

# the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2011

Vol. 6 Issue 11

*From Dianne's Desk*

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

Our Administrative Council and I have been in conversation and reflection about why Crown Heights United Methodist Church is here at the corner of NW 37<sup>th</sup> and Western. What does God have in mind for our congregation and our community? How are we to live out our mission? Here's the basic purpose statement we've agreed to pursue:

### **Purpose Statement:**

At Crown Heights United Methodist Church we are called...

- To **witness** to God's love, grace, and acceptance, as revealed in Jesus Christ, through our words and our actions.
- To **equip** and **encourage** one another to grow in our faith, and to **serve** in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the transformation of God's world.

As individuals, we cannot convert someone into being a Christians—that is God's work through the power of the Holy Spirit, who is present in each person's life. What we *can* do is to verbally share our experience of having Christ in our lives, helping others to see and hear what a difference Jesus makes for us. We are called to be the best witnesses we can be, happily testifying (wow, that's an old word!) about the ways God has been there for us, through thick and thin. As Methodists, we are always big on witnessing through our deeds and example, which is great. But we can no longer assume that others will magically know that the reason we care for our neighbors, tutor children who need help, feed hungry people, and clothe kids for school each year is because we're following Jesus. Jesus is the one who taught us to put God's love in action. Jesus is the one who gives us the courage to share our faith in appropriate times and places. Jesus' complete dedication to his calling as the Son of God, demonstrated in his sacrificial love on the cross, shows us the Way we are to live. We need to lose our shyness and find ways to gently share our faith in Christ with others.

The Church is here to equip us and encourage us to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We do that in lots of different ways: through worship, studying the Bible and those people of faith who have gone before us, praying with and for each other, actively rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. The church is the Body of Christ, the people who pick us up and dust us off when we get discouraged or heart-broken. John Wesley has taught us that growing closer to God in Christ is a life-long journey. There is always more to learn, to share, to question, and to understand. This is the work of sanctifying grace, the Spirit shaping us to look more and more like Christ, from the inside out. The church is here to help pass along the faith to people who have not heard and to the next generations. We encourage each other through fellowship, listening carefully to each one's story, and promising to lift up their concerns in prayer. Laughter is another wonderful sign of the Spirit, giving voice to the joy of our life in Christ.

Witnessing, equipping and encouraging are all very important expressions of our faith in Christ, but they lead to the essential action of serving others. As we talked about this past Sunday, each one of us is God's love letter to the world. Through our words and our actions, through sharing our spiritual gifts and our compassionate hearts, we are serving God by being a picture, a letter, a symbol of God's unconditional love for all people and the entire creation. Jesus washed his disciples' feet, a task normally reserved for the lowliest slave, then told them that they are to go and do likewise. Serving others is the distinctive mark of being a Christian. Our church is not just here to be a blessing for us; it is here to be a blessing to God's world. Our numbers may be small, but our task never shrinks: We are sent to love and serve others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,  
Dianne

## YOUTH CALENDAR by Elyse Poland

I can't believe that November is already here. The youth are excitedly moving through The Gospel of Mark, learning about how rock-n-roll has helped spread the teachings of Jesus.

As we approach Advent, we are turning our hearts inward to focus on our faith and share the joy of the season.

We will also be starting confirmation after the New Year. Many have already gone through confirmation, however, not all have. It will be a refresher course for those who have already done



so. But to do this successfully, we need adult mentors for the youth. We are asking for one adult per student that is not his or her parent. Parents are able to be mentors, just not of their

own youth. If you might be interested in doing this or would like more information, please feel free to contact Elyse or the church office.

## UMW COOKBOOKS

The price has been reduced on the 2009 UMW cookbooks. The new prices are:

1 for \$10.00 or

2 (or more) for \$8.00 ea.

They would make great gift exchange gifts! Ask Charlotte, Charlene or Stacy for help with your purchases.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Lynn Cohenour who recently broke her arm. Please pray for her complete healing.

Betty Langer's cousin's children were in a terrible auto accident. Please remember them in your prayers!



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

It is hard to believe that it is already time for Hanging of the Greens in preparation and anticipation of baby Jesus.

We're trying something a little different this year. Our traditional "Hanging of the Greens" liturgy will be incorporated into our Sunday morning worship services on **November 27<sup>th</sup>**, marking the beginning of the season of Advent.



You are encouraged to wear your jeans or dress comfortably. We will begin "Decking the Halls" **immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service**. We want our Fellowship Hall to be beautiful since we will be hosting the Whiz Kids and families Christmas dinner on December 1<sup>st</sup> and our Spero Ministry Christmas Dinner on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Many hands makes for light work! We'll order in pizza for lunch and have a good time "dressing" the church for Advent.



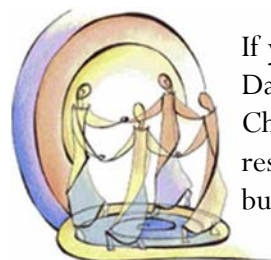
## TIME CHANGE

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on November 5th. Fall back one hour and come to worship on the 6th, fully rested and ready to celebrate All Saints' Sunday.

## LET GOD LEAD UPDATE

You have turned my mourning into dancing!

We want to thank all of you who have returned your commitment card for 2012. To date we have received pledges totaling \$147,560.00. If you have not returned your card, please mail it today or send it by e-mail to Libby Campbell our accountant.



If you have any questions, just ask Libby or David McKnight, our Finance Committee Chairman. We are waiting for everyone's response so that we can put together our budget for the coming year.



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Brigette | Olivia   |
| Carolyn  | Richard  |
| Charlene | Robert   |
| DeLene   | Samantha |
| Ginny    | Valerie  |
| Holly    | Wylie    |
| Jamsie   |          |
| Jennifer |          |
| Kacie    |          |
| Lucia    |          |
| Mark     |          |
| Mary     |          |


- Leroy & Sharon
- Joe & Laura
- Leonard & Edna
- Richard & Anita



**You're Invited to the  
Canterbury Christmas Concert**

Sunday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. Civic Center Music Hall.

In addition to the Canterbury Choral Society which Dianne sings with, the OCU Surrey Singers and a fabulous bell choir will perform.



**ARTS ACADEMY – A JOY EACH WEEK**  
By Janet Basler

Tuesday evenings are pretty wild and wonderful at Crown Heights. There are squeals of laughter, and squeals of clarinets. There are melodies coming from pianos and guitars all over the building, and serious drawing and sculpting going on with many kids and teachers.

An inspiring story is heard each evening, thanks to Lori Foster and Sue Brown. And donuts, (thank you Mike Brown and Brown's Bakery) are the best way to end a great evening for all.

Bruce, Charlene and Taffy are running a shuttle service in the van all night long, with kids who come in happy, and leave happy. Parents come in to see how their children are doing, and to thank us for being

there. And high school and college age students laugh and talk with each other as they get ready for their teaching each week.

The Arts Academy only has 4 more weeks of lessons left this semester. And the 55 students and 25 teachers involved are already asking about next semester. God's hand is over all of us each week, as joy abounds.

**Two needs of the Arts Academy are:**

1. A substitute driver for the van to give Bruce a few days off next semester.
2. A drum teacher or two. We have the drum sets, and the kids who want to learn. Do you know someone who can teach drumming?



Call Janet for more information.

**UMW**  
By Charlotte Trobaugh



**A UMW THANK YOU!**

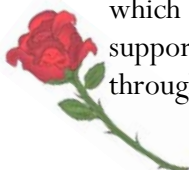
Thanks to everyone who supported the UMW Rummage Sale. We raised approximately \$940.00 to donate toward various missions.

**UMW MEMBERS:**

We are getting close to meeting our District UMW pledge goal. We would appreciate having all of the pledge money in by November 21st, so that it can be sent to the District by the due date. Thank you for your support.

**IN MEMORY**

The Crown Heights UMW gave a monetary gift in memory of Alice Whittle to the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries. We appreciate the time, talent and service which Alice willingly shared in support of our UMW endeavors through the years.



## WHIZ KIDS – ASKING FOR HELP

By Janet Basler

“Am I doing what I should with my Whiz Kid? He doesn’t know many sight words, so we are writing stories about what we see. Is that ok?”

“My Whiz Kid doesn’t like to read. So I found a book on snakes and now all he is wanting to read together more snake books together. Is that ok?”

“I want to learn to read real good. Is it ok to read at home too?”

“Miss Joy told us we can ask for help, and told us we can even ask God for help. Is it really ok to ask for help?”

Joy Robison did a Club Time lesson with the Whiz Kids recently about asking for help. The kids played a game where if they asked Joy for help, they could win the prize. It took a while for some of the kids to allow themselves to ask for help. Eventually though they seemed to get the point that there is help out there in their lives, and it is ok to ask for help.

Our Whiz Kids and their Tutors sometimes ask some interesting questions.

More kids are asking for tutors. Can you be the answer to their asking for help?

Also the **Whiz Kids Family Christmas Dinner is coming up on December 1st.** Brigitte & Glen Gean have agreed to be in charge of the dinner for all of us (over 130 people expected). Can you help them host this wonderful event in our church? We need cooks, servers, bakers, and cleaners. What do you do best?

Call Janet to get more information.

## A PORTION MEANT FOR OTHERS

Thanks to the consistent generosity of all of our givers, we have already paid our apportionment mandatory items in full, and have a strong start toward funding the rest of these important ministries. If you’re new to the United Methodist Church, you may not know about this system of missional ministries around the world. Each United Methodist congregation pays its share of our local, state, national and international ministries, enabling us to accomplish so much more for God’s work in the world than if each church tried to do these ministries separately. Our unique decimal for figuring our proportionate share of the apportionments is based on the average that we have spent on our own ministries over the last three years, which is then divided into the total amount of the apportionments that the Oklahoma Conference will fund in the coming year. Our apportionments for 2012 have actually **decreased**, which reflects our lower budgets for the last two years. Our goal, as always, is to pay all our district and conference apportionments in full. Last year we were part of a miracle of giving that enabled us to fund all of the items 100%! We are praying that God will help us complete this valuable work again for 2011.

Soon you will see our apportionment trees in the narthex of the sanctuary and the education building coffee area. The ornaments on the trees will describe the specific apportionment items we’re still working to pay. You can choose for your special Christmas offering to be designated for a specific ministry, or simply mark it for our United Methodist ministries in general. Thank you for helping to make a Christian difference here in Oklahoma, in the Red Bird Missionary Conference in the Appalachians, and at the UM African University. Together we are touching so many lives!

## CHANCEL CHOIR by George Massey

Please mark in your calendars for the following Wednesday Rehearsals: November 2nd, 16th, & 30th, and December 7th. Our Cantata Dress Rehearsal is Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 am-12:30 pm.

We will be singing on Sunday, November 6 (*TIME CHANGE!*), November 20, and December 4, with the Cantata on December 11.

Christmas Caroling on December 18!

This is George's 35th Cantata at CHUM, so we will pull out all the stops, and with some lovely donations to the Maureen Massey Memorial Music Fund, extra musicians and vocalists will be joining us!

A great Cantata, **Winter's Grace**, by Joseph Martin, will be presented, please tell your friends and family about this special Sunday!



**NOVEMBER SERMONS**

Something special is happening every Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Please join us for this faith journey, as we anticipate the beginning of a new church year.

- November 6 All Saints' Day "Saints of Hope" Revelation 7:9-17 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18  
As we listen to the earliest and last books of the New Testament, we find a recurring theme: What is our hope in the face of death? What has become of our personal saints who have passed?
- November 13 "What Would You Do?" Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Matthew 25:14-30  
Jesus' parable of the talents invites each of us to reflect on our lives from God's perspective. What have we done with the gifts we've received?
- November 20 Thanksgiving Sunday "And as They Went . . ." Ephesians 1:15-20 and Luke 17:11-19  
Do we trust God enough to simply go where we're told to go? How thankful will we be along the way? Who helps us find the path?
- November 27 First Sunday of Advent "Hanging of the Greens" Mark 13:32-37  
Come learn about the beautiful symbolism we share in Advent. Wear your jeans and help us decorate after worship!

**ADVENT STUDY BEGINS**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 a.m.**

The Journey class invites you to join us for a new Advent study entitled, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, by Rev. Michael Slaughter, the pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the parlor where Dianne leads us in discussion about our reading. We'll need to order a book for you, if you'd like to participate. Please let Stacy or Dianne know as soon as possible, 524-8428, if you'd like to join the journey.



**ANGEL TREE TO ARRIVE SOON**

Each year our church adopts several families who are in need, referred to us by our United Methodist Skyline Urban Ministries. We receive information about the "wish list" for each family member and do our best to make their Christmas extra special. We don't know the exact date yet, but be watching closely for the tree in the narthex and then be sure to sign the list, making note of the date we are to return all the presents. Don't wait too long—Crown Heights people love this opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors! The names and needs disappear incredibly fast. Thank you, once again, for your generosity.

**COME TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00—7:00 p.m.**



All are welcome to attend our annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Dan Pulver. This year's meeting will focus primarily on our current strategic plan, which we pray reflects God's intentions for our congregation. Your presence at Charge Conference helps to convey the depth of our commitment to Crown Heights UMC and the ministries we share. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

During the month of December, we will be taking orders for Poinsettias.

Look in the December Trumpet and bulletins for an order form. You can help beautify the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Services.

**THANKS GIVING**

By Evelyn Phyffer

Although we should do it each day, November is the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. The Liberia Mission regularly tries to say thank you for all of its blessings, but it would also like to take this special time to say thank you to its partners in mission.

Thanks are given to:

- ✠ the Crown Heights family for donations of books, magazines, school supplies, backpacks, tote bags, office supplies, etc.
- ✠ Mario Estrada, our custodian, who regularly moves boxes after they are packed to the youth room; and moved them a second time to pallets that he located when water damaged some of the boxes
- ✠ Stacy Coombe for placing a notice on the marquee informing the public of this mission which has resulted in calls from outside of Crown Heights with donations
- ✠ Junior League of OKC which donated over 1,200 books at the start of the mission

- ✠ Ebenezer Baptist Church which donated Christian Education material after a member saw the marquee
- ✠ Quayle UMC-UMW which launched its book drive at their UMW meeting in June and to the entire church on UMW Sunday
- ✠ Wesley UMC and Mustang UMC-UMW which have collected boxes of books that are waiting to be sorted and packed at Wesley
- ✠ South Lee UMC which set up barrels to collect books, magazines, school supplies and toys, and are now raising money to help with shipping costs
- ✠ the Crown Heights family for purchasing boxes, for financial contributions toward shipping, for your prayers, for your continuing interest and inquiries
- ✠ Hope Church (on Meridian) for the donation of books following their church rummage sale.

Recently, I was asked when we began this ministry. When we consider that we did not begin planning for last year's shipment until November 2009 and the first shipment went out in August 2010, and the second mission is coming to an end, we must

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We want to make your holidays special! Here's what we have planned for the season:

- Sunday, November 27:** "Hanging of the Greens" in worship and decorating the church beginning at noon. Wear or bring your jeans with you. We'll order in pizza for lunch. We need everyone's help to "deck the halls."
- Thursday, December 1:** Whiz Kids Families Christmas Dinner, 5:00 p.m. We always need people to help set up the tables, greet the guests, make desserts and serve the food. Be watching for more details.
- Thursday, December 8:** Spero families Christmas dinner, 6:00 p.m. We need help preparing the food, decorating the tables, and, most importantly, providing child care and supervision while the moms are in prayer groups.
- Sunday, December 11:** Choir cantata, "Winter's Grace" at the 11:00 a.m. service. You'll enjoy our guest musicians!
- Sunday, December 18:** "We Knew Him Not," Rev. Peters' sermon in song will be offered at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 18:** Christmas Caroling to our homebound, 3:00 p.m. Come experience the joy of the season! All ages are welcome.
- Saturday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, 4:00 p.m. (only). Come worship with us before you go to dinner with your family.
- Sunday, December 25:** Christmas Day worship at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School. Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!

*Continued from Page 6*

thank God for His amazing work in this mission. Not only the New Hope Academy will benefit from our efforts but, also the Ganta Methodist Hospital will receive medical books and the Gbarnga Methodist Seminary will receive religion and theology books and Christian Education materials for children and adults, Both the Hospital and the Seminary were destroyed during the war and have had to rebuild their buildings, student body, staff and libraries, since the war ended in 2003.

The collection process is scheduled to end on December 31. After the end of the collections, boxes must be packed at Crown Heights, Wesley and Quayle (they will be packing at each location and transporting to Crown Heights for pickup); Hobby Lobby contacted (Mike Brown will make this contact, again this year); and funds must be raised to cover the costs of shipment from Indiana to Liberia. The next shipment to Liberia is scheduled for early 2012.

So, as you can see we have a lot to be thankful for, and not just this month but each day that we see the growing mound of boxes and another donation (yes, there are books still left in OKC that we are receiving).

THANKS.

## **YOUR EXAMPLE WILL INSPIRE OTHERS**

**By Laura Whitaker**

*In the same way your light must shine before people. So that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (TEV)*

DO me a favor, take a minute and read the above scripture one more time, two more times, maybe three. Let it sink in, do you see what it says? Let your light shine, do good things, live the life of Christ NOT so that you receive the praise, but your Father in heaven receives it. Is that a hard one for you? You know letting your light shine and living the life of Christ isn't just about Sunday and the occasional outreach project. To me living the life of Christ is how you handle things every minute you are breathing. That would mean those days at work; those days when you worked really hard on something and you would like a little praise. Those days when you just want to go back to bed and hide because nothing is going right, nothing is going your way; that light is just a flicker on those days. Your Father is there in those times too and those around you are looking on, maybe looking to see how you handle the good along with the bad. The times when someone else might get the praise or attention when you think you should, or your day is just really stinky. Everything we do

should be to the Glory of God and should bring praise to Him. Oops, some days... lots of days... I don't do to well on that one. It's more about me and how I feel instead of shining my light for praise to the One who made me. I give praise to Him that He doesn't give up on my, He keeps working with me showing me the way.

I read a daily devotion recently, not on the correct day, I was behind, but I keep trying and sometimes it seems when I read a devotion late it was something I needed that day instead of maybe a week before when I was supposed to be reading it. Anyway, this devotion was about a person who was in prison. He had a job assigned to him. His job was to pick up the trash others left behind, not his trash, others trash. Some days others would drop the trash, cigarette butts, etc right behind him, right after he'd just cleaned that area. One day he came across a piece of paper in a crack in the walk. He picked it up and started to put it in the bag, but decided to see what it said first. It said, "Your example will inspire others." Those words made him think and as he thought about it his attitude toward his job changed.

There is a current song that says about the same thing, no matter what you're doing, no matter what your job; do it to the Glory of the Lord. You are right where you are for a reason, maybe you don't know the reason, but God does and God's plan is better than anything we can plan or imagine. So do good things let your light shine and let your Father in heaven be praised!

Crown Heights United Methodist Church  
 1021 NW 37 ■ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118  
 405-524-8428

**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 Heise	Director of Youth Ministries
Bailey Maxwell	Nursery Coordinator
Justin Larman	Nursery Assistant
Leah Coleman	Nursery Assistant
Taylor Handy	Nursery Assistant

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Address Service Requested

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



# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 5:30 pm Arts Academy	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm Bible Connections 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Time Change
<b>6</b> All Saints Sunday 4:00 pm SPRC Mtg. 4:00 pm Youth	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm Arts Academy	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Bible Connections	<b>10</b> 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 5:30 pm Spero Project 6:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 12:00 pm Finance Mtg. 4:00 pm Youth Wesley	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	<b>15</b> 5:30 pm Arts Academy	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Bible Connections 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Thanksgiving Sunday 12:00 pm Ad Council 4:00 pm Youth CHUM	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	<b>22</b> NO Arts Academy	<b>23</b> No Bible Connections	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving NO Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting  Office Closed	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 20th Sunday after Pentecost HANGING OF THE GREENS 4:00 pm Youth	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm Charge Conf. 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>Dec 1</b> 5:00 pm Whiz Kids Christmas Dinner		