in our Children's Ministry, planning all of these wonderful occasions for our children, we invite you to take part in the preparation. Once every quarter our Children's Ministry Team meets to review recent ministry projects and plan for upcoming events. I wonder: do you know that you are invited to attend these meetings? Yes, *you!* The Children's Ministry Team is not an elected or appointed group, it is open to all those devoted to "...developing deeply committed Christians." Please join us on October 7 at 6:30 PM and bring all your ideas. Together, we can ensure that our ministries and our children continue to thrive.

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

There are many different kinds of mission trips - different tasks for the mission. Last year a group from Oklahoma went to Liberia and, among other tasks, trained lay speakers for the United Methodist Church in Liberia. Lay speakers perform all kinds of leadership in local churches, often filling pulpits when a minister is away as well as teaching Sunday school and other discipleship groups in churches. A similar mission is set for this coming February around the time of the annual conference meeting in Liberia. When I think of lay speakers, I think of Bill Chissoe. Bill has been involved in that ministry for many years and has trained many others as lay speakers.

It is natural that Bill would be invited to go with others from Oklahoma to be involved in a mission task so near to his heart and with which he is so experienced. I am excited that we get to share Bill with Liberia. Just the flight to Liberia costs around \$2000 and the total mission cost is projected to be from \$3100 to \$3400. McFarlin's Missions Ministry Team is encouraging McFarlin members to assist Bill with the financing for this mission. Checks can be made to McFarlin with Liberia Mission on the memo line. A designated account has been set up at the church for contributions for this purpose. Ask me if you have questions and know that you are helping our brother and sister United Methodists in the fast-growing Liberian church in a way that will pay dividends for decades to come.

A ministry that is close to my heart is Disciple Bible Study. Please pray that more McFarlinites will take advantage of that spiritual growth opportunity so that the courses we have projected will be viable. Details are elsewhere in this edition.

For growing in faith,
George Shepherd

Disciple Classes Start Next Week

The starting dates have been adjusted to next week to allow more to enroll. Some courses may not have enough registered to make them viable. Sign-up sheets for those interested in the courses are outside worship on Sundays. This year's offerings are:

- † *Disciple I* - Tuesdays, 7 PM
- † *Disciple III* - Tuesdays, 7 PM, led by Russ Tresner
- † *Disciple I* - Thursdays, 9-11:30 AM, led by Sandie Mayfield & Nancy Burgess
- † *Disciple III* - Thursdays, 9-11:30 AM, led by Susan Byers

Child care is available for all classes but must be reserved by this Sunday, September 13. For more information on Disciple, pick up a "Handbook" and information sheet at the displays outside worship or contact George Shepherd at 321-3484, ext.109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.



Coffee Sales

Coffee Sales to benefit McFarlin's Missions Ministry continue in the Atrium before and after Sunday school through September 20. Try samples of coffee and tea, purchase some or enter a monthly subscription for 6 months.

CROP Walk October 4!

The theme of this year's CROP Walk to Fight Hunger is "Enough for All". Proceeds benefit Norman's Food and Shelter for Friends and humanitarian projects of Church World Service in over 80 countries and across the US. The walker entry fee is a small jar of peanut butter or a can or pouch of tuna. These will be distributed to pantries around Cleveland County.

Walkers need to get their packets soon at the CROP display in the Atrium near the library on Sundays. Come by before and after Sunday school to get your materials so you can start getting donations from sponsors. Registration on the 4th is at 1:30 PM at Food and Shelter for Friends across the tracks from the Norman Depot. If you can not walk yourself, please be generous in sponsoring McFarlin walkers. Watch for "shoes" with walkers' names displayed in the Atrium so you will know who needs sponsors.

Also, plan to attend the all-church CROP Kenya Dinner on Sunday night, September 27 to see and hear a report on the work of CROP/Church World Service by Norman CROP leader Brenda Wheelock. This promises to be an enjoyable and educational evening that will motivate you to walk or support walkers!



McFarlin News

Habitat Apostle's Build Underway!

The smell of wood, the sound of hammers pounding, the sight of Christians from many local churches working & gathering together to celebrate the beginnings of the new house for the Baker family - that was August 29 at 620 Apache. It will be a "green" home and a home built for wheelchair accessibility for both parents. It's off to a good start with the walls mostly up and the roof trusses going up within the next week. Our next build day will be September 12, then most Fridays & Saturdays through the end of the year. Scheduled completion is mid-January, but we're praying for a move-in by Christmas!

How will you participate? By building, providing lunch, praying, selling radios at the OU games or other fundraising. There's something for everyone - get involved now! There are sign-up sheets outside worship services for building workdays or you can call Karen at 640-4353 for more details.



Blood Drive September 20!

The Bloodmobile will be on the south side of Fenn Hall from 8:30-12:30, Sunday, September 20. Donors will receive a free health screening and their choice of an OU or OSU T-shirt. Sign up outside worship this Sunday or contact George Shepherd for an appointment at 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org. Drop-ins are welcome but appointments help keep wait times shorter for everyone. If you do drop-in, please wait until after 9:15 AM since there is always an early rush and early appointments fill up first. Thanks for giving the gift of life.



United Methodist Women Unit Meeting September 15, 6:30 PM

McFarlin United Methodist Women Unit Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 PM in Fenn Hall. Ashley Stokes, Advocacy and Public Policy Manager from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma will address "Food Security". The goal of the program is to equip members of the UMW to answer God's call to end hunger as individuals and as a larger organization. Those attending are encouraged to bring non-perishable food to fill empty baskets with donations for the McFarlin Food Pantry.

Circle 8 is hostess for the dinner which will be catered at \$7 per person. The caterer needs a firm count for the meal so please call the church at 321-3484 by Wednesday, September 9 for child care and dinner reservations.



Newsletter Mailing List

If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an e-mail to thamilton@mcfarlinumc.org and include your home address so that it may be removed from the list.

McFarlin Family

Entered the Church Triumphant: Ron Taylor, father of Erick Taylor.

Welcome McFarlin New Members: David and Teri Horton.

Meetings & Activities

September 13th - 19th

Sunday, September 13

8:00AM	Men 2 Pray 4 Pastors	Room 200
8:30AM	Early Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
9:35AM	Communion After Worship*	Martin Chapel
9:40AM	Sunday School*	Various
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
12:30PM	Miriam Handbell Choir	Bell Room
2:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Room 401
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	Wesley Choir Rehearsal	Meyer Hall
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Agape Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	All-Church Youth Missions Celebration	Fenn Hall

Monday, September 14

9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
10:00AM	UMW #11	Offsite
4:00PM	Wesley I Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Pack 241 Meeting	Atrium
6:00PM	Program Council	Room 209
6:30PM	Care Team Meeting	Room 227
6:30PM	Letters from Dad Kickoff	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 329, 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	Embroiderers Guild Meeting	Room 303

Tuesday, September 15

11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
12:00PM	UMW #7	Room 226
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
6:30PM	Priscilla Shriver Bible Study	Room 227
6:30PM	UMW Unit Meeting	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study I*	Room 226
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 222
7:00PM	Evangelism Meeting	Room 228
7:00PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
8:00PM	Men's Basketball	Fenn Hall

Wednesday, September 16

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
9:00AM	UMW #1*	Room 228
9:30AM	UMW # 5	Room 320
11:45AM	Alzheimers Support Group	Room 209
3:00PM	Children's Choir	Various
5:15PM	Festival Bell Rehearsal	Bell Room
6:15PM	Canticle Singers*	Choir Room
6:15PM	Sanctuary Bell Choir	Bell Room

*Child care Available

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	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:30PM	B.A.S.I.C.	Room 321
7:30PM	FISH Opening Worship	Sanctuary
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

Thursday, September 17

7:00AM	Boys' Bible Breakfast	Ozzies
8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 222
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study I*	Room 223
1:00PM	Chancel Handbell Choir	Bell Room
4:45PM	Poverty Simulation Training	Room 229
5:30PM	Carrillon Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Poverty Simulation	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
7:00PM	Strategic Plan/Worship Commission	Rm 226
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
7:00PM	Eden Diet Support Group*	Room 222

Friday, September 18

7:15AM	S.I.C.	Panera Bread
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
12:00PM	High School Pizza Friday	Room 320
6:00PM	Parents' Night Out	Day Care

Saturday, September 19

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

Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference

Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference will be held again this year in OKC October 9-11, which means you have a great opportunity to put aside life's daily distractions and focus on each other again to improve your marriage. This Christian marriage conference will help strengthen your marriage in so many ways. For more information, see the displays around the church or www.familylife.com/groups/mcfarlin (register through this McFarlin site and receive a \$40 discount) or contact Mike Hawley at mike@mikehawley.com or 321-3488. Scholarships are available. Invest in your marriage - isn't it worth your time?

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



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2 Small Group Opportunities

The WITH-GOD LIFE
Wednesdays Beginning Sept. 30
Practice living a life with
God at the center!
10:30 AM - Noon or
during Academy Time 7-9 PM
Contact Harriette at 245-9874
for more information!

REBUILDING CLASS
(Adjusting to Divorce)
Wednesdays Beginning Sept. 30
During Academy Time 7-9 PM
Contact Harriette at 245-9874
for more information!

Park & Ride is Back!



Please join the McFarlin family as we free up parking spaces for our visitors and park in our Park & Ride lot north of the Boyd House on University Blvd. Vans will take you from your car to the church and back every Sunday from 9:30 - 12:25 PM. If you attend Sunday school and the 10:55 services, please consider using this great service. If you would like to volunteer to help drive the vans, please contact Mike Hawley, mike@mikehawley.com.

8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship