

# the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 2010

Vol. 5 Issue 10

*From Dianne's Desk*

## BLESSED

What's all this "blessing business" about? You may have wondered why I am so excited about what seems to be a very simple concept. I've been drawn to this practice of blessing others and receiving our blessings for a very long time. Recently, it seems to pop up everywhere, but there is a richness of meaning and power that I think we tend to miss—or dismiss. "Bless you" is what we say without thinking when we hear someone sneeze. To actively and intentionally bless another, or even to ask them, "How can I ask God to bless you today?" takes us to a whole new place. It feels risky and awkward, like we've crossed some invisible taboo line that insists we shouldn't say such words in public. We don't want to risk offending another by offering a blessing? Why would that be offensive? Might we be made fun of for believing in a God who does bless us? Why does being an instrument of God's blessing in the world make us so nervous? Hmmm.

I wonder if this has something to do with the difference between a scarcity mindset and an abundance mindset. Economic troubles often trigger a scarcity reaction, where we hang on tight to everything we have for fear there won't be enough to go around. Caution can be prudent in certain circumstances, but it can also shut down the joy that is ours as followers of Christ. Jesus said he came that we might have "abundant life," the kind of perspective where there's always room for one more because we know how extravagantly God has provided for us. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Do we know we are blessed? I mean really blessed, loved, and accepted deep down. I recently came across this reflection:

*Most of us have been given many more blessings than we have received. We do not take time to be blessed or make the space for it. We may have filled our lives so full of other things that we have no room to receive our blessings. One of my patients told me that she has an image of us all being circled by our blessings, sometimes for years, like airplanes in a holding pattern at an airport, stacked up with no place to land. Waiting for a moment of our time, our attention. . . . We can bless others only when we feel blessed ourselves.*

Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. in her book,  
*My Grandfather's Blessings*

How well do you receive blessings? Your reaction to compliments might give you a clue. Can you open yourself up to the genuine praise and blessing that's coming your way, or does it make you so uncomfortable that you push it away and discount what's said? Maybe we need to start by being intentionally open to the blessings God longs to give us. Once we are filled up to overflowing, blessing others will become second nature. Start with this simple exercise. When someone asks how you are, simply respond, "I'm blessed"—and mean it. Then let God take it from there.

Blessings to you,  
Dianne

## NEWS NOTES

- ✓ Have you noticed the new carpet in the breezeway and the hallway leading down to the Fellowship Hall? Our insurance helped us replace the water-damaged carpet, with a little help from a couple of donors.
- ✓ Our Williams hearing system is a great success! If you have trouble hearing in worship, pick up one of the small transmitters in the narthex on your way into church. It will have a small ear phone that fits in your ear, and you can adjust the volume.
- ✓ Crown Heights in the news! Check out all the great newspaper coverage we've received in the City Sentinel and CONTACT, the United Methodist paper. Copies are hanging up right outside Dianne's of office.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Arthemise Michael  
 C. Wausceile Ronnie  
 Cynthia Sally  
 Donovan Scott  
 Eileen Sean  
 Frankie Jo Shane  
 Jamie Theresa  
 Jeannie Thomas  
 John Zack  
 Mark



**YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH CONCLUDING**

We've been blessed to have three different applicants for our Wesley Heights Youth Director position. (This is our cooperative youth ministry that we share with Wesley UMC—the kids chose their own name!) Each candidate has "auditioned" with the youth, providing leadership for one Sunday evening in September. We'll be listening to the feedback from our young people and then the interview team, with representatives from both churches, will make a selection and recommend the person to both Staff-Parish Relations Committees for approval. We look forward to making an announcement very soon.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD:  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16  
 9:00 – 3:00**

Jeff Peters is coordinating our team to work on a Habitat house this month. So far we have three adults and three youth committed to participating. We really need some additional people, preferably with a little home improvement or construction experience. Habitat policy requires that youth be at least 16 years old. If you're interested, or if you have questions, feel free to contact Jeff at [storm4caster@gmail.com](mailto:storm4caster@gmail.com) or 323-0651.

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

John & Marsha  
 Ed & Julie  
 Glen & Brigette  
 John & Imogene  
 Dennis & DeLene  
 Shane & Charlene



**CHARGE CONFERENCE  
 SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7  
 3:30 P.M.**

Please mark your calendar now to join us for our annual review with our district superintendent Dan Pulver on Sunday afternoon, November 7. Rev. Pulver does not require the reading of reports. He prefers genuine conversation with all those present. Here are some of the questions he'll be asking us to talk about:

- Are you closer to God now than you were a year ago?
- Have you started a new outreach ministry?
- If your church suddenly disappeared, what would the community around you miss most?
- Has your ministry together become more intentional?

Please come and be ready to speak your mind and heart. Strong attendance helps the conference to know that Crown Heights is alive and well and living its mission in God's world.

**CHANCEL CHOIR  
 By George Massey**

**CHOIR INFO FOR THE FALL**

**Wednesday  
 Rehearsals:**

October 6  
 October 20  
 November 3  
 November 17  
 December 1  
 December 8

**Sundays:**

October 10  
 October 24  
 November 7  
 November 21  
 December 5  
 December 12

**Saturday Dress Rehearsal**

December 11



## OCTOBER SERMONS

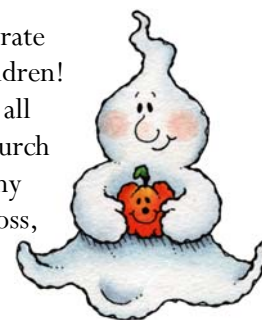
- October 3 **World Communion Sunday** Psalm 65  
**Celebrate God's Abundance!** John 10:7-10, 14-16  
 As Christians around the world gather at Christ's table today, we catch a glimpse of the Good Shepherd's deep desire for a united flock. How are we helping Jesus' dream happen?
- October 10 **Stewardship** Ephesians 1:15-19  
**Growing a Grateful and Generous Heart** Luke 17:11-19  
 Jesus' generosity sets the standard for our willingness to give. As Christ's light grows stronger in our hearts, a deep gratitude is kindled within. May we share freely, joyfully and with thanksgiving.
- October 17 **Who Waits at the Gate?** Deuteronomy 14:22-29  
 Luke 16:19-31  
 The needs of the people all around us can be overwhelming, numbing us to the possibility that we can make a difference. The tithe is one significant way that God has given us to do our part, to love our neighbor as God loves us.
- October 24 **Commitment Sunday** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
**Treasure Hunt** II Timothy 1:5-9, 13-14  
 Deep within every person is a special gift from God, intended for the common good. This treasure is usually connected to God's unique calling for your life. Jesus stands ready to help you rekindle the flame within, to claim a purpose-driven life.
- October 31 **Reformation Sunday** Jeremiah 31:31-34  
**The Second Reformation** Romans 12:2-5  
 Reformers like Luther, Calvin and later the Wesleys, changed the way Christianity was being experienced in their time. More and more people are coming to believe that we are in a similar time in history, a "second reformation" or transformation of Christianity for a new future. This can be unsettling and confusing until we clarify where God is busy doing "new things," then join the effort. Welcome to the journey of surprise and faith!

**OPEN HOUSE UPDATE**  
 by Julie Williams

Many kudos for all of the participation and help we received with our recent Open House. We had a good turn out on Saturday to help with the clean up effort and then we also had great participation from our CHUM members to assist with the Open House on Sunday. We hosted a total of seven visitors and had a grand time telling them about the history of our church and the programming that we offer. One of the visitors was a former member of the church and she really enjoyed seeing all of the changes that have been made at the church. Another visitor saw that Mariann was playing and came especially to hear her and try out our organ. It was interesting hearing how each visitor learned about our event. It was a lot of fun and again, a BIG thank you to all of the people that assisted! We couldn't have hosted this event without your help!

**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
**TUESDAY OCTOBER 26**

It's time to get out those ghosts and goblins to decorate your car trunk for a delightful evening with our children! In case you haven't been to one of these events, we all park in the parking lot across the street from the church on Western. Bring lots of goodies to pass out and any simple games you have that the kids can do—ring toss, bowling, etc. We'll be inviting our church kids, our Arts Academy kids, other neighborhood kids and our Whiz Kids. The children are encouraged to wear their costumes, but it's not required. A simple hot dog supper will be available for kids and their families, starting at 5:30. The Trunk or Treat activities will begin at 6:00. We have two sets of art and music lessons given Tuesday evenings, so we'll probably have people coming in at different times. Everything will conclude by 7:30. Brigitte Gean is coordinating the meal, if you'd like to help please let her know. If it rains, we just move everything inside to the Fellowship Hall. Grown-ups can dress up too! See you October 26<sup>th</sup>!



**WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!**

*In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*  
 Genesis 12:2-3

The kick-off for our fall stewardship campaign is just around the corner. During October we will be focusing on the “showers of blessing” that we receive on a daily basis and on our calling to be a blessing to God’s world. One of the ways we do that is to be intentional about the ways we spend and invest our money. Scripture and long tradition have taught us that giving at least 10% back to God’s work in the world helps us to keep our priorities straight. In our consumer culture there are many competing voices trying to persuade us to spend more and more on things that do not satisfy in the long run. When we put God and God’s mission first, we

discover a sense of freedom and clarity about what really matters. Read through your check register. What story does it tell? How are your Christian values reflected in your spending?

Soon you will be receiving two letters encouraging you to make an estimate of giving for 2011. Thanks to your generosity, consistency, and willingness to stay with us while we made significant budget cuts, we now stand on level ground financially. For the first time in many years our church is living within our means. But this is only the beginning! God is anxious to do even more miraculous things through us. We are transforming the world, one step, one life at a time.

Our Commitment Sunday will be October 24<sup>th</sup>. Please return your pledge card on or before that date so our Finance Committee will have the time they need to put together a responsible budget for 2011. Thank you for being partners with God in this great adventure we call faith.



**WHERE ARE YOU TRANSFORMING THE WORLD?**

I am convinced that if we knew all the places that our congregation served during the week, we’d be amazed at the myriad of ways we are impacting the world around us. I know many of you are very humble and self-conscious about appearing to brag, but this is kingdom work and we want to celebrate what you are doing to share God’s love with the world. Please take a moment to fill out our survey and return it to the church office. If you’d rather, feel free to send me an e-mail:

[Dianne@CrownHeightSumc.org](mailto:Dianne@CrownHeightSumc.org) I can’t wait to discover how the Spirit is working through you!

**The Mission of the United Methodist Church  
 is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
 for the transformation of the world!**

**We believe the world is transformed one life at a time! We also believe that transformation happens in lots of different ways, both in and beyond the church.**

- ◆ Where do you volunteer your time or talents?
- ◆ Do you see your daily work as an expression of your faith?
- ◆ What causes or charities do you support beyond Crown Heights?

**We want to celebrate and recognize all the different ways that our congregation is caring for the needs of others, Monday through Friday. Would you take a moment to write down what you do and who you support?**

**This is where I serve in the community:**

**These are the groups I participate in where I care for others:**

**I see my daily work as an expression of my faith values.  
 This is what I do:**

**These are the other causes or charities that I regularly support:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put this in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Thanks so much for all you do!*

JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD



Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



October 8-9, 2010

FIRST-CENTURY JESUS MOVEMENTS  
How Did Christianity Evolve?

JOANNA DEWEY & BERNARD BRANDON SCOTT

Lecture

Bernard Brandon Scott  
*From Jesus to Constantine: Disunity to Unity*

◆ Friday evening, 7:30-9 P.M.

All events at:

Mayflower Congregational (UCC) Church  
3901 NW 63rd Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Workshops

Joanna Dewey  
*The Many Faces of Early Christianity*

◆ Saturday, 9:30 A.M.—Noon

Brandon Scott  
*Living in the Empire*

◆ Saturday, 1:30-2:30 P.M.

Brandon Scott & Joanna Dewey  
*What Can We Learn?*

◆ Saturday, 3-4 P.M.

Contact, an edition of  
The United Methodist Reporter

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Booked for travel



Photo by Amelia Ballew

Mike Brown and Evelyn Phyffer of OKC-Crown Heights UMC are surrounded by boxes filled with books, ready for shipment to Ganta United Methodist School, Liberia, for a new library. The book drive began in November, and the donations filled several rooms at Crown Heights. Total: 12,000 books and 1,000 periodicals, in 271 boxes. Phyffer said donors were creative in procuring materials. One church member visited the Oklahoma City "Friends of the Library" book sale; former teachers donated from their education collections. The Hobby Lobby company delivered the books, plus other school supplies, to Indiana. From there, UM-related Operation Classroom will transport them to Liberia. Phyffer has served on multiple missions to Liberia, including a team trip with Bishop Hayes. In February 2011, she and Gay Abarr of OKC-Wesley will lead a VIM construction team to Liberia.

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FAITH

www.city-sentinel.com

www.myspac.com/theCitySentinel

We were in the newspaper.  
You can see the article in the Youth Building by the bulletin board.



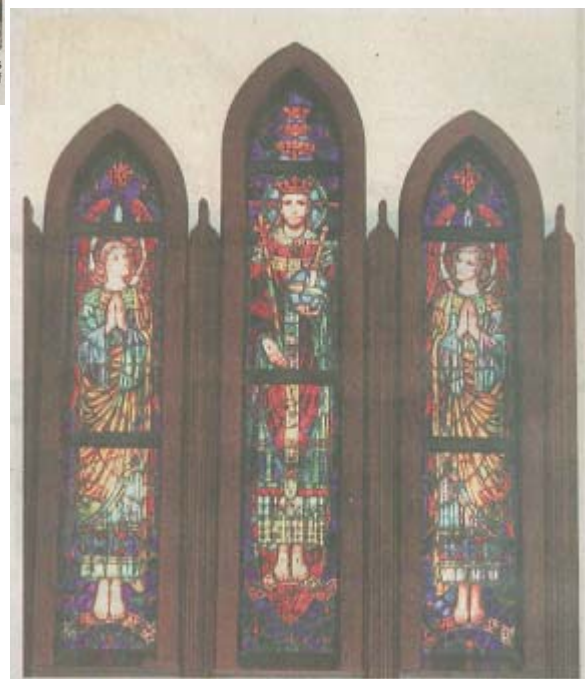
Youth group members at a community open house this month were, from left, Mitchel Williams and Sam Endicott, posing in the youth activities room at Crown Heights Methodist Church. Crown Heights combines youth group resources with Wesley United Methodist, which is celebrating its centennial this year.



Rev. Dianne Peters, pastor at Crown Heights United Methodist Church, smiles at the main altar and pulpit at the church, which celebrated eight decades of service this month.



Organizers of the celebration of faithful service at Crown Heights United Methodist Church were, from left, Bridgette Gean, Betty Langer, and Julie Williams.



This artful stained glass window adorns the worship space above the main altar at Crown Heights United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City.

### CHURCH STAFF

Dianne Kovacs Peters, Senior Pastor

Stacy Gilbert Coombe	Administrative Assistant
Libby Campbell	Accounting Secretary
Mario Estrada	Custodian
George Massey	Director of Music
Mariann Searle	Organist
Kassie Carroll	Nursery Coordinator
Justin Larman	Nursery Assistant
Haley Pierce	Nursery Assistant
Kelli Cormack	Nursery Assistant

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#### Address Service Requested

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We're on the web! [www.crownheightsumc.org](http://www.crownheightsumc.org)

# October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 UMW GARAGE SALE
3 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 5:00 pm Youth - CHUM	4 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:30 pm NA Meeting	5 5:30 pm Arts Academy 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 pm Bible Connections 6:30 pm NA Meeting	7 3:00 pm Whiz Kids	8	9
10 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 am Finance 4:00 pm SPRC 5:00 pm Youth - Wesley	11 Eat at Johnnies 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:15 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm NA Meeting	12 5:30 pm Arts Academy	13 6:00 pm Bible Connections 6:30 pm NA Meeting	14 3:00 pm Whiz Kids	15	16 9:00 - 3:00 Habitat Build
17 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 5:00 pm Youth - CHUM	18 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:30 pm NA Meeting	19 5:30 pm Arts Academy 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 NO Bible Connections 6:30 pm NA Meeting	21 3:00 pm Whiz Kids	22	23 6:00 pm Wedding
24 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 5:00 pm Youth - Wesley	25 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:30 pm NA Meeting	26 5:30 pm Arts Academy 5:30 pm Café 6:00 pm Trunk or Treat	27 6:00 pm Bible Connections	28 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	29	30
31 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 5:00 pm Youth - CHUM						

