

The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

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February 1, 2009

MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE

What would make your life more wonderful? That important question was offered as a tool in a training session I attended recently on non-violence communication. Think about it a few minutes. Can you name some things that would make your own life more wonderful? It is another way to ask someone what their needs are. If you ask me what I need, I would likely say, "nothing!" Our culture teaches us to be self-sufficient. I almost feel embarrassed to admit that I have needs. Wow! That's crazy! Of course we all have needs. How can we build relationships with one another if we can't let someone else see our needs? So, in the communication techniques taught by Marshall Rosenberg there is this suggestion: Instead of asking: "What do you need?" try asking: "What would make your life more wonderful?" We can deepen sharing and build trust by opening up to each other on a regular basis. Ask some people: "How are you? And what would make your life more wonderful right now?" Listen with care to what they say. Sometimes I am so out of touch with myself that I have to stop and think awhile to identify things that would make my life more wonderful. I suspect that spending time with that question each day could be a powerful, spiritual discipline. Asking a loved one that question every day could have healing power in the relationship.

Christian maturity includes taking responsibility for our own lives, moods, and daily activities. As we approach the season of lent, it is a great time to reflect on what would make our lives more wonderful. Would you be willing to spend some prayerful time wondering about what would make our church more wonderful?

Wondering,
Kathy McCallie

Ash Wednesday Service
February 25th
7:00 p.m.

A Word of Inspiration / Call to Serve **Winter Hymnstock**

By: Gloria Weiss

As I was listening to the lyrics of the hymn "Here I Am Lord", it occurred to me there are so many avenues of service available within our church. As you explore what might work for you, consider some the opportunities afforded through the Worship Team. The choir can always use new voices. You might like to try helping take up the offering and serving Communion. We are also looking for help setting up for Communion. If any of this calls to you, please indicate so on a blue card and or speak with Gloria. And from the hymn...

"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart."

I so look forward to the All Music Sunday each summer. Will the choir sing something new or one of my favorites? And what about Mixed Company? I never get tired of "Operator" or "Seasons of Love". Will there be solos? Have new groups formed? I can't wait!!

Okay I know the answers to all these questions... BUT the good news is I don't have to wait until next summer. There have been so many requests to have this type of service more than once a year that the Worship team is currently planning one for this winter. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to Winter Hymnstock (thanks Mindy for the title) February 22nd.

Capital Campaign Committee

Meetings

Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm at the Church.

Anyone interested in being a part of the Git 'er done process should attend. This is an amazing moment in time for our church. Together we have the opportunity to see a whole new level of ministry possibilities at Church of the Open Arms.

Community Life Team

By: Bo Bass

Hello! It seems like we haven't spoken since last year. There are SO many things going on with our church's Community Life team. But, since space in this publication is limited, I'll keep it brief.

Donna McCord (who happens to be my sister) has been bringing baked goods for us all to enjoy.

Over the past year we have seen her bakery styling in pumpkin breads, applesauce breads, banana nut breads and so much more. Thank you, Donna, for putting bread in our bellies and joy in our hearts. Keep up the great work.

It does my heart so much good to see the kitchen on Potluck Sunday running like anyone's kitchen would at home. We have people that work together, in such harmony, to get things done. It's a fantastic thing to not have to worry about things getting done. And though things are going so much smoother, we ALWAYS need volunteers on Potluck Sundays. Just ask me how you can help or just watch for the opportunity to lend an extra hand. If we all work together, as a family should, things get done so much quicker and everyone goes home happy! Isn't that fantastic?

If you would like to know how you can help out specifically, call me at the church office 525-9555 and leave a message. Or e-mail me at bobobas1915@yahoo.com.

In order to accommodate the amount of people coming through the Food Pantry, we need a second Lap Top. Maybe you got a new laptop for Christmas and the old one is just laying around. If any one is looking to donate a good used Lap Top the need is great and the cause is good.

Thanks,
Laura Choat

Red & White Party

At the Red & White Party we'll wear whites and reds,
Some will look kinda fancy in their sparkly threads.
Others decked out in checks, stripes, diamonds or art.
Sports fans or Romantics, we'll all play our part!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009
7 TO 11 PM**

Church of the Open Arms
3131 N Penn, OKC

DANCE MUSIC BY DJ VICTROLA

Party Favors, Food and Soft Drinks Provided
Nine Prizes for the Best Dressed at 9 pm
Silent Auction closes at 10 pm

ENTERTAINMENT BY

Kenny and Bo
Miss Anita Ryder
King & Queen Drag

ENTRY IS \$4 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR, AGES 1-100

A fundraiser for
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

Small Groups at Church of the Open Arms

We have several groups that function as small groups, choir and the Sunday school class for instance. But these existing groups may not meet the needs of all our members. In an effort to provide the opportunity for each of you to find a small group of people with similar interest, new groups are forming. On the second Sunday of the month, just after worship, a group of parents/grandparents are meeting. In February we will discuss **"Transitions: how to get out of the house with grace and patience."**

We are also planning a group for ministers and their families along with anyone who has attended seminary. Its first meeting has just happened but the exact of the future dates are not yet determined.

Each month there will be a list of small group opportunities posted on the bulletin boards at church and eventually in this newsletter and on the website. If you have a specific need that is not being met or if you want to start a small group, call Rev. Suzanne Nichols at 365-1041. She will help you get started and give you hints about how to make your group a success.

**Ash Wednesday Service
February 25th, 7:00 p.m.**

A service of reflection and decision to enter into the journey of Lent in preparation for Easter. Easter comes on April 12th this year. The 40 days of preparation for Easter are the days of Lent. This can be a time of renewal, focus, and rededication. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Come join others in setting the tone for this beautiful season of priorities.

**Cooperative Game Night
Friday, February 27th.**

You don't have to be a winner or a loser to develop new skills for cooperation as an alternative to competition. All of us need more practice and imagination in approaching challenge and conflict with new tools of cooperation. This evening will be full of laughter, learning, and making new friends. The Peace Education Institute will lead us in experiencing some games designed to encourage thinking in new ways. These games are fun for all ages and especially helpful for families. If you can bring a snack to share, it will be appreciated. For more information, call Kathy at 525-9555.

NEW Family Support Group

Starting January 12 after worship

Family support

Parents and grandparents are welcome.

Come enjoy a light lunch and find ways to support families through spiritual growth.

Call Suzanne for more information
at 365-1041.

Who am I really?

Exploring issues of identity

Starting January 20th

Eight Tuesday evenings
starting at 7 PM.

Contact Jim for more information at 204-0811.

Black History Month @ The Movies 7-9 PM

"The Color Purple"

Friday, February 13th

"The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"

Monday February 23rd

"Glory"

Saturday, February 28th

Sign up sheets will be available.

Co-Facilitators Candy and Loyce

From your vice president,

**“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10**

From the deepest depths of my heart, I would like to express my gratitude to our leadership council for putting such intense trust in me and electing me as vice president for 2009. And to the congregation of the Church of the Open Arms, I am humbled... truly, truly humbled to serve my family this way. I would like to specifically call out my ministry team leaders.

Donna Compton is the head of our Education Team. –Donna, I believe I know you well. I know you are a woman with a good Christian heart and a great set of ideas swimming in your mind and I can't wait to work closely with you in improving and strengthening our education department.

Suzanne Nichols will be leading our New Growth Team. –Suzanne and her husband, Bob, have recently moved back to Oklahoma from California after she completed her journey in seminary. In addition to New Growth, Suzanne serves as the Minister of Church Vitality for COA. –Suzanne, I think that you are young at heart and full of spunk. I'm thrilled to see that you are back and serving as such a vital part of our family.

Bo Bass almost needs no introduction. He is the head of our Community Life. He is the one that makes sure that Sunday mornings get off to a fantastic start. Over the past year he re-introduced COA to the Community Café. He goes above and beyond what he is called to do. It would be hard for him and his work to go unnoticed. He is also my partner and the peace that dwells within my heart. We have worked with each other for the past twelve years and it seems that every thing in life brings us that much closer. This, I'm sure will prove to be just the same. –Bo, I honestly can't wait to be able to work with you on this level. I trust you, I trust your judgment and I value your opinion. –“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” . Hebrews 13:2

As a team, I know that we will become a force to be reckoned with this year!

And finally, my name is Kenny Wright. I am the youth leader for an extraordinary group of kids who are known fittingly as “the NYP”. (I love you guys!) And I am the vice president of the Church of the Open Arms for 2009.

You can always reach me: **208-8969** and at **NYPofCOA@gmail.com**.

HOWLING AT THE MOON!

Those who want to gather to howl at the full moon are invited on Monday, February 9th, at the home of Conna Wilkinson at about 8:00 p.m.. Please call ahead if you'd like to come (204-6479). We'll gather around the fire if weather permits and come indoors if it's cold. Also, the next new Moon will be Monday, January 26. Although we'll not be meeting that night, It's a great time for setting your intentions for the coming month.

Rev. Loyce Crusader For
Justice Radio Ministry

revloyce.com

KTLR Radio, 890 AM

ktr.com (live streaming)

loycee@sbcglobal.net

Wednesdays 9:00-9:30 AM

405 642-0124

Certified Massage Therapist

Linda Herndon

405 301-4535

ljherndon7@cox.net

Four S Home Inspection Group, LLC.

Denise Chadwick

OK LIC # 498

405 519-3432

fourshome@yahoo.com

New, Pre-purchase, Weekend, Pre-listing

Checkered Past says “CHANGE THAT THING!”

(If you find yourself up against an inconvenient truth or two)

Get ready for a Mardi Gras treat on **February 21st!** Kansas City’s funniest acoustic band will perform in Oklahoma City for the first time ever—at Church of the Open Arms! Time of the actual concert is **7 p.m.** but attendees are invited to come early or stay late for some treats, partying, and jamming. (We’re hoping some local musicians will come to jam with the band, which is one of the things they love!)

Checkered Past is “a group of dedicated social capitalists, wielding guitars, bass, mandolin, fiddle, flute, and vocal harmony in the war against gloom and resignation. From sweet and personal love songs, to crusty blues, silly social commentary and jitterbugs, they assert, “If we can’t find the song we are looking for in the repertoire of the last 500 years, we just write one.” Band members are: K.C. Compton, (Donna’s sister), Martha Haehl, Lynn Snyder, Kerry Stanley, and Bill Landgdorf .Influences: John McCutcheon, Joan Baez, Ida Cox, Lou and Peter Berryman.

Checkered Past - the only band from USA at global ‘slow’ food conference

On October 23, 2008, in Turin, Italy, 5,000 food producers, 1,000 cooks and restaurateurs, 500 academics, 1,000 students **and 5 Kansas City folk musicians** came together at the Terra Madre International Conference to discuss the challenges shared by small-scale, sustainable food producers from all seven continents -- including Antarctica. Checkered Past took musical greetings from America's Heartland to this amazing gathering of individuals acting on Earth's behalf.

*Checkered Past
Poignant, playful and sweetly subversive-
with warm harmonies - acoustic music that zings!*

*No charge at the door but voluntary contributions
will be happily accepted.*

*This is a fundraiser for the church,
so bring guests and come have a good time.
For more information, contact Donna Compton
at 740-8612--dscompton@sbcglobal.net*



MARDI GRAS

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:30 no choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Monthly Potluck Worship team meeting</p>	<p>2 6:00pm Meditation</p>	<p>3 7:00 Identity Discussion</p>	<p>4 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>5 7:00 Life Improvement class</p>	<p>6 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers</p>	<p>7 Red & White Party 7-11 pm</p>
<p>8 9:30 no choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Monthly Potluck</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Meditation 8:00 Howling at the Moon</p>	<p>10 7:00 Identity Discussion</p>	<p>11 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>12 7:00 Life Improvement class</p>	<p>13 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers 7:00 The Color Purple</p>	<p>14 Checked Past Concert 7 pm</p>
<p>15 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>16 6:00pm Meditation</p>	<p>17 7:00 Identity Discussion</p>	<p>18 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>19 7:00 Life Improvement class</p>	<p>20 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers</p>	<p>21 7:00 Glory</p>
<p>22 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 All Song Worship Service</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Meditation 7:00 "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"</p>	<p>24 7:00 Identity Discussion</p>	<p>25 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Ash Wednesday service</p>	<p>26 7:00 Life Improvement class</p>	<p>27 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry servers Cooperative Gaming Night</p>	<p>28 7:00 Glory</p>

To the staff of the Food Pantry:

My family and I want to thank you for the help you have extended to us during the time we were displaced from Hurricane Ike. As I am a single mother of two and a full-time college student, my resources are very limited. It was very nice to have some relief during that time. I also appreciated the very gracious way we were expedited through your check in line and given the "royal treatment." It was very nice for you to do that for us through such a stressful time.

*Thank You
Beverly Yaris Nederland, TX*

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

Church of the Open Arms, UCC
3131 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-525-9555
openarmsok@aol.com

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www.openarms.org