

The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

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August 1, 2009

MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of labor...” Paul wrote in Romans 8:21-23. When Paul wrote about groaning in labor he was talking about birth pains. The term, “labor” refers to hard work in many types of creative endeavors. The theme of human labor and work runs throughout the scriptures. There are stories depicting work as a punishing reality, and other stories of God creating humans to be workers in paradise. Meaningful work and fair distribution of the results of labor are consistent themes for people of faith. In God’s will people enjoy the fruit of their labor rather than labor for the benefit and pleasure of oppressive forces that don’t labor themselves. As we approach Labor Day, I am mindful of the sacrifices made by hard-working organizers and activists who struggled to end child labor in our nation. Many of us take for granted the expectation of a limited work day and work week, including days off. However, that resulted from the efforts of labor rights activists who protested exploitation of workers sometimes working over 12 hours a day, six or more days a week. We may hear about terrible labor practices in other countries. Unfortunately, migrant workers and others still need protection for humane labor regulations in our own country. During this hard economic time of high unemployment, let us be grateful for meaningful work where it exists and commit ourselves to working for living wage and safe, respectful working conditions for all.

Happy Labor Day,
Kathy McCallie

Join us Wednesday

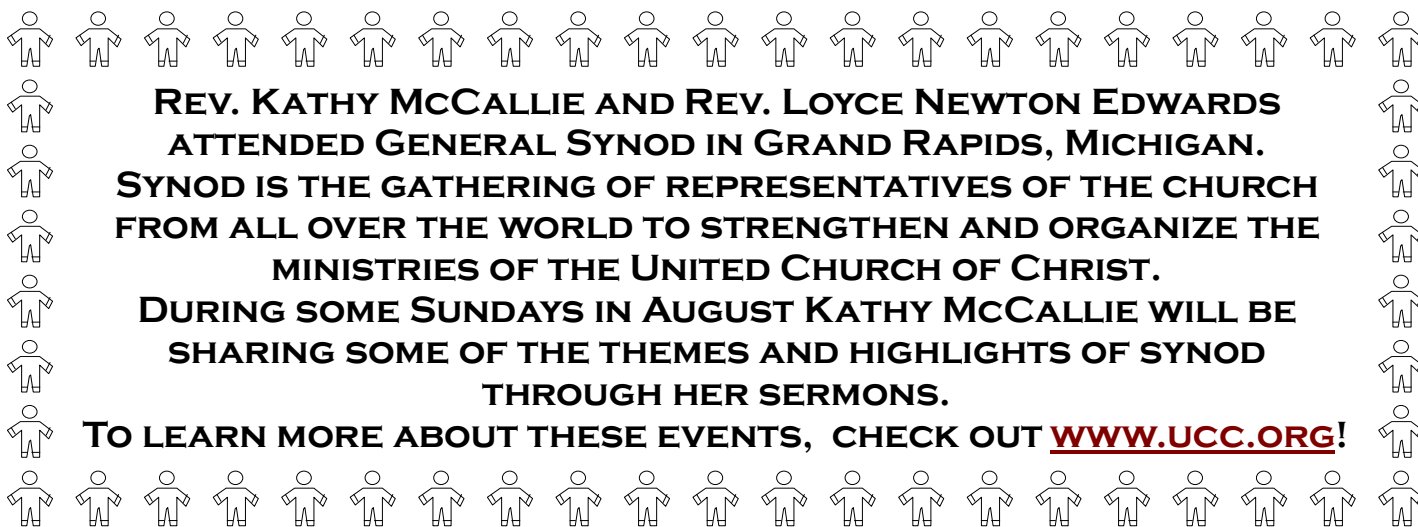
August 19th

As we welcome guests from Germany

See page 2

Friends from Germany Visit

Wed., August 19th we will enjoy visitors from our connectional partner churches in Germany. Bishop Ulrich Fischer and his wife, Brigitte as well as Susanne Labsch will bring greetings and stories of faith from Germany. You are invited to share a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. we will join in our regular Wednesday night hymn sing and worship time. Then from 7:30-8:30 p.m. we will offer a time for discussion with our guests about our partner churches in Europe. All are welcome.



**REV. KATHY MCCALLIE AND REV. LOYCE NEWTON EDWARDS
ATTENDED GENERAL SYNOD IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.
SYNOD IS THE GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCH
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO STRENGTHEN AND ORGANIZE THE
MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.
DURING SOME SUNDAYS IN AUGUST KATHY MCCALLIE WILL BE
SHARING SOME OF THE THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF SYNOD
THROUGH HER SERMONS.
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS, CHECK OUT WWW.UCC.ORG!**

NYP News

The New Youth Project is suspending Wednesday night meetings for the summer. We are, however, offering Sunday morning meetings for youth 12-18 years of age. We meet in the same place (the youth room in the basement) at the same time Godly Play meets next door (directly following Children's Moment).

We will hold a HUGE NYP sponsored "Back to School BBQ" for the whole church. We are sponsoring this event in order to say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" to the whole congregation for supporting us through out the year. The BBQ will be held on Sunday, August 30th at Swatek Park; directly following church service. This would be the day to bring a friend!

Then, Wednesday night meetings will start back up the following
Wednesday, September 2nd, from 7-8:30.

Hamburgers, Hotdogs, water balloon fights, kick-ball, badminton,
croquet, music and MORE!

Call Kenny to find out how YOU can help out!
208-8969

Aug. 22nd = Community Organizing Training
Saturday, August 22nd from 9am-4pm at Open Arms

We need power to protect what we value. Power comes from awareness of self and self-worth, personal development, and building relationships. Ernesto Cortes Jr. said, "Real politics offers an opportunity to engage people at the core of their values, their vision, their imagination. It begins to offer them some possibilities for change, for transformation of self and off community by beginning to deal with some fundamental issues which affect families (and individuals)." Our congregation is joining about 30 other faith communities around our city to build a network that works like a grass-roots democratic process to improve all our lives. If you have some anger, energy, humor, and interest in improving living conditions in our city, please consider connecting with others in this exciting and important work. Want to know more? Come visit the discussion on Sunday, August 16th from 4-6 p.m.

Sunday, August 16th 4-6 p.m.
OSC Community Organizing Discussion.

Even if you aren't sure this is for you, come sit in and soak up the excitement and energy as we talk about networking for social change improving lives in our city. We will be discussing a short article entitled, "Anger Gives You Energy," from the book Cold Anger by Mary Beth Rogers. Copies of the article are available from the church office. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion in preparation for the training on Saturday, August 22nd. Our church is one of many in OKC working to build this network for change.

New Growth Team Meeting
Sunday Aug. 9th
4-6 p.m.

All are welcome.

Come make new friends who want to
welcome new friends in our church!

Have you noticed anything different in front of our church? The high school peace camp, a program of the Peace Education Institute, planted a peace pole here last Friday! After completing their week-long curriculum, Creating a Culture of Peace, campers and staff were visited by Dennis Watson. Dennis is a proud veteran for peace and donated the peace pole. The message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is written on the pole in several languages.

There are close to a quarter of a million peace poles planted around the world, with at least six in the Okla-

homa City area. For the full story on peace poles, check out www.peacepoleproject.org.



CHURCH FINANCES UPDATE

THE SUMMER IS HERE AND WE HAVE ENOUGH IN OUR GENERAL FUND TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE SUMMER WITHOUT FALLING BEHIND ON OUR BILLS! WE'RE EXPECTING THAT CUSHION TO BE GONE BY THE END OF THE SUMMER DUE TO THE NORMAL DROP IN GIVING FROM JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, SO NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC GIVING. THERE ARE AUTOMATIC GIVING FORMS ON A BULLETIN BOARD ABOVE THE NAME TAGS IN THE CHURCH LOBBY. YOU CAN MAIL A COMPLETED FORM TO THE CHURCH C/O JEFF FULLER (TREASURER) OR GIVE IT TO HIM OR CAROL FASOL (FINANCIAL SECRETARY) ON SUNDAY. WE'RE SENDING OUT STATEMENTS OF GIVING FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN JULY, SO BE WATCHING FOR IT IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED IT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

**Plan on attending the
Fall Retreat
October 2009**

***A weekend of fun and family and friends*
Watch for registration forms!**

United Church News Website

* "O" the Oprah Magazine July '09, Salute to UUA UCC OWL (Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality Curriculum), by Amanda Robb, "Adventures in Adult Sex Education."

"...We see sexuality as a very important part of the experience that is lifelong!" said Janet Hayes, public relations director for the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association)...That's why we named the program Our Whole Lives. Your sexuality does not end after you stop having babies or get divorced or after you turn 60. It is who we are in our core. We feel it has to be integrated into our spirituality because for us, spirituality is about wholeness."

www.ucc.org

The OWL Training is being offered for those interested in facilitating a class, August 13-16th at Plymouth Congregation UCC, Lawrence, KS. Rev. Loyce will be taking this class, and will co-facilitate a class @ COA in the fall. If this kind of ministry is of interest to you, check with her for further information on other OWL classes being offered around the country.

SAVE THE DATE

FREE GRANT WRITING TRAINING
PREPARE YOURSELF TO WRITE GRANTS FOR
DIABETES, CANCER, HIV, OR OTHER HEALTH
RELATED ISSUES
AUGUST 4TH & 5TH

CHURCH OF THE OPEN ARMS
3121 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

TRAINING PROVIDED BY:
THE NATIONAL NATIVE AIDS PREVENTION
CENTER-DENVER, COLORADO
HOSTED BY: THE OKLAHOMA NATIVE
AMERICAN AIDS COALITION

LUNCH PROVIDED BOTH DAYS
LIMITED SCHOLARSHIP ARE AVAILABLE

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN SHORTLY
CONTACT DON LITTLE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AT:
GIBON@AOL.COM

*Training is offered to both Native and Non-Native organizations serving Native Americans or individuals pursuing a profession in health related fields.

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30 choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Monthly Potluck	3 6:00pm Meditation	4 GRANT WRITING TRAINING SEE PG 6	5 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study	6	7 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers	8
9 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 4-6 New Growth Team	10 6:00pm Meditation	11 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study	12	13	14 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers	15
16 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 4-6 Community Organizing Discussion	17 6:00pm Meditation	18 6:00 Choir Rehearsal <i>6:30 Potluck for German Guests</i> 7:00 Worship Service <i>7:30 Special program</i>	19	20	21 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers	22 9-4 Community Organizing Training
23 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	24 6:00pm Meditation	25 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers	29
30 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship NYP Party in the Park	31 6:00pm Meditation					

Vietnamese American Association, Inc.
Community Service Center
A Non-Profit Organization

912 NW 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106-Phone:(405)524-3088 Email:vaacsc@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to thank everyone at the Church of Open Arms for all the help you continue to provide us to assist our refugees. We have attempted to use the services of many churches and organizations but they have so much "red tape" that it is quite time consuming. Your church is totally different. You have always been happy to help us with "no strings attached". We at the VAA/CSC only wish to return the favor. Please let us know how we can. There is a special place in heaven for people like you. God bless each of you for your time, effort, gifts, and unwavering kindness.

David M. Schulman,
Case Manager

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma." -Gracie Allen

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Sermons now on the web!
www.openarms.org