

# The Common Thread

A monthly publication of Church of the Open Arms, UCC

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 1, 2009

## **MINISTER'S ROUNDTABLE**

Who wants to grow spiritually? Hmm... Sometimes that doesn't sound like an invitation that motivates us to jump up eagerly. We all know that spiritual growth can feel like discomfort and growing pains. On the other hand, how dull would life be if we didn't find meaning and joy in the things of the Spirit? The adventure of faith, learning, and becoming new is a joyful path, even with its ups and downs.

Our congregation has entered a time of intense spiritual growth. We are being challenged to stretch ourselves and step out in faith towards a new vision for the future of our church. I hope that each of you will be present for the Hope Dinner on Thursday, May the 14<sup>th</sup> to hear more about how you might be called to participate in this effort.

If you want a closer walk with God, try getting closer to other people by showing up and working together for a common goal of sharing God's love. Your unique gifts are needed to bring enthusiastic dreams to visible reality.

*With great hope,  
Kathy McCallie*



Hope Dinner  
May 14th

## General Synod - June 26-30

### Living the Questions

#### Pastor's Class on Wednesday nights

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Pastors Jim Stovall and Kathy McCallie will be leading this thought-provoking discussion on Wednesday nights. Each week the class features a 20 minute video segment including leading voices in biblical studies, theology, and aspects of an evolving faith. After the video a lively discussion related to a particular question of faith helps us get acquainted and develop our own ideas. Even if you can't come often, come when you can! You can start coming any week and be a fully participating member of the class.

May 6 – "Lives of Jesus"

May 13 – "Passion for Christ: Paul"

May 20 – "Out into the World"

May 27 – "Restoring Relationships"

June 3 – "The Prophetic Jesus"

#### **This class comes with a Guarantee:**

**you will not feel awkward or embarrassed because you don't already know about the bible or church history!**

Kathy McCallie will be attending our United Church of Christ 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan from June 26-30<sup>th</sup>. Kathy and other delegates will study and discuss issues of the larger church connections with each other and the world. Check out [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) to learn more.

### **An Invitation**

Have you ever wondered about how things are decided at our church. Well I, for one, did so I got involved. We are having a leadership council meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and that would be a great time to see how things work. Meetings are open to all and we would love to have you there with us. The more input we receive from members of the congregation the more our church can grow and be the church of the future. Hope to see you May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Connie Martin President COA

## Hymn Singing Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

We pick out old favorites and sometimes discover new favorite hymns on Wednesday night. The group tends to be small but steady. Come join in the mid-week booster for the faith and stay for the pastor's class on questions of faith. We laugh, we pray, we sing, and we feel more centered when we leave.

### **Save These Dates Now!**

Fall Retreat, Oct. 23-25<sup>th</sup>

Central Oklahoma Christian Camp in Guthrie

## **NYP Annual Yard Sale**

The long-anticipated NYP Yard Sale is literally just around the corner. The date we have set is Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We are ready to take your donations NOW. If you bring donations on Sunday or Wednesday, they can be dropped off in the foyer of the church. If you cannot drop off on these days, please call me to arrange a time where I can meet you at the church. We have not had anyone step up to volunteer a truck for pick up of large items. If you have a truck and would like to do so, please call Kenny at 208-8969.

# **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## **Getting to Know Your K-O Conference!**

*A time to relate to folks from other UCC churches in Kansas and Oklahoma*

**Come share a few hours of learning and making friends at the  
office headquarters of**

**the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference  
of the United Church of Christ in Wichita, Kansas.**

**You can join brief information sessions on topics like: the conference youth program, conference finances, conference women's fellowship, and White Memorial Camp, our conference camp. We will share a picnic lunch (bring a dish to share) and have an option to volunteer an hour or two on a service project to improve the grounds and facilities.**

**Friends from Open Arms will leave our own church parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to travel together to Wichita. We will return around 7:00 p.m. This will be a fun, inspiring, educational day together. To sign up, call the Open Arms church office at: 525-9555.**

***What is a UCC?***

***What is a K-O Conference?***

## **A New Season of Hope!!!!**

May 14, 2009 is the Date of our Spring Hope Dinner. Clear your schedules and mark your calendars. This is one event that you don't want to miss. This Hope Dinner will mark the kick off of our Capital campaign drive to raise the funds for our elevator, sanctuary seating and other identified projects that will move our church to a new level of ministry opportunities.

The Finance Team has planned an evening with an Italian theme. Nancy Ackley, our campaign consultant, will be the key note speaker. This is your opportunity meet Nancy, and obtain an introduction to the campaign process.

Be watching your mail for your invitation and Hope Card that will admit you to the dinner. If you are not currently receiving communications from the church, please fill out a blue card and place it in the offering plate so that the church office has your contact information. Or you are welcome to call the church office with your information.

## Pride '09 is "You Be the Change".

The festival is two days, June 27th and 28th and the parade will step off at 5:00. We will have our Ice Cream Social at 6:00 on the 28th. As far as locations and parade route, everything remains the same. (Memorial Park to 39th and Penn).

If you would like to have your business card displayed in our monthly newsletter the cost is \$ 10.00.

Contact Rev. Loyce via email at [loycee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loycee@sbcglobal.net)

### **DAWN COUNSELING**

Dr. Dawn Singleton, Ph.D.  
Licensed Marital & Family Therapist  
Licensed Professional Counselor-  
Certified Child & Parenting Specialist  
5005 N. Pennsylvania # 303  
OKC, OK 73112 232-3296  
[dawnsi@aol.com](mailto:dawnsi@aol.com)

### **Rev. Loyce Crusader For Justice Radio Ministry**

[revloyce.com](http://revloyce.com)

**KTLR Radio, 890 AM**

**[ktrlr.com](http://ktrlr.com) (live streaming)**

[loycee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loycee@sbcglobal.net)

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### **Four S Home Inspection Group, LLC.**

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### **Certified Massage Therapist**

Linda Herndon  
405 301-4535  
[ljherndon7@cox.net](mailto:ljherndon7@cox.net)

### **Howling at the Moon**

May 8th

7:30pm

# May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:30 choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Monthly Potluck <b>Worship team meeting</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>6:00pm Meditation</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 <b>Pastor's Class</b> see pg 2 "Lives of Jesus"</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>1:00 Food delivery</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry volunteers</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>6:30am</b> <b>Getting to know</b> <b>your KO Confer-</b> <b>ence (see pg 2)</b></p>
<p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship <i><b>Mother's Day</b></i></p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>6:00pm Meditation</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 <b>Pastor's Class</b> see pg 2 "Passion for Christ: Paul"</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>1:00 Food delivery <b>6:30 pm Hope Dinner</b></p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p>10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry volunteers</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>6:00pm Meditation <b>7:00pm Leadership Council</b></p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 <b>Pastor's Class</b> see pg 2 "Out into the World"</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p>1:00 Food delivery</p> <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>10:00-12:00 Food Pantry set up 3:00-6:00 Food Pantry volunteers</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>6:00pm Meditation <i><b>Memorial Day</b></i></p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm New Youth Project 7:00 Worship Service 7:30 <b>Pastor's Class</b> see pg 2 "Restoring Relationships"</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>1:00 Food delivery</p> <p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship</p> <p><b>31</b></p>						

## Meet one of our Food Pantry Clients

By Marie Kizzia

Denise Smith is both a recipient of the gift of food that our Food Pantry offers and returns that gift by volunteering with us so that others may receive the same. Despite recent back surgery, she is always hard working and enthusiastic and a pleasure to volunteer with. She is of Cherokee descent and is a Sun Dancer in the Lakota tradition with a Lodge on her property. She has also volunteered for the Two Spirit Society in the past. Everyone coming to the Food Pantry looks forward to her special prayer before we open.

After receiving a college degree in Physical Education, Denise decided to work at General Motors because of the better pay and benefits. She worked for many grueling years on the assembly line until she was forced to medically retire and is now on Social Security Disability. She is financially supporting her son who is a full time college student and is also a caregiver for both her disabled parents. Unfortunately, because of many medical bills for herself and her son, who is a diabetic, she needs the help of our food pantry to make ends meet. Most of us don't understand that a person cannot receive food stamps if their social security income exceeds the "poverty level" as defined by the State of Oklahoma. This dilemma forces many people to seek help from food pantries like ours.

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

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