

the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2011

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From Dianne's Desk

CONSIDER YOURSELF AT HOME!

“Consider yourself at home! Consider yourself part of the family. We’ve taken to you so strong—it’s clear, we’re going to get along . . .” These are lyrics from one of the catchy songs in the musical *Oliver*. For me they capture the sentiment that I hope folks experience here on Sunday mornings.

Hosts: For those of us who have been around Crown Heights for quite a while, these words come as a helpful reminder that each and every one of us is the host for the day. What happens at your house when you know you have guests coming? Well, at mine it usually means tidying up, thinking about which rooms will need extra attention, making plans for meals or at least light refreshments, and doing all I can personally to “put my best foot forward.” I try to make sure that our guest has reliable directions in order to find us, taking into account the ever-changing roadwork. If I know their special interests, I may invite others that I can imagine they will connect with. If they bring children along, I’ll make a special effort to have a safe, inviting space for them to enjoy, with toys and even a caretaker if we’re going to be together for an extended time. Parents so seldom get to have conversation with other adults. Part of my hospitality is giving them a little break and helping the kids to have a good time. What else would you do to welcome people into your home?

Guests: When was the last time you went to visit someone you didn’t know well? Do you remember the butterflies in your stomach at the first visit? What about all the little worries—am I wearing the right thing? Will I know what to do? What will we talk about? If you have children, there’s the added anxiety about their behavior. Will they fit in? Will they have a good time? Will they embarrass you? If this is a group event, will you catch on quickly and do what everyone else seems to know to do by heart? What if you hate the music? What if no one talks to you? If it’s a large group, will anyone even notice you’re there? If it’s a small group, it may feel like

you’re on the “hot seat,” having to answer 20 questions. Can you leave early if you’re too uncomfortable? How will you decide whether or not you want to come again?

When you combine all these thoughts and feelings with people’s images of church, God, Christians, and worship, it’s a wonder anyone ever visits a new church! We should feel so honored that our guests have taken the risk of trusting us and trusting God on their first few visits. Every person who enters our doors comes for a reason. Maybe it’s just to check out the sanctuary as a possible place for their wedding, or perhaps someone in their family has just been diagnosed with cancer. Some just know that they are tired of feeling so lonely and they are looking for a place to belong. Others may have questions about what it means to be “saved” or how you can possibly connect with the God of the universe. Young families are looking for a safe, friendly place to raise their kids. Whether they have questions about Jesus or the Bible or what God really wants from them, we hope to be a place of genuine welcome and assistance. How do we communicate our welcome and appreciation for their trust and their visit?

One of the e-newsletters I received included these suggestions:

When a guest takes the risk to come to church for the first time, we owe them a robust set of follow-up actions that happens for all guests. The goal is to connect with the guest and, if they so desire, help them find ways to become part of the worship and ministry life of the church.

Follow-up could include the following: a letter from the pastor, a letter from a member of the church, a hand-signed thank you card, a door step visit, an email, a Facebook message, an invitation to connect via social media (such as LinkedIn or Facebook), a fresh-baked item, a gift certificate, a free ticket to an upcoming event, a welcome packet and more – be creative! Aim to have 5-10 contacts that happen in the first 30 days regardless of whether or not the guest returns.

We’ve tried several of these options, but the reality is we need more people to be active in responding, especially since our Welcoming Committee chair Kerra Fletcher will be moving soon. We’re a small congregation, which will be even more obvious as we return to

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having two worship services each week. Small isn't bad, but it is different from larger congregations. One of the advantages of being small is we really can excell at helping people feel welcome and cared for. So, consider yourself at home and extend your genuine warmth and caring to all those around you.

Blessings, Dianne

YOU'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL STUDY

Beginning this Sunday, August 7, Pastor Dianne will be leading a four-week study on *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*, written by Bishop Rueben P. Job. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, understood that we all need some basic guidelines to help us follow Jesus. These three rules are the place to begin. They are the core beliefs for living a Christian life. Bishop Job has written a lovely little book, based on these practices, which speaks to people facing today's world. We'd like to have a book for everyone, so please let Stacy or Dianne know as soon as possible if you plan to attend: 524-8428. We will meet in the parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45. Come join the discussion!

SIDE NOTES

- 🎵 Congratulations to George Massey for being unanimously elected to the Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission is delighted to see the progress being made by restoration developer Brent Swift who has purchased the art deco era four-plex and the duplex behind it. We will be so pleased to have new neighbors across the street!
- 🎵 Thank you to the women who helped kids find new clothes and shoes at Skyline's "Clothes for Kids" program last Tuesday. Charlotte Trobaugh, Brigitte Gean, Janet Basler and Dianne Peters represented us well.
- 🎵 Congratulations to Katy Williams and Keaton Langer, our new sixth graders who have joined our youth group.
- 🎵 Crown Heights was featured in a full-page article in the most recent Contact newspaper that goes to United Methodists across the state. The story of our Arts Academy is truly an inspiration to others. What a great way to help children discover their God-given gifts!

WHIZ KIDS READY TO START IT'S 9TH YEAR by Janet Basler

Our **Whiz Kids** are excited about coming back to their tutors this year. Several have already asked when they get to start.

Our **tutors - Bruce, Joe, Taffy, Bob** - who have done this before are smiling at the thought of their Whiz Kid or having a new Whiz Kid to read with this year.

Our **substitutes - Carol, Dianne** - are feeling that warmth in their hearts as they think about meeting so many new Whiz Kids while relieving the tutors when they must be absent.

Our **teachers** at Putnam Heights Elementary School are excited to think about having help teaching their students to read better and better each week.

Our Whiz Kids **parents** are relieved that their children will have more help and support learning to read.

Joy Robison is excitedly planning her Bible stories to teach the Whiz Kids this year.

Charlene Jones is busily having fun looking for new recipes and foods to offer to the Whiz Kids for their snacking pleasure.

Bruce Pitts is checking the van over to make sure it will work to pick kids up from school.

Janet is recruiting and planning rooms and times for everyone with the coordinators from Mayflower Church.

Dianne is on her knees alot praying for each of those who have been and will be involved with Whiz Kids.

YOU may be hearing God calling you to be a part of this wonderful ministry this year.

We need tutors, substitutes, helpers in the kitchen, help with Bible story time, and PRAY-ERS.

Whiz Kids tutoring meets every Thursday afternoon when OKC schools are in session from 3-5 pm beginning the middle of August and ending the first of May.

We tutor students at our church in grades 1-5 from Putnam Heights Elementary School which is a few blocks from the church. We basically have an adult read with one child for about 45 minutes weekly for the year. Bonds are made, and success in building self-confidence, and reading happens.

The children get a snack and Bible story along with their reading time each week.

The tutors get a snack and training with their reading time each week. They also get training at the beginning of the year.

IS THIS YOUR TIME TO BE A PART OF WHIZ KIDS? CALL FOR INFORMATION.

AWARD WINNING ARTS ACADEMY BEGINS

by Janet Basler

After winning the 'It Worked For Us' Award for the North OKC District of the United Methodist Church, several people from other churches have asked what is going on at Crown Heights. I tell them the Arts Academy is an amazing ministry to behold, especially as it is an outgrowth of our WHIZ KIDS tutoring program and an opening to our SPERO PROJECT with single parents. Then I get specific. I tell them what it is all about.

- C We offer private or small group art and music lessons to at-risk children, ages 7-12.
- C We offer high school and college age artists and musicians the opportunity to share their talents and passions with younger children.
- C We watch lives of the young people of all ages change to reflect more of God's creation in their lives all the time.
- C We hear pianos, 10 at church and 2 at Putnam Heights School, bring forth music weekly, getting better and better all the time.
- C We hear drums that get our toes tapping as we pass by. We hear clarinets, violins, and trombones go from sounding like wild animals to making beautiful musical sounds.



- C We hear dramatists perfect their voices, their memories, and their actions.
- C We hear guitarists humming along with the music they are playing as they learn more notes each week to make their music soar.
- C We see sculptures come into existence a piece at a time. We see artists drawing with more precision and expertise each week. We see painters use more color combinations and creativity all the time.
- C We see photographers taking pictures and editing them on the computer to make works of art from what they see around them.
- C We see ballerinas and jazz dancers smile as they perform their new dances for those who love them.
- C We watch adult storytellers bringing the message to children of a God who has created them in wonderful and marvelous ways.
- C We watch faces full of amazement on the volunteer adults strolling by classrooms as they see what is happening with all the children and youth.
- C We laugh with the children in the van as they talk about what they are doing on their way home.
- C We smile with goose bumps on our arms when we are being thanked over and over by parents expressing how important these lessons are to their child.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Adam	Katherine
Anita	Kelly
Bill	Kenneth
Colleen	Leonard
Cory	Nancy
Elizabeth	Paula
Jason	Robert
Jason	Taylor
Jonathan	Wayne

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

George & Susan
James & Rozz
Robert & June

- C We feel the tears in our eyes when young teachers tell their stories of finding God in their younger students and in the pleasure they have while sharing their passion with their students.

There are several ways you can become involved in the Arts Academy.

We need people to pray for our kids each week.

We also need

- help in **decorating** our classrooms to reflect the art and music being learned in each one.
- help in **recruiting** high school and college age artists and musicians to teach.
- help with **costs** of renting violins, and firing ceramics.
- help with ballet and tap dancing **practice clothes and shoes**.
- help in providing the necessities for a **year end celebration** with the families.
- **adult 'strollers'** who monitor the classrooms each week to keep our kiddos safe.
- **art materials** for drawing, painting, matting pictures, sculpting.

Call Janet Basler for information on being a part of this exciting ministry in our little corner of the world.

BOOKS GALORE, AND MORE

by Evelyn B. Phyffer

I Corinthians 3:5-9

The book drive for our school in Liberia is in full swing. You may have noticed that the name of the school has changed from New Hope Elementary School to New Hope Academy. This is because the school's mission has been expanded from educating grades K-5 to K-9. Just as the Oklahoma City Public School System has made changes in its school year, changes are being made in Liberia to its school system as well. Other changes include application by the New Hope Academy to become an IRC Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in order to receive tax-deductible donations.

Thanks go out to each of you for what has been done, and based on your inquiries, for what is forthcoming. In addition to the New Hope Academy, we can also include books to the Ganta Hospital, the Gbarnga Theological Seminary and the Ganta School (for books too advanced for grades K-9). We also need boxes (49 cents for 10"x10"x14" at Budget Box and Bag, 2721 NW Expressway). They also carry the paper packing tape that everyone seemed to like last year. At some time in the fall (when the temperature drops below 100 degrees) we will schedule a sort and pack Saturday when we can pack and label boxes.

Recently, I was asked if it had taken two(2) years to assemble our last shipment of books and other supplies for the Ganta School. I reminded them that it actually took less than a year; it was closer to eight(8) months. This inquiry arose because many people have asked how long the current drive will continue. In a recent telephone conversation with Joe Wagner and John Barker of Operation Classroom (OC), they stated that a shipment had gone to Liberia in late spring and another would go out in late September. Thereafter, the next shipment would be after the first of the year (2012). Because the New Hope Academy is still under construction, our drive will continue until the end of 2011. The Liberian Annual Conference has set aside space at the Conference headquarters in Monrovia to store supplies if they arrive before the school is completed,

however, we will be shipping early next year.

Another question that I am frequently asked is, "Are the books still coming in this time?" You might think after shipping over 12,000 books last year, there would be no books left in Oklahoma City, but there are: Junior League of OKC's free book giveaway yielded over 1,200 books; Hope Church (on Meridian) donated 176 books during their garage sale; Wesley UMC (OKC) has received over 500 books from a UMW unit in Mustang; Quayle UMC (OKC) has designated an area in their fellowship hall where the UMW is leading the drive to collect books and school supplies; at South Lee UMC (OKC) where Bishop Warner serves as pastor, Mrs. Warner has placed a barrel in the fellowship hall to receive books, supplies, and small toys; Spanish Cove (through the efforts of our pastor's mother) has sent books that they collected; Stacy located books on the third floor that we missed last year from Project Transformation; and many of you have quietly brought boxes and sacks of books, periodicals and school supplies to our donation room in the Youth Activities Building.

As the scripture from first Corinthians suggests, we planted the seeds of this mission last year; we have spent the past few months watering through articles, photos, and personal witness, but it was only God who could grant the increase that we have seen in this mission in such a short time. Thanks be to God for continuing to bless our efforts to be faithful in this ministry.

YOUTH

by Elyse Poland

Wesley Heights Youth has had a busy summer! After a great week at Youth Force and fun and fellowship through Harry Potter, we are amped up for the coming new school year.

We will be beginning new curriculum that looks at our learned faith through rock and roll music. Starting in September members of the youth will be taking turns in leading our weekly meeting and sharing their faith with each other from a different perspective than usual. Mission work with the Regional Food Bank, Skyline Urban Ministries, Free To Live, and The Spero Project will be central to our meeting in the coming months.

Volunteers are needed to help with supervision and adult involvement during our weekly meetings. If you feel a calling to engage in conversation with our youth, please contact Elyse for more information.

CHOIR DATES FOR FALL

by George Massey

Here's what we have on the calendar:

<u>Rehearsal</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
September 7	September 11
September 21	September 25
October 5	October 9
October 19	October 23
November 2	November 6 (time change Sunday)
November 16	November 20
November 30	December 4
	December 7
December 10 (Sat.)	December 11 Cantata

If you enjoy singing, please come join the choir! Just let George or Dianne know that you're interested: 524-8428, gmassey@gmail.com or Dianne@crowheightsumc.com.

AUGUST 2011 SERMONS

This month we will be focusing on practices that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, considered to be “means of grace,” helping us to grow closer to God.

- August 7 **Come to the Table!** Psalm 95:1-7, I Corinthians 11:23-26
Do you come to worship with a sense of expectancy? The central way God speaks in worship is through Scripture and preaching; the central way God acts is through the Lord’s Supper.
- August 14 **Prayer: The Breath of Our Spiritual Life** I Thessalonians 5:14-24, Matthew 6:5-8
God does not call us to have a devotional time; God calls us to live a devotional life. What does it mean to pray without ceasing?
- August 21 **Christian Lifestyle: Living Simply** Matthew 19:16-22, Deuteronomy 24:14-22
What we possess or desire can end up possessing us, determining our values, commitments, and lifestyle. How can Wesley’s advice to gain, save, and give be helpful to us?
- August 28 Guest preacher: Harry Denman Award winner, Rev. Stan Warfield

HOMEcoming SUNDAY

by Brigette Gean

It's time to get back in full swing of fall with Homecoming Sunday, September 11th. Come to the Pot Luck luncheon immediately following the 2nd service. Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. The church will provide the meat, bread and drinks. Come reconnect with your church family and enjoy a delicious meal!



VIM TRIP TO PALESTINE

by Janet Basler

For 15 days my husband, Stan, and I were immersed in walking where Jesus walked, seeing the Holy places we have heard about all our lives, and feeling what it is like to live in Palestine. We stayed in Bethlehem and the West Bank. We renewed our baptism in the River Jordan, sang, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" where the shepherds were visited by the angels, had communion on the Mount of the Beatitudes, and stood with our ankles in the Sea of Galilee where Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. We also talked with people who are supported by United Methodist special Advance offerings. They are working for peace thru conflict resolution workshops, running schools and project groups where Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze people learn together, and maintaining institutions

for people from all religions who suffer from disabilities or abandonment. We talked with a man who has been a refugee for 63 years from his home village, and with a young couple working hard not to become refugees now. We talked with a man who has spent his entire adult life working to bring peace to a land of no peace, one person at a time.

For 5 days we stayed in the home of a Palestinian couple who REALLY know how to be hospitable. While working at their small Christian church and preschool in a small West Bank village, we were able to 'get our hands dirty' as 'living stones' in a land of many 'old stones'. (These are the terms the pastor used very often with us.) In the evenings we not only felt the warmth and faith of our hosts, but visited in many of the

village homes. Each family we visited was so appreciative of the simple fact that we were there. They wanted to show us there is a big difference between the way Palestinians are portrayed in our media and the way they really live. They wanted to know someone 'out there' knew they were there.

We saw beauty in God's creation, in man's creations, and in the people who are Christians living in a world of conflict. We felt pain in the midst of the beauty.

I took lots of pictures and would love to show them to you or your group. Just call and we'll work something out. Thank you for your prayers while we were gone.

Janet Basler

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CHURCH STAFF

Dianne Rohrer Peters, Senior Pastor

Stacy Gilbert Coombe	Administrative Assistant
Libby Campbell	Accounting Secretary
Mario Estrada	Custodian
George Massey	Director of Music
Mariann Searle	Organist
Vahn Phollurxa	Music Assistant
Elyse Poland	Director of Youth Ministries
Bailey Maxwell	Nursery Coordinator
Justin Larman	Nursery Assistant
Leah Coleman	Nursery Assistant
Taylor Handy	Nursery Assistant

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

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	2	3	4 6:30 pm NA Meeting	5	6 6:00 pm Wedding
7 8th Sunday after Pentecost 4:00 pm Youth	8 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	9	10 6:00 pm Youth Council	11 5:30 pm Spero Project 6:30 pm NA Meeting	12	13
14 9th Sunday after Pentecost 12:30 am Finance Mtg. 4:00 pm Youth	15 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	16	17	18 6:30 pm NA Meeting	19	20
21 10th Sunday after Pentecost 12:30 am Ad Council 4:00 pm Youth	22 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	23	24	25 6:30 pm NA Meeting	26	27 6:00 pm Wedding
28 11th Sunday after Pentecost 4:00 pm Youth	29 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	30	31	6:30 pm NA Meeting		