

The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

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October 1, 2010

MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE

"How was your trip?" – that is the question I hear several times a day as I reconnect with our community after being gone on my big trip to Israel and Palestine. I feel overwhelmed with the challenge of knowing what to say in response to that question. So, first of all, I invite you to come hear my report and see some of my photos on Monday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. Much of what we studied was the history of the region, but we also focused on the political conflicts between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The religious history and identities in the regions are complex and multi-faceted. I will share for about 45 minutes and then answer questions that night. All who are interested are invited.

It will take years for me to fully integrate and assimilate all the new ideas, images, and insights that I gathered on this trip. Be patient with me as I try to share about my experiences over time. Most of all, I took away a more profound appreciation of how mysterious and vast the miracle of life on planet earth is.

Shalom,

Kathy McCallie

Reserve your Place at the Fall Retreat Oct. 15th-17th

This year's theme is "Holy Ground." We'll spend time sharing and learning what holy ground means in each of our lives—the holy ground within us, between us, beneath us.

**COMMUNITY POWER TEAM MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2010
1:00 P.M.**

The Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee is a team of 24 churches united in an effort to effect change in Oklahoma City.

Church of the Open Arms is a member of that group. We call our team the Community Power Team. There will be a meeting Sunday, October 24, 2010, at 1:00 in the Community Café, which will include a light lunch.

Please consider attending this meeting and group. It's an exciting way to be involved in the evolution of our great city and state.

**For information, please call Nathaniel Batchelder at
405-524-5577**

**Full-moon drumming to
be held at the
Peace Education Institute
on Friday, October 22.
Vegetarian potluck at
6:30 p.m.
Drumming at 7:30 p.m.**



FALL RETREAT

Nature Deficit Disorder is when the lack of time out in nature weakens your joy of life, spiritual zest, and mental health. In our busy society it is a challenge to take enough time to rest, play, and renew ourselves and our relationships. That is why our church retreat is an essential part of our programming.

Come out on Friday night and spend about 40 hours (that biblical number!) without getting in a car. You will be surprised what it can do for your relationships with friends and family—and with God.

The woods are beautiful at the camp. The meals are cooked for us. There are walking trails, canoes, a campfire, a hayride, crafts, bible study, meditation time, and inspiring story telling.

The adventure begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, Oct. 15th and ends at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17th.

Some of us will come back for church on Sunday morning at Open Arms, and others will stay out at camp and enjoy an outdoor worship experience there.

The cost is \$80 per adult. All children and youth are covered by scholarship money. There is additional money to help with scholarships for adults. Please pay what you can, but most importantly, please come!

Fill out a registration form or call the church office (405) 525-9555
to get your place reserved for the retreat.

If you are new to the church or have been coming for a while and would like to be more involved in some of the teams at church, the **Building Team** would like for you to attend our monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing areas of the church that are in need of routine repairs.

Hope to see you at our meeting in October!

BUILDING TEAM UPDATE

I want to thank all of you who had helped out on our workday on Saturday. The parking lot and the church grounds got cleaned up. **Thank you, Jerry.** All fifty-six filters in the air conditioners were cleaned. **Thank you, Carol and Denise.** The flowerbeds were worked over and cleaned up. **Thank you, Mike.** The equipment room in the sanctuary basement was cleaned and organized.

Many of you may have noticed that the roof has been replaced. When replacing the roof the overhang was removed from the front of the church. It had begun to fall from lack of support. Now that the roof has been repaired, we can proceed with the sealing and painting of the sanctuary ceiling. We have ordered seating for the sanctuary. The seating is scheduled to arrive about the middle of November. The Sanctuary will be painted when the pews are removed and the seating is on the way.

If there are any concerns about our building or questions about how one can help please feel free to contact me via email or phone. Again, thanks for all the help and support!

Ron Bashant
405-604-7434



NEW BUILDING NEWS

It has been almost a year since we ended our Capital campaign.

After several meetings with interested contractors, we came to the conclusion that we needed an architect to advise, develop, and design plans. We hired an architect in June. The New Construction Loan was finalized in July, allowing us to move forward with construction plans.

The plans include:

* An elevator to be located in the west end of the existing church office, opening east into a lobby. An eight foot entryway with fire doors will separate the elevator lobby from the existing church foyer as required by the fire code. Steps and a ramp will provide access into the community hall. The church office will be located where the classroom is now.

* The area below the community hall is to be renovated into one large open meeting area with two handicapped restrooms with showers. A hospitality area for social events is planned along with a classroom and equipment room. A major part of the renovation will be the excavation and sealing of the north and west side of the north building to address the drainage problems around the north building.

* The parking lot will be repaired/replaced as needed.

* Sanctuary seating has been ordered. The new chairs should arrive mid November.

A decorative border of small pumpkin icons surrounds the text.

FOOD PANTRY SPECIAL NEED

Most people in Oklahoma are becoming aware that the slowing economies of the east and west coasts are also affecting our state. You probably know someone who cannot find a job or whose house is being foreclosed by the bank. However, less is known about how the economy is affecting our senior citizens. As the amount of food stamps is decreased, a person has to cut out items that are not considered necessary to survive. One of those items that a lot of seniors need is adult incontinence products such as **Depends and Poise pads**.

If you are looking for a way to fulfill the “Golden Rule ” by doing something for another that you would like done for you, please donate some of these adult incontinence products to our Food Pantry. Approximately half of our patrons are senior citizens, so we need just a little from all of you.

Come be a part of the

New Growth Ministry Team

New Growth is responsible for the “Extravagant Welcome” that Church of the Open Arms extends to all who come through our doors.

We are also responsible for New Membership inclusion, internet outreach, and helping to enhance the relationship we all have with each other.

Mostly, though, we have fun together!

Please consider us as a way to plug in to Church of the Open Arms.
All are welcome.

Our next meeting is October 18th at 5:30 in the Community Café.

For more information please contact

Mark Van Dorn
405/209-4317

October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 9:00: 12-1:00 COA-OP 9:30 Book Study* 10:45 Worship 12:00 Monthly Potluck 12-1:30 Youth Group	4	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Discussion Group 7:30 Mary Daly Discussion Group	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	10:00 am - Noon Food Pantry set-up 3:00 - 6:00 Food Pantry Servers	2
9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Book Study* 10:45 Worship 12-1:30 Youth Group 3:00 Benefit Concert 4:00 Book Study#	11	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Discussion Group 7:30 Mary Daly Discussion Group	6:00 Finance Team 7:00 Guided Meditation Group	10:00 am - Noon Food Pantry set-up 3:00 - 6:00 Food Pantry Servers	FALL RETREAT
FALL RETREAT 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Book Study* 10:45 Worship 12-1:30 Youth Group 4:00 Book Study#	18	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Discussion Group 7:30 Mary Daly Discussion Group	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	10:00 am - Noon Food Pantry set-up 3:00 - 6:00 Food Pantry Servers	Singles Dance! 7:00-10 pm
9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Book Study* 10:45 Worship 1:00 Community Power Team Mtg. 12-1:30 Youth Group 4:00 Book Study#	25	7:00 Guided Meditation Group 7:00 Building Team Mtg.	6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Discussion Group 7:30 Mary Daly Discussion Group	7:00 Guided Meditation Group	10:00 am - Noon Food Pantry set-up 3:00 - 6:00 Food Pantry Servers	30
9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Book Study* 10:45 Worship 12-1:30 Youth Group 4:00 Book Study#	31		<i>* The Case for God #Not your Parents' Offering Plate</i>			

Nicaragua Mission

Kathy McCallie will be leading a mission team to Nicaragua to promote the scholarship program, develop partnership with friends in Nicaragua, and foster discipleship from Dec. 27, 2010-Jan 2, 2011. We plan to have a group of approximately 10-12 people travel to Nicaragua, make friends, grow in wisdom and grace, come back willing to promote the scholarship program and build partnership with friends in Nicaragua.

We will fly from OKC to Managua on Monday, December 27th and return Sunday, January 2nd. The cost will be approximately \$1,300 per person. That is a lot of money, but don't assume you can't go just because of the finances. If you are interested, talk to Kathy about possibilities for fund-raising for the trip. A commitment to go and a non-refundable deposit of \$800 is due no later than October 15th to reserve a place on the team.

GET RICH IN 3 WEEKS

Rich in Good Deeds : Oct. 10, 17, and 24th

1 Timothy 6:18 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Come for 3 Sunday Afternoons 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Money Back Guarantee:

You will deepen friendships. You will enhance your serenity and joy of life.

You will increase your faith. You will find new zest and purpose.

Join friends from Church of the Open Arms in this class led by

Pastor Kathy McCallie, studying the book:

Not Your Parents' Offering Plate, by Clif Christopher.

Copies of the book cost \$10 each.

Child care can be provided if reserved in advance

YOUTH GROUP

So, what IS the youth group up to? Well, we're wrapping up the series on "Trusting that God's Way is the Wisest Way." We've learned what the Bible has to say about the effects of: our words, gossiping, choosing our friends, and paying attention to our habits. We've discussed a lot about our personal lives and our ideas on being a good person.

Next up is a series of video clips titled "The Red Stuff." Bloody, atrocious Halloween gags? Nope, not that red stuff per se. We'll be exploring the words of Jesus in the Bible. Jesus has some things to say that totally relate to teenagers. It's true! We're gonna look at our talents, pride, prayer, and eternity. Like always, everyone will be given a chance to speak their mind and decide what it all means to them personally.

What ELSE is the youth group up to?

- * We're moving our lesson time to a Sunday School format. Come join us at 9:30am on Sunday mornings!
- * We'll still hang out together after church for good times!
- * We're making more and more new youth friends! Welcome Leah, Allison, Joe, and Michael!

The Education Department is needing information from our Open Arm parents about their interest in a parents support group. The questionnaire forms will be available in the children's areas on Sundays.

Dear Open Arms Parents:

You are an important part of your child's /children's religious education experience at our church. A few parents have suggested it would be helpful to have a parents' support group. Please let us know if this is an interest of yours.

YES NO UNSURE

If YES or UNSURE, please indicate those days and times when it would be possible for you to participate (if more times than one are possible, indicate those):

Sunday a.m. between 10 and 10:30? After church? Evening?

Weekday evening: Which day? What time?

Saturday a.m.? Time? Saturday p.m.? What time?

Thank you for allowing and supporting your child's/children's participation in our Education Department program. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to improve your/your child's experience here. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact Donna Compton at 405-740-8612 or dscompton@sbcglobal.net.

Read, Pray, Share: A Weekly Book Study

led by pastor Kathy McCallie

9:30-10:30 Sunday Mornings (starts October 3rd)

The Case for God, by Karen Armstrong

Exercise your mind and heart while reflecting with others about universal, enduring issues of faith. Armstrong's book explores the development of great traditions in world religions and the struggles of people to make sense of timeless questions about suffering, evil, injustice, love, and joy.

Get involved in this opportunity to deepen faith and develop friendships.

Copies of the book available in the class (\$15 each).

Come when you can, knowing that regular attendance promotes fuller learning.

GUIDED MEDITATION CLASS

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7pm - 8pm, Stephen Dillard-Carroll will be facilitating a class in guided meditation. Many people would like to practice meditation but don't know how. Stephen will facilitate that learning through each of the classes. This will be a free class to anyone that is interested, but there will be an opportunity at each class to make a donation.

In each class we tackle a topic, and through gentle-guided general meditation we connect to spirit. We then take the lessons learned through spirit and apply them to our everyday lives. These are stand-alone classes. Participants do not have to commit to any length of time beyond the hour in class.

It's important to note that regardless of spiritual background these meditations can be useful. These meditations are "dogma free". It's set up that way so that anyone can use them in everyday life. The leader will light a candle in the middle of the circle, lower the lights, and through various muscle and mind relaxation techniques get the class into a state where communication with spirit can begin. Once connection with spirit has happened, the leader will guide you through the various points of peace discussed in the class and ask you to relay that information to spirit along with the commitment to spirit to use those points of peace in your everyday lives. Then, there will be silence for a moment to let free communication between the participants and spirit happen. After the moment has passed, the leader will slowly bring you out of the meditative state and back to the present. From start to finish the meditation portion will be at maximum 20 minutes. Then, the leader will bring up the lights and for the last 20 minutes facilitate sharing. What did we get from the meditation? What did we get from the class? How will those lessons learned help us in our everyday lives? As the class is sharing, the leader will pass around the donation bowl. If you can give, fantastic. If not, we still hope to see you in class next time. We close the class by having everyone hold hands and sharing a benediction prayer. For more information, call the church office.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2010**

**CHURCH OF THE OPEN ARMS
FALL HOPE DINNER**

“THE RAINBOW ROAD—A COVENANT’S JOURNEY”

**YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS
EXCITING EVENT!**

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