

the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2010

Vol. 5 Issue 2

From Dianne's Desk

LIVING INTO RESURRECTION

Congregations need to die so that they can be resurrected to new life—a life created not by the leaders, or by some magic formula, but rather by the miracle-working power of God, who knows the way out of the tomb.

~Peter Bush, *In Dying We Are Born*

A powerful, exciting change happened in January at the Crown Heights Planning Meeting for 2010. Rather than mourning the drop in worship and Sunday School attendance or our financial struggles, all of which can lead to death, our leaders came out of worship with a brave, new concept: **What if we looked at ourselves as a new church start?** Every new church needs a core group of dedicated people who are committed to getting the fledgling congregation off the ground. What if we were that core group? With this new paradigm shift came a flurry of creative ideas:

- ❖ We are beginning to have more couples in their twenties and thirties. How can we help them develop friendships?
- ❖ Members of new churches are especially enthusiastic about sharing their experiences with others. How can we help one another be more intentional about sharing our story and inviting others to visit Crown Heights? We could have “Friendship Sundays” frequently, so we have a goal to work toward. Valentine’s Day is coming up February 14th. It will be our first “Friendship Sunday” and we’ll encourage everyone to bring a friend.
- ❖ What kinds of activities, beyond Sunday morning, would be easy times for new people to visit? We want more fun times like going to the RedHawks game.
- ❖ What if we claimed our parking lot space for ministry, by putting up a sign, installing a basketball hoop for the neighborhood kids, and even putting up a free hot dog stand on St. Patrick’s Day to feed the “Cock on the Walk” patrons?
- ❖ Our building is located in a historic preservation district. What if we had an Open House so folks from the area could see our beautiful sanctuary? How about a “Grand Opening”

on the first Sunday in March, complete with balloons and building tours and refreshments?

- ❖ What if we worshipped together in one service several times a year, so that people could get better acquainted? How about doing that on Palm-Passion Sunday at 10:00, so everyone could see the children waving their palms and enjoy the special music, followed by a potluck brunch at 11:00?
- ❖ New churches bend over backwards to be welcoming to their guests—wearing name tags, being sure that everyone is greeted, making an effort to learn their names. We’re doing better on being welcoming, but we could still do more. What if everyone greeted a guest before greeting their friends after worship?
- ❖ A new church would be thrilled to be given a building as large and beautiful as ours, debt-free. All we have to do is pay the utilities, tend to the maintenance needs and spruce things up here and there. What if we saw our building as an asset, rather than a liability? We still need to address the handicapped accessibility issues and we need better signs so people can find their way around, but this is a good location and a great, historic space.

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

▶ Choir	2
▶ Lent Begins	2
▶ UMW Rummage Sale	3
▶ Whiz Kids	4
▶ Arts Academy	4
▶ February Sermons	5
▶ Come to Liberia	5
▶ Calendar	6



CROWN HEIGHTS PLANNING MEETING

Continued from Page 1

- ❖ New churches look for ways to be of service to their neighborhood. Our Whiz Kids Tutoring program is already in place, and our Arts Academy is just now getting off the ground. What are other ways we could serve these families? How about a Parents' Night Out on February 12th? Not Alone Day and our Skyline month are right around the corner. The Food Bank could be another place we could easily serve.

We have only just begun! What else would we need to be a new church start? Are there other changes we'd want to

consider? Do we need a new name or a new worship time, mid-week or a weekend evening? Are there other groups we could host in our building? What if we started a new Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop?

Now we need the rest of the congregation to help us dream. What is the Spirit nudging you to add to the mix? Let's start a new church at 37th & Western! There are all kinds of people around, and less than half of all Oklahomans are in worship on Sundays. "Up from the grave we arose," is ringing in my ears! Who knows where God will lead us next?

Blessings, Dianne



CHANCEL CHOIR by George Massey

If you didn't receive a letter about our choir dates (Wednesdays and Sunday through June) please call Stacy at the church at 524-8428 and we will make sure you receive one.

LENTEN MUSIC SERIES

Our Lenten Music Series will include the two Sundays of Palm Passion and Easter as in the past two years.

We will have warm-up rehearsals on March 28 & April 4 at 10:15 a.m., with robing after the warm-up.

We will have our extra rehearsal on Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17TH, 6:30 PM

The season of Lent, the 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter, always begins on Ash Wednesday. This is a time for self-reflection on our relationship with God and our own mortality. Knowing our days are always numbered, how do we want to live these next 40 days? Dianne's sermon will be titled, "Open Wide Your Hearts," based on II Corinthians 6:1-13 and Psalm 51:1-12. The service will include the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross. Child care will be provided. Plan to join us for this special service.



JOURNEY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Come Join the Journey Sunday School Class in the Parlor at 9:45. We'll be starting a new study for Lent on February 21st! Our book is titled, Easter from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Pick up your book on February 14th or during the week, so you can read the first chapter for our class on February 21st.

BOOKS FOR GANTA

We are still collecting books and magazines for all ages for the school in Ganta, Liberia.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 7TH

It is that time again for sharing and caring! Join your CHUM Family for "Souper" Bowl Sunday on February 7th following the second service and bring a soup and/or dessert to share for lunch. Bring canned soups/food or donations for "Souper Bowl of Caring", a nationwide project to help fight hunger locally. We will be collecting for our own pantry and for Skyline. For more information about "Souper Bowl of Caring", you can check out www.souperbowl.org. Come share wonderful soups with us and bring cans to care!



BABY NEWS

Welcome baby Emily, daughter of Jacob and Julie Benedict. Emily was born on January 6th at 4:21 p.m., weighing 7 lbs 12 oz



Congratulations Jacob & Julie!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

SPRING CLEAN UMW RUMMAGE SALE

The UMW has decided to help you with your Spring-cleaning by taking your unwanted items for our rummage sale.

The sale will be held:

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

in the Youth Activities Room.

You may start bringing your sale items to the church office now.

If you need help getting large items to the church, or for questions, please contact, Rummage Sale Coordinator: Charlene ones at 524-5075, or email charleneajones@cox.net

Proceeds of this sale go toward UMW missions.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Bernice Bach
Betty Vanderford
Liberia Mission Team



FEBRUARY LITURGISTS

	8:30	11:00
February 7	Colleen Bicket	Lee Endicott
February 14	OPEN	OPEN
February 21	Gail Foster	OPEN
February 28	Dennis Moore	Janet Basler

As you can see, we are in need of Liturgists. You can help by contributing a very small amount of your time to one service per month. It's simple! Contact Stacy in the Church office to sign up.

WHIZ KIDS MOMENT by Charlene Jones

A few weeks have passed since the Whiz Kids Christmas dinner but the good feelings, kind words, happy smiles and New Year wishes are forever in our thoughts. It took some hard work and personal time but it was all worth it. Thanks to Brigitte and Glen Gean, the cooks, their helpers, Ann Truscott (Brigitte's aunt), Dolph Grolock, Charlotte Trobaugh, Jeff Peters, Janet Basler and Evelyn Phyffer.

All the children received gift bags and parents received food boxes and a smoked turkey donated by Feed the Children. Everyone left embraced by the good works and God's love.

Whiz Kids are back after our three-week Christmas break. We now have 31 Putnam Heights Elementary students and more waiting to join us, they just need a tutor.

If you would like to be a tutor or substitute tutor call Charlene Jones at 524-5075 for more information.



ARTS ACADEMY BEGINS FEBRUARY 4 by Janet Basler

VIOLINS! PIANOS! GUITARS! DANCING! DRAWING! DRAMA! CREATIVE WRITING!

Putnam Heights Elementary Students will be introduced on an individual basis to these arts during a 6 week period beginning February 4th. Their teachers for the individual lessons will be students from OCU, Classen SAS and Northwest Classen High School.

Inner City Violin has offered to help students have violins - their size - to take lessons and for practice. OCU Community Dance has given scholarships for dance classes in ballet, jazz, and hip hop.

You can be a part of this wonderful experience in several ways.

- 1st** - **pray** for the teachers and children as they have this adventure
- 2nd** - write notes of encouragement to each of the students
- 3rd** - help on Thursday evenings 5-6:30 p.m. with transportation or to monitor the lessons
- 4th** - help **monitor practice** sessions at the school from 8:00-8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 3:00-3:30 p.m. one to three days a week

Thanks to Sue Brown, Susie Wallace, Taffy Fellingham, and Wayne Tyner who have already volunteered to be a part of the Arts Academy. Come join them as the Arts Academy brings individual arts lessons to deserving students.

Call Janet Basler at 229-3041 to get involved.

FIRST FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH

One of the decisions made at our planning meeting included choosing a "Friendship Sunday" every 4 to 6 weeks. These are days when we hope you will bring as many guests as possible with you to worship. Valentine's Day, February 14th, seemed like the perfect time to express our appreciation to our friends by inviting them to be our guests on Sunday morning. Do you have a new neighbor who hasn't found a church home? What about your cousin who has never been a regular at church? Do you have friends who have recently divorced? Often this is a time when they really need a church family but feel uncomfortable attending the same congregation as their ex-spouse. Is there a really friendly bank teller that you see every week? Maybe he would appreciate being invited to go to church with you. Be praying that the Holy Spirit will help you notice the people in your circles of influence, (Friends, Relatives, Associates or co-workers, and Neighbors), who need a church home. Let God help you have the courage to begin inviting them into your church family. Remember that studies show it may take 7 times or more for someone to say "yes" to a church invitation, so don't give up too quickly. This is a gift you are offering! Do so with joy and great expectation. Remember: New church starts need new people!



FEBRUARY SERMONS

February 7 “Visions of God” Isaiah 6:1-13 and Revelation 4:1-11
 The startling, spiritual world of faith has been puzzling people for ages. Have you ever had a vision of God? How did it change you?

February 14 **Transfiguration Sunday % Friendship Sunday % Valentine’s Day**
 “Have You Seen Jesus’ Face?” Luke 9:28-36 and II Corinthians 3:17-4:6
 Have you ever had the experience of looking at someone you’ve known forever, but suddenly seeing them with new eyes? Maybe that glowing face was actually Jesus in disguise.

Lent Begins

This year we will be learning from the earliest writings in the New Testament, the letters of the apostle Paul. How will Paul help us prepare for Easter?

February 21 “Christ Crucified” I Corinthians 1:17-31 and Jeremiah 9:23-24
 The core of Paul’s theology is simply this: Christ crucified. Such an affirmation flew in the face of everything he had been taught, yet he came to know the Wisdom of God in Jesus Christ.

February 28 **Scout Sunday**—wear your uniform!
 “A Spirit Transplant” Galatians 2:15-16, 19-20 and Romans 5:1-5
 What does Paul really mean by saying, “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me?”

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT
 by Janet Basler

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Having a night out, just for yourself, is a luxury for most parents these days. On Friday, February 12, the Whiz Kids Parents, Arts Academy Parents, and Crown Heights UMC Parents will have a chance to go out alone while their children play games, watch movies, cook, create works of art, and dance, and generally enjoy themselves in a safe fun environment.

The Discovery Class, UMW members, the Youth Group and other church volunteers will provide the supervision, and activities from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, February 12.

We can use more supervising help and materials for crafts and cooking.

Please call Janet Basler to volunteer to help make this a great evening for some wonderful kids and their parents.

HELP WELCOME OUR GUESTS!

You can help people discover that Crown Heights can be a very friendly church by doing these three things:

1. Wear your name tag—newcomers don’t know who you are.
2. Intentionally greet people you don’t know by name—it doesn’t matter if they’ve been on the church rolls for years. Get acquainted!
3. Make an effort to remember the names of guests and greet them by name the next time you see them.

Together we can help our church care for our community!



Crown Heights United Methodist Church
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 405-524-8428

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
Collin Andrulonis	Nursery Assistant
Kelli Cormack	Nursery Assistant
Jana Hogg	Youth Minister

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Address Service Requested

We're on the web! www.crownheightsumc.org

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	2	3 6:00 pm Bible Study	4 2:45 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	5	6
7 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY Noon Souper Bowl 4:00 pm Youth	8 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	9 Eat at Johnnies	10 6:00 pm Bible Study	11 2:45 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	12 Parents Night Out 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	13
14 Transfiguration Sunday FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 4:00 pm Youth	15 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:15 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm NA Meeting	16	17 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 2:45 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	19	20
21 1st Sunday In Lent 4:00 pm Youth	22 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:30 pm NA Meeting	23	24 6:00 pm Bible Study	25 2:45 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	26	27
28 2nd Sunday In Lent SCOUT SUNDAY 4:00 pm Youth						