

# The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

Volume 16, Issue 2

February 1, 2012

## MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE

The construction continues on our church building! The elevator will soon be helping us reach new levels with our expanding programs. One of these days the dust will settle and the mess will get cleaned up. In the meantime, the chaos of transition persists as a challenge to our patience and our planning. But, aren't we blessed to be able to undergo the transformation of our building!

Three years ago we conducted a building fund drive, organized by Mike DeArmond and other leaders who worked hard to raise pledges for second-mile financial contributions to pay for these improvements to our building. At the time, an elevator seemed like a distant dream. The work on the parking lot was hard to imagine. The broken pews in the sanctuary made us nervous every week as they creaked and broke. Now we are in the third year of payments for this special effort. Mark Van Dorn is doing an excellent job working as our coordinator and leader of the New Construction project. Our church owes a debt of thanks to many volunteers, leaders, and cheerful givers for making all this possible.

Before long now, the construction and building improvements will be completed, and we will be enjoying our expanded building. Our Leadership Council recently decided that 2012 would be a great time to engage in a serious discernment process about the vision for the next five years in the life of our congregation. Your insights about future goals for our church are vital. As you dream and pray about the future of our church, hang in there with this present dusty, messy process we are in at the present moment. Maybe this is a great opportunity to practice persistence and perseverance!

Blessings,  
Kathy McCallie

**VOICE Founding Convention**

**Feb. 12th 2:45 p.m.**

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy February Friends,

Winter continues to work her magic on the seeds and bulbs and trees and plants. Spring is just around the corner with all the renewal and glory that it brings. God's Wonder and Blessing at work !

As we move forward into the new year we are all trying to find ways to respect our Earth and the resources we have. We are looking at the way we do business and trying to see if we can operate in more responsible ways.

Our next Leadership Council meeting is Sunday February 18 at 2 p.m. This month we will implement a couple of new procedures. The minutes of the last meeting, the previous months financial statements, any committee reports that will be on the agenda , and the agenda itself will be e-mailed to you during the week prior to the meeting. Teams, if you have reports you want to go before the council please get with your team president and discuss that effort and then get the report to me by the Sunday prior to our council meeting. With this information in your private e-mail boxes you can then decide if you need a hard copy of it or not. If you do, you can print it at home and bring it with you to the council meeting. This will eliminate the need for us to have an undetermined amount of copies at the meetings. This effort will also allow us to streamline our meetings and be more respectful of everyone's personal time.

Please contact Katie in the church office if you would like to be on the Leadership Council e-mail list.

We have a multitude of wonderful things happening this year in our church. My sincere hope and prayer is that you each can find a new way to plug in and be involved and then to realize the very real blessings that can create.

Peace,

Mark

# FOOD PANTRY REPORT

The Open Arms Food Pantry experienced the same economic challenges that the nation faced in 2011 as the recession lingered. Food prices went up and the number of households needing assistance increased. The Food Pantry is very fortunate, though, to have the support of many individuals from Open Arms and the community. We are ready to meet the challenges of 2012 because of the Mission I Neighbors In Need Campaign in November and the "Will Sing for Food" Fundraiser in December. The Food Pantry sincerely thanks all those who participated in these events and those who faithfully contribute throughout the year with their time and treasure.

Below are some statistics that will give you an idea of how your donations are spent.

Pounds purchased	65,520	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>119,581 lbs.</u></b>
Food Bank complimentary food	54,061	<b><u>Total Cost</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,516.13</u></b>

# CARE TEAM NOTES

## February Birthdays

Deidra Van Dorn	February 1	Crystal Inman	February 18
Orra Compton	February 11	Gloria Weiss	February 20
Turner Rubino-Watkins	February 13	Joe Arganbright	February 21
Yogi Doroteo	February 15	Joseph Willsey	February 21
Jerry West	February 17		

## February Anniversaries

Linda & Mark Herndon	February 1	Karla Osborn & Sheila Maust	February 14
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### *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](mailto:openarmsok@aol.com)).

Check out these new opportunities for service to the community through the Open Arms Care Team:

- \*Extravagant Birthday Celebration: if baking or party planning is your thing, please let us know!
- \*Hospital, home or phone visits
- \*Assisting with funeral/memorial services
- \*Greeting card, email and prayer chain ministries

Other reminders: 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.

The Care Team meets after the Shared Meal on the first Sunday of each month. Come for the food and fellowship; stay for the chance to be an essential part of congregational care.

For more information becoming a Care Team volunteer, contact Pastor Kathy, Pastor Scott, the church office, or Bruce Saunkeah ([bruce@rinkgallery.com](mailto:bruce@rinkgallery.com)). ***Thank You for Caring!***

# Faith in Action: VOICE Founding Convention

## *Voices Organized In Civic Engagement*

(formerly the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee)

## February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:45 p.m.

First Christian Church  
N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> and Walker (3700 N. Walker)

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. – mark it on your calendar now! Every member and friend of our church is needed at this event as a show of solidarity and support for improving lives of families and individuals in our congregation. Our church has pledged to have a minimum of 75 people present for this city-wide gathering. When leaders go through the role call of institutions present that day, we need you to stand up and be present.

Can you envision standing with our church in connection with other faith communities that transcend divisions of race and economic level? There will be Spanish-speaking congregations, African-American congregations, Catholic congregations, and other diverse congregations like ours present that day. Together we will make a beautiful, inspiring show of unity and support for a better future in our state and our city.

This event will be the founding convention of the faith-based community organizing group that has been going by the name: “Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee.” Our congregation is among several dozen who have been working, laying the groundwork for this organization for several years now. We have already begun to see the fruits of the growing network leading positive change in our community. The future is bright for this coalition of congregations. The founding convention will be a proud moment in history.

Please support our congregation so that we can stand up proud that afternoon representing our own particular calling as a family of faith.

There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the church entryway right outside the sanctuary.

Carpools will leave the Open Arms parking lot at 2:30 that day.

A city-wide choir will begin singing at 2:45 p.m. If you would like to join that choir, talk with Donna Compton who is our choir contact person for this event, or call the church office: (405) 525-9555 for more information.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 22, 7:00 p.m.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our church will offer an evening service to mark this beginning of our journey toward Easter.

The Ash Wednesday service begins at 7:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided if requested no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>, by calling the church office: (405) 525-9555. All are welcome!

### Lightning Rounds Continue!

10:00-10:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Join us for these really fast classes:

Fun & Intellectually energizing entertainment!

### Full-Moon

### Drumming

February 10 at Metta Wing

(Wilshire & Post)

Vegetarian Potluck—6:30

Drumming—7:30

## SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

On **Thursday, February 23, at 6 pm**, the Social Justice Team will provide a vegetarian meal, followed by a showing of the movie, "**FORKS OVER KNIVES.**"

The event is free but donations will be accepted to help pay for the cost of the food.

Please let Katie in the church office know if you are attending so we'll know how many to cook for! **Everyone is invited!**

### Church Finance

December regular offering: \$14,633.50

Amount needed monthly: \$19,606.00

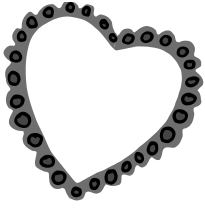
The **HIV/AIDS Support Group** will meet in the community hall on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Those interested are encouraged to attend.

The first meeting of **The Neighborhood Association** will be held at the Church of the Open Arms on Tuesday, Feb. 7th, at 6:30 p.m. All those interested in attending are encouraged to come.



For more information, contact the church office, 525-5955.

# COMMUNITY LIFE!



The Community Life Team will be hosting a

## **Valentine's Party and Dance**

at Church of the Open Arms

on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 7pm to 10pm.

All are invited to come, bring a snack and join us for fun and fellowship.

Hope to see you there!

For more information: Debbie Hall 923-5639.



I would like to thank everyone who participated in any way in 2011 for Community Life.

I could not have done it without each and everyone who pitched in and helped, be it with food, setup, cleanup, laundry, funerals, and/or trash removal.

I would name you all but there is not enough room.

I am so blessed to be a part of this church and your lives! ~ Debby Hall

2012 has already started out great with the addition of Terri Carmichael and Sannie Hoyt as co-chairs for Community Life. If you would like to volunteer food for the breakfast, potluck and/or funerals, or in any capacity, please call me.

We would be glad to have you on the Team!

**The Next Community Life Team Meeting Will Be:**

February 12, 2012 at 12 Noon. Come see what we are up to and join in the fun!

You can reach Debbie Hall at 923-5639 or [DH Loves You@gmail.com](mailto:DH Loves You@gmail.com).

## *Engage*

*Exploring Nonviolent Living*

**The Engage Class continues on Sundays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., with the following topics explored in February:**

February 5 - Four-Step Process for Nonviolent Engagement

February 12 - Structural Violence in our World

February 19 - Possible Responses to Structural Violence

February 26 - The Possible Consequences of our Responses

Please let Conna know if you would like to participate. 405-204-6479.



# February, 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 Choir Rehearsal <b>5</b> 10:00 Lightning Round 10:45 Worship 12 pm Monthly Potluck (Care Team meets after potluck) 12:15 Youth Group 4:30—Engage Class	10:30 AM Senior Coffee At The Rink —3200 N. Rockwell	11AM—Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> ▶ Beginning Meditation ▶ 1st Neighborhood Committee Meeting	6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM Spanish Class 7-7:30 Chapel Service 7:30PM Mary Daly Group	7:15 am RISE & SHINE 12:30-1:30 Food Pantry drop-off	2-4 pm Food Pantry Set-up 4-6 pm Food Pantry Servers	7-10 PM VALENTINE PARTY AND DANCE
9:30 Choir Rehearsal <b>12</b> 10:00 Lightning Round 10:45 Worship Noon—Community Life Team 12:15 PM—Youth Group 2:45 — <b>Founding Convention: VOICE ~ NW 36th &amp; Walker</b>	10:30 AM Senior Coffee At The Rink —3200 N. Rockwell	11AM—Bible Study 6:30 PM Beginning Meditation	6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM Spanish Class 7-7:30 Chapel Service 7:30PM Mary Daly Group	7:15 am RISE & SHINE 12:30-1:30 Food Pantry drop-off	2-4 pm Food Pantry Set-up 4-6pm Food Pantry Servers	
9:30 Choir Rehearsal <b>19</b> 10:00 Lightning Round 10:45 Worship <b>Noon—Leadership Council</b> 12:15 PM Youth Group 4:30 Engage Class	10:30 AM Senior Coffee At The Rink —3200 N. Rockwell	11AM—Bible Study 6:30 PM Beginning Meditation	6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM Spanish Class <b>7 PM ASH WEDNESDAY Service</b> 7:30PM Mary Daly Group	7:15 am RISE & SHINE 12:30-1:30 Food Pantry drop-off	2-4 pm Food Pantry Set-up 4-6pm Food Pantry Servers	
9:30 Choir Rehearsal <b>26</b> 10:00 Lightning Round 10:45 Worship 12 Hand/Homemade Goods for Sale 12:15 PM Youth Group 4:30 Engage Class	10:30 AM Senior Coffee At The Rink —3200 N. Rockwell	11AM—Bible Study 6:30 PM Beginning Meditation	6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM Spanish Class 7-7:30 Chapel Service 7:30PM Mary Daly Group	7:15 am RISE & SHINE 12:30-1:30 Food Pantry drop-off	2-4 pm Food Pantry Set-up 4-6 pm Food Pantry Servers	

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VALENTINE PARTY & DANCE

FEBRUARY 11TH

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