

The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

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August 1, 2011

MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE

Do you like rummage sales? I love rummage sales, garage sales, and thrift stores... if I am the shopper. However, I am not quick to clean out my closets or sell my own stuff. I am a pack rat of sorts. I have trouble letting go of anything, and I am always quick to imagine potential uses and needs for any item. My office is piled with boxes and files of programs and documents that I might need again sometime. That tendency to conserve or hang on to things may be a characteristic of Christianity itself. Do you think our church traditions and identity might get cluttered up with old stuff that is no longer helpful?

Phyllis Tickle's book, *The Great Emergence*, uses the symbol of a rummage sale for the changes taking place within Christianity in our time. She says the church is going through a cycle of sorting out what to keep and what to discard as no longer useful or life-giving. One reviewer of her book wrote: "Long an astute observer of religion, Tickle examines a phenomenon she refers to as the Great Emergence, a once-every-500-years trend within Christianity, in which a new and 'more vital' form of the religion emerges..."—*Booklist*, starred review

Jesus told a story about the hazards of trying to preserve new wine in old wineskins. Maybe our faith and our community would benefit from a rummage sale. I encourage you to take some time in August to "clean out closets" of your own spiritual practice and ideas.

Sincerely,
Kathy McCallie

WELCOME CLAYTON MILLER!!

**NEW DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL RETREAT

Saturday, August 20th 9am-3pm

-- Changing lives through meaningful service opportunities is the goal of our leadership council at Church of the Open Arms.

We set a list of goals for ourselves at the beginning of this year.

Now we will spend a day taking stock of our accomplishments and organizing ourselves to gear up and finish the year with strong, faithful ministry. All persons interesting in plugging in and being part of the church are encouraged to get involved and help out on a ministry team.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe to Preach Sunday, August 7th

Our congregation is proud and blessed to claim Lisa Wolfe, Old Testament scholar and professor at OCU, as one of our own. We have enjoyed Lisa's dynamic preaching in the past, and we look forward to hearing the Good News she shares the first Sunday in August. Mark your calendar and don't miss it!

Bible Study

Every Tuesday, beginning again on **August 16th**, at 11:00 a.m. Come study with a small, friendly group.

Right now we are reading the gospel of Mark. Kathy McCallie is leading the discussion, and all questions are welcome and encouraged!

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

This education program for friends and family of individuals with mental illness will be held on Tuesday nights beginning August 16th. Taught by Bonita Little, a trained family member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), this free 12-week class provides information, insight, understanding, and empowerment. The group will cover:

- * Current information about schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, and co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders.
- * Up-to-date information about medications, side effects, and strategies for medication adherence
- * Current research related to the biology of brain disorders and the evidence-based, most effective treatments to promote recovery
- * Acquiring strategies for handling crises and relapse
- * Focusing on care for the caregiver: coping with worry, stress, and emotional overload.

To reserve your place in the class, call Bonita Little: 919-7143.

CARE TEAM NOTES

Donna McCord	August 6	Sue and Boyd Shook	August 20
Michael Ross	August 10	Bo Bass and Kenny Wright	August 24
Cheryl Berry	August 15		
Ron Bashant	August 20		
Robert Watkins	August 24		
Debbie Barker	August 27		

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings to you all!

(Note: we are always trying to update our records of birthdays and anniversaries. If we missed yours, please contact the church office at 405-525-9555 or at openarmsok@aol.com)

The “**blue card**” in your bulletin every Sunday has a space for prayer requests. You can fill it out and put the card in the offering plate. Prayer requests during the week can be made by calling or emailing the church office, or via the Open Arms prayer request e-mail list. To make a request or to add your name to the list, contact **Mindy Hellwege** at hellwege69@aol.com.

Speaking of cards, if you've ever wanted to send someone a **purple “I was thinking of you today in worship” card** message, but forgot to do so during Sunday service, you may contact **Sharon Tomaney** by phone (514-4952) or e-mail (sgtomaney@yahoo.com) with your message and she will send a card in your name.

The Open Arms Care Team meets during the **Pot Luck Meal** after worship on the first Sunday of every month. Feel free to stop by, have a bite, and share your ideas for building a more effective Care Team.

CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED!!!!

After months of prayer, hard work, compromise, prayer, research, thinking and discerning, and then more prayer we have made a deal! Construction is underway on the last phase of the remodel work that began with the capital campaign over a year and a half ago. The remodel will give us added space in the basement below the Community Hall, a commercial grade elevator so that our whole building is handicap accessible, remodeled basement bathrooms by the nursery, new bathrooms in the new basement with shower facilities so we can host mission trips, and a new, well insulated ceiling in the sanctuary. The work will also include several jobs outside that will improve the look of our building and help with water run-off. We're also going to have the entrance awning remodeled and spruced up. The entire project cost is \$464,787.94 and should take 6 months to complete. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

There is a lot of work ahead of us. In order to make the numbers work, we had to make some difficult choices about what we could and could not afford. There were pieces of the project we felt like we could manage ourselves. We will be doing our own painting, inside and out. We'll have to make a decision about flooring in the new space and then proceed accordingly, and we put off new lighting for the sanctuary and the new signage for Pennsylvania. By managing these projects ourselves we are able to save \$115,000.00, enough to keep the overall vision intact.

So here we go! The next few months will be exciting. There will be trying times and times that seem to push us to the limit. There will be dust and debris to be cleaned & moved, and walls to be painted. We will have to help each other be understanding of our circumstances and find joy in small victories! And always, we need to remember the bountiful blessings our Lord has bestowed on us and the great love and sacrifices given for us. With that, our hearts can always help us through any messes this project may bring. Thank you all for your care, your faith, and for being a part of our wonderful church and family..... **Mark Van Dorn**

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Worship 12:00 Youth Group Meeting 12:00 Monthly Potluck	10:30 AM Sr. Rink Coffee	7PM Beginning Meditation	6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM Spanish Class 7-7:30 Chapel Service 7:30PM Mary Daly Group 7:30 Bulletproof Faith	12:30 Food Pantry drop-off	10AM Food Pantry set-up 3:30 - 6:30 Food Pantry Servers (Volunteers Needed)	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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28	29	30	31			
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**COA-OP 28
TODAY**

Be Included in the Resource & Network Directory!

Those interested in having a page in the church Resource and Network Directory should call or e-mail the office, or contact any member of the New Growth Team. To be included, we will need your basic contact information and a photo (and any other information you might want to include). If you are already in the directory and need to update or correct your information, please let us know. The deadline for all submissions will be September 1st. If you would like a directory or already have a directory and would like to add the upcoming new contact information and corrections, contact us at OpenArmsok@aol.com or call 525-9555.

Thank you from the New Growth Team--

Gene Weidemann, Rev. Scott Hamilton, Pamela & Melinda Norton,
Bruce Ross & James Smith, Nancy Sharp, Marie Kizzia, & Cindy Lasyone

Shalom Team Monthly Movie Night at the church

FAIR FOOD: Field to Table

(from the FairFoodProject.org)

A 3-part video of how food production is changing
for the better and how we can help.

1. *The Plight of Farm Workers Today*
2. *Farmers Who are Doing Well by Doing Good*
3. *Advocates & Businesses Supporting the Fair Food Movement.*

Join Us Thursday, August 25th at the church.

Potluck at 6:00 - Film at 6:30 p.m.

Full-moon
drumming
August 12,
7:30 p.m. at
METTA WING
(Wilshire &
Post)

Did You Know?

Did you know that in 1995, United Church of Christ published the New Century Hymnal - the only hymn book released by a Christian church that honors in equal measure both male and female images of God. Although its poetry is contemporary, its theology is traditional. "We acknowledge the limitations of our words while we confess that in Jesus Christ the Word of God became flesh and lived within history," writes Thomas Dipko, a UCC executive who played a key role in shaping the new hymnal.

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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL RETREAT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 AM—3:00 PM

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